



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) ¹

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports for non Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC		
Country(ies):	Global	GEF Project ID: ²	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP UNEP (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	UNDP: 5164/UNEP: 00941
Other Executing Partner(s):	Non Annex I Parties	Submission Date:	Sept. 19, 2012
GEF Focal Area (s):	Climate Change	Project Duration (Months)	60
Name of parent program (if applicable): ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>		Agency Fee (\$):	650000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
CCM-6 (select)	Human, technical and institutional capacity of recipient countries strengthened	- Strengthened technical and institutional capacities of non Annex I Parties to report on National Communications (NC) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs), consistent with national development plans and that meet the Convention objectives - Established national systems/frameworks of documenting procedures and processes for NCs and BURs reporting under the UNFCCC - High quality and timely reporting on NCs and BURs by non Annex I Parties	GEFTF	6000000	1500000
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)	Others		(select)		
Sub-Total				6000000	1500000
Project Management Cost ⁴			GEFTF	500000	300000
Total Project Cost				6500000	1800000

¹ It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Improve the quality of Non-Annex I Parties reporting on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (BURs), so they are more widely used for national development planning processes, climate change negotiations, and for funding adaptation and mitigation projects.

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Component 1: Strengthen technical and institutional capacities to ensure effective preparation of NCs and BURs and their timely submission to the UNFCCC	TA	- Trained government staff and technical experts on National Communications and Biennial Update reporting - NCs and BURs data & analysis available and used by a greater number of government ministries and provisional resources managers for planning purposes	A greater number of Ministries & stakeholders involved in compiling National Communications and BURs - National climate change reporting systems & procedures established to harmonise data collection across government institutions, to improve compilation, retention, access & utility of data. Reduced average preparatory time of NCs and more timely submission of NC reports to the UNFCCC.	GEFTF	1900000	375000
Component 2: Provide technical backstopping to national teams for the preparation of NCs and BURs, including the preparation and dissemination of technical and policy-relevant guidance materials.	TA	-The quality of reports submitted by developing country Parties to the UNFCCC/COP is improved and respond adequately to convention guidance	- New and revised guidance notes, tools, methodologies prepared for NCs and BURs in identified areas - Networks of qualified experts established - National teams trained on use and application of tools and new & revised guidance notes for the different components of the NCs & BURs - Quality assurance & control procedures established for data collection, management & storage at the country level.	GEFTF	3500000	1000000
Component 3: Enhance knowledge management, best practice, communication and outreach	TA	- National and/or regional climate change information networking enhanced	- Sub-regional exchange on experiences, results & lessons learned carried out. - Knowledge and/or information management system established - Enhanced ownership of countries' climate-resilient development agendas South-South cooperation enhanced at the sub-regional and global level	GEFTF	600000	125000
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		

	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Sub-Total					6000000	1500000
Project Management Cost ⁵				GEFTF	500000	300000
Total Project Costs					6500000	1800000

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	450000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	450000
National Government	National Governments Contribution (to be determined at country level)	In-kind	900000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Cofinancing			1800000

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Climate Change	Global	3250000	325000	3575000
UNDP	GEF TF	Climate Change	Global	3250000	325000	3575000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				6500000	650000	7150000

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

⁵ Same as footnote #3.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1 the *GEF focal area* strategies:

1. The programme is in conformity with the GEF's strategy to support enabling activities and capacity development in climate change and is fully consistent with GEF 5 priorities of enhancing national ownership of climate change activities and strengthening countries' human and institutional capacities to fulfill their reporting commitments under the Convention.

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities: (N/A)

A.2. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

2. There is an increasing recognition that accurate and consistent reporting on climate change information i.e. inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases; mitigation and adaptation measures, and all other information relevant to the attainment of the Convention objectives go a long way in supporting integration of these aspects of climate change into national planning processes. The support programme is designed to complement, without duplicating, all climate change reporting in an effort of increasing cost-effectiveness and enhancing consistencies with various national development priorities and programmes undertaken by participating countries such as:

- Poverty reduction strategies/plans;
- Regional and national programmes and strategies to address climate change in a more concerted manner, including low emission and climate resilient development strategies;
- Adaptation projects, the National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA);
- Mitigation projects, including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions;
- Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) projects
- National Capacity Self- Assessment Projects
- Preparation of national Human Development Reports in the context of the climate change threats;
- National UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes initiatives to tackle climate change at different levels, including national, sectoral, local levels including development of water management strategies, development drought resistant crops, and development of renewable energy resources
- The capacity building efforts by national governments for effective participation in climate change negotiations.

