TEMPLATE FOR APPROVAL OF ODA ACTIVITIES FROM EUR 250.000

SECTION: Key data

Short name	Gorongosa Sustainable Livelihoods Development
Full name	Sustainable Livelihoods Development Programme in Gorongosa, Sofala, Mozambique
Summary	In order to promote inclusive development and prevent conflicts triggered by inequality, small producers in areas that have benefited little or not at all from public or private FNS support so far, should also be assisted with basic support to improve their livelihoods including agricultural productivity, land use an nutritional situation. In this regard, a consortium led by the Gorongosa Restoration Project, a public-private partnership, proposes to implement a sustainable livelihoods programme in 6 districts that surround the Gorongosa National Park in the Zambezi Valley, Sofala province. Amongst others, the activity will improve access of smallholder farmers to markets, good quality seeds, knowledge on proper soil fertility management, and integrated pest control management, as well as other climate adaptive agricultural techniques including agroforestry. By improving livelihoods of these communities, the activity will simultaneously contribute to biodiversity protection in Gorongosa National Park (GNP), considered to be one of the best game parks in Africa and a haven for wildlife with many endemic species. The proposal is for a 5-year programme with an estimated budget of EUR 20 million, with potential to directly reach approximately 45,000 small scale producer households with emphasis on women and youth-headed households.
Name of contract party	Gorongosa Restoration Project
Number of contract party	BP 30086847
Date of receipt of proposal	Second version: 17/3/2022 Third version: 22/4/2022 Final version: 1/6/2022
Proposal's reference number	4000005813
Activity type	Standard
Budget holder	8221MAP
ODA	Yes
Amount and currency	-
Amount in EUR	20,000,000
Start date	01/08/2022
End date	31/7/2027
Anonymise Open data	No

Consultation with embassy / regional department / thematic department	EKN-Kigali; IGG
Related activity	-
SAP application number	4000005813
Funds centre	1702U01010012
Prepayment	Yes

SECTION: Policy data

Beneficiary's country/region The **beneficiary country** is the target group's country of residence or country of origin. It is the country that ultimately benefits from the activity. This is not necessarily the country where the activity is implemented. When the activity takes place in several countries in the same region, specify the region concerned using the regional classification (see Help). If not (multiple countries in multiple regions), select **worldwide**.	Country (state the country concerned below) Country: Mozambique
Specify countries + distribution of the budget over those countries (if known). Only fill in this section the answer above was 'region' or 'worldwide'. Please state the relevant beneficiary countries and estimate what part (in %) of the total budget over the entire activity duration can be attributed to each country. If the distribution of part of the budget is as yet unknown, it can be recorded as unspecified.	Country Mozambique: 100% Country Y: ..% Country Z: ..% Unspecified: ..% Etc. (add more rows if necessary): ..% **Total: 100%**
Location within the country/ countries (be as specific as possible) When the activity targets one or more specific locations, please specify the location(s) here.	District Gorongosa, Nhamatanda, Cheringoma, Muanza, Maringue and Dondo.
Aid modality	Project support
Technical assistance	25<TA<50 Between 25% and 50% of the activity budget
CRS code	31161 Food Crop
Policy markers	Equality between men and women: Significant Climate change/ adaptation: Significant Biodiversity: Significant VdsZek - Food security: Principal The Gorongosa SLD is an FNS activity that aims to contribute to improving the livelihoods of needy communities living in the GNP Buffer Zone in the districts of Gorongosa, Dondo, Nhamatanda, Cheringoma, Muanza and Maringue, with emphasis on women and young people. This will be achieved primarily through increased agricultural productivity that will be fostered by the use of climate-smart techniques such as improved seeds, irrigation, crop rotation, intercropping, mulching and (agro)forestry. By improving livelihoods in the Buffer Zone, the programme has the potential to contribute to the protection of biodiversity within the GNP. The programme also includes (agro) forestry activitie.s

SECTION 1: Policy appraisal

Policy relevance

Alignment and coherence with Dutch policy

The programme is aligned with the objectives of the Multi-Annual Country Strategy (MACS) of the Netherlands in Mozambique. It directly links to the MACS' policy theme 6: sustainable development, food security, water and climate and does so within one of the geographic focus set in the MACS: the Zambezi Valley.

Furthermore, the ambition to link smallholders to larger agricultural underscores alignment with the Dutch objective to mobilize the private sector for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as mentioned in the Investing in Global Prospects publication of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2018).

The activity will take place in 6 districts that surround the Gorongosa National Park, one of the most important conservation area in Africa. By investing in sustainable livelihoods in those surrounding districts, the programme will contribute to preservation of biodiversity in the park.

Through improving the socio-economic conditions of the marginalized communities, thus, preventing social inequalities in the Zambezi Valley region, the programme may also address one of the root causes of political instability in Mozambique's central region. In this manner, the programme also corresponds to the Dutch Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) – agenda.

Finally, as GRP is already implementing a similar programme at a smaller scale, this activity can be seen as scaling-up of an already existing intervention, whilst at the same time introducing new elements to the approach.

Policy relevance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

With specific reference to the SDGs, the programme at hand is relevant for the following ones in particular:
SDG 1 - No poverty: By targeting marginalized and vulnerable communities the programme will be promoting equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to all.
SDG 2 - Zero hunger: By supporting local food production, the activity aims to improve the local food supply and promote the consumption of healthy food in order to combat malnutrition in a sustainable manner. Women and youth farmers will benefit from improved production methods and market access.
SDG 5 - Gender equality since women are at the centre of the programme;
SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation: In order to address malnutrition the activity will ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation in the target communities.
SDG 13 - Climate action.
SDG 15 - Life on Land: By promoting sustainable livelihoods in the buffer zone of the Gorongosa National Park, the activity will be contributing to halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss in the park.

