



## **Enabling Activities for Implementing UNCCD COP Drought Decisions**

### **Part I: Project Information**

**GEF ID**

10671

**Project Type**

EA

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT**

CBIT

**Project Title**

Enabling Activities for Implementing UNCCD COP Drought Decisions

**Countries**

Global

**Agency(ies)**

FAO

**Other Executing Partner(s):**

UNCCD Global Mechanism

**Executing Partner Type**

Others

**GEF Focal Area**

Land Degradation

**Taxonomy**

Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Sustainable Land Management, Drought Mitigation, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Communications, Education, Type of Engagement, Participation, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Gender Equality, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Type of Reports	Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start	Expected Completion Date	Expected Report Submission to Convention
-----------------	-----------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------	--

UNCCD Reporting
-----------------

12/21/2020
------------

12/1/2020
-----------

12/21/2023
------------

11/1/2023
-----------

**Duration**

36In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

190,000.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
LD-EA	GET	2,000,000.00	12,140,000.00
		<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>12,140,000.00</b>

**B. Project description summary**

**Project Objective**

To enable the UNCCD parties to implement national drought plans according to the principles of Integrated Drought Management

**Project  
Component**

**Expected Outcomes**

**Expected Outputs**

**GEF Project Financing(\$)**

**Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)**

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
<p>Component 1. Supporting Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought (IWG) on “Effective Policy and Implementation Measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD”</p>	<p>1.1. Country parties are enabled to fulfill their participation in the IWG process and beyond</p> <p><u>Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Policy stock-taking document developed for IWG and periodical reports shared with the COP Bureau</li> <li>· Case studies on drought policies, land management and climate change synergies with drought, financing for drought risk mitigation</li> <li>· One workshop for all IWG members on drought policy and implementation measures</li> </ul>	<p>1.1.1. Stock-taking of the existing policies, implementation and institutional frameworks, and partnerships, on drought preparedness and response of the Parties</p> <p>1.1.2. IWG identified gender-responsive options for appropriate policy, advocacy and implementation measures at all levels for addressing drought effectively under the Convention</p> <p>1.1.3. Strengthened strategic drought preparedness and response partnerships to guide action on drought for the UNCCD Parties and stakeholders</p>	223,250.00	250,000.00

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2. Enhancing the Drought Toolbox	<p>2.1. Parties increasingly utilizing upgraded Drought toolbox in their drought planning and mitigation efforts</p> <p><u>Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Compendium of best practices on integrated drought management</li> <li>· Advanced, regularly maintained toolbox with built-in e-learning resources and respond-facility, as well interactive linkage with partners' drought portals</li> <li>· Tailor-made training programme on the toolbox with combined methods of in-person, blended and virtual learning</li> <li>· Integrated e-learning platform for the community of practice on</li> </ul>	<p>2.1.1. Drought Toolbox scaled out and enhanced with datasets for monitoring and early warning, improved risk assessment and including gender-responsive tools for risk mitigation</p> <p>2.1.2. Capacities of the member countries for the utilization of the enhanced Drought Toolbox developed (on gender-responsive early warning and monitoring systems, impact and vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation measures)</p> <p>2.1.3. Community of practice established and capacities strengthened on drought risk management to contribute to knowledge sharing between countries and individual users</p>	302,250.00	2,100,000.00

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
<p>Component 3. Enabling implementation of the national drought plans</p>	<p>3.1. Members of the Drought Initiative enabled to implement their national drought plans</p>	<p>3.1.1. National drought plans aligned with and integrated into the relevant national frameworks, including the UNCCD NAPs, through an integrated multi-sectoral approach, including gender dimensions according to the UNCCD guidelines and global good practices (examples provided in each region and shared with all members of the Drought Initiative)</p>	637,250.00	2,700,000.00
	<p><u>Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Case studies on aligning national drought plans in six regions (two per region) developed and shared among Drought Initiative Members</li> <li>· Publication/ Guidelines on national drought plans implementation</li> <li>· Regional workshops on National Drought Plans in six regions</li> </ul>	<p>3.1.2. Awareness raising at various venues (COP-15, CRIC meetings, and others) on the risk and impact mitigation effectiveness of the national drought plans</p>		



Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4. Drought vulnerability assessment and preparedness for mitigation measures	<p>4.1. UNCCD Parties enabled to conduct drought vulnerability assessment, monitoring, and reporting strengthened</p> <p><u>Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Two on-site Workshops on drought vulnerability and impact assessment</li> <li>· Online trainings (target to be defined upon capacity needs assessment)</li> <li>· Global case studies for proactive drought mitigation responses (three)</li> <li>· Manual on communications for developing national drought risk profile/vulnerability</li> <li>· Drought vulnerability and impact assessment Compendium</li> </ul>	<p>4.1.1. Guidance/ tools/ approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems and reporting developed</p> <p>4.1.2. A set of databases (methods, metrics, and indicators) for the drought vulnerability indicators (level 3) compiled, including the past drought incidences and its impacts</p> <p>4.1.3. Capacity building needs assessment conducted and a capacity-building program for drought-smart Sustainable Land and Water Management developed</p>	626,250.00	6,790,000.00

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
Component 5. Project monitoring and evaluation	5.1. Project monitoring and evaluation conducted  <u>Targets:</u>  · Functioning M&E system established	5.1. Project monitoring and evaluation conducted  <u>Targets:</u>  · Functioning M&E system established	100,000.00	
		<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>	<b>1,889,000.00</b>	<b>11,840,000.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>				
			111,000.00	300,000.00
		<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>111,000.00</b>	<b>300,000.00</b>
		<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>2,000,000.00</b>	<b>12,140,000.00</b>

**C. Source of Co-Financing for the Project by Name and by Type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	10,000,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00
Others	UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Others	UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	240,000.00
			<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>	<b>12,140,000.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism investment mobilized during 2021-2023 include the following: • Drought Initiative, supporting over 70 countries to develop national drought plans • Two regional drought risk management projects (Central Asia and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries) FAO investment mobilized during 2021-2023 include the following: • Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme - Resilience Analysis (RIMA) (global) • Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme - Risk Analysis (EWEA) (global) • Early Warning Tools for Increased Resilience of Livelihoods in IGAD Region (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda) • Building Forward Better Initiative - Strengthening natural resources management capacities to revitalize agriculture in fragile contexts (Libya, Mali, Niger) • Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme (Sahel, Horn of Africa, the Near East and Latin America) • Strengthening Food Security Information and Early Warning System (Yemen) • Safeguarding agriculture-livelihoods and rebuilding near-term resilience of drought-impacted vulnerability (Afghanistan) • Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme (Cuba) • Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme (Ethiopia) • Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) • Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme (South Sudan) • Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme (Venezuela)

