Funding Proposal

Project/Programme title:	**The Green Industrialization through Special Economic Zones and Agropoles (GIEZA)**
Country(ies):	**Republic of The Gambia**
Accredited Entity:	**African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, Avenue Joseph Anoma, 01 BP 1387 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire**
Date of first submission:	*[YYYY/MM/DD]*
Date of current submission	*[YYYY/MM/DD]*
Version number	*[V.000]*

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

A

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Note to Accredited Entities on the use of the funding proposal template

- Accredited Entities should provide summary information in the proposal with cross-reference to annexes such as feasibility studies, gender action plan, term sheet, etc.
- Accredited Entities should ensure that annexes provided are consistent with the details provided in the funding proposal. Updates to the funding proposal and/or annexes must be reflected in all relevant documents.
- The total number of pages for the funding proposal (excluding annexes) **should not exceed 60**. Proposals exceeding the prescribed length will not be assessed within the usual service standard time.
- The recommended font is Arial, size 11.
- Under the GCF Information Disclosure Policy, project and programme funding proposals will be disclosed on the GCF website, simultaneous with the submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information that may not be disclosed pursuant to the IDP. Accredited Entities are asked to fill out information on disclosure in section G.4.

Please submit the completed proposal to:

fundingproposal@gcfund.org

Please use the following name convention for the file name:

"FP- -GAMBIA-GCF-AfDB [YYYY/MM/DD]"

A. PROJECT/PROGRAMME SUMMARY

A.1. Project or programme	Programme	**A.2. Public or private sector**	Public
A.3. Request for Proposals (RFP)	*If the funding proposal is being submitted in response to a specific GCF Request for Proposals, indicate which RFP it is targeted for. Please note that there is a separate template for the Simplified Approval Process and REDD+.* Not applicable		

A.4. Result area(s)

*Check the applicable GCF result area(s) that the overall proposed project/programme targets below. For each checked result area(s), indicate the estimated percentage of **GCF and Co-financers' contribution** devoted to it. The total of the percentages when summed should be 100% for GCF and Co-financers' contribution respectively.*

	GCF contribution	Co-financers' contribution[1]
Mitigation total	25 %	25 %
☒ Energy generation and access	10 %	10 %
☒ Low-emission transport	5 %	5 %
☒ Buildings, cities, industries and appliances	5 %	5 %
☒ Forestry and land use	5 %	5 %
Adaptation total	75%	75%
☒ Most vulnerable people and communities	30 %	5 %
☒ Health and well-being, and food and water security	10 %	5 %
☒ Infrastructure and built environment	15 %	50 %
☒ Ecosystems and ecosystem services	20 %	5 %

A.5. Expected mitigation outcomes. *(Core indicator 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed / sequestered)*	NDC2 Target of avoidance of 6.62 GgCO2e by 2030 using Industrial Solar Systems in Public Facilities, including the proposed SEZ and Agropoles in this project	**A.6. Expected adaptation outcomes.** *(Core indicator 2: direct and indirect beneficiaries reached)*	685,000 persons are direct and indirect beneficiaries	
			68,500 are direct beneficiaries	102,750 are indirect beneficiaries
			• 10% of Total (Direct and Indirect) Beneficiaries • 4% of National Population	• 15% of Total (Direct and Indirect) Beneficiaries • 6% of National Population
A.7. Total financing (GCF + co-finance[2])	_____ USD 200 Million	**A.9. Project size**	Medium (Upto USD 250 million)	
A.8. Total GCF funding requested	_____ USD 60 Million *For multi-country proposals, please fill out annex 17.*			

[1] Co-financer's contribution means the financial resources required, whether Public Finance or Private Finance, in addition to the GCF contribution (i.e. GCF financial resources requested by the Accredited Entity) to implement the project or programme described in the funding proposal.
[2] Refer to the Policy of Co-financing of the GCF.

A.10. Financial instrument(s) requested for the GCF funding	*Mark all that apply and provide total amounts. The sum of all total amounts should be consistent with A.8.* ☒ Grant USD 60 million ☐ Equity Enter number ☒ Loan USD 140 million ☐ Results-based payment Enter number ☐ Guarantee Enter number		
A.11. Implementation period	*7 years*	**A.12. Total lifespan**	*15 years*
A.13. Expected date of AE internal approval	*This is the date that the Accredited Entity obtained/will obtain its own approval to implement the project/ programme, if available.* *1/1/2025*	**A.14. ESS category**	*Refer to the AE's safeguard policy and GCF ESS Standards to assess your FP category.* B
A.15. Has this FP been submitted as a CN before?	Yes ☒ No ☐	**A.16. Has Readiness or PPF support been used to prepare this FP?**	Yes ☐ No ☒
A.17. Is this FP included in the entity work programme?	Yes ☒ No ☐	**A.18. Is this FP included in the country programme?**	Yes ☒ No ☐
A.19. Complementarity and coherence	*Does the project/programme complement other climate finance funding (e.g., GEF, AF, CIF, etc.)? If yes, please elaborate in section B.1.* Yes ☒ No ☐		
A.20. Executing Entity information	The leading National Executing Entity is the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MoTIE). Other project partners are the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR), the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA/NDA), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Lands, Regional Government (MoLRG), Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), The Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB), the Food Safety and Quality Authority of The Gambia (FSQA), the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Women Chamber of Commerce and the Youth Chamber of Commerce. These are mandated to formulate and implement trade, investment and industrial policies that promote investment in the productive sectors for increased production and export. They promote trade as an engine of growth. The Gambia operates a liberal trade regime with restrictions imposed on a few items relating to public health and safety. There are no barriers to capital movement. Indeed, regulations play a critical role in facilitating trade. For example, technical regulations tell exporters the requirements their product must satisfy, and they also give domestic consumers confidence that their health and safety are not being compromised and that the product will do what it says it will do. The four tariff bands are 0% for basic social goods, 5% for raw materials, capital goods, and specific inputs; 10% for intermediate goods; and 20% for final consumer goods. There is a 1.55% processing fee, and an ECOWAS levy of 0.5% on all imports. There are four types of Trade Agreements operational in The Gambia and these are (a) Unilateral, (b) Bilateral, (c) Multilateral Trade Agreements. Operational tariffs are(a) specific tariffs, (b) valorem tariffs, (c) compound tariffs, (d) tariff-rate quotas, and (e) retaliatory tariffs. A specific tariff is a tax imposed directly onto one imported good and does not depend on the value of that imported good. Foreign trade barriers are categorized as (a) Border, (b) Technical, (c) Government Influence and (d) Business Environment barriers.		

A.21. Executive summary (max. 750 words, approximately 1.5 pages)

1. The average temperature of The Gambia ranges between 29°C and 34°C. Since the 1950s, routine meteorological records also indicate that minimum temperatures across The Gambia have increased steadily at the rate of 0.4 to 0.67°C per decade (GoTG, 2007). Current climate shows that average rainfall in a year varies from 1,000 mm in the South and Southeast to 700 mm in the most northerly part of the country.

2. Simulation modelling used in the Third National Communication (TNC) GoTG/UNEP/NCC/TNC, 2020), showed that with average temperature increasing from about 28^{O}C in 2000 to about 31^{O}C by 2100. ICRAF, (2018) projected that temperatures will be relatively cooler in the coastal areas but warmer in the interior, with the Central River Region being hottest. FAO, (2017) also projected that Banjul will register a +1.5°C increase and the Upper River Region will register +2°C during the period 2030 to 2070. Location specific projected changes in the future precipitation for The Gambia shows that by 2030 (FAO, 2017), Greater Banjul Area (GBA) and West Coast Region (WCR) will register a -6% (decrease), North Bank Region (NBR) and Lower River Region (LRR) will register a decrease of -8% and the Central River Region and the Upper River Region (URR) will register -11% during the period 2030 to 2070. The projections from the TNC also suggest that rainfall will generally decrease from about 860mm in 2000 to 579mm in 2100 in The Gambia. These projections suggest that Gambia will be hotter and drier by 2100 and are a real threat to agriculture, energy, water and land resources; and food, energy and water security in the country in the future, thus illustrating the imminent dangers of climate change on human livelihoods.

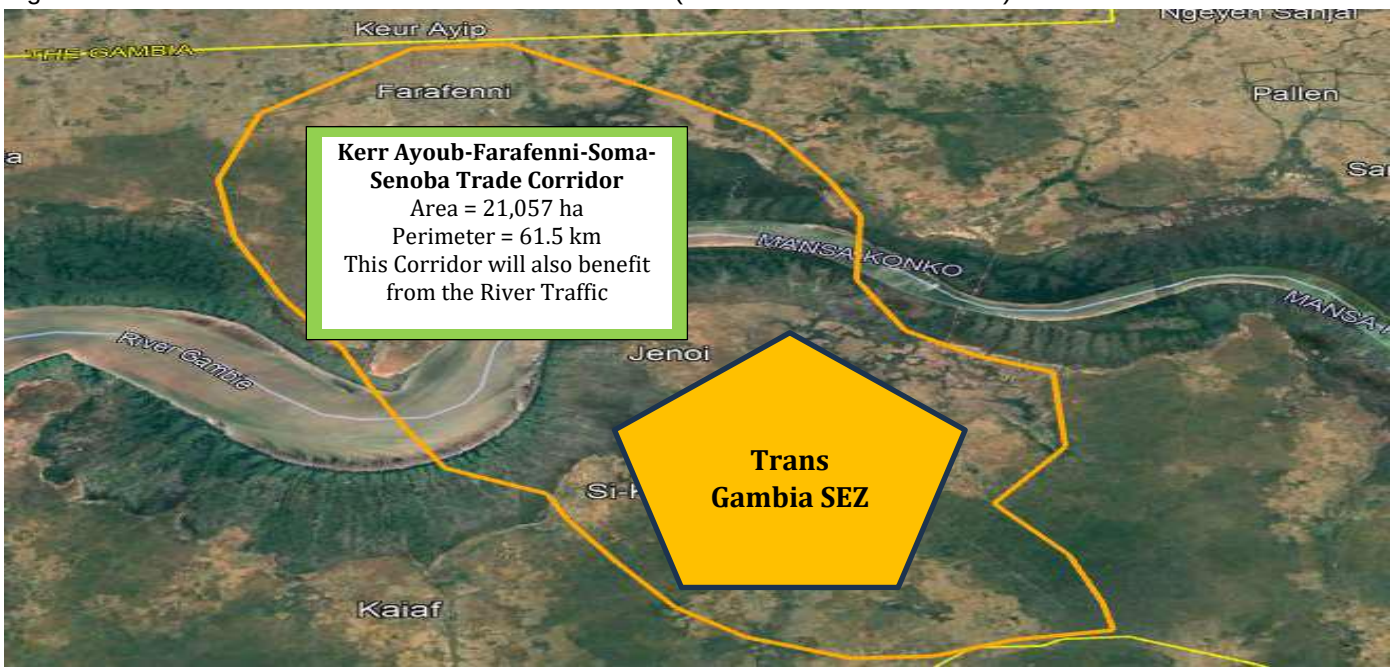
3. Adverse impacts on agriculture, forestry, fishing, construction and real estate sectors, and the tourism industry, are amplified and/or accelerated by losses in productivity of land resources (arable land, grassland, forests); water stress, and nutrient and sediment fluxes. Some parts of the country are expected to experience lower rates of groundwater renewal and higher runoff. Up to 20% of the country currently experiences annual flooding. Saline intrusion as well as flooding will also affect arable lands. It is estimated that a one-meter rise in sea level would inundate 60% of mangrove forests, 33% of swamp areas and 20% of rice growing areas (assuming no protective measures are taken). In addition, saline water would infiltrate ground water aquifers, which lie at depths of between 4–50 m (Belford et al., 2020).

1. Proposed interventions

4. The proposed project is to support The Gambia in establishing a Sustainable Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Agropoles in some Administrative Regions[3] of the country. A Sustainable Special Economic Zone is generally described as a geographically demarcated area within a country which functions with different – usually more liberal – administrative, regulatory and fiscal regimes to the rest of the country.[4] Agropoles, or agricultural growth poles, are defined as a set of companies located in a given geographical area that maintain functional relationships in their activities of producing, processing and marketing of a given animal, plant, fish or forest product (Dagor et al., 2016[5]). The SEZ will be selected, designed and established along the Trans-Gambia and Senegambia Bridge Corridor (see MAP 1) based on the key productive systems and market potential of the Region. The rationale for the development of special eco-nomic zones differs between developing and developed countries. For developing countries, these zones have traditionally had both a policy and an infrastructure rationale. The typical special economic zone policy package includes import and export duty exemptions, streamlined customs and administrative controls and procedures, liberal foreign exchange policies, and income tax incentives — all meant to boost an investment's competitiveness and reduce business entry and operating costs. Export oriented zones are intended to convey "free trade status" to export manufacturers, enabling them to compete in global markets and counterbalance the anti-export bias of trade policies.

[3] Administrative Regions are the West Coast Region (WCR), North Bank Region (NBR), Lower River Region (LRR), Central River Region (CRR) and Upper River Region (URR).
[4] Dobrogomov and Farole, 2012 as cited by Sean Wolfrey, 2013: Special Economic Zones and Regional Integration in Africa
[5] Dagor, J.-C., Janart, C., Jorand, M., Pascal, P. (2016). Agriculture africaine: l'impasse des poles de croissance agricoles. Action Contre la Faim, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Oxfam.

Figure 1: TRANSGAMBIA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (within the ORANGE sketch)



5. The AGROPOLs will also be selected, designed and established at Mandinaba – Seleti trade corridor (see MAP 2) to serve Casamance and Guinea Bissau; Wassu/Brikamaba to Patta Corridor (see Map 3) to serve CRR north and south and the Senegal Border communities and beyond; and Basse Dry Port (see Map 4) to serve Mali and Guinea Conakry). The selection, design and establishment of these Agro-poles will be based on the predominant agricultural systems and practices (crops, horticulture, livestock, poultry and rabbitry, artisanal fisheries and freshwater aquaculture), and natural resources management practices (agroforestry, forest collections[6], tree nursery management, beekeeping, handicrafts and furniture, pottery, etc.,) and the special cross-border trade. Comprehensive stakeholder engagement will include strengthening the adaptive capacities and resilience of the vulnerable communities in the Regions to climate change risks and impacts, adoption and applications of Value Chain approaches and strategies (planning, inputs, production, processing, consumption, and marketing) at all stages of the design and management of SEZ and the Agropoles. Sustainable production and productivity shall be the major guiding principles to avoid environmental damages, degradation of natural resources and food waste, but at the same time to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of communities, enhance public and private sector investments, encourage internal and external marketing and trade of products.

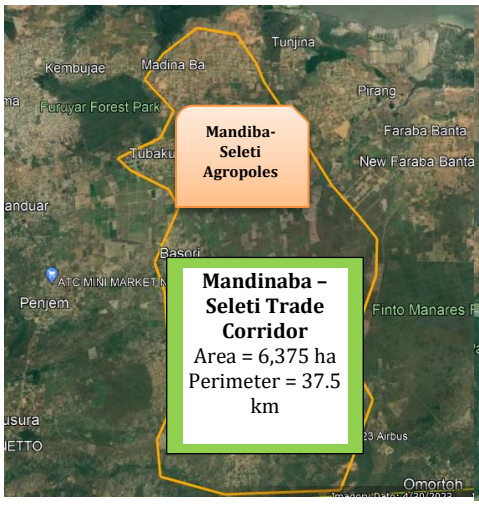


Figure 2a: Mandinaba-Giboro AGROPOLE

Figure 2b: Wassu AGROPOLE

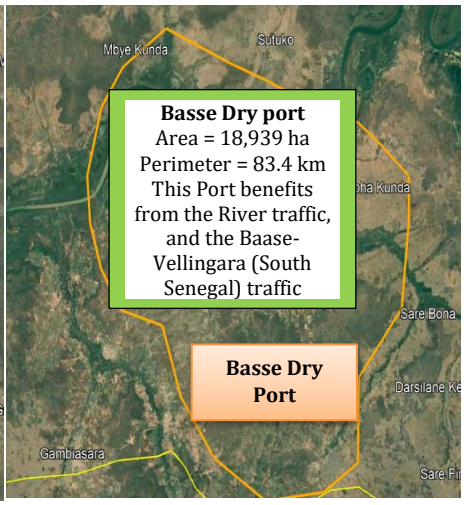


Figure 2c: Basse Dry Port AGROPOLE

[6]Teas, juices, fruits, dry fruits, medicinal products, etc.

2. Climate results/benefits

6. Procurement and installation of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and infrastructure in the SEZ and the Agro-poles will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce warming of the surface of the earth and its atmosphere. More green jobs will be created, access to and ownership of land for investments will be facilitated through appropriate regulations, technologies and skills of communities and investors will be developed to boost Gambia's exports, and the overall revenue based of The Gambia will be increased. Value addition to locally available raw materials will be achieved and thus boost the agricultural, energy and natural resources sectors. Trade in natural resources and nature-based products will be facilitated and promoted to boost the acceptance and ownership of the project by local communities on whose land the project facilities will be located. Climate-proofing market infrastructure, including market access roads will benefit all the value-chain actors by linking producers to the markets, reducing transportation costs, improving farm-gate prices, and reducing post-harvest losses. Building productive and resilient food value chains will avail the producers, marketeers, and business enterprises with climate-smart technologies for efficient management of soil and water resources, innovative irrigation schemes adapted to selected crops, quality seeds, yield-increasing and climate-resilient foundation seeds, disease-resistant fry, bio-fertilizers, and pesticides. All actors and participating communities will benefit from the large-scale diffusion and adoption of improved storage and processing equipment that will provide increases in agricultural productivity, food security and productive livelihoods.

7. Facilitation of productive private sector investments along the value chains will spur access to finance for agri-entrepreneurs at production, agro-processing, marketing, and ancillary services stages along the value chains. For this to be realized a Dedicated Financial Facility such as the National Climate Fund will be capitalized on a continuous basis to also support micro-investments, education of SMEs and low-income stakeholders and provide technical assistance to financial institutions to respond to the needs of SME (including small-scale farmers associations). Support for improved access to finance will be provided for assistance for the detailed planning, financing, and implementation of competitively selected private investments· and to specific eligible larger investors for accessing credit/financial services, including through the de-risking of private investments and for provision of support and guidance for the development of business services and the analysis of reforms in the policy and institutional environment of these selected value chains. Capacities of key public and private sector institutions will be strengthened and essential constraints to private investments in the selected value chains will be addressed.

B. PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

B.1. Climate context (max. 1000 words, approximately 2 pages)

8. The Gambia has a typical Sudan-Sahelian climate, characterized by a short rainy season (June–October) and a long dry season (November–May). The average temperature is between 29°C and 34°C. Since the 1950s minimum temperatures across The Gambia have increased steadily at the rate of 0.4 to 0.67°C per decade (GoTG, 2007). Global circulation models used in Gambia's Third National Communication (TNC) GoTG/UNEP/NCC/TNC, 2020), indicate that Gambia is expected to be hotter and drier by 2100. Temperatures in The Gambia will increase from about 28^{O}C in 2000 to about 31^{O}C by 2100. ICRAF, (2018) projected that the central areas of the Central River Region will be hottest (see Figure 3a below). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2017) also found projected increases in annual average temperature across the length and breadth of The Gambia, with Banjul registering a +1.5°C increase and the Upper River Region registering +2°C (see Figure 3b below) during the period 2030 to 2070.

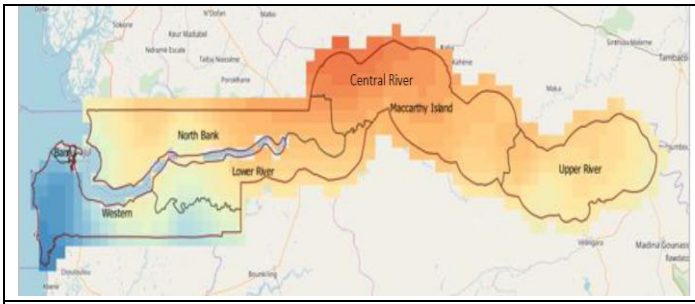


Figure 3a: Projected Temperatures for The Gambia

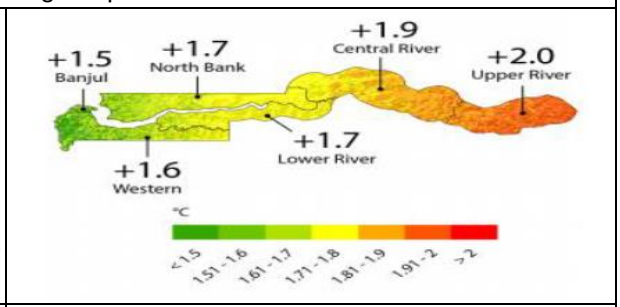


Figure 3b: Changes in Annual Mean Temperatur The Gambia (C. Belford, et al. 2020)

9. About 35% decrease in the average annual rainfall of The Gambia and the Sahel Region of Africa has been realized in the past five decades (Figure 4a below). A range of projections have indicated both increases and decreases in mean annual rainfall for The Gambia, under future climate conditions. Importantly, wet season rainfall (particularly over the July–September period) is predicted to decrease, coupled with an increase in the occurrence of heavy rainfall events (McSweeney et al. 2010). Predictions for changes in annual precipitation range from -23% to +18% by the 2090s[7]. The projections from the TNC also suggest that rainfall will generally decrease from about 860mm in 2000 to 579mm in 2100 in The Gambia. Location specific projected changes in the future precipitation for The Gambia show that by 2030 (FAO, 2017), Greater Banjul Area (GBA) and West Coast Region (WCR) will register a -6% (decrease), North Bank Region (NBR) and Lower River Region (LRR) will a decrease of -8% and the Central River Region and the Upper River Region (URR) will register -11% during the period 2030 to 2070. These projections are a real threat to agriculture and food security in the country in the future, thus illustrating the imminent dangers of climate change on human livelihoods. In spite of the decreasing levels of rainfall over the years, agriculture in The Gambia is still rain-fed reliant and only a few businesses are using irrigation to support their agricultural production.

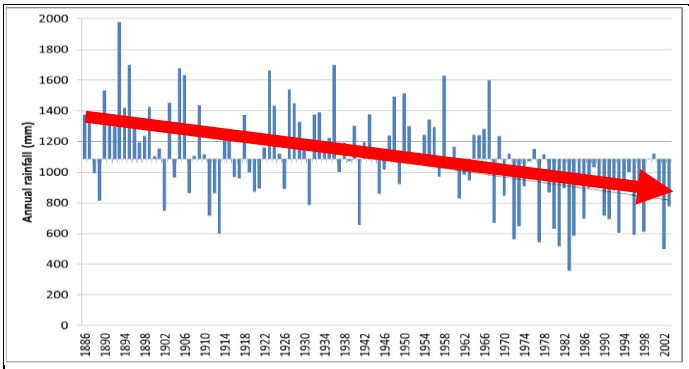


Figure 3c: Decrease in rainfall during the last 5 decades

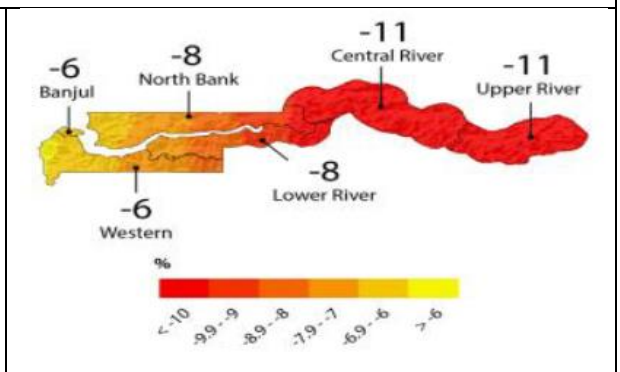


Figure 3d: Changes in Annual Mean Rainfall in Gambia *(C. Belford, et al. 2020)*

[7] *More information available online at: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/gambia/climate-data-projections*

10. Projected climate change will present both short- and long-term challenges to development efforts in The Gambia. Adverse impacts in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, construction and real estate sectors, and the Gambian tourism industry, are amplified and/or accelerated by losses in productivity of land resources, water, nutrient and sediment fluxes. Some parts of the country are expected to experience lower rates of groundwater renewal and higher runoff reflecting differences in rainfall and surface geology. Saline intrusion as well as flooding will also affect arable lands. It is estimated that a one-meter rise in sea level would inundate 60% of mangrove forests, 33% of swamp area and 20% of rice growing areas (assuming no protective measures are taken). In addition, saline water would infiltrate ground water aquifers, which lie at depths of between 4–50 m (Belford et al., 2020).

11. Due to these adverse climate-related effects on agriculture, groundnut, rice and sesame production and exports have dropped significantly over the years, and agro processing and manufacturing is also undeveloped, limiting The Gambia from taking advantage of both the regional and multilateral markets.

12. The country's trade performance over the years has shown a steady downward trend indicating a trade deficit of D41.9 billion in 2022. The trade deficit has gone up by 19.5% in 2022 from D35.1 billion in 2021. This is because the production of main exported products is declining coupled with limited market access due to Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues. One major characteristic of commodity dependent export countries is vulnerability to external shocks as global commodity markets are always volatile mainly due to climate change factors.