Rationale

Problem to be addressed by the activity

The households living in the programme area have chronically low-income levels - average annual household income in the area is estimated at USD 300 to USD 600 - and face a range of socioeconomic development issues.
The lack of sustainable economic opportunities for communities in the Buffer Zone, women and youth in particular, increases the fragility of virtually all aspects of their life and keeps communities vulnerable to external, economic and climate/environmental shocks.

1. Low agricultural productivity and profitability. The majority of the population relies on fragile subsistence farming, sometimes not even meeting the needs for household consumption, let alone leaving any surplus for sale, resulting in food insecurity and low family incomes. Some of the causes for this low productivity include:

    - Use of inappropriate agricultural production methods;
    - Lack of quality agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation systems);
    - Lack of agricultural extension services;
    - Climatic changes and associated natural disasters;
    - High post-harvest losses due to a lack of processing and conservation facilities;
    - Limited access to structured input and output markets; and
    - Low financial literacy and lack of access to finance.

2. Chronic malnutrition. Throughout the Zambezi Valley region, malnutrition, particularly among women and children, is a constant feature of life. Whereas the prevalence of undernourishment in Mozambique is estimated at 43% (UNICEF, 2019), the prevalence in the programme area is 45% (UNICEF, 2019). It is further estimated that 80% of Mozambican families do not have an adequate diet.
   Malnutrition is a major cause of morbidity and mortality for pregnant women and children under five. Virtually every aspect of community life is affected by poor health and nutrition, and the future of the community itself is jeopardized when children do not have the diet they require to learn, grow, and resist sickness and disease. The low agricultural productivity and associated causes listed above are factors of this malnutrition. Other causes include:

    - Lack of nutritional education and awareness on dietary standards;
    - High rate (%) of population growth due to limited awareness on family planning strategies (lack of education on sexual and reproductive health)[1];
    - Premature marriage and other gender imbalances; and
    - Low hygiene standards and use of non-treated water causing water-borne diseases.

3. Degrading biodiversity, deforestation, and climate change. Deforestation at a rate close to 1 hectare per day has led to an overall rainforest loss of 50% in the GNP and Buffer zone since 1977. This threatens biodiversity and the positive effects that indigenous vegetation has on climate change mitigation. It also affects the positive contribution of biodiversity to food security in the region (wild fruits, honey, tubers and roots, mushroom, etc.). The loss of rainforest in the Gorongosa Mountain can lead to a profound disruption of run-off into the catchment, which will negatively impact downstream communities and the ecological functioning of the GNP. The effect of deforestation on water availability and biodiversity impact agricultural production as water management is fragilized and overall good agricultural conditions such as soil fertility and erosion are threatened. In turn, the quality and nutritional content of crops as well as food security in the wider context are made vulnerable. The underlying causes for this problem include:

    - Weak governance of natural resources;
    - Unsustainable use of natural resources such as slush and burn agriculture, uncontrolled fires, poaching and illegal logging;
    - Lack of environmental education; and
    - Increasing pressure on agricultural land.

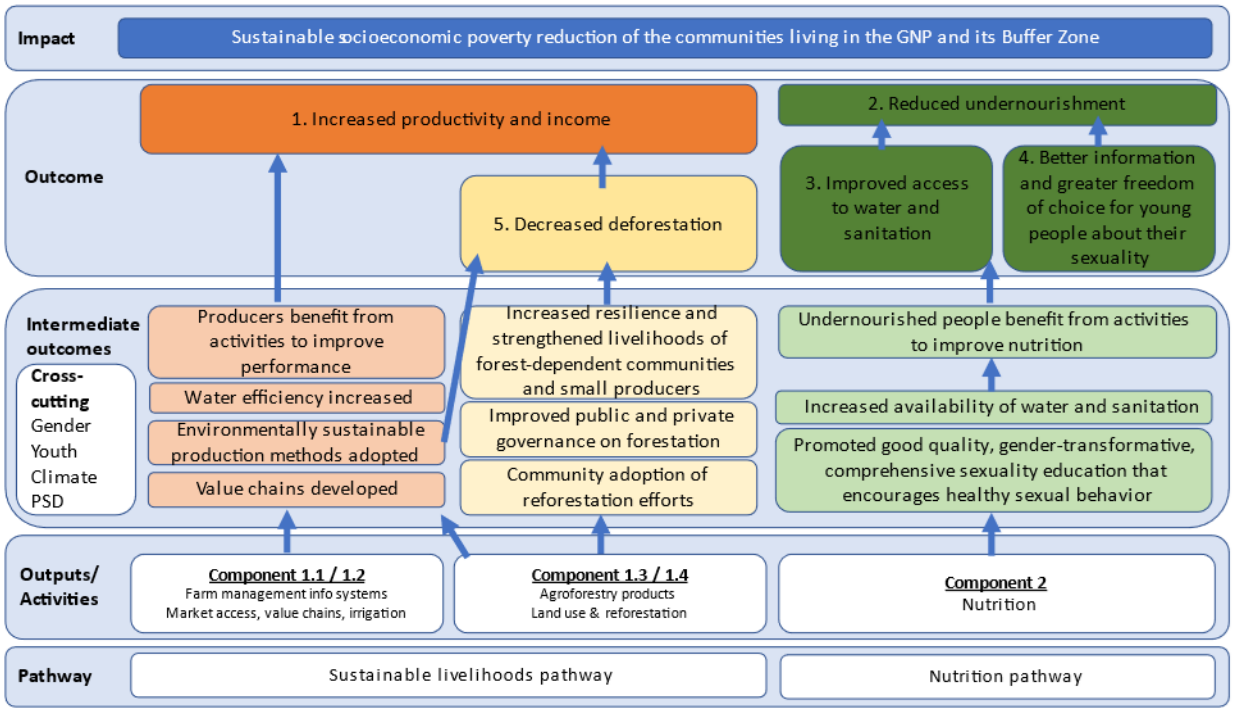
The Theory of Change

The theory of change, as illustrated in Figure 1, includes two pathways to reach the overall objective: A first pathway with activities related to sustainable livelihoods and a second pathway with activities related to nutrition. A component has been designed for each pathway.

