

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

UNCCD Mongolia COP17 Legacy Project

Region

Global

GEF Project ID

12309

Country(ies)

Global

Mongolia

Type of Project

MSP

GEF Agency(ies):

IUCN

GEF Agency ID

Executing Partner

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia (MECC)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Multi Focal Area

Submission Date

3/17/2026

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Sustainable Land Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Drylands, Forest, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Information Dissemination, Type of Engagement, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Private Sector, Consultation, Participation, Non-Governmental Organization, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Awareness Raising, Communications, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Participation and leadership, Gender results areas, Theory of change, Learning, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Seminar

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

28

GEF Project Grant: (a)

2,972,375.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

267,511.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

3,239,886.00

Total Co-financing

8,000,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

100,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

9,000.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

109,000.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

3,348,886.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Rangelands and pasturelands cover approximately 54 per cent¹ of the world's land surface and support the livelihoods of over 500 million pastoralists and agro-pastoralists globally.² Yet up to half of all rangeland areas show signs of declining productivity, with degradation accelerating under the combined pressures of climate change, overgrazing, extractive industries, infrastructure expansion, and insecure land tenure. Rangelands receive a disproportionately small share of global land restoration and climate finance: unlike forests, they lack an established investment taxonomy, a standardised results framework, or an investment-ready project pipeline. This structural underinvestment, combined with fragmented knowledge systems and weak political visibility for pastoral landscapes in global environmental governance, constitutes a systemic barrier to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality across dryland countries.

The **Mongolia COP17 Legacy Project** aims to catalyze durable global action on sustainable rangeland management and Land Degradation Neutrality objectives by generating knowledge on best practices, mobilizing investment, and strengthening South-South cooperation on agreed UNCCD COP17 actions (2026 to 2028).

The project operates through four integrated components: (1) inclusive COP17 Presidency delivery and stakeholder activation, with parties to the convention, civil society, pastoralist organisations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and scientists engaged as partners; (2) catalysing investment in rangeland restoration; (3) strengthening global knowledge, outreach, and coordination, including through an open knowledge platform and guidelines; and (4) structured South-South cooperation on LDN and rangeland management across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Expected global environmental benefits include strengthened policy and institutional frameworks for LDN across Mongolia and partner dryland countries, increased investment commitments for sustainable rangeland management, the integration of traditional pastoralist knowledge into global land degradation frameworks, and improved South-South knowledge exchange. The project will directly benefit at least 5,000 people (50 per cent women) and contribute to voluntary LDN targets in Mongolia and participating countries.

¹UNCCD. (2024). Global Land Outlook Thematic Report on Rangelands and Pastoralism. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, 13. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4058928?ln=en&v=pdf>.

² UNCCD. (2024). Global Land Outlook Thematic Report on Rangelands and Pastoralism. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, vi. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4058928?ln=en&v=pdf>.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

The Mongolia COP17 Legacy Project will catalyse transformative action on land degradation neutrality (LDN) at national and global scales. The project objective is to support Mongolia in exercising strong,

evidence-based leadership of the UNCCD COP17 Presidency while building a durable global coalition and investment pipeline for sustainable rangeland management that outlasts the Presidency period.

Project Components

Component 1: COP17 Presidency and Stakeholder Engagement

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,000,000.00	4,500,000.00

Outcome:

Inclusive and substantive COP17 Presidency programme supported, with meaningful participation of policy makers and observer groups including civil society, pastoralist organisations, IPLCs, women, youth, and the scientific community; preparatory knowledge inputs contributing to the quality of ministerial dialogue outcomes on rangelands and LDN; and sustained global stakeholder engagement maintained throughout the COP17 Presidency period (2026 to 2028).

Output:

Output 1.1:

Inclusive participation of observer groups including IPLCs, pastoralist organisations, women, youth, and the scientific community in COP17 and UNCCD policy processes supported.

Output 1.2:

COP17 Silk Road Communication Campaign supported, linking rangeland restoration, pastoralist heritage, and LDN; post-COP17 communications strategy implemented to sustain engagement through COP18.

Output 1.3:

High-level political engagement on rangelands advanced through COP17 ministerial dialogues; global policy coherence on rangelands strengthened across multilateral frameworks.

Component 2: Catalysing Investment

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
450,000.00	250,000.00

Outcome:

Increased investment and financing of sustainable rangeland management through partnerships among development agencies, multilateral finance institutions, governments, and private businesses

Output:

Output 2.1:

Investment pipeline developed with at least 10 projects aligned with **Rangeland Flagship Initiative** Common Results Framework and LDN Principles and tracked in a rangeland project database ;.

Output 2.2:

At least 2 technical assistance partnerships established (ADB/UNCCD, DRIF,) to convene donor roundtables, develop financing roadmaps, and co-design public-private rangeland investments, investment pilot projects.

Component 3: Knowledge, Outreach and Rangeland Flagship Initiative

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
450,000.00	250,000.00

Outcome:

Global knowledge base on rangeland restoration, monitoring, and sustainable management strengthened by integrating scientific and traditional ecological knowledge; guidelines developed for consistent LDN tracking across UNCCD Parties; knowledge products contributing to the development of emerging rangeland initiatives including the Rangeland Flagship Initiative.

Output:

Output 3.1:

Rangeland Flagship Initiative governance and coordination strengthened to advocate for rangeland policy and investment

Output 3.2:

Online technical exchange platform established; case studies on returns from sustainable rangeland investment published; **Common Nature Finance Taxonomy for rangelands** developed; guidelines on rangeland health monitoring endorsed.

Output 3.3:

Policy coherence case studies and flagship reports on LDN and sustainable infrastructure published; UNCCD Knowledge Hub inputs and outreach materials developed; case studies on rangeland restoration are compiled and disseminated.

Component 4: South-South Cooperation and the Global Coalition on Rangelands

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
844,260.00	2,850,000.00

Outcome:

Structured South-South cooperation on rangeland management and LDN connecting dryland countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America; anchor country engagement contributing to the development of the Global Coalition of Rangeland States; pastoralist and locally-led practices documented and integrated into global knowledge platforms; Mongolia's Presidency leadership sustained beyond COP17.

Output:

Output 4.1:

Global and Regional institutional dialogues and South-South learning exchanges convened ; IYRP 2026 roadmap developed and endorsed ; global coalition convened and institutional development of the Global Coalition of Rangeland States supported with anchor country engagement mechanism and coordination programme

Output 4.2:

IYRP 2026 regional and global alliance activities supported and regional cooperation sustained through to COP18; capacity strengthening programme for Coalition member countries on rangeland governance and community-based management delivered; Regional hubs and coalition mechanisms established to sustain cooperation, strengthen country capacity, and channel regional knowledge into global policy processes

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
86,574.00	50,000.00

Outcome:

Output:

Inception workshop; annual PIRs; mid-term review; terminal evaluation.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: COP17 Presidency and Stakeholder Engagement	1,000,000.00	4,500,000.00
Component 2: Catalysing Investment	450,000.00	250,000.00
Component 3: Knowledge, Outreach and Rangeland Flagship Initiative	450,000.00	250,000.00
Component 4: South-South Cooperation and the Global Coalition on Rangelands	844,260.00	2,850,000.00
M&E	86,574.00	50,000.00
Subtotal	2,830,834.00	7,900,000.00
Project Management Cost	141,541.00	100,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	2,972,375.00	8,000,000.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

A.1 The Global Rangeland Crisis and the Case for Action

Rangelands, which include grasslands, savannas, shrublands, and deserts, cover approximately 54 per cent³ of the Earth's land surface. They sustain the livelihoods of over two billion people,⁴ including some 500 million pastoralists and agropastoralists⁵ who depend on them directly. Rangelands store up to 30 per cent of global soil carbon,⁶ host disproportionately high biodiversity, and provide critical ecosystem services including water regulation, climate buffering, and cultural identity for pastoralists including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). Pastoralist communities are the primary custodians of these landscapes, managing them through customary governance systems, seasonal mobility, and traditional ecological knowledge that have sustained rangeland productivity over centuries. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities hold, manage, or have tenure claims over a significant share of the world's rangeland area, and their stewardship is increasingly recognised as essential to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality. Yet despite this ecological and economic significance, **rangelands remain the most underfunded and least protected land type in the global conservation and sustainable development agenda.**

The 2024 UNCCD Global Land Outlook Thematic Report on Rangelands documented the alarming scale of rangeland degradation globally: approximately half of all rangeland areas show signs of reduced productivity, with degradation rates accelerating under climate change. Annually, the world loses an estimated USD 23 trillion in ecosystem service values from land degradation, with rangelands disproportionately affected.⁷ In dryland regions, which include the world's largest rangeland systems, land degradation affects more than 2.7 billion people and is a primary driver of rural poverty, food insecurity, and forced migration.⁸ Despite their extent and the scale of populations they support, rangelands are included in only 10 per cent of national climate plans under the Paris Agreement and remain underrepresented in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, national LDN target documents, and global restoration finance instruments.