13. The Gambia as an LDC continued to face these climate change vulnerabilities in terms of economic, social and environmental challenges. This therefore requires a meaningful effort to adapt climate smart trade strategies that will allow The Gambia to diversify its export base, while protecting its environment as well as achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

14. Thus, one of the key objectives of the Government of the Gambia as enshrined in the Gambia Trade Strategy and Industrial Development Policy 2018, is to pursue a sustainable approach to increase the performance of the economy to support and enhance trade development, while simultaneously safeguarding the environment. This is also consistent with the objectives of the new Green Recovery Focused National Development Plan, which is currently being formulated.

15. The Gambia's Green Growth Index rose from 42.8% in 2010 to 44.6% in 2021, still short of its green growth target. The country's 2050 Climate Vision and sectoral green growth strategies are aligned with its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). This implies that by enforcing appropriate green growth initiatives through such as sustainable special economic zones and agropoles, The Gambia could promote economic growth while reducing vulnerability to climate change.

16. Since 2017, The Gambia has made important progress on restoring democracy and macroeconomic stability. Real GDP grew from 3.5% in 2017 to 5.4 % in 2018 and 6.2% in 2019 due to the expansion in services including tourism, trade, financial and insurance. In addition, the robust growth in transport, construction and telecommunication sectors also supported the GDP growth.

17. Services, agriculture and industrial sectors are the main drivers of the Gambian economic growth. The services sector contributed 61% of the GDP in 2017. This was followed by the agriculture sector which contributed 22% in 2016 and 21% in 2017. Agriculture is predominantly subsistence with groundnuts being the main cash crop. The industrial sector in the same period contributed 12% to 17% to the Gambia's economy. In addition, the fisheries and aquaculture sector contributed 5% to GDP signifying its limited contribution for food security and export earnings. Wholesale and retail also contributed an average of 25% of GDP during the same period reflecting the importance of re-export trade to the Gambian economy. The tourism sector has contributed approximately 20% of GDP in 2016 and has been the largest foreign exchange earner.

18. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis halted the transition process and resulted in a sharp economic downturn in 2020, reversing the good economic growth witnessed in 2018 and 2019. Tourism came to a standstill, which seriously impeded growth in the services, and GDP growth dropped to -0.2% in 2020 compared to a pre-COVID projection of 6.3%.

19. Economic growth was steady at 4.3% in 2022, indicating a gradual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic driven by improved agriculture production, public consumption, and infrastructure investments. The Gambia Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to remain below pre-COVID-19 levels, at 5.2% in 2023 and 5.6% in 2024, as uncertainties about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, tighter international financial market conditions, and climate change could weaken economic activity in agriculture, construction, energy, and tourism. These shocks could also intensify fiscal pressures and affect the debt profile. Inflation is projected to be 11.7% in 2023, reflecting high fuel and food prices and exchange rate depreciation, but to fall to 9.1% in 2024 as commodity prices normalize. The economy is not well diversified relying mainly on agriculture and services (mainly Tourism and re-export Trade). The country is a commodity-dependent country as the share of its exports in value terms, is more than 60% of commodities. The main export commodities according to the 2022 Trade Statistics are Nuts (Groundnut and Cashew Nuts), Fish and fish products, natural sand and Edible Oil.

20. To speed up the recovery of the economy and reduce poverty, the Government formulated and is currently implementing a Green Recovery Focused National Development Plan (2023 to 2027) which replaced the National Development Plan (2018 to 2021). The overall goal of GRF-NDP 2023-2027 is to consolidate gains in democratic governance, accelerate green economic and social transformation and build resilience to shocks and crises .

21. Agriculture is one of the main drivers of Gambia's economy and the sector's contribution to GDP was 22% in 2021. It employs nearly half (46.4%) of the working population and 80.7% of the rural working population. The sector's contribution to GDP dropped from 28% in 2012 to 22% of GDP in 2021. In spite of the drop in GDP contribution, 72% of the population relies on agriculture for livelihood and 91% of the rural poor work as farmers (NDP). Groundnuts are the main source of foreign exchange for The Gambia accounting for 30%, and meeting 50% of the national food requirements (CCA 2015). In addition, agro-industries constitute 15% of GDP, which is a significant component of The Gambia's industries. The sector continued to be among the government's top priority sectors in the Recovery Focused National Development Plan. Government therefore plans to promote the use of technologies and commercial farming for enhanced production and productivity for inclusive economic growth.

22. The analysis of the performance of the agricultural sector and changes in food and nutrition situation in the Gambia revealed that yields for key crops such as rice, coarse grains and groundnuts remain low; livestock population growth has also been fluctuating due to disease outbreaks and climate change (The Gambia Second Generation National Agricultural Investment Plan-Food and Nutrition Security - GNAIP II-FNS). Gambian households experience both acute and chronic food insecurity with 8% of the households being food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. The analysis also revealed that the agricultural value chains faced a number of challenges centered around: insufficient infrastructure; limited access to agricultural inputs and finance; unfavourable agribusiness environment and problems linked to limited inclusiveness, sustainability and nutrition.

23. The Gambia's agriculture sector is dominated by smallholder subsistence farmers (over 41,000) who account for a large share of domestic production with low use of improved technology, with 39% of the 5,500 square kilometers of arable land currently being used. The sector is also undiversified and is characterized by rain-fed subsistence crops (millet, maize, rice, sorghum, cassava and rice) and traditional cash crops, such as groundnuts, sesame cotton, and cashew to a lesser extent. Horticulture production is increasing and involves intensive cultivation of fruits and vegetables, produced predominantly in West Coast and North Bank regions. Livestock (cattle, small ruminants and poultry) accounts for 48.2% of the agriculture's GDP. There is an emerging number of small/medium scale commercial farms in the horticulture sector mainly in onions production.

24. The inability of The Gambia to comply with the stringent European Union aflatoxin regulations for groundnuts has effectively reduced the contribution of groundnuts to the country's foreign exchange

earnings. The low performance of agriculture is also due to a range of factors, including: reliance on rainfed subsistence farming, ineffective research and advisory services; rainfall variability and climate shocks; lack of transport and market infrastructures; limited irrigation; high post-harvest losses due to poor handling, inappropriate storage, high levels of aflatoxin contamination, as well as poor adherence to SPS & TBT standards of the export markets.

25. The Government therefore reviewed and formulated the Gambia Second Generation National Agriculture Investment Plan (GNAIP II) to deal with these challenges and promote Agriculture transformation and commercialization. The GNAIP II constitutes the main investment framework for agricultural development in The Gambia in the medium term (2019-2026). It reflects sector priorities such as modernization and transformation with the private sector as the major catalyst for growth and development in the sector.

26. The Gambia's manufacturing sector has a very small base and its contribution to GDP dropped from o.5% in 2017 to 0.2% in 2021. The sector focused mainly on production for the domestic market and utilising a limited range of skills and technology. Although the Gambian market is small, there are significant opportunities which could be exploited in the manufacturing sector, based on the import substitution opportunities which are clear from the substantial imports of manufactured goods and processed foods for the tourist and national populations and on the regional market, with established distribution channels developed through the existing re-export business. However, much needs to be done to promote the manufacturing sector in The Gambia, including the need to promote easy access to land for investment, the need to promote access to reliable and affordable electricity and the need to adapt to new technologies to be competitive in the regional and continental markets.

27. Adaptation needs in agriculture, food security sector and manufacturing & logistics services within The Gambia Green Industrial transformation through sustainable SEZs and Agropoles include (i) switching to drought and salinity tolerant, and high yielding crop varieties; (ii) improving water-use efficiency of crops through management of soil fertility, improved irrigation systems, etc. (iii) developing early warning systems, (iv) promoting and encouraging improved post-harvest technologies; and (v) promoting commercial investment in agriculture using green and smart agricultural technologies, (vi) access to clean energy utilizing hydroelectric energy from the Sambangalo dam and exploring solar energy (vii) access to markets for agricultural and natural resources products and (viii) attract green focused investments in the SEZ and Agropoles.

28. The proposed program is to support The Gambia in establishing Green Focused Sustainable Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along the Trans-Gambia and Senegambia Bridge Corridor and the development of three (3) Agropoles in West Coast Region (WCR), Central River Region (CRR) and Upper River Region (URR) respectively of the country. The selection and design of the sustainable SEZs and the agropols are based on proximity to the targeted domestic and regional markets using multimodal transport networks, the key agriculture productive systems, the potential of targeted crops/products in the selected agropols and market potentials of the domestic, regional and continental markets.

29. In the, AGROPOLEs the programme will target strategic crops and products, (vegetables, rice and cereals , groundnuts, sesame, cashew, horticulture, poultry and beekeeping,) and promote commercial investments to produce and process these targeted products/crops using climate smart technologies to meet the demand for the domestic market and promote exports. The main objective of the programme is to strengthen The Gambia's productive capacity to take advantage of regional and global trade opportunities while adhering to the adaptive capacities and resilience of the beneficiary and vulnerable communities in the Regions to climate change risks and impacts, including reduced and erratic rainfall and increased frequency of droughts and impoverished soils. The project will achieve these objectives by strengthening infrastructure to attract green focused investments in manufacturing and agro-processing, adopting and applying a Green Value Chains approach at all stages (planning, inputs, production, processing, consumption, and marketing).

30. The selected SEZ, designed and established along the Trans-Gambia and Senegambia Bridge Corridor (see MAP 1). The Agropole in WCR will be designed and established at Mandinaba – Giboro trade corridor

(see MAP 2), targeting the vegetables, poultry, poultry feeds and Horticulture Value Chains to serve both the domestic markets and the sub-regional markets (Senegal , Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Mali and Conakry); The Agropole in CRR will be designed and established in the Wassu/Brikamaba to Patta Corridor (see Map 3), targeting rice, cereals, sesame, groundnuts and poultry; In Basse the project will establish an Agropole to promote rice, cereals, groundnuts sesame and poultry production as well as link the Agropoles to the planned Dry Port with a Logistic and Industrial Park (see Map 4) to serve Mali and Guinea Conakry. Comprehensive stakeholder engagement will include strengthening the adaptive capacities and resilience of the vulnerable communities in the Regions to climate change risks and impacts, adoption and applications of green Value Chain approaches and strategies (planning, inputs, production, processing, consumption, and marketing) at all stages of the design and management of SEZ and the Agropoles. Sustainable production and productivity shall be the major guiding principles to avoid environmental damages, degradation of natural resources and food waste, but at the same time to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of communities, enhance public and private sector investments and promote the development of both domestic and export markets for these products.

31. The Gambia is classified as a 'low income' and 'food deficit' country with about 48% of the population living under the poverty line. One in ten members of the population is food insecure whilst one in three Gambians is vulnerable to food insecurity. The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) report of 2016[8] revealed that 148,458 persons (8%) of the population in 4 regions of the country (Basse in URR, Janjangbureh in CRR-South, Kuntaur in CRR-North and Mansa Konko in LRR), locations of the SEZ and some of the Agro-poles, are food insecure and or highly vulnerable to food insecurity. In these 4 regions, food insecurity has surged between 12% and 18% in five years (2011-2016). Chronic food insecurity has resulted to high malnutrition rates as evidenced by an increase of 10.3% in 2015 of the prevalence-rate of the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), marking an increase of 0.4% since 2012. The same source indicates that the national stunting rates were recorded at a critical high of 24.9% in the four regions of the assessment in 2016. It is worthy of mention that locally produced food in these areas of study and other regions of the Gambia do not last more than 6 months and that the producers depend on food imports like their peers in the urban areas in the remaining period of the year. Ameliorating food insecurity and nutrition gaps will require increased and improved production of nutritive food crops through appropriate food chain mechanisms. Interventions must also focus on relevant value addition systems with special emphasis on nutrition-based processing. Also important is to ensure increased access and ownership of productive land for women and other vulnerable groups with a view to enhancing their livelihoods systems. This will enhance effective and participatory land use planning as well as ensure diversification on farming systems and crop production.

32. This proposed project/programme is complementary to the:

- GEF/FAO project on Sustainable Dry land Forest Management as both will undertake reforestation, institutional strengthening, and conduct market analysis and development (MA&D) in the project area and for promotion of livelihoods of the beneficiaries.
- KFW/World Bank/KF Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG) Energy Project in improving access to electricity by communities through the expansion of the renewable energy mix in the National Grid.
- GCF/UNEP Large Scale Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) Project in supporting communities to adapt to climate change impacts by making use of nature-based solutions, that include conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of ecosystems; mangrove reforestation and conservation to protect against storms and help control erosion; mixed farming techniques to maintain soil fertility and conserve water; slow-forming terrace farming systems to increase soil moisture and reduce run off; green and natural resources business innovations; and mainstreaming climate change and EbA approaches into policies, strategies and plans and develop and operationalize climate change and EbA integrated syllabi and curricula for all educational levels.

[8] WFP. 2016. The Gambia Comprehensive and Vulnerability Analysis Report July 2016. World Food Programme, Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) United Nations, World Food Programme (WFP) Head Quarter: Via C.G. Viola 68, Parco de Medici, 00148, Rome, Italy.

- Rice Value Chain Transformation Programme (RVCP) in enhancing The Gambia's economic growth through improved production, processing and marketing of the rice subsector as well as reducing high importation of rice into the country. The project will commercialize the rice subsector by enhancing private sector and other stakeholder's participation in the value chain, especially youths and women.
- GCF/IFAD Africa Integrated Climate Risk Management Programme in building the resilience of Smallholder Farmers to climate change impacts in seven Sahelian countries of the Great Green Wall (GGW). It is expected that the resilience and adaptive of capacities of smallholder farmers and rural communities of seven least developed countries (LDCs) in Africa will be built, strengthened, and scaled up. Capacity building and institutional development on integrated climate risks management will be provided.
- GEF/AFD/IFAD Resilience Of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Programme, (ROOTS) in supporting agriculture and rangeland systems using sustainable land management practices to improve agro-ecosystem services, food production and livelihoods. integrated landscapes approach by reducing pressure on natural resources from opposing land uses and working to increase resilience.
- UNCDF LoCAL Adaptation Mechanism in supporting community-based adaptation using jobs, skills and finance approaches.
- IsDB Small Ruminant Production Enhancement Project (SRPEP) in The Gambia to support and promote improvement of the livelihood of rural and peri-urban communities in The Gambia by strengthening the productivity and resilience of production systems and stimulating entrepreneurship in the livestock sector.
- FAO/WFP Food and Agriculture Sector Development Project to support and promote reduction in rural household poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition through increased agricultural production, productivity and commercialization.
- Gambia Agriculture and Food Security Project to increase food and nutrition security, and household incomes, particularly for vulnerable households in the project area.
- ADF/WFP Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building Project (RICAR) in building resilience and adaptation activities and enhancing capacity for systematic sub-national level adaptation planning and to develop incentives, targeting women and youth.
- GCF/FAO/IFAD Climate Resilient Fishery Initiative for Livelihood Improvement in the Gambia (PROREFISH Gambia) in assisting Gambian fisherfolk to build their resilience against climate change and improve their livelihoods.
- GEF NAMA Support Project (NSP), "The Gambia — Investing in Grid-connected Solar PV" to enable transformational change and address current investment barriers of IPPs in renewable energy.
- IDA/World Bank Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (GIRAV) in promoting the development of key priority agricultural value chains with strong growth potential in the country through a combination of soft and hard investments aimed at strengthening production capacity, creating opportunities for complementary private sector-led investments in agribusiness, and development of agricultural small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- ADF Agricultural Value Chain Development (ACVD) Project in supporting the contribute to food and nutrition security and create shared wealth and employments. The specific objective is to increase, on a sustainable basis, the income of rural producers and entrepreneurs that are engaged in the production, processing, storage and marketing of rice and livestock.

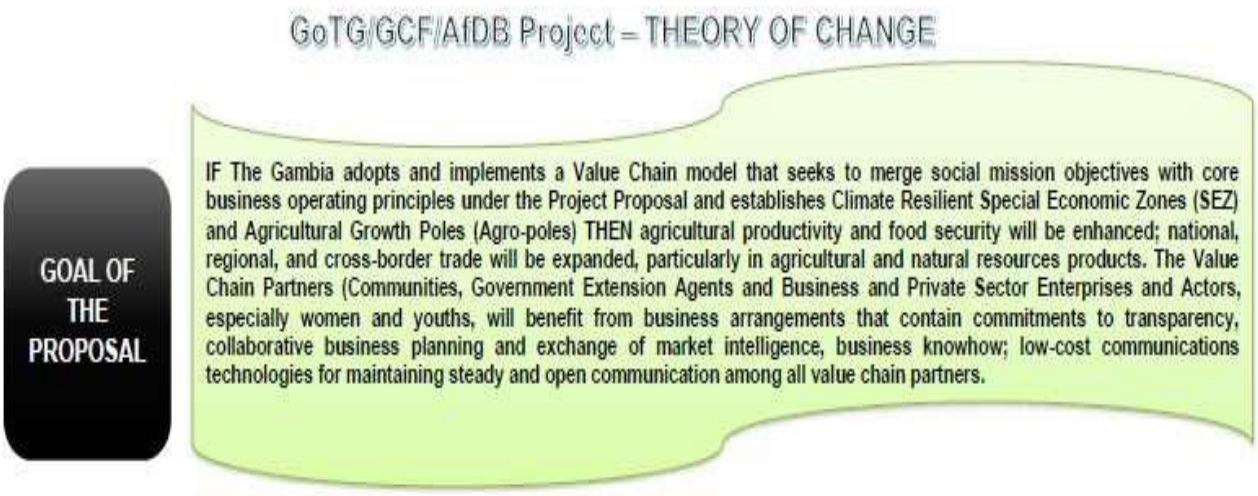
33. This proposal will also complement the Millenium Challenge Corporations in government priority intervention areas relating to river transport, the development of TVET and Ecotourism promotion. The Project Goals and activities are anchored on the National Development Priorities of the Government of the Gambia. The programme and its complementary projects listed above are aligned to and supports the achievements of SDGs, including: affordable and clean energy [SDG7], decent work and economic growth [SDG8], industry, innovation and infrastructure [9], reduced inequality [SDG10], sustainable cities and communities [SDG11], responsible consumption and production [SDG12]; climate action [SDG13]; life below water [SDG14]; and life on land [SDG15]. The project is also aligned to A.U Agenda 2063, Goal 1, High Standard of living, Quality of life and wellbeing for all citizens. Goal 4, Transformed Economies, Goal 5 Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production, Goal 7, Environmentally Sustainable and Climate resilience Economies and Communities. It also supports the achievements of the proposed

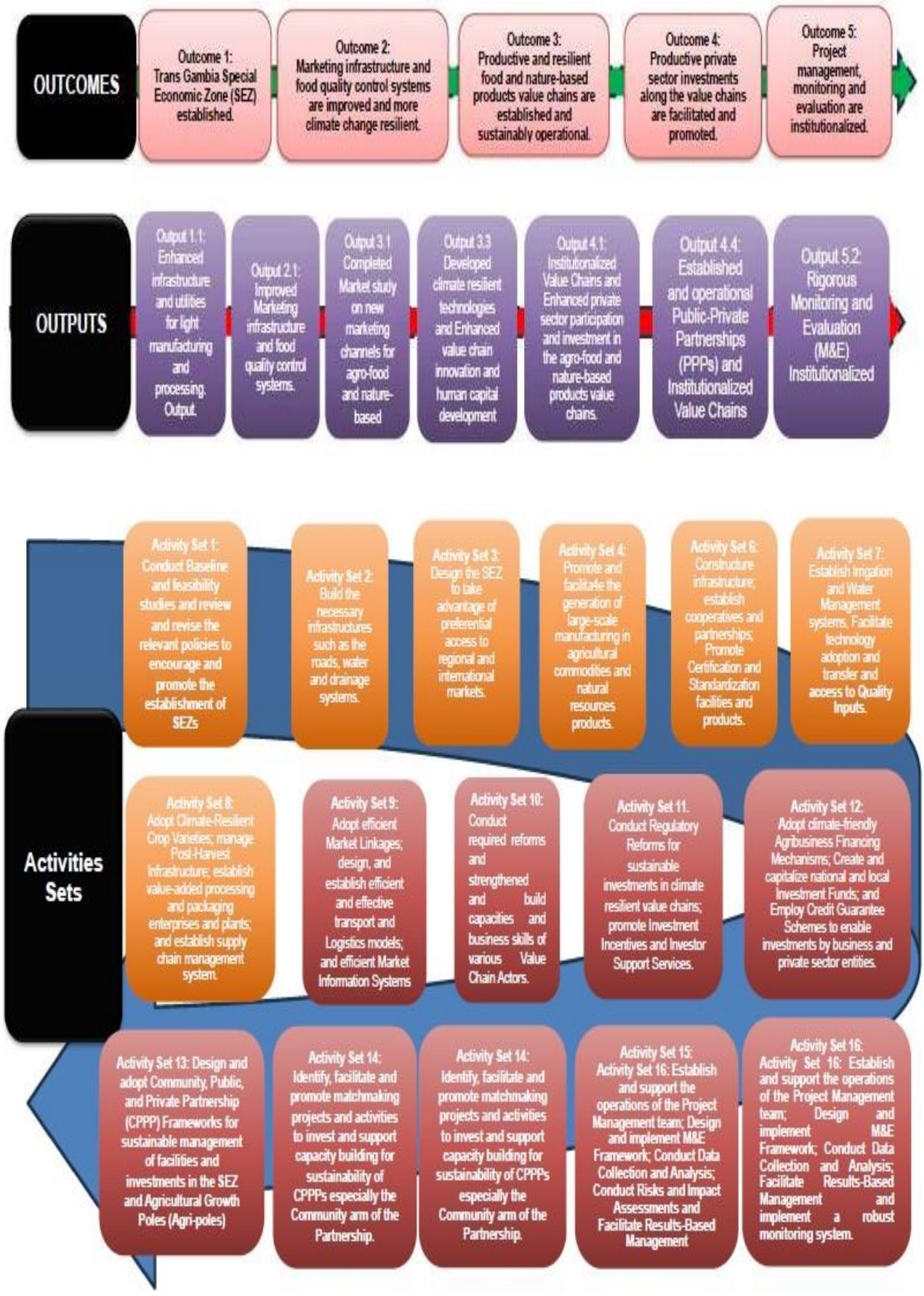
activities identified in the Gambia NDC2 (2021), in particular, access to clean and efficient energy systems (activities E1-E8); decarbonization of the transport Sector [activity T1]; determination, adoption and implementation of GHG reduction measures from different rice ecologies [activity C1]; adoption and implementation of Climate Smart Agriculture [CSA] measures [activity C2]; adoption ad application of GHG emissions reduction measures in the Full Food Value Change [activity C3]; improved livestock productivity [activity L1]; restoration of degraded landscapes [activity F1], application of sustainable fire management [activity F4]; and establishment and promotion of Integrated Waste Management System [activity W1].

