



BESTPROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZED PROJECT

THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: December 11, 2009

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEF PROJECT ID¹: N/A

PROJECT DURATION: 54 months

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: N/A

COUNTRY: Morocco

PROJECT TITLE: Integrated Coastal Zone Management – Mediterranean coast

GEF AGENCY: World Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S):

GEF FOCAL AREA (S)²: International Waters

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): IW1, IW2

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT:

Mediterranean Environmental Sustainable Development Program ('Sustainable MED')

INDICATIVE CALENDAR*	
Milestones	Expected Dates mm/dd/yyyy
Work Program (for FSP)	March 2010
CEO Endorsement/Approval	May 2011
Agency Approval Date	July 2011
Implementation Start	September 2011
Mid-term Evaluation	December 2013
Project Closing Date	March 2016

* See guidelines for definition of milestones.

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: The objective of the proposed project is to support integrated coastal zone management in selected areas of Morocco's Mediterranean coast to reduce pollution and loss of biodiversity and to enhance communities' resilience to climactic risk. The project is a part of the Sustainable MED program and will contribute to the regional effort in addressing the issues raised in the Transboundary Action Plan and priorities defined in the Strategic Action Programs.

Project Components	Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA ^b	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing ^a		Indicative Co-Financing ^a		Total (\$) c = a + b
				(\$ a)	%	(\$ b)	%	
1. Institutional harmonization in the context of ICZM – ecosystem management, ecotourism sustainable fisheries, and pollution reduction in Lake Nador and Moulouya	TA	(i) ICZM law in place/ICZM Strategy in application; (ii) Improved capacity in key agencies for ICZM (iii) Strengthened framework for ICZM and management fisheries and marine biodiversity	An inter-sector and inter-ministry coordination committee established for Lake Nador and Moulouya Piloting ICZM to address challenges in Lake Nador and Moulouya based on ICZM draft law and Mediterranean SAP CC adaptation integrated into the inter-sector coordination committee and into ICZM	650,000	45	800,000	55	1,450,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Select only those focal areas from which GEF financing is requested.

			approach Action programs for ICZM adopted for Lake Nador and Moulouya					
2. Knowledge management and partnership building for ICZM, including the M&E system, coordination with regional activities under the Sustainable MED	TA, STA	(i) Improved knowledge on ICZM by key stakeholders; (ii) Improved knowledge on SAP priorities (iii) Public-private partnerships encouraged	Training and workshops on ICZM conducted Consultative planning and management systems established Data available on fisheries, marine and coastal zone biodiversity, cost of degradation of coastal zones; Resource M&E system in place (including resource and pollution inventories, fish stock assessments, impact assessment tools)	531,818	24	1,400,000	76	1,931,818
3. Support for critical pilot investments in ICZM including coastal resources conservation and rehabilitation, ecotourism, and sustainable fishery in Lake Nador, Moulouya.	TA, Inv	(i) Co-management of resources promoted (ii) Tested methodologies and systems for ICZM (iii) Additional financing for scale up of ICZM attracted	ICZM Pilot investments and demonstrations carried out Feasibility assessments and related studies for investment framework implementation completed	3,600,000	18	16,000,000	82	19,600,000
4. Project management	Project implementation performance monitoring and evaluations, support to IW:LEARN including participation, information sharing, partnership and annual reporting on key indicators using GEF4 IW tracking tool			400,000	18	1,800,000	82	2,200,000

Total project costs		5,181,818		20,000,000		25,181,818
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^a List the \$ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively of the total amount for the component.

^b TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & Technical Analysis.

B. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE and by NAME (in parenthesis) if available, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Project
Project Government Contribution	in kind	2,000,000
GEF Agency(ies)	IBRD	6,000,000
Bilateral Aid Agency(ies)	Agency Française de Développement	12,000,000
Multilateral Agency(ies)		
Private Sector		
NGO		
Others		
Total Co-financing		20,000,000

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

	Previous Project Preparation Amount (a) ³	Project (b)	Total c = a + b	Agency Fee
GEF financing		5,181,818*	5,181,818	518,182
Co-financing		20,000,000	20,000,000	
Total		25,181,818	25,181,818	518,182

*A PPG of \$200,000 within this amount will be requested to prepare this project.