3. The project will build on the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP), a GEF funded global project that has been under implementation for the past 7 years by UNDP and UNEP, and which is schedule to finalize in December 2012. The NCSP was established to provide technical and policy support to non-Annex I Parties in preparation of their second national communications. During its implementation, the NCSP has carried a number of activities, including the organization of more than 15 regional and training workshops for national communication coordinators and country experts. These workshops have provided an opportunity for exchange of information, knowledge and tools on the 3 main components of the national communications, e.g. greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, mitigation analysis, and vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) assessments.

4. The NCSP developed Knowledge Networks on GHG inventory and V&A assessments and

prepared several guidance materials to assist national teams with the preparation of their National Communications. Some of the NCSP documents include:

- Resource Kit on the National Communications Process;
- Guidance on Development of Regional Climate Scenarios for V&A assessments;
- User Manual of MAGICC/SCENGEN 5.0;
- Guidance on Climate Information for Policy Makers;
- Country-level climate profiles for 52 countries in collaboration with the University of Oxford.
- Guidance document on using the National Communications process and outputs to support climate change integration into national development policy and plans.

5. The NCSP has carried out in-country support, on-line technical assistance, which includes technical advice on a wide range of issues to project coordinators and thematic team leaders; reviews of draft technical studies on GHG inventories, mitigation analysis and V&A assessments; and feedback on NC reports before submission to the UNFCCC. The NCSP has also carried out numerous dissemination activities including regular distribution of relevant information to countries via an electronic list serve and the NCSP website, and produced bi-monthly newsletter featuring lessons learned and results from the second National Communications.

6. This proposed project will thus build on and learn from the NCSP work to provide enhanced and more effective support to non-Annex Parties. A lessons learned document is currently under preparation by the NCSP, which would provide additional information and a strong foundation for the new project to target its support activities to countries on the basis of identified needs and priorities.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

7. Although most non-Annex I Parties have been preparing NCs for the past 15 years, most of these countries are faced with a myriad of challenges during the preparation of these documents. Over the last few years, the intergovernmental negotiation processes under the UNFCCC have advanced a need for detailed and frequent reporting on GHG inventories, mitigation, and adaptation, in addition to the NCs and NAPAs reports. This has been requested in an effort to ensuring that full attention is given to climate change and its associated impacts, especially for non-Annex I Parties. With the new proposed reporting requirements, countries are expected to provide accurate, detailed and frequent reports to mobilize financial, technological and capacity building resources/support. These reports are also expected to further enhance efforts that have been made by national governments and partners in integrating climate change into national development plans, strategies and programmes.

8. Having advanced the need for reporting, most of the non-Annex I Parties are still faced with a number of challenges to comply with the new reporting requirements under the Convention. The programme, therefore, target to support these countries meet their reporting obligations through a streamlined platform that offers a range of technical and innovative approach to facilitate preparation of timely and good quality NCs and BURs that meet the convention requirement and guide national planning processes. Through this programme parties will be provided appropriate support, tools and training to carry out the preparation of these reports in a timely manner; assisted to establish prerequisite national institutional arrangements to support the new reporting requirements and linked to regional centers and experts who will be standing by to provide guidance to countries as and when need arises. Parties will also be encouraged to exchange data and information, tools and methodologies, lessons learnt and good practices to enhance the quality and utility of their reports.

9. Over its five (5) year period in operation, the programme will provide support to all non- Annex I Parties as they prepare their NCs and BURs. The programme will assist countries in a more

comprehensive undertaking of their mitigation actions within the competencies of UNDP and UNEP, which will include the necessary linkages with national climate change process and strategies, as well as enhanced data, information, and analytical studies. Its components will be structured to address key challenges/barriers identified by Parties during national reporting, such as:

10. *Lack of harmonized national institutional framework for GHG inventories reporting:* The programme will assist countries enhance institutional capacity for GHG inventories and BURs and design systems for data access, documenting procedures and processes involved in preparing national GHG inventories and ensuring data, information, and assumptions are reported and archived in transparent and systematic and easily accessible way. The programme will assist countries define mandates of involved organizations and experts at national level, paying attention to national institutional mandates and processes.

