

Annex 5. Preparing a Country SLM Investment Framework (CSIF)

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1. Introduction

1.1 Summary of the CSIF

The **Country SLM Investment Framework (CSIF)** is a tool which countries can use to pursue or strengthen a programmatic approach to SLM to respond to the country's development priorities and align donors, and set countries on a path toward formulating comprehensive SLM Country Programs. The CSIF would have a proposed planning horizon of 12 years, depending on existing national development planning frameworks. The participatory preparation and periodic updating of the CSIF would allow countries to:

1. Build a multi-sector operational roadmap for SLM at country level and its importance in relation to poverty alleviation, water resource management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity loss.
2. Select and prioritize investments for existing and additional funding (including both international and domestic sources)
3. Align donors and other partners around the shared vision and operational roadmap, taking into account existing multilateral and bilateral agreements and initiatives.
4. Align and harmonize existing SLM investments and activities in the country.
5. Develop a programmatic framework for SLM investment consistent with TerrAfrica business planning.

CSIF implementation would drive system wide change to reduce policy, institutional, governance and financial barriers to SLM upscaling, by adopting a cross-sectoral integrated approach to SLM that is long-term, multi-stakeholder, and multi-financier. The CSIF would emphasise the scaling up of successful approaches and support innovation and the generation and dissemination of knowledge to all relevant stakeholders and decision-makers.

The CSIF would be summarised in a document which should specify the objectives and rationale of the country specific CSIF, outline prioritised interventions linked to existing and additional specific funding sources (internal and external), summarize the current state-of-knowledge and identify knowledge gaps, and provide indications for specific implementation and financing modalities. A proposed detailed outline for the CSIF document is presented in section 6 (upon request). The CSIF would define a country level investment program to include priority local, national, and, if desired, transboundary and other multi-country activities. These will be complemented by specific regional and subregional investment programs which together will contribute to achieving the common objectives of the regional TerrAfrica platform.

Funding sources for CSIF implementation will include domestic public expenditure at national and decentralised levels; private sector investment by farmers, herders, forest users and private sector service providers; as well as funds made available from bilateral and multilateral development partners. Resources from the GEF will be made available through SIP.

The purpose of this CSIF Guidance Document is to support countries in the process of preparing and updating a CSIF. The target audiences of the guidelines are SLM stakeholders in the country and their advisors who will be tasked with the preparation of a CSIF document, following a participatory preparation approach (see section 3 and attachment 1).

2. Rationale for CSIF

Land degradation has been identified as a significant problem in Africa which negatively affects people's livelihoods as well as the integrity of the continent's ecosystem for a long time, and many past and on-

going initiatives have attempted to assist countries in addressing this problem. Important initiatives include the Soil Fertility Initiative (SFI), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Convention on Combating Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and the NEPAD Environmental Action Plan (EAP). Many countries in SSA have developed national strategies and action plans in the context of these initiatives. SLM is an important element of most countries' UNCCD National Action Plans (NAPs), the UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans for Action (NAPAs), the CAADP National Medium Term Investment Programmes as well as targeted SLM strategies and implementation programs, including the GEF Country Partnership Programs for Sustainable Land Management currently implemented in some SSA countries. In several countries SLM also features in Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and other national development programs.

However, the current national strategies and programs prepared in the context of these various initiatives, have a number of limitations. Several lack clear operational detail and concrete activities to implement the set objectives, others are driven predominantly by one sector (agriculture in the case of CAADP and environment in the case of NAPs) or relate to a programme to be implemented by one particular source of funding.

The added value of CSIF is to provide a tool to operationalize existing strategies and national action plans relating to SLM and to identify additional priority activities to complement existing plans which were not captured in sectoral approaches to SLM. By providing a joint operational framework to implement priority interventions to combat land degradation, the CSIF will also facilitate synergies in the country level implementation of the Rio conventions and across the broad themes of climate change, international waters, and biodiversity. Preparing and updating the CSIF provides the opportunity to unite government, private sector and civil society stakeholders around a shared concrete plan of action to scale up SLM and to improve the governance of land management decisions in the country. CSIF design will take into account and build upon other planning frameworks at national levels, including specific agreements with development partners who support SLM investments.

The *objective* of CSIFs will be to mainstream and scale up SLM to secure ecosystem services and improve rural livelihoods.¹ CSIFs should be people-centred and contribute to national development objectives.

Most interventions to address land degradation in SSA to this day have followed an ad hoc approach to address either research and knowledge management, institutional issues and capacity building and/or pilot on the ground operations to apply SLM to selected areas in the country. CSIF will help countries adopt a *programmatic approach* that will lead to *scaling up* SLM.

The *programmatic approach* entails moving away from individual projects and pilots to a comprehensive approach to SLM at country level that encompasses the various regions and ecosystems in the country, national, decentralized and local institutions and a full set of complementary interventions from improving the policy and institutional environment, knowledge generation and dissemination, advisory and market support services to directly assisting on the ground investments.

Scaling up is about going from a small to a large impact. In the case of scaling up of SLM, investments should lead to an increased socio-economic impact as well as an impact on ecosystem stability and securing ecosystem functions, which cannot be achieved at a small scale and through ad hoc interventions. Scaling up interventions means replicating successful pilot interventions and mainstreaming successful approaches to replace “business as usual” on the ground and among the partners supporting rural development.

¹ Attachment 2 provides an illustration of the main ecosystem services and their relative local and global importance.

CSIF should be an important tool to allow countries to adopt a *cross-sectoral approach* to SLM and the broader rural development agenda. Many countries in SSA have already made significant progress in overcoming excessive sectoral compartmentalization of development initiatives through the PRSP processes. Cross-sectoral development planning and implementation has also become a necessity in those SSA countries that have followed processes of decentralization for development planning and implementation. The main sectors that should come together to design, endorse and implement SLM approaches include not only agriculture, grazing and forestry, but also inland fisheries/aquaculture, wildlife/protected area management, tourism, energy, and rural infrastructure.

The CSIF should be a mechanism to rally government, civil society, private sector and development partners around a common vision and program, building upon existing successful approaches and partnerships. This should lead to an *alignment* of development support for SLM with country priorities and to the *harmonization* of approaches and implementation modalities to reduce transaction costs, increase the focus and consistency of interventions and to thereby maximise impacts.

CSIF should also help countries to plan ahead beyond the status quo and adapt land management decisions and investments to likely future climatic scenarios that will likely affect each sector listed above. Core climate change scenarios for Africa for next 50-100 years highlight the danger of extreme drying of the Sahel and Southern Africa regions, and the widening of the tropical belt polewards leading to expanding deserts. Model results point to expected increases in extreme temperatures and extreme events (drought, flooding), requiring explicit consideration of climate change risks in SLM investments.

3. Preparation Process for CSIF

The preparation process for a CSIF is affected by whether or not a country is ready to pursue a full-scale country program as defined under TerrAfrica. For countries not ready to pursue a **country program**, **targeted investments** are the main vehicle for countries to begin to engage in a progressively programmatic approach to SLM.

A CSIF (or an equivalent country programmatic document) will be an important tool in pursuing either targeted investments or country programs. A country program would be designed to implement all or most of the intervention priorities outlined in the country's CSIF; however, in the case of targeted investments, the CSIF will be a key tool to understand which selected interventions will be most effective for scaling up SLM directly, and what needs to be done to move the country further toward a more robust SLM program. In both cases, existing and planned diagnostic work will inform investment prioritization.

For this reason, a CSIF will progressively transform over time from a **preliminary CSIF** to a **full CSIF**.

Targeted investments should be identified within a **preliminary CSIF** (or equivalent) prepared by the country, to kick-start donor and stakeholder engagement, while country programs require a **full CSIF** (or equivalent) to be developed. A preliminary CSIF is designed to support countries to move along a continuum to a full CSIF as better targeted knowledge becomes available and more stakeholders and donors get involved. This approach to engaging in a CSIF encourages countries to proceed on a track toward more programmatic approaches and potentially develop full-scale country programs.

Whether a country should opt to pursue a *country program* requiring the development of a *full CSIF* (or equivalent) depends upon its "readiness." The main indicators to suggest that a country is prepared to go for a full-scale country program are outlined in Box 1 below.

The preparation of a CSIF, preliminary or full, should reflect existing national strategies and development priorities as outlined in national planning documents. CSIF should show how these commitments contribute to achieving the intermediary results (see Attachment 5), but CSIF should also identify and prioritise additional complementary investments to lead to the scale up of SLM at country level. Planning of CSIF investments should follow the principle of subsidiarity: decisions upon the exact investments and

Box 1. Indicators of country “readiness” to pursue country programs through full CSIF or equivalent:
Government policy provides relatively few major obstacles for scaling up SLM investments (see also Table 2 below), and government has asserted its commitment to SLM in approved policy and strategy documents
Country stakeholders share a sound understanding of land degradation processes and key obstacles to SLM upscaling
Successful on-the-ground experiences exist at country level which can be scaled up
Institutional capacity and links exist among government (national and decentralised), private sector and civil society stakeholders to manage and implement a comprehensive SLM program which concurrently addresses the four CSIF components
Government has demonstrated its commitment to SLM in the form of increasing budgetary commitments for public funding of SLM at national and decentralised levels.

implementation mechanisms should be left to the lowest possible level. This is of particular importance in countries with strong decentralised government structures.

The CSIF should remain a living document which is periodically updated to reflect new lessons from implementation experience, further technical insights, and new threats and opportunities. The updating procedure should be scheduled in alignment with the national development planning processes. Just as CSIF is informed and shaped by existing national objectives and priorities, the stakeholders involved in CSIF development and revision should ensure that CSIF identified development priorities are reflected in sectoral and local development plans.

