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ANNEX 2

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of South Sudan for 2023-2024

Action Document for Promoting a Green and Resilient Economy in South Sudan

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Promoting a Green and Resilient Economy in South Sudan OPSYS number: ACT-61912 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>) / Overseas Association Decision/European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation.
2. Team Europe Initiative	Yes: “Human development, jobs, and economic growth for a resilient and stable society in South Sudan” currently under discussion with expected participation from Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden. This TEI is expected to focus on job creation and access to finance and markets.
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in South Sudan.
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) for South Sudan-2021-2027.
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority Area 1 - Green and Resilient Economy: food security, jobs for youth, diversification of the economy, climate change. Specifically, the following Specific Objectives: (1) Improved food and nutrition security, prevention, and preparedness for food crises. (2) Increased production, productivity, and climate resilience for a more competitive, sustainable, and modern agriculture. (3) Enhanced economic empowerment in agricultural and value chain development (targeting women, youth and men).
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	South Sudan MIP – Priority Area 1: Green and Resilient Economy (DAC codes 152, 160, 311, 312, 321, 331, 410, 430)

	Sectors: - <i>Food and Nutrition Security; Sustainable Agriculture/Livestock Development; Forests, Land and Biodiversity; Employment Creation; Trade Facilitation; Climate Change Adaptation;</i>
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG 1 –No Poverty.</p> <p>Other significant SDGs: SDG 2-Zero Hunger, SDG 5 and 10-gender responsiveness and inequalities, SDG7-Access to sustainable energy services, SDG 8-Decent Work, SDG 13-Climate Action; and SDG 15-Life on Land.</p>
8 a) DAC code(s)	<p>DAC code 152 – Conflict, Peace & Security (10%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15220 Civilian peacebuilding, conflict prevention and resolution <p>DAC 160 – Other Social Infrastructure & Services (15%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16020 Employment creation <p>DAC code 311 – Agriculture (40%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31120 Agricultural development - 31161 Food crop production - 31163 Livestock - 31165 Agricultural alternative development - 31166 Agricultural extension - 31192 Plant and post-harvest protection and pest control - 31193 Agricultural financial services - 31194 Agricultural cooperatives - 31195 Livestock / Veterinary services <p>DAC code 312 – Forestry (5%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31220 Forestry development <p>DAC code 321 – Industry (5%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 32130 Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) development - 32161 Agro-industries <p>DAC code 331 – Trade Policies & Regulations (5%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 33120 Trade facilitation <p>DAC code 410 – General environmental protection (15%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 41010 Environmental policy and administrative management - 41020 Biosphere protection - 41030 Biodiversity - 41040 Site preservation - 41081 Environmental education/training <p>DAC code 430 – Other Multisector (5%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43040 Rural development - 43060 Disaster Risk Reduction - 43071 Food security policy and administrative management
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	<p>Channel 1: 20000 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society</p> <p>Channel 2: 40000 Multilateral organisations</p> <p>Channel 3: 60000 Private sector institution</p>
9. Targets	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Migration</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender</p>

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Connectivity @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity energy transport health education and research		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduction of Inequalities @		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	(methodology for marker and tagging under development)			
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020121 -INTPA</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 85 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 79 200 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 39 200 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023 and for an amount of EUR 40 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths</p> <p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for an amount of USD 3 000 000; - International Trade Centre (ITC) for an amount of USD 1 000 000; - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for an amount of USD 1 800 000. 			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	<p>Direct management through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants - Procurement <p>Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.3.</p>			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The **Overall Objective** of this Action is *to promote green, sustainable, and climate-resilient economic development; and to contribute to increased food and nutrition security, resilience to shocks, and job creation in South Sudan*. In order to achieve this, the Action will follow a two-tiered approach:

- i) Support to farmers and communities aiming at enhancing their productive capacity and productivity as well as the sustainable and climate-adapted management of natural resources, including biodiversity;
- ii) Support the development of a more diversified, market- and growth-oriented, as well as sustainable agriculture sector.

This will be achieved through three of interrelated **Specific Objectives**, namely:

- i) *Specific Objective 1*: To strengthen agricultural (including pastoral) livelihoods through increased productive capacity and productivity, improved food and nutrition security, adaptation to climate change, and enhanced preparedness against and resilience to shocks and crises.
- ii) *Specific Objective 2*: To support of the development of a more competitive, sustainable, and modern agriculture through the development of resilient, context-specific agricultural value chains, the improvement of access to services, and the empowerment of women and youth.
- iii) *Specific Objective 3*: To enhance the protection and sustainable management of the natural resource base of the economy and agricultural livelihoods.

The Action directly addresses the challenges facing vulnerable communities in rural South Sudan, key amongst them being acute food and nutrition insecurity, which is linked to a number of factors, including:

- High unemployment levels (especially amongst women and youth);
- Conflict and insecurity at subnational levels;
- Low production and productivity in the agriculture and livestock sectors, as well as under-developed agro-value chains;
- Climatic threats exacerbated by climate change (floods and drought);
- Land degradation, deforestation, and loss of natural habitats (threatening biodiversity and forestry resources);
- Weak business enabling environment; and
- Private sector participation.

Addressing these challenges will not only result in poverty alleviation amongst the vulnerable communities, but also contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely:

- (i) SDG1: No poverty;
- (ii) SDG2: Zero Hunger;
- (iii) SDG 5: Gender Equality;
- (iv) SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth;
- (v) SDG 10: Reduced Inequality;
- (vi) SDG 13: Climate Action; and
- (vii) SDG 15: Life on Land.

The Action closely aligns with and contributes to the **EU-Africa Investment Package**, whose aim is to support Africa's progress towards strong, inclusive, green, and digital recovery and transformation. More specifically, the Action compliments the EU strategic objectives:

- (i) To accelerate sustainable growth and decent job creation;
- (ii) Promote sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity protection and nature-based solutions as the basis of a green recovery, including support to the protection of landscapes and ecosystems;
- (iii) Support more sustainable African agri-food systems and creating a conducive and transparent policy environment for sustainable private investments, and facilitating innovation and boosting improved nutrition; and
- (iv) Enhancing the capacity of partner African countries to adapt to climate change and substantially reduce disaster risk.

Regionally, the Action complements the **EU NaturAfrica Flagship Initiative**, whose objective is to tackle biodiversity loss through restoring and protecting a network of protected areas and high value ecosystems. It also aims to promote the sustainable management of surrounding landscapes whilst creating decent incomes and jobs in green sectors for local populations. As a result there are foreseen synergies and partnerships especially with regards achievement of outputs that focus on ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation efforts in key conservation landscapes of South Sudan.

Further, the Action's focus on biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and environmental protection directly contributes towards the broader objectives of the **Great Green Wall of Africa (GGW)¹ Flagship Initiative**, on which the Government of South Sudan expressed interest in participating. These objectives are

1. Restore 100 million hectares of actually degraded land;
2. Create 10 million jobs;
3. Sequester 250 million tons of carbon;
4. Improve food security for 20 million people;
5. Support the millions of people living in communities across the Sahel; and
6. Provide access to 10 million smallholder farmers to agricultural technologies resilient to climate change.

¹ Launched in 2007 by the African Union, the game-changing African-led Great Green Wall initiative aims to restore the continent's degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in the Sahel. This ambitious project is being implemented across 22 African countries and will revitalize thousands of communities across the continent

The Great Green Wall of Africa has ambitious targets to protect and expand fertile land, achieve food security for millions in Africa, and promote climate resilience. Firmly anchored in all of GGW's five programmatic pillars, the Action therefore provides an opportunity for South Sudan to directly contribute and compliment these continent wide ambitions:

- (i) Pillar 1: Investment in small and medium enterprises and strengthening of value chains, local markets, export organization;
- (ii) Pillar 2: Land restoration and sustainable ecosystem management;
- (iii) Pillar 3: Climate resilient infrastructure and access to renewable energy;
- (iv) Pillar 4: Enabling economic and institutional framework for effective governance; and
- (v) Pillar 5: Capacity Building.

At a national level, the Action is closely aligned with the Government of South Sudan **Revised National Development Strategy**² (NDS 2021- 2024), whose overarching theme is to Consolidate Peace, and Stabilize the Economy. The NDS expounds national aspirations to transition from dependence on humanitarian aid to a development path using the humanitarian, development and peace nexus approach. It also contributes to meet the targets established under South Sudan's second NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions), and especially those addressing the agriculture and livestock sectors (i.e. "From a climate change adaptation standpoint, promotion of climate resilient agricultural and livestock management practices, water harvesting and diversification of livelihoods of pastoralists and communities dependent on agriculture").

At sector level, the Action aligns with the Government of South Sudan **Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP)**³ and **Irrigation Development Master Plan (IDMP)**⁴, which cover the period 2015-2040. CAMP-IDMP were developed with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and with additional support from the EU and other donors. These overarching national agriculture development plans cover multiple subsectors (crops, livestock, fishery, forestry and institutional development in the case of CAMP; irrigation and water management for IDMP) and are closely coordinated with the policies and strategies of several key line Ministries: Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAF), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MoLF), and Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), and Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MoWRI).

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Following decades of civil war and strife, South Sudan experienced peace and stability following the attainment of independence in July 2011. This was however short-lived, and the outbreak of conflict in 2013 and 2016 (as a result of a split in Government) resulted in large-scale internal and cross-border displacement (including estimated 114,000 of people newly displaced from Sudan), with thousands reported deaths. Following the signing of the Revitalised Peace Agreement in September 2018 by the major warring parties, and the subsequent formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) in February 2020, there have been significant improvements in the security situation in the country, especially at national level.