**D. GEF Financing Resources Requested by Agency, Country and Programming of Funds**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>
FAO	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Set-Aside	2,000,000	190,000
<b>Total Gef Resources(\$)</b>					<b>2,000,000.00</b>	<b>190,000.00</b>

## Part II. Enabling Activity Justification

### A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved

Droughts are among the most expensive weather-related disasters in the world[1]<sup>1</sup>, severely impacting ecosystems, agriculture and human well-being, putting under stress even the most developed countries. Societies have historically faced droughts since the ancient times and throughout the centuries droughts have contributed to the development of innovative technologies, especially in water supply and irrigation[2]<sup>2</sup>. While “drought” as a natural phenomenon is not new, earlier this year, the World Economic Forum showcased[3]<sup>3</sup> recent scientific studies that illustrate the existence of a “human fingerprint” on global drought patterns demonstrating how human-caused climate change has intensified the patterns of extreme rainfall and drought across the globe[4]<sup>4</sup>. This need to separate the natural and human influences on global climate follows the recognition of anthropogenic droughts, which include a water stress caused or intensified by human activities, increased demand, outdated water management policies and practices, climate change caused by the anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, growing energy and food production trends, intensive irrigation, diminished water supplies, and land use change[5]<sup>5</sup>.

Drought is widely recognized as a major driver of insecurity and migration around the world. SLM offers opportunities to avoid drought before it happens and mitigate the effects after it occurs. Thus, drought and land management are intricately linked in a nexus through social/human systems and ecosystem services and further exacerbated by the effects of climate change. While improved understanding of the relationship between land management and drought mitigation is urgently needed in order to improve the targeting and monitoring of interventions and policies[6]<sup>6</sup>, UNCCD-SPI outlined the scientific evidence for understanding the strong linkages between land use and drought and how

---

management of both is connected through water use. It further introduced a new concept of Drought-Smart Land Management (D-SLM) and organized relevant approaches and practices across four major classes of land use[7]<sup>7</sup>.

At the global level, the UNCCD Global Mechanism is leading an LDN support program focused on the development the LDN targets and assisting countries in their subsequent implementation. The UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism are currently leading the formulation of a global GEF Enabling Activity type project jointly with the IUCN. FAO is committed to work closely with the UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism and the IUCN to establish practical linkages on LDN-drought at the global scale. Where applicable and appropriate, Trend-Earth products will be used to provide improved methods and tools for assessing drought and land degradation and understanding the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable communities in affected areas through the integration of free and open platforms to support country level implementation and drought reporting to the UNCCD. In particular, global land cover data at high-spatial resolution, remotely sensed data and algorithms for assessing changes in land productivity will be beneficial and useful tools for appraising drought exposure and vulnerability aspects of the toolbox.

As 36% of the world's population is currently living in water-scarce regions[8]<sup>8</sup>, many countries have already recognized the linkages between land degradation, drought, and LDN in their LDN target-setting reports. Where the countries put forward proactive LDN projects using GEF resources, drought issues are strategically mainstreamed through either relevant national coordination mechanisms or LDN decision-support systems. Examples include several projects formulated and implemented with the support of FAO in Turkey, Uzbekistan, Jordan, and other countries. Moreover, LDN provides a supporting framework to manage land and water resources sustainably at the landscape level, address the challenge of water insecurity and drought and provide opportunities for policy and operational synergies within the land-water nexus[9]<sup>9</sup>.

The proposed project enables the UNCCD Parties to implement relevant decisions on drought and supports the countries use the information derived from the UNCCD to complete and implement national drought plans for drought preparedness, regional advocacy, and capacity building in the framework of an intergovernmental working group (IWG) and Drought Initiative implementation, while emphasizing the importance of a holistic, integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of communities to shocks and natural disasters (29/COP. 13; 23/COP.14).

---

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNCCD adopted decision 7/COP.13 to include mitigation of the effects of drought as a strategic objective in the UNCCD. The proposed project in line with UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework Objective “*to mitigate the effects of drought, enhance the resilience of ecosystems and preparedness of affected populations, and improve response and recovery capabilities*”, implements the UNCCD results framework for 2020–2023 (1/COP.14) and its outcome indicator 3.1 “*affected Parties use the information derived from the UNCCD to complete and implement national drought plans*”, and contributes to its outcome indicator 1.3 “*scientific cooperation involving the UNCCD delivers policy-relevant science-based information for addressing DLDD and contributing to LDN*”.

The COP adopted decision 9/COP.14 “inviting the GEF, within its mandate, to support the implementation of relevant aspects of the national drought plans and other drought-related activities within the scope of the Convention”. The COP further decided (23/COP.14) to establish an intergovernmental working group (IWG) on effective policy and implementation for addressing drought under the UNCCD.

The IWG is mandated to present its findings and recommendations to COP-15 through the following tasks, as COP decided (ICCD/COP(14)/L.22): (i) take stock of and review the existing policy, implementation and institutional coordination frameworks, including partnerships, on drought preparedness and response; and: (ii) consider options for appropriate policy, advocacy and implementation measures at all levels for addressing drought effectively under the Convention; (iii) comprise Parties, international organizations, the Science-Policy Interface, civil society organizations and key stakeholders, as appropriate; and (iv) consist of a maximum of three party representatives from each regional implementation annex of the Convention.

The COP at its 12<sup>th</sup> session endorsed the LDN as a core principle for UNCCD implementation and invited parties to promote the use of LDN targets and other SLM initiatives as a vehicle to address drought, land degradation and desertification (DLDD) issues, including through integration of the voluntary LDN targets into the National Action Programmes (NAPs) as part of the Parties’ overall discussion on the implementation of the SDGs.

The IWG focuses on strengthening the long-term sustainable management of land and water resources, including through LDN, under the UNCCD. The work of the IWG under the UNCCD is running in parallel to global efforts to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, the implementation of the NDCs, and the preparation of a Special Report on Drought by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). There are clear interlinkages between all of these processes and the work of the IWG.