The financial gap for rangeland restoration is equally stark. Current investment in sustainable rangeland management represents a fraction of what is needed to reverse degradation trends and achieve the land-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. **The Rangeland Flagship Initiative**, launched under the auspices of the UNCCD and supported by IUCN, the UNCCD Global Mechanism, and a growing coalition of partners, estimates that at least USD 300 billion in additional investment is required globally by 2030 to restore and sustainably manage degraded rangelands.⁹

The political momentum for action on rangelands is now stronger than at any previous point in the UNCCD's 30-year history. UNCCD COP16 (Riyadh, December 2024) adopted Resolution L.15 on Rangelands and Pastoralists, the first decision in the Convention's history to specifically address rangelands. The Resolution mandates the UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism to facilitate actions on sustainable management and inclusive governance of rangelands through community-based and participatory approaches that meaningfully engage pastoralists and rangeland communities. COP16 also launched the Global Coalition of Rangeland States, a multi-country platform preparing for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 and for the development of a UNCCD Flagship Initiative on Rangelands under the COP17 Presidency. In parallel, COP16 established new Caucuses for Indigenous Peoples and for Local Communities within the UNCCD, adopted decisions strengthening the framework for land tenure governance and gender equality, and advanced the groundwork for a future global drought regime to be completed at COP17. The Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership mobilised over USD 12 billion in pledges to address land degradation and drought across 80 vulnerable countries. These outcomes collectively define the political and institutional landscape into which this project is designed to deliver.

The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP 2026), for which Mongolia serves as co-chair, provides an unprecedented opportunity to elevate rangelands on the global political and investment agenda. Combined with Mongolia's COP17 Presidency (2026-2028), this convergence of political moments creates a catalytic window that the GEF investment under this project is explicitly designed to leverage. The project is also a vehicle through which the COP16 Resolution on Rangelands and Pastoralists and the Global Coalition of Rangeland States will be operationalised during the COP17 Presidency period.

A.2 Mongolia: A Rangeland Nation at a Critical Juncture

Mongolia is one of the world's most rangeland-dependent nations. With a human population of approximately 3.3 million and a livestock population exceeding 58.1 million head, the country's pastoral economy and cultural identity are inextricably linked to

the health of its grasslands.¹⁰ Mongolia's rangelands cover some 114 million hectares, making it one of the largest intact rangeland systems in the temperate world.¹¹ The eastern steppes and the Gobi desert-steppe mosaic represent biomes of global ecological significance, hosting migratory ungulates, raptors, and the world's last truly wild horse.

However, Mongolia's rangelands are under severe and accelerating pressure. National assessments indicate that approximately 65 per cent of rangelands are degraded to varying degrees.¹² The drivers are well documented: overgrazing linked to the rapid growth of the national herd following privatisation in the 1990s; more frequent and intense dzud (extreme winter events) and summer droughts associated with climate change; inadequate policy incentives for sustainable herd management; weak land tenure security for herder communities; and a long-standing underinvestment in rangeland science, monitoring, and restoration.

Mongolia's average temperature has increased by 2.24 degrees Celsius since 1940,¹³ more than three times the global average warming rate. This rapid warming is shifting vegetation zones, reducing the reliability of seasonal pasture cycles, and increasing vulnerability to desertification in the southern and central regions. The frequency of dzud events has tripled over the past four decades, with the 2009-2010 dzud killing an estimated 20 per cent of the national herd and causing severe livelihood losses for thousands of herder households.¹⁴ These climate trends are projected to intensify through the 2030s and beyond.

Mongolia's pastoral society is organised around deeply rooted customary institutions that represent both a national asset and a foundation for the bottom-up governance approach this project is designed to support. The khot ail system of cooperative herding groups coordinates seasonal movements, mutual labour exchange, and risk sharing across families, and remains the primary social unit of pastoral life across much of rural Mongolia. As of 2019, 1,445 Pasture User Groups (PUGs) were formally registered across 156 soums, alongside over 1,200 community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) groups, most of which are forest user groups engaged in sustainable forest management for livelihood improvement.¹⁵ Traditional seasonal pasture rotation systems, governed by customary rules on winter, spring, summer, and autumn camp use, have sustained rangeland productivity for centuries but are increasingly disrupted by sedentarisation, herd concentration near urban centres, and the erosion of intergenerational knowledge transfer. The project will work with and through these existing institutions rather than creating parallel structures, recognising that durable rangeland governance must be grounded in the social systems that pastoralist communities already own.

Women are central to the functioning and resilience of Mongolia's pastoral economy, yet their contributions remain inadequately recognised in formal governance and policy frameworks. Women manage dairy processing and wool and felt value chains that generate a significant share of herder household income. They maintain social cohesion networks and mutual aid systems between herder families, functions that are particularly critical during harsh winters and dzud events when community solidarity determines household survival. Women also serve as knowledge brokers, transmitting traditional ecological knowledge within and between communities and playing a central role in decisions about seasonal camp movements and resource allocation at the household level. An analysis by the National Committee on Gender Equality indicates that women represent only 30 to 35 per cent of youth herders aged 15 to 34, and the trend of young people, particularly young women, leaving pastoral life is accelerating.¹⁶ The project will address these dimensions through gender-responsive design across all components, with a full Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan to be developed during the PPG phase.

Mongolia has demonstrated political commitment to addressing land degradation. As a Party to the UNCCD, Mongolia has set voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality targets committing to reduce the area of degraded land, restore degraded pastureland, and improve rangeland monitoring systems. The Government's Green Development Policy and successive national action programmes on desertification align with these UNCCD commitments. At the global level, Mongolia's assumption of the UNCCD COP17 Presidency (2026 to 2028), its co-chairmanship of IYRP 2026 alongside Kenya, and its leadership in launching the Global Coalition of Rangeland States at COP16 position it as the most credible available platform for advancing the global rangeland and LDN agenda. However, the gap between political ambition and on-the-ground implementation remains substantial, constrained by financial resources, institutional capacity, and the absence of a coherent national rangeland management framework. This project is designed to support Mongolia in bridging that gap.

A.3 Drivers, Root Causes, and Key Barriers

Land degradation in rangelands is driven by a complex interplay of global structural failures and country-specific pressures. The barriers addressed by this project operate at both levels and are mutually reinforcing: the absence of global investment architecture and knowledge systems weakens the enabling environment for national action, while the fragmentation of national responses undermines the political case for global reform. Mongolia's situation both exemplifies the global challenge and offers a uniquely credible platform from which to address it.

Primary Drivers of Rangeland Degradation

The following drivers are common across rangeland and dryland systems globally. They manifest with particular intensity in Mongolia, which serves as both a critical case and the anchor country for this project, but the patterns they describe are shared by rangeland nations across Central Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, the Horn of Africa, and Latin America. Addressing them requires both nationally-tailored responses and coordinated global action.

- **Overgrazing and overstocking:** Overgrazing is the single largest driver of rangeland degradation globally. The IPBES Global Assessment (2019) identifies land-use change, including the intensification of grazing systems, as the primary driver of terrestrial ecosystem degradation.¹⁷ Across sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and parts of South Asia, the transition from mobile pastoralism to sedentary or semi-sedentary livestock production has concentrated grazing pressure on shrinking land areas, exceeding carrying capacities and triggering soil compaction, erosion, and loss of palatable species. In the Sahel, herd sizes have increased while pastoral mobility has declined due to agricultural encroachment and border restrictions. In Central Asia, post-Soviet institutional collapse dismantled the collective grazing management systems that previously regulated stocking rates. Market incentives that reward herd size over herd quality compound the problem across multiple regions.
- **Climate change and drought:** Climate change one of the most important drivers of ecosystem loss and is accelerating rangeland degradation through rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, increased drought frequency and intensity, and greater climate variability. The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report identifies drylands as among the most climate-vulnerable land systems globally, with warming rates in continental interiors often exceeding the global average by a factor of two to three. In the Horn of Africa, consecutive failed rainy seasons since 2020 have caused an unprecedented pastoral crisis. In Central Asia, aridification is shifting vegetation zones northward. The UNCCD estimates that drought affects more than 2.7 billion people globally and that the frequency of extreme drought events has increased by 29 per cent since 2000.
- **Insecure land tenure and weak pastoral governance:** Across most rangeland regions, pastoral communities lack formal recognition of their customary land rights. The International Land Coalition estimates that pastoralists have secure legal recognition of their land rights in fewer than 10 per cent of the countries where they operate. Open-access dynamics, where customary governance has eroded but formal tenure has not replaced it, are a primary driver of unsustainable rangeland use. UNCCD COP16 adopted a decision inviting Parties to integrate land tenure into their plans to combat land degradation, recognising tenure insecurity as a systemic barrier to sustainable land management. Without secure tenure, pastoralist communities have neither the incentive nor the authority to enforce sustainable stocking rates, invest in rangeland restoration, or resist encroachment.
- **Structural underinvestment in rangeland restoration and monitoring:** Rangelands receive a fraction of the finance directed to forests, despite covering a larger land area and supporting comparable populations. There is no global equivalent of REDD+ for rangelands, no standardised rangeland carbon accounting methodology widely adopted by carbon markets, and no dedicated multilateral fund for rangeland restoration. Most rangeland countries lack functional national monitoring systems capable of tracking LDN indicators consistently at landscape scale. This data gap weakens the evidence base for policy reform, investment decisions, and adaptive management, creating a self-reinforcing cycle of invisibility and underinvestment.
- **Mining, extractive industries, and infrastructure expansion.** Across dryland countries, extractive industries are an increasingly significant and often irreversible driver of rangeland conversion. Mining operations fragment pastoral landscapes, contaminate water sources, and displace communities, while associated road, rail, and pipeline infrastructure further degrades ecosystems and severs the seasonal migration corridors on which pastoral livelihoods depend. In sub-Saharan Africa, the expansion of mining concessions into rangeland areas has been documented in Kenya's Turkana region, Botswana's Kalahari, and Tanzania's Maasai lands. In Central Asia, the post-Soviet mining boom has transformed large areas of former pastureland. Renewable energy installations increasingly compete for rangeland areas.
- **Rural-urban migration and demographic change.** Across dryland and rangeland countries, rural depopulation is weakening traditional pastoral systems, reducing rangeland custodianship, and eroding the intergenerational transmission of land management knowledge. Young people, particularly young women, are leaving pastoral life for urban centres. This trend is documented across the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, Central Asia, and Latin America. The loss of pastoral youth threatens the continuity of customary governance systems that regulate seasonal movement, stocking rates, and rangeland access. Where custodianship weakens, degradation accelerates.