[1] This is a cause of chronic malnutrition in case households do not have enough food due to low agricultural productivity or high post-harvest losses

The sustainable livelihoods pathway includes a range of activities, such as value chain and market (inputs and outputs) development, agricultural intensification, application of good agricultural practices for restoration of degraded areas, local seed multiplication, irrigation services and capacity building, which help beneficiary farmers to improve their performance, increase food production and availability, better manage natural resources and thereby enhance their agricultural productivity and income levels whilst also reducing deforestation.

The nutrition pathway addresses other causes of malnutrition (considering that food availability is dealt with under the previous pathway) such as poor diets, high population growth and low hygiene standards. It does so through a mixture of interventions addressing dietary practices, drinking water and sanitation as well as sexual reproductive health. The two last ones are designed in such a way that they contribute to the higher-level nutrition objective.



Contextual analysis

- Who is/are the target group(s) and why?
- Who are the other main stakeholders?
- To what extent have stakeholders been involved in formulating the proposal?
- Is the intervention aimed at a specific geographical location, and if so, why?

Central Sofala has traditionally been a stronghold of the opposition party, RENAMO, with its headquarters in the Gorongosa area. The recent political conflict in the area has contributed to relatively low public investments. With the peace agreement of 2019, an opportunity arose to bring critical services to the residents of the province and strengthen the foundations for peace to take root.

The political stability of the Gorongosa region is of crucial importance for the sustainable development of Mozambique as a whole. This is due to the strategic geographic position of the region hosting two very important road connections, i.e. the EN-1 linking the South to the North, the EN-6 linking the port of Beira to hinterland countries like Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Congo, and the country's most important railroad.

Nevertheless, the potential for the resurgence of this political conflict associated to extreme poverty still exists. As such, if the programme can enhance the socioeconomic development of the area, it can contribute to the political stability of the Gorongosa region and to the socioeconomic development of Mozambique as a whole.

The programme will be implemented in at least six districts in the Sofala Province in central Mozambique, namely Gorongosa, Dondo, Nhamatanda, Muaza, Maringue and Cheringoma. However, within these districts, the programme will allow the GRP to implement activities in areas where it is currently not present.

Furthermore, the programme allows the GRP to expand activities into the districts of Muanza and Maringue. The current scope of the organization's existing activities in the latter districts is fairly limited. The districts of Muanza and Maringue are also part of the GNP Buffer Zone and thereby part of the organization's mandate. As such, the funds from the Netherlands will allow GRP to finally cover its entire mandate area. During, the planning process and the development of the proposal, GRP consulted many parties to build partnerships, including the community and traditional leaders of the target areas.

In all, working in the geographically isolated parts of the named six districts, the programme will attend to the post-conflict needs of its highly marginalized communities. Even though the Sustainable Livelihoods Development Programme (SLD) targets women and youth in particular, the programme's interventions are relevant for the population of the six districts as a whole. For instance, it is expected that by directly improving productivity of a smallholder farmer his or her entire household will benefit indirectly as well.

The programme is aligned with the Government of Mozambique at the central, provincial and districts level. At local level, the programme team will work in close collaboration with relevant government directorates such as the District Directorate of Economic Activities (SDAE) on livelihoods related matters; District Directorate of Planning and Infrastructures (SDPI) on water (supply) related matters; as well as Health and Education directorates. Their counterpart at provincial level are part of the programme's Steering Committee.

Added value

- What is the added value of the Dutch government being involved in relation to other donors, the EU, NGOs and local authorities?

GRP is currently the most prominent agency working in the area. GRP currently manages a suite of cooperation investments from USAID, Ireland, Norway, GEF/UNDP, OAK Foundation, and other donors, all of which support GRP's 30 year Strategic Plan and 5 year Business Plan, with a strong emphasis on sustainable development in the Park's Buffer Zone. USAID is currently supporting conservation, science, health, education, and natural resource governance across the entire Buffer Zone through a USD 20 million 5 -year grant (2020-2025). Ireland and Norway financed project proposals for five-year interventions focusing on post-conflict stabilization, specifically supporting Girls Clubs and education, as well as eco-tourism development. Dutch funds will complement the aforementioned efforts, with interventions focused on livelihoods and nutrition, areas not largely covered by other donors. Indeed, an integrated approach is needed to reduce the vulnerability of the local communities.

Lessons learned

Based on their experience, the partners learned several important lessons. For the SLD Gorongosa programme, some of the partners' lessons to be considered are:

- The strategy and approach of GRP's agricultural programme has evolved from food security to resilience. The agricultural team has been working to consolidate agricultural pilot projects (horticulture, nurseries, cashew, coffee and honey) into one cohesive and up-scaled strategy. Food security has been the path, but resilience and financial sustainability are the goals. The support provided to facilitate connections between small-holder farmers and the market are key in this process. Such market connections need to be further strengthened.
- The presence of trained agricultural extension officers in the target areas and the establishment of small-holder farmer groups known as "lead farmers" allowed the Sustainable Development programme to reach out to more than 8,000 small holder farmers households in a short space of time in the previous years. The concept of lead farmers will be further pursued.
- APSAN Vale's approach for tailor-made Good Agricultural Practices implemented by Resilience was developed together with farmers and proved a robust intervention approach to increase knowledge on varieties, environments, sowing densities, fertilization levels and supplementary irrigations during deficit periods, resulting in an increase in water productivity.