Country Programs and the CSIF

In the case of the preparation of *country programs* for government and donor financing, including SIP, a full preparation of the CSIF should be based upon sound and detailed analytical work to identify threats of land degradation, barriers and bottlenecks to addressing land degradation through SLM, constraints and opportunities to design and implement appropriate interventions, including lessons from existing operations, a basic economic assessment of the interventions offering the greatest returns, geographic priorities for interventions/ecosystem focus and the best institutional entry points. This analytical review should build upon existing information and prior studies and only complement with further stocktaking assessments (possibly rapid assessments) where specific gaps of understanding are identified.

The prioritization and proposed sequencing of interventions should be driven and verified by a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process (see below, as well as SIP stakeholder participation plan for details), including where appropriate a national stakeholder forum. The preparation of the CSIF would thus be a key element of the preparation process for *country program* design, for which financial support would be available through GEF/SIP preparation funding.

Targeted Investments and the CSIF

In the case of SIP funding requests to support *targeted investments*, a *preliminary CSIF* should be prepared prior to the selection of specific activities and approval for funding. The preliminary CSIF will compile existing and readily available information and be prepared without the full consultation process that a comprehensive CSIF demands. The preparation and endorsement process could remain confined to the national task force as long as this includes representatives of all major sectors and stakeholders. Preparation of a preliminary CSIF is not meant to require significant new research or an extensive amount of time, rather the compilation of existing data and information, and a summary of existing donor-funded activities in the country. A rapid assessment should however be carried out to establish (where not already

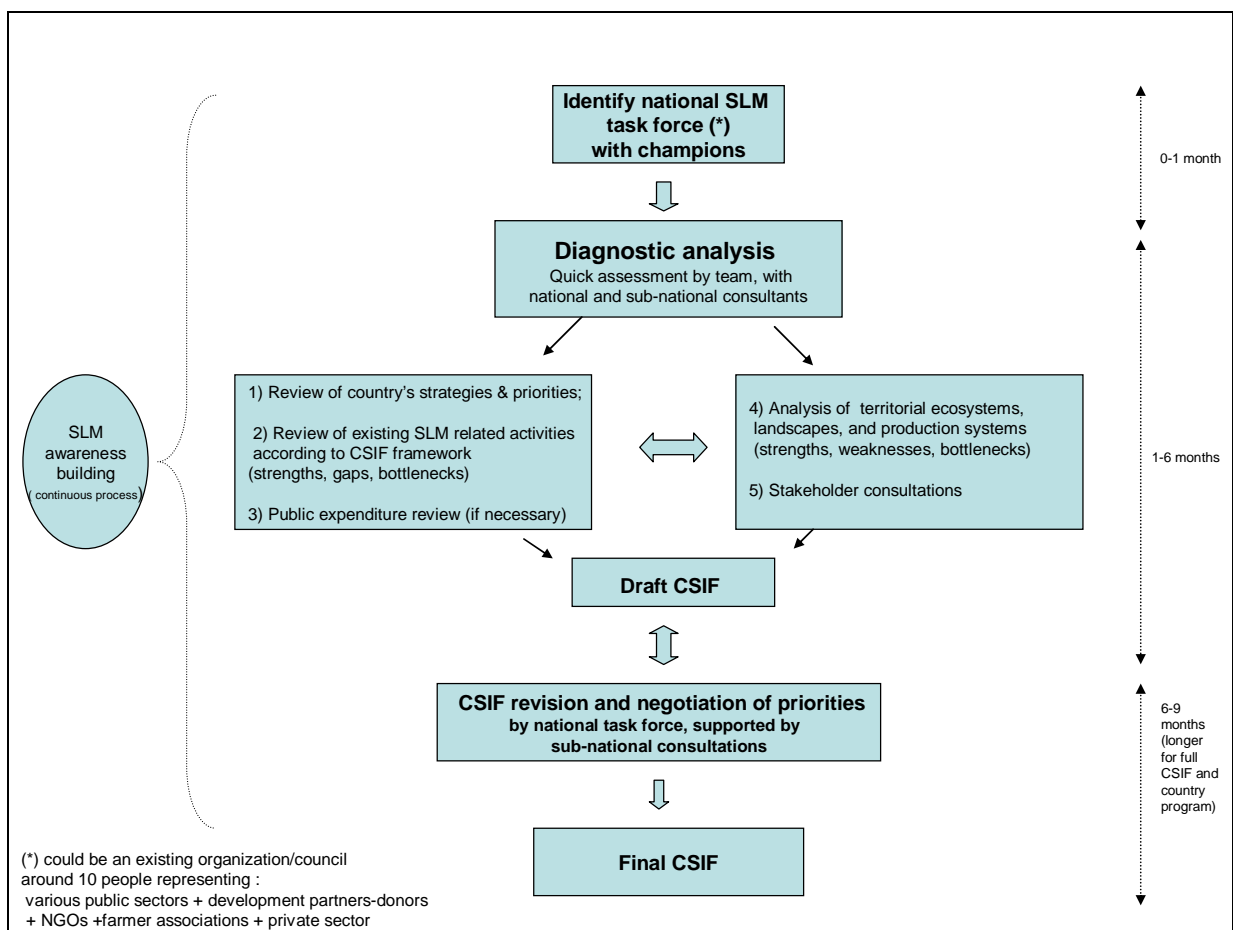
available) a basic understanding of the level of public expenditure (national and local) on SLM, the broad policy stance on SLM, the institutional capacity in the public and private sector and among civil society, and the key barriers and bottlenecks hindering the scaling up of SLM in the country. Further analytical work for the subsequent preparation of a *full CSIF* would then be among the activities funded by *targeted investments*. The full CSIF can then steer countries towards adopting a comprehensive *country program* for SLM implementation for support by the government and development partners. It may also be supported in a second round of SIP funding to the country and will attract additional external resources from funding sources which favor programmatic approaches.

For countries that need financial and/or technical support in preparing a preliminary CSIF, TerrAfrica partners are available to provide upstream analytical assistance.

CSIF Preparation – Suggested Steps and Process for full CSIF preparation

The preparation of the CSIF (preliminary and full) should be driven by a national task force composed of key SLM stakeholders in the country from the government, private sector and civil society and including strong representation of farmers, herders and forest dwellers, as well as development partners. This task force may not need to be a new institution. As many countries have built institutions in the context of related thematic consultations, for instance related to the preparation of Convention action plans (CCD, CBD, FCCC), and NEPAD/CAADP/NEAP or NRM working groups for the PRS, it would be preferable that one or more of these institutions drive the process of CSIF preparation and supervise its implementation and regular up-dating. Where appropriate, representatives from other sectors or stakeholder groups may be co-opted to existing organisations or committees for CSIF development. Figure 1 shows a graphic representation of a proposed preparation process for a full CSIF including an indicative timeline of activities.

Figure 1 Suggested Broad Steps for the Preparation of a Full CSIF



The first step in the process is to appoint and assemble the Task Force. The Task Force should then drive and supervise a stocktaking/analysis process which can be carried out by consultants over a period of no more than five months. The stocktaking should identify threats of land degradation, barriers and bottlenecks to addressing land degradation through SLM, constraints and opportunities to design and implement appropriate interventions, including lessons from existing operations, a basic economic assessment of the interventions offering the greatest returns, geographic priorities for interventions/ecosystem focus and the best institutional entry points. The analysis should also include a preliminary public expenditure review to assess current levels and trends in public funding for PER at national and decentralised levels. The result of the stocktaking should be shared with selected stakeholders and in consultation with stakeholder representatives and following the CSIF guidelines the expert consultants should prepare a draft CSIF. This draft CSIF should be presented to a broader stakeholder forum for discussion. This could be carried out at local and national levels.

Investment priorities and the analysis presented in the CSIF should be revised in line with the feedback from these stakeholder consultations. The revised priority investments should be reflected in the Final CSIF. The whole process is intended to be completed within 6-9 months and ideally should be accompanied by a nationwide awareness and sensitisation campaign on SLM.

Even once the country has moved towards implementation of a *country program*, the CSIF is a living document which is periodically updated to reflect new lessons from implementation experience, further technical insights, knowledge and science, and new threats and opportunities. This can be facilitated by

careful management of data, information and models used during the preparation of the CSIF, preferably organised in the form of a geographic information system (GIS).

At the regional level, a regional technical committee may be established which could assist countries in the CSIF preparation and implementation process and encourage exchange of experience and cross-fertilization of ideas between countries participating in the TerrAfrica platform.

3.1 Building Stakeholder Ownership for CSIF

The need for effective **stakeholder**² involvement in CSIF development is considered critical for the success of future CSIF projects. Government should work together with the key stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of its CSIF, in order to support a process of equitable and active involvement of all relevant stakeholders and affirm a clear vision for sustainable governance of all sectors involved in the CSIF development process, including formulation (analysis and planning), implementation, monitoring and evaluation. To achieve this vision and reach consensus agreement on what should be considered in the CSIF proposal, a multi-stakeholder task force must provide strong leadership in the participation process, foster dialogue and co-operation at all levels (national, sub-national and local) and focus on economic sectors, particularly those directly related to natural resource use and management (agriculture, grazing, forestry and water management), but also related sectors including energy, wildlife and tourism. Effective stakeholder involvement will require timely dissemination of relevant information to stakeholders and the consideration of stakeholder contributions and views to the CSIF formulation process, both prior to putting together a first draft CSIF and in subsequent review and revisions. Attachment 1 provides specific suggestions on how to build stakeholder ownership for CSIF.

4. Investment Options for Scaling Up SLM

4.1 Selecting complementary investments

In order to achieve the vision of reducing land degradation, restoring and safeguarding land use productivity and securing stability of ecosystem functions through the scaling up of SLM investments at country level, complementary investments are needed that address key barriers and bottlenecks. These include institutional and sectoral barriers, knowledge barriers, policy barriers, financial barriers and implementation barriers.³

Farmers, herders, forest managers and fishermen operate in (often imperfect) market environments. The market signals provided by prices, price volatility and the ability to sell products from SLM at a specific time in the year are critical in determining the choice of adoption and continuation of SLM practices. Public investments can assist market development, reducing distortions, creating improved market opportunities and increased availability of financing and insurance, but all efforts to scale up SLM must take market conditions and likely market outlook into account when deciding on the most promising approaches.