National Drivers in Mongolia

Mongolia exemplifies the global driver patterns described above with particular intensity. Section A.2 provides the full anchor country context; the following summarises how each global driver manifests nationally.

1. Overgrazing and herd growth. The national herd has grown from approximately 25 million head in 1990 to over 70 million by 2024, far exceeding carrying capacity. The UNCCD National Report attributes the increase in land productivity decline (from 4.0 to 15.2 per cent of land area) explicitly to drought and overgrazing. Post-transition market incentives that reward herd size, particularly cashmere goats, have compounded the problem.

2. Climate change and dzud. As described in Section A.2, Mongolia has warmed by 2.24 degrees Celsius since 1940, more than three times the global average. Drought is cyclic (approximately 11-year periods), and dzud frequency has tripled over four decades. Climate impacts interact with overgrazing in a compounding downward spiral: degraded pasture recovers more slowly after drought, and concentrated herds on weakened rangeland are more vulnerable to dzud.

3. Insecure pastoral tenure. All pastureland is classified as state-owned with no formal tenure rights for herder communities. The draft Pastureland Law, which would provide a legal framework for community-based rangeland governance, has been debated for over a decade but remains unenacted.
4. Mining and infrastructure. The mining sector accounts for approximately 24 per cent of GDP. The UNCCD National Report identifies mining as a priority driver in the Southern Khangai degradation hotspot, flagging the need to restore degraded mining areas and halt illegal mining. Road and rail infrastructure linked to mining is fragmenting traditional seasonal pasture rotation corridors.
5. Rural-urban migration. Ulaanbaatar now holds nearly half the national population. The UNCCD report links declining drought vulnerability directly to rural-urban migration intensifying since the 2001 dzud. The out-migration of young people weakens the khot ail system and erodes intergenerational transmission of pastoralist knowledge.
6. Underinvestment. Government expenditure on DLDD ranged from USD 1.2 million to USD 6.3 million annually (2016 to 2020). Voluntary LDN targets remain unapproved at ministerial level. There is no national rangeland monitoring system; the UNCCD report notes reliance on default ISRIC and Trends Earth data due to absence of national soil carbon monitoring.

Global Barriers

Global Barrier 1: Structural underinvestment and the absence of a rangeland investment architecture. Rangelands receive a disproportionately small share of global climate and land restoration finance relative to their ecological and socioeconomic significance. Unlike forests, which benefit from established carbon markets, biodiversity offset mechanisms, and dedicated finance vehicles such as REDD+, rangelands lack an equivalent investment taxonomy, a standardised results measurement framework, and an investment-ready project pipeline that institutional investors and development finance institutions can engage with confidently. While mechanisms such as the LDN Fund and the recently launched Drylands Restoration Investment Framework (DRIF) have begun to address the broader land degradation financing gap, they are not rangeland-specific and have not yet generated the scale of investment pipeline needed for pastoral and dryland systems. Studies estimate that current annual investment in sustainable rangeland management globally amounts to a fraction of the estimated USD 300 billion required by 2030 to reverse degradation trends.¹⁸ The Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, launched at COP16 with over USD 12 billion in pledges, demonstrates growing political will but underscores the point: even when large sums are mobilised for land and drought, rangelands lack the dedicated financial architecture to capture their share. This gap is not primarily a function of investor unwillingness. It reflects the absence of the financial architecture, the credible investment case, and the appropriate financing instruments needed to translate political commitments into capital flows at scale. Without these structural enablers, even well-intentioned investors and development banks lack the tools to direct finance toward rangeland restoration and sustainable management. The GEF investment under Component 2 directly addresses this barrier by developing an investment pipeline, financing partnerships, and the evidence base needed to mobilise public and private capital.

Global Barrier 2: Fragmented knowledge systems and weak international coordination. Despite a growing body of evidence on rangeland management best practices, restoration techniques, and LDN monitoring methodologies, this knowledge remains fragmented across national programmes, research institutions, and development projects, with limited cross-country synthesis or accessibility to policy makers, investors, and communities. Equally, the traditional ecological knowledge held by pastoralist communities and Indigenous Peoples on rangeland management, seasonal rotation, climate adaptation, and sustainable grazing practices remains inadequately documented, systematised, or integrated into global frameworks and decision-making processes. No single authoritative global platform consolidates rangeland science, monitoring standards, practitioner knowledge, and investment evidence in an accessible and actionable form. The mechanisms for structured South-South cooperation on LDN among dryland countries remain underdeveloped, with most knowledge exchange occurring through ad hoc channels rather than systematic, demand-driven processes. The absence of endorsed global guidelines on rangeland health and degradation monitoring further impedes consistent LDN indicator tracking and reporting across UNCCD Parties, creating data gaps that weaken both national policy making and the global investment case. COP16 took steps to address these gaps by expanding the mandate of the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface and establishing Caucuses for Indigenous Peoples and for Local Communities. Components 3 and 4 directly address this barrier through the Rangeland Flagship Initiative knowledge platform, the technical exchange hub, the endorsed monitoring guidelines, and the structured South-South cooperation programme.

Global Barrier 3: Inadequate political visibility and policy coherence for rangelands. Rangelands are systematically underrepresented in global environmental governance frameworks relative to their ecological importance and the number of people who depend on them. The UNCCD, despite being the primary convention addressing land degradation and desertification, has historically given greater policy attention to dryland agriculture and forest-adjacent landscapes than to pastoral rangeland systems and the mobile livelihoods of the pastoralists who manage them. The absence of a dedicated rangeland target in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the limited treatment of pastoral systems in nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, and the marginal presence of rangeland considerations in national LDN target documents all reflect this structural political invisibility. This lack of visibility reduces the priority that governments, multilateral institutions, and the private sector assign to rangeland investment and governance reform. COP16 marked a significant breakthrough: the adoption of Resolution L.15 on Rangelands and Pastoralists, the introduction of rangelands and

sustainable agri-food systems as new UNCCD agenda items, and the launch of the Global Coalition of Rangeland States collectively represent the strongest political signal for rangelands in the Convention's history. However, these decisions are mandates and frameworks, not yet implementation. The institutional machinery needed to translate COP16 commitments into coordinated global action, sustained finance, and measurable change on the ground does not yet exist. The convergence of Mongolia's COP17 Presidency and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 represents the strongest available opportunity in the current global policy cycle to correct this gap, embed rangelands in future global frameworks, and generate the high-level political commitments needed to unlock investment at scale. COP17 will include a dedicated Ministerial Dialogue on the Restoration of Rangelands and the Well-being of Pastoralists' Communities, providing the highest-level political platform rangelands have ever had within the UNCCD. Components 1 and 3 directly address this barrier.

National Barriers

Mongolia's rangeland crisis exemplifies all three global barriers in a national context. The country's advanced level of political commitment to LDN, its COP17 Presidency, and its established institutional capacity make it a credible and compelling demonstration case for addressing these barriers. Three Mongolia-specific barriers constrain the country's ability to translate commitment into impact.