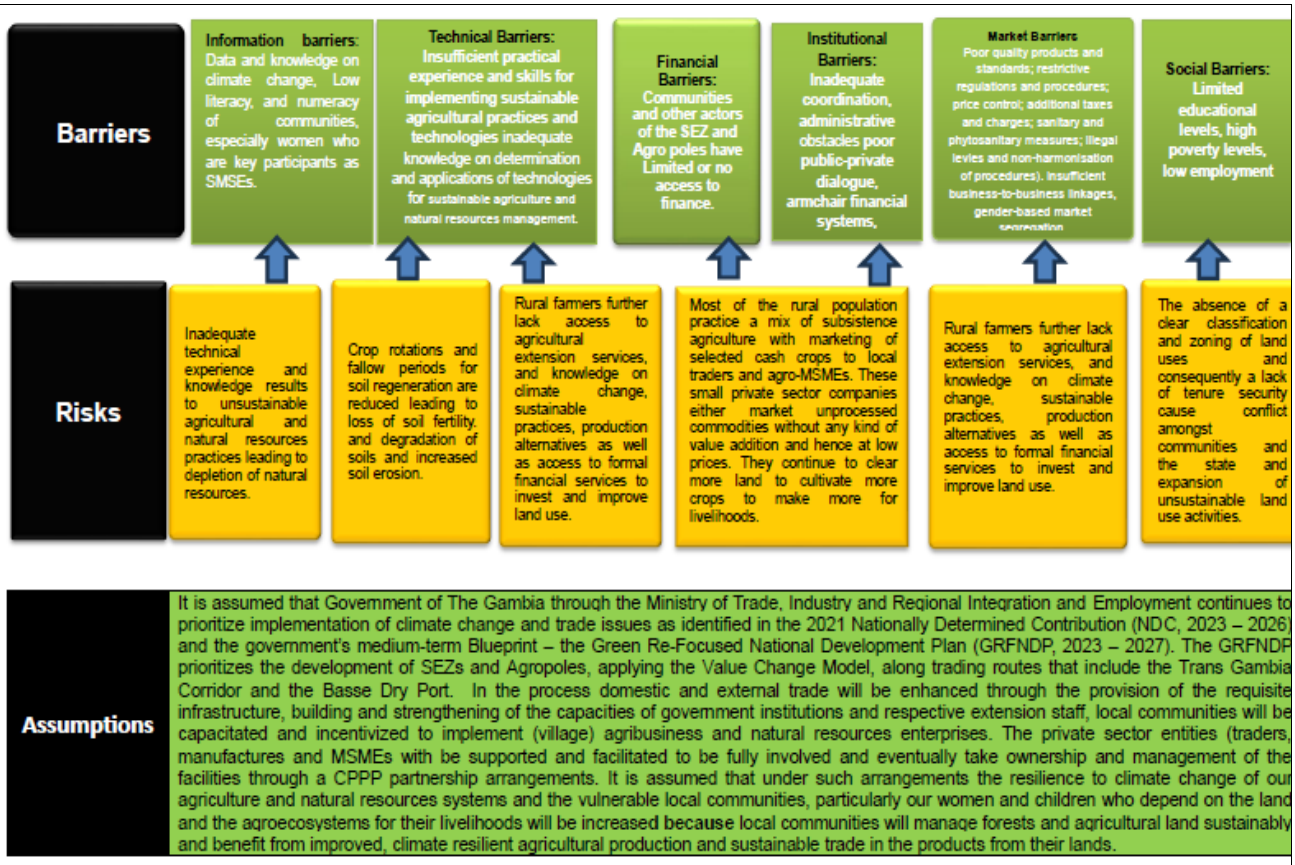
B.2 (a). Theory of change narrative and diagram (max. 1500 words, approximately 3 pages plus diagram)

34. The theory of change articulated in Figure 4 below illustrates how each of the five Components of the proposed project contribute to the long-term objective and how the resulting project impacts can be sustained, replicated and scaled up to contribute to climate-resilient development in The Gambia. Through integration of the Exit Strategy elements into the project design and implementation, conditions are created that lead to sustained impacts and potential for scale-up. The importance of the agriculture sector for poverty alleviation and economic growth has long been recognized by Government of The Gambia (GoTG). However, the sector has not received the deserved financial and transformational change to move it out of subsistence. Successful implementation of the components and activities of this proposed project/programme will contribute to the government's structural transformation agenda of the agricultural sector and the participation of the private sector in national development. Inclusive and sustainable growth, employment generation, food security and enhanced domestic and external trade in agricultural and natural resources products will serve as a shift in the development pathway of the local communities, agriculture and trade sectors and the national economy.

Figure 4: The Theory of Change of the GoTG/GCF/AfDB Project on SEZ and Agricultural Growth Poles (Agro-poles)




OUTCOMES
Outcome 1: Trans Gambia Special Economic Zone (SEZ) established.
Outcome 2: Marketing infrastructure and food quality control systems are improved and more climate change resilient.
Outcome 3: Productive and resilient food and nature-based products value chains are established and sustainably operational.
Outcome 4: Productive private sector investments along the value chains are facilitated and promoted.
Outcome 5: Project management, monitoring and evaluation are institutionalized.
OUTPUTS
Output 1.1: Enhanced infrastructure and utilities for light manufacturing and processing. Output.
Output 2.1: Improved Marketing infrastructure and food quality control systems.
Output 3.1 Completed Market study on new marketing channels for agro-food and nature-based
Output 3.3 Developed climate resilient technologies and Enhanced value chain innovation and human capital development
Output 4.1: Institutionalized Value Chains and Enhanced private sector participation and investment in the agro-food and nature-based products value chains.
Output 4.4: Established and operational Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Institutionalized Value Chains
Output 5.2: Rigorous Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Institutionalized
Activities Sets
Activity Set 1: Conduct Baseline and feasibility studies and review and revise the relevant policies to encourage and promote the establishment of SEZs
Activity Set 2: Build the necessary infrastructures such as the roads, water and drainage systems.
Activity Set 3: Design the SEZ to take advantage of preferential access to regional and international markets.
Activity Set 4: Promote and facilitate the generation of large-scale manufacturing in agricultural commodities and natural resources products.
Activity Set 6: Constructure infrastructure; establish cooperatives and partnerships; Promote Certification and Standardization facilities and products.
Activity Set 7: Establish Irrigation and Water Management systems, Facilitate technology adoption and transfer and access to Quality Inputs.
Activity Set 8: Adopt Climate-Resilient Crop Varieties; manage Post-Harvest Infrastructure; establish value-added processing and packaging enterprises and plants; and establish supply chain management system.
Activity Set 9: Adopt efficient Market Linkages; design, and establish efficient and effective transport and Logistics models; and efficient Market Information Systems
Activity Set 10: Conduct required reforms and strengthened and build capacities and business skills of various Value Chain Actors.
Activity Set 11. Conduct Regulatory Reforms for sustainable investments in climate resilient value chains; promote Investment Incentives and Investor Support Services.
Activity Set 12: Adopt climate-friendly Agribusiness Financing Mechanisms; Create and capitalize national and local Investment Funds; and Employ Credit Guarantee Schemes to enable investments by business and private sector entities.
Activity Set 13: Design and adopt Community, Public, and Private Partnership (CPPP) Frameworks for sustainable management of facilities and investments in the SEZ and Agricultural Growth Poles (Agri-poles)
Activity Set 14: Identify, facilitate and promote matchmaking projects and activities to invest and support capacity building for sustainability of CPPPs especially the Community arm of the Partnership.
Activity Set 14: Identify, facilitate and promote matchmaking projects and activities to invest and support capacity building for sustainability of CPPPs especially the Community arm of the Partnership.
Activity Set 15: Activity Set 16: Establish and support the operations of the Project Management team; Design and implement M&E Framework; Conduct Data Collection and Analysis; Conduct Risks and Impact Assessments and Facilitate Results-Based Management
Activity Set 16: Activity Set 16: Establish and support the operations of the Project Management team; Design and implement M&E Framework; Conduct Data Collection and Analysis; Facilitate Results-Based Management and implement a robust monitoring system.



35. The transformation from a predominantly subsistence to a commercial diversified agriculture sector will significantly contribute to the Gambia's economic growth. To commercialize agro-commodities will require improvement in post-harvest practices, processing with value additions and meeting quality standards; improving and expanding market chain linkages and trade opportunities; as well as strengthening and promoting linkages among key institutions and actors along the value chains of selected agro-commodities. Promotion and facilitation of sustainability of the project investment will be guaranteed through the Community, Public and Private Partnership (CPPP).

B.2 (b). Outcome mapping to GCF results areas and co-benefit categorization

Outcome number	GCF Mitigation Results Area (MRA 1-4)				GCF Adaptation Results Area (ARA 1-4)			
	MRA 1 Energy generation and access	**MRA 2** Low-emission transport	**MRA 3** Building, cities, industries, appliances	**MRA 4** Forestry and land use	**ARA 1** Most vulnerable people and communities	**ARA 2** Health, well-being, food and water security	**ARA 3** Infrastructure and built environment	**ARA 4** Ecosystems and ecosystem services
Outcome 1: Trans Gambia Special Economic Zone (SEZ) established.	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Outcome 2.1: Three (3) Functional Agropoles Established.	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Outcome 2.2 Productive and resilient food and nature-based products value chains are established and	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒

sustainably operational.								
Outcome 3: National quality infrastructure and control systems are improved and more climate change resilient.	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Outcome 4: Private Sector Investments along the value chains are facilitated and promoted.	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Outcome 5: Project management, monitoring and evaluation are institutionalized.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outcome ...	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Co-benefit number	**Co-benefit**					
	Environmental	**Social**	**Economic**	**Gender**	**Adaptation**	**Mitigation**
Co-benefit 1: National and regional food security, and improved export	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Co-benefit 2: Creation of green jobs and facilities	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Co-benefit 3: Improved rural livelihoods and income	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Co-benefit 4: Managed environmental impacts responsibly and meeting the SDGs	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Co-benefit 5: Sustainability and meeting the SDCs	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒

B.3. Project/programme description (max. 2500 words, approximately 5 pages)

Project/programme objective

36. The project aims to establish Climate Resilient Sustainable Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and three Agropoles with the objectives of enhancing industrial transformation, agricultural productivity and food security and expanding national, regional and cross-border trade, to take advantage of the ECOWAS trade liberalization Scheme and AfCFTA to support the Gambian economy. The project is anchored on the Value Chain model that seeks to merge social mission objectives with core business operating principles.

37. The project will therefore contribute to the government's structural transformation agenda through manufacturing and agricultural modernization for inclusive and sustainable growth, employment generation and food security. The importance of the industrial and agriculture sectors for poverty alleviation and economic growth has long been recognized by The Gambia Government in its successive National Development Plans and more recently the Recovery Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP) 2023-2027. The RF-NDP under Pillar 3 on Macroeconomic Stability and Inclusive Growth, relating to its programmes of promoting Private Sector-Led Growth with enhanced trade, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, services, and employment, are anchored on among other activities the development of industrial packs, special economic zones and three Agricultural Growth Poles ("agropolis").

38. This project is therefore fully aligned with Government's private sector and agricultural development programmes in RF-NDP and is part of the activities to implement the AfCFTA National implementation Strategy by repositioning the Gambia to integrate into the regional and continental markets through agricultural and industrial transformation. The project is also aligned to African Development Bank (AfDB)'s Feed Africa strategy which has four specific goals: contribute to eliminating extreme poverty in Africa by 2025; end hunger and malnutrition in Africa by 2025; make Africa a net food exporter; and move Africa to the top of export-orientated global value chains where it has comparative advantage.

39. The project will enable the government to attract private sector investments in the Sustainable SEZ to enhance industrial activities and will promote food value chains development, through increase private sector investment in agriculture, development of out-growers smallholder farmers and the effective linkage to agro-processors. There will also be commitment to transparency, collaborative business planning and exchange of market intelligence and business knowhow among value chain partners, and their interest in developing business strategies and solutions that yield tangible benefits to each participant in the system. External factors that have contributed to the rise of food value chain enterprises in recent years include the growing segmentation of the consumer market, escalating demand for specialized, highly differentiated food products—even at higher price points—and the increasing appeal of food items that are produced in accordance with desired social or environmental welfare standards. The advent of low-cost communications technology will be integrated in project to make possible new collaborative approaches to business management and oversight that operate according to a set of shared operational and ethical principles, founded on the idea of maintaining steady and open communication among all chain partners.

40. In order to build on the knowledge and experience of the local beneficiaries, they will be consulted prior to and during detailed planning and execution of all activities. Specific measures to involved women are found in the Gender Action Plan.

41. The project will include the following interlinked components, outcomes, and outputs.

COMPONENT 1: TRANS- GAMBIA SUSTAINABLE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

Outcome 1: Trans Gambia Special Economic Zone (SEZ) established.

42. The Trans Gambia sustainable Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will be in the main regional trade and transit routes connecting Gambia with northern Senegal and southern Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Mali and the rest of West Africa (ECOWAS). It will be located in an area of the country that is designed to generate positive

economic growth and companies that establish in the zone will benefit from the government incentives including those defined in the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Act.

43. The development of the Sustainable SEZ is meant to boost light manufacturing and agro-processing in the country and improve the Gambia's exports which are currently below 10% of total trade. The manufacturing sector has a very small base and is focused mainly on production for the domestic market. However, there are significant opportunities which could be exploited in the manufacturing and agro-processing sectors, based on import substitution opportunities and the regional and continental.

44. The Sustainable SEZ will increase export levels for The Gambia and its location will facilitate businesses to source raw materials from the sub-region. the establishment of the SEZ at the trans-Gambia corridor wil also enable The Gambia to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). The project is therefore designed to establish a climate resilient and sustainable SEZ with required infrastructure and policy environment to attract both foreign and domestic investments in the zone to produce and supply the domestic, regional and global markets. This component of the project consists of the following outputs:

Output 1.1: Enhanced infrastructure and utilities for light manufacturing and processing.

45. The Trans-Gambia sustainable SEZs is an important infrastructure development component of the project encompassing road, energy and drainage infrastructure. The SEZ will also have a water treatment plant to supply quality water to the businesses that will be operating in the zone.

46. To achieve Output 1.1 there will be a feasibility study to establish these infrastructure needs and cost them. The African Development Bank is currently in the process of conducting the feasibility study at the Trans-Gambia Sustainable Special Economic Zone. A consultant firm has already been identified and the process of contracting is ongoing. The necessary infrastructure such as roads, energy which will include the installation of a power grid to link the sustainable SEZ to the OMVG power sub-station at Soma to access hydro electricity supply from the Sambangalo-Keleta Dams, establish a stand-alone solar power plant, water supply facilities, drainage systems, and storage facilities will be constructed. In addition, office infrastructure will also be constructed for the management of the zone as well as other institutions that will be providing services to businesses in the zone.

47. This output will enable the provision of 10MW of renewable energy grid (Solar and Dam), construction of 10 kilometers of service roads and drainage system, the demarcation and allocation of 50 industrial plots to business entities.

Output 1.2: A functional and operational special economic zone in the Trans Gambia Corridor

48. The project will support the formulation of the necessary legal and policy frameworks for the effective operations of the sustainable SEZ, particularly the enabling policy and legal environment for private sector investment and enhancement of exports.

49. The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA) would be responsible for the management of the zone and will conduct investment promotion to attract private investment into the SEZ. GIEPA will also provide effective one-stop-shop business development services within the SEZ as a powerful instrument to support the operations of businesses. This will be made possible through developing or strengthening of appropriate Laws (Act) and regulations for the management and operations of the SEZ, development of the capacity of GIEPA and other support institutions to provide the required services.

COMPONENT 2 – ESTABLISHMENT OF AGROPOLES IN THE SELECTED AGRICULTURAL GROWTH CENTERS.

Outcome 2.1: Three functional Agropoles at selected strategic agricultural growth centers established.

50. The project will support the development of three (3) Agropoles in the West Coast Region (WCR), Central River Region (CRR) and Upper River Region (URR) respectively. These Agropoles will be critical in supporting sustainable agricultural development, economic diversification, employment generation and rural transformation in the Gambia. The selection and design of the Agropoles are based on proximity to the targeted domestic and regional markets using multimodal transport networks, the potential of targeted crops/products in the selected Agropoles and market potentials of the domestic, regional and continental markets.

51. The project will also establish the required infrastructure to facilitate private sector investment and strengthen management of the Agropoles to effectively link them to small holder farmers and actors in the selected product value chain.

Output 2.1.1: Enhanced infrastructure and utilities for the three (3) Agropoles.

52. The establishment of the three Agropoles is an important infrastructure development component of the project, comprising roads, energy and innovative irrigation systems. The Agropoles will have an independent water supply system to support all year round production and processing.

53. To achieve Output 2.1, there will be a feasibility study and development of business plans to establish the infrastructural needs and the viability of the investments. The necessary infrastructure such as roads, energy which will include the installation of solar power grid, establishment of innovative irrigation schemes, drainage systems and storage facilities will be constructed. In addition, office infrastructure will be constructed as well as a logistics platform for the management of the zone. As an integrated system, there will be a provision of 5MW renewable energy as well as construction of service roads and waste treatment centers.

Output 2.1.2: A legal and management frameworks for the Agropoles established.

54. The project will support the review of the existing legal frameworks (GIEPA ACT 2015) not only to cater for SEZs but also to include the needs of the Agropoles as a legal entity. The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA) would be responsible for the promotion of investment in the zone as well as management through either a PPP arrangement, leasing arrangement or delegated management. The Project will support the linkage of the Agropoles to the smallholder farmers through contract farming, marketing, quality control and capacity building.

Output 2.1.3: Improved Climate resilient Marketing infrastructure and food quality control systems.

55. This output will address the key marketing infrastructure deficit that represents a major constraint on private investment in agro value chains. It will be based on a detailed analysis of the selected value chains and the participatory preparation of a medium-term program for their development. It will include (i) the structuring of the value chains to strengthen coordination and cooperation among participants (farmers and their organization, off-takers processors marketers, as well as inputs suppliers and business development service providers); (ii) the development of marketing infrastructure, including wholesale and retail markets that will work as intermediary grouping zones in target areas based on the specificities of the value chains; (iii) the establishment of value chain-specific market information systems

56. By the end of the project, it is proposed to establish 4 resilient marketing infrastructure; establish 9 collection/holding centres and distribution networks; 1 functional online platform and market intelligence will be institutionalized on domestic, regional, and international markets and to provide advisory services to actors along the value chain; and establish 3 exclusive ‘made in The Gambia’ markets to promote consumption of domestic goods**.**

57. To achieve this output, a comprehensive referenced study will be conducted to map the locations of potential resilient markets; identify existing and status of marketing infrastructure; and determine market trends, consumer behavior and supply chain dynamics. Information generated will be used to inform

infrastructure improvement for resilience to climate change. Additional information on resilient market infrastructure and successful practices will be collected through the organization of a study tour to existing national/regional or Agropoles to learn and gather data and information. Collected data and information will be used to develop and implement the Infrastructure Enhancement Plan and Market Information System (MIS) for producers, processors and marketers. The MIS will allow these actors to effectively collect, tabulate, analyze, interpret and disseminate market data and intelligence to the farming and trading communities.

Outcome 2.2 Productive and resilient food and nature-based products value chains are established and sustainably operational.

58. Agro-poles development encompasses a range of activities in the value chain (production, processing and marketing of goods and inputs needed and the outputs generated. The current agricultural system is characterized by low-level production and productivity due to low level of technology and climate change. The sector is marked by little diversification, mainly subsistence rain fed agriculture and low-level value addition.

59. Despite the primary role of the agricultural sector in the economy, this performance and shared in most key socio-economic indicators in the past decades has not been consistent and in some years, performance in production stagnated and even declined. These demonstrated the need for an urgent modernization of the agricultural system for increased production and productivity.

Output 2.2.1: Productive and resilient food value chains are improved.

60. To achieve this Output, climate-smart technologies relevant to agriculture and trade value chains will be identified and supported for selected products in the Agropoles based on their comparative advantage. Training will be provided for the required number of farmers, producer cooperatives, extension workers, input suppliers and other actors of the value chains. These beneficiaries of the training will serve in the extension services of the Agro-poles. Mechanisms will be developed and operationalized at selected research institutions to provide high-quality inputs. The project will link the value actors to financial institutions to provide them with the line of credits. The climate-smart technologies that will be introduced to the stakeholders (farmers, producers, and processors) will include the category and specifications of irrigation and water management systems, the Afla-Safe biotechnology, and the quantity of food free from aflatoxin contamination. Indicators to show for success in achieving this output will include (a) number and quality of agricultural inputs produced and supplied; (b) statements on regulatory and operational actions taken towards proportional linkages in domestic and international inputs; (c) number and category of irrigation schemes and infrastructure developed and operational, critical water management infrastructure constructed and operational and climate-smart agricultural farming technologies developed by Research Units and distributed and adopted by farmers; (d) climate-resilient and high-yielding crop varieties prioritized, propagated and marketed nationally and internationally; and (e) number of co-financing agreements developed and operational.

Output 2.2.2: Developed digital and climate resilient technologies in agro-food and nature-based products value chains.

61. Achievement of Output 2 will see the establishment of two functional digital and climate-resilient technologies (post-harvest and value-addition) in agro-food and nature-based products. This output will be achieved through the design, construct and management of Post-Harvest Infrastructure; establishment of Value-added processing and packaging enterprises and plants; and the establishment of efficient and effective supply chain management systems and the institutionalization of Community-public-private partnerships (CPPP) for the management of the postharvest infrastructure and enterprises. Cold storage facilities and drying and processing centers will be established. Post-harvest handlers and food processors will be trained on the established standards for proper post-harvest handling and value-added processing and packaging. PPP solutions to address management of waste generated from processing plants will be defined, agreed-upon and implemented.

Output 2.2.3: Enhanced value chain innovation and human capital development.

62. Output 3 will be achieved through the identification and adoption of efficient Market Linkages; the design, establish and implementation of efficient and effective transportation and logistics models and plans; and the design and establishment of efficient Market Information Systems The value chain innovation and human capital development will be enhanced through capacity building of about 200 producers and about 100 private sector actors in the SEZ and Agro-poles will be provided with a number of incentives, such as tax breaks, subsidies, and grants, to encourage private-sector investment in Agropoles and SEZ. It is assumed that the provision of incentives and tax benefits such as tax holidays, duty-free imports, and relaxed labour regulations will attractive the participation of private sector entities. Under this output, market linkages are available between smallholder farmers and larger markets; farmer cooperatives and/or associations exist and are capacitated; empowered farmers acquired decision-making capabilities; framer's Information Platforms exist with real-time market information; extension agents continue the operations of the Markey Information System; cold storage and distribution Centers are established within the SEZ and Agro-poles; improved transportation infrastructure exists for the SEZs and Agro-poles; regulations on re-export trade exist and implemented Trade and the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) is capacitated to implement some ECOWAS trade tools and regulations. Fairs are organized and selected partners are supported to participate.

Output 2.2.4: Institutionalize Value Chains in the SEZ and the Agricultural Growth Poles (Agropoles).

63. Agro-poles and their related value chains (food, energy, transport, etc.) are new in The Gambia and a lot of reforms will be required to achieve this particular output of the project. To institutionalize Value Chains in the Agricultural Growth Poles (Agro-poles) value chain about 200 actors (farmers, private sector entities and other value chain actors) will be trained on value chain management, particularly to plan for climate risks and hazards, and to enhance their access to markets and commercialization of resilient agricultural and natural resources commodities. To achieve this output, assessment of the existing and future institutional requirements for value chains will be undertaken and based on the results of the assessment the required and recommended reforms will be executed. The capacities and business skills of various Value Chain Actors will be strengthened.

COMPONENT 3. ENHANCED NATIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Outcome 3: National quality infrastructure and control systems are improved and more climate change resilient.

64. The development of National Quality infrastructure is essential for promoting economic development, protecting consumers, facilitating trade and fostering innovation. In addition, it also helps the market entry requirements and thus enhances market access for the products. It also served as a foundation for building resilient and sustainable agro industries and light manufacturing industries.

Output 3.1: Strengthened National Food Quality Control Systems

65. The achievement of this output is made possible through the existence of the revised Food Safety and Quality Act capable of attracting investments and raising standards; the revised and updated food safety regulations and processes; the strengthening of the national quality and sanitary and phytosanitary control systems; and the promotion of certification of private production and processing processes.

66. The project will support the procurement of cutting-edge Vision Inspection Systems designed to enhance food manufacturing processes of the SEZs and Agropoles; and top-tier machine vision systems for food production quality control including custom designed solutions to fit the national production environment. The project will also support existing laboratories such as (Standard Bureau Lab, Food Safety Lab) to conduct testing services. Vision inspection system lineup includes laboratory and at-line systems, over-line systems and in-line systems. The over-line and in-line machine vision systems are customizable to the

products the SEZ and Agropoles will produce and can be fitted to the production line for exceptional food quality inspection.

67. The System supports real-time decision-making and production line adjustments by leveraging the real-time analysis data collected automatically by the vision system. It efficiently adjusts production line based on instant insights, optimizing processes for increased productivity and ensure that only products meeting the specifications reach the customers. The automated vision inspection systems guarantee precision in adherence to quality standards, enhancing customer satisfaction and brand reputation. It maintains unwavering product quality standards across different batches, shifts, and production sites. Our systems are calibrated according to your specifications to ensure consistency, establishing a reliable and standardized approach to quality control. Vision systems allow optimization of resource utilization and can be integrated to provide instant feedback to production equipment when products are falling outside of the specifications (e.g.: adjust oven temperature), balances quality and production efficiencies by rejecting only critical defects from the production flow; reducing waste and operational costs while increasing overall efficiency and ensures that every product aligns with the required quality standards, fostering consumer trust and loyalty.

equipment for agro-food control systems of the SEZ and Agro-poles; strengthened Legal Metrology, Standard institutions, sanitary and Phyto-sanitary institutions;

Output 3.2 Enhance human capacity to manage the National Food Quality Control Systems

68. Implementation to achieve this output requires the training of about 200 food producers, processors, and inspectors on proper food handling, storage, and quality control practices; training of 100 staff on SPS, TBT, certification, and legal metrology; sensitizing 20,000 consumers on the importance of purchasing food and non-food products that meet quality and safety standards; and establishing 5 certification programs and quality standards for various food and non-food products. A number of stakeholders equipped with skills and knowledge to adhere to the updated Act and regulations; availability and applications of Training Modules and conduct of Training Sessions; availability of Accredited laboratories and testing facilities for the products of the SEZ and Agropoles. Also, to be produced is (a) number of Laboratory technicians capacitated on effective operations of laboratories and testing facilities; (b) specialized marketing groups, multipurpose cooperatives; trained and equipped actors of the SEZ and Agro-poles. A number of business and private sector entities will be supported through credit resources for co-financing the project; a number of small-, medium- and large-scale actors trained on market standards and information systems; a number of partnerships established with international organizations; a number of campaigns lunched to raise awareness and promote ‘made in The Gambia’ products; a number of consumers educated on the importance of purchasing food products that meet quality and safety standards; a number of consumers empowered to enable decision making on quality products. A number of Certification programmes and quality standards developed; a number of partnerships established with international organizations; categories of support will be provided to the Standards and Certification Bureau; a number of modern food processing, packaging, and grading facilities established; a number of national quality and phytosanitary control systems strengthened; a number of private food production and processing facilities promoted; and number and categories of food products that have certification programs and quality standards developed for them.