Despite these positive developments, the implementation of the peace agreement resolutions has been painstakingly slow, with most milestones and targets missed. For instance (according to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in South Sudan, and under the peace agreement) a Hybrid Court; a Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing (CTRH); and a reparations process should have been established more than two years ago. Critical aspects of the peace agreement, including the unification of security forces, have been plagued by persistent disputes between the parties on allocation of ratios of representation and resources. There has also been failures to meet deadlines set for critical reforms and the establishment of the transitional justice bodies.

² Government of South Sudan. 2021. Revised National Development Strategy 2021-2024.

³ Government of South Sudan. 2015 Comprehensive Agricultural Master Plan.

⁴ Government of South Sudan. 2015. Irrigation Development Master Plan.

As the Transitional Government of National Unity could not meet the targets set for implementation of the revitalised Peace Agreement, it had to extend its mandate by another two years with the hope that those targets that have not been met like hybrid court, unification of armed forces into one national army, Commission for Truth and Reconciliation and healing would be concluded paving way for a general election in February 2025. This has been received with mixed reactions from the South Sudanese citizens and international communities and it leaves to test the parties to the agreement whether or they can keep to their promise of conducting a free, fair, credible and transparent election.

The breakdown in the rule of law and the widespread lack of accountability have worsened intercommunal conflict and violence at subnational levels, manifested through fighting between Government and opposition forces, militias, cattle raiding, and revenge killings. The UN Human Rights Council (September 2022) reported that subnational and localized violence remains pervasive, with clashes currently taking place in nine out of ten states.

Decades of conflict in the country have led to the widespread proliferation of small arms throughout the population that are often used to settle disputes and continue to threaten the safety of communities and limit wider socio-economic development. Though difficult to establish the exact number of small and light arms in the civilian population, the presence of illicit arms in the country has contributed to a deteriorating security situation (especially in the rural and subnational levels) over the years. Widespread incidents of violence have resulted in the killing and maiming of civilians, including women and children. As a result, inter-communal violence (directly linked to use of small arms) accounted for more than 60 percent of the civilian deaths as of July 2022. Land grabbing and restrictions on access to land have also put the livelihoods of the smallholder and subsistence farmers at risk.

Consequently and according to latest UNHCR reports (2022), there are 2 million internally displaced persons due to conflict, insecurity, and the impacts of climate change in South Sudan. In addition, over 500,000 South Sudanese refugees have returned to the country since the signing of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in 2018. The country still experience high poverty levels and humanitarian conditions persist. According to the UNDP 2021 Human Development Index (HDI), the country is ranked at 189 out of 189 nations.

As a result of a long history of conflict induced insecurity, and of prioritisation of the oil and security sectors at the expense of agriculture, forced displacements, poor infrastructure, climate change, and (more recently) the COVID-19 pandemic and the knock-on effects from Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine, South Sudan currently experiences acute food and nutrition insecurity. Populations in South Sudan are facing the worst food insecurity and malnutrition crisis since the country's independence in 2011. Food insecurity has worsened, mainly triggered by intensified violence and three consecutive years of unprecedented floods. Overall, the humanitarian situation is disastrous, with over 9.4 million people (76% of South Sudan's population), including almost 5 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance. According to the latest Food Security Outlook, South Sudan will continue to face one of the largest food security emergencies worldwide, with a credible scenario in which famine could occur, given the high proportion of the population likely to face large to extreme food consumption gaps and their vulnerability to new shocks. Famine though is only the tip of the iceberg. All in all, 7.8 million people, or 2/3 of the population are facing acute food insecurity (IPC3-5) with 43000 people in IPC 5. Malnutrition has also increased and will affect 1,4 million children under five in 2023. Coupled with the hyper-inflationary environment that has been triggered by the apparent mismanagement of public finances and low Government revenue base (the exact revenue from revenue oil production is unknown but believed to be significant and captured by the elites), the country has experienced unprecedented high food prices that have significantly affected large parts of the rural and urban populations that rely on markets for their dietary needs.

Although cereal production in the country in 2020 rose by 7% over 2019 levels due to favourable rains and donor investments (including the EU), this remained far below pre-conflict average production levels in 2013. According to the FAO Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) report (June 2022), the 2021 net cereal production in the smallholder sector was estimated at about 839,500 tonnes, 4 percent below the 2020 output and well below the pre-conflict levels. The year-on-year decrease in cereal production is mainly driven by reduced yields due to prolonged dry spells and widespread floods, which had offset a slight increase in harvested area. Going forward and in 2022, high cereal deficits are expected due to the impact of prolonged subnational conflict and floods, leaving millions of South Sudanese extremely food insecure.

In addition to food insecurity, South Sudan is increasingly becoming vulnerable to climatic shocks and stresses. According to the Climate Change Vulnerability Index (2017) the country is ranked amongst the five most vulnerable countries in the world. As a result of climate change, South Sudan has experienced in recent years increased incidence of floods and drought (sometimes both occurring during the same season), increased incidences of crop failure (low productivity and production), and livestock diseases and deaths. In turn, these events have led to pastoralists migration in search of water and pastures, itself leading to heightened conflict over natural resources (land, pasture, and water) among pastoralists and between farmers and pastoralists.

Approximately 80% of South Sudanese are rural subsistence farmers and/or pastoralists. The reliance on subsistence farming and pastoralism, combined with the political crisis and lack of institutional capacity, renders most communities highly vulnerable to climate variability and change. Climate change impact has become common perception with the increasing floods of recent years, each time of “unprecedented” devastation. Since late August 2022, heavy rains and flooding impact people across the country and in the southern part of the Abyei Administrative Area, with over 1 million people reportedly affected. Most affected states are Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Unity and Western Equatoria but also Jonglei and Upper Nile currently affected by conflicts and a difficult access. The floods will further drive food insecurity as 16.5kha cropland is potentially affected.

According to UNDP report (2018) up to 95% percent of people in South Sudan, or more than 11 million people, depend on climate-sensitive sectors (including agriculture, forestry resources, non-timber forest products, wild foods, and fisheries) for their livelihoods. The severity and frequency of climate change phenomena affect the low performing subsistence farming and pastoral systems and the food production capacity. Anecdotally, seasonal streams are beginning to dry up, affecting fishing and pastoralist communities in several parts of the country. Drier weather spells are also likely to be an underlying driver of increased deforestation and resource-based conflicts between the pastoralists and the farming communities over access to grazing land. The result is that already vulnerable populations (and especially women and children) will be more vulnerable to climate and weather events. Future projections indicate that the adverse effects of global warming will be felt 2 ½ times more in South Sudan than the global average (UNDP 2018).

Findings from the recently concluded EU funded Country Environment Profile Study (2022) show that, in addition to climate change extremes, deforestation due to unregulated charcoal production, pollution from extractive industries (oil and minerals), and overexploitation of natural resources are some of the main causes of land degradation of natural environment and loss of biodiversity in South Sudan. Other environmental challenges include widespread wildlife poaching, wildfires, encroachment of human settlements protected areas, overfishing, soil erosion and sedimentation of water bodies, overgrazing, and encroachment of pastoralist livestock into wildlife habitats. Bush meat consumption and livestock encroachment pose a high risk of transmission of zoonotic diseases.

According to FAO Country Programming Framework for South Sudan (2016-17), about 73% of the South Sudanese population (both rural and urban), rely on biomass for their energy needs, with both firewood and charcoal as the main energy sources for both cooking and lighting. Consequently, deforestation is on the rise, estimated to be between 1.5 and 2% annually. Deforestation and degradation of South Sudan forest ecosystems has further exacerbated the country’s vulnerability to climatic shocks and stresses. Deforestation, overgrazing, uncontrolled and widespread wild fires, plastic pollution, and degradation of freshwater ecosystem structure (lose of keystone species regulating wetlands) are thought to be a driver of the recent floods, due to the increased siltation of rivers and other water bodies and the extirpation of the ecosystem architects that maintain wetland structure. Erosion of topsoil (due to deforestation, overgrazing, and fires) is also of great concern, leading to loss of fertility for agriculture.

As a result of these challenges, key landscapes of importance to South Sudan conservation efforts (as well as the natural productive base for rural livelihoods both pastoral and agricultural) face unprecedented and continued pressures. These include the Lantoto National Park (on South Sudan’s border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Kidepo Game Reserve (a protected area located in Ikotos & Budi County, Eastern Equatoria State), Boma National Park (near the Ethiopian Gambella border), and Bandingilo National Park (in Equatoria region). There is anecdotal evidence that populations of key wildlife species have severely declined due to unsustainable hunting methods and poaching (including the full extirpation of multiple species from the country), whilst the natural habitats face increasing threats and pressure from livestock and encroachment from human activities.

Despite South Sudan being a signatory to key international treaties on conservation and biodiversity protection, the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism lacks institutional capacity (as is the same for all public institutions in the country) due to lack of budgetary support. Consequently there is weak enforcement of conservation related by-laws and statutes. Further, key bills and policies that provide a regulatory framework to the sector are dated and need further development and updating.

Further, South Sudan is yet to ratify and ascend to the 3 key multi-lateral environmental agreements that are crucial for conservation of biodiversity in the country. These are:

- (i) The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an international agreement between governments whose aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species;
- (ii) The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is an environmental treaty of the United Nations that provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory animals and their habitats; and
- (iii) The Africa-Eurasia Water-bird Agreement (AEWA), a CMS sub-treaty aiming to establish coordinated conservation and management of migratory water birds throughout their entire migratory range.

The adoption of these multi-lateral agreements would not only provide South Sudan with the legal frameworks for conservation of key flora and fauna species, but also make it possible for the country to access much needed financing and resources for biodiversity conservation.