National Barrier 1: Institutional and policy framework gaps. Mongolia lacks a comprehensive national rangeland management law that provides a clear legal basis for regulating stocking rates, establishing rotational grazing systems, and assigning governance responsibilities across different levels of government. The draft Pastureland Law, which would provide such a framework and formally recognise community-based rangeland governance, has been debated for over a decade but remains unenacted. While the Land Law and the Environmental Protection Law contain provisions relevant to pastureland management, these provisions are weakly enforced and do not constitute a coherent regulatory framework for rangeland governance. The Law on Reducing Adverse Effects of Climate Change on Traditional Animal Livestock husbandry focuses on enhancing the legal framework for herders to adopt sustainable livestock practices and improve resilience to severe winters and droughts. Yet, the gap between formal legal frameworks and customary pastoral governance is particularly acute: the khot ail cooperative herding system, Pasture User Groups, CBNRM groups and Herders associations described in Section A.2 operate without formal legal standing, meaning that the customary institutions most capable of managing rangelands sustainably have neither statutory authority nor access to public resources. The recently approved law on the Legal Status of the Unified Association of Herder Household aims to provide clear legal structure for the formation and operation of herding associations at multiple administrative levels. However, there is no functional national coordination mechanism that systematically brings together the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, aimag and soum governments, and herder communities in integrated landscape planning and adaptive management. Mongolia's UNCCD national reporting further highlights persistent gaps in LDN indicator monitoring, particularly for land productivity trends and soil organic carbon at the landscape scale, weakening the evidence base for policy reform and investment decisions.

National Barrier 2: Insufficient and poorly structured investment. Current public investment in rangeland management in Mongolia falls substantially short of what is required to restore degraded pastureland, support the transition to sustainable herding practices, and build the adaptive capacity of herder communities in the face of accelerating climate impacts. Government expenditure on combating desertification, land degradation, and drought ranged from USD 1.2 million to USD 6.3 million annually between 2016 and 2020, for a country with 362,609 km² of degraded land. Private sector investment in rangeland restoration is nascent and largely unstructured. Mongolia has no national investment framework for sustainable rangeland management, no dedicated financing instrument for rangeland restoration, and no established mechanism for attracting impact investors, green bonds, or development finance institution lending into the rangeland sector. The cashmere and livestock value chains, which generate significant revenues and are directly dependent on rangeland health, have not been systematically engaged as co-investors in the sustainable management of the resource base on which they depend. This structural disconnect between value chain profitability and rangeland investment represents a significant missed opportunity that the project will help to address.

National Barrier 3: Limited South-South knowledge exchange and regional cooperation. Mongolia's rangeland management challenges are shared by dozens of dryland countries across Central Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America, yet the mechanisms for structured peer-to-peer learning between these countries on LDN approaches, pastoralist-led restoration, climate adaptation, and innovative financing remain underdeveloped. Mongolia has accumulated significant experience in community-based rangeland management, dzud early warning systems, and LDN target setting that is directly relevant to other dryland countries but has not been systematically documented or shared. Conversely, lessons from rangeland governance reforms in Kenya, Botswana, and Uruguay, and from innovative financing mechanisms piloted in African dryland contexts, have not been adequately transferred to Mongolia and Central Asia. Existing pastoralist networks, including the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP), the International Land Coalition, and Dana Declaration signatories, provide potential channels for exchange but have not been systematically connected to UNCCD processes or investment planning. The emerging Global Coalition of Rangeland States, launched at COP16, offers a new institutional platform for this cooperation, and the project will contribute to this under Component 4. Mongolia's COP17 Presidency and IYRP 2026 leadership create a unique institutional mandate and political platform to lead this exchange, but only if the project resources and knowledge management systems are in place to do so effectively.

A.4 The GEF Investment Opportunity: The COP17 Presidency as a Catalytic Lever

Mongolia will assume the UNCCD COP17 Presidency in August 2026 and hold it until COP18 (2028). COP17 itself, convening in Ulaanbaatar under the theme 'Restoring Land, Restoring Hope,' will include a Heads of State Summit, high-level ministerial dialogues on finance, water, rangelands and pastoralists, and food systems, and mandated events for the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Caucuses, Gender Caucus, and Youth Forum established at COP16. The UNCCD Secretariat and the incoming COP Presidency have called for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. The convergence of this programme with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026, co-chaired by Mongolia, and with the COP16 decisions (Resolution L.15, the Global Coalition of Rangeland States, the unfinished drought regime) creates a two-year window of exceptional potential for the global rangeland and LDN agenda. The GEF investment under this project is designed to support that the Presidency period generates durable outcomes that outlast the conference.¹⁹

The project's value lies in three areas. First, during COP17, the project will add value by supporting adequate representation of decision makers, observer groups, pastoralist organisations, IPLCs, and civil society in the ministerial dialogues and mandated events, and by contributing preparatory knowledge inputs and evidence to strengthen the quality of COP outcomes. The support would extend to stakeholders from other regions and annexes of the UNCCD. The project will build synergies with planned global COP17 initiatives and the Riyadh-Ulaanbaatar Action Agenda, ensuring that GEF-supported evidence on rangeland investment, monitoring, and governance is available to decision makers, observers and stakeholders. Second, the project addresses the period after COP17 when political decisions must be translated into institutional arrangements, knowledge products, investment partnerships, and cooperation programmes. Third, the project ensures that the COP17 Presidency office has the technical resources, knowledge management capacity, and international partnership infrastructure needed to maintain the rangeland and LDN agenda as a living programme globally for the duration of their Presidency.

This project is designed as a global cross-cutting knowledge, investment facilitation, and South-South cooperation pillar supporting the COP17 Presidency programme throughout the full two-year Presidency period (2026 to 2028). It directly addresses the three global barriers identified in Section A.3. Under Component 1, the project supports the Presidency office in sustaining inclusive stakeholder engagement at and beyond COP17, ensuring that commitments made by governments, civil society, pastoralist communities, and the private sector at the ministerial dialogues are tracked, reported on, and advanced through to COP18. Under Component 2, the project develops the investment evidence and financing partnerships needed to begin closing the rangeland finance gap, working alongside the UNCCD Global Mechanism and contributing to the development of emerging initiatives including the Rangeland Flagship Initiative. Under Component 3, the project strengthens the global knowledge base through an open platform linked to the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, endorsed rangeland monitoring guidelines, and country case studies integrating scientific and traditional ecological knowledge. Under Component 4, the project facilitates structured South-South cooperation across dryland countries, contributing to the development of the Global Coalition of Rangeland States and drawing on existing networks including the IYRP Alliance, WAMIP, and the International Land Coalition.

Without GEF investment during this window, there is a risk that COP17 and IYRP 2026 outcomes are not sustained beyond the conference period. Ministerial commitments would lack the follow-up knowledge products, investment facilitation, and cooperation mechanisms needed to translate into action. Opportunities for structured South-South exchange that would strengthen the emerging Global Coalition of Rangeland States and connect dryland countries across regions would be significantly reduced. The global knowledge base on rangeland health and investment would remain fragmented, and rangelands would continue to receive a marginal share of restoration finance in the absence of dedicated investment architecture. The COP17 Presidency period represents a significant opportunity to advance the global rangeland agenda, and GEF investment is needed to ensure that opportunity is fully realised.

The COP17 Legacy Project builds on the precedent of the UNCCD COP15 Abidjan Legacy Project which demonstrated that GEF investment can effectively anchor and amplify a COP Presidency's programmatic ambitions. The Mongolia project goes significantly further: it combines the knowledge management and investment catalysing dimensions of the COP15 model with a substantive global south-south cooperation component and support for policy coherence, reflecting Mongolia's unique position as both a dryland country with significant restoration needs and a global leader in rangeland science and pastoralist heritage.

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⁶ O'Connor, R. C., Boyd, C. S., Naugle, D. E., & Smith, J. T. (2024). The Carbon Security Index: a novel approach to assessing how secure carbon is in sagebrush ecosystems within the great basin. *Rangeland Ecology & Management*, 97, 169-177.

⁷ Dickinson, D. (2024). *Private sector urged to act as world faces \$23 trillion loss from land degradation*. United Nations News. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1157801>.