Further, the 14th session of the COP of the UNCCD (23/COP 14) agreed to:

- Further upgrade and expand the Drought Toolbox, developed within the framework of the Drought Initiative, recognizing national contexts, in collaboration with regional and sub-regional stakeholders, and supporting country Parties in building capacity on its effective usage, including on early warning and monitoring systems, impact and vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation measures.
- Expand collaboration and partnerships with relevant agencies, organizations and platforms to design and test innovative, gender-responsive and transformative approaches to supporting countries in mitigating the impacts of drought.
- Encourage Parties to use the Drought Toolbox to strengthen their preparedness for drought, including through enhanced regional efforts.
- Invite Parties to use a variety of technical approaches, such as sustainable land and water management, agro-ecological approaches, ecosystem restoration and watershed management, for addressing drought and increasing resilience of ecosystems and communities to extreme weather and requests the secretariat, in cooperation with partners, to support them by making available related information, technical assistance and capacity-building, and promoting peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing.
- Request the Global Mechanism to identify potential and innovative financing instruments, based on clearly identified added value, for addressing drought, such as, but not limited to, insurance products, bonds and microfinance, and to make available related information and guidance for facilitating the access of Parties to these instruments.
- Encourage Parties to use the indicators for the drought strategic objectives recommended by the Science-Policy Interface as found in the annex of decision 11/COP.14 and engage their respective stakeholder communities in affected areas to develop methods, metrics and indicators for the drought vulnerability indicator (level 3).
- Requests the secretariat to compile an inventory of existing drought-related tools beyond the Drought Toolbox and make this information available to Parties.

In addition, COP-14 made a number of relevant decisions to which the proposed project either directly responds or contributes (full text of the decisions can be found in Annex I). These include the following:



- 2/COP.14** on Enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the enhancement, strengthening and promotion of capacity-building.
- 4/COP.14** on Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020).
- 6/COP.14** on Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy.
- 8/COP.14** on Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies.
- 9/COP.14** on Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.
- 11/COP.14** on Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties.
- 12/COP.14** on Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against the strategic objectives of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.
- 17/COP.14** on Follow-up on the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019: Objective 2, and Guidance to support the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation.
- 22/COP.14** on Follow-up on the positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that cause migration; **23/COP.14** on Policy advocacy on drought.
- 26/COP.14** on Land tenure.

Other relevant COP decisions include the following:

- 4/COP.8** on Activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships and synergies with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies.
- 9/COP.10** on Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies.

FAO has been chosen to serve as Implementing Agency of the project. This project will address the global, regional, and national multi-sector interlinkages, building on the extensive expertise of the project partners, and on the collaboration between UNCCD and FAO, amongst others, on the issues. FAO has long-standing experience on developing and implementing guidance, tools, and approaches for drought vulnerability assessments (including impacts), and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems, and mitigation of the impacts of drought at local, national, regional, and global levels. FAO hosts numerous relevant **tools**:

· **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS).** GIEWS continuously monitors food supply and demand and other key indicators for assessing the overall food security situation in all countries of the world. It issues regular analytical and objective reports on prevailing conditions and provides early warnings of impending food crises at country or regional level.

• **Agriculture Stress Index System (ASIS).** ASIS detects agricultural areas with a high likelihood of water stress - drought at global, regional and country level. By monitoring vegetation indices across global crop areas during the growth season, ASIS can detect “hotspots” around the globe where crops may be affected by drought.

• **Predictive Livestock Early Warning System (PLEWS).** PLEWS tool predicts edible vegetation and surface water availability, using data from a GeoEye satellite, excluding values for inedible species, to produce a Forage Condition Index.

• **Early Warning Early Action (EWEA).** EWEA System translates warnings into anticipatory actions to reduce the impact of specific disaster events. It focuses on consolidating available forecasting information and putting plans in place to make sure FAO acts when a warning is at hand.

• **WaPOR.** WaPOR is a portal to monitor water productivity through open access of remotely sensed derived data.

• **FAO Drought Portal** provides a platform to collect, map and share relevant experiences, products, and tools. The FAO Drought Portal is an open platform that provides information to FAO member countries on FAO actions and strategies in the fight against drought. It supports countries in the process of defining their national drought strategies by collating and giving access to FAO-tested tools and methodologies, as well as best practices from different disciplines, with the aim to support informed decision making and promote integrated drought management in agriculture. The different types of resources are organized along four pillars: (i) drought monitoring and early warning systems; (ii) vulnerability and risk assessment; (iii) drought risk mitigation measures; and (iv) emergency response and relief measures. The portal needs to be expanded for more inclusiveness beyond FAO’s work to the partners’ work as per each respective pillar, with improved accessibility enhancement to allow users to easily search and find the most appropriate drought management options on the basis of several criteria, including geography, and feeding into their plans. Thus, it can serve as exchange tool for sharing experiences among countries with similar issues and opportunities. In addition, direct access from the portal to FAO’s early warning systems (e.g. GIEWS and ASIS) will provide countries with reference to early warning-early action options to help further define their national drought plans. The establishment of an interactive linkage between the Drought Initiative Toolbox and the FAO Drought Portal in both directions is also aimed to increase opportunities to reach out a wider audience.

FAO is also actively engaged in the following relevant **global initiatives**, amongst others:

•**Drought Preparedness Group (WASAG).** WASAG, with its secretariat hosted by FAO, targets identification of practicable solutions that address droughts and their impact on agriculture, livestock, food and nutrition security. The Group proposes technical and policy options aimed at contributing to the restoration and/or protection of productive natural capital affected by droughts.

•**Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP).** The programme provides policy and management guidance through globally coordinated generation of scientific information and sharing best practices and knowledge for integrated drought management for the stakeholders at all levels.

•**UNCCD-led Drought Initiative.** The initiative targets drought preparedness systems, regional efforts to reduce drought vulnerability and risk, and provides a toolbox to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought. Through its Drought Initiative, the UNCCD provides material support to boost the inclusive design of the ongoing national assessment and planning processes. Among the 73 country parties that are members of the UNCCD Drought Initiative, 32 have completed and submitted to the UNCCD their national drought plans. The proposed project builds on the progress made by the Drought Initiative.