69. Effective training and communication are vital components of any successful food safety management system. Policies act as guidelines for employees, helping them understand their roles and responsibilities in maintaining food safety standards. A user-friendly policy template presents policies in an easily understandable format. Templates often include visual aids, flowcharts, or checklists that make it easier for employees to grasp important concepts.

70. This enhances training sessions by providing visual aids that facilitate learning and comprehension. Policy templates foster effective communication between management and staff members and serve as a reference point for discussions around food safety practices, allowing everyone to be on the same page

when it comes to following established protocols. Developing, building staff capacities, and implementing user-friendly food safety policy templates can greatly simplify the overall management processes. By streamlining documentation efforts, ensuring consistency across multiple locations or departments, staying up to date with evolving regulations, and enhancing training and communication efforts, the SEZ and Agropoles can significantly improve the organization's food safety practices. Advantages and opportunities of expert-developed templates can also be taken to optimize food safety management system of the SEZs and Agropoles.

COMPONENT 4: CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENT AND PRODUCTIVE TRADE AND FOOD VALUE CHAINS

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Outcome 4: Private Sector Investments along the value chains are facilitated and promoted.

71. The private sector entities of The Gambia have not been very responsive to climate change implementation actions, and this could be due to inadequate knowledge and business incentives. This Outcome is aimed at establishing Agropoles at strategic agricultural growth centers along trade corridors to spur private sector investments by facilitating access to finance for agricultural entrepreneurs along the value chains. It will support access to finance by (i) establishing a Dedicated Financial Facility for long-term investment funding and support to micro-investments; (ii) enhancing the financial education of MSMEs and low-income stakeholders; and (iii) providing technical assistance to financial institutions to respond to the needs of MSME (including small-scale farmers associations).

72. Support for improved access to finance will be provided at the production, storage, conditioning, and commercialization stages of targeted food value chains. It will include assistance for the detailed planning, financing, and implementation of competitively selected private investments. Adapted financing instruments will be identified during preparation based on specific value chain stakeholders' needs. The component will be prepared and implemented to (i) provide support to specific eligible larger investors for accessing credit/financial services, including through the de-risking of private investments; and (ii) provide support and guidance for the development of business services and the analysis of reforms in the policy and institutional environment of these selected value chains. About 100 incentive packages would be provided to 50 investors within the Agropoles. It is also assumed that there will be access to financing for infrastructure development, either through government funding, private investment, or international aid and loans

Output 4.1: Operational and conducive enabling Investment Environment

73. To achieve this output, **r**egulatory reforms will be conducted to promote adoption and sustainable investments in climate resilient value chains. The regulatory reform will include the review and updating of regulations related to agriculture, investment, and business operations to create a favorable investment climate; review of regulation on land to ease access to land for agricultural investment and the streamlining of bureaucratic processes to reduce barriers to entry and operation for businesses. The final products of the review and revision processes will be (a) revised and updated regulations on land, agriculture, investment, and business operations; and (b) streamlined bureaucratic processes for a conducive investment and business environments in the agro-food and nature-based products value chains. Conducive investment environment and enhance private sector participation can also be achieved through (a) the identification and promotion of targeted incentives such as tax breaks and grants for co-financing to encourage private sector investment in agriculture and agribusiness, and to attract investments in specific areas of the value chain or in underdeveloped regions of the country; and (b) support the establishment of specialize agencies or units and information hubs to assist investors to navigate the regulator landscapes, obtaining permits, and accessing financing.

Output 4.2: Access to Financing facilities

74. This output will be achieved by the identification, prioritization, development and the promotion of financing mechanisms and financial instruments including loans, equity investments, and venture capital for agribusiness value chain (production, processing, manufacturing and marketing) and for supporting the

value chain actors. Collaborative ventures between the value chain actors and financial institutions will be forged to create tailored financing options for different stages of the value chain. In addition, investment funds dedicated to agriculture and agribusiness will be established to provide capital for projects with growth potential and (b) national and local Investment Funds will be create and capitalized to finance investments of the Agropoles; and partnering of public and private entities will be employed to pool resources for these funds. It is assumed that 100 investors in the Agropoles will access USD 90 Million of the Loan Component of the project/programme financing.

Output 4.3: Established and operational Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

75. Partnership development is key in sustainable development but this has been loose in project implementation in The Gambia. PPP has always been employed and continues to fail to attain long-term sustainability of investments. The failure, as observed during the implementation of the GoTG/GCF/UNEP EbA Project (2018-2023) may due to the exclusion of the most important partner (the Community) in the partnerships. This project and this specific activity are aligned to the GRFNDP Pillar on Sustainable Development Partnership Framework related to economic development and environmental sustainability, especially on climate change and environment. To achieve this output, six (6) Community-Public-Private Partnership (CPPP) Frameworks will be designed and adopted for sustainable management of facilities and investments in the Agricultural Growth Poles (Agri-poles) and the roles, responsibilities, and profit-sharing arrangements between the communities (as the owners of adaptation projects and the land), government for provision of extension services and the private sector entities for the management and continuous investments in the Agropoles, will be defined and agreed. The project will invest and support capacity building and strengthening for sustainability of CPPPs, including the provision of training and capacity building for community, public and private sector partners and stakeholders involved in CPPPs to ensure that all parties understand their roles, expectations, and responsibilities.

COMPONENT 5: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

Outcome 5: Project management, monitoring and evaluation are institutionalized.

Output 5.1 Project management and coordination unit established under MoTIE.

76. A Lean project Management Unit will be established and operational with ten (10) staff. A multisectoral Project Steering Committee (PSC) of 20 members will be established and operational. Technical and material support will be provided to the PSC, Project Management Unit (PMU) and other stakeholders; these will include vehicles, salaries, stationary, and other technical supports. A comprehensive and inclusive stakeholder engagement strategy and plan will be developed for project stakeholders, including, government, sponsors, implementing partners, project team members, and end-users, are actively engaged and communicate effectively throughout the project lifecycle. It is assumed that sufficient resources, including human, financial, and material resources, are available to complete the project within the defined constraints.

Output 5.2: Rigorous Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) institutionalized.

77. This Output will be achieved through (a) Comprehensive M&E and Risk Management Strategy, Plan and Learning system are developed and implemented; (b) Quality Assurance: Quality standards and criteria are established, and quality control measures are implemented to ensure that project deliverables meet predefined quality requirements (c) regular M&E reports are developed and published; (d) a national Data base on industrial data is established; and (e) stakeholder partner reporting is structured, established and operational

B.4. Implementation arrangements (max. 1500 words, approximately 3 pages plus diagrams)

Governance and implementation arrangements

78. The following implementation arrangements for project governance, coordination and management have been developed in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources

(MECCNAR) as the Policy body for the implementation of the Climate Change Convention in The Gambia; the Budget Directorate of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA, as GCF National Designated Authority) in The Gambia; the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MoTIE), as Executing Entity and lead technical Ministry for this project; and other line ministries, departments and agencies involved, for example the Ministry of Gender, Women and Children Affairs, the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), and the Gambia Women Chamber of Commerce (GWCCI). The guiding principles used for preparing the governance and implementation architecture of the project, were the good practices of past projects, the inclusion of all key stakeholders, the involvement of the private sector and maximizing operational efficiency.

Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MoTIE)

79. The Executing Entity – Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MoTIE) shall be solely and completely responsible and accountable for all services performed by its personnel, agents, employees, or contractors and not seek nor accept instructions regarding the implementation of this project activities from any other Government or other authority external to UNNIDO. The EE shall adhere to the milestones indicated in the project document and in the event that a milestone cannot be met, and project expenditure cannot be met, the Executing Entity shall inform AFDB in good to enable AFDB to take appropriate and timely remedial action. The EE must ensure that implementation of project activities comply with the relevant safeguard requirements set out in the Environmental and Social Safeguards of the GCF and AFDB. The Executing Entity shall immediately provide written notice to AFDB of any complaints, claims, investigations, or proceedings related to the same.

80. MoTIE, in its capacity as the project Executing Entity shall ensure that its Personnel meet the highest standards of qualification and technical and professional competence necessary for the achievement of the objectives and results of the Project, and that decisions on employment related to the Project shall be free of discrimination of any nature. The EE shall ensure that all Personnel are free from any conflicts of interest relative to the project activities and shall recruit the respective senior project personnel in accordance with the terms of reference agreed with AFDB, the Project's AE. With regard to procurement, the shall ensure that procurement of goods and consulting services financed by Green Climate Fund proceeds shall be in accordance with the rules, policies and procedures of AFDB; ensure that, in its procedures for procurement of goods, services or other requirements with funds made available by Green Climate Fund, shall safeguard the principles of highest quality, economy and efficiency, and that the placing of such orders be based on an assessment of competitive quotations, bids, or proposals unless otherwise agreed to with AFDB. Regarding reporting, shall provide on a regular basis Progress, Performance and Financial reports to AFDB.

Executing Entities:

81. The project will be executed by the Government of the Gambia acting through the Ministry of Trade as the Lead Technical Ministry, with co-execution by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR) as the government body responsible for implementation of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) in the country.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) - Accredited Entity (AE):

82. The African Development Bank (AfDB) was established in 1964 with the overarching objective of stimulating sustainable economic development and social progress in its regional member countries (RMCs). Through this, it contributes to poverty reduction by mobilizing and allocating resources for investment in RMCs and providing policy advice and technical assistance to support development efforts. Essentially, the bank was established to promote economic and social development in the continent. The AfDB Group is a multilateral development finance institution, comprising three distinct entities: the African Development Bank (AfDB), the parent institution, and two affiliates, the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Nigerian Trust Fund, (NTF). The AfDB Group is Africa's premier development finance institution. It is one of the five major global multilateral development banks (MDBs). The headquarters of the AfDB was opened in Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire, in March 1965.

83. The overall objective of the AfDB Group is to support the economic development and social progress of African countries individually and collectively, by promoting investment of public and private capital in projects and programs designed to reduce poverty and improve living conditions. Combating poverty is at the heart of the Bank's efforts to assist the continent to attain sustainable economic growth. The Bank Group therefore strives to mobilize internal and external resources to promote investment and provide technical assistance to the Regional Member Countries (RMCs). The bank comprises 54 regional (African) and 27 non-regional (non-African) member countries as shareholders[9]. As of 31st December 2021, the bank's capital stands at USD 253.04 billion. To become an AfDB member, non-regional countries must first be ADF members.

84. The AfDB has also been instrumental in the establishment and promotion of other African development institutions such as Africa Re-insurance Corporation, Shelter Afrique, Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI), Federation of African Consultants (FECA), the Africa Project Development Facility (APDF), the International Finance Company for Investments in Africa (SIFIDA), African Management Services Company (AMSCO), African Business Round Table (ABR), African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK), African Capacity Building Foundation, Joint Africa Institute, PTA Bank, the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA)[10].

85. Since its commencement of operations in The Gambia in 1974, the AfDB has committed more than USD 456 million to public sector infrastructure projects in agriculture, industry, water and sanitation, energy, transport, governance and the social sector (mainly education and health)[11]. The financing modalities are predominantly loans/grants, mainly from resources of the African Development Fund, the concessional arm of the Bank Group. At the end of May 2021, the AfDB portfolio consisted of 13 ongoing operations in The Gambia (9 national and 4 multinational projects) with a total value of USD 203 million. The portfolio covers five sectors, namely transport (55.8%), agriculture (16.3%), energy (11.9%), governance (11%), and water supply and sanitation (5%). In essence, the portfolio contributes to the following High 5 areas: Light up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Integrate Africa and Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa. Most of the resources (89%) come from the African Development Fund window, while 11% comes from Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative and other resources such as the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa and Africa Investment Facility.

86. The following are some of the climate change related projects funded by AfDB The Gambia:

Table 1: Climate change related projects funded by AfDB in The Gambia

No.	Project Name	Start	Total cost (U.A)
1.	Improving Water Availability in The Gambia's Rural and Peri-Urban Communities for Domestic and Agricultural use"	2021	10,831,500
2.	Gambia - The Gambia Agriculture and Food Security Project	2021	12,008,856
3.	Rice Value Chain Transformation Programme (RVCP) in The Gambia	2018	5,000,000
4.	Gambia - Climate Smart Rural Wash Development Project	2018	7,081,190
5.	Gambia - Project Preparative Facility (PPF) for Formulation of Agriculture Transformation Program	2017	934,763
6.	Gambia - Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	2017	408,303
7.	Multinational - The Gambia River Basin Development Organization Energy Project (OMVG) - The Gambia	2015	3,750,000
8	Gambia - Food and Agriculture Sector Development Project (FASDEP)	2013	18,648,084
9.	Gambia - Emergency Assistance to address severe crop failure	2012	521,485
10.	Gambia - Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	2012	4,404,241
11.	Gambia - Support for National Water Sector Reform	2010	1,666,428
12.	The Gambia - The Artisanal Fisheries Development Project - Supplementary NTF Loan	2009	4,376,986
13.	Gambia - The Livestock and Horticulture Development Project	2008	4,020,000
14.	Gambia - Farmer Managed Rice Irrigation Project (FMRIP)	2005	5,436,695
15.	Gambia - Participatory Integrated Watershed Management Project (PIWAMP)	2004	9,799,738

Project co-financing

[9] https://www.afdb.org/en/about/corporate-information
[10] https://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/corporate-information/history
[11] https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/west-africa/gambia

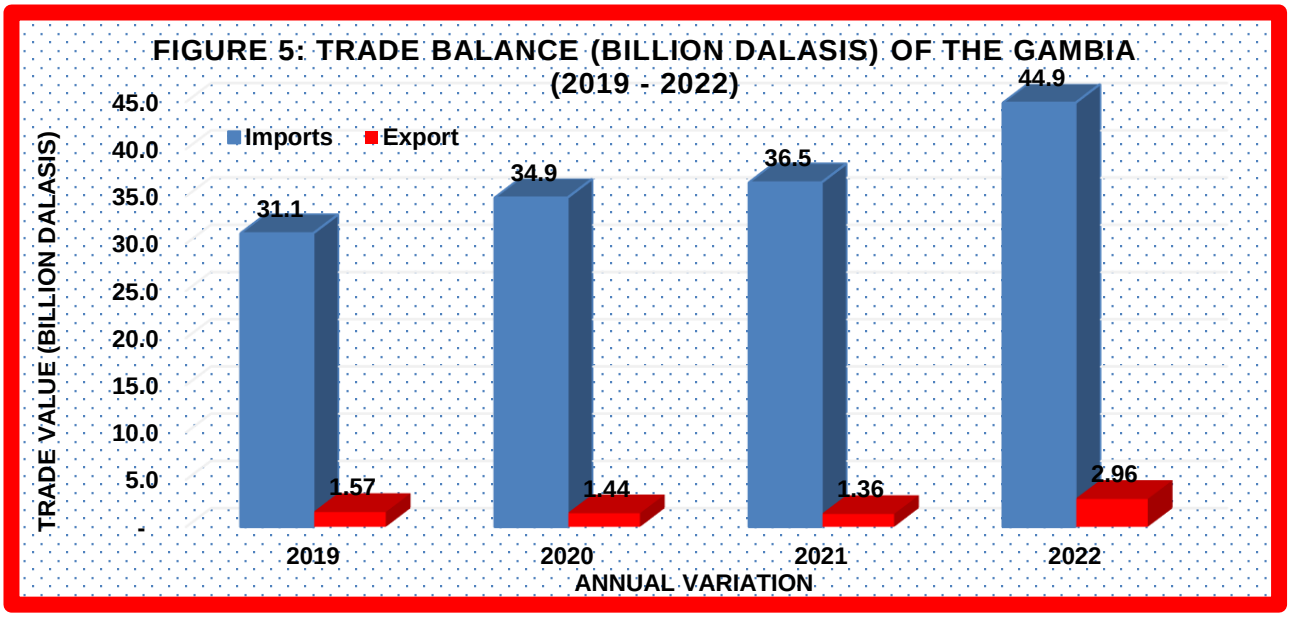
B.5. Justification for GCF funding request (max. 1000 words, approximately 2 pages)

87. The Gambia Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to remain below pre-COVID-19 levels, at 5.2% in 2023 and 5.6% in 2024, as uncertainties about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, tighter international financial market conditions, and climate change could weaken economic activity in agriculture, construction, energy, and tourism. These shocks could also intensify fiscal pressures and affect the debt profile. Inflation is projected to be 11.7% in 2023, reflecting high fuel and food prices and exchange rate depreciation, but to fall to 9.1% in 2024 as commodity prices normalized. The economy is not well diversified relying mainly on agriculture and services (mainly Tourism and re-export Trade). The country is a commodity-dependent country as the share of its exports in value terms, is more than 60% of commodities. The main export commodities according to the 2022 Trade Statistics are Nuts (Sesame, Groundnut and Cashew Nuts), Fish and fish products, natural sand and Edible Oil. The Table one and two below shows the trade profile of the since 2019.

Table 2: Summary of The Gambia's External Trade (Billion Dalasis)

Trade	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change
Total Trade	32.6	36.3	37.8	47.8	26.50%
Imports	31.1	34.9	36.5	44.9	23.10%
Domestic exports	0.5	0.3	0.6	1.3	127.30%
Re-exports	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.7	110.10%
Total exports	1.6	1.4	1.4	3.0	117.30%
Trade Balance	**-29.5**	**-33.4**	**-35.1**	**-41.9**	**19.50%**

Source: MoTIE Trade Information Centre



88. The Country trade performance over the years has shown steady downward trend indicating an annual trade deficit of 35 Billion Value of goods. The Trade Deficit has grown by 19.5% in 2020 to 41.9 Billion in 2021 from 35.1 billion in 2022. This is because the production and exploitation of the traded commodities is declining as well as limited market access due to Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues. One major characteristic of commodity dependent export country is vulnerability to external shocks as global commodity market are always volatile mainly due to climate change factors.

89. The Gambia as an LDC continued to face these climate change vulnerabilities in terms of economic, social and environmental challenges. This therefore require a meaningful efforts to adapt climate smart trade

strategies , that will allow us to diversify our export base, while protecting our environment as well as achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

90. Thus, one of the key objectives of the Government of the Gambia as enshrined in the Gambia Trade Strategy and Industrial Development Policy 2018, is to pursue sustainable approached to increase the performance of the economy to support and enhance trade development, while simultaneously safeguarding the environment. This is also in consistent with the objectives of new Green Recovery Focused National Development Plan, which is currently being formulated.

91. The Gambia's Green Growth Index rose from 42.8% in 2010 to 44.6% in 2021, still short of its green growth target. The country's 2050 Climate Vision and sectoral green growth strategies are aligned with its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). This implies that by enforcing appropriate green growth initiatives through such as sustainable special economic zone and Agropoles, The Gambia could promote economic growth while reducing vulnerability to climate change.

92. Climate finance includes public, private and alternative sources of finance for supporting climate actions and constitutes a crucial enabling condition and shapes the solution space, depending on other enabling conditions such as proper planning, implementation and governance which are also the triggers for investments and finance to flow and to ensure positive outcomes. This project prioritizes adaptation and resilience options and these also offer multiple benefits including avoiding risks and losses, economic growth, wellbeing as well as social and environmental benefits. Hence, the rate of return on adaptation and resilience is large, for example, there is a huge potential of net benefits, i.e., USD7.1 trillion while investing USD1.8 trillion globally in climate resilience and adaptation options such as early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, improved dryland agriculture crop production, and resilience of water resources. These net benefits result primarily from reducing future losses and risk, increasing productivity and innovation, and social and environmental benefits. Large non-market and non-economic losses are projected, especially at higher warming levels. New financial instruments can help to support investment in, for example, ecosystem-based adaptation. For example, green bonds have shown their ability to raise significant amounts of capital in support of projects with environmental/climate benefits. Most green bonds focus on energy, buildings and transport infrastructure. Like green bonds, blue bonds earmark the use of bond proceeds for specific purposes such as the sustainable use of marine resources.

93. The GCF funding scheme provides investment opportunities that generate high rate of return on adaptation and resilience and huge potential of net benefits for producers and traders in the agriculture sector. The SEMEs handle and trade in raw unprocessed agricultural products, and where processing is done only low-quality products are obtained which do not fully meet formal market specifications for domestic and export trade. Most of the producers and traders at the local and community levels do not form or participate in cooperatives which will allow them to group their production and deal with larger buyers, especially in national and international Trade. Under these situations, women trading in these low-quality products serve the domestic market with low profit margins, while export with higher margins are dominated by big male traders and businesses. Export business is more formal than local business and because women traders have limited literacy and numeracy skills and have limited access to the required infrastructure required women suffer from market segregation. Similarly, these women have none or smaller financial leeway and yet still they are responsible for paying for most of the everyday needs of the household.

94. The GCF finance will make a real contribution to move the traditional agriculture and trade development efforts towards a more climate resilient and low-carbon trajectory, with a comprehensive package of support to build in resilience and climate smart features in the agriculture and agribusiness value chain development, with some of the project outputs bearing considerable potential for scaling up and scaling out. Without the GCF's contribution, investments proposed in this programme would only consider current weather conditions, leading to a missed opportunity for increased productivity and resilience, and placing the entire value chain at continued exposure and risk to climate change impacts. The risk level posed by climate change would remain high, and the targeted project sites, rather than benefiting from a growth

opportunity, would become gradually impoverished. To make the investment fully resilient and to reduce vulnerability among project beneficiaries, a number of additional activities are required that can only be financed through GCF support. The value added by GCF financing and support include, but not limited to (a) strengthening and extending the performance and lifespan of the various structures and systems (e.g., electricity, water, transport, post-harvest and agro-processing and markets; (b) the creation of added value at lower costs to producers, processors, manufacturers and entrepreneurs; (c) leveraging larger scale private sector investments into green and climate smart agricultural activities by continuing the process of integration of climate change concerns into agribusiness policy and (d) by encouraging the GoTG/GCF/UNEP example of the emergence of Community-Public-Private Partnerships (CPPP) conducive to sustainability and investment in climate-friendly value chains.

95. Investing in universal basic infrastructure, including sanitation, clean drinking water, drainage, electricity, and land-rights, can transform development opportunities, increase adaptive capacity, and reduce vulnerability to climate-related risks. Transformative approaches that reduce climate-related risks and deliver enhanced social inclusion and development opportunities for the poor farming communities and SMES are most likely where local governments act in partnership with local communities and other civil society actors. The financial sector of The Gambia provides inadequate terms for agricultural financing. Access to commercial financial products is more difficult for poor and vulnerable households due to high interest rates and very short duration and the lack of the required collateral. Of the 75% of the labour force in agricultural production and trading sectors, a large number is classified as the poorest and most vulnerable groups. They are unable to meet the high costs of upfront investments in the required climate-proofed infrastructure and lack the necessary resources to invest in manufacturing and processing equipment.

96. Livelihood and economic activities in highly dependent and climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture have traditionally been highly sensitive due to the country's unique hydrological systems and geographic location in the Sahel region of Wast Africa. In the Gambia, infrastructure standards are weak, the average costs of addressing climate resilience in rural infrastructure are estimated to be between …… and ….% of base costs. Additional resources from GCF are, therefore, required at the best available levels of concessionality (loan) to harness full resilience and GHG mitigation benefits in the targeted value chains of the proposed SEZ and Agro-poles. Because of the state of the economy, external support will be vital to enable The Gambia to meet the financing needs of the implementation of the Project Proposal. The Government, because of its limited fiscal space due to high debt servicing has to rely on grants and loans of a highly concessionary nature, in order to avoid further exposure, increasing the fiscal risks and vulnerability of the economy. The government will work with both traditional and non-traditional partners to secure the necessary financing.

97. According to the GRFNDP (2023-2027), Government is implementing an enhanced public financial management system for macro-fiscal stability. The objective of enhancing public financial management is to create fiscal space for the government to carry out needed public investment programs in the productive sectors that will improve growth that is sustainable, inclusive, and green. Implementation of this priority will bring about macro-fiscal stability, improved revenue mobilization, productive public spending, enhanced public procurement management, improved public investment management, and prudent debt management. Through this financial management system, government will implement programme interventions and strategies that promote external concessional financing and government will finance new projects through highly concessional loans if grant financing is not available. The financial scheme will introduce competitive neutrality principles in the Competition Act and eliminate regulatory provisions that allow the preferential access to credit (e.g., concessionary loans), essential facilities and key inputs to SOEs below market prices. The scheme will improve innovation funding and impact Investment by using fiscal incentives to attract venture capital investors and business agents, give incentives and loans based on performance to encourage green growth and innovation, and encourage the use of intellectual property as collateral.

98. Borrowing by the government is limited to activities designed to leverage significant economic growth, or to long-term investment in infrastructure needed for economic growth. The project financing plan has been designed to direct AfDB loan proceeds for those activities that are expected to generate income, more rapidly and more directly; whereas GCF Loan proceeds are for activities that involve some risk and some income generation, but for which immediate results may not be visible. The GCF loan is used for only infrastructure development, rehabilitation and strengthening. Market, agriculture, agribusiness, electricity, transportation and water infrastructure will be rehabilitated to climate resilient condition. Connectivity will be developed and improved to cooperatives and markets through climate resilient farm road networks.