- APSAN Vale showed that market access has been one of the constraints faced to encourage farmers to improve their production patterns. In the Zambezi Valley, over time, significant improvement was made thanks to the emergence of agribusiness actors especially dedicated to connect farmers to the market. These entities also provide access to inputs for the farmers and can also provide technical assistance, ensure value addition and support farmers in better implementation of market-led planning processes.
- Digital technical support has had a demonstrated beneficial impact on the production and income generation of farmers in the APSAN-VALE project. Here farmers without smartphones receive timely agricultural information using SMS and can reply to advice or ask questions. Extension trainers and farmers with smartphones can use the app to select training topics, preventive methods for occurring diseases or select an irrigation method based on the time of the year. Although illiteracy is an issue with the target group, in our experience messages are often shared with household members who can read, and as such received and responded to.
- The APSAN vale project focused on nutritional awareness, habits and security. Several official studies indicate that, beside the improvements in terms of food availability, rural families continue to face nutritional challenges. This requires attention of development organizations operating in the rural communities to contribute on changing food and nutrition habits, with focus on vulnerable groups.
- RTP learned that play is an efficient, cost-effective, inclusive and appealing tool to advance holistic child and youth development. Play and sports have the power to bring entire communities together and inspire individuals. It helps teach important life lessons and develop skills.
- To create behaviour change, especially among children and youth, it is important that activities are inclusive, gender and contextually responsive, age appropriate and locally driven, preferably by children and youth themselves.
- School gardens are a sustainable way to support nutrition and provide an opportunity for children to engage in science, biology and agriculture. Coupling this approach with using play, helps reinforce concepts and understanding of nutrition and healthy eating. “Nutrition Teams” within schools, comprised of children, parents and other members of the community, can be in charge of plantation, weeding and harvesting.
- Gender-responsive nutrition education should address iron supplementation for adolescent girls and the cycle of malnutrition (from adolescence, pregnancy, new-born), and support girls to advocate for their nutrition needs.

Gender

Text box below provides details regarding the partners’ approach to mainstream gender throughout the programme.

Textbox 1: Mainstreaming gender

Guiding principles
The partners consider four guiding principles to mainstream gender throughout the program:

Principle 1: Using gendered eyes: who is the person I am dealing with?
Women's and men's roles differ along with their specific interests, needs and challenges. Therefore, one should always start by questioning: "Who is the person I am dealing with? Which intervention will be beneficial for their different needs based on their challenges and opportunities? How does gender play a role in these? What are my own prejudices and biases?"

Principle 2: Start at the beginning: defining your selection criteria, beneficiaries and successes.
After having recognized the gender differences, one can define and select the targeted beneficiaries and successes. As situations differ for (types of) men and women, quantitative norms can be limiting and have an excluding effect. Rather, one should also consider qualitative criteria. For example, one could decide to focus on target crops that are typically cultivated by women.

Principle 3: Be realistic: support what's already happening and showcase these examples
The program should not be seen as the only generator of community change. Rather, one should identify and showcase successful gender stories which already exist in the communities. Working with 'champions' and sharing their stories among beneficiaries and other stakeholders is key.

Principle 4: Dare to be bold: include targeted affirmative action to address persistent gender gaps
Gender transformation requires targeted affirmative action. Therefore, the program will include several specific interventions targeting women. Affirmative action could focus on (female-only) savings groups including educational components such as financial literacy both in the household and for agricultural production.

Operationalizing gender mainstreaming
The partners apply the principles above throughout. For instance, the inception phase will ensure that the program's objectives and activities are beneficial for the foreseen types of beneficiaries, women and men, and their needs. The program will assess the beneficiaries' needs and priorities regarding their access and control over resources, roles and responsibilities, and take into account how these are influenced by their beliefs and perceptions.

Program partner Resilience's gender research highlights that women want to be commercial farmers. Recognizing this, the program aims to target interventions that facilitate women's market participation, i.e. selecting crops which require low inputs (in terms of capital, skills and land) but yet generate high income. The program starts small, supporting women's business skills, and continues with activities securing women's access to markets and finance.

To prioritize gender, the team will provide capacity building and market access activities aligned with women's schedules at fixed dates and times, at women-suitable locations, partially provided through female technicians. Also, the technologies and practices will benefit women, focusing on time saving and low-cost technologies, or technologies that unburden their household tasks. Because women often have lower educational levels, the team will ensure that technicians speak local languages, work with visual materials, and repeat more whilst engaging with women.

Climate change

Central Mozambique is the region of the country that has been most affected by extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods and droughts. For example, in 2019 this region was severely devastated by Cyclone Idai and very recently by two powerful Tropical Storms, namely Guambe and Ana. Much of the agricultural production depends on rainfed agriculture, making farmers economically and ecologically very vulnerable to changing weather patterns. The aforementioned extreme weather events are expected to increase in frequency and intensity due to climate change, accentuating farmers' vulnerability and, in turn, food security across the country.

Several activities under this initiative have the dual objective of enhancing livelihood options and viability while also strengthening natural protections against climate change. The agroforestry and reforestation interventions provide communities with viable alternatives to practices that threaten biodiversity. A healthier ecosystem buffered by communities that understand its importance for protecting them against the effects of

climate change strengthens the natural symbiosis between human beings and nature. Irrigation and local seed production of pest and disease tolerant crop varieties are other adaptation elements incorporated into the programme.

Cooperation, harmonisation and alignment

GRP aims to convene bi-annual donor coordination meetings where progress of implementation will be discussed and donors will have the opportunity to view the overall programme portfolio. Additionally, bilaterally required reporting takes place as contractually agreed and field visits are encouraged.

Under the strategic planning process and the development of the SLD programme proposal, GRP consulted many parties to build partnerships, particularly at the community level including traditional leaders. GRP also has a formal partnership with the National Directorate of Conservation Areas (ANAC) and is building further partnerships with the provincial and district governments. It has also built partnerships with other large projects in the province, including the WB-funded MozBio. In addition, GRP works closely with the various forestry and hunting concession holders in the Buffer Zone and also has partnerships with expert organizations, including NGOs such as WCS, WWF, IUCN, as well as other local and international development NGOs.
Likewise, for interventions in Nutrition, the programme team will coordinate its activities with other relevant organizations such as UNICEF which also has a strong WASH agenda in the region.