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- ⁹ Davies, J., Nyamtseren, M., Wane, A., & Hientz, L. (2025). The Business Case for Investment in Rangeland Restoration. *ELD*.
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- ¹² Nyamjav, et al., (2025). The Degradation of Rangelands in Mongolia.
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- ¹⁴ Sternberg, T. (2010). Unravelling Mongolia's extreme winter disaster of 2010. *Nomadic Peoples*, 14(1), 72-86.
- ¹⁵ Scope. Mongolian Pasture Users Association. <https://greenmongolia.mn/tsar-huree>
- ¹⁶ SCALA. (2024). Integrating Gender Equity into the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Mongolia. United Nations Development Programme, 5. <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/resources/integrating-gender-equality-nationally-determined-contribution-ndc-mongolia>.
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- ¹⁸ Scholes, R., et al. (2018). Summary for policymakers of the assessment report on land degradation and restoration of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. *IPBES secretariat*.
- ¹⁹ UNCCD. (2026). UNCCD COP17 note verbale. *United Nations Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification*. <https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/notifications/unccd-cop17-note-verbale>.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

B.1 Project Objective and Theory of Change

The project objective is: ***To catalyse durable global action on sustainable rangeland management and Land Degradation Neutrality by generating knowledge, facilitating investment, and strengthening South–South cooperation, anchored in Mongolia's UNCCD COP17 Presidency (2026 to 2028).***

The theory of change (Figure 1) rests on three interconnected causal pathways, each addressing one of the global barriers identified in Section A.3. The pathways are designed to generate global environmental benefits while using Mongolia's COP17 Presidency as the anchor and catalytic platform. The project operates across a two-year Presidency period (2026 to 2028), with a dual-track approach combining dedicated engagement with anchor countries and open global platforms accessible to all UNCCD Parties.

Pathway 1: Presidency Leadership Enables Policy Momentum

If the COP17 Presidency is supported to deliver an inclusive programme that engages not only governments but civil society, pastoralist organisations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (through the new Caucuses established at COP16), youth, women, and the scientific community as active partners (Component 1), then UNCCD processes will produce stronger, more legitimate, and more durable outcomes on rangelands and LDN. The project supports this pathway not primarily through COP17 event delivery, but through ensuring adequate representation of observer groups and decision makers, contributing preparatory evidence and knowledge inputs, and sustaining stakeholder engagement throughout the Presidency period to COP18. This addresses Global Barrier 3 (political visibility and policy coherence). The assumption is that Mongolia's credibility

as a rangeland nation and COP17 host, combined with the COP16 mandate (Resolution L.15) and the momentum of IYRP 2026, will translate political will into durable outcomes.

Pathway 2: Investment Facilitation Catalyses Finance at Scale

If the evidence base for sustainable rangeland investment is developed and communicated effectively to public and private investors (Component 2), and if the right financing partnerships are established with development finance institutions, the private sector, international organizations, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and national governments in anchor countries, then investment flows into rangeland restoration and sustainable management will begin to increase. This addresses Global Barrier 1 (structural underinvestment and the absence of a rangeland investment architecture). The project contributes to this pathway by developing investment evidence, supporting partnership building with IFIs, and contributing to emerging initiatives including the Rangeland Flagship Initiative. The assumption is that the investment case for rangelands is real and demonstrable, and that the main barrier is not willingness but the absence of structured, investment-ready projects and appropriate financing instruments.

Pathway 3: Knowledge and South-South Cooperation Build Systemic Capacity

If the global knowledge base on rangeland health, monitoring, and sustainable management is strengthened through an open platform integrating both scientific and traditional ecological knowledge (Component 3), and if structured South-South cooperation connects dryland countries across regions through the emerging Global Coalition of Rangeland States, the Global IYRP Alliance, and pastoralist networks such as WAMIP and the International Land Coalition (Component 4), then national and community capacities for LDN implementation will strengthen across the UNCCD Party landscape. This addresses Global Barrier 2 (fragmented knowledge systems and weak international coordination). The assumption is that demand-driven, peer-to-peer exchange generates more durable learning than supply-driven knowledge transfer, and that integrating traditional ecological knowledge alongside scientific evidence produces more relevant and locally appropriate knowledge products

These three pathways converge at the outcome level: a global community of practice around sustainable rangeland management that is better financed, better informed, more inclusive, and better coordinated as a result of Mongolia's COP17 Presidency and the GEF investment that supports it. The project will actively engage civil society organisations, pastoralist and herder organisations (including the National Federation of Pasture User Groups, CBNRM groups associations, herder association and herder cooperatives, and khot ail traditional herding groups in Mongolia), community-based organisations, smallholder farmer networks, women's dairy and wool cooperatives, and youth rangeland monitoring groups. At the global level, this includes pastoralist networks such as the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP), Dana Declaration signatories, the International Land Coalition, and CSOs active in rangeland management across anchor countries. This bottom-up engagement ensures that community knowledge, customary governance systems, and locally-led practices feed directly into the Rangeland Flagship Initiative design, investment pipeline development, and global knowledge products.

Key assumptions:

- Mongolia's political will and institutional capacity to deliver the COP17 Presidency are sustained throughout the project period
- The investment case for sustainable rangeland management is real and communicable to development finance institutions and private investors
- UNCCD Parties and the private sector are willing to make and honour investment and policy commitments catalysed during the Presidency period
- South-South knowledge exchange generates genuine demand-driven learning rather than supply-driven knowledge transfer

Civil society organisations, pastoralist communities, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples have adequate policy space, funding access, and institutional support to participate meaningfully as partners in project design and implementation

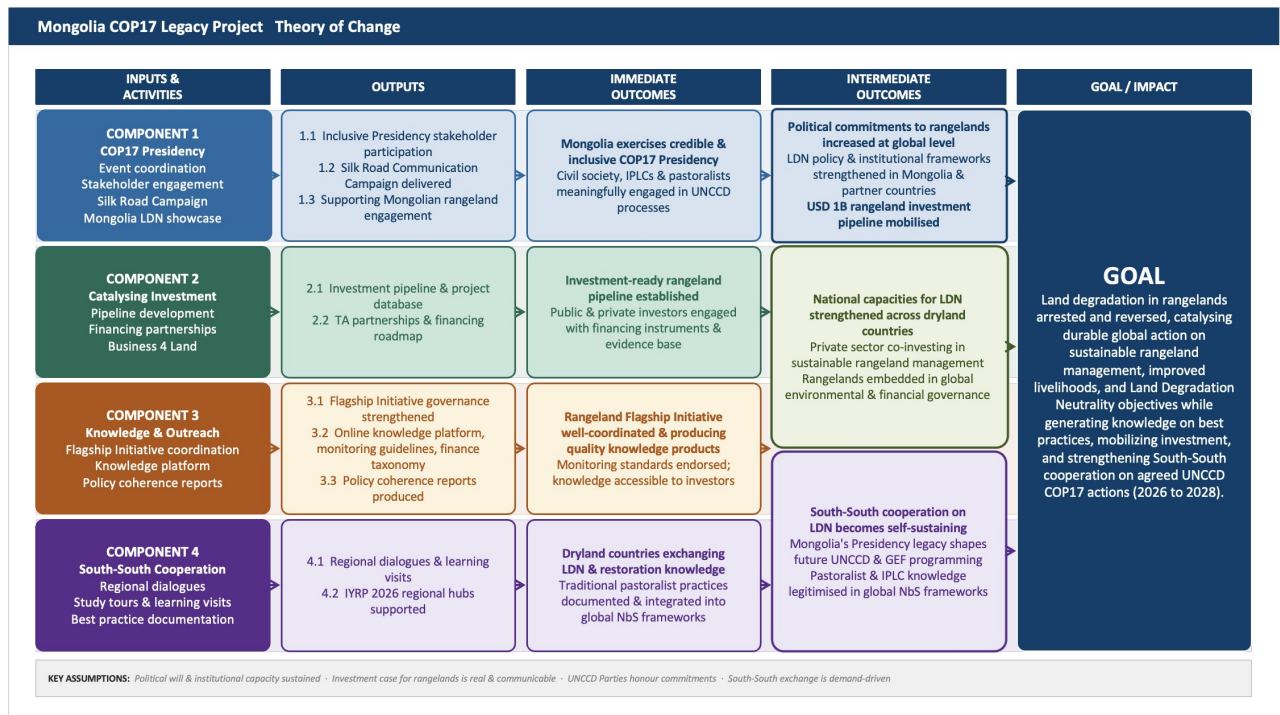


Figure 1. Theory of Change

B.2 Component Descriptions

Component 1: Mongolia COP17 and Stakeholder Engagement

Component 1 supports Mongolia in exercising its COP17 Presidency from August 2026 through to COP18. The component covers the full spectrum of Presidency responsibilities: event logistics and coordination, stakeholder engagement, communication, and the documentation of Mongolia's national LDN implementation as a demonstration of rangeland country leadership.

Output 1.1 will ensure inclusive participation in COP17 Presidency activities. This includes logistical and coordination support for side events, high-level segments, and exhibition spaces at COP17 and inter-sessional meetings. Particular attention will be given to ensuring meaningful participation from civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women's cooperatives, youth groups, pastoralist organisations, and the scientific community, through dedicated travel grants, exhibition support, and structured dialogues. Capacity building sessions will be organised on UNCCD processes, national rangeland governance, and LDN reporting mechanisms.