Further, the UNCCD provides best practices and technical support to help countries with the assessments of the impact, vulnerability and risk of drought and guidance on the policies through the Drought Initiative that it hosts[10]<sup>10</sup>. UNDRR, World Economic Forum, the private sector also periodically carry out relevant assessments. Post-Disaster Needs Assessments are conducted to inform the design of disaster relief and recovery programming. A number of global inventories of drought and other disaster risks are also available. At the national level, the online drought toolbox includes a set of 15 national drought plans that include an overview of approaches to assessing drought impacts, vulnerability and risks and mitigation measures in a particular country. They also include linkages to relevant regional and international initiatives, institutions and processes.

**Regional Project on Drought Risk Management for Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Countries (2020-2021)** is being carried out by the UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism and SADC-Climate Services Centre (SADC Secretariat) in collaboration with FAO, WHO, GWP and local partners. The project is developing a regional strategic framework for drought management to enhance resilience to drought effects with a paradigm shift from reactive to proactive approaches. The project targets developing technical and institutional capacities to manage drought and other natural hazards working with the UNCCD National Focal points, State Meteorological Services, Ministries of Emergency Situations, and Agriculture, Environment, Water, and Health Agencies. Relevant project activities include the following: 1) inventory and analysis of national drought management policies and strategies, 2) lessons learned from drought mitigation planning strategies and mechanisms from other drought-prone regions on drought vulnerability management, 3) draft regional drought risk management and mitigation strategy, 4) drought-related data acquired, analyzed and shared, 5) drought vulnerability indicators developed based on the UNCCD methodology and drought risk vulnerability mapping is piloted, 6) a grant concept on strengthening the regional expert network on use and implementation of the Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy and establishment of drought monitor.

---

Lastly, the project will capitalize on a number of on-going global, regional, and national projects implemented with the support of FAO.

FAO is participating in several global projects with a broad geographic outreach (from South America to Africa and Asia) funded by the EU in the framework of the **Global Network against Food Crises Partnership Programme**, aiming at developing disaster risk management guidelines to enable better risk-informed investments in prevention, mitigation and preparedness and at strengthening technical capacities on disaster risk management (DRM) in the context of climate change. FAO is strategically engaged in the Sahelian region where it contributes to enhancing the resilience and food security of pastoralists through – inter alia – the improvement of information and early warning system (**the Global Network against Food Crises Partnership Programme**) and where it strengthens the capacities of institutions to implement policies that address climate change and environmental degradation (**the Building Forward Better Initiative**). Strengthening food security information and early warning system is also at the core of a project in Yemen (**Strengthening Food Security Information and Early Warning System**) and of another project in the IGAD region (**Early Warning Tools for Increased Resilience of Livelihoods in IGAD Region**), where FAO works towards the systematic adoption of evidence-based, early warning information that will help predict the needs of pastoralists ahead of possible climate-induced disasters. Other relevant projects promote integrated natural resources management in drought-prone areas, as for example projects in Central Asia, and Turkey (**“Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey” (“CACILM2”)**)

---

[1] World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Global Water Partnership (GWP) (2017). Benefits of action and costs of inaction: Drought mitigation and preparedness – a literature review (N. Gerber and A. Mirzabaev). Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) Working Paper 1. WMO, Geneva, Switzerland and GWP, Stockholm, Sweden. Available at [https://library.wmo.int/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=3401](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=3401)

[2] FAO, 2019, *Proactive approaches to drought preparedness*, available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca5794en/ca5794en.pdf>

[3] Scientists discover new ‘human fingerprint’ on global drought patterns. World Economic Forum, 2020. Available at <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/human-fingerprinting-drought-rainfall-africa-asia-america/>

[4] Bonfils, C.J.W., Santer, B.D., Fyfe, J.C. et al. Human influence on joint changes in temperature, rainfall and continental aridity. *Nat. Clim. Chang.* 10, 726–731 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0821-1>

[5] Eos, *Anthropogenic Drought: How Humans Affect the Global Ecosystem*, 31 October 2016, available at: <https://eos.org/editors-vox/anthropogenic-drought-how-humans-affect-the-global-ecosystem>

[6] UNCCD Land Management and Drought Mitigation Science-Policy Brief. Available at <https://www.unccd.int/publications/land-management-and-drought-mitigation-science-policy-brief>

[7] The Land-Drought Nexus Enhancing the role of land-based interventions in drought mitigation and risk management. Available at <https://www.unccd.int/publications/land-drought-nexus-enhancing-role-land-based-interventions-drought-mitigation-and-risk>

[8] Making Every Drop Count: An Agenda for Water Action. High-Level Panel on Water Outcome Document. 14 March 2018. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17825HLPW\\_Outcome.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17825HLPW_Outcome.pdf)

[9] UNCCD and FAO. 2020. Land Degradation Neutrality for Water Security and Combatting Drought. Bonn, Germany. Available at [https://catalogue.unccd.int/1442\\_LDN\\_Water\\_Security\\_drought\\_report%20Web.pdf](https://catalogue.unccd.int/1442_LDN_Water_Security_drought_report%20Web.pdf)

[10] <https://www.unccd.int/actions/drought-initiative>

## **B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES**

The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender equality and women's empowerment are considered in project design and implementation

Integrated Drought Management (IDR) rests on the principles of three pillars: Drought Monitoring and Early Warning (pillar 1), Drought Impact, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (pillar 2), and effective risk mitigation action (pillar 3). The proposed project enables Parties use the information derived from the UNCCD to complete and implement national drought plans according to the principles of IDR. The project will provide guidance, tools and recommendations to countries in order to encourage and advise them on the formulation of drought plans and strategies building on and complementing the work of the IWG.