99. The GCF grant proceeds are targeted mainly towards activities that (i) deliver resilience outputs (e.g. climate resilient crop varieties, climate friendly agricultural production technologies and practices, ICT services to support climate risk management, etc.) that have the potential to be scaled up and scaled out; (ii) promote renewable energy use (bioenergy and solar energy) to reduce the carbon footprint of the value chain; (iii) address key barriers for enhancing adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations and ecosystems; and (iv) strengthen technical capacity of institutions, farmer groups and other stakeholders on climate friendly agriculture, agribusiness and farm mechanization.

100. The GCF grant proceeds will be separated from the lending lines. AfDB will have three separate agreements with the government, with three separate accounts for AfDB loan, GCF loan and GCF grant with separate disbursement streams. AfDB loan, GCF loan and GCF grants are disbursed simultaneously depending on the time of implementation of activities.

B.6. Exit strategy (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

101. The technical and financial analyses conducted on similar GCF Projects (e.g., the EbA and PROFISH) have concluded that such a livelihood development project is financially sustainable and that benefits of the project will continue to accrue after funding completion. Similar technical and financial feasibility analysis is proposed for this project and the studies would be funded by the GCF Readiness. The sustainability strategy for the overall project, including the GCF contribution, rests on the integrated value-chain approach, that considers a package of interlinked interventions designed to reshape the way in which agriculture and natural resources are practiced in the proposed SEZ and Agro-poles.

102. The integrated approach will create enabling conditions to allow local communities as landowners and local producers to derive increased and lasting economic benefit from agriculture and natural resources management, while conserving natural resources. The project's support to the overall policy and normative environment in which the agriculture sector is deployed will also contribute to creating conditions for sustainability. This includes revision or creation of standards, quality certification, good practice guidance, training and regulatory review and support. The project intends to establish the enabling environment for the deployment of green finance or climate finance and climate risk sharing tools at local level. This will include addressing the full scope of capacity gaps, including lack of climate services and data, regulatory and institutional issues, capacity of the financing institutions as well as local level financial literacy and the design of innovative community-public-private partnerships for improved service delivery. This project continue to promote ongoing land use planning and local governance processes, with the establishment of cooperatives and the strengthening of Project Management. This will also help reduce conflicts over land use, land allocations and natural resources. It is expected that after the project, agricultural cooperatives, villages and local level management systems will be able to sustain most project activities and outcomes independently of project-based funding.

103. The project's strategy for maintaining results beyond the duration of financing is based on creating or strengthening local institutions and governance mechanisms, such as the Technical Advisory Groups and the Multidisciplinary Teams at the Regional Administrative levels, financial institutions, cooperatives, and agri-businesses. This will include building their capacities to continue their operations based on internal cost recovery and on profit generated from improved productivity and better prices; and creating or strengthening the enabling environment for adopting climate friendly agriculture practices through capacity building of extension services, local producers, cooperative members, and other community-based organizations. This will also include strengthening of the government's capacity to provide timely and relevant climate information and quality testing services to producers and stakeholders in the value chain,

which will enhance the entire value chain's responsiveness to climate events and create impact in other sectors and regions in the years beyond the project duration.

104. Management of the investments in the SEZ and Agropoles will be expected to collect fees from the various actors to cover O&M costs. Some government funding for these schemes may be required from time to time to ensure that they continue to generate the expected crop production and natural resources benefits. Provided the Management and co-actors of the SEZ and Agropoles are well established, and members are committed to maintaining their systems, the level of sustainability of infrastructure investments under the project should be high. Finally, post-harvest storage units are conceived as commercial units that will be self-funding and managed by the agricultural community cooperatives themselves, in line with current governance arrangements. By working with private sector, individual producers, cooperatives and the Management of the SEZ and Agro-poles and by addressing all aspects of the value chain, the project expects to create significant added value and increased profitability for all actors of the SEZ and Agropoles. Profitability is expected to become visible during the lifespan of the project, and to serve as a basis for participants to sustain the activities, governance structures and technologies beyond the duration of the project.

C. FINANCING INFORMATION

C.1. Total financing

(a) Requested GCF funding (i + ii + iii + iv + v + vi + vii)	Total amount		Currency	
	200		**million USD ($)**	
GCF financial instrument	**Amount**	**Tenor**	**Grace period**	**Pricing**
(i) Senior loans	**USD 140 Million**	40 years	10 years	0.75 %
(ii) Subordinated loans	Enter amount	Enter years	Enter years	Enter %
(iii) Equity	Enter amount			Enter % equity return
(iv) Guarantees	Enter amount	Enter years		
(v) Reimbursable grants	Enter amount			
(vi) Grants	**USD 60 Million**			
(vii) Results-based payments	Enter amount			

(b) Co-financing information	Total amount		Currency		
	Enter amount		Options		
Name of institution	**Financial instrument**	**Amount**	**Currency**	**Tenor & grace**	**Pricing**	**Seniority**
Private Sector Entities (TBD)	Senior Loans	**140**	**million USD ($)**	Enter years Enter years	0.75%	senior
GoTG/MoTIE	Grant	**60**	**million USD ($)**	Enter years Enter years	0%	senior
Click here to enter text.	Options	Enter amount	Options	Enter years Enter years	Enter%	senior
Click here to enter text.	Options	Enter amount	Options	Enter years Enter years	Enter%	senior

(c) Total financing (c) = (a)+(b)	Amount	Currency
	200	**million USD ($)**

(d) Other financing arrangements and contributions (max. 250 words, approximately 0.5 page)	*Please explain if any of the financing parties including the AE would benefit from any type of guarantee (e.g. sovereign guarantee, MIGA guarantee).* *Please also explain other contributions such as in-kind contributions including tax exemptions and contributions of assets.* *Please also include parallel financing associated with this project or programme (refer to the co-financing policy).*

C.2. Financing by component

Please provide an estimate of the total cost per component and output as outlined in section B.3. above and disaggregate by source of financing. More than one co-financing institution can fund a single component or output. Provide the summarized cost estimates in the table below and the detailed budget plan as annex 4.

Component	Output	Indicative cost million USD ($)	GCF financing		Co-financing		
			Amount Options	Financial Instrument	Amount Options	Financial Instrument	Name of Institutions
Component 1: The Trans Gambia Sustainable Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Established ***GoTG Grant = USD10 million*** ***Private Sector C0-financing (USD55 Million)***	Output 1.1: Enhanced infrastructure and utilities for light manufacturing and processing	35	5	Grants	30	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 1.2: A functional and operational special	30	5	Grants	25	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.

	economic zone in the Trans Gambia Corridor						
Component 2: Establishment of Agropoles in selected Agricultural Growth Centres ***GoTG Grant = USD29 Million*** ***Private Sector Co-financing = USD58 Million***	Output 2.1.1: Enhanced infrastructure and utilities for the three (3) Agropoles.	13	3	Grants	10	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 2.1.2: Legal and management frameworks for the Agropoles established.	1	1	Grants	0	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 2.1.3: Improved Climate resilient Marketing infrastructure and food quality control systems	3	3	Grants	20	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 2.2.1: Productive and resilient food value chains are improved.	9	4	Grants	5	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 2.2.2: Developed digital and climate resilient technologies in agro-food and nature-based products value chains.	12	5	Grants	7	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 2.2.3: Enhanced value chain innovation and human capital development.	6	4	Grants	2	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 2.2.4: Institutionalize Value Chains in the SEZ and the Agricultural Growth Poles (Agropoles).	10	4	Grants	6	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 2.2.5: Enhanced private sector participation and investment in the agro-food and nature-based products value chains of the SEZ	15	5	Grants	10	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
Component 3. Enhanced national quality infrastructure and human capital	Output 3.1: Strengthened National Food Quality Control Systems	6	2	Grants	4	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
GoTG Grant = USD4 Million	Output 3.2 Enhance human	8	2	Grants	6	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.

Private Sector Co-financing = USD9 Million	capacity to manage the National Food Quality Control Systems						
Component 4: Productive private sector investments along the value chains ***GoTG Grant = USD11 Million*** ***Private Sector Co-financing = USD14 Million***	Output 4.1: Operational and conducive enabling Investment Environment	9	3	Grants	6	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 4.2: Access to Financing facilities	8	4	Grants	4	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 4.3: Established and operational Community-Public-Private Partnerships (CPPPs)	8	4	Grants	4	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
Component 5: **Institutional development, project management and monitoring and evaluation** ***GoTG Grant USD6 million*** ***Co-financing – USD4 million***	Output 5.1 Project management and coordination unit established under MoTIE.	6	4	Grants	2	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
	Output 5.2: Rigorous Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) institutionalized	4	2	Grants	2	Subordinated loans	Click here to enter text.
Indicative total cost (USD)		200 Million	60		140		

C.3 Capacity building and technology development/transfer (max. 250 words, approximately 0.5 page)

C.3.1 Does GCF funding finance capacity building activities?	Yes ☒ No ☐
C.3.2. Does GCF funding finance technology development/transfer?	Yes ☒ No ☐

105. Regarding C.3.1, GCF funding of capacity building activities, the following can be recalled in this proposal.

a) Establishment of a mixed electricity grid powered solar (10Megawatt) and the hydropower from the OMVG Sambangalo hydroelectric dam is a capacity building effort to provide a sustainable, reliable, and cost-effective energy source for the Special Economic Zone and the Agro-poles (Activity 1.1.3);

b) Establishing and facilitating market access to regional and international quality inputs through the development, adoption and implementation of an Investment Promotion Strategy will provide capacity building in the design and operationalization the SEZ and the Agro-poles (Activity 1.2.2). Specifically, the Investment Promotion Strategy will facilitate preferential access to duty-free inputs, quality, flexible infrastructure, and generous fiscal incentives as powerful instrument to capture increasingly mobile foreign investment; establish a platform for attracting FDI and export-oriented manufacturing sector (Activity 1.2.3); facilitate the industrial development and upgrading processes of the SEZ (Activity 1.2.4); and promote and facilitate the generation of large-scale manufacturing in agricultural commodities and natural resources products (Activity 1.2.5).

c) An Infrastructure Enhancement Plan will be developed and implemented (Activity 2.1.3), through the procurement and delivery appropriate equipment needed for improvement of infrastructure; upgrading and/or constructing required marketing infrastructure (e.g., farm-to-market roads, better storage facilities, cold storage, packaging centers, and transportation hubs/collection centers and distribution

networks); construction and promotion of exclusive 'made in The Gambia' market to promote consumption of domestic goods.

d) Through this GCF funding, capacity building and training of relevant partners and stakeholders of the Food Control Systems in the SEZ and the Agropoles will be designed and conducted (Activity 2.2.2) for the groups of communities, farmers, and business and private actors (producers, collectors, processors, manufacturers, marketeers, etc.) to ensure that aggregated holdings have adequate capacities and sufficient financial and human resources. Training modules will be developed and delivered on Food Control Systems, including hygiene food preparation, preservation and storage; and proper food handling, storage, and quality control practices. The technical capacity of laboratory technicians and other relevant personnel will be built and strengthened to support the effective operations of the laboratories and testing facilities.

e) Design, construct and manage Post-Harvest Infrastructure (Activity 3.2.1) as strategic infrastructure investments will establish and improve storage facilities, drying and processing centers to reduce post-harvest losses.

f) Establish Value-added processing and packaging enterprises and plants (Activity 3.2.2) as the key element to food processing for the proper selection and combination of unit operations into more complex integrated processing systems to improve efficiency to add value to raw agricultural products; and support processors in coming up with creative solutions (e.g., public-private-partnerships) to address infrastructure improvements related to waste management.

g) Strengthen and build capacities and business skills of various Value Chain Actors (**Activity 3.4.2) using** targeted interventions to strengthen the skills and capacities of farmers, private sector entities and other value chain actors on value chain management, particularly to plan for climate risks and hazards, and to enhance their access to markets and commercialization of resilient agricultural and natural resources commodities.

106. Regarding C.3.2. GCF funding finance technology development/transfer, the following activities are relevant.

a) Facilitate and promote Certification and Standardization of facilities and products (Activity 2.2.6) through the establishment of policy, legal, and institutional frameworks that promote gender equality to enable women and men to participate in and benefit from investment opportunities.

b) Facilitate and promote Technology Adoption and Transfer for Value Chain management in the SEZs and Agro-poles (Activity 3.1.1) including agricultural climate-smart technologies for different crops and regions; modern farming techniques, such as precision farming, crop rotation, and integrated pest management; afla-safe biotechnology to mitigate against aflatoxin contamination and improve food quality; production techniques and food safety practices to meet international SPS requirements;

c) Facilitate and promote access to Quality Inputs (Activity 3.1.2) including the strengthening of the research institutions to conduct research and promote the development of quality seeds; ensuring availability of high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and agro chemicals to farmers; development of mechanisms to provide inputs or credits to smallholder farmers; supporting agric-input suppliers to acquire yield-increasing and climate-resilient foundation seeds, disease-resistant seeds, bio-fertilizers, afla-safe and link them to the farmers in the value chains; and ensuring market access and utilization arrangements for domestic and international inputs are linked proportionally.

d) Establish Irrigation and Water Management systems (Activity 3.1.3) by investing in innovative irrigation schemes and critical water management infrastructure, boreholes, and small water-catchment to mitigate the impacts of erratic rainfall patterns.

e) Identification, adoption and propagation of Climate-Resilient Crop Varieties (Activity 3.1.4) including cereals *(maize, late, millet, early millet, sorghum, and rice (NERICA*); leguminous crops *(groundnuts, beans/peas, etc.*); and nature-based fruits, leaves and pulps *(baobab, tamarind, etc.); and the* development of the value chains of these products. These initiatives have proofed to be of huge competitive advantages and social and economic co-benefits as well as unique characteristics of agribusiness investments.

f) Establish efficient and effective supply chain management systems (Activity 3.2.3) by improving supply chain transparency; linking farmers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers; improving supply chain capability and efficiency to support national and regional trade and distribution of products; and adopting and utilizing technologies for real-time tracking and monitoring of products as they move through the supply chain.

g) Manage Post-Harvest (Activity 3.2.1) as cold chain logistics; to develop and implement standards for proper post-harvest handling; and **to** institutionalize Community, Public, Private Partnerships (CPPP) to maximize investment in building the postharvest infrastructure.Design, establish and implement efficient and effective Transportation and Logistics models and plans Activity 3.3.3) to directly assist value chain actors in the SEZ and Agro-poles by improving transportation infrastructure to reduce transit times and transportation costs; establishing cold storage and distribution centers to maintain product quality during transportation; and developing regulation to promote and facilitate re-export trade.

h) Design and establish efficient Market Information Systems (Activity 3.3.3) to facilitate comprehensive communication and exchange of information to build awareness and capacity of all actors of the SEZ and agro-poles.

i) Identify, implement and promote Investment Incentives and Investor Support Services (Activity 4.1.2) such as tax breaks, grants for co-financing and also support the establishment of specialize centres and information hubs to assist investors to navigate the regulator landscapes.

107. Additionally, the GCF funding must finance the exit strategy and the sustainable management and investments of the facilities established by the project.

a) Identify, prioritize, and adopt appropriate and climate-friendly Agribusiness Financing Mechanisms and instruments (Activity 4.2.1) as GCF funds will only finance the activities that have a clear climate change additionality and yet still this project has a very high co-financing, possibly through loans to private entities, to ensure public financing is shifted to climate resilient value chain management in the SEZ and Agro-pole. Implementation of this activity will also remove the key barriers to commercialization including lack of access to finance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) entrepreneurs to establish facilities for processing, manufacturing, storage, access to market information, long transportation distances to markets and industrial centers, and lack of branding and marketing to increase demand by consumers for alternative crops and distinguish among varieties as well as quality.

b) Create and capitalize national and local Investment Funds (Activity 4.2.2) to encourage value chain actors and partners to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources dedicated to agriculture and agribusiness to provide capital for projects with growth potential and to partner with public and private entities to pool resources for these funds.

c) Employ Credit Guarantee Schemes **(**Activity 4.2.3) as additional financing instruments to enable business and private sector entities to investment and to encourage financial institutions to lend to agribusinesses and share the risk of default.

d) Design and adopt Community, Public, and Private Partnership (CPPP) Frameworks for sustainable management of facilities and investments in the SEZ and Agricultural Growth Poles (Activity 4.3.1); these must include clear and transparent frameworks and agreements containing roles, responsibilities, and profit-sharing arrangements between the communities (as the owners of land and the adaptation projects), government (as providers of extension services) and private sector entities (that must be responsible for the management and investments in the future).

D. EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA

This section refers to the performance of the project/programme against the investment criteria as set out in the GCF's Initial Investment Framework.

D.1. Impact potential (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Impacts Potential of the Project/Programme Proposal:

108. Overall, the project will contribute to the fund-level impact of increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people affected by climate-related disasters and variability. The climate-impact potential of the project is 3wwwwwwwwwwwwbased on its integrated and comprehensive approach to address critical elements of resilient agricultural value chains in the identified and designed Special Economic Zone along the Senegambia Bridge Corridor, and three (3) Agro-poles in the Kombo Districts of West Coast Region (targeting the Horticulture and Fisheries Value Chain), Wassu area in the Central River Region (targeting Cereal and Environmentally Preferable Products (EPPs) or Natural Resources Products (NRPs) Value Chains) and Basse Dry Port in the Upper River Region. The proposed project/programme will directly benefit 68,500 people (over 9,000 households) and indirectly benefit 102,750 people (about 13,520 households). Capacities of end users, especially farmers, SMEs, entrepreneurs, and trade logistic providers within the communities will also be strengthened. The project will further strengthen the linkages between generation and uptake of climate information and decision-making of smallholder farmers. Farmers will gain the technical capacity, tools and resources to interpret and use climate information to better inform their decision-making for resilient agriculture. SMEs can make market-based decisions which take into account impacts by climatic changes, and insurance products are founded on strong climate data. Post-production support to strengthen access to storage, transportation and processing services, access to finance, linkages to markets, and business skills will be fully embedded in the proposal to further ensure that climate-resilient products have a viable market to ensure sustainable livelihoods. This will ensure that livelihoods are enhanced and more resilient to climate change. Furthermore, increased and sustainable income for the beneficiaries will ensure sustainable management of the investments, facilities and infrastructure. The project/program is also designed to utilize the river Gambia, which has great potential to transform domestic trade and reduce excessive dependence on road transportation.

D.2. Paradigm shift potential (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Paradigm Shift in engagement and investment

109. The Value Chain approaches (agribusiness, fisheries, etc.) to strengthening climate-resilient of the poorest and most vulnerable smallholder farmers and business entities, especially on trade and marketing will serve as an assured paradigm shift at all levels of the communities. Critical needs at both the input and the post-production level will be addressed to strengthen the ability of smallholder farmers to plan for and access necessary facilities and infrastructure to improve their agricultural livelihoods, strengthen market opportunities for climate-resilient products, strengthen business and entrepreneurial skills, and enable them to identify and take advantage of opportunities for access to financing for continuous investment in adaptive approaches, and improvement of processing, storage and transportation capacities of resilient products.

D.3. Sustainable development (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Potential for Sustainable Development

110. This Project/Programme proposal will be designed and implemented to provide beneficiaries at all levels with the desired environmental, social and economic co-benefits, including gender-sensitive development impact. Agricultural production and productivity of approximately 685,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries will be enhance in the target SEZs through climate-resilient crops, fisheries management, and improved marketing systems. This will contribute to increased incomes and indirect employment opportunities created through project activities such as construction and management of community fish and aquaculture ponds, processing centres and marketing outlets. Macro-level indirect economic benefits will be derived from the contribution to food security. Self-sufficiency through diversified agricultural production beyond the staple grains (e.g., rice) will contribute towards a reduction in potential imports and a reduction of the pressure on the national treasury. Most of the target communities in the identified SEZs are households in poverty and they are dependent on subsistence farming for livelihoods. Increasing production and access to markets will increase income levels that will be utilized by poor families for essential social needs, such as education and health. Further, increased nutrition from diversified

and more nutrient-rich foods will also contribute to improved health outcomes of these poor communities. Increased nutrition will also ease the pressure on women and girls and leave them with enough time and strength for feeding the household and caring for the sick. The agricultural value chain practices will strengthen resilience to the changing climate and the environment in the target areas, particularly in soil conservation and reduction of erosion and sedimentation; improved tree cover in home gardens; restoration of ecosystem integrity, goods and services; preservation of biodiversity in home gardens, forests and crop fields; improved management of natural resources as a result of enhanced knowledge/access to information; increased productivity per unit area of land and labour (increasing yield so that less land is required for the same output).

D.4. Needs of recipient (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Needs ff the recipients.

111. Timely and efficient implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures of the proposed project/programme will drastically enhance food security of the rural communities, in areas of the SEZs particularly in the rural communities of Lower River Region (LRR) and North Bank Region (NBR). Many of these communities many of whom are already facing extreme poverty with incomes of less than USD 2 per day. The capacity needs of national and local institutions must be provided to extension agents in public and CSO institutions who will directly support farmers and other stakeholders. The project must meet the critical needs of the communities through rehabilitation of poor rural roads and feeder roads and improve the transport systems leading to markets.

D.5. Country ownership (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Country Ownership

112. This project/programme proposal is fully aligned with the Government's medium-term National Development Plan (2023 – 2027, the Trade Policy and other national strategies and policies related to sustainable development. The project is also supportive of the National Climate Change Policy (2016 – 2025), which advocates for mainstreaming of climate change into most of the economically important and vulnerable sectors of the economy. To enhance country ownership in the proposed proposal and improve climate-responsive planning and development, financial and technical support will be directed to the strengthening of sub-nation planning and to systematically drive investment from both public and private sectors.

D.6. Efficiency and effectiveness (max`. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Efficiency and Effectiveness

113. The effectiveness of proposed solutions in this proposal will be facilitated by the promotion of coordination and avoidance of duplication. Joint operations of projects will be conducted for project activities and areas of jurisdiction. Collaboration on joint products and activities will be sought and executed. Coordination among the various funding agencies and implementers will be secured through the already existing platforms. Co-financing from related projects and utilization government staff will promote cost effectiveness and efficiency. Synergies will be built with other projects in the same geographical location and that are working on climate resilience through development of special economic zones to maximize effectiveness.

E. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

*This section refers to the project/programme's logical framework in accordance with the **GCF's Integrated Results Management Framework** to which the project/programme contributes as a whole, including in respect of any co-financing.*

E.1. Project/Programme Focus

Please indicate whether this proposal is for a mitigation or adaptation project/programme. For cross-cutting proposals, select both.

☒ Reduced emissions (mitigation)

☒ Increased resilience (adaptation)

E.2. GCF Impact level: Paradigm shift potential (max 600 words, approximately 1-2 pages)

Assessment Dimension	Current state (baseline)		Potential target scenario (Description)	How the project/programme will contribute (Description)
	Description	Rating		
Scale	The Gambia's principal environmental sustainability challenges relate to managing and preserving its natural capital and managing the risks arising from extreme weather events and climate change. The recurrent problem of the country is weak infrastructure especially in the rural areas. Buildings are sometimes brought down by heavy storms and floods. The road infrastructure is particularly vulnerable to weather and climate, which depends	Medium	Natural capital contributes significantly to livelihoods in The Gambia and lays the foundations for economic growth, and its share is growing. Sustainable and well-maintained roads are important enablers of socio-economic development. Designing roads to withstand current and future heavy rainfall events is essential for performance of transportation infrastructure. This project/ programme proposal aims to remove risks to external connectivity by avoiding trade disputes with neighbouring countries in the sub-region that trigger road shutdowns, affecting Gambian businesses that access markets in those countries, and even more importantly, constrain re-export and re-import trade, which constitutes a significant proportion of The	A selection of agricultural production systems considered key for food security in the Gambia is based on the production system's contribution to economic, productivity and nutrition quality indicators. For adapting to climate change impacts in the SEZ and Agropoles, it is proposed to (i) switch to drought and salinity tolerant, and high yielding crop varieties; (ii) improve water-use efficiency of crops through management of soil fertility, improved irrigation systems, etc. (iii) develop early warning systems, and (iv) promote and encourage improved post-harvest technologies. To increase food

	mostly on the design and its use. The network of rural feeder roads (2,556 km) is in poor condition due to lack of periodic maintenance since it was built in the 1980s and 1990s (AfDB 2016). This increases costs to rural farmers to expand to other markets and build links with the trade and tourism sectors. Moreover, it impacts household welfare through worse access to services and opportunities. [12] Water resources management infrastructure are poorly maintained in the rural areas which are hosting the SEZ and Agro-poles.		Gambia's trade volume. This proposal will prioritize the procurement of climate proofed building materials and energy systems for the built environment in the SEZ and Agro-poles, new building designs, favouring energy efficiency and new materials, in combination with robust planning and regulatory frameworks encapsulate the challenge for sustainability of built environments[13].	security and productivity in goods and services for trade and export potential, potential adaptation measures will prioritize carbon sequestration and landscape greening practices and these will be conducted in the SEZ and Agropoles. These will include restoration of vegetation cover through tree growing, assisted natural regeneration; agroforestry and establishment of woodlots and fruit tree groves. Water resources management will include construction of flood-proof housing; re-location of water abstraction points; efficient and sustainable irrigation systems.