Opportunities

Despite the many challenges facing the country's agricultural sector and natural environment, opportunities abound. For instance, the extension in August 2022, of the Revitalised Peace Agreement for an additional two years and the announcement of a Roadmap towards the end of transition presents a further opportunity to progress towards a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and resilient South Sudan-which is also the main objective of the EU.

Over the years there has been increasing calls and recognition by the stakeholders and policy makers on the need to diversify the South Sudan economy away from oil dependence (which currently accounts for 90% of the Government of South Sudan revenues), and fully work towards putting the agricultural sector as an engine for economic growth. Consequently, high level discussions have since been initiated on the need to prioritise the agriculture sector as an engine for economic growth and in particular, implement the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth, including the need to increase the budget allocation to the agriculture sector key ministries to at least 10% of annual budget.

The potential from the agricultural sector remains huge: according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, about 90% of South Sudan's land is arable, with about 50% considered prime agricultural land. However, only 4% of this land is currently being cultivated, mostly by rural based smallholder subsistence farmers using scarce inputs and mechanization, if any. Further, the widely different climatic zones, fertile soil, and plentiful rainfall create ideal conditions for meeting the country's dietary needs through local production, plus generating surplus for local and export markets to generate revenue for the farmers and the country. However, the country still relies on imports to meet its dietary requirements.

Further, over 70% of the population is comprised of young people (below the age of 30) and this is a untapped opportunity considering that agriculture is labour intensive and harnessing youth energies towards the sector could spur growth. In addition, about 61% of women are active in the informal agriculture sector, including livestock and provide 80% of the labour force in the sector. The active participation of women in the sector is an opportunity that can be exploited as partners and stakeholders work to professionalise and modernise the agriculture value chains, leading to increased employment opportunities and incomes for women and their communities.

According to the World bank Report (2019), South Sudan with approximately 30 million hectares of arable land across six agro-ecological zones, has about 5 times the area of agricultural land per capita than Kenya, Uganda, or Ethiopia and could feed itself and several other countries. South Sudan produces a large variety of agricultural commodities for local consumption. Sorghum, maize, rice, sunflower, cotton, sesame, cassava, beans, and peanuts

are the major crops. Coffee, tea, sugar, and tobacco are also produced but on a small scale. Fruits and vegetables — such as bananas, mangoes, lemons, pineapples, onions, okra, tomatoes, eggplants, potatoes, and cabbage — also have great production potential.

In addition to the high potential agricultural land, South Sudan is endowed with vast numbers of livestock, an important source of livelihood for the majority of people in the country (it is estimated that 80% of households rely on livestock for their livelihoods). According to official statistics, the country has an estimated 11.7 million cattle, 12.4 million goats and 12.1 million sheep in a country of around 13 million people. Unfortunately and due to cultural values and practices, livestock (particularly cattle) have very limited commercial value and are mainly used for prestige (cultural values) and the payment of dowries. Whilst South Sudan's livestock population is estimated to have an asset value of over 2.2 billion dollars, these animals are not managed sustainably and commercially and this has further fuelled conflict over water and pasture as well as environmental degradation. Poultry (especially the local breeds) is the smallest subsector of the livestock sector in South Sudan, but it is growing in terms of consumer demand and is an important value chain especially for women and IDPs. Commercialising the livestock sector (including the production of hides and skins) would not only help address food insecurity but will help boost incomes and jobs for agro-pastoralists and their communities whilst reducing inter-communal conflict.

Fish also constitute a significant component of the livestock sector in South Sudan and unlocking potential in this value chain hinges on strong private sector participation and establishment of a cold chain. South Sudan is endowed with rich fishery resources from the Nile River and its tributaries, the Sudd swamp, lakes, and streams. The Nile River that flows through the centre of the capital city Juba and the Sudd swamp between Bor and Malakal are the two major sources of fish supply to the local markets in rural areas and urban cities. If commercially and sustainably exploited, these water bodies are potential economic pillars that can address the ever rising demand for fish as food, provide employment for youth and other marginalized groups like women and contribute to local and national economic growth.

Despite South Sudan being endowed with vast areas of forest, and with the proportion of forest-covered land area in the country varying from 11.1 to 33%. The forestry sector, if sustainably managed and exploited, offers opportunities to contribute significantly to incomes and livelihoods of the rural communities in South Sudan. Whilst current country statistics and reliable data on the forestry sector is missing, FAOSTAT data shows that since 2017, South Sudan has a surplus in forest product trade, varying between EUR 6.0 and 9.7 million, up from a nearly neutral trade balance before 2017, thanks to exports of industrial round wood (RW) and sawn wood. In addition to timber, a wide range of non-timber forest products exist (including honey and the native trees producing the high-value shea butter and gum-Arabic), with potential to provide export earnings for the country whilst providing employment and income earning opportunities for large parts of the population, both rural and urban.

Efforts need to be exerted to safe guard these forests from continuous illegal lumbering for commercial use by private individuals and also people who engage in charcoal businesses that contribute to massive destruction of forest as the country does not have alternative sources to charcoal as key house hold energy input for both rural and urban centres leading to degradation of environment and destruction of ecosystem. Therefore, deforestation negatively impacts on wildlife and biodiversity that can lead to the loss of an opportunity for sustainable development. This calls for collective efforts from the government and other stakeholders to mitigate environmental damage associated charcoal value chain in the country by formulating and enacting laws protecting the forest.

2.2 Problem Analysis

The **food insecurity** situation in South Sudan is linked to a number of factors. At the macro and national levels, there is very limited investment into the sector by the Government of South Sudan and priority is often given to the oil and security sectors. Although key line ministries exists, including Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, these institutions are hugely under funded with no budgetary support to carry out meaningful investments in the agriculture sector. Staff are not motivated and often do not receive salaries on time. Key policies and bills that shape the agriculture sector are often not implemented and in most cases need

updating. The state level agricultural institutions also face serious budgetary constraints and officials have no mobility means to interface and interact with smallholder farmers, including provision of extension services.

Like many countries in the region, South Sudan continues to face increased vulnerability due to climate change. Flooding and dry season dry spells now pose a real threat to the country's food and nutrition security situation. Both crops and livestock continue to be lost due to extreme flood events, whilst thousands of people (including smallholder farmers) are often displaced: there are 2 million IDPs, whereas the floods in 2021 and 2022 affected more than 1 million persons. The rain seasons are no longer predictable and often, the rains start late and the seasons are punctuated with prolonged dry spells, which affects productivity. Poor infrastructure, including access roads and market facilities also hinder connectivity which is vital for market access.

Conflict and insecurity at the sub-national levels remain a key driver of food insecurity in the country. In some locations farmers cannot access their farms due to insecurity, whilst whole communities often face displacement due to attack by armed militias or cattle raiders. The hyper-inflationary environment of South Sudan (often linked to low forex reserves), developments at the global level (including the COVID-19 epidemic and Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine) have also contributed to the food insecurity and humanitarian crises. The over-reliance on food imports due to limited local production has compounded the situation, making food expensive locally and inaccessible to the majority of the vulnerable populations.

Low production and productivity in the country's food system is driven by several factors. For instance access to quality seeds and livestock breeds remains a challenge for the rural agro-pastoralists and smallholder farmers. South Sudan does not have a seed certification system and relies on seed imports, a majority of which are not genuine seeds. There is overstocking in the livestock sector and often the breeds are of poor quality due to inbreeding, lack of adequate water and pasture during dry season continues to be a major challenge. The natural production base (including soil, forests, and biodiversity) continue to face increasing threats due to land degradation, deforestation, soil erosion, and the degradation destruction of natural ecosystems. There is no access to chemical fertilizers to boost soil fertility and the same is also true for pest and diseases control chemicals.

With no Government funding, smallholder farmers do not receive any **extension support**. Extension services are only available through donor and NGO efforts, and this is however limited due to the scale of the needs and more importantly, not sustainable. Access to farming tools is also a challenge and farmers often use traditional and basic equipment which make it laborious (and often outright impossible) to expand area under cultivation. Consequently, yields in South Sudan remain much lower than regional averages. For instance, average sorghum yield in the country stands at 0.5t/ha whilst in Kenya the figure is 2.25t/ha. Further postharvest losses remain high and often account for 40% of harvested crops in South Sudan.

Vegetables are an important part of South Sudanese diet and, more importantly, a potential source of income and livelihoods. Their short maturity, quick ground cover, relative high productivity, and adaptation to more marginal soil conditions allow farmers significant flexibility in how they incorporate the crop into their farming system. The horticulture sector is largely dominated by women smallholder farmers and offer opportunities as a source of nutrition and quick returns on investment with a good profit margin. The biggest challenge to the value chain is the lack of transportation that can get the highly perishable product to local markets in a timely manner, and this is made worse by lack of connectivity and accessible roads (only 2% of roads are paved and 60% become impassable during rainy season).

Despite the **changing climate**, smallholder farmers in South Sudan have been slow in adopting climate sensitive farming systems. There is also a huge preference for sorghum - the staple crop, as opposed to flood tolerant crops like rice.

In addition to challenges within the country's food system, rural communities in the country have **limited livelihood opportunities**. Overall unemployment is high and youth are particularly affected. For instance, and officially, youth unemployment rate is estimated at 50% at national level but this could be even much higher, especially for the rural youth. Youth unemployment is exacerbated by low levels of education, limited skills, and a weak economy. Limited skills and exceptionally high levels of illiteracy have hindered the development of entrepreneurship mind-sets, especially in rural communities. Financial exclusion has also worsened the situation, as most of the rural vulnerable people are unbanked and have no access to finance or capital to start and grow their

businesses. This is particularly the case of women who, despite being responsible for household management, suffer of many barriers to access education or participate in decision making at both the household and community levels.