² For the purpose of these guidelines, (i) “stakeholders” are defined as the individuals, groups, or Government and Non-Government institutions that have an interest or stake in the outcome of the CSIF and its future financed projects; and (ii) “stakeholder involvement” consists of two related, and often overlapping, processes: information dissemination and “stakeholder” participation, the latter including “consultation” as one of the various levels or degrees of participation.

³ For a review of the key barriers and bottlenecks related to scaling up SLM in Africa, see *Assessment of the Nature and Extent of Barriers and Bottlenecks to Scaling-Up Sustainable Land Management Investments throughout SSA*, TerrAfrica SIP/FAO, July 2006.

Given the projected significant impact of climate change and related climate variability on land degradation, the country barrier analysis must also take into account projected future barriers and bottlenecks and thereby aim to “climate-proof” SLM investments.

It is envisaged that under the CSIF, priority investments will fall under four complementary components which address different dimensions of SLM:

1. Supporting on-the-ground activities for scaling up SLM
2. Creating a conducive enabling environment for SLM (at national, sub-national and local levels)
3. Strengthening commercial and advisory services for SLM
4. Developing effective SLM knowledge management, M&E and information dissemination systems

All component activities will contribute to TerrAfrica’s Activity Line 3 on Investments. Component 2 will also contribute to TerrAfrica Activity Line 1 on Coalition Building and component 4 to Activity Line 2 on Knowledge Management.

The country specific context and existing strategic development priorities will be critical in determining the balance of priorities between investments in these different components, as countries differ greatly in the progress they have made and the constraints they face within these components. However, as these components are highly complementary it is expected that some priority investments will fall into each of these components in most countries, as the improvement in each will be necessary to support the scaling up of SLM. The bulk of funding should be dedicated to activities that have a direct impact on on-the-ground adoption, in particular component I and component III.

Table 1 outlines the types of activities that the CSIF could elaborate to strengthen SLM in each of the components. The activities selected by countries under the four different components should correspond to the specific barriers and bottlenecks identified in the country. An illustrative list of specific activities related to the lines of activities is detailed in attachment 3. These are intended to help countries identify needs for interventions at different levels and in different fields in order to move towards a more solid programmatic approach with better alignment of donors and stakeholders. The components are not meant to provide a “straightjacket” to limit individual countries’ freedom and inventiveness in structuring their investment programmes.

Table 1 CSIF Components and main types of activities

1. Supporting on-the-ground activities for scaling up SLM	2. Creating a conducive enabling environment for SLM
<i>Key barriers/bottlenecks to be addressed:</i> institutional, knowledge, financial, implementation	<i>Key barriers/bottlenecks to be addressed:</i> institutional, sectoral, knowledge, policy, financial, implementation
1.1 Identification of best entry points for scaling up SLM to achieve ecosystem integrity. 1.2 Capacity building for SLM implementers (farmers, forest users, rural community members, etc.) to support integrated approaches to natural resources management. 1.3 SLM investment pilots/demonstration sites with embedded scale-up strategy. 1.4 Strengthening farmer/producer organizations for adoption and up-scaling of SLM practices 1.5 Providing incentives for SLM adoption (including support to design of environmental services payments, targeted matching grants or credit programmes).	2.1 Integrating SLM into national and sectoral development frameworks at national and decentralised levels. 2.2 Integrating SLM objectives and requirements into institutional and legal reform processes 2.3 Capacity building for SLM at all levels, to support awareness, coalition building and advocacy. 2.4 Strengthening cross-sectoral spatial planning systems at the national and decentralised level to prioritize investments between agro-ecosystems and types of intervention. 2.5 Reviewing country investment programmes and public expenditure frameworks to identify constraints and entry points for SLM and to increase predictability of financial flows to SLM. 2.6 Analysing and rectifying incentive frameworks for SLM.

1.6 Strengthening alternative non natural-resources based livelihoods	2.7 Building or strengthening early warning systems, contingency and response capacity. 2.8 Strengthening traditional and innovative conflict resolution mechanisms to avoid, mitigate and resolve conflicts over NR
3. Strengthening commercial and advisory services for SLM	4. Developing effective SLM knowledge management, M&E and information dissemination systems
<i>Key barriers/bottlenecks to be addressed:</i> institutional, knowledge, financial	<i>Key barriers/bottlenecks to be addressed:</i> knowledge, institutional, sectoral
3.1 Identify non-policy constraints/bottlenecks to SLM adoption. 3.2 Capacity building for SLM service providers. 3.3 Strengthening input suppliers (seeds, tools, seedlings, etc.). 3.4 Marketing support for outputs from SLM, including certification systems to strengthen fair trade and eco-labelling schemes. 3.5 Strengthening providers of financial services to offer financial products to support SLM adoption.	4.1 Supporting targeted and applied SLM research (technical, economic, social), including long-term ecological research and monitoring, directly linked to scale-up agenda. 4.2 Support knowledge sharing and innovation networks based upon participatory/community-driven and iterative approaches. 4.3. Strengthen capacity of SLM stakeholders for innovation 4.4 Developing M&E MIS for SLM for CSIF implementation and evaluation.(selected elements aggregated up to regional level) 4.5 Developing effective national dissemination strategies for lessons and best practices (to complement regional TerrAfrica efforts).

CSIF and the funding of prioritized activities through diverse funding mechanisms must lead to more than “business as usual”. The aim is to scale up and achieve an impact on ecosystem stability and poverty reduction. Therefore, no piecemeal initiatives can be considered for financing and CSIF should present a coherent set of prioritized, sequenced activities that will together achieve significant socio-economic and environmental impacts. The aim of a full country program is to achieve significant results within each of the components. But also in the case of a more limited set of targeted investments these should together help alleviate the key barriers and bottlenecks in all components, such that while full scale up is not yet guaranteed, at least significant obstacles to SLM are being addressed.

SLM activities prioritised under CSIF do not have to be stand-alone SLM interventions. Many of the proposed interventions can be undertaken in the context of other development activities, for instance sectoral or regional development programs. Because one of the key objectives of the CSIF is to mainstream SLM into country development activities, it is even preferable and of greater long term impact if CSIF prioritised investments can be carried out in the context of other sectoral and cross-sectoral development operations. To provide an example, rather than building a parallel institutional capacity for SLM advisory services, the aim should be to train the full range of advisory service providers on land use in the country and provide them with the capacity to promote SLM approaches. In the institutional context, rather than building parallel SLM focused institutions, it would be preferable to ensure that existing bodies with wider mandates also include SLM in their mandate and are given the capacity to foster SLM scale up.

4.2 Prioritizing investments

The objective of prioritization is to ensure that country-level resource allocation for funding SLM is most cost-effective and will achieve the maximum impact in terms of socio-economic and environmental benefits. Prioritization is a county-led process that should lead to an agreed list of priority actions and mode of implementation through specific partnerships. A key aspect of the prioritisation process will be reaching/achieving commitment, political will and ownership at the national and local (district or

community) levels. In the case of transboundary or multi-country SLM activities, countries will still have to prioritize within their country frameworks.

Prioritization is about “what to do,” “where to do it,” and “what to do first.” A participatory consultative process should yield a well specified list of priority activities, a timeline and clear identification of the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in carrying through these priority interventions. The prioritization process should build upon existing plans and strategies, including CAADP/NMTIPs, NAPs, NAPAs, SFI strategies and related SLM development programs.

The process of prioritization must start with a clear identification of multiple objectives and their relative weight in deciding specific country interventions. With respect to land management investments, these may include (varying from country to country, in line with existing stated country development priorities):

- producing the greatest possible economic return on public investment
- reducing poverty and vulnerability
- reaching as many people as possible to sensitize and educate about SLM
- preserving or restoring ecosystem health and resilience and securing ecosystem services
- accessing external funding sources where available and relevant to the development agenda (and therefore include into consideration the objectives of the financing partners)

On the ground activities should focus on priority ecosystems in the country. Investments can be concentrated in sufficiently large spatial extents to result in significant improvements in ecosystem goods and services, which in turn yield positive economic and social impacts from local to global scales. Attachment 4 (section 2b) outlines a suggested approach for the selection of priority ecosystems for intervention. The selection of priority interventions which are location-specific should be chosen with respect to the needs and opportunities in the priority ecosystems. Geographic prioritization should also reflect local political support, demand and commitment to implement a comprehensive approach to SLM. The selection of geographic priority areas should take into account the analysis and results of relevant plans, in particular the NAPs and NAPAs and other national plans or analyses (such as where strong analytical work exists on adaptation vulnerability).

Geographic/Field Level Focus (at the bio-physical/landscape level)

The main choices to make in prioritizing the types of field level interventions involve:

- high-potential *versus* low-potential areas
- prevention and control of degradation *versus* rehabilitation and restoration

While the outcomes of prioritisation will be country specific, the following order of priorities is likely to hold in most countries in the region, taking into account economic and ecological objectives:

Productive potential of intervention area	Prevention and Control	Rehabilitation and Restoration
High	I	II
Low	I	III

Priority levels: I=high; II=medium; III=low

High-potential versus low-potential areas

The choice of priorities between high-potential versus low-potential areas is highly context and country specific and must reflect the hierarchy of objectives as well as the specific economic and environmental impacts/results associated with investments in these different areas.

However, some common patterns prevail in SSA, which provide a likely indication of focus on the high potential areas:

- in most of SSA population density is highest in the high-potential areas and although the incidence of poverty is higher in the marginal areas, the greatest number of poor people live in high potential areas
- the economic returns to addressing land degradation in the high potential areas are in most cases higher than in low potential areas given the overall higher productivity of land
- given higher population densities in the high-potential areas, the value of local environmental services provided by the adoption of SLM also tends to be higher than in low-potential areas. This may, however, not be the case for global services, in particular biodiversity conservation.⁴

The vulnerability of specific population groups who are heavily dependent upon a fragile natural resource base in the low potential areas, including pastoralists, to the effects of land degradation is particularly high in many areas in Africa. Such vulnerability links, depending upon the hierarchy of objectives, would justify priority investments in low potential areas.