11. *Lack of technical capacities to prepare solid quality reports:* While the first and second NCs have allowed countries to increase their expertise in climate change, the increasing reporting requirements and the need for greater accuracy and transparency in reporting, is considered an additional 'burden' by most countries, especially the LDC and SIDS. Based on previous experiences, the support programme will prepare guidance notes, assist countries identify suitable tools & methodologies, provide on-line and on-site training on use of these tools, in addition to identifying regional centres of excellence in both Annex I and non-Annex I countries, for Parties preparing their reports to access up to date climate-relevant data, information and appropriate analytical tools particularly in their areas of interest. Given the wide range of methodologies already available to countries, rather than developing new tools the Programme will focus on preparing guidance notes and training activities to assist countries access and use these methodologies more effectively. The guidance and training that the Programme aims to develop will focus on areas that are critical to the improvement of the key components of the NCs. The guidance notes and training will thus cover, among others, the following: 1) Design and establishment of GHG inventory systems to support the preparation of GHG inventories and BURs on a regular basis; 2) development of sound baseline and mitigation scenarios, including feasibility analysis of mitigation options and their prioritization on the basis of GHG emission reduction potentials and linkages with development needs; 3) Use of available tools for the development and utilization of climate scenarios for impacts assessments, including guidance on using the most up to date IPCC climate scenarios and other relevant sources; and 4) guidance on available tools and methodologies in the different areas of work, including case studies, to enhance understanding of technical resources available and potential applications. This approach will ensure that the Programme guide countries more effectively in the application of the appropriate tools for their studies, through the proposed guidance notes and associated training.

12. *Limited access to data:* Data reliability and accessibility is perhaps the most significant challenge countries face when carrying out their GHG inventories, mitigation analysis or V&A assessments. While data gaps and uncertainties have improved in the past few years in many countries, this continues to be a very important barrier to the quality and comprehensiveness of the NC reports. As indicated above, the Programme will work with national and international institutions and experts to assist countries generate or access national data. At the same time, the programme will provide guidance on how to acquire, process and store national data by assisting countries create national databases and plans to ensure continuous collection and improvement of data required for NC and BUR reporting.

13. *Weak technical monitoring activities in the preparation of NCs and lengthy preparatory periods:* Given the wide range of technical areas and the number of stakeholders that are usually involved, the preparation of NCs still represents an important challenge in many countries. Currently most countries do not have an effective monitoring of the studies under the NCs, which tend to cause delays in their completion, as technical hurdles that are not effectively addressed. This in turn affects the timely completion of the NCs. Delays in the submission of NCs to the UNFCCC are also affected

by institutional difficulties and political issues. Even though a number of countries, especially those with higher capacities, show that submission of the SNCs was faster when compared to the INCs, in many countries the SNC submission has taken more than 6 years from the time they received GEF funding. This will represent a challenge with the new reporting requirements, which calls for BUR and NC submission every two and four years respectively. Learning from the NCSP's experiences on working with and assisting countries, the Support Programme will work in close coordination with the Implementing Agencies and the government counterparts in the design and implementation of a tracking system to ensure a smoother preparation of the NCs. This tracking system will seek to: 1) in coordination with the NC Coordinators, anticipate potential constraints that countries may face from the beginning of NC preparation; 2) identify specific technical difficulties countries face in the different studies as they arise; 3) provide timely guidance to address these difficulties, including any follow-up actions that may be needed to ensure they have been adequately resolved; 4) identify any institutional issues that may become potential barriers to timely completion of the different studies and provide guidance to countries on options to address them, as needed; 5) assist the Project Coordinators prepare a capacity building plan to prevent significant gaps in the NC preparation; 6) Ensure periodic and more detailed reporting on progress, including assessment of timelines, than what is currently provided by countries, indicating follow-up actions and/or request for assistance, if any, to timely address any delays of the different studies and data compilation.

Through this tracking system, the Programme will assist countries reduce the time of preparation and submission of the NCs from the current 6 years + average to 4.5 years approximately to ensure alignment with the new reporting requirement under the Convention. The Programme and the IAs will discuss and agree with individual countries on the specific strategies to meet this reporting goal, using as a basis a tracking framework which will take into account the six broad objectives indicated above. This tracking system will be developed in detail in each country, beyond the regular M&E strategies spelled out in the respective project documents, including the required indicators to assist in the timely identification of constraints and gaps that may cause delays in project implementation.