D.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

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

The proposed project will strengthen the capacity for and support the Government of Morocco in pilot implementation of integrated coastal zone management in Lake Nador, river-mouth Moulouya, and other selected sites. The focus of the project is on strengthening the institutional coordination, policy, planning, knowledge management and implementation capacities, supporting critical and pilot investments addressing the priorities of the SAPs. The project will seek to address critical issues related to sustainable fisheries, improved management and conservation of coastal zone ecosystems including marine and inland biodiversity, pollution reduction, and eco-tourism promotion in the Lake Nador area, and Moulouya. The project will also help local coastal communities strengthen their vulnerability to climate variability through knowledge management and natural resources conservation. This is consistent with the priorities of the SAP – MED which has identified hotspots in the environmental plan and identifies these actions as key to ensuring the viability of the ecosystems and biodiversity.

Morocco is facing increased pressures due to the rise in population and socioeconomic trends coupled with inadequate measures for and investments in maintaining ecosystem services. A recent study conducted by MATEE and the World Bank evaluated that the cost of degradation of the environment in Morocco in 2000 was estimated at about 3.7 percent of its GDP and the impacts associated with the degradation of its coastal zones at about 0.5 percent of its GDP (2 million MAD per annum). This evaluation did not include the impacts and damages of the health of the marine environment and marine biodiversity, which is likely to be significant. The Mediterranean coast of Morocco is rich in biodiversity of global importance. In particular, Lake Nador, a RAMSAR site, and other areas such as Moulouya, Al Hoceima on the Mediterranean coast were identified as hotspots for pollution. Further, both marine and lagoon fisheries and fish biodiversity here are significantly under threat from over-fishing, pollution, and oxygen depletion. These challenges will be exacerbated due to global warming.

³ Include project preparation funds that were previously approved but exclude PPGs that are awaiting for approval.

The Morocco coastal ecosystems on the Mediterranean side face a number of threats including decline of biodiversity, with a number of species considered endangered and under risk, changes in fish species composition in several areas, contraction of seagrass meadows, degradation of coastal wetlands that are critical for restricting effluent flows into the Mediterranean. High competition for land use with unplanned or ill-planned development on the coastal fringe is forcing critical habitats to decline. Tourism, urban development, agricultural, fisheries and industrial expansion are some of the pressures faced by both marine and terrestrial coastal habitats.

Issues of particular interest as identified by the TDA and SAPs as well as in national priorities include:

Address the severe threats to the Lake Nador and Moulouya River ecosystems. Lake Nador is deemed as a catastrophic environmental situation. Lake Nador is actually the largest lagoon on the southern shore of the Mediterranean with an area of about 115 square kilometers. It abuts the Mediterranean Sea from which it is separated by a sand barrier; this geographical feature necessitates periodic flushing of to ensure water quality. It is a RAMSAR site and the wintering habitat for a number of globally significant migratory birds. It is highly polluted with raw sewage and mounting rubbish, resulting in serious public health risks, loss of fisheries and resulting low economic gains and a negative impact on tourism. Further, outflows, albeit limited, into the Mediterranean Sea contributes to the pollution of the larger body. The issues related to Lake Nador include rampant waste disposal, effluents and leachates entering the lake, lack of conservation measures or investments in lagoon restoration.

Moulouya River flows for 515 km northeastward through a semiarid valley to the Mediterranean Sea just west of the Algerian border. Moulouya shelters several endangered species such as the Aydoum gull, pink flamingo, and grey teal. More than 180 bird species, out of which 18 are endangered, flock to the part of the river located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Machraa Hammadi dam for their feed. These birds fly to the Moulouya basin for their feed and nest in the Jafarine Islands, a natural park that hosts the largest number of birds of the Mediterranean basin. The Moulouya river had been listed in the A1 category by the international "ZICO" program dealing with river pollution because it harbors endangered species. The Moulouya River is also a spawning ground for several fish species.