Output 1.2 will develop and deliver the **COP17 Silk Road Communication Campaign**, which will link Mongolia's rangeland restoration narrative, pastoralist cultural heritage, and LDN commitments into a coherent global communication strategy. This campaign will run throughout the Presidency period, positioning Mongolia's experience as an inspiration for other dryland countries. A post-COP17 communications strategy will sustain engagement and visibility through to COP18, ensuring that the momentum generated during the COP17 event is maintained and built upon.

Output 1.3 will enable high-level political engagement on rangelands at COP17, particularly by facilitating decisionmaker participation in ministerial dialogues on rangeland restoration and pastoralist wellbeing. This will strengthen global policy coherence on rangelands across multilateral frameworks by improving coordination of rangeland policy messaging across Conventions. Tracking and a follow-up mechanism for COP17 ministerial commitments on rangelands will be established and maintained through COP18, ensuring outcomes are well documented and disseminated. This will link directly to the evidence base produced under Component 3. The critical assumption underpinning Component 1 is that a well-resourced and inclusive COP17 Presidency will generate political commitments, high-level decisions, and institutional momentum that could not be achieved without this level of support. The GEF investment ensures that Mongolia can fulfil its Presidency obligations with the quality and inclusivity that the global UNCCD community expects, and that the Presidency's outcomes are systematically documented and communicated.

Component 2: Catalysing Investment

Component 2 addresses the most critical structural gap in global rangeland management: the absence of a structured, investment-ready pipeline of projects and the financing instruments needed to attract institutional

capital. The UNCCD Global Mechanism, with its established mandate in investment facilitation and its networks with development finance institutions, the private sector, and national governments, is the natural lead for this component.

Output 2.1 will develop a database of rangeland restoration and management projects aligned with the principles and results framework of the Rangeland Flagship Initiative. The database will track financing flows, identify gaps, and monitor progress toward the Flagship Initiative's target of USD 1 billion in investment commitments over a 10 year period (2026-2035). An investment case and evidence base on the economic returns of sustainable rangeland management will be co-developed and disseminated with public and private partners, drawing on the growing body of evidence from projects in Mongolia, Kenya, Botswana, Uruguay, and other Flagship Initiative partner countries.

Output 2.2 will establish technical assistance partnerships to support the preparation of innovative projects and investments. Three specific partnership mechanisms are targeted: the ADB/UNCCD Rangeland Technical Assistance facility; the Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF); and the UNCCD Partnership for Project Preparation. These will provide structured support to governments and communities to develop investment-ready project proposals. Public-private partnership pilot projects will be co-designed to build the evidence base and demonstrate returns. Donor roundtables and a financing roadmap will be completed in collaboration with multilateral development banks and bilateral partners to mobilise co-financing and align investment strategies.

Component 3: Knowledge, Outreach and Rangeland Flagship Initiative

Component 3 ensures that the Rangeland Flagship Initiative functions as a well-coordinated, technically rigorous, and globally visible multi-partner mechanism. It builds the knowledge infrastructure that underpins both the investment case (Component 2) and the South-South cooperation agenda (Component 4).

Output 3.1 will strengthen Rangeland Flagship Initiative governance and coordination through regular Partners meetings, a global coalition for rangeland policy and investment advocacy, and the development of an endorsed roadmap for sustaining momentum on rangelands and pastoralist priorities beyond COP17. This roadmap will be developed in close coordination with the IYRP 2026 Global Coalition and will position the Flagship Initiative as the primary coordinating mechanism for post-COP17 rangeland action under the UNCCD.

Output 3.2 will produce a suite of high-quality technical outputs: an online and hybrid technical exchange platform integrating the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and Flagship Initiative resources; case studies documenting rates of return and success stories from businesses, SMEs, and communities engaged in sustainable rangeland investment; a Supplementary Common Nature Finance Taxonomy for land and rangelands, developed in collaboration with multilateral development banks to enable consistent accounting and reporting of nature-related investments; and endorsed guidelines on monitoring and assessment of rangeland health and degradation, addressing the significant data gaps that currently impede LDN tracking.

Output 3.3 will deliver policy coherence analyses and flagship reports on LDN and sustainable infrastructure, submitted to UNCCD processes and published for broad dissemination. UNCCD Knowledge Hub inputs and outreach materials will be developed to support continued advocacy on rangelands and their role in achieving global sustainability goals and will compile and disseminate case studies related to rangeland restoration.

Component 4: South-South Cooperation and the Global Coalition on Rangelands

Component 4 leverages Mongolia's COP17 Presidency and IYRP 2026 leadership to facilitate structured South-South cooperation on LDN and dryland management among countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, directly addressing issues of weak international coordination. IUCN's global networks, field presence, and experience in facilitating knowledge exchange across regions make it the natural lead for this component. Gender is integrated into each output's design, ensuring robust participation from women.

Output 4.1 will deliver global and regional institutional dialogues and workshops in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, focused on South-South exchange of LDN and restoration approaches across multiple anchor countries, while also amplifying Mongolian Presidency initiatives. South-South learning visits and study tours will be facilitated between Mongolia and partner countries of the Global Coalition of Rangeland States, creating peer-to-peer knowledge transfer opportunities that formal technical cooperation channels cannot replicate. Exchange visits will emphasize stakeholder diversity, ensuring participation of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples from each region. The visits will connect policymakers, pastoralist leaders, and rangeland practitioners between Mongolia and partner countries, with dedicated exchanges on rangeland governance reform, community-based management, climate adaptation, and gender-responsive pastoral policies.

Output 4.2 will support IYRP 2026 regional and global alliance activities through dedicated regional hubs that sustain pastoralist and rangeland advocacy beyond COP17 through COP18 and connect to the agenda of the Global Coalition of Rangeland States. Regional hubs will facilitate peer-to-peer learning on LDN target-setting and rangeland governance for Coalition member countries, drawing on Mongolia's experience and linking pastoralist organizations across regions. Reports and synthesis documents will be produced for integration into the UNCCD

Knowledge Hub and global policy processes, ensuring that the South-South learning generated by the project feeds back into the global policy cycle.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

B.3 Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

NO.

This project will be implemented by IUCN as GEF Agency. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC), Government of Mongolia, will serve as the main Executing Agency, drawing on its direct mandate as COP17 Presidency host and its institutional responsibility for land degradation and environmental policy. The UNCCD Global Mechanism and IUCN may have a potential co-execution role given the global scope of the project. The GM brings investment facilitation expertise and UNCCD platform access, while IUCN contributes globally recognised technical leadership on rangeland science, South-South cooperation, and established relationships with dryland country governments and civil society partners. The potential execution support from the UNCCD Global Mechanism and IUCN will be assessed during the PPG phase, following a detailed evaluation and the completion of any required micro-assessment of the implementing partner. During this phase, the project will explore all available options, including the possibility of third-party execution support, to determine if and what co-execution arrangements are required.

The project builds on and complements a substantial portfolio of existing GEF-funded and non-GEF initiatives in Mongolia and globally:

- UNDP/GEF Western Mongolia MSP (GEF ID 5700, GEF-6): Established the land degradation offset and mitigation framework for Mongolia, including engagement with the mining sector. The COP17 Legacy Project will build on these governance lessons in the context of the national rangeland policy framework.
- UNCCD COP15 Abidjan Legacy Project (GEF ID 11012, IFAD, GEF-7): The direct precedent for this project. Lessons on knowledge management architecture, investment tool development, and community of practice establishment will be systematically applied.
- GEF-7 SFM Drylands Impact Program and FAO/WWF Eastern Steppe Project (GEF ID 10249, GEF-7, SFM Drylands Impact Program): The Mongolia Eastern Steppe project is a child project of this programme. The COP17 Legacy Project will align its rangeland monitoring frameworks and knowledge outputs with the IP's knowledge management architecture.
- IUCN/WWF IKI Grasslands Project: This project will develop restoration, protection and sustainable management pathways for grasslands, savannahs and rangelands in Latin America. IUCN has established a Regional Knowledge Platform for Grassland and Savannahs in Latin America which will support cooperation and the South-South exchange component of the COP17 Legacy Project in the region (Implementation: 2024-2028, Funding volume: EUR 664,622)
- Sustainable Investments for Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration (STELARR, GEF ID 10816, GEF-7): Implemented by IUCN and executed by ILRI, STELARR is unlocking private sector finance for rangeland restoration through sustainable livestock value chains, including Mongolia's cashmere sector. The COP17 Legacy Project will leverage STELARR's investment cases, global rangeland data platform, and monitoring framework to catalyse investment commitments under Components 2 and 4, and will coordinate with STELARR's IYRP 2026 workstream to avoid duplication and maximise joint impact.
- Strengthening Civil Society Role in Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (GEF ID 10993, GEF-7): Implemented and co-executed by IUCN with Drynet and Both ENDS, this global initiative strengthens the capacity of civil society organisations to engage effectively in UNCCD processes and LDN policymaking. Its focus on CSO mentorship networks, multi-stakeholder engagement, and community-led LDN solutions feeds directly into Component 1's inclusive stakeholder engagement agenda and Component 4's exchange of locally-led approaches across dryland countries. IUCN's shared execution role across both projects ensures that civil society networks mobilised under GEF ID 10993 are actively connected to COP17 Presidency dialogues and South-South exchange activities.