Cooperation with Government of Mozambique

The Government of Mozambique entered into a co-management contract with the US non-profit Gorongosa Project to support the Government in the implementation of its conservation, tourism, education, health care and agricultural law and policy in the Park and Buffer Zone in December 2007. This co-management contract was renewed in June 2018 for 25 Years. The co-management agreement creates an Oversight Committee, which approves the Park Warden's selection of the Park Management team. The Oversight Committee is represented by both ANAC and by the private partner.

At the district level, the programme's interventions are aligned with the local economic development plans. Throughout the programme, management will remain in close contact with the district authorities to ensure that programme and district priorities and interventions remain aligned. Furthermore, the activities are aligned along thematic lines as well. For instance, the work on boreholes within the WASH component is coordinated with the district-level infrastructural planning unit SDPI. Likewise, on economic interventions coordination is sought with the SDAE. The same is true for the other thematic areas such as health, youth and education.

Digitalisation

To support farm management at the producer level and decision making/traceability at the management level, the GRP will develop a Farm Management Information Systems (FMIS) targeting 15,000 farmers.
The FMIS will respond to the needs of GRP with a direct impact on farm productivity (Yield/Income), integration into value chains and data collection. The FMIS will complement current extension services, strengthening their impact by increasing the number of (digital) interactions and closing information gaps as well as providing farming households with up-to-date and personalized extension services (e.g., determining the best time to plant, irrigate and harvest newly introduced crops, receiving information about trainings, available buyers, market locations and actual prices).

The FMIS will be developed using the user-centred design approach following the principles for digital development; to identify the user needs, incorporate them into the design, pilot and, through iterative cycles, develop the FMIS. GRP will build on Resilience's existing agri-tech and hardware (gateway) solutions currently used by over 7,500 farmers in Mozambique and over 32,500 farmers combined in India, Rwanda and Mozambique. The team will build on existing systems like CommCare, IRIPO 2-Way SMS and the MyCropCare Coffee app.

A combination of an SMS platform, (offline)apps, and data such as remote sensing, is suggested as a starting point, as these elements are already in place. This type of improved (digital) technical support has had a

demonstrated beneficial impact on the production and income generation of farmers in the APSAN-VALE project.
Extension trainers and farmers with smartphones can use the app to select training topics, preventive methods for occurring diseases or select an irrigation method based on the time of the year. Although illiteracy is an issue with the target group, it has been seen in APSAN project that messages are often shared with household members who can read, and as such received and responded to. Complementary services like voice-based communication will be experimented to support illiterate users.

The extension content to be disseminated through the platform will be developed with all programme partners. The content of the FMIS will cover all activities in component 1 (short cycle crops, agroforestry, coffee production, and market information). GRP has the CommCare data collection system in place. Integration between CommCare and FMIS is expected to improve reporting and traceability. Capacity building of farmers and extension agents in the use of FMIS will be done through training and dedicated FMIS staff on location. The establishment of the platform will be part of the programme duration; the design will allow the GRP team to operate the FMIS without external support.

SECTION 2: Results

The **overall objective (impact)** of the programme is to contribute to the sustainable socioeconomic poverty reduction of the communities living in the GNP and its Buffer Zone, with an emphasis on women and youth.
The programme's main outcomes and associated outcome indicators, disaggregated by gender and youth and applying definitions from the Dutch development policy frameworks, are defined as follows:

Outcome 1: Small scale food producers doubled productivity and income
- Indicator: Number of small scale food producers that progressively realize a living income

Outcome 2: People lifted out of undernourishment
- Indicator: Number of people with a more diverse adequate diet.

Outcome 3: People use safe drinking water and adequate sanitary facilities
- Indicator: Number of people using safely managed drinking water services
- Indicator: Number of people using safely managed sanitation services

Outcome 4: Better information and greater freedom of choice for young people about their sexuality
- Indicator: Number of youth using SRH services

Outcome 5: Decreased deforestation, enhanced sinks and increased climate resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods.
- Indicator: Number of hectares of forest(ed) land under sustainable forest management or other improved practices contributing to decreased deforestation, enhanced sinks, and increased adaptive capacity of ecosystems and livelihoods.

<u>Outcome and outputs by programme's component</u>

Component 1 – Livelihoods and Biodiversity *(to be implemented by GRP with technical support from implementing partner Resilience)*

<u>Outcomes</u>
- Small scale food producers doubled productivity and income
- Decreased deforestation, enhanced sinks and increased climate resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods

<u>Main intermediate Outcomes</u>
- Small scale food producers benefitting from activities to improve performance;
- Farmland benefitting from activities to strengthen ecological sustainability;
- Water efficiency/productivity in agriculture increased;

- Increased resilience and strengthened livelihoods of forest-dependent communities and small producers;

Main Outputs

Establishment of Farm Management Information Systems (FMIS)
The FMIS will complement current extension services, strengthening their impact by increasing the number of (digital) interactions and closing information gaps as well as providing farming households with up-to-date and personalized extension services (e.g., determining the best time to plant, irrigate and harvest newly introduced crops, receiving information about trainings, available buyers, market locations and actual prices).

Market assessments and modelling
The programme consortium will conduct a market assessment of local key commodities to strengthen market access for smallholder farmers. Obtained results will be validated together with farmers of the different communities, and the main crops and value chains that will allow a greater and better intervention for the establishment of markets and development will be selected. To complement the market analysis, a business model will be developed based on the financial analysis of smallholders' revenues and profitability.

Skills building for smallholders for key commodities
Trainings for smallholder farmers will be shaped to develop the market potential of identified key commodities. Trainings will be articulated around previously identified champions farmers as described in the intervention approach to facilitate knowledge and Good Agricultural Practices dissemination amongst farmers, eventually using their farms as demo-plots. The programme focuses on: (1) Subsistence production and marketing; (2) Access to improved inputs; (3) Access to sustainable production technologies; (4) Management of production, marketing, technologies, and storage practices for post-harvest products; (5) Business Development Services and training; (6) Market linkages and product value addition. The training programmes will be based on modules designed in the local reality.

