

Objective 2.3. Enhancing economic opportunities in selected regions

The WBG will support GoT in devising and implementing a more integrated approach to regional development, focused on sustainable economic activity (in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water and ecotourism), private sector involvement and local governance reforms. To achieve this objective, a joint WBG/Government task force will be created. Investments in high-priority local infrastructure will be combined with

- a) enhanced local governments' service delivery and spatial planning capacity, also thanks to participatory governance reforms;
- b) improved management of natural assets (e.g., forestry, rangelands, fisheries) which impacts local population¹ (notably women) and private sector, and poses serious risks to water availability and downstream infrastructure (dams, roads) notably in the context of climate change;
- c) identifying value-chain interventions in growth sectors conducive to job creation such as agribusiness, eco-tourism, agro-forestry, light manufacturing; and
- d) accelerating the growth of regional clusters of firms and industries (e.g. fisheries, agro-business and naval industries in Bizerte and Tabarka).

In the CPF outer years, the WBG could support an investment project in selected regions piloting this integrated approach in 1 or 2 regions building on the ongoing dialogue on lagging regions.

¹ Forests and rangelands contribute to over 50% of the revenues of poor rural households.