The challenging context, lack of infrastructure, informal taxes, and insecurity have all contributed hugely to **weak private sector participation** in the rural economy. Consequently, key value chains that could spur economic growth both at sub-national and national levels (such as fruits and vegetables, fish, honey, shea butter, gum Arabic, hides and skins, fish, milk, and local chicken), have all but remained hugely under exploited and undeveloped. Ranked at 185 on the most recent World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index, South Sudan has some of the most unfriendly business regulations, a situation that makes it difficult to promote private sector participation and crowding-in. Private sector participation is further undermined by widespread **corruption**: the 2022 report of Transparency International ranked South Sudan as the most corrupt country across the globe.

Private sector development and market-based approaches have also been undermined by the **high donor-dependence syndrome** that manifests in rural South Sudan. With a long history of relying on humanitarian support, the rural communities have also somehow lost the will to work their own way out of poverty and be self-reliant. Further humanitarian aid has undermined opportunities for private sector innovation and participation. Free hand-outs, though not only unsustainable, have undermined markets functionality.

Returnees (former refugees and IDPs) face unique challenges as they try to re-integrate in their communities. Given the country's history of conflict, a number of South Sudanese have lost their assets and lands to new settlers and often these are points of conflict when returnees try to re-integrate. Without proper arbitration systems, there often is violence and lack of social cohesion amongst returnees and between these and their host communities.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS): The Ministry has an overall mandate to boost food and nutrition security in the country, ensuring strategies and policies are in place to inform investments in the sector as well as creating a sound regulatory environment. The Action will therefore closely work with National- and State-level Ministry officials, to ensure close coordination and synergies with on-going and future investments by the Government of South Sudan and other development partners. Day-to-day engagement between state and county Agriculture Officials will be on-going as part of implementation processes

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MoLF): The Ministry has the overall mandate for the development of the livestock and fisheries sectors in South Sudan. Considering that livestock is a main livelihood opportunity for a majority of the population of the country (who are themselves either pastoralists or agro-pastoralists), the Ministry will be crucial in providing guidance and direction in all matters related to the sector. Unlocking potential in the fish value chain will also require active participation of the key line ministry, including putting in place the right regulatory frameworks for investors and value chain actors, as well as ensuring sustainable harvesting of fish and overall protection of fish habitats.

Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF): With a mandate of ensuring protection and conservation of the environment as well as sustainable utilization of the environmental resource base to meet the needs of both the present and future generations, the Ministry will provide guidance on all environmental protection related aspects of the Action. All interventions will therefore be aligned with the ministry protocols with regard environmental safeguarding and climate change adaptation.

Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI): The Ministry of Trade & Industry is the lead policy advisor to the Government of South Sudan on trade, industrial, and private sector development, with responsibility for the formulation and implementation of policies for the promotion, growth and development of domestic and international trade and industry. The Ministry is also the advocate for the private sector within government and is the principal agency responsible for monitoring and implementing the Government's private sector development programmes and activities. The Ministry will be therefore crucial in the implementation of the Action, especially with regards the component on private sector participation and development of the key value chains.

Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism (MoWT): The Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism facilitates and promotes the protection of biodiversity, natural ecosystems, and wildlife, and ensures sustainable tourism that benefits social and economic welfare of South Sudan. The Action will work closely with the Ministry, who will create an enabling environment to ensure buy-in from communities and other actors, and alignment with ministry protocols in regards conservation of wildlife and biodiversity.

Donor Community, UN, development partners, and civil society actors: The Action will work with key donors, UN agencies, International Non-Governmental Organisations, and civil society. These actors will play a crucial role in coordination of implementation processes, sharing best practices and promoting a culture of learning. Further these actors will also support the Action in lobbying and advocacy efforts meant to create an enabling environment for smooth and effective implementation of the Action.

Private Sector actors: A number of private sector actors will be working closely with the Action, either as investors, financiers, business development service providers, transporters, aggregators, buyers, or facilitators. Their participation is key and crucial for the success and sustainability of the Action.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is: **to promote green, sustainable, and climate-resilient economic development; and to contribute to increased food and nutrition security, resilience to shocks, and job creation in South Sudan.**

The **Specific(s) Objective(s)/Outcomes** of this action are:

- **Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): *To strengthen agricultural (including pastoral) livelihoods through increased productive capacity and productivity, improved food and nutrition security, adaptation to climate change, and enhanced preparedness against and resilience to shocks and crises.***
- **Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): *To support of the development of a more competitive, sustainable, and modern agriculture through the development of resilient, context-specific agricultural value chains, the improvement of access to services, and the empowerment of women and youth.***
- **Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3): *To enhance the protection and sustainable management of the natural resource base of the economy and agricultural livelihoods.***

The outputs contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1):

- 1.1. Enhanced smallholders' productivity and capacity for climate change adaptation and shock preparedness on food production.
- 1.2. Enhanced and sustainable access to climate-adapted productive inputs (including tools, vaccines, and seeds) for smallholders.
- 1.3. Strengthened capacity of structures for the improvement of early warning country-wide information systems.

The outputs contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2):

- 2.1. Enhanced capacity of value chains by making them market and growth oriented.
- 2.2. Promoted access to sustainable finance and credit for women and youth.
- 2.3. Increased opportunities for women's participation and leadership in decision-making.

The outputs contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3):

- 3.1. Increase capacity of government and stakeholders in conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources.
- 3.2. Relevant policies, legal, and institutional frameworks on sustainable land and natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience are updated/developed in South Sudan.

Remark: in the context of South Sudan and this Action, the term “smallholders” includes smallholder farmers, but also fisher folk and livestock keepers/pastoralists.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1. Enhanced smallholders’ productivity and capacity for climate change adaptation and shock preparedness on food production.

- 1.1.1 Support delivery of private and public sector extension delivery services.
- 1.1.2. Support skills development of youth in cattle camps, including general literacy.
- 1.1.3. Support wider adoption of improved climate-smart agriculture and agro-ecological practices, including crop diversification.
- 1.1.4. Support sustainable land management practices based on territorial approaches, including agro-ecology/agroforestry, reforestation, and sustainable management of grassland and forests.
- 1.1.5. Promote sound in-farm soil and water management and conservation practices.
- 1.1.6. Facilitate increased awareness and capacity on sustainable management and protection of forest and water resources, wildlife, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.
- 1.1.7. Improve household dietary intake through nutrition-sensitive HH-based livelihood interventions

Activities relating to Output 1.2. Enhanced and sustainable access to climate-adapted productive inputs (including tools, vaccines, and seeds) for smallholders.

- 1.2.1: Promote partnerships with the private sector (including agro-dealers) and smallholder farmers to ensure access to quality and more climate change-adapted seeds, tools, and animal health vaccines (using cost-sharing and cost recovery initiatives).
- 1.2.2: Facilitate linkages between smallholder producer groups and associations with financial institutions, to access credit for sustainable production-related needs.
- 1.2.3. Facilitate linkages between smallholder farmers and input suppliers to ensure producers have sustainable access to tools, seeds, and vaccines.
- 1.2.4. Support establishment of private sector-driven extension services to boost sustainable agro-ecological production and productivity (crops, horticulture, and livestock value chains).
- 1.2.5. Capacity building and support provided to reduce post-harvest losses by smallholder (farmers, fishers, livestock keepers) groups.
- 1.2.6. Support seed certification processes, including the establishment of ‘basic’ seed laboratories to encourage local production of certified seeds

Activities relating to Output 1.3. Strengthened capacity of structures for the improvement of early warning country-wide information systems.

- 1.2.1. Countrywide Food Security Information Systems (including IPC) to inform humanitarian and donor response are supported.
- 1.2.2. Early warning systems and disaster risk reduction plans (both flood and drought) are developed and implemented at state and county levels (including key recommendations from the EU CEP study and partnerships with the EU satellite systems).
- 1.2.3. Conflict sensitive anticipatory and responsive early warning systems developed and supported at county and community levels.
- 1.2.4. DRR committees trained and equipped with tools and means to disseminate and information on climate change preparedness, response and mitigation, floods, drought, and conflict.

Activities relating to Output 2.1. Enhanced capacity of value chains by making them market and growth oriented.

- 2.1.1. Support gender-, nutrition-, and climate-sensitive value chain analysis to assess and identify key bottlenecks facing value chains of economic and environmental potential, including those adapted to climate change (i.e. sorghum, groundnuts fish, honey, gum Arabic, hides and skins, and milk) and nutrition-sensitive value chains (nutrient-rich vegetables, fruits, livestock...).
- 2.1.2. Support value addition as an opportunity to unlock potential in the targeted value chains.
- 2.1.3. Strengthening of producer groups in group dynamics, governance, and organizational management.

- 2.1.4. Training of smallholder farmers and target groups (especially women and youth) in farming-as-a-business based on agro-ecology and responsible production principles.
- 2.1.5. Capacity building of smallholder producers and MSMEs in business management skills and entrepreneurship.
- 2.1.6. Develop relevant climate-proof infrastructure to enhance access to markets (including aggregation, processing, storage, and collection centres).
- 2.1.7. Support inclusive business models that benefit smallholders (including contract farming and out grower schemes).
- 2.1.8. Support women and youth to access vocational training, wage, and/or self-employment (including green jobs).
- 2.1.9. Support business incubation programmes targeted at women and youth entrepreneurs.
- 2.1.10. Support establishment of a business incubator-accelerator programme, providing emerging enterprises and businesses with access to mentorship, investors, and business development support services to help them succeed in the adoption of responsible production on circular economy principles.