Irrigated short cycle crops
During the inception phase, the current agricultural situation will be assessed in terms of crops, yield, income and economic stability. Based on this analysis and by integrating results from the above-described market assessment, partners will formulate recommendations at farm level on best-suited crops in consideration of ecological, socio-economic, and legal aspects. The partners will provide support to smallholder farmers to produce and manage selected short cycle crops with a focus on horticulture cash crops; (horticultural food crops are mostly targeted in the nutrition component). The partners will pilot the production of selected commodity crops, most likely piri-piri, ginger, beans, potato, and pineapple; support agricultural extension services in target communities; and incorporate smart irrigation.
The programme will make small scale infrastructural investments by co-financing schemes for production and irrigation equipment, post-harvest storage, processing, and quality control measures. The co-financing schemes are aimed at introducing new technologies, equipment, and facilities, while ensuring that what is introduced can be maintained, replicated, and sustained by the production systems of the farmers.

Agroforestry strategy design
During the inception phase, the current agroforestry situation will be assessed in terms of trees, crops, local knowledge, degree of implementation but also legal status and economic viability. Based on these results, partners will investigate potential market linkages for agroforestry products and design a strategy that integrates ecological, legal and socio-economic dimensions to implement agroforestry. Important to consider there are the diverging aims associated with the different zones as presented in the interventions areas and goals. While above 700m the main goal is to reforest, mostly by using agroforestry with coffee shaded by native tree species, the ambition for the mountain zone below 700m is to render it attractive for sustainable agriculture practices and hinder deforestation. Accordingly, the proposed strategy will be shaped to answer these long-term goals.

Reforestation strategy design
During the inception phase, the current agroforestry situation in terms of trees, native species and perceptions of local stakeholders such as reforestation incentives and obstacles will be assessed. Based on these results and on GRP's experience in the reforestation of Mount Gorongosa, partners will analyse which trees can be

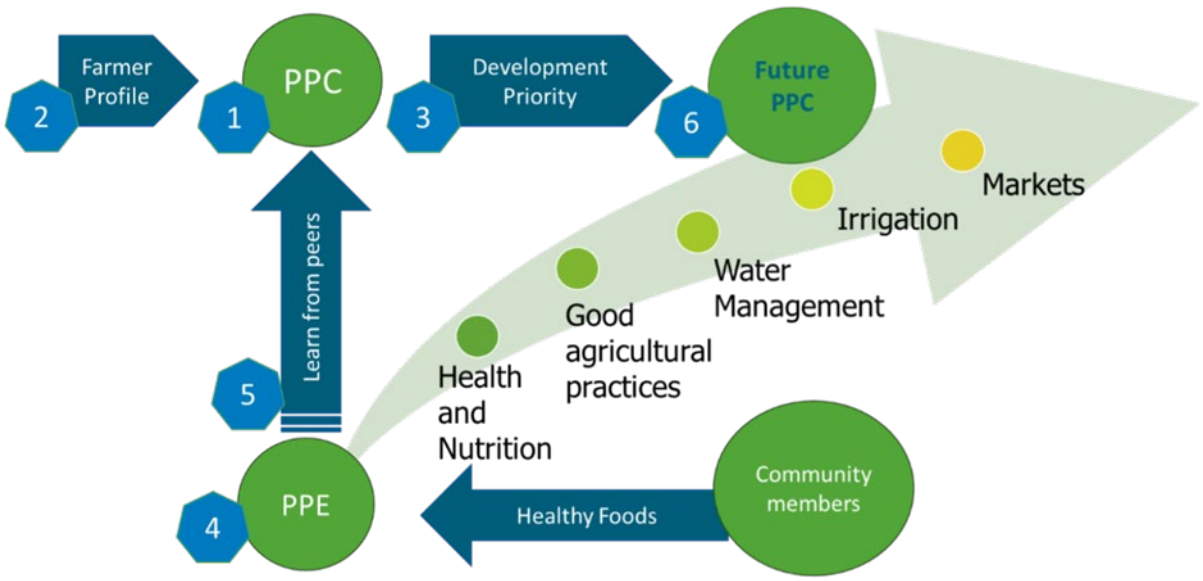
planted regarding ecological, legal and economic dimensions and how the plantation process should take place in terms of techniques, location and timing. Accordingly, a reforestation strategy will be developed, specifically focusing on the zone above 700m (zone 1). This strategy will involve planting and assisted natural regeneration efforts based on spatial mapping, and improved cooperation with local communities.

Non-wood forestry products
Communities will be supported with initiatives expanding honey, beeswax, and banana fibre production. The partners will provide technical and economic support by facilitating market linkages for the selected non-wood forestry products. These sustainable forestry activities are designed to produce a net positive outcome on the environment. Sustainable honey production will help to move people away from traditional beekeeping practices which are damaging the natural environment and can be implemented as a tool to reduce human-wildlife conflicts. Products such as beeswax and banana fibre can be used for crafts production and thereby create additional sources of sustainable income for local communities. As for short cycle crops, the extension services will be based on the identification of champion farmers to facilitate our trainings and the dissemination of GAP. Moreover, the partners propose to develop a digital agroforestry monitoring solution using Remote Sensing to keep track of the forest and agricultural production. Thereby, the health of agroforestry initiatives can be monitored, and real-time agronomic support is provided.

<u>Intervention approach</u>
To reach above-mentioned outcomes and outputs under Livelihoods & Biodiversity intervention, the partners propose an integrated approach based on the success story of the APSAN-Vale project implemented in the Zambezi Valley in Mozambique by Resilience. The approach to agricultural development consists in catalysing Farmer Led (Irrigation) Development (FLID). FLID is a widespread process through Mozambique (and Sub-Saharan Africa) and is characterized by farmers who take the lead in their own development, making use of opportunities of the market, technology, knowledge, financial and resource potential around them.

As shown in the figure below, the intervention approach starts with identification of innovative 'champion farmers' (also called *Pequenos Produtores Comerciais-PPC/Small Commercial Farmers-SCF/Village Based Agents-VBA*) and support them in stepping into the next level of their production system. This is achieved through a thorough understanding of the farmers' production system. Based on the farmer's profile, the programme defines the 'development priority' which translates into a tailor-made technological and improved practices plan.