### **Component 1. Supporting Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought (IWG)**

***Outcome 1.1. Country parties are enabled to fulfill their participation in the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on “Effective Policy and Implementation Measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD” process and beyond.***

The outcome will be achieved through three outputs:

**1.1.1.** Stock-taking of the existing policies, implementation and institutional frameworks, and partnerships, on drought preparedness and response of the Parties. Activities include the following:

- Analyze the collected submissions from the Parties (around 70) on the existing policy frameworks, gaps, and barriers, with the special focus on the international level
- Review the submitted national drought plans and other national plans in which approaches to assessments are identified
- Validate IWG report and results with the countries and other stakeholders (through surveys, workshops, meetings, etc.)
- Develop case studies for innovative financing mechanism to mitigate drought that can change risk behavior, including incentives from public and private sectors
- Conduct periodic reporting to COP Bureau (through brief online summaries of its meetings)

**1.1.2.** IWG identified gender-responsive options for appropriate policy, advocacy and implementation measures at all levels for addressing drought effectively under the Convention. Activities include the following:

- Identify regional and sub-regional gaps and opportunities for capacity building strengthening for drought preparedness planning
- Develop case studies on policy, advocacy and implementation measures for drought planning at community level, including on gender
- Carry out an economic assessment on drought risks and the benefits of action and cost of inaction

- Introduce a process for linking local assessments of drought impacts, vulnerability, and risks within a global assessment framework
- Develop case studies on the current policies, implementation, and partnerships for impact, vulnerability and risk assessments to inform decision-making
- Develop case studies on land management and climate change synergies, including on systemic effects of land degradation on drought exposure, vulnerability, impacts, and risk, and vice-versa (addressing drought before it causes land degradation)
- Conduct a workshop with all IWG member to review the results of the options above
- Report findings and recommendations to UNCCD COP 15

**1.1.3.** Strengthened strategic drought preparedness and response partnerships to guide action on drought for the UNCCD Parties and stakeholders. Activities include the following:

- Review relevant materials on the effectiveness of current economic instruments and financing mechanisms (e.g. from the World Bank, GEF, GCF, financing institutions)
- Conduct consultations with the members of the IWG
- Identify potential and innovative financing, legal, policy and technical instruments, based on clearly identified added value, for addressing drought, such as, but not limited to, insurance products, bonds and microfinance
- Develop case studies (business cases) on unlocking national financing for drought risk mitigation and investigate ways to incorporate drought risk mitigation in LDN planning

## **Component 2. Enhancing the Drought Toolbox**

***Outcome 2.1. Parties increasingly utilizing upgraded Drought toolbox in their drought planning and mitigation efforts.***

The outcome will be achieved through three outputs:

**2.1.1.** Drought Toolbox scaled out and enhanced with datasets for monitoring and early warning, improved risk assessment and including gender-responsive tools for risk mitigation. Activities include the following:

- Prepare a compendium of best practices on the three pillars of integrated drought management
- Conduct an inventory of existing drought-related tools beyond the Drought Toolbox
- Expand the Toolbox to be used as a global monitoring system through which the Parties can monitor and report on progress made toward IWG Strategic Objective O-3 and its indices (simple drought hazard, simple drought exposure, comprehensive drought vulnerability)
- *Develop e-learning resources built into the toolbox) with modules* related to the data portal (in collaboration with the UNEP-DHI), and focusing on drought risk, mitigation measures and overall drought response (in collaboration with other partners)
- Develop a respond-facility built into the toolbox in order to create and connect with a global community of practice and meet their demand
- Develop a live sessions and lectures providing further information on the toolbox and its functionality and to enable user feedback and to promote active interaction between users
- Keep regular maintenance of the toolbox through the engagement of a partner institute (UNEP/DHI)
- Establish interactive linkage between the Drought Initiative Toolbox and the FAO Drought Portal, feeding each other, increasing opportunities to reach out wider audience

**2.1.2.** Capacities of the member countries for utilization of the enhanced Drought Toolbox developed (on gender-responsive early warning and monitoring systems, impact and vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation measures). Activities include the following:

- Identify capacity building gaps on early warning and monitoring systems, impact and vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation measures
- Develop and implement a capacity building program for countries and individual users, adopting tailor-made and effective training methods that foresee a combination of in-person, blended and virtual learning in order to reach the widest and most diverse set of audiences

**2.1.3.** A community of practice established and capacities strengthened on drought risk management to contribute to knowledge sharing between countries and individual users. Activities include the following:



- Establish an integrated e-learning platform for the community of practice on drought
- Finance platform development, maintenance, hosting and support

### **Component 3. Enabling the implementation of national drought plans**

***Outcome 3.1. Members of the Drought Initiative enabled to implement their national drought plans.*** The outcome will be achieved through two outputs:

-

**3.1.1.** National drought plans aligned with and integrated into the existing relevant national frameworks, including the UNCCD NAPs, through an integrated multi-sectoral approach, including gender dimensions according to the UNCCD guidelines and global good practices (examples provided in each region and shared with all members of the Drought Initiative). Activities include the following:

- Develop an online and good practice guidance training module on gender mainstreaming for drought management, building on UNCCD guidelines, the experience of GEF-supported and other projects
- Conduct regional workshops on the National Drought Plans and integration of the NAPs
- Develop policy guidance on coordination mechanisms between the national ministries and institutions related to the implementation of the national drought plans, which will guidance on how the mechanism could include key actors in gender
- Develop case studies across six region with examples on multi-sectoral coordination mechanism, which will include ministries and other civil society actors responsible for gender, to integrate National Drought Plans into the existing relevant national frameworks of a set of pilot countries (12 countries all together based on following criteria: 1) Two countries per each region, 2) first come, first serve basis). The examples will be shared broadly across regions
- Develop publications on best practices for NAP and National Drought Plans alignment, which will integrate gender dimensions, as well as produce a gender-specific publication

**3.1.2.** Awareness raising at various venues (COP-15, CRIC meetings, and others) on the risk and impact mitigation effectiveness of the national drought plans. Activities include the following:

- Produce online content (stories, videos, etc.) about experiences on the ground
- Online exchange of experiences
- Organize a high-level meeting on national drought policy (HMNDP-2023)

#### **Component 4. Drought vulnerability assessment and preparedness for mitigation measures**

*Outcome 4.1. UNCCD Parties enabled to Capacities and institutional frameworks for conduct drought vulnerability assessment, monitoring, and reporting strengthened.* The outcome will be achieved through four outputs, where gender dimensions will be addressed in all:

**4.1.1.** Guidance/ tools/ approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems and reporting developed. Activities include the following:

- Map drought impact and vulnerability assessment methodologies
- Develop methods to correlate land-use management changes with drought risk, exposure, vulnerability and impacts
- Develop a manual on communications for developing national drought risk profile/vulnerability mapping
- Develop global case studies for proactive drought mitigation responses
- Prepare drought vulnerability and impact assessment Compendium
- Conduct two workshops on drought vulnerability and impact assessment
  - Facilitate coordination at the national level whereby different sectors can work together in a more integrated and coordinated manner