- IYRP 2026 Global Alliance: Mongolia's leadership of the IYRP secretariat creates a direct institutional connection between this project and the global IYRP programme. Component 4 activities are explicitly designed to complement and reinforce the IYRP global coalition's advocacy agenda.
- Accelerating Action for Resilience and Innovation in Drought Risk Management (ARID): Implemented and co-executed by IUCN alongside local partners, this Austrian Development Agency-funded project advances drought-responsive NbS and ecosystem restoration in rangelands and dry forest landscapes across Kenya, Burkina Faso, and Georgia. By facilitating South-South dialogue, including between policymakers and local communities, IUCN is advancing LDN progress in the target regions. Interventions prioritise local leadership and inclusive governance, incorporating gender and youth aspects into implementation and technical guidance in line with UNCCD goals. This experience directly complements Component 4, providing a strong foundation for further action in drought-prone regions.

Project Governance Structure

The project governance structure (Figure 2) is designed to ensure clear lines of fiduciary accountability, effective coordination across three executing entities, and meaningful engagement of the UNCCD COP17 Presidency structures and key partner initiatives throughout implementation. The diagram below illustrates the full governance architecture.

The GEF Secretariat provides overall oversight and accountability for the GEF investment. The IUCN Multilateral Finance Unit serves as GEF Agency, bearing full fiduciary responsibility and ensuring compliance with GEF policies, environmental and social safeguards, and financial management standards throughout the project cycle.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is the principal governance body for strategic decision-making and oversight. It is chaired by MECC as the COP17 Presidency host, and includes the UNCCD Secretariat, the UNCCD Global Mechanism, IUCN, GEF Secretariat and partners. The IYRP Global Alliance and other relevant stakeholders will be invited to participate in the Steering Committee as observers. The PSC meets at minimum twice annually, with additional sessions convened as required by the project calendar and COP17 preparatory milestones.

The Project Management Unit is responsible for day-to-day coordination, financial management, reporting, and knowledge management across all four components. MECC and the Government of Mongolia serve as lead executing entity drawing on their direct mandate as COP17 Presidency host.

The governance structure provides for structured engagement with key external initiatives. The UNCCD COP17 Presidency Office and Mongolia OFP maintain a direct coordination link with the PSC. The Rangeland Flagship Initiative Partners are connected to the PMU as the primary knowledge and coordination platform for Components 2, 3, and 4. The IYRP 2026 Global Alliance is engaged at the executing entity level through Mongolia's co-chairmanship. STELARR and the CSO LDN Project are formally recognised as synergy initiatives within the governance structure, with coordination mechanisms established to prevent duplication and maximise joint impact. South-South partner countries engage directly through Component 4 activities.

Mongolia COP17 Legacy Project | Project Governance Structure

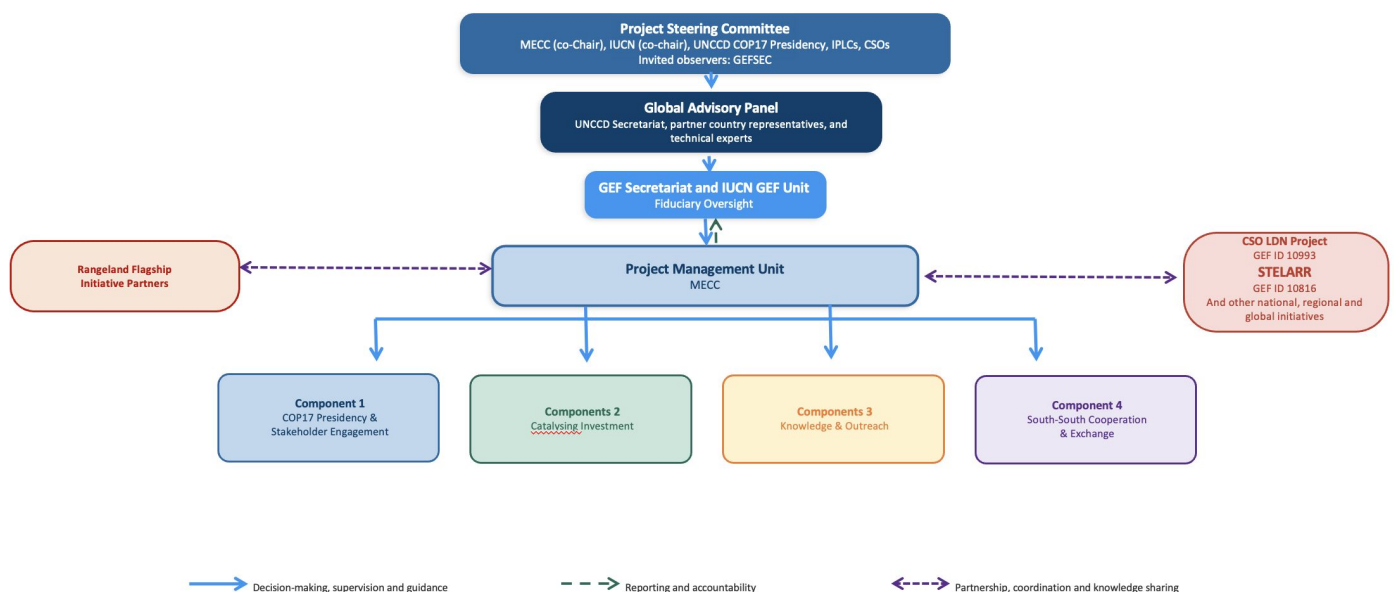


Figure 2. Project Governance Structure

Core Indicators

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	2,500			
Male	2,500			
Total	5,000	0	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The project reports against Core Indicator 11 (people benefiting from GEF-financed investments, disaggregated by sex) as the sole applicable core indicator. This reflects the project's enabling environment focus: activities operate at the policy, investment, and knowledge management level rather than through on-the-ground physical interventions.

The CI-11 target of 5,000 direct beneficiaries (50 per cent women) is derived from a bottom-up aggregation across the four components. Component 1 is the primary driver, with an indicative 2,000 to 2,500 beneficiaries drawn from CSO, IPLC, youth, and pastoralist representatives receiving project-supported participation at COP17 and inter-sessional events through travel grants, capacity building, and structured dialogues. Component 4 contributes an estimated 1,500 beneficiaries through regional and global dialogues, South-South learning visits, and IYRP 2026 alliance activities across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Components 2 and 3 contribute approximately 1,000 beneficiaries through Business 4 Land conference participants and knowledge platform users.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	Increasing frequency of dzud (extreme winter) events and drought in Mongolia may disrupt community engagement to a limited extent. Climate risks are well understood and will be integrated into the adaptive management framework. The project itself addresses climate resilience, providing strong mitigation logic.
Environmental and Social	Low	The project involves no large-scale physical interventions. Risks relate primarily to ensuring inclusive participation of IPLCs, pastoralists, and women in project activities. IUCN ESMF and FPIC protocols will be applied. Gender Action Plan will be developed during PPG.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Government transitions in Mongolia or changes in UNCCD political dynamics could affect COP17 Presidency priorities. Mongolia has demonstrated sustained political commitment to land degradation and UNCCD processes. Risks are mitigated by strong institutional embedding with MECC and multi-stakeholder governance structures.

INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Coordinating across three executing entities (MECC, UNCCD GM, IUCN) requires clear roles, streamlined communication, and strong programme management. A Joint Coordination Committee will be established at inception. IUCN's experience as GEF Agency will underpin fiduciary and coordination arrangements.
Technological	Low	The project relies on proven knowledge management tools and platforms. Digital platform development under Component 3 will build on existing UNCCD Knowledge Hub infrastructure. No cutting-edge or untested technologies are involved.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The target of catalysing USD 1 billion in rangeland investment over a 10 year period under RFI is ambitious. The investment facilitation approach will be grounded in feasibility studies and evidence from existing MDB partnerships (ADB, World Bank). The USD 1 billion target is aspirational and refers to the broader Rangeland Flagship Initiative pipeline, not GEF direct leverage alone. There will be a phased investment facilitation approach and partnership with established IFIs (ADB, World Bank), building on proven UNCCD investment frameworks (DRIF, LDN Fund) and pilot testing before scale-up.

EXECUTION

Capacity	Low	IUCN has extensive GEF project implementation experience. MECC has direct experience with the GEF portfolio in Mongolia. The UNCCD Global Mechanism has strong institutional capacity in investment facilitation and knowledge management. PMC resources are adequate to support effective implementation.
Fiduciary	Low	IUCN, as GEF Agency, bears full fiduciary responsibility. IUCN has an established track record of GEF financial management and compliance. Flow of funds and sub-grant arrangements will be clearly defined in the project document and legal agreements.
Stakeholder	Low	Strong stakeholder buy-in is evidenced by the commitment of MECC, the UNCCD GM, and the broader Rangeland Flagship Initiative partners. The project's alignment with Mongolia's COP17 Presidency creates inherent stakeholder motivation. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed during PPG.