Threats to the wetlands are multi-fold: from the overuse of aquifers that can lead to drying up of wetlands dependent on them, changes in lake levels due to climate variability and water extraction that can cause disturbances to the wetland ecosystems and threaten fish spawning areas, as well as degradation due to saline intrusion resulting from over extraction and ground water pollution. A number of priority actions are identified to restore this ecosystem and enhance the socio-economic benefits to the communities in the area:

- knowledge management, public awareness, and communication on ICZM and climate change impacts
- data collection and analysis, monitoring and evaluation
- restoration activities (reducing pollution, solid water management)
- urban and land use planning
- Eco-tourism promotion (including the development of 'greenbelts', birding areas)
- community co-management
- protected areas

Promoting Sustainable Fisheries Management in the Mediterranean coast

Mediterranean fisheries are considered overexploited and this is the case even for Morocco. Bestowed with a coastline of 3,500 km, Morocco is the top fish producer in Africa and the Arab world, and ranked as the 21st largest producer in the world in 2000 (FAO, 2006). The Mediterranean coastal areas of Morocco are characterized by high biological productivity and intensive fisheries, both by fleet and artisanal. The need is to assess and manage over the complex array of interactions in marine ecosystems, which are likely to be further impacted by climate risk. More information is needed on catch fluctuations, catch per unit efforts (CPUE), change in marine species composition of catches. The World Bank has supported analysis of this sector and a number of pilot investments. A number of proposed Actions have been identified. Promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through:

- Improved planning and management of coastal artisanal fisheries and aquaculture (including catch size, gear, fishing restrictions in terms of seasons and zones, protection of fish spawning areas, rent allocation, community enforcement, management of inputs and pollution from aquaculture)
- Co-management of resources through local “fisheries chambers to enhance participatory management”
- Strengthened governance systems for sustainable fisheries and implementation of instruments for sustainable fisheries management (institutional reforms)
- Strengthening fisheries resource and ecosystem monitoring capabilities (including fish stocks and depletion assessments)

Supporting Pollution Reduction and Coastal Zone Management.

This project will support pollution reduction through capacity building and technical assistance in the selected sites. This will support and complement other donors’ support and national programs. Specific potential measures include for Lake Nador, Moulouya River, and other sites:

- Technical assistance for management training and public awareness
- Recycling programs
- Environmental monitoring and equipment
- Reuse of treated effluent in irrigation (Ras El Ma)

Overall the weaknesses in the framework for ICZM call for a concerted effort in strengthening the capacity, planning, monitoring of coastal resources and coordination and implementation support related to ICZM both at the national and local levels as well as in national development planning.

The project will support and finance four interlinked components:

Component 1. Institutional harmonization in the context of ICZM in Lake Nador and Moulouya. Activities include: a) establishment of an inter-sector and inter-ministry coordination committee for Lake Nador and Moulouya. A rather radical institutional reform is needed to apply ICZM approach and this inter-ministry coordination committee is an institutional demonstration to address coastal zone challenges for Morocco; b) Piloting ICZM to address challenges in Lake Nador and Moulouya based on ICZM draft law and Mediterranean SAP. The national efforts to draft the ICZM law show the government willingness to reform the current business as usual practice, and this project provides a timely opportunity to test the implementation of the draft law in Lake Nador and Moulouya. This will provide a first hand experience to further improve the draft and also prepare its future implementation once it is approved; c) CC adaptation integrated into the inter-sector coordination committee and into ICZM approach. Coastal zones are among the most vulnerable areas to climate change and addressing climate impacts is across different sectors and ministries. Therefore combining adaptation and ICZM will make these activities further mutually supportive and thus GEF grant will further increase its cost effectiveness in terms of generating both local and global benefits.

Component 2. Knowledge management and partnership building for ICZM in Lake Nador and Moulouya. This also includes establishing an M&E system, and coordination with regional activities under the Sustainable MED. Specific activities aim at filling knowledge gaps by using GEF related tools, such as the IW: Learn, and Sustainable MED regional framework. Activities include: a) improving knowledge on ICZM; b) learning on climate change impacts on coastal zones and linkages between the ICZM and climate change adaptation; c) promoting co-management approach by involving coastal communities in knowledge management and identification of traditional and local knowledge to address climate variability; d) partnership building between public and private sectors as a major step to implement ICZM and strengthen coastal community’s resilience to climate challenges; and e) building up/strengthening the M&E system as both coastal zone management and knowledge management tools in addition to monitor stress reduction and water resources and social economic status.