**4.1.2.** A set of databases (methods, metrics, and indicators) for the drought vulnerability indicators (level 3) compiled, including on the past drought incidences and its impacts. Activities include the following:

- Collect a set of global impact indicators in line with UNCCD strategic objective and intended impacts in reducing the vulnerability of ecosystems and increasing the resilience of communities. Data will be sex-disaggregated where possible and applicable

**4.1.3.** Capacity building needs assessment conducted and a capacity-building program for drought-smart Sustainable Land and Water Management developed. Activities include the following:

- Identify capacity building gaps on drought-smart Sustainable Land and Water Management, including on gender aspects
  - Based on the results on gap analysis, develop a capacity building program drought-smart Sustainable Land and Water Management consisting of online and on-site courses

## **Component 5. Project monitoring and evaluation**

***Outcome 5.1. Project monitoring and evaluation conducted.*** The outcome will be achieved through one output:

**5.1.1.** Project mid-term and final evaluation conducted. Activities include the following:

- Project mid-term evaluation
- Project final evaluation

## Stakeholders

The project will work with a wide range of stakeholders. Their roles are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1. The main project stakeholders

Stakeholders	Relevant Mandate	Role in the project
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	The UNCCD is the legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management and drought.  The UNCCD facilitates the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought (IWG) on “Effective Policy and Implementation Measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD”, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), and Science-Policy Interface (SPI).	The main project partner through the UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism

Country parties of the IWG on “Effective Policy and Implementation Measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD”	The UNCCD COP decision 23/COP.14 called for the creation of an IWG. IWG consists of a maximum of three representatives from each UNCCD region, nominated by the respective regional groups on the basis of nominations by national governments, plus up to fifteen experts nominated by the UNCCD Secretariat in consultation with the COP Bureau. There are four tasks groups: 1) Task Group on Policy and Institutional Perspective, 2) Task Group on Economic Tools and Financing Instruments, 3) Task Group on Drought Impact, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, 4) Task Group on Early Warning and Monitoring.	Main partners and beneficiaries on Component 1
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	WMO provides the framework international cooperation at a global scale is essential for the development of meteorology, climatology and operational hydrology.	Project partner on Components 1, 2, and 3
University of Nebraska	The University hosts National Drought Mitigation Center that produces drought monitoring tools and information to measure drought severity and assess drought impacts. The tools range from easy-to-understand maps depicting drought severity to experimental, satellite-based composite maps primarily used by climate monitoring professionals.	Project partner on Component 1
UN-Environment	UN-Environment hosts DHI Center on Water and Environment that in turn hosts the Drought Monitoring and Early Warning tool	Project partner on Component 2
The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)	A global network on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) that promotes the documentation, sharing and use of knowledge to support adaptation, innovation and decision-making in SLM. It is the primary recommended database by the UNCCD.	Project partner on Component 2
Global Water Partnership (GWP)	A global action network with over 3,000 Partner organizations in 179 countries. Its networking approach provides a mechanism for coordinated action and adds value to the work of key development partners by providing knowledge and builds capacity to improve water management at all levels: global, regional, national and local.	Project partner on Component 4

European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC)	<p>EC-JRC employs scientists to carry out research in order to provide independent scientific advice and support to EU policy.</p> <p>EC-JRC runs European Drought Observatory (EDO). The EDO pages contain drought-relevant information such as maps of indicators derived from different data sources (e.g., precipitation measurements, satellite measurements, modelled soil moisture content).</p>	Project partner on Components 2 and 3
The African Risk Capacity (ARC)	<p>ARC is a specialized agency of the African Union established to help African governments improve their capacities to better plan, prepare, and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters.</p> <p>ARC enables countries to strengthen their disaster risk management systems and access rapid and predictable financing when disaster strikes to protect the food security and livelihoods of their vulnerable populations.</p> <p>It is comprised of two entities: the African Risk Capacity Agency and ARC Limited (Ltd). Together, they provide ARC Member States with capacity building services and access to early warning technology, contingency planning, and risk pooling and transfer facilities.</p>	Project partner on Component 3
University of Cordoba	The University conducts research on drought stress, economic drought impacts, hydrological drought vulnerability assessments, relationship between drought and climate, and other relevant topics.	Project partner on Component 4
Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)	The IDMP works with a wide range of partners to support stakeholders at all levels by providing policy and management guidance through globally coordinated generation of scientific information and sharing best practices and knowledge for integrated drought management. IDMP seeks to support regions and countries to develop more proactive drought policies and better predictive mechanisms.	Project partner on Component 3

Gender is an important consideration in the project because women constitute the majority of farmers in many regions most severely affected by desertification, land degradation and drought. Yet in many countries women continue to be excluded from equal access, control and management of land and natural resources. The project will therefore assess risks and opportunities in women's (i) access to and control over resources, (ii) participation and decision-making, and/or (iii) economic benefits or services. Women's important

roles with regard to water are well documented, and the project will support countries to protect women's increased workloads arising from a lack of access to water in drought situations, as well as to protect women and men from increased risk of infection and unhygienic practices due to a lack of water and further exacerbated by COVID-19. A menu of gender responsive drought management practices will be developed, as well as a menu of gender responsive indicators that countries can choose from. The UNCCD 2018-2021 Workplan also requires that gender issues be taken into account in plans to address desertification/land degradation and drought[1]. The project will follow gender policies of the UNCCD, FAO, and the GEF, as well as UNCCD guidance.[2] A gender specialist hired by the project will carry out a dedicated gender analysis and develop an overall gender action plan to both address vulnerabilities as well as build on the capacities of women and men. The analysis will identify examples of good practice on which to build[3], as well as scale interventions that this project could link with[4]. The project will benefit from the existing FAO and UNCCD global and national experience and expertise.

---

[1] UNCCD. 2019. A Manual for Gender-Responsive Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes.

[2] Such as Annex 2 of 'Guidelines and Background Documents For Development of National Drought Plan'.