The appropriate types of interventions and priorities will differ significantly between high and low potential areas.

Prevention and control of degradation versus rehabilitation and restoration

Investments to control land degradation on the ground can fall into two categories:

- avoidance, mitigation and control of land degradation; and
- remedial actions to rehabilitate or restore degraded land.

It must be stressed that there is no “black-and-white” distinction between prevention and restoration. Rather it is a continuum whereby prevention refers to intervention in areas that are not yet heavily degraded and where relatively low cost interventions can yield significant results in terms of reversing degradation trends. At the other extreme are fully degraded systems which no longer sustain original ecosystem functions and where significant restorative investment is required to reverse back to the original state, or even just to stabilise the existing degraded state.

The ecosystem prioritization will identify areas of particular value for intervention. In most cases, unless the area to be restored is of significant local or global value, country activities will likely focus on prevention activities which can provide greater returns to investment and, being less investment intensive, are also easier to scale-up.

⁴ See, for instance, Determining Global Environmental Benefits of Land Degradation Interventions using the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment’s Ecosystem Services Framework, Report for GEF STAP, Draft, May 2006
Degradation Interventions using the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment’s Ecosystem Services Framework

Creating rapid momentum

In order to achieve momentum for scaling up SLM, priority interventions should include those likely to build rapid momentum for scaling up and thereby provide positive motivation for continued action.

Examples for such opportunities include:

- *doing away with perverse incentives*: prior to establishing specific incentives for SLM, perverse incentives, for instance blanket subsidies for undifferentiated application of chemical fertilisers, should be removed. Such removal can be a quick and “negative-cost” intervention which has immediate and important incentive implications for SLM up-scaling.⁵
- *building upon existing successful pilot or small scale project approaches*: where indigenous or project success stories in SLM development and local scaling up exist, develop a dissemination strategy to inform relevant stakeholders about these approaches and target funding to extend and replicate such interventions at the respective ecosystem level.
- *using and strengthening existing SLM institutions*: if local institutions and networks exist that have an SLM focus or mandate, design implementation strategies that strengthen and maximise the use of these institutions to drive implementation and change process.
- *bringing SLM into existing programs rather than creating separate SLM operations*: priority interventions should focus on introducing or enforcing SLM in national or local development programmes which have an impact on land use, for instance increasing the skill of existing technical advisory service providers on SLM, amending existing public financial support schemes for rural development to facilitate SLM investments, building the capacity of existing multi-sectoral coordinating institutions at local and national level to support SLM etc..
- *low cost and low risk investments first*: wherever possible and in line with the main objectives, low cost and low risk investments and implementation arrangements should be prioritised.

5. CSIF Implementation

The planning horizon for CSIF interventions is suggested to be 12 years. The CSIF is intended as a living document, and the implementation schedule can take the form of a “rolling” programme which is updated at regular intervals. The planning and sequencing of investments should also be aligned with national planning processes and planning horizons, including Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks, and other budgetary processes as well as country/development partner planning frameworks.

5.1 Sequencing interventions

For maximum impact, in most country contexts interventions on the ground, in strengthening support services and in creating a conducive enabling environment and improving the knowledge and dissemination systems, will have to be carried out concurrently. However, where capacity or funding constraints limit concurrent implementation of all priority activities, sequencing is necessary. Sequencing should take into account the following main criteria:

- First undertake the investments/changes in the status-quo without which the other identified activities cannot be carried out successfully. Focus on eliminating barriers and bottlenecks before moving towards activities targeted at promoting SLM. For instance, existing subsidy programmes for non-SLM practices may have to be suspended or re-aligned in order for any up-scaling of SLM to take place.

⁵ Where the removal of perverse incentives is politically difficult because of entrenched expectations and dependency patterns, a strategy for gradual removal of perverse incentives should be put in place.

- Start with the interventions that create the greatest impact in the shortest space of time in order to create momentum for change: Wherever possible, start with quick and largely painless reforms or interventions that will show positive results to replicate.
- Use existing implementation mechanisms where available to support SLM investments prior to embarking on more complex operations that require longer institution building. While the first set of activities is undertaken by existing institutions and mechanisms, start building the specific capacity for the implementation of subsequent and possibly more complex interventions.

5.2 Harmonization

For maximum impact interventions must be harmonized both horizontally and vertically and in CSIF preparation and implementation the harmonization of interventions should be an important guiding principle. *Horizontal harmonization* means that the similar interventions targeted at the same outcome, for instance scaling-up of successful SLM pilots in different agro-ecological zones, must be compatible. Compatible does not mean they must be identical, rather that the pursuit and scaling-up of one approach should not impede the success of the other approach, and should not require different mainstreaming solutions through policy interventions. *Vertical harmonization* requires that the interventions undertaken on the ground, in strengthening support services and at the larger policy level must be compatible and mutually reinforcing. For instance, land tenure reform proposals should reflect the experience and identified constraints of pilot SLM investments, and a revised national research agenda for SLM should incorporate field results as well as respond to the challenges identified by pilot interventions that might hinder upscaling.

Harmonization in implementation also entails that the different stakeholders supporting investments, including donors, align their activities in ways that maximize their collective efficacy. By promoting the use of common implementation and funding arrangements, harmonization can increase effectiveness and efficiency and reduce burdens to countries. CSIF design will build upon existing planning frameworks at national levels, including specific agreements with development partners who support SLM investments. The CSIF preparation process is an opportunity to discuss the compatibility of the different existing implementation and funding arrangements for ongoing activities as well as those planned for future operations. Stakeholders can use the process to agree upon improved harmonization by adjusting individual approaches and move towards common arrangements to reduce transaction costs and increase impact. Donors will realign their SLM related country support and reporting systems in line with CSIF (or equivalent) in accordance with the Paris Declaration on the harmonisation of aid.

5.3 Implementation and delivery mechanisms

Whether or not the country pursues a full *country program* approach to SLM through its CSIF or starts with suggested *targeted investments*, it is unlikely in most cases that there will be a single implementation and delivery mechanism for the diverse range of prioritised interventions in the CSIF. The CSIF has the role to provide the overarching rationale and ensure that activities are complementary to achieve the set objective, but actual implementation of interventions can be undertaken through various channels and under the responsibility of diverse institutions, provided that overall CSIF implementation is monitored and managed by the National Task Force.

Implementation and delivery mechanisms for donor support to the various lines of activities are numerous and include:

- Sector-wide programs (such as Sector-Wide Approaches (SWAs)) in Natural Resources Management, Agriculture, Forestry, or Land
- Projects, such as:
 - watershed management and irrigation projects (WMI)

- community-driven development projects (CDD)
- research and extension projects (R&E)
- disaster management projects (DM)
- commercialization/supply chain development projects (CSCD)
- SLM projects

Sector-wide programs in natural resources management and SLM projects could by definition include any of the lines of intervention that will be proposed by CSIFs. Sector wide approaches in specific sectors such as agriculture or forestry may include all types of interventions, but are less well placed to deliver the cross-sectoral synergies that are instrumental to successful scaling up of SLM. The other delivery mechanisms/projects may be limited to supporting selected lines of intervention which fall within their broad scope of activities. It should be stressed though, that individual rural development projects may combine several sectoral themes and could therefore support a wider range of SLM activities. The indications provide in Table 2 below are therefore intended only to illustrate where specific thematic projects are most likely be used as key delivery mechanisms for SLM investments.

Table 2 Delivery Mechanisms for SLM Investment

CSIF Components	Delivery Mechanism					
	Operations					
	SWAp	WMI	CDD	R&E	DM	CSCD
1. Supporting on-the-ground activities for scaling up SLM						
1.1 Identification of best entry points for scaling up SLM to achieve ecosystem integrity	x	x		x		
1.2 Capacity building for SLM implementers to support integrated approaches to natural resources management	x	x	x	x	x	
1.3 SLM investment pilots with embedded scale-up strategy	x	x	x	x	x	(x)
1.4 Strengthening farmer/producer organizations for adoption and up-scaling of SLM practices	x	x	x	x	x	x
1.5 Providing incentives for SLM adoption (including environmental services payments, targeted matching grants or credit programmes)		x	x	x	x	(x)
2. Creating a conducive enabling environment for SLM						
2.1 Integrating SLM into national and sectoral development frameworks at national and decentralised levels	x	(x)			(x)	
2.2 Integrating SLM objectives and requirements into institutional and legal reform processes in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors	x	(x)			(x)	
2.3 Capacity building for SLM at all levels, to support awareness, coalition building and advocacy	x	x	(x)	(x)	x	
2.4 Strengthening cross-sectoral spatial planning systems at the national and decentralised level to prioritize investments between agro-ecosystems and types of intervention	x	x	(x)	(x)	x	
2.5 Reviewing country investment programmes and public expenditure frameworks to identify constraints and entry points for SLM and to increase predictability of financial flows to SLM	x					
2.6 Analysing and rectifying incentive frameworks for SLM	x	x				
2.7 Building or strengthening early warning systems, contingency and response capacity	x	x			x	
3. Strengthening commercial and advisory services for SLM						
3.1 Identify non-policy constraints/bottlenecks to SLM adoption	x	(x)		(x)	(x)	x
3.2 Capacity building for SLM service providers	x	x	(x)	x	x	x
3.3 Strengthening input suppliers (seeds, tools, seedlings, etc.)	x	x	(x)	x	x	x
3.4 Marketing support for outputs from SLM, including certification systems to strengthen fair trade and eco-labelling schemes	x	x	(x)	x		x
3.5 Strengthening providers of financial services to offer financial products to support SLM adoption (<i>here rural financial services projects will also be an important delivery mechanism</i>)	x	(x)	(x)			x
4. Developing effective SLM knowledge generation and management, M&E and information dissemination systems						
4.1 Supporting targeted and applied SLM research, including long-term ecological research and monitoring	x	(x)		x	x	
4.2 Support knowledge sharing and innovation networks based upon participatory/community-driven and iterative approaches	x	x	x	x		
4.3 Developing M&E MIS for SLM for CSIF implementation and evaluation	x					
4.4 Developing effective national dissemination strategies for lessons and best practices (to complement TerrAfrica efforts)	x	(x)		x		

x: suitable delivery mechanism; (x): partially suitable delivery mechanism

Country programs and SLM projects are not featured as by definition they will be suitable delivery mechanisms for all interventions

5.4 Financing Modalities

The main financing modalities for donor support to public investment for SLM are:

- budget support: Activities selected in the budget preparation process are funded directly from the state budget
- basket funding: Activities which fit into a specific programme are funded by an earmarked fund supported by several donors/financing organizations.
- project funding: Activities are funded through projects funded inside or outside of the state budget.