Activities relating to Output 2.2. Promoted access to sustainable finance and credit for women and youth.

- 2.2.1. Creating a business incubator/accelerator programmes to support sustainable agro-food value chains, and incentivise private sector participation in targeted value chains.
- 2.2.2. Strengthening existing Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) into formal and active cooperative producer entities and linking them to mainstream financial institutions.
- 2.2.3. Providing financial literacy training to producer groups, VSLAs, and their members.
- 2.2.4. Technical assistance to the GoSS to develop a Rural Finance Policy.

Activities relating to Output 2.3. Increased opportunities for women's participation and leadership in decision-making.

- 2.3.1. Train women groups and collectives in group dynamics, organisational management, and leadership skills.
- 2.3.2. Support women groups and associations to formally register as cooperatives.
- 2.3.3. Support women participation in advocacy, networking, and stakeholder engagements.

Activities relating to Output 3.1. Increase capacity of government and stakeholders in conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources.

- 3.1.1. Raise awareness on dangers of deforestation and charcoal production, siltation of rivers, encroachment into wildlife habitats, zoonotic diseases, human-wildlife conflict, poaching and unsustainable use of natural resources, overfishing, and soil erosion, incorporating.
- 3.1.2. Support for sustainable agro-pastoral practices in the peripheral areas of the key conservation landscapes (agroforestry, agro-ecology, climate-smart agriculture, rangeland/grazing management).
- 3.1.3. Support to forest management, including community forestry and plantations.
- 3.1.4. Support local community mobilisation, participation, and awareness in climate-adapted natural resource management to enable them to realise tangible economic benefits from ecosystem services and the wildlife economy.
- 3.1.5. Facilitate development of nature-based value chains (i.e. fish, honey, shea butter, hides and skins, and gum Arabic) as an alternative to wildlife poaching, charcoal, and trade in endangered species, and especially for communities living near conservation landscapes and rivers).
- 3.1.6. Provide vocational skills, environmental awareness, and conservation as part of curricula for pastoralist youth and cattle-keepers.
- 3.1.7. Strengthening of institutional and technical capacities of national and local actors on the sustainable and integrated management of agro-sylvo-pastoral ecosystems

Activities relating to Output 3.2: Relevant policies, legal, and institutional frameworks are updated/developed to enhance sustainable land and natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience in South Sudan.

- 3.1.1. Technical assistance to the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism to update relevant policies that promote wildlife conservation and biodiversity in key landscapes.
- 3.2.2. Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism to ensure the country is a signatory to key multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEA), such as CITES, CMS & AEWA.

3.2.3. Support the GoSS to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Policy, including elements on its costing and financing and in coordination with the National DRR and National Land policies.

3.2.4. Support role out and implementation of the climate change policy at state levels.

This Action is expected to contribute to the Team Europe Initiative “Human development, jobs, and economic growth for a resilient and stable society in South Sudan”, currently under discussion with EU Member States with cooperation activity in South Sudan (namely Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden). This TEI is expected to focus on job creation and access to finance and markets.

The commitment of the EU’s contribution to this Team Europe Initiative will be complemented by other contributions from Member States and financial institutions. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member’s meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The Action addresses biodiversity protection and the conservation of priority biodiversity landscapes, avoiding land use change and ensuring carbon sequestration in forest and grassland ecosystems. It also proposes to improve knowledge and capacities to address the drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss. Further, supporting communities in their sustainable use of goods and services derived from their surrounding ecosystems helps sustaining their livelihoods and safeguards the related natural capital, including productive soil, freshwater, forest products, wildlife, etc. It will directly address and integrate land degradation concerns and solutions within local strategies and plans including sustainable financing (e.g. through payment for ecosystems services mechanisms). In all these regards, it is also fully aligned with the Great Green Wall of Africa Flagship Initiative, with the whole Action contributing to its objectives.

The action will not provide sector budget at strategic level. In addition, there will be no multiple infrastructure projects or multiple projects that require land use change or intensive use of natural resources and therefore the project activities may not have significant cumulative impacts on the environment. The action will support the development/revision of the environmental sector’s policy, regulatory and/or institutional framework.

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category B (not requiring an EIA, but for which environment aspects will be addressed during design).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is at risk (CRA will be undertaken).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and adolescent girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that this Action will therefore ensure full participation of women and girls in all decision-making processes relating to implementation. Implementing partners will also ensure individual projects are designed and implemented with a gender lens, including actively promoting the recruitment of women and adolescent girls as direct beneficiaries. Women will also have a say in implementation processes, including according them the opportunity to take up leadership positions where relevant.

Gender issues in the agriculture- and forestry-based value chains will be assessed through analytical studies and findings used to inform strategic interventions, with the objective of ensuring equity and fair representation of

women and girls at all levels. Consequently, women and girls will be fully integrated as actors and beneficiaries, whilst systems will be reflected, as much as possible, in the procedures and practices of implementing partners, stakeholders, and other value chain actors. Tracking of project outcomes and outputs will also be done through a gender lens, with gender sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data where possible.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. While disability is not a key focus of the Action, implementing partners will ensure inclusivity during projects design and implementation. This will entail that people living with disabilities have access to project locations and facilities, and to the extent possible, households with members affected by disability are included as beneficiaries in relevant project components.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Given the insecurity issues in South Sudan, particularly at sub-national levels, the Action will promote conflict-sensitive programming, peacebuilding, and resilience at each stage of the implementation cycle. Implementing partners will be expected to respect the customs and traditions of local communities, and the Do-No-Harm principles will be applied. Local rules and regulations with regard recruitment of local youth and personnel in the projects will be adhered to, whilst social cohesion and co-existence amongst different communities and groups will be promoted. Traditional leaderships and community members will be involved in beneficiaries selection to avoid conflict whilst ensuring fairness. All project staff and stakeholders involved with the Action will be expected to be apolitical and observe neutrality on political matters. Activities focusing on peacebuilding such support to peace committees and traditional court systems will also be prioritised and supported.

The Action will also promote the commercialisation of livestock sector and targeted value chains where possible, raising awareness on the opportunities presented by the pastoralist livestock sector, and helping change mindsets that fuel conflict due to cattle raiding and conflict over water and pasture during the dry season.

Considering that there is a proliferation of small arms in the civilian population of South Sudan (which continue to fuel violence, human right violations, and killings), the Action will, where possible, support local authorities in lobbying for peaceful disarmament whilst at the national level, the Action will coordinate with other donors to advocate for disarmament and removal of arms from the civilian population.

Due to the current conflict context and the risk of development aid being captured by local elites and used for demographic engineering purposes, conflict analysis will be required for activities under this Action.

Disaster Risk Reduction. Adverse climatic shocks, particularly flooding and drought, continue to face vulnerable rural communities in South Sudan. This Action will promote climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, which will include:

- (i) Ensuring focus on the most vulnerable people and settings in climate adaptation, so that they are reached, informed, and included in global, national and local decisions and plans, and their needs met;
- (ii) Enabling more anticipatory and early action to reduce the impacts of rapid and slow onset climate shocks and stressors;
- (iii) Promoting environmental sustainability at all the different levels of project cycle, and
- (iv) Integrating climate risk management across all components of the Action.

At a national level, the Action will support the Government of South Sudan to update and operationalize the country's National Disaster Risk Management Policy as well as developing a Climate Change Policy. Further close coordination and collaboration is foreseen with other donor initiatives and UN efforts in developing strategies that reduce adverse impact from the the perennial flood situation.

Social Cohesion and peaceful co-existence between host communities, returnees, and IDPs.

Conflict amongst host communities and returnees continue to be an issue of concern in rural South Sudan. In this regard, the Action will promote measures to promote co-existence and social cohesion amongst the targeted communities. This will include:

- (i) Supporting development of productive assets (such as water points, vegetable gardens, and community access roads and market infrastructure);
- (ii) Support to community committees to coordinate maintenance of the productive assets;
- (iii) Support to traditional and local court system leaderships to arbitrate on land disputes and other issues facing host communities and returnees; and
- (iv) Support to community peace champions and peace committees, to raise awareness on peaceful co-existence and peaceful arbitration of disputes.

The Action will support Community-driven-development approaches, which contribute towards strengthening household and community institutions and social cohesion, whilst enhancing economic empowerment of communities by positioning communities at the forefront of planning and management of investment interventions that address key constraints to agricultural production and rural livelihood development. Further, participatory methodologies like household methodologies will be critical to enhance social cohesion and peace-building as it addresses unequal power dynamics within groups and households, and allows groups to identify key drivers of tension and to envision a path for change in behaviour and practice that can benefit the entire community, no matter gender, age, or ethnicity.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Insecurity	Civil war and conflict at national level.	Medium	High	The EU will continue to work with the Government of South Sudan, development partners (including the UN), and other donors to ensure lasting peace in South Sudan. The extension of the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity provides an opportunity to address the remaining targets in the peace process, thereby creating a conducive environment for the holding of free and fair elections.
	Intercommunal conflict and displacements affecting implementation and access to project locations.	High	High	Implement the Action with a conflict sensitive approach. Peacebuilding and social cohesion will be mainstreamed across all stages of Action implementation, raising awareness on the importance of peaceful co-existence. Support will also be provided to community traditional peacebuilding and court systems to ensure peaceful resolution of disputes. Social cohesion and gender sensitivity will also be mainstreamed as part of implementation. The Action will particularly promote youth economic empowerment to reduce their incitement to engage in violent activities. At a national level, the EUD in South Sudan will continue to lobby for

