INTEGRATED LANDSCAPES MANAGEMENT IN TUNISIA’S LAGGING REGIONS
PROJECT

FACT SHEET

Key Facts:

- Name of the project: Integrated Landscape Management in Tunisia’s lagging regions Project
- Nature of the project: Investment Project Financing
- Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Fishing
- Amount: US 100 M

Q and A:

**What are the project’s development objectives?**

The project development objective is to improve landscape management and access to economic opportunities for targeted rural communities in NW and CW regions of Tunisia.

**Why focus on the lagging regions?**

The proposed project focuses on the Tunisia North-West and Center-West agricultural ecosystems because of their importance in the economic development of lagging regions as well as their potential positive impact on their human development indicators.

Economic development in Tunisia has been characterized by significant regional imbalances, with coastal regions developing fastest and hinterland regions lagging behind. While poverty incidence was halved between 2000 and 2014 (from 32.5 to 15.5 percent), considerable disparities still exist, and household vulnerability remains considerable, especially in the face of the weak post-revolution economic performance. These disparities have persisted or even widened. Inequality between regions has also risen, with poverty increasingly concentrated in a few regions of the country.

**Why is this project focused on the Northwest and the Center-west?**

These two regions are home to about 47 percent of the poor (NW 19 percent and CW 28 percent). They have the lowest regional development indicators and the highest unemployment rates for university graduates.

Agriculture (crops, forestry, and livestock) dominates the economic life in NW and CW regions which also account for 50 and 82 percent of Tunisia. Agriculture, forests and rangelands provides the bulk of employment and income opportunities in these two regions.
However, income levels remain low. Well-paying jobs and other income opportunities are limited, poverty levels high, overall economic prospects are threatened by unsustainable agriculture and natural resource management practices, and by climate change.

**Who are the beneficiaries of this project?**

Direct beneficiaries of the project will be the rural communities in the NW and CW regions of Tunisia, which will benefit from a range of capacity building initiatives and investments aimed at improving their livelihoods. Direct beneficiaries include local communities that will co-manage forest and rangeland resources in targeted landscapes and benefit economically from the increase value added of products as a result of project interventions. These communities represent a population of about 250,000 rural households (about 1.5 million people). Women constitute 51 percent of these direct beneficiaries, and youth (age category 15-35) are about 25 percent (i.e., about 400,000 people). In addition, direct beneficiaries are expected to be producers, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), producer organizations and their workers in the agricultural sectors in targeted regions.

The proposed project will also target Farmers, MSMEs and Producer Organizations (POs) in the main silvo-pastoral ecosystems and associated crops which dominate landscapes in the NW and CW regions, such as: (i) the Cork oak forest ecosystem in the North-West, mainly in the Jendouba governorate (and partially in the Beja and Bizerte governorates); (iii) the Aleppo pine forest ecosystem, mainly in the two governorates of Kasserine and Siliana; and (iv) the Alfa grass steppe ecosystem, in the Sidi Bouzid governorate and the Kasserine governorate. In addition, the project will target olive tree agricultural system in the North West and Center regions.

A number of national and regional institutions will also indirectly benefit from the project through capacity building and TA which will help to improve the legal and institutional environment and regulations. The main beneficiary institutions at national level are key MARHP directorates and agencies, particularly General Directorate of Funding Investments (DGFIOP), DGF, General Directorate of Organic Farming (DGAB), General Directorate of Agricultural Production (DGPA), General Directorate of Agro-food Industry (DGIA), and counterparts in relevant sectoral ministries. The main beneficiary institutions at the regional level will be CRDAs, ODESYPANO, ODNO, and ODCO.