From the point of view of the proponent of SLM investments, it is important to understand the financing modalities currently prevailing in the country in order to target the appropriate institutions with requests for financial support.

Budget support and basket funding is primarily provided by multilateral and bilateral donors but only to selected SSA countries that meet certain criteria related to public financial management. Where a large part of development resources are disbursed directly through the budget, the proponents of SLM investments must target the Ministry of Finance in their efforts to demonstrate the importance and value of additional SLM investments. For basket funding, the funding requests must be addressed to the institution managing the basket.

Funds are available from a larger range of financiers, including multilateral and bilateral donors, international NGOs and from the GEF SIP. Project funding is conditional on the proposals meeting specified criteria of the funding agencies.

To demonstrate a commitment to sustainability of investments and a continued momentum for scaling up SLM, countries must dedicate significant resources from their national budgetary resources, not only for operation and maintenance but also for investment funding.

CSIF should wherever possible adopt flexible and decentralised financial mechanisms which are adaptable as implementation mechanisms evolve.

5.5 Partnerships for Implementation

In order to move towards its goal and objectives and achieve its four intermediate results, and in line with partnership principles and processes stemming from the CAADP, EAP, and the TerrAfrica Country Engagement Strategy, CSIF stakeholders would need to form strong cooperative partnerships in the implementation of joint work programming around the four CSIF components:

- Through “Component 1” (Supporting on-the-ground activities for scaling up SLM), these partnerships would promote and strengthen participatory development, mobilization and harmonization of priority on-the-ground activities/investments at national, sub-national and local levels, as well as support to leveraged resources, i.e., those that are mobilized later as a direct result of the CSIF.
- Establishing partnership mechanisms to implement “Component 2” (Creating a conducive enabling environment for SLM at all levels), would increase mobilization of partners in a coalition to advocate a common vision of SLM, share analyses, set the foundations for strengthening and harmonizing policy dialogues and strategies, and improve coordination at all levels.
- “Component 3” (Strengthening commercial and advisory services for SLM) needs strong partnerships between the private sector that is expected to contribute significant investment in this area, and the Government who provides the regulatory structure.

- Commitment on the part of a representative pool of institutions or organization engaged in “Component 4” (Developing effective SLM knowledge management, M&E and information dissemination systems) would support higher quality local, national and regional knowledge based mechanisms and identify and generate stronger analytical underpinnings, strengthen innovation networks, as well as harmonize/align monitoring and evaluation systems.

Donors would be expected to align and coordinate their support for these national interventions in the manner suggested above. This could be signalled through a MoU between the government and NRM/rural development/agricultural donor groups, pledging joint support for the strategy, related institutional strengthening (including reform where appropriate), and activities.

Partnership Mechanisms: The CSIF steering and lead executing agencies should seek to combine their resources with those of their partners to develop CSIF activities and generate expected outputs and results. Although several of the more conventional types of partnership arrangements are possible (see some examples below), the CSIF Task Force (or equivalent) and/or lead agencies would work with *each* partner to define responsibilities that are mutually beneficial. Typical types of partnerships to implement CSIF might include:

- *Joint funding agreement/cost share:* a partnership where the CSIF leading executing agency(ies) and relevant stakeholders (at the local, sub-national or national level) implement CSIF activities, and the cooperating private sector, donor or sub-national or local government agency(s) share the cost;
- *Work Share:* a commitment with e.g. national agencies or sub-national or local governments where a portion of the work required undertaking a specific CSIF activity or task (e.g. advisory services, maps, laboratory/monitoring services) is performed by each participant. No funds are transferred between the partner agencies.
- *Data Exchange:* a partnership with e.g. national agencies or sub-national or local governments where each agency produces standardized products (e.g. maps) or services (e.g. extension, adaptive research). These products are then exchanged between the partners (no funds transferred).
- *Cooperative R&D agreements:* these would be created e.g. to allow/make technology transfer (and adaptation) the responsibility of all involved national government research institution scientists and give the national agencies the authority to enter into agreements with the commercial sector.
- *Full repay:* a commitment whereby one or more of the partners provide products and services (e.g. advisory services, maps, laboratory/monitoring services) to its partners and is fully reimbursed for its expenses.
- *Supplementary Funding:* where for example national government or private agency(s) not directly involved in executing CSIF generates a service or produces a product to a standard short of final CSIF requirements e.g. from farmers (e.g. SLM technologies which need to be adapted to local agro-ecological conditions). A CSIF partner would provide the additional funding to upgrade the service or product to the needs of those farmers.

6. Annotated Outline for the Structure and Contents of the CSIF Document

6.1 Suggested Outline and Table of Contents of The CSIF Document

Cover Page

A. SUMMARY

B. CONTEXT, RATIONALE AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Background, Rationale and Justification for Additional Funding
2. Local Ownership
3. Linkages to Country and Regional Priorities

C. CSIF DESCRIPTION

1. Proposed CSIF Objectives and Key Indicators
2. Priority Ecosystems/Target Areas
3. Results/Outputs and Types of Investment/SIP Activities for Each CSIF Component
4. Lessons learned and reflected in proposed CSIF design
5. Proposed Costs, Funding Sources and Gaps
6. Key Policy and Institutional/Legal Reforms Supported by the CSIF

D. CSIF IMPLEMENTATION

1. Coordination and Implementation Arrangements
2. Stakeholder Involvement
3. Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy
4. Replicability and Scaling-Up Strategy
5. Sustainability
6. Implementation Plan

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Detailed Description of Activities for Scaling up SLM

Appendix 2. CSIF Results Framework

Appendix 3. Overview of past, ongoing and future SLM projects/activities

Appendix 4. Maps

CSIF Attachment 1. Building Stakeholder Ownership and Awareness for CSIFs

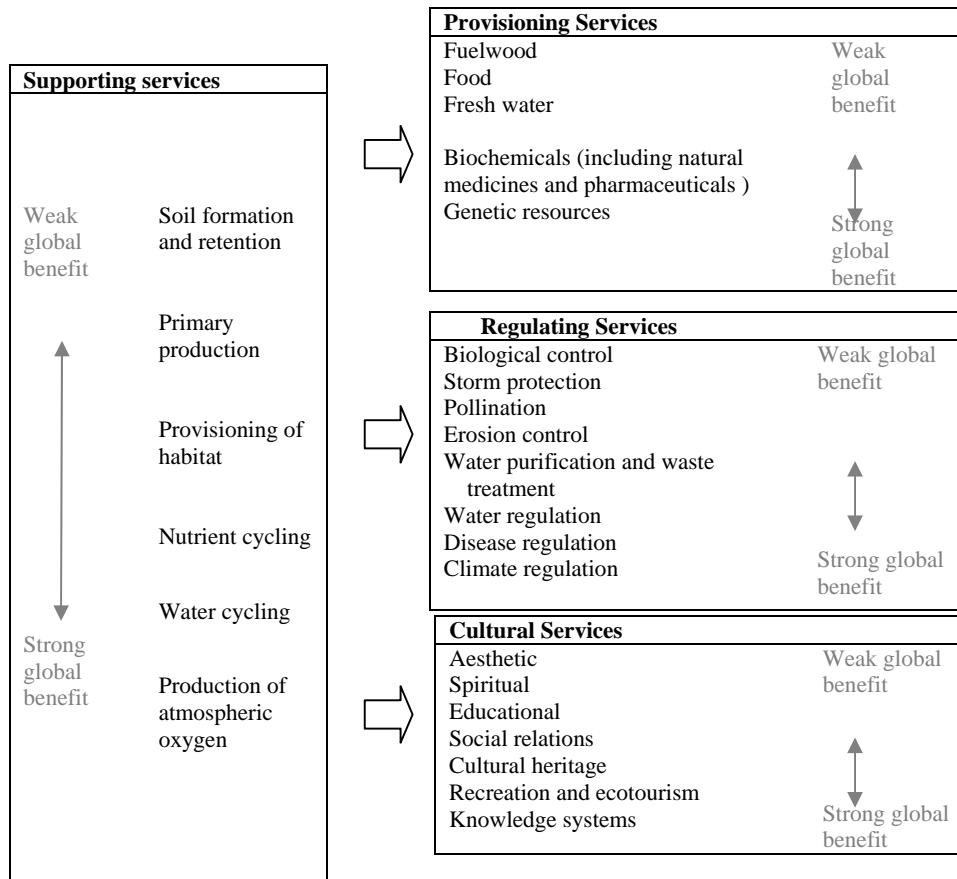
The purpose of this Attachment is to provide a checklist of principles, subjects, “typical” questions and participation activities suggested for the CSIF development process, as a guidance for the Government to work together with the key stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of its CSIF, in order to support a process of equitable and active involvement of all relevant stakeholders and affirm a clear vision for sustainable governance of all sectors involved in the CSIF development process, including formulation (analysis and planning), implementation, monitoring and evaluation. As mentioned in Section 3.1 of these guidelines, to achieve this vision and reach consensus agreement on what should be considered in the CSIF proposal, the participation process would require strong leadership, dialogue and co-operation at all levels (national, sub-national and local) and a strong focus on economic sectors, particularly those directly related to natural resource use and management (agriculture, grazing, forestry and water management). For a diagrammatic representation of the proposed CSIF preparation process, please refer to Attachment 2.