In addition, in coordination with the IAs, the Programme will work closely with countries to assist them ensure a strong engagement of the key stakeholders and establish adequate coordination mechanisms to support the necessary monitoring strategies. This participation and coordination becomes especially relevant as new and more updated/reliable data will be required for more frequent and enhanced reporting.

14. The support programme will provide a range of technical assistance focused on three (3) main components:

15. **Component 1:** Facilitating the implementation of enabling activities related to the preparation of NCs and BURs: The support programme will design its technical assistance based on individual country needs and priorities in climate change reporting. Expertise will then be drawn from international, regional and national institutions to ensure adequate backstopping is provided to national teams during their reporting period. Through this component, countries will be assisted to build national technical teams, establish national institutional arrangements to support the new reporting requirements in the context of strengthened and more frequent NCs and BURs reporting. This component will target to strengthen national documentation processes, build individual and institutional capacities and establish a national climate change reporting system in countries. The programme will guide the countries through the design, enhancement and/or consolidation of the institutional structures that will be required for continuous reporting under the Convention. Current institutional arrangements for the preparation of NCs vary significantly by countries, ranging from relatively strong climate change units responsible for NCs to ad-hoc structures that are largely dependent of GEF funding for NCs. This coupled with significant differences of technical and institutional capacities bring an important challenge to the support the programme can provide. Thus rather than developing a 'cookie-cutter' approach, the programme will work with countries to

assist them develop their own strategies on their institutional structure and capacity development required, building on the work done in the previous NCs.

16. It is important to highlight lessons learned in the current NCSP. Through its support to countries, the NCSP has noted that general descriptions of stakeholder participation and expert consultations have improved, but process adopted and potential involvement in the longer term are not always explained. Furthermore, reporting is often limited to listing stakeholders and their role on consultations. The work of the new programme would provide guidance, including steps to ensure that the institutional structures are more useful for the sustainability of the NC process. It will also work with countries to assess roles of institutions to support NC preparation and reporting, advice on collection of data and information, and catalyze decision-making to meet climate change objectives. The programme will assist countries in carrying out further work on the how institutions may be harmonized to ensure effective communication, coordination and provision of information.

17. Within the framework of preparing the SNCs, countries reported on the creation of institutional structure for climate change, which represents a significant progress, as awareness is growing as well as political support. However, additional efforts are needed on how institutional arrangements may have changed as a result of the NC process or may need to change to better address the new BURs reporting requirement. The programme will assist countries in developing their policy frameworks for managing institutional cooperation among key stakeholders.

18. The current NCSP has also developed a guidance document on how the NCs can provide inputs to facilitate the integration of climate change concerns into relevant planning and decision-making processes. Although some progress can be observed in the areas, there is a need for stronger articulation of national development priorities and objectives with climate change. The programme will assist countries in using this NCSP guidance from the very beginning of their NC preparation to ensure stronger linkages and identify the necessary incentives for greater institutional support and capacities in the reporting obligations.

19. **Component 2:** Provide technical backstopping to national teams for the preparation of NCs and BUR, including the preparation and dissemination of technical and policy-relevant guidance materials, methodologies and tools: The support programme will respond to country needs (obtained through one on one interactions, on site backstopping, surveys and workshops) by preparing prerequisite tools and training materials to support preparation of climate change reports in a timely manner. Strategic policy guidance will also be provided to countries to facilitate mainstreaming of climate change reports into national development agendas. The programme will enhance the science-policy dialogue in an effort to supporting national governments to identify innovative policies and incentives on climate change that would link to national development priorities and processes to achieve a low carbon and climate resilience development.