[12] Ali et al. 2015.
[13] (GOTG, 2007: The National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA)

The Gambia has a relatively good network of primary roads, and these connect provincial towns to gateways (seaports, airports, and border crossings) and the capital city of Banjul (see Figure 5 below). However, the network of rural feeder roads is in poor conditions. This increases costs to rural farmers to expand to other markets and build links with the trade and tourism sectors and also impacts household welfare through worse access to services and opportunities. And for the exchange of goods and services in the private sector. In addition, risks to external connectivity arise from trade disputes with Senegal that trigger road shutdowns, affecting Gambian businesses that access markets in Senegal, and even more importantly, constrain re-export and re-import trade, which constitutes a significant proportion of The Gambia's trade volume. The Gambia has high rates of road deaths due to the poor state of the roads, traffic congestion, impatient drivers and their poor driving skills, and inadequacy of public transport systems.

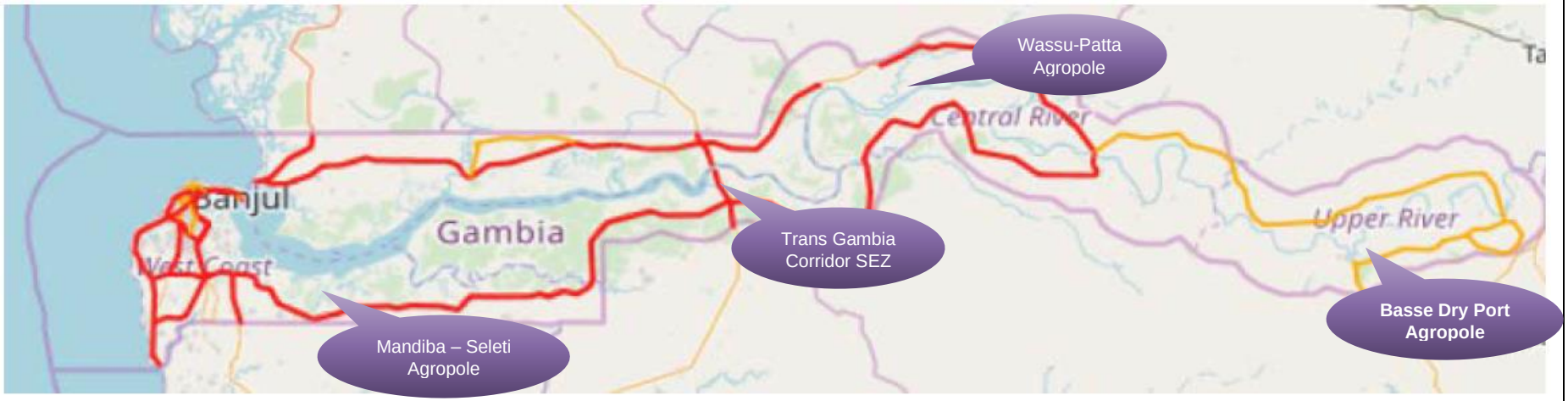
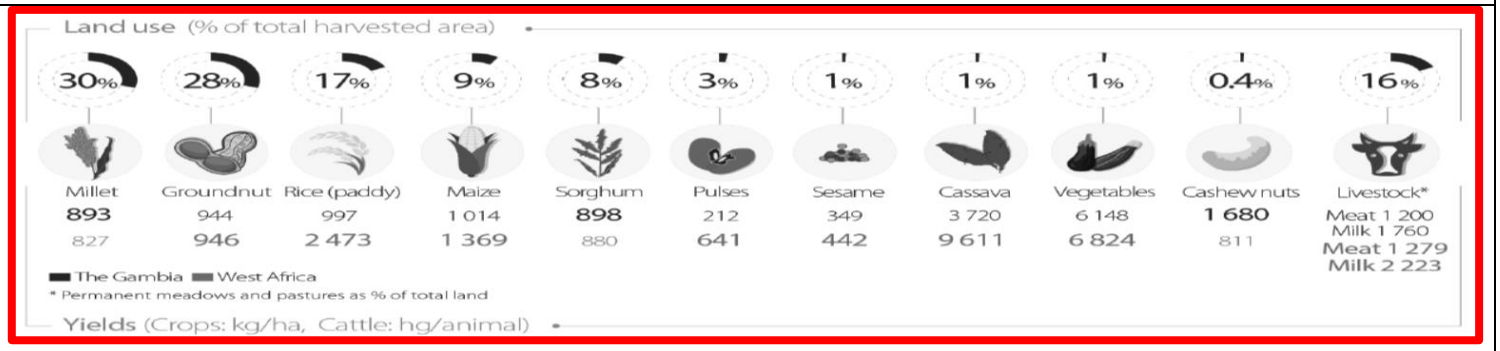


Figure 6 shows a selection of agricultural production systems considered key for food security in the Gambia. The selection is based on the production system's contribution to economic, productivity and nutrition quality indicators.



Replicability	Establishment of SEZ and Agropoles for climate change adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gases emissions is new in The Gambia. However, many of the activities identified for implementation at the project sites, provide some means of learning and identification of some best practices.	High	The Proposal is heavy on infrastructure development which will attract socio-economic and environmental benefits for all the actors and huge development for the country. Other areas and communities in the country would be very much interested to benefit from a replication of the project in their areas. The project would have laid the ground for the transformational change in the project area, including regulatory and policy review and revision in partner MDAs, which can be replicated in other areas of the country.	The replication of these transformational changes in the country towards low emission and climate resilient value chains will be welcomed but would require additional technical and financial support needed to replicate and scale-up investments in climate resilient and green economy.
Sustainability	Gambia's trade performance over the years has shown steady downward trend indicating an annual trade deficit of 35 billion Value of goods. The Trade Deficit has grown by 19.5% in 2020 to 41.9 billion in 2021 from 35.1 billion in 2022. Production and exploitation of the traded commodities is declining as well as limited market access due to Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues. As a major vulnerable commodity dependent export country, there is increased vulnerability to external shocks as global commodity market are always volatile mainly due to climate change factors. The Gambia as an LDC continues to face these climate change vulnerabilities in terms of economic, social and environmental challenges.	Low	As alluded to the Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (2023-2027), Gambia plans to diversify her export base, while protecting her environment as well as achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It is also a key objective of the Government of the Gambia as enshrined in the Gambia Trade Strategy and Industrial Development Policy 2018, is to pursue sustainable approached to increase the performance of the economy to support and enhance trade development, while simultaneously safeguarding the environment. This is also in consistent with the objectives of the GRFNDP (2023-2027), which is currently being implemented; the country's 2050 Climate Vision and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2022-2025).	Considering the current economic and climate challenges on trade performance and the requirements to achieve the targets and scenarios indicated in the preceding adjacent column, there is an urgent requirement to adapt using climate smart trade strategies. This GCF proposal will support the design and implementation of green growth initiatives in sustainable Special Economic Zone and Agropoles. The Gambia could promote economic growth while reducing vulnerability to climate change. Major outputs include (a) functional and operational special economic zone and Agropoles; (b) enhanced climate resilient infrastructure and utilities for light manufacturing, processing, marketing; (c) enhanced private sector participation and investment in the value chains; and (d) established and operational Community, Public-Private Partnerships (CPPPs) for sustainability of investments.

E.3. GCF Outcome level: Reduced emissions and increased resilience (IRMF core indicators 1-4, quantitative indicators)						
GCF Result Area	**IRMF Indicator**	**Means of Verification (Move)**	**Baseline**	**Target**		**Assumptions / Note**
				Mid-term	**Final[14]**	
		Sources of information and methods used to collect and report data /information to measure progress against targets	*The starting point or current value of the indicators before the implementation of the project*	*The estimated value of the indicator at the mid-point of the implementation*	*The estimated value of the indicator at the completion of the implementation*	*Externalities and factors outside project management's control that may impact the outcomes* *Data sources and methodologies applied for estimating baseline and targets*
MRA1 Energy generation and access	Core 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered					
MRA3 Buildings, cities, industries and appliances	Core 3: Value of physical assets made more resilient to the effects of climate change and/or more able to reduce GHG emissions					
MRA4 Forestry and land use	Core 4: Hectares of natural resources brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice					

[14] The final target means the target at the end of project/programme implementation period. However, for core indicator 1 (GHG emission reduction), please also provide the target value at the end of the total lifespan period which is defined as the maximum number of years over which the impacts of the investment are expected to be effective.

E.4. GCF Outcome level: Enabling environment (IRMF core indicators 5-8 as applicable)					
Core Indicator	**Baseline context (description)**	**Rating for current state (baseline)**	**Target scenario (description)**	**How the project will contribute**	**Coverage**
Core Indicator 5: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for low emission climate-resilient development pathways in a country-driven manner	Under the GoTG/GCF/UNEP EbA Project, climate change mainstreaming has been initiated. The EbA Project has been integrated climate change and EbA approaches in over 10 sectoral policies, strategies, and plans. These include the Trade and Entrepreneurship policies under the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment. However, the process of mainstreaming must go beyond the integration process and that has not been achieved. Mainstreaming of climate change will be achieved in the National Development Plan (GRFNDP, 2023 – 2027) by the end of its implementation in 2027.	low	This project will support the mainstreaming (integration, planning. Budgeting, costing and implementation) of climate change and nature-based approaches and solutions of the policies, strategies and plans under the Ministry of Trade. Institutional mandates and capacities of related MDAS will be revisited and updated to effectively support the management of information and evidence-based decision making at all -levels, from local communities to national institutions.	The project will directly contribute to the mainstreaming activities beyond the integration process to update Trade and Climate policies, strategies and plans. It is envisaged that these institutional level changes will encourage and deepen financial support and greater opportunities for investments in knowledge generation and dissemination, and evidence based dialogue at all levels of population.	Multiple sub-national areas within a country
Core Indicator 6: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to technology deployment, dissemination, development or transfer and innovation	There are over 220,000 individual electricity customers (public and private) in the country; electrification rate has increased to over 50% in recent years, 69% of the population has an electricity connection in urban and peri-urban areas of the country; 28% of the rural population has access to electricity. The Project is in areas of	medium	The government's goal is to achieve universal access by 2025. The National Development Plan (NDP) seeks to increase the share of renewable energy from 2	This project is aligned to the Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (GRFNDP) and both seek to utilize renewable energy, particularly solar, to power the infrastructure and	Multiple sub-national areas within a country

	the country that are outside of the electricity grid. Settings of the country and some the areas use conventional power from NAWEC whilst most of the communities and facilities do not have electricity.		to 40 percent [15] . The potential for solar energy is immense. The minimum daily solar production capacity of The Gambia is 4kWh solar power radiation per square meter.	facilities to be developed in the SEZ and Agro-poles at the project sites.	
Core indicator 7: Degree to which GCF Investments contribute to market development/transformation at the sectoral, local, or national level	The identified locations of the project sites for the development of an SEZ and Agro-poles are the most important trade and market routes to Senegal and to the West African Region. Currently, there are a lot of internal and external import, export and re-export trade activities taking place in the areas. Unfortunately, most of the traded goods are in their raw status but also include re-export of imported finish products. Transport and market infrastructure are poor, only small and local enterprises with low capacity and skills are involved, and big private sector entities are absent.	low	It is proposed to improve the policy and regulatory tools, upgrade the market and transport infrastructure, enhance the skills and capacities of SMEs, develop CPPPs so that partnerships at all levels of the value chains of products are formed and effective.	This Project will in collaboration with other national and international partners proposes to develop a SEZ on the Trans-Gambia Corridor to serve as a major logistical hub in the Senegambia Region and also serve West Africa. It is also proposed to develop an Agropole around the Basse Dry Port in the eastern end of the country which will also serve to develop trade and markets to serve the Senegambia Region. Both port areas will be upgraded so that they become appealing to secure finance from development partners. The GoTG plans to implement several road projects and to ensure private sector participation.	Multiple sub-national areas within a country

[15] Gambia, The - Energy (trade.gov)

Core indicator 8: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to effective knowledge generation and learning processes, and use of good practices, methodologies and standards	Experience in other projects, especially the GoTG/GCF/UNEP EbA project and the GoTG/GEF/UNEP project include the establishment of Climate Change Information Platform and Knowledge Management Systems. These include capacity building through series of training programs extension staff, field officers, traditional communicators, and communities in the project sites. The trainings included data collection and reporting templates, training on the online data entry sheets, the geo-spatial, and the orientation for the Traditional Communicators (TCs) on the effective development and dissemination of EbA messages on climate change adaptation integrating the gender dimensions. Introduction of the required procedures/processes for entering data into the information platform and practical sessions on inputting data into the information platform covering all the KPIs.	medium	This GoTG/GCF/AfDB project proposal will continue to improve on the good practices of the Information Platform and Knowledge Management systems already familiar to communities, government extension agents, private sector entities and other stakeholders. The generated data and information will be used in the monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the project KPIs and support the decision-making process of the implementation of the project. Rural vulnerable communities will be able to manage, operate and maintain productive infrastructure and equipment accessed via project-supported concessional technology transfers. The private sector and financial institutions will be able to appreciate the profitability of the value chain operations and investments.	Implementation of activities to achieve Outputs ……. communities, producers, processors, manufacturers, exporters and other actors in the agriculture and trade value chains with dedicated training, capacity development and knowledge transfer to ensure strengthening their capacities in relation to technology transfers and adaptation to climate change on a broader national scale, the project will conduct knowledge generation and management and public private policy dialogue.	Multiple sub-national areas within a country

5. Project/programme specific indicators (project outcomes and outputs)

Project/programme results (outcomes/ outputs)	Project/programme specific Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
				Mid-term	Final	
		Sources of information and methods used to collect and report data/information to measure progress against targets	*The starting point or current value of the indicators before the implementation of the project*	*The estimated value of the indicator at the mid-point of the implementation*	*The estimated value of the indicator at the completion of the implementation*	*Externalities and factors outside project management's control that may impact on the Component.* *Data sources and methodologies applied for estimating baseline and targets*
Outcome 1: Trans Gambia Sustainable Special Economic Zone (SEZ) established.						
Output 1.1: Enhanced infrastructure and utilities for light manufacturing and processing.	1. Availability of renewable energy grid (Solar, Wind and Dam)	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	0	10Magawats	Assumption that the government is supportive and committed to the establishment and success of the SEZ. This includes providing necessary legal and regulatory frameworks, incentives, and infrastructure support. **Ease of Doing Business** The SEZ and Agropolis will offer a conducive business environment with streamlined administrative procedures, reduced bureaucracy, and efficient customs and regulatory processes
	2, Water and wastewater systems constructed 3 KMs of roads with drainage and street lightening constructed.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	1	2	
	4. Number of hectares developed 5. Existence of prospectus for SEZ	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	5	10KM	
	6. The existence of a functional one-stop shop within the SEZ	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	25ha	50ha	
		Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	1	1	
			0	1	1	

Output 1.2: A functional and operational special economic zone in the Trans Gambia Corridor	Legislation and regulations on the establishment and operations of the SEZ exist. Sustainable management system established and institutionalized. Number of companies established and operating with the SEZ Total investment within the SEZ	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports Monitoring and Evaluation Reports Monitoring and Evaluation Reports Monitoring and Evaluation Report	none None 0 0	Yes Yes 10 $100,000,000	Yes Yes 25 $300,000,000	Investor Interest: domestic and foreign investors will be interested in setting up businesses within the SEZ. This can depend on the availability of a skilled workforce, market access, and other factors that make the SEZ attractive
Outcome 2.1: Three functional Agropoles at selected strategic agricultural growth centers established.						
Output 2.1.1: Enhanced infrastructure and utilities for the three (3) Agropoles.	Number of accredited laboratories and testing facilities.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	1	2	
	Number of food producers, processors, and inspectors trained on proper food handling, storage, and quality control practices.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	100	200	200	
	Existence of an updated national quality policy and action plan	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	None	Yes	Yes	
	Number of staff trained on SPS, TBT, Certification, and Legal Metrology.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	10	50	100	
	Existence of a functional monitoring system to track the quality and safety of food and non-food products throughout the supply chain.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	None	Yes	Yes	
	Number of consumers sensitized on the importance of purchasing food and non-food products that meet quality and safety standards.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	N/A	300,000	500,000	**Local Community Engagement:** Assumption that there will be engagement with and benefits for the local community, including job

						opportunities, quality products and social development programs
	Existence of certification programs and quality standards for various food and non-food products	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	1	5	5	
	Existence of quality mark for products	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	5	10	
	Existence of metrology services for mass, volume and temperature	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	1	2	3	
Output 2.1.2: A legal and management framework for the Agropoles established.	Memorandum of Understanding	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	3	3	
Output 2.2.1: Enhanced and Resilient Marketing Infrastructure	Number of market assessments and analysis reports	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	2	4	**Market Demand:** Assumption that there is a demand for the infrastructure and services that businesses in Agropoles will produce.
	Existence of prospectus for the Agropoles	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	1	1	
	The existence of a functional one-stop shop within the Agropole	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	1	1	**Ease of Doing Business** The Agropole will offer a conducive business environment with streamlined administrative procedures, reduced bureaucracy, and efficient customs and regulatory processes

	Number of collection/holding centres and distribution networks established	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	6	9	
	Functional online platform and market intelligence on domestic, regional, and international markets and provide advisory services to actors along the value chain established.	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	1	1	**Market Demand:** Assumption that there is a demand for the products and services that businesses in the Agropole will produce. Market research and demand analysis are critical in this regard.
Output 2.1.3: Improved Climate resilient Marketing infrastructure and food quality control systems	Number of accredited laboratories and testing facilities.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	1	2	
	Number of food producers, processors, and inspectors trained on proper food handling, storage, and quality control practices.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	100	200	200	
	Existence of an updated national quality policy and action plan	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	None	Yes	Yes	
	Number of staff trained on SPS, TBT, Certification, and Legal Metrology.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	10	50	100	
	Existence of a functional monitoring system to track the quality and safety of food and non-food products throughout the supply chain.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	None	Yes	Yes	
	Number of consumers sensitized on the importance of purchasing food and non-food products that meet quality and safety standards.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	N/A	300,000	500,000	**Local Community Engagement:** Assumption that there will be engagement with and benefits for the local community, including job opportunities, quality products and social development programs

	Existence of certification programs and quality standards for various food and non-food products	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	1	5	5	
Outcome 2.2 Productive and resilient food and nature-based products value chains are established and sustainably operational.						
Output 2.2.1: Productive and resilient food value chains are improved.	Number of incentive packages provided to investors within the SEZ	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	15	30	**Infrastructure Financing:** Assumption that there will be access to financing for infrastructure development, either through government funding, private investment, or international aid and loans
Output 2.2.2: Developed digital and climate resilient technologies in agro-food and nature-based products value chains.	Functional digital and climate-resilient technologies in agro-food and nature-based products	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	1	2	2	
Output 2.2.3: Enhanced value chain innovation and human capital development.	Number of producers trained.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	200	200	
	Several incentives, such as tax breaks, subsidies, and grants, to encourage private-sector investment in Agropoles and SEZ	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	100	100	**Incentives and Tax Benefits:** Assumption that the SEZ and Agropoles will provide attractive incentives and tax benefits to investors, such as tax holidays, duty-free imports, and relaxed labor regulations
Output 2.2.4: Institutionalize Value Chains in the SEZ and the Agricultural Growth Poles (Agropoles).	Number of value chain actors trained in business and management skills	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	200	200	

Output 2.2.5: Enhanced private sector participation and investment in the agro-food and nature-based products value chains of the SEZ	Number of investors in SEZ	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	25	50	
	Number of Partnerships established for the development and sustainable management of Agropoles	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	3	6	**Public-Private Partnership:** Assumption that there will be active collaboration and partnership between the government and private sector stakeholders for the development and management of the SEZ and Agro-poles
	Existence of quality mark for products	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	5	10	
	Existence of metrology services for mass, volume and temperature	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	1	2	3	
	Number of market assessments and analysis reports	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	2	4	**Market Demand:** Assumption that there is a demand for the infrastructure and services that businesses in Agropoles will produce.
	Existence of prospectus for the Agropoles	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	1	1	
	The existence of a functional one-stop shop within the Agropoles	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	1	1	**Ease of Doing Business** The Agropole will offer a conducive business environment with streamlined administrative procedures, reduced bureaucracy, and efficient customs and regulatory processes
	Number of collection/holding centres and distribution networks established	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	6	9	

	Functional online platform and market intelligence on domestic, regional, and international markets and provide advisory services to actors along the value chain established.	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	0	1	1	**Market Demand:** Assumption that there is a demand for the products and services that businesses in the Agropole will produce. Market research and demand analysis are critical in this regard.
Outcome 3: National quality infrastructure and control systems are improved and more climate change resilient.						
Output 3.1: Strengthened National Food Quality Control Systems	Cutting-edge Vision Inspection Systems with high-resolution cameras and sensors	Procurement and Monitoring Reports		3	5	
	Laboratory at at-line systems, over-line and in-line systems	Procurement and Monitoring Reports		3	5	
	Protein Tailored P-Series and TheiaVuWD-300 machine vision systems	Procurement and Monitoring Reports		3	5	
Output 3.2 Enhanced human capacity to manage the National Food Quality Control Systems	Food safety regulations and Streamline documentation with Pre-written Policies	Procurement and Monitoring Reports		3	5	
	Certification on Food Safety and Quality Control Systems	Procurement and Monitoring Reports		3	5	
Outcome 4: Private sector investments along the value chains are facilitated and promoted.						
Output 4.1: Operational and conducive enabling Investment Environment	Number of incentive packages provided to investors within the Agropoles	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	50	100	**Infrastructure Financing:** Assumption that there will be access to financing for infrastructure development, either through government funding, private investment, or international aid and loans
Output 4.2: Access to Financing facilities	Number and amount of financing obtained by investors	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	25	100	It is assumed that 100 investors in the

						Agropoles will access USD 90 Million of the Loan Component of the project/programme financing
Output 4.3: Established and operational Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)	Number of Partnerships established for the development and sustainable management of Agropoles	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	3	6	**Public-Private Partnership:** Assumption that there will be active collaboration and partnership between the government and private sector stakeholders for the development and management of the SEZ and Agro-poles
Outcome 5: Outcome 5: Project management, monitoring and evaluation are institutionalized.						
Output 5.1 Project management and coordination unit established under MoTIE.	A Lean project Management Unit was established and the operational.	Number of staff recruited by direct project staff	0	10	10	Resources: Sufficient resources, including human, financial, and material resources, are available to complete the project within the defined constraints
	A multisectoral project Steering Committee was established and operational.	Number of Steering Committee meetings conducted	0	10	20	Stakeholder Engagement: Stakeholders, including, government, sponsors, implementing partners, project team members, and end-users, are actively engaged and communicate effectively throughout the project lifecycle
	Institutional support to	Number of staff trained.	0	20	20	
	Technical and material support to and other stakeholders	Vehicles, salaries, stationary, and other technical supports	0			
Output 5.2: Rigorous Monitoring and	M&E Learning system developed.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	1	1	A comprehensive project implementation plan is developed.