In view of the extensive availability of easily accessible websites with valuable on-line resources in consultation and participation in various languages⁶, these guidelines are limited to the broad “checklist” suggested to guide (when needed) the stakeholder involvement process of CSIF formulation and implementation.

(Available upon request)

⁶ For example, the “Participation Website” available in English, French, Arabic and Spanish:
<http://www.fao.org/participation/default.htm>

CSIF Attachment 2: Overview of Key Ecosystem Services and Relative Local and Global Benefits



Source: based on Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2003)

CSIF Attachment 3: Investment Options for Scaling up SLM

Investments at the country level for SIP implementation will fall into four components:

- 1 Supporting on-the-ground activities for scaling up SLM
- 2 Creating a conducive enabling environment for SLM (at national, sub-national and local levels)
- 3 Strengthening commercial and advisory services for SLM
- 4 Developing effective SLM knowledge management, M&E and information dissemination systems

The outline of these components and specific sample activities in each of them are meant to help countries identify needs for interventions at different levels and in different fields in order to move towards mainstreaming of SLM and up-scaling to achieve ecosystem integrity. The dimensions and activities are illustrative and are not meant to provide a “straightjacket” to limit individual countries’ freedom and inventiveness in structuring its investment programmes.

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
<i>1. Supporting on-the-ground activities for scaling up SLM</i>	<i>Intermediate result 1⁷: SLM applications on the ground are scaled up in country-defined priority agro-ecological zones</i>
1.1 Identification of best entry points for scaling up SLM to achieve ecosystem integrity	<p>Identify geographic areas in the country which have greatest potential for swift and effective up-scaling of SLM to increase ecosystem integrity and provide sustainable economic returns to land users, through a review of agroecological conditions taking into account plausible scenarios of climate change, institutional capacity, market conditions and competing land use options including alternative livelihoods.</p> <p>Assess existing and potential new technologies to identify those which should be promoted for scaling up in specific agroecological and socio-economic settings in the country, considering financial returns to land users, as well as the economic value of ecosystem services (including climate regulation, water quality and flow management, and biodiversity protection) provided by the SLM practice in various geographic zones.</p>
1.2 Capacity building for SLM implementers (farmers, forest users, rural community members, etc.) to support integrated approaches to natural resources management	<p>Development of skills to promote farmer-driven innovation and adoption, including provision of a set of SLM technologies and practices (including those based on traditional best practices and knowledge) that farmers can test as individuals or groups, generating and managing (adapting) knowledge, while at the same time address long-term issues of soil erosion and soil fertility and generate global environmental benefits within the context of sustainable development</p> <p>Support for increased community awareness of land degradation and desertification issues and of the cost-effective mitigation measures that they can undertake to address these issues, while creating associated revenue stream for local people; when applicable, this may also include knowledge on transboundary natural resources issues that affect community lands and shared aquatic resources</p>

⁷ From the SIP results framework.

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
	<p>Training and workshops in participatory methodologies which facilitate community-based management approaches consistent with developing and implementing broader SLM strategies for agro-ecosystem conservation and restoration, including training in the participatory formulation and implementation of ecosystem, [micro-] watershed and farm level plans in support of these strategies</p> <p>Training in other methodologies (such as farmers-field-school) that support SLM through farmer-driven innovation, experimentation and adoption</p> <p>Expert services and training of farmers to support on-farm trials and participatory SLM technology development</p> <p>Promoting gender sensitization and training in gender-oriented field methodologies in the implementation of SLM projects</p> <p>Strengthening the capacity of farming communities (including youth and women) for building and bridging social capital and implementing CDD activities while participating in ecosystem/natural resource planning (and leading to increased community capacity to negotiate access to basic social services and education)</p> <p>Workshops to improve close collaboration between researchers, extensionists and farmers for the development, adoption and improvement of SLM technologies and practices</p> <p>Field trips, farmer-to-farmer exchange events and workshops for dissemination and replication of good SLM management practices, technologies and lessons learned</p> <p>Development of capacity to explore multiple monetary benefits of SLM activities such as through CDM, payments for ecosystem services, and conservation management</p> <p>Working with commercial farmers and outgrower schemes to identify barriers to SLM adoption and build capacity to overcome these</p>

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
<p>1.3 SLM investment pilots/demonstration sites with embedded scale-up strategy</p>	<p>Provision of seed capital, expert services, training and information needed to overcome barriers to the <u>adoption and replication</u> of more sustainable and productive land use practices and technologies, while addressing long-term issues of soil erosion, soil fertility, climate change risks and generating global benefits within the context of sustainable development/livelihoods, such as those related to increased conservation and/or protection of biodiversity and improved carbon sequestration. These would include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Local practice, adaptation, experimentation and dissemination of sustainable agriculture, better rangeland/pasture, feed and livestock management, water management and sustainable forest and woodland management (for detailed list of illustrative practices and Categories of SLM, see Attachment 1): (ii) Assistance towards regularizing land tenure (e.g. support for acquisition of land titling) and/or water rights, and enhancing capacity to resolve conflicts over the use and access to land and water (iii) Implementation of watershed-based SLM, facilitating coordinated actions in water management, land management, zoning, protection of biological resources and amelioration of vulnerability to climate change, combining natural resources conservation, intensified natural resources use and livelihoods objectives (for detailed investments, see Attachment 1 Category 4) (iv) Piloting and adapting ecoagriculture at the landscape level to raise productivity and ecosystem services (v) Developing and up-scaling “learning by doing”/action-oriented approaches such as Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to promote and adapt SLM technologies and practices that pool expert and indigenous knowledge and remove technological and knowledge barriers to SLM while supporting agro-ecosystem restoration; these might include FFS integrated Better Land Husbandry, Integrated Plant and Pest Management, Integrated Soil, Water and Nutrients Approach, Conservation Agriculture and other approaches (vi) Adoption or expansion of soil and water conservation measures on community and state/public lands to protect the integrity of ecosystems and/or watersheds, including reforestation of riparian or other fragile areas and erosion control in rural roads (vii) SLM activities that integrate biodiversity conservation such as those that promote habitat rehabilitation, crop diversity, preserve breeding grounds, provide migration corridors, and provide buffers for changing habitats in protected areas (viii) SLM activities that integrate climate adaptation components, such as those that (a) support forest/vegetative cover restoration to reduce siltation and the associated water flow problems or (b) improve community resilience to climate change through the development of non-climate-proof rural livelihoods, for example, through improved water management by water harvesting, conservation and small-scale irrigation, or diversification of crops (e.g. drought resistant crops) and livestock to accommodate the incidence of droughts.

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
<p>1.4 Strengthening farmer/producer organizations for adoption and up-scaling of SLM practices (see below for marketing support to farmers' organisations)</p>	<p>Establishing and strengthening producer organizations to facilitate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • farmer-to-farmer diffusion of technology • identification of a well-defined demand for adapted SLM research and advisory services • creation of interlocutors for technical service providers <p>Establishing (or strengthening existing) producer organizations' exchange networks at national and sub-national levels for promoting adoption and up-scaling of SLM practices</p>
<p>1.5 Providing incentives for SLM adoption (including support to design of environmental services payments, targeted matching grants or credit programmes)</p>	<p>Eliminate any existing perverse financial and other incentives that favor the adoption of unsustainable land management practices (for instance the blanket subsidization of fertilizer).</p> <p>Design and facilitate private (and possibly public) payments for environmental services schemes for services provided by SLM adoption (including water regulation and quality control, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, landscape beauty)</p> <p>Explore options for participation in the Clean Development Mechanism for applicable SLM activities</p> <p>Provide well targeted matching grants to land users switching to SLM in order to facilitate adoption (overcome barrier of up-front investment requirements)</p> <p>Foster credit provision for investments in SLM through existing and new financial services providers (<i>related to activity above to strengthen rural financial services</i>)</p> <p>Facilitating access by SLM implementers to existing financial support schemes by increasing access of poorest farmers and for longer term SLM investment horizons.</p> <p>Training of governing body members and/or technical staff from different types of local legal institutions (e.g. cooperatives, associations/societies) to create and/or reinforce a network of sustainable financial intermediaries and allow on-lending while increasing awareness of SLM issues and of the cost-effective mitigation measures that they finance</p>
<p>1.6 Explore options to promote complementary alternative non-NR based livelihood strategies in areas where land use pressures or other ecological constraints hinder SLM adoption</p>	<p>Assess the commercial potential for non natural resources based livelihood strategies in areas with strong pressure on land resources</p> <p>Capacity building for the adoption of commercially viable non natural resources based livelihood strategies</p> <p>Marketing support for products from alternative livelihood strategies</p>
<p><i>2. Creating a conducive enabling environment for SLM (at national, sub-national and local level)</i></p>	<p><i>Intermediate result 2⁸: Effective and inclusive national dialogue and advocacy on SLM strategic priorities establishes conducive enabling conditions for SLM investments</i></p>
<p>2.1 Integrating SLM into national and</p>	<p>Analytical and stocktaking work to incorporate SLM principles in the participatory formulation of new and/or review,</p>