The intervention methodology is designed to facilitate a process in which the farmers develop their skills in good agricultural practices, water management and irrigation, to service specific markets. Emerging from a primarily subsistence level towards a market-oriented production level through their own agency will improve the sustainability of their production practices.



To transition towards new sustainable livelihood practices requires a comprehensive, interdisciplinary baseline study. The general outcomes of the baseline study are multiple and will constitute a foundation to design interventions within GNP and its BZ. Due to the multifactorial complexity of the situation, a holistic approach is proposed to tackle social, economic, and ecological aspects. The baseline study will collect both quantitative data on local farms including socio-demographic and production data to develop monitoring indicators, and qualitative data to shape targeted interventions according to the needs and interests of local stakeholders.

Results will further be used to adjust proposed monitoring indicators. Considering the local political instability, the baseline study will be complemented by a conflict sensitivity analysis to integrate a deepened understanding of peace and conflict dynamics in our interventions and foresee the impact of the programme regarding these aspects. Finally, the inception phase will serve as base to further define our strategy to connect with local communities for example through VBAs and champion farmers.

Component 2 – Nutrition *(to be implemented by GRP with technical support from implementing partner RTP)*
The activities within component 2 are designed to address the malnutrition problem and its underlying causes such as poor diets, gender imbalances, family planning and low hygiene standards. The programme aims to improve dietary practices through a combination of awareness raising campaigns, a Model Moms/Dads cooking programme, home and school gardens. By including drinking water and basic hygiene and sanitation practices, the interventions will reduce the incidence of diarrheal diseases as they are the major cause of malnutrition.

Main Outcomes

- Undernourished people benefit from activities to improve nutrition;
- Increased availability of water and sanitation services;
- Promoted good quality, gender-transformative, comprehensive sexuality education that encourages healthy sexual behavior, that reaches all youth (in and out of school).

Main Outputs

Social and Behavioral Change Communications strategy
It will be developed a Social and Behavioral Change Communications (SBCC) strategy and educational materials to support individuals, families, and communities in adopting and maintaining high-impact nutrition practices. The strategy will identify and address barriers to improve nutritional outcomes, particularly for girls, and will include the development of educational materials to engage community members on gender-responsive nutrition practices. Community members will be reached through community dialogues, radio programmes, and sporting events. National nutrition networks will be engaged to exchange experiences and best practices and influence attitudes and practices at the local, provincial, and national levels.

Home and school gardens
The programme team will promote gardens for better access to nutritious foods by improving household food supplies, extended to schools. These artisanal gardens will focus on the cultivation of a variety of nutritious vegetables that promote health and can potentially, also provide a source of income for the purchase of other staple foods. Related to this, agriculture extension workers will train families and teachers in sustainable food production, including irrigation systems to be able to produce crops throughout the year. The concept of home gardens is extended to schools because of the believe that school children will be the adults of tomorrow, and they will learn today about producing food at school, initiating a school feeding programme to improve the knowledge of children on nutritional practices. This particular output will be achieved in collaboration with Resilience.

Functional WASH facilities
Using local contractors in target schools and health centers, the programme will increase access to safe drinking water by drilling and rehabilitating boreholes. Furthermore, the team will disseminate information regarding the importance of WASH for community health and it will conduct water quality tests. By providing access to safe water, especially in schools, the programme will promote gender equality. For example, by increasing girls' comfort on managing their menstrual health, as well as maximizing the chances for girls to complete their education and get further with their aspirations in life.

WASH committees
To ensure sustainability and ownership, each borehole will be managed by local community members selected democratically within the community. WASH Committees are comprised of 12 individuals from the community, including community health workers. The participation of women, who take part in decision making and are most affected by water access issues, will be strongly promoted. The committees will be trained by the programme to manage, operate, and maintain the boreholes.

Sanitation and hygiene promotion
Using the WASH committees, the programme will promote good sanitation and hygiene practices through instructions on frequent hand washing with water and soap, training on the treatment of drinking water, assistance with the construction and instruction on the use of latrines to eliminate open defecation, sensitization of community members on the practice of safe disposal of their baby's excreta in the toilet, training on the safe storage of drinking water, and discussions surrounding menstruation discomforts, including messages on the need of girls to take extra care of their diet and sanitation to enjoy a healthier menstruation cycle in general and in cases of heavy menstrual bleeding in particular, taking food reach of proteins and iron.

Increased comprehensive knowledge of SRHR
Establish Girls Clubs (an after-school programme that GRP has been implementing since 2017) in schools. The Girls Clubs will empower girls and young women and enhance their self-protection capabilities against SGBV through the building of life skills and instructions focused on SRHR. Girls will also receive mentorship and training on leadership and decision-making to build their self-esteem and enable them to fully realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights. The programme will promote the role of nutrition in regulating reproductive functions, disseminating messages addressing issues of obesity in relation to subfertility or infertility, affecting the reproductive well-being, throughout the reproductive cycle starting from puberty, menstrual cycle, to pregnancy, in addition to the role of nutrition in other aspects of reproductive health such as sexually transmitted infections and reproductive organ cancers.

SECTION: Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring
In line with MFA, during the six-month inception phase the team will develop the programme monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan and carry out the baseline study. The MEL system and approach will be participatory, with BZ communities and other stakeholders involved in coordination, assessment and learning events.

During the inception phase the team, in constant dialogue with the BZ communities and other stakeholders, will:

- Refine the indicators and targets of the logical framework (including gender and youth disaggregation);
- Define what data will be collected, by whom and with which frequency;
- Design data collection instruments;
- Test all data collection instruments;
- Design and carry out a baseline study on agricultural productivity and other relevant indicators;
- Carry out a conflict sensitivity analysis;
- Define control groups. The control groups consist of individuals with similar characteristics to programme's beneficiaries to allow comparisons.