20. In the area of GHG inventories and BURs, the NCSP has identified the areas that would need further improvement, especially in the context of BURs. Results of key source analysis, as appropriate, discussions on uncertainties of the data and emissions calculations; complete calculation sheets and tables to enhance transparency and better understanding of inventory results, development and application of quality control and quality assurance procedures; identification of sources of data and key assumptions used in emission estimates by sources; and the development/establishment of GHG inventory systems to improve periodic reporting of more reliable inventory data. In the area of BUR, given that many of its components are not new to the NCs, the Programme will put emphasis on the key areas that are more relevant and more challenging. To begin with, the Programme will prioritize support for GHG preparation from the beginning of the Programme given that this represent the core of the BURs, and also considering that the first BURs would be submitted at end of 2014. Practical guidance involving examples will

be provided to countries to assist them compile information on mitigation actions and their effects, as mandated in the Durban Agreement. Given the shorttime frame for the preparation of the first BUR, the Programme will help countries select the information to be presented, ensuring that this is not limited to a “wish list” but instead provide a solid understating of the mitigation priorities with accompanied with data on GHG reduction potential in the given sectors. Support will also be provided to countries to include a general assessment of the potential non-GHG impacts of such measures and the feasibility of their implementation. The greatest challenge countries would face in the BURs is the information on domestic measurement reporting and verification, given that this is a new area of reporting and rather complex given the lack of guidance in this area. The Programme will work with UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme, which is currently developing some guidance material in the area of MRV preparation and reporting. This guidance will be adjusted, as needed, to make it relevant in the context of the first BUR. The Programme will work countries developing BUR to first understand and agree on the type of MRV they are planning to focus on so that the assistance can be tailored to help them develop meaning MRV reporting.

21. In the area of V&A assessment, the NCSP has also identified a number or areas that would need improvements. Based on these findings, the programme will assist countries in the adoption of the most appropriate methodologies based on their national circumstances and scope of work, to avoid duplication of previous work, provide better explanations of the reasons for adopting these methodologies, challenges faced and assumptions used in their applications; better describe the climate scenarios developed or adopted, timeframes chosen, and sources of data; carry out more comprehensive analysis of socio-economic for impacts assessments; provide clearer descriptions of results from models used in impacts assessments, while ensuring solid linkages between climate scenarios and socio-economic analysis with impacts and vulnerability assessments, and finally strengthen the analysis on how proposed adaptation measures would address potential impacts identified. Although the current NC reports submitted to the UNFCCC contain some or many of these areas, often they are don’t provide the details required for a comprehensive understanding of the approaches, results, challenges, and linkages between scenarios (climate and socio-economic), impacts, and adaptation measures. The programme will assist countries design and carry out the gap fillings of previous NCs and provide the necessary training and technical backstopping to address them.

22. In the area of GHG mitigation, the NCSP found that significant differences in the level of detail among the NCs submitted, information, and that in most cases, information reported under mitigation is not comprehensible. This is one of the areas that requires a better structure and use of methodologies to carry out more solid the analysis and interpret future mitigation actions. For example, there is limited capacity to carry out an appropriate cost analysis of mitigation options and to analyse socio –economic implications of these mitigation measures. On the other hand, calculations of mitigation potentials are not always transparent, when provided, and linkages with the GHG inventory are not always evident. In the context of BUR, this area along with the GHG inventories would require strengthened technical support to improve the quality and reliability of the analysis and results.

23. **Component 3:** Enhancing knowledge management, best practices, communication and outreach: A key element of the support programme will be to develop and disseminate informative products and lessons learned to raise awareness, engage stakeholders, and inform decision makers on a continuous basis. The support programme will target to enhance partnerships and technical support amongst national institutions, private sector, international organizations, academia, research institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and regional centers in an effort to provide comprehensive support to national teams. Countries will be encouraged to develop peer support by linking up national teams to exchange data and information, tools and methodologies, lessons learnt and good practices to enhance the quality and utility of their reports.

24. It is important to highlight that although a number of non-Annex I Parties have been able to prepare their SNC reports in a shorter time period compared to the INC, an analysis of SNC submission dates shows that, with a few exceptions, most countries are taking more than 4 years to complete their SNC reports, and even longer to submit their reports to UNFCCC. This will pose a challenge in the context of the new reporting requirements under the Durban Agreement. Apart from political reasons (e.g. formal approval process in most governments), one of the key challenges countries face is the completion of the studies within the timeframes initially estimated due to unforeseen technical difficulties. The previous support programme (NCSP) established an on-line assistance approach to assist national teams in addressing key technical constraints so that the studies to help countries resolve them in a timely manner. Although countries generally found this support very helpful, the NCSP was not always able to assess whether countries have adopted the recommendations provided.