⁸ From the SIP results framework

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
sectoral development frameworks at national and decentralised levels	<p>updating and harmonisation of existing national [and local] policies, plans, strategies and development frameworks, including PRS and CAADP, as well as individual sector policies, with a view to adopting a programmatic approach to and improving governance of SLM in line with TerrAfrica/SIP principles. Important sectors include agriculture (crop/livestock), forestry, water management, inland fisheries/aquaculture, energy, wildlife/protected areas, tourism and rural infrastructure)</p> <p>This could include studies (stocktaking, analytical and strategic); expert services to facilitate review, formulation and harmonisation and workshops at local and national levels (consultations, peer review, ratification etc.)</p> <p>Strengthening cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder co-ordination mechanisms at national and decentralised levels building upon existing structures.</p>
2.2 Integrating SLM objectives and requirements into institutional and legal reform processes in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors	<p>Assess the adequacy of institutional and legal frameworks to improve governance and promote up-scaling of SLM including through country level implementation of the Rio conventions, and draft /revise and harmonise laws and regulations to mainstream SLM into legal framework of the key land-use related sectors including include agriculture (crop/livestock), forestry, water management, energy, wildlife/protected areas and tourism)</p> <p>Assess the adequacy of the legal and regulatory framework for decentralisation as well as the capacity of decentralised institutions to carry out (new) mandates on SLM and promote an integrated ecosystem approach to SLM which will create enabling conditions for scaling up SLM.</p> <p>Investments may include studies, expert services, and workshops.</p>

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
<p>2.3 Capacity building for SLM at all levels, to support awareness, coalition building and advocacy</p>	<p>Capacity development and awareness raising in main line ministries, local government authorities, parliamentary committees, ministries of planning and finance, natural resource agencies and their respective managers, civil society, professional and farmer organisations and concerned private sector stakeholders, of the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. links between poverty and land degradation issues (thereby ensuring higher priority to SLM) b. links between land degradation and climate change c. the incentive implications of policies and public expenditure strategies d. the importance of good governance for SLM e. cost-effective mitigation measures that they can support. f. use of decision-support tools for cross-sectoral and spatial planning g. opportunities to optimize synergy among international Conventions/Treaties ratified by the country (e.g. Climate Change, Biodiversity, Desertification and International Waters) and cross-sectoral linkages for which SLM can be the vehicle of pursuing integrated NRM (see Attachment 1 for examples) <p>This may include training, workshops, expert services, studies and goods (publications/training materials). Promotion of SLM through the education sector including primary, secondary and tertiary education. Expert services and workshops to support advocacy for SLM and coalition development to lead to e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) increased understanding among decision-makers at all levels of the need and urgency for SLM, and of the value created by an integrated approach to SLM; (b) increased capacity to discuss and negotiate SLM priorities in government plans and national donor assistance strategies; (c) improved coordination and consultation mechanisms vertically and horizontally; (d) improved cross-sectoral reviews and coordination; (e) joint work programming with development partners and alignment of donor support to SLM. (f) SLM priorities specified in Multi-Year Plans (such as broad development and sectoral plans for agriculture, forestry, land use, water, and climate change adaptation) (g) increased accountability and governance at all levels
<p>2.4 Strengthening cross-sectoral spatial planning systems at the national and decentralised level to prioritize [natural resources based and poverty alleviation] investments between agro-ecosystems and types of intervention</p>	<p>Supporting the development and implementation of simplified land information systems for each of the country's agro-ecosystems, including key data on land/ecosystem resources, demographic and economic variables. These planning systems should facilitate the identification, validation and implementation of identified priority interventions and investments with national SLM stakeholders in the private and public sectors and among civil society.</p> <p>This would include training, workshops, studies, expert services and goods (e.g. equipment, software and satellite image)</p>

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
<p>2.5 Reviewing country investment programmes and public expenditure frameworks to identify constraints and entry points for SLM and to increase predictability of financial flows to SLM</p>	<p>Analytical and stocktaking work to review national and sub-national investment programmes and projects (including agriculture, natural resources, private sector development, decentralisation support etc.) to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) identify existing public expenditure on SLM (levels and types) at national and decentralised level; (b) analyse the quality and value for money of spending on SLM support and upscaling; (c) identify opportunities for greater economies of scale, alignment and harmonisation of interventions; (d) assess existing constraints and entry points for investments to up-scale SLM (e) identify entry points and strategies to ensure that SLM is considered appropriately in the national and decentralised budget and project/programme preparation process (f) identify perverse incentives which favour the adoption of non-sustainable land management practices. <p>This may include studies, expert services and workshops. Agreeing commitments to dedicate increased public resources to investment in SLM and to operational expenditure to support SLM investments.</p> <p>Expert services and workshops to discuss and agree on revised allocation of budgetary resources for SLM at various levels (national and decentralised) and feed into budgeting processes.</p>
<p>2.6 Analysing and rectifying incentive frameworks for SLM</p>	<p>Assessing incentives for SLM adoption by reviewing sectoral, development, decentralisation, financing, investment and other related policies.</p> <p>Reviewing public expenditure at national and decentralised level and identify public subsidies to inputs, advisory and commercial services for SLM and non-SLM practices/outputs</p> <p>Creating the legal and institutional enabling environment for the development of private and public PES schemes.</p> <p>Development and adoption of land tenure systems to encourage efficient and sustainable use and management of natural resources</p> <p>Strengthening conflict prevention and resolution over land resources to facilitate SLM investments</p>
<p>2.7 Building or strengthening early warning systems, contingency and response capacity</p>	<p>Up-grading or building low cost and locally relevant early warning systems and decision support systems to assist land users to adapt their land use strategies in light of climate change and related short term weather fluctuations (also building upon information systems to be developed under Dimension 4).</p> <p>Strengthen contingency planning and funding to promote resilience to weather related shocks without jeopardising long term productivity of the natural resource base, taking into account information available including from cross-sectoral spatial planning systems</p> <p>Formulate response strategies to save lives at the same time as safeguarding the long term sustainability of natural resources based livelihood strategies and ecosystem services</p> <p>Mainstream SLM approaches into disaster management and emergency response strategies and operations</p> <p>Build knowledge bases of adaptive capacity based on local determinants to inform appropriate adaptation planning</p>

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
2.8 Strengthening traditional and innovative conflict resolution mechanisms to avoid, mitigate and resolve conflicts over NR	<p>Building capacity of traditional leaders to resurrect and strengthen traditional conflict resolution mechanisms over natural resource use</p> <p>Building capacity of local elected representatives to act as intermediaries in brokering solutions to conflict over natural resources use</p> <p>Disseminating information on successful local traditional or innovative conflict resolution mechanisms</p> <p>Facilitate agreements between representatives/traditional leaders of groups relying on shared natural resources for their livelihoods on respective use rights and procedures in times of stress</p>
<i>3. Strengthening commercial and advisory services for SLM</i>	<i>Intermediate result 3⁹ : Commercial and advisory services for SLM are strengthened and readily available and affordable to land users</i>
3.1 Identify non-policy constraints/bottlenecks to SLM adoption	<p>Identify non-policy constraints/bottlenecks to SLM adoption (e.g. availability of inputs, unfavourable output markets, appropriate advisory services, financial services, land use planning, information systems, analytical skills, etc.)</p> <p>This may include studies, expert services and workshops.</p>
3.2 Capacity building for SLM service providers	<p>SLM training of extension staff (public and private) and local government in participatory integrated approaches to natural resources management, with a modified curriculum that includes socio-economic and environmental components related to SLM</p> <p>Capacity building of extensionists and other advisory service providers to build the necessary skills to assist farmers in production diversification, processing, marketing and marketing organization as related to SLM</p> <p>Expert services and training of research and extension staff to support on-farm trials and participatory SLM technology development in crop, grazing and forest lands</p> <p>Support for networking among service providers to increase awareness and adoption of SLM practices and marketing organization</p> <p>Strengthening capacity of local governments and extension staff for implementing CDD activities within the context of landscape/ecosystem and SLM planning and implementation</p> <p>Develop SLM curriculum for Farmer Field School (FFS)</p> <p>Conduct training of trainers to pass on skills in SLM advice to other service providers</p>
3.3 Strengthening input suppliers (seeds, tools, seedlings, etc.)	Technology transfer, technical and financial support to develop and implement strategies for promoting the development and use of machinery, tools and equipment for e.g. conservation tillage, agroforestry, reforestation or other environmental-friendly practices in support of SLM and agro-ecosystem restoration

⁹ From the SIP results framework

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
	<p>Expert services, workshops and studies to induce demand driven supply of agricultural inputs (including equipment, tools, materials and others) through e.g. commercial channels (such as input supply activities used to build up through "on the job training" professional dealer networks).</p> <p>Strengthening SLM producer organizations to become organized and well-informed buyers and where appropriate providers of specialized inputs for SLM.</p> <p>Expert services, workshops, equipment/goods and small works to establish an increased capacity for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) production of seeds retrieval (of native species) and seedlings production to respond to future demand from restoration of agro-ecosystems, including riparian forests; (b) germplasm collection and improvement for stress tolerance, so as to ensure agricultural production under erratic rainfall and climate change conditions (stress tolerance to drought), salinity and other circumstances such has extreme temperatures
<p>3.4 Marketing support for outputs from SLM, including certification systems to strengthen fair trade and eco-labelling schemes</p>	<p>Undertake market assessments to determine the commercial potential for special products from SLM</p> <p>Promote marketing of special products from SLM, for instance new products from cover crops used in conservation farming (for instance fodder)</p> <p>Identify potential for high value SLM products for niche markets, including fair trade and eco-labelling and strengthen producer organisations and intermediaries to promote SLM products in these markets.</p> <p>Strengthen SLM producer organisations to improve their output marketing</p>
<p>3.5 Strengthening providers of financial services to offer financial products to support SLM adoption</p>	<p>Strengthening financial services providers (private and private-public partnerships) to extend their reach to rural areas</p> <p>Develop appropriate financial service products (savings and credit) that can facilitate the adoption of SLM</p> <p>Strengthening rural financial services providers to develop financial services products suitable to value addition of SLM products and to alternative livelihood strategies to natural resources based activities</p>
<p><i>4. Developing effective SLM knowledge generation and management, M&E and information dissemination</i></p>	<p><i>Intermediate result 4¹⁰: Targeted knowledge generated and disseminated and monitoring established and strengthened at all levels.</i></p>
<p>4.1 Supporting targeted and applied SLM research (technical, economic, social), including long-term ecological research and monitoring</p>	<p>Develop a knowledge generation programme, integrated with existing subregional and regional networks, to support SLM and its integrated planning, implementation and monitoring, through topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) participatory research and studies to analyze and define the necessary set of condition for the successful replication and up-scaling of SLM practices beyond existing demonstration areas (ii) Comprehensive sector reviews which address gaps in current understanding by combining a number of elements:

¹⁰ From the SIP results framework

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
	<p>institutional analyses, policy/legal analyses, economic valuations and/or benefit-costs analyses, public expenditure reviews, diagnostics of land degradation and state of play of SLM, retrospective analysis of lessons learned, and entry points for potential investment development.</p> <p>(iii) Improvement of climate scenario generation and integration of climate risk analysis into planning</p> <p>(iv) Transferability of best practices from one geographic area/region to another or between climate zones (i.e. to set conditions for replication and scaling-up beyond demonstration areas)</p> <p>(v) Development of knowledge management plans</p> <p>(vi) Research and monitoring to develop and test specific country criteria for community investment support programs</p> <p>Build or improve capacity for crop and tree breeding under changing climatic conditions, including</p> <p>Strengthen crop and tree breeding to expand choice of species under future conditions (e.g. fast maturing species, drought-resistant varieties, etc) taking into account climate change scenarios and turn-around time for development and launch of new varieties (~10-20 years)</p> <p>Improve germplasm collection to safeguard local genetic pools and preservation of native species including through technology transfer.</p>
<p>4.2 Support knowledge sharing and innovation networks based upon participatory/community-driven and iterative approaches</p>	<p>Workshops to improve close collaboration between researchers, extension workers and farmers/pastoralists for the development, adoption and improvement of SLM technologies and practices</p> <p>Dissemination of research results through farmer adaptive trials, demonstrations, meetings and publications</p> <p>Monitoring by producers of technology change and resulting economic and environmental impacts</p> <p>Conduct social awareness raising and outreach to develop social acceptance of new crop varieties and staple foods particularly suited to changing climatic conditions</p> <p>Build or strengthen user-driven knowledge management tools, making the best possible use of and ensuring compatibility with related national, regional and global knowledge base tools (including at TerrAfrica level)</p> <p>Strengthen community participation in planning and monitoring processes by improving community information and awareness, including through community libraries and other local information dissemination approaches.</p>

CSIF components	Sample activities/investments
4.3 Strengthen capacity of SLM stakeholders for innovation	<p>Integrate research into national policy making processes</p> <p>Build capacity of SLM stakeholders in systemic thinking to understand links and complementarities between different activities (technological, institutional, economic etc.) supporting SLM</p> <p>Strengthen capacity of SLM stakeholders to innovate in response to rapid changes</p> <p>Create networks between SLM innovators along commodity supply chains and in specific geographic areas and promote institutional learning</p> <p>Create incentives to establish links between SLM innovators in different parts of the innovation chain</p>
4.4 Developing M&E MIS for SLM for CSIF implementation and evaluation	<p>Strengthening existing national and local M&E systems and related MIS [or developing a new SIP MIS] to introduce a SLM/SIP component, including support to the implementation or strengthening of rapid, cost-effective and reliable methods of land degradation assessment and monitoring, for land use planning and management, taking into account existing and regional networks (such as FAO/CEOS GOFD-GOLD, START, etc) with users participation in the development process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Simplified systems for acquisition of economic, social and environmental data and information; (ii) Computer databases and systems that include analytical software tools integrated with GIS technology, for storing and analysing data and information and enabling a wider and more effective use of information generated by, or managed through, the software tools, e.g. for multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral studies and researches; (iii) Environmental systems that support establishment of (or improvement in) climate monitoring and early warning capacity and decision-making, such as activities that enhance capacity of monitoring stations in terms of collection, stakeholders participation, etc. <p>This would include training, expert services and goods (e.g. equipment, software and satellite image to implement sound/integrated/networked M&E MIS for SLM) and small works (e.g. to build environmental information centres and monitoring stations)</p>
4.5 Developing effective national dissemination strategies for lessons and best practices (to complement regional TerrAfrica efforts)	<p>Expert services and studies to analyze and design, establish and implement local and national support networks and dissemination campaigns for awareness raising and exchange of experiences (lessons learned and best practices), complementing [linked to] TerrAfrica regional network.</p> <p>Identifying and building appropriate dissemination outlets and media for different stakeholder groups</p>

**Table 1 (to CSIF Attachment 3)
Illustrative list of SLM Categories and Practices and Synergies among GEF Focal Areas**

Category 1	Sustainable Agricultural Management Activities	Examples of GEF Focal Areas Benefiting from SLM Activities
1.1	Rehabilitation / re-vegetation of degraded agricultural lands (including C sequestration)	BD – using indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
1.2	Improve tillage methods (zero, conservation, use of green manures / improved fallows)	CC - increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
1.3	Adopt erosion control measures (terraces, buffer strips)	IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
1.4	Improve complexity (genetic, species, etc.) of agro-ecosystems	BD – using indigenous species BD – using indigenous species
1.5	Promotion of diversified rotations, cover crops etc.	CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration CC - enhancing adaptive capacity IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
1.6	Use of integrated crop-livestock systems (including zero grazing) and other diversified practices (incl. those associated with traditional systems)	BD – using indigenous species and races IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers CC - enhancing adaptive capacity
1.7	Improved water management through water harvesting, small-scale irrigation, etc	CC - adaptation/enhancing adaptive capacity
Category 2	Sustainable Forest / Woodland Management Activities	
2.1	Protection / conservation of indigenous species	BD – using indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
2.2	Agro-forestry initiatives	BD – using indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers CC - adaptation, diversification and improving resilience
2.3	Regeneration of forests and woodlands	BD – using indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
2.4	Promotion of non-timber forest products (including medicinal plants and wild food)	BD – using and valorizing indigenous species CC - enhancing adaptive capacity
Category 3	Sustainable Range / Pasture Management Activities	
3.1	Rehabilitation / re-vegetation of degraded range / grasslands (including soil improvement)	BD – using indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers

3.2	Fire control measures	BD – protecting indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
3.3	Reseeding using suitable indigenous perennial grasses	BD – using indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
3.4	Improve management of ruminant animals	IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
3.5	Mixed wildlife/pastoral systems	BD – increased species conservation CC - enhancing adaptive capacity
Category 4 Integrated Watershed Management		
4.1	Soil and water conservation, including upstream investments target both on-site and downstream benefits ¹¹ , and applying practices and technologies that combines both structural and lower cost vegetative measures, with emphasis on the latter, whenever possible	IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers and improving water quality CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration BD – using indigenous species
4.2	Measures to improve livelihoods through sustainable intensification of natural resource use (in rainfed agriculture, livestock production and forestry), diversification and integration of crop and livestock production, improved water management	CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers CC - enhancing adaptive capacity
4.3	Target productivity improvements in agriculture through intensification, diversification, integration of crop and livestock production, improved rangeland management, and improved water management	IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration BD – using indigenous species CC - enhancing adaptive capacity
4.4	Maintenance of stream flow and reduction of flow variability	IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers
4.5	Conservation and sustainable management of wetlands, lakes and river valleys, including investments in forestry to protect and improve forest cover whilst creating associated revenue stream for local people	BD – protecting indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration IW – limiting sediment supply to rivers CC - enhancing adaptive capacity
Category 5 Energy-Related Activities		
5.1	Improvements to reduce consumption of wood fuel (sustainable forest harvesting, efficient wood-burning stoves, fuel substitution)	BD – protecting indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration
5.2	Disseminate alternative technologies to reduce dependence on wood fuel (solar, wind, geothermal, small hydro)	BD – protecting indigenous species CC – increasing above and below ground C sequestration

¹¹ Investment in sustainable soil and water conservation – for example, stabilization of soils and prevention of erosion - is an accompaniment and an essential pre-condition to on-site investments in intensification of resource use, such as soil fertility improvement (source: Watershed Management Operations: Approaches and Emerging Lessons, WB, April 2006)³⁴

CSIF Attachment 4

Guidance and Recommendations for Presentation of a Diagnostic Land Degradation Profile (Input to CSIF Section B.1 on Background)

This Attachment is meant to be used as a reference in the development of the country's overview on land degradation and SLM.

The objective of the Background Section is to place the CSIF proposal in the broader economic, environmental and social context of the country. As a result, it should be oriented towards providing the basis needed to establish the CSIF rationale. It is believed that most of the information required above would be available from the UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP) or National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), where they exist or are under preparation, and other relevant national strategies and policy or programme documents, and detailed scientific work. However, some of the information may require an initial land-use planning effort to be used as an input to the selection of priority ecosystems and target areas for CSIF intervention (see Section 2b below). This exercise on identification of ecosystems would also facilitate developing a multi-disciplinary approach to address LD issues in a coordinated fashion.

This section would benefit from an introduction paragraph on e.g. geography, climate, population and (if available) estimated number of people at risk to serious declines in productivity and livelihoods as a consequence of land degradation. A map highlighting the various areas/regions of the country affected by LD (if possible, indicating the relative degree of severity of degradation for each area/region) should be referred in this section and attached as Appendix 3 to the CSIF document. In addition to this introductory paragraph, this section should also present a ***national land degradation profile***, based on existing or easily generated information. Where possible, this information should also be provided and accompany the document.

(diagnostic approach available on request)

CSIF Attachment 5: Suggested Template and Illustrative CSIF Results Framework

(Available upon request; follows the structure of the SIP results framework)