Component 3. Support for critical pilot investments in ICZM including conservation and rehabilitation activities and sustainable fishery in Lake Nador and Moulouya. Key critical pilot investments include: a) conservation of sensitive coastal zones and ecosystems/species through creating/strengthening conservation and preservation (protected areas and parks for coastal wetlands, seagrass meadows, and endangered species); b) promotion of ecotourism opportunities based on better conservation, zoning practices and pollution reduction. This will further increase job opportunities for coastal

and local young people and women, very important social benefits for the Moroccan government; and c) support for sustainable fishery practices, including improved planning and management of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, and promoting investment opportunities to increase fishery values and contributing to food security in a more sustainable and balanced way; and

Component 4. **Support for Project management**, implementation performance monitoring and evaluation. Under this component the project agency to use GEF 4 Indicator tracking tools using the monitoring and evolution system created under component 2. This component may also support scaling up ICZM activities if they are proved to be good practices.

The outcomes of the proposed project include:

- (i) ICZM institutionalized through the established inter-ministry coordination committee and piloting ICZM draft law in the selected sites;
- (ii) Knowledge gaps fulfilled on ICZM measures and its role to strengthen coastal zones resilience to climate change and a monitoring and evaluation framework for ICZM established/strengthened to monitor stress reduction & environmental/water resources and socioeconomic status of coastal areas in the selected sites;
- (iii) Reduced biodiversity loss in Lake Nador, Moulouya river-mouth and other key sites of ecological importance;
- (iv) Private sector engaged and partnership established through co-management and KM;
- (v) Critical investments implemented in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal zone biodiversity and natural resource protection and management (including wetlands, seagrass ecosystems, coastal woods), promotion of sustainable tourism, improved water and land management demonstrate potential impacts of scale up of ICZM; and
- (vi) Good practices have been identified and possibility for scaling up through the country and in the Mediterranean basin.

B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL/REGIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:

The Mediterranean coastal zone is a priority area for action within the Government's strategies and the projects fits well with the National development plans of the country. The National Action Plan for the Environment (Plan d'Action National pour L'Environnement) clearly notes the priority for work on coastal areas and the importance of marine and coastal ecosystems. An Environmental audit of the Moroccan coastal areas had been completed by MATEE. The Ministry of Environment is leading the preparation of the national law on coastal zone management to further strengthen the existing regulation on environment and draft law has been at the stage of finalization with the ministerial commission chaired by the Secretariat General for the Environment. Among others, the future ICZM law will be based on the following principles: protection of ecological balance and preservation of ecological sites and land/waterscape; conservation and development of coastal activities; involving private sector and coastal communities in related decision making; and need to put in place a policy to rehabilitate the degraded coastal areas and ensure free access to the sea.

This project is a part of the Regional Mediterranean Environment Sustainable Development Program ("Sustainable MED")

A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for the Mediterranean Sea was conducted by UNEP/MAP with GEF support in 2005 and identified 4 major transboundary environmental issues including (i) Declining Biodiversity, (ii) Decline in Fisheries, (iii) Decline in water quality and, (iv) Human health impacts.

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

The project is an integrated component of the GEF Council approved *Mediterranean Environmental Sustainable Development Program* (Sustainable Med) which is financed under the GEF International Water focal areas. The proposed project is consistent with the GEF strategic priorities in the area of International Waters, namely: 1. Restoring and sustaining coastal and marine fish stocks and associated biological diversity; and 2. Reducing nutrient over-enrichment and oxygen depletion from land-based pollution of coastal waters in LMEs consistent with the GPA.

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

The proposed GEF grant is to support integrated coastal zone management in selected areas of Morocco's Mediterranean coast to reduce pollution and loss of biodiversity and to enhance communities' resilience to climatic risk. The project is a

part of the Sustainable MED program and will contribute to the regional effort in addressing the issues raised in the Transboundary Action Plan and priorities defined in the Strategic Action Programs.