Evaluation (M&E) institut6ionalized						A Risk Management strategy is developed and implemented.
	Number of M&E reports developed and published.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	10	20	Quality Assurance: Quality standards and criteria are established, and quality control measures are implemented to ensure that project deliverables meet predefined quality requirements
	A national Data base on industrial data established.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	1	1	A national Industrial Data base.
	Stakeholder reporting is structured established and Operational.	Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	0	10	20	Stakeholder reporting is structured established and Operational.
Project/programme co-benefit indicators						
Co-benefit 1: National and regional food security, and improved export						
Co-benefit 2: Creation of green jobs and facilities	Number of temporal and permanent green jobs					
Co-benefit 3: Improved rural livelihoods and income						
Co-benefit 4: Managed environmental impacts responsibly and meeting the SDGs	Quantity of GHG emissions abated;					
Co-benefit 5: Sustainability and meeting the						
E.6. Project/programme activities and deliverables						

Activities	Description	Sub-activities	Deliverables
Outcome 1: Trans Gambia Sustainable Special Economic Zone (SEZ) established.			
Output 1.1: Enhanced infrastructure and utilities for light manufacturing and processing.			
Activity 1.1.1: Conduct Baseline and feasibility studies for the establishment of Trans Gambia Special Economic Zones	Recruit consultants to conduct the following studies: and formulate strategies: Market Analysis 2. Legal and Regulatory Framework:3. Site Selection:4. Infrastructure Assessment 5. Financial Analysis 6; Economic Impact Assessment: 7. Environmental Impact Assessment 8. Risk Analysis 9. Incentive Programs 10. Feasibility studies and 11. Develop an Implementation Planning	1.1.1.1: Conduct environmental impact studies. 1.1.2.1: Conduct social impact studies	The existence of all the study reports and strategic action Plans
Activity 1.1.2: Implement the findings and recommendations of the Baseline and Feasibility Studies, including infrastructure and facilities	Recruit experts, consultants, engineers, and contractors to construct the necessary infrastructure such as roads, energy, water, drainage systems, and storage facilities	1.1.2.1: Develop separate TORs for Experts, Consultants, Engineers, and Contractors. 1.1.2.2: Design the infrastructure and develop the BOQs, 1.1.2.3: Recruit the Contractors 1.1.2.4: Construct the Infrastructure	Sustainable and climate-smart infrastructure for the SEZ
Activity 1.1.3: Build the necessary infrastructures such as the roads, water and drainage systems	In collaboration with the National Water and Electricity Company, construct, a stand-alone solar power plant at the SEZ and connect it to the Sambagalo dam for a sustainable, reliable, and cost-effective energy source	1.1.3.1 Establish a mixed electricity grid powered solar and the hydropower from the OMVG Sambangalo hydroelectric dam	10Megawatt solar grid
Activity 1.1.4: Review and revise the various policies under MoTIE to provide policy makers of SEZs as an instrument of trade, industrial and investment	Recruit consultants to develop the necessary legal and policy frameworks for the operations of the SEZ and Agropoles	1.1.4.1: Consolidate the SEZ supply chains, both in terms of suppliers and production locations.	Enabling policy and legal environment for private sector investment and exports
Output 1.2: A functional and operational special economic zone in the Trans Gambia Corridor			
Activity 1.2.1: Recruit a promoter for the SEZ.	Recruit credible firms, with years of experience in operation SEZ to attract investors into the SEZ and Agropoles	1.2.1.1: Establish an effective management structure for the SEZs. 1.2.1.2: Conduct investment promotion to attract private investment into the SEZs	Established an Act and Regulations for the management and operations of the SEZ,

			Number of investment missions conducted, and volume of Investment generated
Activity 1.2.2: Design the SEZ to take advantage of preferential access to regional and international markets	Develop a prospectus and conduct missions for enhanced market access to regional and international markets using, GEIPA, private sector, etc.	1.2.2.1 Facilitate preferential access to duty-free inputs, quality, flexible infrastructure, and generous fiscal incentives as powerful instrument to capture increasingly mobile foreign investment. 1.2.2.2: Design sophisticated strategies to attract MNCs.	Established and facilitated market access to regional and international quality inputs. Existence of an investment promotion strategy
Outcome 2.1: Three functional Agropoles at selected strategic agricultural growth centers established.			
Output 2.1.1: A legal and management frameworks for the Agropoles established			
Activity 2.1.1.1: Conduct Baseline Legal Analysis and feasibility for the establishment of the 3 Agropoles	Recruit consultants to conduct the Legal and Regulatory Framework and Environmental Impact Assessment and. Feasibility studies and Develop an Implementation Plan.	2.1.1.1: Conduct Legal analysis 2.1.1.2. Conduct environmental impact studies. 2.1.1.3: Conduct social impact studies 2.1.1.1. Develop Action Plan	The existence of all the study reports and strategic action Plans
Activity 2.1.1.2: Review and revise the various policies under MoTIE to provide policy makers of SEZs as an instrument of trade, industrial and investment	Recruit consultants to develop the necessary legal and policy frameworks for the operations of the SEZ and Agropoles	2,1.1.2.1: Consolidate the SEZ supply chains, both in terms of suppliers and production locations.	Enabling policy and legal environment for private sector investment and exports
Output 2.1.2: Enhanced infrastructure and utilities for the three (3) Agropoles			
Activity 2.1.2.1: Conduct a comprehensive study on (a) potential resilient market locations in the project sites; (b) existing marketing infrastructure to identify gaps and inefficiencies; (c) market trends, consumer behaviour, and supply chain dynamics to inform infrastructure improvements	Under this activity, a competent Consultant (Individual or Firm) will be transparently hired to conduct the referenced study to map the locations of potential resilient markets; identify existing and status of marketing infrastructure; and determine market trends, consumer behavior and supply chain dynamics. Information generated will be used to inform infrastructure improvement for resilience to climate change.	2.1.2.1.1 Develop the Terms of Reference for the Consultancy and advertise in national and international media networks. 2.1.2.1.2 Identify and recruit a qualified and competent Consultant Individual or Firm). 2.1.2.1.3 Produce, review and adopt and implement in the Consultancy Report	The Terms of Reference for the Consultancy Competent Consultant identified and recruited. A report of Comprehensive Study is available and being implemented.

Activity 2.1.2.2: Implement the findings and recommendations of the Baseline and Feasibility Studies, including infrastructure and facilities	Recruit experts, consultants, engineers, and contractors to construct the necessary infrastructure such as roads, energy, water, drainage systems, and storage facilities	2.1.2.2.1: Develop separate TORs for Experts, Consultants, Engineers, and Contractors. 2.1.2.2.2: Design the infrastructure and develop the BOQs, 2.1.2.2.3: Recruit the Contractors 2.1.2.2.4: Construct the Infrastructure	Sustainable and climate-smart infrastructure for the Agropoles
Activity 2.1.2.3: Build the necessary infrastructures such as the roads, water and drainage systems	In collaboration with the National Water and Electricity Company, construct, a Stand-Alone solar power plant at the Agropoles for a green, sustainable, reliable, and cost-effective energy source	2.1.2.3.1 Establish Stand-Alone Solar Powered Plants in the Agropoles	10Megawatt solar grid
Output 2.1.3: Improved Climate resilient Marketing infrastructure and food quality control systems.			
Activity 2.1.3.1: Develop and implement the Infrastructure Enhancement Plan	Priority areas for infrastructure enhancement are identified based on the assessment results from Activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.2.1 above. Equipment specified are procured and this is followed by the upgradin and/or construction of the required marketing infrastructure.	2.1.3.1.1: Identify priority areas for infrastructure enhancement based on the assessment results from Activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.2.1 above. 2.1.3.1.2 Specify, procure and deliver appropriate equipment needed for improvement of infrastructure. 2.1.3.1.3 Upgrade and/or construct required marketing infrastructure, including farm-to-market roads, better storage facilities, cold storage, packaging centers, and transportation hubs/collection centers and distribution networks. 2.1.3.1.4 Construct and promote exclusive 'made in The Gambia' market to promote consumption of domestic goods.	
Activity 2.1.4.1: Develop Market Information System (MIS) for producers, processors and marketers to effectively collect, tabulate, analyze, interpret and disseminate	An online platform and market intelligence on domestic, regional and international markets is developed to provide advisory services to actors along the value chain	2.1.3.1.5 Develop online platform and market intelligence on domestic, regional and international markets and provide advisory services to actors along the value chain	

market data and intelligence to the farming and trading communities.			
Outcome 2.2 Productive and resilient food and nature-based products value chains are established and sustainably operational.			
Output 2.2.1: Productive and resilient food value chains are improved			
Activity 2.2.1.1: Facilitate and promote Technology Adoption and Transfer for Value Chain management.	SEZs, including Agro-poles in them, were intended to promote business development and financial services, exports, create jobs, science-based industries, information technology for the expansion and upgrading of ICT, and the diffusion and transfer of purpose-built technologies. Implementation of this activity is meant to facilitate a broader adoption and transfer of technologies through capacity building and strengthening on the hardware and software of incentives and privileges and improving the overall business environment by extending best practice policy.	2.2.1.1.1: Identify and promote appropriate agricultural climate-smart technologies for different crops and regions. 2.2.1.1.2: Provide training and extension services to farmers on modern farming techniques, such as precision farming, crop rotation, and integrated pest management. 2.2.1.1.3: Introduce and promote the use of afla-safe biotechnology to mitigate against aflatoxin contamination and improve food quality for domestic consumption and exports. 2.2.1.1.4: Provide training and support to farmers on production techniques and food safety practices to meet international SPS requirements	The agricultural climate-smart technologies identified for different crops and regions of The Gambia. Number of trainings conducted, number of farmers and other actors that benefitted in the training and extension services. Category and specifications of the Afla-Safe biotechnology introduced to farmers, producers and processors; Quantity of food free from aflatoxin contamination. Number of trainings conducted; type of support provided and number beneficiaries for the training and support.
Activity 2.2.1.2: Facilitate and promote access to Quality Inputs.	Agro-poles encompass the entire range of activities in the value chain (production, processing, marketing, retail, consumption, and disposal of goods and the inputs needed and the outputs generated at each of these steps. Responsible investment in agro-pole management is aimed at empowering and improving human resource capacity for stakeholders and promoting their access to resources and inputs, as appropriate. This activity aims to improve the management of	2.2.1.2.1: Strengthen the research institutions to conduct research and promote the development of quality seeds. 2.2.1.2.2 Ensure availability of high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and agro chemicals to farmers. 2.2.1.2.3: Develop mechanisms to provide inputs or credits to smallholder farmers. 2.2.1.2.4: Support agric-input suppliers to acquire yield-increasing and climate-	Number of research institutions engaged, and outputs produced and acted upon. Quantities of high-quality inputs available to farmers. Number mechanisms developed to provide input or credits to farmers.

	the inputs and outputs requirements of the agro-pole to enhance the efficiency of production and minimize potential threats to the environment and to plant, animal, and human health.	resilient foundation seeds, disease-resistant seeds, bio-fertilizers, afla-safe and link them to the farmers in the value chains. 2.2.1.2.5: Ensure market access and utilization arrangements for domestic and international inputs are linked proportionally.	Number of agric-input suppliers supported and the areas of support. Statements on regulatory and operational actions taken towards proportional linkages in domestic and international inputs
Activity 2.2.1.3: Establish Irrigation and Water Management systems.	In-country or transboundary SEZs and Agro-poles have an important infrastructure development component. encompassing water resources management (irrigation, storage, etc.) to provide water to enterprises. The SEZ and Agro-pole developers and managers can supply water to tenants of SEZ and Agro-pole estates and other private sector beneficiaries by treating them as indirect exporters.	2.2.1.3.1: Invest in irrigation infrastructure such as innovative irrigation schemes, 2.2.1.3.2: Construct critical water management infrastructure, boreholes, and small water-catchment to mitigate the impacts of erratic rainfall patterns. 2.2.1.3.3: Promote smart agricultural farming technologies (conservation and efficient water-use agriculture) to optimize water use. 2.2.1.3.4: Solicit and design co-financing agreements between SEZ and Agro-pole managements and Estates and other business and private sector beneficiaries	Number and category of irrigation schemes and infrastructure developed and operational. Number and category of critical water management infrastructure constructed and operational. Number and categories of climate-smart agricultural farming technologies. Number of co-financing agreements developed and operational.
Activity 2.2.1.4: Identify, adopt and propagate Climate-Resilient Crop Varieties	Climate-resilient crops of The Gambia are mostly cereals *(maize, late, millet, early millet, sorghum, and rice (NERICA*); leguminous crops *(groundnuts, beans/peas, etc.*); and nature-based fruits, leaves and pulps *(baobab, tamarind, etc.)*. A lot of work is going on in the development of the value chains of these products. These initiatives have proofed to be of huge competitive advantages and social and economic co-benefits as well as unique characteristics of agribusiness investments.	2.2.1.4.1: Conduct rapid agricultural model simulations of the major crops of The Gambia and select priority climate-resilient crops with the potential for rapid scaling. 2.2.1.4.2: Establish research units within the SEZ and agro-poles to develop climate resilient and high yielding crop varieties. 2.2.1.4.3: Further the propagation, development, and utilization of the priority resilient crops to be sold in the national and international markets.	Seceded climate-resilient crops based on Crop Model simulation results. Climate-resilient and high-yielding crop varieties developed by Research Units. Prioritized and propagated climate-resilient crops marketed nationally and internationally.

		2.2.1.4.4: Distribute these resilient varieties to farmers and encourage their adoption.	Climate resilient crop varieties are distributed to farmers for adoption.
Activity 2.2.1.5 Design, construct and manage Post-Harvest Infrastructure	The special development approach encourages trade and investment in in SEZs and Agro-poles and other development corridors focusing on strategic infrastructure investments, such as postharvest infrastructure. Community, Public, Private Partnerships (CPPP) would be required to maximize investment in building the postharvest infrastructure.	2.2.1.5.1: Institutionalize Community, Public, Private Partnerships (CPPP) to maximize investment in building the postharvest infrastructure. 2.2.1.5.2: Establish and improve storage facilities, drying and processing centers, and cold chain logistics to reduce post-harvest losses. 2.2.1.5.3: Develop and implement standards for proper post-harvest handling.	A CPPP for the management of postharvest infrastructure and operations. Cold storage facilities and drying and processing centers. Standards for proper post-harvest handling.
Activity 2.2.1.6: Establish Value-added processing and packaging enterprises and plants	One of the key elements to food processing is the proper selection and combination of unit operations into more complex integrated processing systems. The total food process is a series of unit operations, performed in a logical sequence. In modern food processing these operations are so connected as to commonly permit smooth, continuous automatically controlled production. Processing and packaging can be integrated to improve efficiency. Processing and packaging enterprises are required, and their establishment will be achieved through this activity.	2.2.1.6.1: Encourage the establishment of value-added food processing enterprises to add value to raw agricultural products. 2.2.1.6.2: Establish fully equipped processing and packaging centers within the SEZ and in each agro-pole. 2.2.1.6.3: Provide training and support to food processors on processing and packaging techniques and food safety practices. 2.2.1.6.4 Support processors in coming up with creative solutions (e.g., public-private-partnerships) to address infrastructure improvements related to waste management	Value-added Processing and Packaging Enterprises Processing and packaging Centers Defined processing techniques and food safety practices and Trained food processors PPP solutions to address management of waste generated from processing plants
Activity 2.2.1.7: Establish efficient and effective supply chain management systems.	Food value chain covers production, content and consumption. Regulatory requirements, increased supply chain complexities, and ongoing scientific developments present many challenges and opportunities. It is important to invest in securing supply chain and to enhance product labelling and traceability. This activity is expected to improve supply chain	2.2.1.7.1: Develop efficient supply chain systems that link farmers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers. 2.2.1.7.2: Improve supply chain capability and efficiency to support national and regional trade and distribution of products. 2.2.1.7.3: Adopt and utilize technologies for real-time tracking and monitoring of	

	transparency through track and trace technologies.	products as they move through the supply chain.	
Output 2.2.2: Developed digital and climate resilient technologies in agro-food and nature-based products value chains.			
Activity 2.2.2.1 Design, construct and manage Post-Harvest Infrastructure	The special development approach encourages trade and investment in in SEZs and Agro-poles and other development corridors focusing on strategic infrastructure investments, such as postharvest infrastructure. Community, Public, Private Partnerships (CPPP) would be required to maximize investment in building the postharvest infrastructure.	**2.2.2**.1.1: Institutionalize Community, Public, Private Partnerships (CPPP) to maximize investment in building the postharvest infrastructure. **2.2.2**.1.2: Establish and improve storage facilities, drying and processing centers, and cold chain logistics to reduce post-harvest losses. **2.2.2**.1.3: Develop and implement standards for proper post-harvest handling.	A CPPP for the management of postharvest infrastructure and operations. Cold storage facilities and drying and processing centers. Standards for proper post-harvest handling.
Activity 2.2.2.2: Establish Value-added processing and packaging enterprises and plants	One of the key elements to food processing is the proper selection and combination of unit operations into more complex integrated processing systems. The total food process is a series of unit operations, performed in a logical sequence. In modern food processing these operations are so connected as to commonly permit smooth, continuous automatically controlled production. Processing and packaging can be integrated to improve efficiency. Processing and packaging enterprises are required, and their establishment will be achieved through this activity.	**2.2.2**.2.1: Encourage the establishment of value-added food processing enterprises to add value to raw agricultural products. **2.2.2**.2.2: Establish fully equipped processing and packaging centers within the SEZ and in each agro-pole. 3.2.2.3: Provide training and support to food processors on processing and packaging techniques and food safety practices. Support processors in coming up with creative solutions (e.g., public-private-partnerships) to address infrastructure improvements related to waste management	Value-added Processing and Packaging Enterprises Processing and packaging Centers Defined processing techniques and food safety practices and Trained food processors PPP solutions to address management of waste generated from processing plants
Activity 2.2.2.3: Establish efficient and effective supply chain management systems.	Food value chain covers production, content and consumption. Regulatory requirements, increased supply chain complexities, and ongoing scientific developments present many challenges and opportunities. It is important to invest in securing supply chain and to enhance product labelling and traceability. This activity is expected to improve supply chain	**2.2.2**.3.1: Develop efficient supply chain systems that link farmers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers. **2.2.**2.3.2: Improve supply chain capability and efficiency to support national and regional trade and distribution of products. **2.2.2.**3.3: Adopt and utilize technologies for real-time tracking and monitoring of	

	transparency through track and trace technologies.	products as they move through the supply chain.	
Output 2.2.3: Enhanced value chain innovation and human capital development.			
Activity 2.2.3.1: Identify and adopt efficient Market Linkages	Only traditional and under developments markets exist in the selected project sites. The project intends to grow these markets. Most of this growth will occur in emerging markets which have traditionally been agriculture-based economies. This is no easy task when the strategy, most appropriately, includes building/acquiring facilities in emerging markets. The markets in the SEZ and Agro-poles must apply the notions of "sustainable," "organic," and "green" products that have a great appeal to specific consumer groups.	**2.2**.3.1.1: Create market linkages between smallholder farmers and larger markets, including supermarkets, restaurants, and export markets. **2.2**.3.1.2: Strengthen or establish farmer cooperatives or associations to better build their capacities in price negotiation and other marketing practices. **2.2**.3.1.3: Organize regional, national and international trade fairs to showcase the products.	Market linkages available between smallholder farmers and larger markets. Farmer cooperatives and/or Associations exist and capacitated. Trade Fairs are organized and selected partners are supported to participate.
Activity 2.2.3.2: Design, establish and implement efficient and effective Transportation and Logistics models and plans.	This activity will directly assist value chain actors in the SEZ and Agro-poles with strategies and plans to improve the transportation and logistics systems for ease of management of the goods, services and products. A coordinated transportation and marketing of sustainably produced finished products will support the stakeholders especially the smallholder farmers in their livelihoods and food security will be adversely impacted.	**2.2**3.2.1: Improve transportation infrastructure to reduce transit times and transportation costs. **2.2**.3.2.2: Strengthen capacity of GRA to implement ECOWAS SIGMA and collaborate with Senegal Custom authorities to facilitate transit through recognition of transit documents and provide border to border escorts. **2.2**3.2.3: Establish cold storage and distribution centers to maintain product quality during transportation. **2.2**.3.2.4: Develop regulation to promote and facilitate re-export trade.	Improved transportation infrastructure for the SEZs and Agro-poles. GRA is capacitated to implement some ECOWAS trade tools and regulations. Cold storage and distribution Centers within the SEZ and Agro-poles. Regulations on re-export trade exists and implemented.
Activity 2.2.3.3: Design and establish efficient Market Information Systems	Through this activity, the commitment to facilitate comprehensive communication and exchange of information to build awareness and capacity of all actors of the SEZ and agro-poles will be facilitated and realized. Knowledge and awareness on current and future climate hazards and risks, trends in national and regional	**2.2**.3.3.1: Develop platforms that provide farmers with real-time market information, including prices, demand trends, and consumer preferences. **2.2**.3.3.2: Empower farmers to make informed decisions about what and when to produce.	Framer's Platforms exist with real-time market information. Empowered Farmers with decision-making capabilities.

	markets, best practices for climate resilient agribusiness, sustainable natural resources management, ecosystem-based adaptation and gender equality and social inclusion will be inclusively available.	**2.2**.3.3.3: Capacitate and Use the National Extension Services (MDFTs) and develop and implement Training of Trainer (ToTs) to ensure continued and sustainable operation of the Market Information System after project completion.	Extension Agents continue the operations of the Markey Information System.
Output 2.2.4: Institutionalize Value Chains in the SEZ and the Agricultural Growth Poles (Agropoles).			
Activity 2.2.4.1: Assess the current and future institutional requirements for value chains and conduct required reforms.	SEZ and Agro-poles, and their related value chains (food, energy, transport, etc.) are new in The Gambia and a lot of reforms will be required under this activity and the project. Technical and institutional reforms to drive a greener and more inclusive trade and entrepreneurship. Commercialization of the power sector including through the mobilization of private sector infrastructure investment should be a high priority.	**2.2**.4.1.1: Conduct a thorough assessment of relevant institutions along the value chains **2.2**.4.1.2: Based on the assessment, initiate necessary reforms to enhance the effectiveness, transparency, and efficiency of institutions. **2.2**.4.1.3: Implement streamlined processes and improved governance mechanisms.	Report on the assessment of value chain institutions. Reforms conducted on institutions. Streamlined processes and improved governance mechanisms exist
Activity 2.2.4.2: Strengthen and build capacities and business skills of various Value Chain Actors.	Under this activity, targeted interventions will strengthen the skills and capacities of farmers, private sector entities and other value chain actors on value chain management, particularly to plan for climate risks and hazards, and to enhance their access to markets and commercialization of resilient agricultural and natural resources commodities.	**2.2**.4.2.1: Develop and implement training programs to enhance the skills and capacities of communities and government agencies on extension services and value chain management, **2.2**.4.2.2: Train and capacitate private sector and other relevant stakeholders on policy formulation, project management, data analysis, result-oriented decision-making, investment promotion, financial and procurement management and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL).	Training programs developed and are being utilized. Private sector entities and other relevant stakeholders trained and capacitated.
Outcome 3: National quality infrastructure and control systems are improved and more climate change resilient.			
Output 3.1: Strengthened National Food Quality Control Systems			
Activity 3.1.1: Review, revise and publish the national and sub-nation regulatory tools and processes of the Food Control System	Under this activity Gambia needs to review the 2011 Food Safety and Quality Act, policy and other regulations to control the safety and quality of food and animal feed	**3.1**.1.1: Review and update the national food quality policy and action plan and align with international standards such	The revised Food Safety and Quality Act capable of

	whether locally produced, imported or destined for export. The review and revision will need to facilitate the establishment of SEZs and agricultural growth poles and corridors and attract investment. They Act, regulations and policies should also raise standards so that investor practices conform to international standards and best practices.	as the African Quality Policy and support its implementation. **3.1**.1.2: Review and update food safety and quality regulations and processes to ensure efficiency without compromising safety and to align with international standards and best practices; **3.1**.1.3: Equip relevant stakeholders with the skills and knowledge to adhere to updated regulations.	attracting investments and raising standards. The revised and updated food safety regulations and processes. Number of stakeholders equipped with skills and knowledge to adhere to the updated Act and regulations
Activity 3.1.2: Design and conduct capacity building and training of relevant partners and stakeholders of the Food Control Systems in the SEZ and the Agropoles	The design strategies for the establishment of the SEZ and Agropoles must consider the element of grouping of communities and farmers around business and private actors (processors, marketeers) who have strong managerial capacity in ensuring that aggregated holdings have adequate capacities and sufficient financial and human resources.	**3.1**.2.1: Recruit a consultant to develop training modules on Food Control Systems, including hygiene food preparation and storage. **3.1.**.2.2: Train food producers, processors, and inspectors on proper food handling, storage, and quality control practices. **3.1.**.2.3: Build and strengthen the technical capacity of laboratory technicians and other relevant personnel to support the effective operations of the labs and testing facilities	Report on the Consultancy and Training Modules developed. Report on the Training Sessions Number of Laboratory technicians capacitated on effective operations of laboratories and testing facilities
Activity 3.1.3: Upgrade and/or constructure Food Quality Control Systems infrastructure**,**	Many SEZs and Agro-poles initiatives failed because of poor infrastructure planning. A real planning process is needed for sustainability of the Food Quality Control Systems of the SEZ and Agro-poles. New and/or upgraded infrastructure will ensure the facilities contribute to national and regional food security, create jobs, improve rural livelihoods, and manage environmental impacts responsibly.	**3.1**.3.1: Procure equipment for agro-food Control Systems development. **3.1**.3.2: Establish accredited laboratories and testing facilities to conduct and support comprehensive quality control systems and equip the facilities with advanced equipment. **3.1**.3.3: Strengthen the Legal Metrology and standard institutions to conduct calibration and verification services.	Equipment for agro-food control systems of the SEZ and Agro-poles. Accredited laboratories and testing facilities for the SEZ and Agro-poles. Strengthened Legal Metrology and Standard institutions.