				disarmament of the civilian population, considering that small arms proliferation is one of the key drivers of conflict in the country.
Macroeconomic Environment	High levels of inflation and further deterioration of the business environment, affecting target groups and value chain and private sector actors.	High	High	<p>The Action and support package will be implemented in a flexible and agile manner, robust and comprehensive, but also sufficiently flexible and nimble to adapt to the country's ever evolving context.</p> <p>Changes in the macro-economic environment will be monitored during Action implementation, including the disruption to supply chains from Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, and relevant mitigation measures to reduce adverse impact on Action outcomes deployed.</p>
	Unsupportive policy and regulatory environment, making it difficult for value chain actors and stakeholders to develop targeted value chains and agricultural sectors.	High	High	The Action is prioritising support to the Government of South Sudan to ensure relevant policies and regulatory frameworks that affect the key sectors of interest (agriculture, livestock, environment, biodiversity conservation, and climate change) are updated and where possible implemented. Issues affecting private sector participation, access to markets and trade at state and county levels will also be documented and high level dialogues held with local and state counterparts.
	Persistent extreme dependency on oil and reliance on imports for several goods, which makes the economy particularly vulnerable to external shocks (e.g. fluctuations in oil prices and increases in raw material and food prices due to Covid-19 and Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine)	High	High	<p>The macro-economic situation at global and regional level will be monitored during the AD implementation and activities adjusted accordingly, as the AD cannot control/influence these factors.</p> <p>At the same time, the EUD collaborates with other development partners to tackle these structural challenges in South Sudan's economy (e.g. strengthening PFM systems, diversify the economy).</p>
	Worsening of the debt situation (after an improvement in 2022 due to the global recovery from Covid-19	High	High	South Sudan's economy is extremely dependent on oil exports and imports various goods, so the global and regional economic outlook have a major impact on debt.

	crisis) leading to more difficulties (and worst conditions) in borrowing and even scarcer public resources			At the same time, PFM reforms and sustainable fiscal policies (e.g. no oil advances) play a crucial role as well. The EUD is working at political and technical level to tackle these issues.
Governance	Lack of government commitment and capacity to manage public resources transparently and efficiently, and hence provide services to the population	High	High	<p>The EUD will work with development partners and stakeholders to exert political pressure on the Government of South Sudan, to promote accountability and transparency in the management of public financial resources.</p> <p>The Action does not rely on a tangible improvement in this regard (as it would be extremely useful, but also difficult to predict) and it is able to achieve these objectives given the current circumstances.</p>
	Lack of social protection measures, making it difficult for farmers/ holders of micro and small enterprises to recover from possible disruptions to their livelihoods	High	High	The Action will incorporate livelihood analysis into intervention design, and interventions will contribute to the strengthening of livelihoods and reducing the vulnerability of populations to shocks (i.e.: climatic, security).
Climate change and climatic shocks	Widespread flooding in target states affecting production and productivity (both crops and livestock) and leading to displacement of smallholder farmers and also affecting access to project facilities. High incidences of drought, mid-season dry spells and late resumption of the rain seasons	High	High	Climate change adaptation will be at the core of all Action interventions. This will include capacity building of smallholder farmers and producer groups in climate-smart agriculture practices. Climate sensitive crops will also be promoted, including rice (which is well adapted to flood conditions) as well as drought tolerant, and early maturing seed varieties. Further the Action will lobby the state and county officials to promote climate proof land use practices, including exploring opportunities for communities in flood prone areas basins to move to higher ground.
Pests and diseases	Outbreaks of pandemic, local or regional, including Monkey Pox, Ebola, and COVID-19.	Medium	High	The EUD will continue monitor the situation with regards threats from these likely outbreaks, collaborating closely with Government of South Sudan authorities and the World Health Organisation on possible mitigation and response measures.
	High prevalence of pests and diseases affecting crops and livestock (Fall	High	High	The Action will lobby The GoSS to prioritise investments towards the key line ministries of Agriculture and Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, to

	Army Warm, Desert Locusts, Anthrax and Foot and Mouth).			ensure close monitoring of pests and disease outbreaks. The Action will support development of early warning systems to mitigate against adverse impact of outbreaks.
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Lessons Learnt:

Promoting Private Sector Participation:

- The *challenging context* in South Sudan, and in particular, rural South Sudan, has made it difficult to attract private actors. Unless donors and development partners support initiatives that reduce risk for private sector actors and incentivise them to invest in the ‘harsh’ environments, it will not be possible for them to engage in a meaningful way. Findings from the end of UNIDO project (FEED/2014/353-881) evaluation observed that the private sector approach needs to be driven by a full involvement and ownership of private sector actors. The business enabling environment needs to be fully analysed to understand risks and possible intervention to mitigate against them.

Reducing deforestation and loss of biodiversity:

- Providing *alternative livelihoods and income earning opportunities* is one sure way of promoting community ownership and buy-in of conservation efforts.

Increasing Production and Productivity in the agricultural sector of South Sudan:

- *Availability of good quality seed remains a challenge in South Sudan:* Support towards development of the South Sudan Seed Sector needs to be prioritized, including ensuring the line Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security develops a robust seed certification system.
- *Dependence syndrome remain high in South Sudan and could potentially affect market driven approaches:* Continue to promote innovative ideas that promote private sector participation in agricultural development and inputs supply (both tools and seeds), including cost-sharing, and cost recovery approaches. There is also need for Area-Based Programming Approach (by donors) to ensure humanitarian and development programmes and projects do not undermine one another but rather positively complement and reinforce each other. Improved coordination with humanitarian agencies (including DG-ECHO) is necessary, included through coordination regarding the choice of intervention areas.
- *Government-led extension systems remain heavily under-funded and donors still carry the burden for extension delivery in the country, a situation that is not sustainable:* There is need to promote private sector extension delivery systems whilst continuing to advocate to ensure the Government of South Sudan commits to the Malabo Declaration, and allocate at least 10% of National Budget to Agriculture Sector and related key line ministries.
- *Post-harvest losses* remain an issue for majority of smallholder farmers in South Sudan, accounting for up to 40% losses.

Linking smallholder farmers and producers to markets and increasing incomes

- *Feeder roads* developed through EU funding and other donors have enhanced connectivity to services and markets in rural South Sudan, but the needs for infrastructure development remain huge.
- *Local markets* remain only option for the target groups but in most instances prices are low due to subdued demand. Whilst private sector participation is key to the functioning of markets, there is need to explore incentives for private sector actors to actively participate in market driven development interventions, including opportunities for risk-sharing, and the development business incubator/accelerator programme.

Youth and Women participation in Agro-value chains development

- Whilst women provide the bulk of the labour force in the agriculture sector, they often do not have control over income resources following sale of produce.
- The focus on increasing area under production with investments in mechanisation such as use of ox-plough, and herbicides for weed control has created labour drudgery for women, who also have to undertake household chores, given the patriarchal nature of the South Sudanese society.
- Youth have not been directly targeted in the current projects and only participate in the agriculture sector as part of the wider household being targeted.

- Strategic partnerships with the private sector will be key in promoting women and youth economic empowerment and unlocking potential in promising value chains.
- Access to finance and credit, capacity building and training in entrepreneurship and business skills development are key in realising economic empowerment of marginalised target groups.
- Village Savings and Loan Associations remain the only available source of credit and finance for vulnerable groups (including women) who want to start small businesses. Interest rate however remain high and there is need to link the groups with mainstream financial services.

Donor Dependency Mind-set

- With a long history of humanitarian support in South Sudan, the *donor dependency syndrome* has now been entrenched in the target groups and communities, with a potential danger of undermining current and future market led development approaches.
- *Area-based programming and close coordination* amongst donors, coupled with smart targeting and differentiation of development ready groups from those still in need of humanitarian type of support, has been proven to be an effective way of promoting effective market led development approaches.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

- *Investments towards DRR have been minimal* so far and donor efforts have been fragmented.
- The *flood* situation in South Sudan is worsening and for the 4 consecutive years, since 2020, flood waters have stayed on from one season to another. Unless there is a clear land use policy directive, requiring communities in flood basins to permanently move to higher ground, there might not be an easier solution to the challenge.
- *Lack of proper environmental screening and environmental safeguarding* has led to poor response mechanisms and programming approaches in the past.
- *Close coordination with other donors funding Disaster Preparedness is needed* for a good early warning system whereby the national/state/county and community level have a complementary approach.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is that; through the promotion of green, sustainable, and resilient economic development in South Sudan, vulnerable target groups are able to adapt to shocks stressors (i.e. the adverse impact of climate change in South Sudan, including floods and drought), in addition to protecting the natural environment and resource base upon which their livelihoods are anchored on,

In response, the Action will contribute to increase productive capacity and productivity of smallholders while ensuring food security and resilience to shocks, and sustainably managing and protecting the natural resource base of livelihoods.

IF smallholders' capacity for food production and dealing with shocks is enhanced;
IF smallholders' access to productive inputs, including tools, vaccines, and seeds is increased; and
IF capacity of structures (government, IPs, communities, academia and media) for early warning and information exchange are strengthened;
THEN the Action will contribute to increase productive capacity and productivity of smallholders while ensuring food security and resilience to shocks.

IF stakeholders capacity in SMEs business value chain development is enhanced.
IF access to finance and credit for women and youth is promoted.
IF opportunities for women's participation in decision-making is increased.
THEN the Action will contribute to a more competitive, sustainable, and modern value chains with empowered women and youth.