During programme implementation, the team will collect data on output and outcome indicators, using mobile data collection instruments based on CommCare software, and use this information to compare expected and actual outcomes, and then adjust operations during implementation as necessary.

Evaluation
EKN will commission an external mid-term evaluation halfway of the programme. The results will be used to make necessary adjustments to the programme and provide evidence for future work. Likewise, in the final stages of the programme, or shortly thereafter, EKN will commission a final evaluation.

SECTION: Finance
Budget breakdown

Table 1. Total budget per programme component (in €)

	FNS Gorongosa Budget						
Direct Program Costs	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**	**Totals**	**%**
Component 1: Livelihoods & Biodiversity	**2.006.379**	**2.311.848**	**2.319.082**	**2.390.745**	**2.734.360**	**11.762.413**	**56,74%**
Component 2 Nutrition	**1.290.827**	**1.474.236**	**1.260.700**	**1.240.966**	**1.154.956**	**6.421.684**	**30,98%**
Component 3:Direct Management Costs	**469.182**	**45.701**	**47.072**	**48.484**	**49.939**	**660.377**	**3,19%**
Consolidated Direct Costs	3.766.388	3.831.784	3.626.854	3.680.195	3.939.254	**18.844.474**	90,91%
Administrative & Overhead costs @10%						**1.884.447**	9,09%
Total budget						**20.728.922**	100,00%

The total cost of the proposed interventions, programme management and overheads amount to €20,728,924 including the budget for the implementing partner right to play and provision for technical services by Resilience. The budget will be adjusted during inception to reflect the maximum Embassy contribution of €20,000,000

Direct Programme Costs - € 18.844.474
Component 1: Livelihoods & Biodiversity amount to €11,762,413 representing 53.74% of the total budget and includes budget for the sub-contractor Resilience for the implementation of sustainable livelihoods interventions in the form of agricultural production systems assessment and development, Farm Management Information System, provision of (co-financed) small scale irrigation systems as well as technical services for the proposed agricultural interventions (hydrology, remote sensing, market and agricultural expert services). In this component an amount of €6,035,996 will be used to contract services of Resilience.

Component 2: Nutrition amount to €6,421,684 representing 30.98% of the total budget and includes the budget for the nutrition component implemented byPartner Right To Play (RTP) in the amount to €2,392,076 or 11.54% of the total budget. The costs for RTP includes staff (management and expert teams), production of technical material package, training of trainers, technical supervision missions and thematic area assessments and evaluations.

Direct Management Costs amount to €660.377 representing 3,19% of the total budget and includes infrastructure investment for retention and accommodation of staff and other direct management costs.

Administrative fee & overhead costs is charged as 10% of the consolidated direct costs as a contribution to the general administrative and overhead costs associated with the effective support of the implementing programme. The provision of Finance and Administration, Operations and Park Administrative costs currently account for 32% of the overall GRP budget. Included in these overheads are the operating costs for regional centres at Chitengo, CEC, Mapombwe, Muanza and an additional HQ and Community Training Centre in Inhaminga that is currently in the primary development phase.

Table 2. Budget per cost category

Consolidated Direct Costs	3.766.388	3.831.784	3.626.854	3.680.195	3.939.254	**18.844.474**	**90,91%**
Allowances	88.811	90.216	84.767	87.285	83.437	434.516	2,10%
Construction	476.364	502.216	90.000	90.000	85.455	1.244.034	6,00%
Contractual	300.062	318.859	187.789	192.149	183.078	1.181.938	5,70%
Equipment	449.992	306.784	349.398	173.194	312.092	1.591.459	7,68%
Other Direct Costs	484.178	425.303	432.956	420.199	385.747	2.148.384	10,36%
Personnel	993.355	1.035.556	1.112.309	1.195.623	1.307.429	5.644.271	27,23%
Supplies	387.963	556.084	754.482	934.583	1.123.814	3.756.926	18,12%
Travel	83.156	74.567	104.681	94.372	94.094	450.870	2,18%
RTP	502.506	522.199	510.472	492.790	364.109	2.392.076	11,54%
Administrative & Overhead costs @10%						**1.884.447**	**9,09%**
Total budget						**20.728.922**	**100,00%**

The cost for GRP Personnel that are dedicated to implementation of the programme amount to €5,644,271,

	Foreign currency	EUR
Implementing organisation's own contribution	-	-
Firm commitments by other donors (for each donor)	-	-
Dutch contribution	-	*20,000,000*
Total available resources	**-**	***20,000,000***
Budget needed	**-**	***20,000,000***
Still to be financed	**-**	**-**
Soft commitments by other donors (for each donor)	-	-
Uncovered balance	-	-

representing 27.23% of the total budget. The two other major budget components are Supplies (€3,756,926 / 18.12%) and Other Direct Costs (€2,148,387/10.36%) these line items account for the general operating supplies and inputs with one of the most significant cost components relating to training.

Amended budget, taking into consideration the aspect referred bellow, is conditional for implementation of activity after inception:

- Adjusted to reflect the maximum Embassy contribution of €20,000,000;
- Allocation for partners Right to Play and Resilience need to be backed by the respective budget frameworks;
- Direct Management costs and Overheads need to be clearly explained in accompanying budget notes.

The revised budget will be submitted together with the inception report by 30 January 2022.

Earmarking
The Embassy contribution is earmarked to the SLD programme.

Prepayments
Payments are to be registered as prepayments and will be made up to 100% of the total contribution. Prepayment will be accounted on the basis of annual progress (narrative and financial) and annual audit reports.

Available resources
The Embassy is the sole funder of the activity. The total budget in the proposal exceeds the available funds therefore a revised budget not exceeding EUR 20,000,000 is conditional after inception phase.

Grant with a repayment obligation, loans, equity investment or guarantee
N.A.

Audit opinion
The GRP will arrange for annual audits in accordance with the audit protocol in annex to the contribution agreement, to be carried by an external, qualified and independent auditor acceptable to both the GRP and the Embassy.