		3.1.3.4: Strengthen the sanitary and Phyto-sanitary institutions to ensure compliance with SPS requirements.	Strengthened sanitary and Phyto-sanitary institutions
Output 3.2 Enhance human capacity to manage the National Food Quality Control Systems			
Activity 2.2.4 Establish and promote Producers, marketing groups, cooperatives and partnerships	The principles for responsible investment in SEZs, Agripoles and food systems should be promoted, supported and utilized by all stakeholders according to their respective individual or collective needs, mandates, abilities, and relevant national contexts. This activity will encourage and promote greater coordination, tradesmanship and gender-sensitive groupings, cooperatives, and partnerships to maximize synergies to improve livelihoods. The activity will foster transparent and inclusive business models and partnerships, including public private partnerships, to promote sustainable development.	2.2.4.1**:** Establish specialized and robust marketing groups and multi-purpose cooperatives across the SEZ and Agro poles in project sites. 2.2.4.2: Train and equip food producers, processors, and inspectors on food quality standards, proper food handling, storage, and quality control practices. 2.2.4.3: Support through credit resources and facilitate the participation of the business and private sector entities in co-financing and investment in the development and sustainable management of markets and trade infrastructure in the SEZ and Agro-poles. 2.2.4.4: Develop and facilitate capacity building programs (training on market standards and information systems) for small-medium-large-scale actors. 2.2.4.5: Establish partnerships with international organizations to achieve recognition for local products in global markets.	Specialized marketing groups and multipurpose cooperatives Trained and equipped actors of the SEZ and Agro-poles Number of business and private sector entities supported through credit resources for co-financing the project. Small-, medium- and large-scale actors trained on market standards and information systems. Number of partnerships established with international organizations.
Activity 2.2.5: Conduct regular and continuous Consumer Awareness Campaigns	This activity is seeking enhancement of awareness, knowledge, and communication, related to evidence-based information on food quality, safety, nutrition, manufacturing, processing and trade; promoting innovative technologies and practices, including smallholders' own innovations, such as farmer to farmer skills sharing; Implementation of this activity will	2.2.5.1: Launch campaigns to educate consumers about the importance of purchasing food and non-products that meet quality and safety standards and empower consumers to make informed choices and demand quality products. 2.2.5.2: Empower consumers to make informed choices and demand quality products.	Number of campaigns lunched, and number of consumers educated on the importance of purchasing food products that meet quality and safety standards. Number of consumers empowered to enable

	lead to strengthened capacities along the entire agriculture and food system, particularly for communities, those directly affected by investments, the most vulnerable, and those working in trade, agriculture and food systems,	2.2.5.3: Launch campaign to raise awareness and promote 'made in The Gambia' products	decision making on quality products. Number of campaigns launched to raise awareness and promote 'made in The Gambia' products
Activity 2.2.6: Facilitate and promote the Certification and Standardization of facilities and products.	Certification and standardization have policy and legal connotations. Under this activity new laws or regulations may be developed that should be used to fill gaps specific to SEZ and Agro-poles that may not be addressed in existing laws or to raise standards, so investor practices conform to international standards and best practices. The AfDB has appropriate safeguard systems that can strengthen this project's compliance with certain standards. This project must seek to establish policy, legal, and institutional frameworks that promote gender equality to enable women and men to participate in and benefit from investment opportunities. Supporting the effective implementation of other international labour standards, where applicable, giving particular attention to standards relevant to the agri-food sector and the elimination of the worst forms of child labour;	2.2.6.1: Develop certification programs and quality standards for various food and non-food products to build consumer trust. 2.2.6.2: Establish partnerships with international organizations to achieve recognition for local products in global markets. 2.2.6.3: Strengthen the national certification body to obtain international accreditation for recognition of its services. 2.2.6.4: Support the Private Sector to establish modern food processing, packaging, and grading facilities for small, medium and large-scale producers. 2.2.6.5: Strengthen the national quality and phytosanitary control systems and the promotion of certification of private food production and processing processes and facilities. 2.2.6.6: Develop certification programs and quality standards for various food products to build consumer trust.	Number of Certification programmes and quality standards developed. Number of Partnerships established with international organizations. Categories of support provided to the Standards and Certification Bureau. Number of modern food processing, packaging, and grading facilities established. Number of national quality and phytosanitary control systems strengthened; Number of private food production and processing facilities promoted. Number and categories of food products that have certification programs and quality standards developed for them.
Outcome 4: Private Sector Investments along the value chains are facilitated and promoted.			
Output 4.1: Operational and conducive enabling Investment Environment			
Activity 4.1.1: Conduct Regulatory Reforms to promote adoption and sustainable investments in climate resilient value chains.	The project is aligned with the GRFNDP (2023-2027) and this activity will specifically continue the review and revision of certain regulations, especially in the trade, agriculture, land, and environment and	4.1.1.1: Review and update regulations related to agriculture, investment, and business operations to create a favorable investment climate.	Revised and updated regulations on agriculture, investment, and business operations.

	natural resources sectors. The knowledge and capacity-building activities such as training of technical agencies and local-level organizations will lift some of the barriers encountered in business transactions and create a favorable investment climate for enhanced private sector participation.	4.1.1.2: Review regulation on land to ease access to land for agricultural investment 4.1.1.3: Streamline bureaucratic processes to reduce barriers to entry and operation for businesses	Revised and updated regulations on land. Streamlined bureaucratic processes.
Activity 4.1.2: Identify and promote Investment Incentives and Investor Support Services	The private sector entities have not been very responsive to climate change implementation actions and this could be due to inadequate knowledge and business incentives. Establishment of Agro-poles is accompanied by special laws, regulations and incentives for participation and investments. The project will identify and promote targeted incentives such as tax breaks, grants for co-financing and also support the establishment specialize centres and information hubs to assist investors to navigate the regulator landscapes.	4.1.2.1: Develop targeted incentives, such as tax breaks, subsidies, and grants, to encourage private sector investment in agriculture and agribusiness. 4.1.2.2: Tailor incentives to attract investments in specific areas of the value chain or in underdeveloped regions. 4.1.2.3: Establish specialized agencies or units to provide information, advisory services, and support to potential investors. 4.1.2.4: Assist investors with navigating the regulatory landscape, obtaining permits, and accessing financing.	Targeted incentives to encourage private sector investment in agriculture and agribusiness. Tailored incentives to attract investments in specific areas of the value chain. Specialized agencies or units to provide information and advisory services. Number of investors assisted in navigating the regulatory landscape.
Output 4.2: Access to Financing facilities			
Activity 4.2.1: Identify, prioritize and adopt appropriate and climate-friendly Agribusiness Financing Mechanisms	GCF funds will only finance the activities that have a clear climate change additionality and yet still this project has a very high co-financing to ensure public financing is shifted to climate resilient value chain management in the Agro-pole through strong CPPP arrangements. Implementation of this activity will also remove the key barriers to commercialization including lack of access to finance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) entrepreneurs to establish facilities for processing, storage; access to market information, long transportation distances to markets and	4.2.1.1: Develop and promote financial instruments designed for agribusinesses, including loans, equity investments, and venture capital. 4.2.1.2: Collaborate with financial institutions to create tailored financing options for different stages of the value chain.	Financial instruments for agribusinesses Tailored financing options for different stages of the value chain.

	industrial centers; and lack of branding and marketing to increase demand by consumers for alternative crops and distinguish among varieties as well as quality.		
Activity 4.2.2: Create and capitalize national and local Investment Funds	There is limited access to finance and markets for smallholder farmers and SME entrepreneurs. The National Climate Change Policy established a National Climate Change Fund with local setups. However, the Fund is yet to be capitalized. Under this activity, the project will encourage value chain actors and partners to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources for capitalization of the Fund,	4.2.2.1: Establish investment funds dedicated to agriculture and agribusiness to provide capital for projects with growth potential. 4.2.2.2: Partner with public and private entities to pool resources for these funds.	Investment funds for agriculture and agribusinesses. Partnerships to pool resources for the Investment Funds,
Activity 4.2.3: Employ Credit Guarantee Schemes to enable investments by business and private sector entities.	Utilization of GCF funds is limited to climate additionality and additional financing instruments are required to implement a lot of the investments planned under this project. These financial instruments include Credit Guarantees which must be available to the private sector entities participating in the project.	4.2.3.1: Implement credit guarantee programs to mitigate the risk for lenders when providing loans to agricultural enterprises. 4.2.3.2: Encourage financial institutions to lend to agribusinesses by sharing the risk of default.	Credit for risk sharing guarantee programs for risk mitigation. Financial institutions for risk sharing.
Output 4.3: Established and operational Communty-Public-Private Partnerships (CPPPs)			
Activity 4.3.1: Design and adopt Community, Public, and Private Partnership (CPPP) Frameworks for sustainable management of facilities and investments in the SEZ and Agricultural Growth Poles (Agri-poles)	Partnership development is key in sustainable development but has been loose in project implementation in The Gambia. PPP has always been employed and continues to fail to attain long-term sustainability of investments. The failure is due to the exclusion of the most important partner (the Community) in the partnerships. The project and the specific activity are aligned to the GRFNDP Pillar on Sustainable Development Partnership Framework related to economic development and environmental	4.3.1.1: Develop clear and transparent frameworks for community-public-private partnerships in agriculture and agribusiness and the whole value chain management of the SEZ and Agro-poles. 4.3.1.2: Define roles, responsibilities, and profit-sharing arrangements between the communities (as the own adaptation projects and the land), government and private sector entities.	Transparent Frameworks for CPPP. Roles and responsibilities in profit sharing arrangements.

	sustainability, especially on climate change and environment.		
Activity 4.3.2: Identify, facilitate and promote matchmaking projects and activities to invest and support capacity building for sustainability of CPPPs especially the Community arm of the Partnership.	Development Partnership Framework related to economic development and environmental sustainability, especially on climate change and environment should include the communities as the owners and custodians of land on which the project will be implemented. During implementation of the project the communities will be involved in and will benefit from all activities and after the phase-out of the project it is expected that sustainability of investments will be the responsibility of the communities, supported by extension agents from the public sector and financial and material investments by the private and business sector.	4.3.2.1: Identify potential CPPP projects along the value chain that can benefit from private sector investment and co-management. 4.3.2.2: Facilitate matchmaking between public entities, private investors, and technology providers for collaborative projects. 4.3.2.3: Provide training and capacity building for community, public and private sector partners and stakeholders involved in CPPPs. 4.3.2.4: Ensure that all parties understand their roles, expectations, and responsibilities.	CPPP projects along the value chain. Matchmaking between public entities, investors and providers Training and capacity building for CPPP partners. Roles, expectations and responsibilities of partners
Outcome 5: Project management, monitoring and evaluation are institutionalized.			
Output 5.1 Project management and coordination unit established under MoTIE.			
Activity 5.1.1: Establish and support the operation of the Project Management team at Ministry of Trade	The MoTIE recruits key staff provides project management support and in-kind contribution to project implementation through its technical and administrative staff and systems. The Project Steering Committee is responsible for making, by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the Project Management Unit (PMU),	5.1.4.1: Establish a multi-sectoral base project steering committee. 5.1.4.2: Establish a lean project management team. 5.1.4.3: Utilize the Directorates and Agencies of the Ministry, other MDAs and the private sector to implement activities. 5.1.4.4: Utilize the existing National Implementation Unit (NIU) established under the EIF Project to support projects	Project Steering Committee. Project Management Team. Inclusive management framework for success and sustainability.
Output 5.2: Rigorous Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) institutionalized			
Activity 5.2.1: Design and implement M&E Framework	The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the project must be valid during implementation and after project phaseout to take care of ex-post operations and	5.2.1.1: Develop a comprehensive framework for monitoring and evaluating project outcomes and impacts.	Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

	maintenance. The Framework should reflect local ownership and commitment for the long-term sustainability of the project investments.	5.2.1.2: Define key performance indicators, data collection methods, and reporting mechanisms.	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)
Activity 5.2.2: Conduct Data Collection and Analysis	Based on the M&E Framework which must include a data collection and analysis tool, assessment of the achievements of outcome and output targets against baseline will be reported and provided.	5.2.2.1: Collect relevant data at different project stages to measure progress and outcomes. 5.2.2.2: Analyze data to identify trends, assess effectiveness, and inform decision-making.	Data to measure progress and outcomes. Data to identify trends and effectiveness,
Activity 5.2.3: Facilitate Results-Based Management	These results arrived under Activity 5.2.3 above, will be used by project Team, AfDB and the PSC to determine overall achievements of the project implementation and decision making and adjustments of implementation pathways.	5.2.3.1: Implement a results-based management approach that emphasizes achieving measurable outcomes and impacts. 5.2.3.2: Use M&E findings to inform project adjustments and improvements.	Results-based management to achieve measurable outcomes and impacts. Project adjustments and improvements
Activity 5.2.4: Conduct Risks and Impact Assessments.	Under this activity, assessments of programme's contributions to a technical, financial, economic and environmental impacts of the project.	5.2.4.1: Conduct comprehensive impact assessments to understand the long-term effects of projects on communities, livelihoods, and the environment. 5.2.4.2: Identify potential risks and develop strategies to mitigate them. 5.2.4.3: Regularly assess and manage risks to prevent disruptions to project implementation.	Comprehensive Impacts Assessment report Strategies to mitigate potential risks. Assessed and managed risks.
Activity 5.2.5: Establish and **i**mplement a robust monitoring system		5.2.6.1: Conduct regular inspections and audits of food establishments to track the quality and safety of food products. 5.2.6.2: Ensure compliance with regulations throughout the supply chain.	Report on Inspections and Audits. Statements on compliance with regulations.

E.7. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The primary responsibility for day-to-day project monitoring and implementation rests with the Project Management Unit (PMU) headed by the Project Manager. The Project Manager will be supported by a team of project staff (Administration Officer, Procurement Officer, M&E Officer, Finance Officer) that constitute the Project Management Team, all of whom serve in the PMU. The Project Management Team, supported by the M&E Officer will develop Annual Work Plan and Budget (AW&B) and an M&E Plan that contain regular and ad-hoc monitoring and evaluation of the project performance to ensure the efficient implementation of the project. The Project Manager will provide regular briefing and reports to the Project Steering Committee that will inform the Committee of any potential setbacks in the implementation including delayed financial flows and missed activity schedules, especially including the implementation of the M&E plan, so that the appropriate support and corrective measures can be adopted. The M&E Officer will also develop and M&E Tool including data collection and reporting on

the various results and targets in the project and He/she will build the skills and capacities of other project staff in the PMU and the field offices on the applications of the Tool. The Project Manager will also ensure that all project staff maintain a high level of transparency, responsibility and accountability in monitoring and reporting project results. The Project Steering Committee and the various project partners, including the communities, and the NDA and the UNFCCC Focal Points will be involved as much as possible in project-level M&E. The Team of staff located at the AfDB Office in Abidjan will also conduct Supervisory and M&E Missions to the Project in The Gambia. These missions will cover quality assurance and troubleshooting issues related to governance, technical and finance.

Issues related to Monitoring and Evaluation and project performance will be included in the following mandatory reports.

The Project Inception Report: Following the approval of the programme and the signing of the project document by Government and the AfDB, an Inception Workshop will be held in country. The Inception Report will provide summary of the workshop deliberations and agreed mode on implementation. Specifically, the project stakeholders will be finalized, and a Project Stakeholder Engagement Strategy will be developed and aligned with the overall project strategy. The membership of the Project Steering Committee and the schedule of meetings of the Committee will also be agreed and finalized at the Inception Workshop. The Inception Report will also contain discussions and agreements on the roles and responsibilities of the project team, revision and finalization of Project Results Framework, the M&E plan and the roles and responsibilities for implementing the Plan. Financial reporting and Project Annual Audit procedures and mandatory requirements will also be reviewed and agreed, and the Year One Annual Work Plan and Budget agreed and approved. The Inception Report is prepared by the Project Manager and the Project Team, the report is cleared by the MoTIE at the national level and by the AfDB and will be approved by the PSC.

A Project (Half-Year and Annual) Implementation report (PIR) will be prepared for each year of project implementation. The Project Team, led by the M&E Officer develop the Draft PIR. The PIR contains statistics and information on the indicators included in the project results framework based on the regular monitoring activities and reports of the project staff. The annual PIR will be shared with the PSC membership, other stakeholders including the NDA and the AfDB Office for review. The final annual PIR is approved by the PSC and shared with AfDB for transmission to GCF. During the implementation period of the project, the quality rating of the previous year's PIR will be used to inform the preparation of the next PIR and also help the gauging project progress, challenges and constraints. The final project PIR, along with the terminal evaluation report and corresponding management response, will serve as the final project report package.

The Independent Mid-Term Review (MTR) and the Terminal Evaluation (TE) Reports: An independent mid-term review (MTR) process will be undertaken, and the findings and responses outlined in the management response will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's duration. An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place no later than three months prior to operational closure of the project. In all cases, the draft MTR and TE are shared with the various stakeholders including the NDA, the PSC and the AfDB Office for review and inputs. The final MTR and TE Reports are cleared by the AfDB Office and approved by the PSC.

Reports from the AfDB monitoring and evaluation missions will be shared with all national partners for review and inputs and finalization. All Reports will adequately achieved at the PMU and at the AfDB Office for future references.

F. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

F.1. Risk factors and mitigations measures (max. 3 pages)

Please describe financial, technical, operational, macroeconomic/political, money laundering/terrorist financing (ML/TF), sanctions, prohibited practices, and other risks that might prevent the project/programme objectives from being achieved. Also describe the proposed risk mitigation measures. Insert additional rows if necessary.

For probability: High has significant probability, Medium has moderate probability, Low has negligible probability

For impact: High has significant impact, Medium has moderate impact, Low has negligible impact

Prohibited practices include abuse, conflict of interest, corruption, retaliation against whistleblowers or witnesses, as well as fraudulent, coercive, collusive, and obstructive practices

Selected Risk Factor 1

Category	Probability	Impact
Technical and operational	Medium	Medium

Description

MoTIE shall be solely and completely responsible and accountable for all services performed by its personnel, agents, employees, or contractors responsible for recruiting Senior Staff of the Project that constitute the Project Management Team in the Project Management Unit. MoTIE will also constitute the Project Steering Committee based on the Project Document and as agreed and reported in the Project Inception Report. The Project Management Team, led by the Project Manager will be responsible for the recruitment of project experts, consultants, contractors, etc. Without due diligence and lack of following rules agreed with the Government, the Donor, and the Accredited Entity personnel with low technical and managerial knowledge and skills may be recruited. These steps may lead to technical and operational risks to project implementation.

Many of the project partner communities that own the land to be utilized for the SEZ and the Agropoles are illiterate and may be disadvantage in their participation in the project implementation, particularly in issues related understanding climate change adaptation and mitigation. They may also face difficulties in entering into Lease Agreements related to their land for project use.

Mitigation Measure(s)

Please describe how the identified risk will be mitigated or managed. Do the mitigation measures lower the probability of risk occurring? If so, to what level?

These risks will be mitigated by rigorous due diligence and robust operation and maintenance arrangements. The mitigation measures are best addressed from the beginning of implementation when all project staff, implementations partners and stakeholders understand the rules as agreed in the potential Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between MoTIE and AfDB and the potential Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) between the Donor and the AE. Oversight support from AfDB will also provide capacity building and strengthening support on technical issues and also help in the clarification of the needs for effective operational and implementation of project activities.

During the implementation of the GoTG/GEF/UNEP Climate Change Early Warning Project (2011 – 2022), a document containing translation of most common climate and climate change terms to Fullah, Jola, Mandinka, Sarahuleh and Wollof was produced and utilized during project implementation. As a mitigation measure, this document will be useful in enhancing the technical capacities of local communities. Furthermore, most of the Land Lease Agreements can be translated into Arabic for the understanding and consumption of the local communities.

Selected Risk Factor 2

Category	Probability	Impact
Governance	Low	Medium

Description

Governance issues that may arise and would be tantamount to risks for the project implementation, may include forced change of Government, high frequencies in change of senior personnel of MoTIE and political interferences from higher authorities of Government.

Mitigation Measure(s)

The Project Steering Committee, located at MoTIE and chaired by PS, has the full powers to take decisions that are in line with the Government regulations, PCA, FAA and AMA of the project. These decisions of the PSC are final and must be communicated to the AE and Government. The Project must operate a Project Management Unit that can continue its business even when there is a change of government. This includes operating a Dedicated Accounting System that is outside the Government Treasury Basket, with signatories at MoTIE and the PMU. MoTIE must ensure that procurement of goods and consulting services financed by Green Climate Fund proceeds shall be in accordance with the rules, policies and procedures of AfDB, as provided for in the Funded Activity Agreement, be based on an assessment of competitive quotations, bids, or proposals unless otherwise agreed to with AfDB. MoTIE and the PSC or PMU must not seek nor accept instructions regarding the activities under the present PCA from any other Government or other authority external to AfDB.

Selected Risk Factor 3

Category	Probability	Impact
Legal	Medium	Medium

Description

It is a risk for project staff and other partners to have fussy knowledge and understanding of legal pathways of the Project because of the multiplicity of partnerships (GoTG, AfDB, GCF, Communities and Private Sector Entities)

Mitigation Measure(s)

The Project Corporation Agreement (PCA) between Government and AfDB must be clear as to how the Parties to the PCA shall carry out their respective responsibilities and cooperate in any public relations or publicity exercises, when AfDB deems these appropriate or useful. It must be understood by all partners that AfDB performs the liaison function between the Project and the Green Climate Fund Secretariat; reports on the progress against milestones, informs the Green Climate Fund Secretariat whenever there is a potentially substantive co-financing change; provides cash advances to the project from the GCF; and provides clearance required for the requisitioning of items costing above an agreed limit taking into consideration that splitting requisitions in order to remain under the set threshold is expressly forbidden and may also lead to the refusal of the expenditures.

G. GCF POLICIES AND STANDARDS

G.1. Environmental and social risk assessment (max. 750 words, approximately 1.5 pages)

An Environmental and Social Assessment will be conducted through the requested Project Preparation Facility according to the GCF Environmental and Social Standards and relevant AfDB Guidelines. The key findings on potential positive and negative impacts of the project will be reported during the finalization of this Proposal and attached as annex 6.

G.2. Gender assessment and action plan (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The gender assessment and project/programme-level gender action plan will be conducted through the requested Project Preparation Facility according to the GCF Environmental and Social Standards and relevant AfDB Guidelines. The key findings on potential positive and negative impacts of the project will be reported during the finalization of this Proposal and attached as annex 8.

G.3. Financial management and procurement (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Financial control and procurement processes will be implemented as per AfDB rules and regulations, as contained in the Project Cooperation Agreement signed by MoTIE and AfDB. A detailed procurement plan will be finalized and attached to this document as annex 10.

G.4. Disclosure of funding proposal

Note: The Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) provides that the GCF will apply a presumption in favour of disclosure for all information and documents relating to the GCF and its funding activities. Under the IDP, project and programme funding proposals will be disclosed on the GCF website, simultaneous with the submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information that may not be disclosed pursuant to the IDP. Information provided in confidence is one of the exceptions, but this exception should not be applied broadly to an entire document if the document contains specific, segregable portions that can be disclosed without prejudice or harm.

Indicate below whether or not the funding proposal includes confidential information.

☒ No confidential information: AfDB in its capacity as the accredited entity confirms that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may be disclosed in full by the GCF, as no information is being provided in confidence.

☐ With confidential information: AfDB in its capacity as the accredited entity, declares that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may not be disclosed in full by the GCF, as certain information is being provided in confidence. Accordingly, the AfDB is providing to the GCF Secretariat the following two copies of the funding proposal, including all annexes:

- full copy for internal use of the GCF in which the confidential portions are marked accordingly, together with an explanatory note regarding the said portions and the corresponding reason for confidentiality under the accredited entity's disclosure policy, and
- redacted copy for disclosure on the GCF website.

It is understood by all partners that the funding proposal can only be processed upon receipt of the two copies above, if containing confidential information.

H. ANNEXES

H.1. Mandatory annexes

☐	Annex 1	NDA no-objection letter(s) **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 2	Feasibility study - and a market study, if applicable
☐	Annex 3	Economic and/or financial analyses in spreadsheet format
☐	Annex 4	Detailed budget plan **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 5	Implementation timetable including key project/programme milestones **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 6	E&S document corresponding to the E&S category (A, B or C; or I1, I2 or I3): **(ESS disclosure form provided)** ☐ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or ☐ Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or ☐ Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) ☐ Others (please specify – e.g. Resettlement Action Plan, Resettlement Policy Framework, Indigenous People's Plan, Land Acquisition Plan, etc.)
☐	Annex 7	Summary of consultations and stakeholder engagement plan
☐	Annex 8	Gender assessment and project/programme-level action plan **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 9	Legal due diligence (regulation, taxation and insurance)
☐	Annex 10	Procurement plan **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 11	Monitoring and evaluation plan **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 12	AE fee request **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 13	Co-financing commitment letter, if applicable **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 14	Term sheet including a detailed disbursement schedule and, if applicable, repayment schedule

H.2. Other annexes as applicable

☐	Annex 15	Evidence of internal approval **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 16	Map(s) indicating the location of proposed interventions
☐	Annex 17	Multi-country project/programme information **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 18	Appraisal, due diligence or evaluation report for proposals based on up-scaling or replicating a pilot project
☐	Annex 19	Procedures for controlling procurement by third parties or executing entities undertaking projects financed by the entity
☐	Annex 20	First level AML/CFT (KYC) assessment
☐	Annex 21	Operations manual (Operations and maintenance)
☐	Annex 22	Assessment of GHG emission reductions and their monitoring and reporting (for mitigation and cross cutting-projects)[16]
☐	Annex X	Other references

** Please note that a funding proposal will be considered complete only upon receipt of all the applicable supporting documents.*

[16] Annex 22 is mandatory for mitigation and cross-cutting projects.