IF mechanisms for conservation and protection of the natural resource base and biodiversity are improved; and
IF relevant policies are updated/developed to enhance sustainable natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience in South Sudan;
THEN the Action will contribute to enhance protection and sustainable management of the natural resources and increasing the capacity of vulnerable populations to adapt to climate change.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To promote green, sustainable, and climate-resilient economic development; and to contribute to increased food and nutrition security, resilience to shocks, and job creation in South Sudan.	1.0. National Cereal Deficit.	1. TBD in the inception phase	1. TBD in the inception phase	1. FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CSFAM) Reports.	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)	To strengthen agricultural (including pastoral) livelihoods through increased productive capacity and productivity, improved food and nutrition security, adaptation to climate change, and enhanced preparedness against and resilience to shocks and crises.	1.1. Area of land under production (ha), disaggregated by crop type. 1.2. “Yield: Metric Tonnes/ha (disaggregated by crop type)” 1.3. Number of people in IPC phases 3, 4, and 5, disaggregated by sex.	1.1. TBD in the inception phase 1.2. TBD in the inception phase 1.3. TBD in the inception phase	1.1. TBD in the inception phase 1.2. TBD in the inception phase 1.3. TBD in the inception phase	1.1 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) reports 1.2 Progress Reports for the EU-funded interventions. 1.3. IPC Reports.	- No adverse deterioration in security situation at sub-national levels. - Peace continues to hold in South Sudan.

		<p>1.4. Proportion of targeted households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score.</p> <p>1.5. Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets, and/or security of land, disaggregated by sex and location (MIP 2.1)* & (GERF 2.1)</p>	<p>1.4. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.5. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>1.4. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.5. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>1.4 Baseline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>1.5 Progress reports for the EU-funded interventions.</p>	
Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2)	To support the development of a more competitive, sustainable, and modern agriculture through the development of resilient, context-specific agricultural value chains, the improvement of access to services, and the empowerment of women and youth.	<p>2.1. Annual Income of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex and age).</p> <p>2.2 Number of new jobs created and sustained beyond the intervention period.</p> <p>2.3. Number of small businesses created and sustained beyond the intervention period (disaggregated by sex and age of the business owner).</p> <p>2.4. Number of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises applying Sustainable Consumption and Production practices with EU support (GERF 2.6).</p> <p>2.5. Number of (a) jobs, (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU (GERF 2.13a).</p>	<p>2.1. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.2. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.3. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.4. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.5. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>2.1. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.2. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.3. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.4. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.5. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>2.1. Annual progress reports for EU-funded interventions</p> <p>2.1. Baseline and end line surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.2. Baseline and end line surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention;</p> <p>2.3 Reviews and Evaluation Reports.</p> <p>2.4 Monitoring reports.</p> <p>2.5 Baseline and end line surveys conducted and</p>	<p>- There is no significant deterioration in security in the targeted states.</p> <p>- Private sector actors show willingness to invest and partner with the Action.</p>

		Number of (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU (GERF 2.13b).			budgeted by the EU-funded intervention;	
Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3)	To enhance the protection and sustainable management of the natural resource base of the economy and agricultural livelihoods.	<p>3.1. Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support, measured in km2 (GERF 2.9).</p> <p>3.2. Areas of agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support, measured in Hectares (GERF 2.2).</p> <p>3.3. Number of policies for climate change and sustainable natural resources management adopted.</p> <p>3.4. Number of policies for climate change and sustainable natural resources management implemented.</p>	<p>3.1. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.2. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.3. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.4. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>3.1. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.2. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.3. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.4. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>3.1. Reviews and Evaluation Reports. 3.1. EU-Intervention Monitoring reports</p> <p>3.2. Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 3.2. EU-intervention monitoring reports</p> <p>3.3 Text of strategies and policy documents; 3.3 Reports from the subcontractors,</p> <p>3.4 Text of strategies and policy documents; 3.4 Reports from the subcontractors,</p>	<p>- No adverse deterioration in security situation at sub-national levels.</p> <p>- Peace continues to hold in South Sudan.</p>
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1. Enhanced smallholders' productivity and capacity for climate change adaptation and shock preparedness on food production.	1.1.1. No of smallholder farmers and producer groups members trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased skills and/or knowledge in climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices, disaggregated by sex and age (MIP 1.1b*).	1.1.1. TBD In the inception phase	1.1.1. TBD in the inception phase	1.1.1 Pre- and post-training test reports. 1.1.1 EU-intervention monitoring reports 1.1.1 Progress annual reports for EU-funded intervention	<p>- No adverse deterioration in security situation at sub-national level.</p> <p>- No adverse impact from floods and drought to affect production and productivity.</p>

		<p>1.1.2. Number of smallholders accessing private/and or public extension led services (both crops and livestock) with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and age.</p> <p>1.1.3. Number of cattle camp youth trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased skills and/or knowledge in alternative livelihoods, basic educational skills, and general literacy , (disaggregated by sex and age).</p> <p>1.1.4. Number of producers members trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased skills and/or knowledge in sound post-harvest control practices, disaggregated by sex.</p> <p>1.1.5. Number of food-insecure people receiving EU assistance, disaggregated by sex and location (MIP 1.1a)</p> <p>1.1.6. Number of women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under 5 reached by nutrition related interventions supported by the EU, disaggregated by sex and location (MIP 1.1c)* and (GERF 2.33).</p>	<p>1.1.2 TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.1.3. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.1.4. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.1.5. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.1.6 TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>1.1.2 TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.1.3. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.1.4. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.1.5. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>1.1.6 TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>1.1.2 Progress reports for EU – funded intervention</p> <p>1.1.3 Pre and post training tests reports 1.1.3 Database of beneficiaries and participants</p> <p>1.1.4 Pre and post training tests reports 1.1.4 Database of beneficiaries and participants</p> <p>1.1.5 Progress reports for EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.1.6 Progress reports for EU-funded intervention 1.1.6 Database of beneficiaries and participants</p>	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2. Enhanced and sustainable access to climate-adapted productive inputs (including tools, vaccines, and seeds) for smallholders.	1.2.1. Number of private sector actors/agro dealers engaged in input supply with target groups with support of the EU-funded intervention.	1.2.1.TBD in the inception phase	1.2.1.TBD in the inception phase	1.2.1 EU-funded intervention Monitoring reports	- No adverse deterioration in security situation at sub-national level.

		1.2.2. Number of smallholder producers linked to input markets with support of the EU-funded intervention (disaggregated by type of input).	1.2.2. TBD in the inception phase	1.2.2. TBD in the inception phase	1.2.2 Progress annual reports for EU-funded intervention 1.2.2 Reviews and final evaluation reports of EU-funded intervention	- No adverse impact from floods and drought to affect production and productivity.
Output 3 relating to Outcome 1	1.3. Strengthened capacity of structures for the improvement of early warning country wide information systems.	1.3.1. Number of IPCs formulated with support of the EU-funded intervention. 1.3.2. Number of DRR early warning systems (drought and floods) developed (at state and county levels) with support of the EU-funded intervention . 1.3.3. Number of climate change and/or disaster risks reduction strategies, (b) under implementation with EU support, disaggregated at country and state levels (GERF 2.5b).	1.3.1. TBD in the inception phase 1.3.2. TBD in the inception phase 1.3.3 TBD in the inception phase	1.3.1 TBD in the inception phase 1.3.2. TBD in the inception phase 1.3.3 TBD	1.3.1 IPC reports formulated under EU-funded intervention 1.3.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 1.3.2 Early warning systems monitoring reports 1.3.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 1.3.3 Early warning systems monitoring reports 1.3.3 Reviews and final evaluation reports for EU-funded intervention	- No adverse impact from floods and drought to affect production and productivity.
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1. Enhanced capacity of value chains by making them market and growth oriented.	2.1.1. Number of groups or associations trained and provided with tools to allow them to have functional organisational and governance structures.	2.1.1. TBD in the inception phase	2.1.1. TBD in the inception phase	2.1.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention	- No adverse deterioration in security situation at sub-national levels. - No adverse impact from floods and drought to affect production and productivity.

		<p>2.1.2 Number of businesses and entities engaged in value addition and processing with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>2.1.3. Number of producers individuals accessing markets with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>2.1.4. Number of small businesses benefitting from business accelerator and incubation programmes with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>2.1.5. Number of EU-supported rural enterprises accessing business development services.</p> <p>2.2.6 Number of persons trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased skills and/or knowledge in financial literacy/or use of financial products and services, disaggregated by sex and age.</p>	<p>2.1.2. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.1.3. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.1.4. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.1.5. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.1.6. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>2.1.2. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.1.3. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.1.4. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.1.5. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>2.1.6. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>2.1.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 2.1.2 Baseline and end line surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.4 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 2.1.4 Reviews and final evaluation reports</p> <p>2.1.5 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 2.1.5 Reviews and final evaluation reports</p> <p>2.1.6 Pre- and post-training test reports; 2.1.6 Progress reports for EU-funded intervention.</p>	
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Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	2.2. Promoted access to sustainable finance and credit for women and youth.	2.2.1. Number of smallholder farmers accessing credit and financial services with support of the EU-funded intervention.	2.2.1.TBD in the inception phase	2.2.1.TBD in the inception phase	2.2.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 2.2.1Reviews and final evaluation reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no significant deterioration in security in the targeted states. - Private sector actors continue to show willingness to invest and partner with the Action.
		2.2.2. Number of businesses and producer groups accessing credit and financial services with support of the EU-funded intervention.	2.2.2. TBD in the inception phase	2.2.2. TBD in the inception phase	2.2.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 2.2.2 Reviews and final evaluation reports	
		2.2.3. Number of VSLAs and Cooperatives linked to mainstream financial institutions with support of the EU-funded intervention.	2.2.3. TBD in the inception phase	2.2.3. TBD in the inception phase	2.2.3 Baseline and end line surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention	
		2.2.4. Number of women and youth receiving EU support for access to resources (disaggregated by location, age group, and sex).	2.2.4. TBD in the inception phase	2.2.4. TBD in the inception phase	2.2.4 Database of beneficiaries and participants	
Output 3 relating to Outcome 2	2.3. Increased opportunities for women's participation and leadership in decision-making.	2.3.1. Number of women in leadership positions in groups supported by the EU-funded intervention (including VSLAs, businesses, community groups or cooperatives).	2.3.1. TBD in the inception phase	2.3.1. TBD in the inception phase	2.3.1 Monitoring Reports. 2.3.1 Reviews and final evaluation reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No adverse deterioration in security situation at sub-national levels. - No adverse impact from floods and drought to affect production and productivity.
		2.3.2. Number of women groups and collectives formally registered as cooperatives with support of the EU-funded intervention	2.3.2. TBD in the inception phase	2.3.2. TBD in the inception phase	2.3.2 Monitoring Reports. 2.3.2 Reviews and final evaluation reports	