Morocco is facing increased pressures due to the rise in population and socioeconomic trends coupled with inadequate measures for and investments in maintaining ecosystem services. The Mediterranean coast of Morocco is rich in biodiversity of global importance. In particular, Lake Nador, a RAMSAR site, and other areas such as Moulouya, Al Hoceima on the Mediterranean coast were identified as hotspots for pollution. Further, both marine and lagoon fisheries and fish biodiversity here are significantly under threat from over-fishing, pollution, and oxygen depletion.

The Morocco Government has demonstrated its willingness and taken actions to address the issues, including the draft ICZM law in view of strengthening coastal management and address these challenges including decline of biodiversity, with a number of species considered endangered and under risk, changes in fish species composition in several areas, contraction of seagrass meadows, degradation of coastal wetlands that are critical for restricting effluent flows into the Mediterranean, high competition for land use with unplanned or ill-planned development on the coastal fringe.

Given urgent needs to address regional and global environmental issues along the Mediterranean Seas, and the limited capacity of the Government of Morocco, this requested GEF grant would be of significant assistance to Morocco and will be used as strategic catalyst among various national and international efforts in view of addressing the coastal management in the Mediterranean Sea, resources conservation, and related capacity building in a more systematic and integrated manner.

E. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

Being part of the Sustainable MED regional program, this proposed project will contribute directly to the pollution reduction of the Mediterranean Sea through an integrated coastal management, conservation of coastal and marine resources, protection of wetlands, endangered biological resources, related eco-systems, sustainable fishing, aquaculture, tourism. As there are several other donors' activities, it is quite important to work together with other related initiatives, such as, Agency Francaise de Developpement (AFD) operation "Purification Station for urban wastewater of Grant Nador" which aims at reducing urban pollution to the Lake Nador, le Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) provided a grant to la Fondation Mohammed VI for the Environmental Protection in view of establishing a Depollution Management Plan for the Lake Nador. The World Bank has several operations in the area of water, and agriculture, and mainstreaming climate change adaptation in the implementation of the Plan Maroc Vert – the most recent and comprehensive strategic plan for sustainable agricultural development for the country. This may also include other World Bank operations as they still are at a stage of discussion. Detailed presentation of coordination with other initiatives will be provided at the Project Concept Note stage.

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

The objective of the proposed project is to support integrated coastal zone management in selected areas of Morocco's Mediterranean coasts to reduce pollution and loss of biodiversity and to enhance communities' resilience to climactic risks. The project is an integrated part of the Sustainable MED program and will contribute to the regional effort in addressing the issues raised in the Transboundary Action Plan and priorities defined in the Strategic Action Programs. The Mediterranean coastal zone is a priority area for action within the Government's strategies and the projects fits well with the National development plans of the country. The National Action Plan for the Environment clearly notes the priority for work on coastal areas and the importance of marine and coastal ecosystems. The Ministry of Environment is leading the preparation of the national law on coastal zone management to further strengthen the existing regulation on environment.

The incremental value of the GEF supported alternative, including the activities supported by additional funding focused on the Mediterranean coast can be high due to key project interventions: (a) Supporting Coastal Zone Management to address the severe threats to the Lake Nador and Moulouya River ecosystems (Mediterranean coasts). Specific measures will include: knowledge management on ICZM and climate change impacts, data collection and monitoring/evaluation, urban and land use planning, and community co-management, and protected areas; (b) Demonstration of ICZM application in the Lake Nador and Moulouya River ecosystems. Specific potential measures include: pilot inter-sectoral

and inter-ministerial coordination to address coastal zone challenges in Nador and Moulouya, specifically, establishing an inter-sectoral coordination committee for the management of the two coastal zones, agreeing on priorities and root causes (TDA) of these coastal zones, and adopt a SAP based on NAP, draft ICZM law, and SAP for the Mediterranean Sea. Activities also include recycling programs, environmental monitoring and equipment and reuse of treated effluent in irrigation (Ras El Ma); and (c) Promoting sustainable fisheries management in the Mediterranean coasts. Specific measures include: improved planning and management of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, co-management of resources through local “fisheries chambers to enhance participatory management”, strengthened governance systems for sustainable fisheries and implementation of instruments for sustainable fisheries management, and strengthening fisheries resource and ecosystem monitoring capabilities.