Other	Moderate	Co-financing commitments are indicative at the PIF stage. IUCN institutional resources, Government of Mongolia budget support, MDB partnership financing, and bilateral support through the COP17 Presidency are all expected. Co-financing confirmation will be secured during the PPG phase and presented at CEO Approval.
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Overall Risk Rating	Low	
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C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF-8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

C.1 GEF-8 Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy

The project is firmly anchored in the GEF-8 Land Degradation focal area, drawing on the LD STAR allocation for Mongolia and the LD Global/Regional Set-Aside. The project aligns primarily with GEF-8 LD Objective 4: to strengthen the enabling environment for LDN implementation through policy reform, institutional capacity development, knowledge generation and exchange, and investment mobilisation. This alignment is comprehensive across all four components.

Under LD Objective 4, the project contributes to all three of the objective's strategic priorities: (i) strengthening institutional and policy frameworks for LDN at national and international levels (Components 1 and 2); (ii) generating and sharing knowledge on best practices for sustainable land management, restoration, and LDN target implementation (Components 3 and 4); and (iii) mobilising investment for LDN through innovative financing instruments and public-private partnerships (Component 2).

The project also contributes to the GEF-8 Strategic Priority on Dryland Ecosystems, which recognises the critical importance of rangelands, savannas, and arid and semi-arid landscapes in the global land degradation agenda. Mongolia's rangelands are a flagship system within this priority area, and the project's focus on the UNCCD COP17 Presidency provides a unique vehicle for elevating dryland ecosystem management in global policy and investment agendas.

C.2 UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030

The project directly supports implementation of the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030 across multiple strategic objectives: SO1 (improve condition of affected ecosystems), SO2 (improve condition of affected populations), SO3 (generate global environmental benefits), SO4 (mobilise substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources), and SO5 (strengthen governance at all levels). Mongolia's Presidency obligations under the UNCCD make this alignment intrinsic rather than incidental.

C.3 Country Priorities and National Strategies

The project is fully aligned with Mongolia's national development priorities. Mongolia's Green Development Policy 2014-2030, its National Action Programme on Combating Desertification, and its UNCCD National Report commitments all identify rangeland degradation as a priority environmental challenge and LDN as a core strategic objective. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC) is the project's primary national executing partner, ensuring that project outcomes are embedded in government planning processes and budgets.

Mongolia's voluntary LDN targets, set through the UNCCD LDN Target Setting Programme, commit to specific outcomes on land cover, land productivity, and soil organic carbon restoration. The project will contribute to LDN target achievement through improved monitoring systems, investment facilitation, and the policy reform agenda supported under Components 1 and 3.

C.4 Policy Coherence

The project contributes to the following targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF): Target 1 (spatial planning), Target 3 (protected and conserved areas, noting that Mongolian rangelands support high biodiversity values), Target 10 (sustainable management of productive landscapes), Target 14 (mainstreaming in planning and monitoring), and Target 19 (financial resources for biodiversity).

The United Nations General Assembly designated 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. IYRP 2026 represents an unprecedented convergence of political attention on rangeland ecosystems and the communities that depend on them, aligned precisely with the COP17 Presidency period. The project is explicitly designed to leverage this convergence. Component 1's stakeholder engagement and Component 4's South-South cooperation activities are structured to build synergies with the IYRP Global Alliance, ensuring that GEF-financed learning exchanges reinforce and extend the IYRP's coalition-building work. Component 3's flagship knowledge products, including

the investment case for rangeland restoration and the global monitoring guidelines, are scheduled for release during the IYRP 2026 calendar to maximise their policy impact.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

No

Targeted consultations were conducted during PIF development with the core institutional partners directly involved in project design: the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia (MECC), the UNCCD Global Mechanism, and the UNCCD Secretariat. These consultations confirmed institutional commitment to the project concept, validated the proposed execution structure, and informed the component design and budget allocation. Broader stakeholder engagement, including with civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, pastoralist organisations, the private sector, and South-South partner country representatives, was not conducted at PIF stage due to the compressed preparation timeline associated with the COP17 Presidency calendar. A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed during the PPG phase, incorporating structured consultations across all stakeholder groups and regions. This plan will be submitted with the CEO Approval Request.

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations:

Private Sector:

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Key stakeholders **will be** consulted during PPG development. Consultations will be conducted with MECC, the UNCCD Global Mechanism, IUCN country and regional staff, and representatives of the Rangeland Flagship Initiative partner network, IYRP Secretariat and Global Alliance.

Stakeholder Group	Key Stakeholders	Role in Project	Means of Engagement
National Government	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC); Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry; Aimag and Soum Governments	Primary executing partner for Component 1; policy champion; in-kind co-financier	Project Board; joint coordination meetings; national workshops; UNCCD COP17 Presidency structures

Intergovernmental Organisations	UNCCD Secretariat; UNCCD Global Mechanism; ADB; World Bank	Lead executing partner for Components 2 and 3; technical and investment partnership	Joint Coordination Committee; Rangeland Flagship Initiative meetings; investment roundtables
Civil Society and IPLCs	Mongolian pastoralist organisations; IYRP Global Alliance; environmental NGOs; women's groups; youth organisations	Direct beneficiaries; knowledge holders; participants in COP17 events and South-South exchanges	Travel grant support; dedicated exhibitions; structured dialogues; community validation of knowledge products
Private Sector	Mongolian agribusiness; international rangeland investors; cashmere and livestock value chain actors; financial institutions; Business Council of Mongolia (BCM).	Investment pipeline participants; co-financing sources	Investor roundtables; technical assistance partnerships
Academia and Research	Mongolian University of Science and Technology; National University of Mongolia; WOCAT; international rangeland science networks	Technical knowledge providers; co-developers of monitoring guidelines and knowledge products	Technical working groups; knowledge product review; UNCCD Knowledge Hub collaboration
South-South Partner Countries	Kenya, Botswana, Uruguay, and other Coalition of Rangeland States members; partner dryland countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America	South-South exchange participants; knowledge providers and recipients; Flagship Initiative coalition members	Regional workshops; learning visits; study tours; virtual exchange platforms

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
IUCN	GET	Mongolia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-4	Grant	94,999.00	8,549.00	103,548.00
IUCN	GET	Mongolia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-3	Grant	214,663.00	19,319.00	233,982.00
IUCN	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	Grant	2,662,713.00	239,643.00	2,902,356.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						2,972,375.00	267,511.00	3,239,886.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

100000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

9000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
IUCN	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	Grant	89,582.00	8,062.00	97,644.00
IUCN	GET	Mongolia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-4	Grant	3,196.00	288.00	3,484.00
IUCN	GET	Mongolia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-3	Grant	7,222.00	650.00	7,872.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
IUCN	GET	Mongolia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	241,854.00
IUCN	GET	Mongolia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	107,032.00
Total GEF Resources					348,886.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
LD-4	GET	94,999.00	100000
BD-3-1	GET	214,663.00	250000
LD-4	GET	2,662,713.00	7650000
Total Project Cost		2,972,375.00	8,000,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co- financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
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GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250000
GEF Agency	IUCN	Grant	Investment mobilized	750000
Recipient Country Government	Government of Mongolia (MECC)	Grant	Investment mobilized	6500000
Recipient Country Government	Government of Mongolia (MECC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Total Co-financing				8,000,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Co-financing commitments are indicative at PIF stage. Confirmed co-financing letters from IUCN, the Government of Mongolia, the UNCCD Global Mechanism, and MDB partners will be secured during the PPG phase and submitted with the MSP Approval Request.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Joshua Schneck	3/6/2026	Joshua Schneck	+16502699903	joshua.schneck@iucn.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Ariuntuya Dorjsuren	General Director, International Cooperation Division	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	4/27/2026

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

The project operates at two levels. At the national level, activities are concentrated in Mongolia and at the global level, the project covers knowledge exchange, investment catalysing, and South-South cooperation activities spanning dryland countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

ESMS Screening & Clearance Form

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level	Tags
Focal Area / Theme	Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Sustainable Land Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Dryland Ecosystems, Rangeland Management
Influencing Models	Convene Multi-stakeholder Alliances, Deploy Innovative Financial Instruments, Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Decision-making, Transform Policy and Regulatory Environments
Stakeholders	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Private Sector, Civil Society, Intergovernmental Organisations, Academia, Community-based Organisations
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Knowledge Generation, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, South-South Cooperation, Adaptive Management, Learning
Gender Equality	Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated Indicators, Beneficiaries (Women Groups), Participation and Leadership