[3] For example in Paraguay: [https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/country\\_profile\\_documents/1%2520FINAL\\_NDP\\_Paraguay.pdf](https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/country_profile_documents/1%2520FINAL_NDP_Paraguay.pdf)

[4] For example the Green Climate Funded proposal in Ethiopia 'Responding to the increasing risk of drought: building gender-responsive resilience of the most vulnerable communities', which has a gender assessment and gender action plan.

### **C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A

This project proposed for funding by the GEF is prepared in partnership between the GM/UNCCD and FAO. FAO will serve as the Implementing Agency of the project, which will be executed by the GM/UNCCD, FAO, and other partners. The GM is an institution of the UNCCD, mandated to support country Parties to the Convention in the mobilization of resources for its implementation. With the view to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, the GM is requested to facilitate "actions leading to the mobilization and channeling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties" (Article 21, para. 4, UNCCD). It provides technical assistance to affected country Parties to access and mobilize financial resources for UNCCD implementation.

**Component 1** will be executed by the UNCCD Secretariat and FAO in collaboration with WMO, University of Nebraska, UNCCD-SPI, IWG members, regional organizations, and economics commissions. **Component 2** will be executed by the UNCCD Secretariat in collaboration with UN Environment-DHI, WMO, WOCAT, and EC-JRC, and FAO.

**Component 3** will be executed by UNCCD Secretariat and FAO in collaboration with WMO, WB, GWP, EC-JRC, and ARC. **Component 4** will be executed by FAO in collaboration with the UNCCD, IDMP, and GWP.

#### **D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT**

The project will build on the relevant experience and investments by the UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism and FAO, as part of the drought-related activities globally, regionally, and in the countries. Sustainability of the project results will be ensured through the integration of the project results into nationally relevant planning processes, including the NAPs, drought plans, LDN targets planning and implementation. Relevant platforms and tools hosted by the UNCCD, project partners, and FAO will also be utilized to share project results and lessons learned. FAO has long-standing experience on developing and implementing guidance, tools, and approaches for drought vulnerability assessments (including impacts), and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems, and mitigation of the impacts of drought at local, national, regional, and global levels. The project will be integrated with the following FAO-hosted tools: Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), Agriculture Stress Index System (ASIS), Predictive Livestock Early Warning System (PLEWS), Early Warning Early Action (EWEA), the FAO portal to monitor Water Productivity through open access of remotely sensed derived data (WaPOR) and FAO Drought Portal. The project will also capitalize on over US\$11 million of relevant investments mobilized by FAO and the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism.

The project will guide the action of cost-effective drought smart sustainable land and water management solutions and increase the synergy between all land-water-based investments undertaken at various spatial and temporal scales. The project is in line with the ten-year Strategy of the UNCCD and directly responds to several UNCCD COP decisions on drought. The establishment of a project steering committee between project partners and the countries will further strengthen cooperation and coordination among all actors directly involved in the drought-related work at global, regional, and national sub-regional, levels.

#### **E. DESCRIBE, DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN**

M&E is included in Component 5. The monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities specifically described in the Monitoring and Evaluation table (see Table 1 below) will be undertaken through: (i) day-to-day monitoring by the project manager (project manager, co-funded by FAO); (ii) technical monitoring of project indicators (project manager, co-funded by FAO in coordination with the project partners); and (iii) monitoring and supervision missions (FAO Lead Technical Officer).



At the beginning of the implementation of the GEF project, the PIU will establish a system to monitor the project's progress. Participatory mechanisms and methodologies to support the monitoring and evaluation of performance indicators and outputs will be developed. During the project inception workshop, the tasks of monitoring and evaluation will include: (i) presentation and explanation (if needed) of the project's Results Framework with all project stakeholders; (ii) review of monitoring and evaluation indicators; (iii) preparation of draft clauses that will be required for inclusion in consultant contracts, to ensure compliance with the monitoring and evaluation reporting functions (if applicable); and (iv) clarification of the division of monitoring and evaluation tasks among the different stakeholders in the project. The project manager will prepare a draft monitoring and evaluation matrix that will be discussed and agreed upon by all stakeholders during the inception workshop. The M&E matrix will be a management tool for the PC and the Project Partners to: i) monitor the achievement of output indicators on a six-monthly basis; ii) annually monitor the achievement of outcome indicators; iii) clearly define responsibilities and verification means; iv) select a method to process the indicators and data.

The **M&E Plan** will be prepared by the project manager together with the project partners in the first three months of the PY1 and validated with the PSC. The M&E Plan will be based on the M&E summary table and the M&E Matrix and will include the following: i) the updated results framework, with clear indicators per year; ii) updated baseline, if needed, and selected tools for data collection (including sample definition); iii) narrative of the monitoring strategy, including roles and responsibilities for data collection and processing, reporting flows, monitoring matrix, and brief analysis of who, when and how will each indicator be measured. Responsibility of project activities may or may not coincide with data collection responsibility; iv) updated implementation arrangements, if needed; v) inclusion of data collection and monitoring strategy to be included in the final evaluation; and vi) calendar of evaluation workshops, including self-evaluation techniques.

The day-to-day monitoring of the project's implementation will be the responsibility of the project manager and will be driven by the preparation and implementation of an AWP/B followed up through six-monthly PPRs. The preparation of the AWP/B and six-monthly PPRs will represent the product of a unified planning process between main project stakeholders. As tools for RBM, the AWP/B will identify the actions proposed for the coming project year and provide the necessary details on output and outcome targets to be achieved, and the PPRs will report on the monitoring of the implementation of actions and the achievement of output and outcome targets. Specific inputs to the AWP/B and the PPRs will be prepared based on participatory planning and progress review with all stakeholders and coordinated and facilitated through project planning and progress review workshops. These contributions will be consolidated by the project manager in the draft AWP/B and the PPRs.

An annual project progress review and planning meeting should be held with the participation of the project partners to finalize the AWP/B and the PPRs. Once finalized, the AWP/B and the PPRs will be submitted to the FAO Lead Technical Officer on the project for technical clearance, and to the Project Steering Committee for revision and approval. The AWP/B will be developed in a manner consistent with the Project Results Framework to ensure adequate fulfillment and monitoring of project outputs and outcomes.

Following the approval of the Project, the PY1 AWP/B will be adjusted (either reduced or expanded in time) to synchronize it with the annual reporting calendar. In subsequent years, the AWP/Bs will follow an annual preparation and reporting cycle.