The project provides the incremental costs for this relatively new integrated coastal zone management approach for the country, with a large scope for achievements of global benefits. Specific institutional support for stakeholder mobilization, depollution, coastal resources conservation, co-management by local communities of coastal resources under the national ICZM framework, and cost-effectiveness are drivers for direct replication, catalysis and funding leverage. The relatively limited GEF investment in the project will help to ramp up the substantial baseline investments and enable the GEF support to cease or be refocused to continued support during the implementation.

G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:

Institutional barriers for ICZM. Morocco has rather strong capacity, including their institutional capacity. However, the concept of ICZM is rather new to Morocco like to most other countries. For example, the coast is traditionally a jurisdictional boundary between land-based laws and marine laws, has rarely been recognized as an integrated zone of legal competence. The earliest laws concerning the coast generally relate to the ownership of coastal land and the division between public and private property. ICZM must operate within a legal framework, having either specific laws relating to a particular area or being covered by general national legislation that covers resource usage and conservation. As the new law is under development, the implementation of this proposed project must rely on a strong coordination of different sectors, agencies, including strong decentralized approach and participation of coastal communities. The concept of co-management also implies strong ownership of local governments and coastal communities. How to use institutional mechanism and wisdom to manage this proposed ICZM project with an appropriate balance between development and conservation, short term and long term, incorporating knowledge into decision making represents a risk. Discussions have already started to address this issue between the recipient and the World Bank team in view of mitigating this risk through project design, preparation and implementation.

Climate change risks. Today’s Morocco is highly vulnerable to climate change. This is because of its large reliance on agriculture as source of income (15% of GDP) and employment (40%), the absence of effective risk management instruments. The coastal areas are even more vulnerable to climate change impacts. Though the proposed ICZM project aims at using the integrated approach which includes climate change adaptation measures and strengthening the resilience of coastal communities to eventual impacts, this project would face eventual climate variability and catastrophe. Appropriate measures are also under discussion with the recipient and this also includes a better institutional coordination among different agencies and sectors, reduce coastal zone erosion and strengthen wetlands, depollution and conservation of coastal zone biological diversity, strengthening fisheries resource and ecosystem monitoring capabilities. Participation of local communities in the co-management of coastal zone resources and strengthening livelihood of local communities are also important measures.

H. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

The project will use appropriate economic including, but not limited to, cost benefit, least cost, and cost of degradation analysis in prioritizing and implementing ICZM interventions. Evidence from the Cost of Degradation Study indicates that scale of damages in the coastal ecosystems is high. Interventions in sustainable fisheries, sustainable tourism and pollution reduction will have not only significant economic benefits but also important global and local environmental and human health benefits. Further, this project is a part of the regional Sustainable MED program, which includes regional knowledge sharing and improved capacity as well as stronger regional governance systems. The World Bank and GEF experiences have shown that interventions are likely to be more cost effective when implemented under regional projects in multiple countries as opposed to individual projects. This project will contribute to the joint development and environmental benefits sought by the program.

I. JUSTIFY THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF GEF AGENCY:

The World Bank has extensive experience in ICZM in North Africa in particular and in other parts of the world. Further, it has a strong relationship with Morocco on environmental and resource management and has also supported investments in a variety of areas including sustainable agricultural/fisheries, biodiversity protection, solid waste disposal, water and sanitation and urban development. Its accumulated experience and knowledge base will help the design and implementation of this project. As the lead agency for the Sustainable MED program it will also ensure that this project operates well within the regional framework and benefits from the regional initiatives in coastal zone management in particular but also more broadly in sustainable development of the Mediterranean coast in Morocco.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)


A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

(Please attach the [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) or [regional endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (Month, day, year)
BENYAHIA, Mohamed No. 9, Avenue Al Araar, Secteur 16, Hay Riad, Rabat 10 000, Morocco TEL: 212 37 57 66 65 FAX: 212 37 57 04 68 Email: benyahia@environnement.gov.ma (Operational Focal Point)	Director of Partnership, Communication and Cooperation	Ministry of Energy, Mining, Water and Environment	10/19/2009

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Steve Gorman GEF Executive Coordinator		12/14/2009	Kanta Kumari Rigaud	202 473 4269	kkumari@worldbank.org