Output 1 relating to Outcome 3	3.1. Increase capacity of government and stakeholders in conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources.	<p>3.1.1. Number of nature-based value chains supported by EU-funded intervention as alternative livelihoods options.</p> <p>3.1.2. Number of individuals using sustainable agro-pastoral practices.</p> <p>3.1.3. Number of smallholder households and individuals provided with more efficient energy sources (such as improved cook stoves) with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>3.1.4. Number of biodiversity and conservation policies developed with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>3.1.5. Number of multi-lateral environmental agreements developed with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>3.1.6. Number of people demonstrating increased awareness in environmental, biodiversity and conservation issues, disaggregated by sex and age.</p>	<p>3.1.1.TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.2. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.3 TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.4 TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.5. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.6. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>3.1.1.TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.2. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.3 TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.4 TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.5. TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.1.6. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>3.1.1 Monitoring Reports. 3.1.1 Implementing partners' annual reports.</p> <p>3.1.2 Reviews and final evaluation reports.</p> <p>3.1.3 Progress reports for EU-funded intervention</p> <p>3.1.4 Text of strategies and policy documents; 3.1.4 Reports from the subcontractors,</p> <p>3.1.5 Text of laws and regulations; 3.1.5 Reports from the subcontractors,</p> <p>3.1.6 Progress reports for EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>- No adverse deterioration in security situation at sub-national level.</p> <p>- No adverse deterioration in security situation at sub-national levels.</p>

		3.1.7. Number of land, soil, and water conservation practices developed with support of the EU-funded intervention.	3.1.7. TBD in the inception	3.1.7. TBD in the inception	3.1.7 Progress reports for EU-funded intervention	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 3	3.2. Relevant policies, legal, and institutional frameworks are updated/developed to enhance sustainable land and natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience in South Sudan.	<p>3.2.1. Number of policies developed/updated by the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism with support of the EU-funded intervention (disaggregated by sector).</p> <p>3.2.2. Number of policies implemented by the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p>	<p>3.2.1.TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.2.2. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>3.2.1.TBD in the inception phase</p> <p>3.2.2. TBD in the inception phase</p>	<p>- Monitoring Reports.</p> <p>- Implementing partners' annual reports.</p> <p>- Reviews and final evaluation reports.</p> <p>3.2.1 Text of strategies and policy documents; 3.2.1 Reports from the subcontractors,</p>	<p>- No adverse deterioration in security situation at sub-national levels.</p> <p>- GoSS remains interested and ambitious in their commitment to work on environmental sustainability and biodiversity protection.</p>

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 84 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁵.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

4.3.1.1 Specific objective 1

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grants will contribute to:

- Specific Objective 1: To strengthen agricultural (including pastoral) livelihoods through increased productive capacity and productivity, improved food and nutrition security, adaptation to climate change, and enhanced preparedness against and resilience to shocks and crises.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to an NGO selected using the following criteria:

- A legal person
- Non-profit making
- proven experience and operational capacity in the areas described under Specific Objectives 1,
- experience in implementing similar programmes in South Sudan,
- demonstrated capacity to convene and coordinate with multilateral stakeholders.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the country is in a crisis situation referred to in Article 2(21) of the Financial Regulation at the date of the Financing Decision.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because of the possibility to use flexible procurement and grant procedures in crisis situations as defined by the Financial Regulation (Article 195 (a)), provided that they are valid at the time of the attribution.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect

⁵ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the criteria defined in section 4.3.1.1.b above

4.3.1.2 *Specific objective 3*

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grants will contribute to:

- Specific Objective 3: To enhance the protection and sustainable management of the natural resource base of the economy and agricultural livelihoods.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to an NGO selected using the following criteria:

- A legal person
- Non-profit making
- proven experience and operational capacity in the areas described under Specific Objectives 3,
- experience in implementing similar programmes in South Sudan,
- demonstrated capacity to convene and coordinate with multilateral stakeholders.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the country is in a crisis situation referred to in Article 2(21) of the Financial Regulation at the date of the Financing Decision.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because of the possibility to use flexible procurement and grant procedures in crisis situations as defined by the Financial Regulation (Article 195 (a)), provided that they are valid at the time of the attribution.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the criteria defined in section 4.3.1.2.b above

4.3.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

The contracts would contribute to Specific Objective 2: More competitive, context-specific, sustainable, and modern value chains with empowered women and youth.

4.3.3 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action (covering Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 3) may be implemented in indirect management with entities, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Experience in carrying out longer term actions:
 - o strengthening agricultural and pastoral livelihoods, increasing productive capacity and productivity, improving food and nutrition security, adaptation to climate change, preparedness and resilience to shocks and crises;
 - o developing modern agriculture, context specific agricultural value-chains, improving access to services and empowering women and youth;
 - o enhancing protection and sustainable management of the natural resources base of the economy and agricultural livelihoods
- Significant experience and technical expertise in :
 - o agriculture/livelihoods/food and nutrition security;
 - o agriculture/value chain development/access to services/empowerment of women and youth;

- natural resource management and protection/agricultural livelihoods
- Already established offices/presence in the country;
- Human resources, organisational capacity to implement the action in the areas that will be covered by this action, including, when necessary remote rural areas and expertise to carry out the tasks;
- The entity participates in the main coordination platforms relevant to this action, or will engage to be a member

The implementation by this entities will contribute to the three specific objectives described in this action, with the foreseen specific contribution agreements contributing to more than one objective, given the nature of the activities. Entities will be required to coordinate closely with each other and with other implementing partners, both at an strategic country-wide level and at an area-based level (by contributing to the PfPRR mechanism or any other existing coordination mechanism operating on an area-based approach).

4.3.4 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If negotiations with one of the entrusted entities fail or the entity is unable to implement due to circumstances outside the control of the Commission, the alternative implementation modality will be grants.

The grant(s) may contribute to the 3 specific objectives of the action

In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must:

- be a legal person
- be non-profit-making
- be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 156 of the EU Financial Regulation
- be established in South Sudan,
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary
- demonstrate technical competence in the sector, including technical expertise in agriculture, rural development, management of natural resources or the other areas described above for which the negotiations with entrusted entities have failed..

In case the direct management (4.3.1 and 4.3.2) through grants or procurement fails, due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality will be indirect management with a pillar-assessed entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the criteria described under point 4.3.3 above.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply , subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2023 budget	EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2024 budget	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3			
Objective 1 – increase productive capacity and productivity of smallholders while ensuring food security and resilience to shocks composed of	27 200 000	12 000 000	USD 2 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1		12 000 000	N.A.
Indirect management with entrusted entities	27 200 000		USD 2 000 000
Objective 2 – more competitive, sustainable and modern value chains with empowered women and youth composed of	9 000 000	23 000 000	USD 2 800 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2		5 000 000	N.A.
Indirect management with entrusted entities	9 000 000	18 000 000	USD 2 800 000
Objective 3 – to enhance protection and sustainable management of the natural resources base of the economy and agricultural livelihoods composed of	3 000 000	5 000 000	USD 1 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1		5 000 000	
Indirect management with entrusted entities	3 000 000		USD 1 000 000
Grants – total envelope under section 4.3.1		17 000 000	N.A.
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.2		5 000 000	N.A.
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision		N.A.
Contingencies	0		N.A.
Totals	39 200 000	40 000 000	USD 5 800 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular

progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

All implementing partners receiving grants under this Action will be expected to develop robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plans, with elaborations on how indicators at impact, outcome and output levels will be measured. In this regard the baseline and target values at each of the above levels will be established at inception phase and captured in individual project baseline reports.

Implementing partners will share with the EUD, implementation progress reports, in the form of Annual Reports. These will provide narratives on progress towards achievement of results, outputs and activities as well as financial performance of the project. An updated logframe will also accompany each of the annual report shared by a respective implementing partner.

The EU may also appoint an independent third party to provide on-going monitoring of all projects funded under this Action. This will include on the field monitoring visits to assess state of play of implementation progress, and provide recommendations on corrective measures as deemed necessary. These missions are also expected to ensure harmonisation of approaches across all the EU funded projects, and closer coordination and synergies with projects funded by other donors in the same sector in South Sudan. Further the EU will also commission ROM missions to specific projects as may be deemed necessary.

Data collection necessary for establishing the baseline of some of the indicators included in the logframe will be done by the implementing partners and will be an integral part of the relevant inception reports.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the Action, mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this Action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission via or an implementing partner.

In the case of a mid-term evaluation, this will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to document lessons, experiences and recommendations that can inform the implementation of the second phase of the Action.

In the case of a final evaluation this will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision). In case an evaluation is not foreseen, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

Where an evaluation is planned and is to be contracted by the Commission, the Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination⁶. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as:

Action level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Contract level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	
	(...)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	to be confirmed