### **Reporting schedule**

Specific reports that will be prepared under the monitoring and evaluation program, including the following: (i) Project inception report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); (iii) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (iv) Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); (v) Technical reports; (vi) Co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report.

***Project Inception Report.*** After FAO internal approval of the project, an inception workshop will be held in Rome. Immediately after the workshop, the project management and the UNCCD Secretariat will prepare a project inception report in consultation with other project partners. The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B and the M&E Matrix. The draft inception report will be circulated to the PSC and for review and comments before its finalization, no later than three months after project start-up. The report will be cleared by the FAO Budget Holder (BH), LTO and the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit. The BH will upload it in FPMIS.

***Annual Work Plan and Budget(s) (AWP/Bs).*** The project manager will present a draft AWP/B to the PSC no later than 10 December of each year for the following year. The AWP/B should include detailed activities to be implemented by project Outcomes and Outputs and divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for Output and Outcome indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The final AWP/B will be sent to the PSC for approval and to FAO for final no-objection. The BH will upload the AWP/Bs in FPMIS.

***Project Progress Reports (PPR).*** The PPRs are used to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and take appropriate remedial action. PPRs will be prepared based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the Project Results Framework, AWP/B and M&E Plan. Each semester the project manager will prepare a draft PPR, and will collect and consolidate any comments from the FAO PTF. The project manager will submit the final PPRs to the FAO PTF every six months, prior to 10 June (covering the period between January and June) and before 10 December (covering the period between July and December). The July-December report should be accompanied by the updated AWP/B for the following Project Year (PY) for review and no-objection by the FAO PTF. The Budget Holder has the responsibility to coordinate the preparation and finalization of the PPR, in consultation with the PIU, LTO and the FLO. After LTO, BH and FLO clearance, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded in FPMIS in a timely manner.

***Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR).*** The project manager, under the supervision of the LTO and BH and in coordination with the project partners, will prepare a draft annual PIR report covering the period from July (the previous year) through June (current year) no later than July 1st every year. The LTO will finalize the PIR and will submit it to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for review by July 10th. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, the LTO, and the BH will discuss the PIR and the ratings. The LTO is responsible for conducting the final review and providing the technical clearance to the PIR(s). The LTO will submit the final version of the PIR to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for final approval. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will then submit the PIR(s) to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office as part of the Annual Monitoring Review of the FAO-GEF portfolio. The PIR will be uploaded to FPMIS by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

***Technical reports.*** The technical reports will be prepared as part of the project outputs and will document and disseminate lessons learned. Drafts of all technical reports must be submitted by the project manager to the PSC and FAO PTF, which in turn will be shared with the LTO for review and approval and to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for information and comments before finalization and publication. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to the PSC and other project stakeholders, as appropriate. These reports will be uploaded by the BH in FAO FPMIS.

***Co-financing reports.*** The project manager will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on in-kind co-financing and investment mobilized provided by all project co-financiers and eventually other new partners not foreseen in the current PIF. Every year, the project manager will submit the report to the FAO PTF before July 10th covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year). This information will be used in the PIRs.

An independent *Final Evaluation (FE)* will be managed by the FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) and be carried out five months prior to the terminal report meeting. The FE will aim to identify the project impacts, sustainability of project outcomes and the degree of achievement of long-term results. The FE will also have the purpose of indicating future actions needed to expand on the existing Project in subsequent phases, mainstream and up-scale its products and practices, and disseminate information to relevant institutions. The FE will pay special attention to outcome indicators.

**Terminal Report.** Within two months prior to the project’s completion date, the project manager will submit to the PSC and FAO PTF a draft final report. The main purpose of the final report is to give guidance to the project partners on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the Project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. Therefore, the terminal report is a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the Project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target audience consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for ensuring sustainability of project results. The work is assessed, lessons learned are summarized, and recommendations are expressed in terms of their application to the technical drought management-specific results, as well as in practical execution terms. This report will specifically include the findings of the final evaluation. A project evaluation meeting will be held to discuss the draft final report with the PSC before completion by the project manager and approval by the BH, LTO, and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

**Table 1. Summary of the main monitoring and evaluation reports, parties responsible for their publication and time frames.**

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Time frame/ Periodicity	Budget
Inception workshop (online)	Project Manager (PM); FAO Lead Technical Officer (with support from the BH and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit), UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism	Within three months of project startup	US\$ 0,000 (conducted online)

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Time frame/ Periodicity	Budget
Project Inception and Completion Reports	PM, FAO Budget Holder	Immediately after the workshops	Project manager (US\$2,000)  FAO staff time covered by FAO
Project Progress Reports (PPRs)	PM, FAO Budget Holder with stakeholder contributions and other participating institutions	Six-monthly	Project manager (US\$6,000)  FAO staff time covered by FAO
Project Implementation Review (PIR)	Drafted by the PM, with the supervision of the LTO and BH. Approved and submitted to GEF by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit	Annual	FAO staff time financed though GEF agency fees
Co-financing reports	PM with input from other co-financiers	Annual	Project manager (US\$ 3,000)  Staff time covered by FAO
Technical reports	PM; FAO (LTO, FAO Budget Holder)	As needed	GEF Agency fees
Independent mid-term review	PM; FAO Budget Holder; FAO-GEF; FAO technical staff participating in project implementation	Midpoint of year 2 of project	US\$ 8,000

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Time frame/ Periodicity	Budget
Final Evaluation	External consultant, FAO Independent Evaluation Unit in consultation with the project team, including the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and others	At least five months before end of project	US\$ 30,000
Terminal Report	PM; FAO (FAO Budget Holder, LTO, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, Business Development and Resource Mobilization (PSR) Reporting Unit)	Two months prior to the end of the project	US\$ 7,000
Project completion workshop in Bonn/Rome	PM; FAO Lead Technical Officer (with support from the BH and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit), UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism	One month prior to the end of the project	US\$ 44,000
<b>Total budget</b>			<b>US\$ 100,000</b>

**F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE)**

N/A

**Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)**

**A. Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):**

<b>Focal Point Name</b>	<b>Focal Point Title</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Signed Date</b>
-------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

**B. Convention Participation**

**Convention**

**Date of Ratification/Accession**

**National Focal Point**

**ANNEX A: Project Budget Table**

**Please attach a project budget table.**

Attached in the roadmap section

50,000