25. The NCSP was designed to respond to such technical requests, but follow-up actions were mainly left to the countries as part of the project activities. Learning from this experience, under the proposed programme, technical advice will be followed up in coordination with the IAs, to ensure that activities are not delayed and that any additional technical bottlenecks are handled as fast as possible. Although this approach would not be able to resolve all potential sources of delays (other non-technical factors also play an equally important role), the close monitoring at the technical level by the support programme and at the implementation level by the IAs, will minimize the delays in project implementation. In this context, the support programme will prioritize countries with highest technical and institutional constraints, such as LDCs and SIDS, to enhance the effectiveness of the assistance provided.

26. Individualized plans will be developed so that monitoring and support are implemented while ensuring a country-driven nature of the NCs. While the IAs assess and monitor implementation risks the support programme will develop a series of indicators to assist countries assess their own risks that may prevent them from completing the different components of the NC. These indicators would include the following categories:

- Technical capacity of teams/consultants responsible for given studies or components
- Data availability for the assessments
- Choices of methodological approaches and understanding of the complexities and appropriateness
- Institutional support available and In-house expertise that may be available for potential additional support

27. As explained earlier, in spite of progress made by countries in the preparation of their NC and the capacities developed, a number of other barriers still remain. The NCSP worked with international consultants and regional centers to provide technical and address specific technical constraints. Sub-regional workshops were also organized to facilitate the exchange among countries and south-south learning. Although this support proved to be very positive, it was less practical, as countries with different needs and capacities were brought together to discuss a wide range of technical issues, with different level of complexities. Thus countries did not equally benefit from this learning and backstopping. In order to enhance cost-effectiveness of the technical backstopping activities, the Support Programme will sub-categorize the countries in terms of their technical capacity needs taking into account specific situation that may influence project implementation:

- Countries with low technical capacities and weak institutional support
- Countries with good institutional support but limited technical capacities

- Countries with low institutional support but high technical skills
- Countries with strong institutional support and high technical skills

28. The approach will seek to both address technical constraints where is most needed and facilitate an awareness raising at the country level to minimize delays in project completion as a result of the weak institutional support. However, it is important to highlight that the Programme is open to all non-Annex Parties to ensure that they can benefit from the services to be provided, Furthermore, the Programme will work with countries of high technical expertise as well to ensure south-south collaboration and learning. Coordination between the IAs, the support programme and the project teams will be strengthened for a more proactive interaction on activities, timelines, technical backstopping, feedback and review, and institutional support at the country level to achieve timely completion and submission of NCs. As indicated above, technical support will be prioritized to cover countries with most technical difficulties, such as SIDS and LEDC, covering approximately 75 countries. However, given that the support programme will also seek to provide assistance on BUR, work will also be done with countries with more advance technical capacity to 1) assist in the timely completion of BURs; 2) to enhance the technical quality of the reports; and 3) to enhance south-south collaboration.

C.2. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

29. Good quality and timely reporting on climate change challenges/ and/or opportunities at national level provide a basis for formulating project proposals on adaptation and mitigation for funding and promoting development and transfer of climate change technologies. Guided by these reports, Countries can generate plans and focus government, private sector and international funding at these priorities. In this way the reporting helps coordinate sources of funding and direct it to cost-effective high national priorities. Even though incremental reasoning is not applicable to this kind of project, the reports prepared can be indirectly associated with global benefits through capacity development mainly in the areas of GHG inventories, climate change vulnerability & adaptation assessment, and emission reductions, and building communities resilience to the impacts of climate change. The programme, over and above targeting on preparation of good quality reports, also focuses on establishing national systems and processes that would make use of recommendations arising from these reports better respond to the implementation process of the UNFCCC and its treaty.

30. This will be a multi-agency programme, but with a single project management structure for providing technical assistance to manage, coordinate, report and where necessary ensure integration of NCs and BURs into national processes. The programme will manage different expert clusters grouped at national, regional and international levels to ensure that each Party receives support in preparation of these reports. With advice from the expert clusters, project management will be able to organize training, workshops, publications and engage regional centers at lower cost than separate and individual projects. The organization of workshops will be planned strategically to ensure that related reporting requirements are adequately addressed, during such fora.

B.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF.":

31. Activities under the proposed programme will, generally, have positive environmental and social impacts as it will generate a wealth of reliable climate change related data/information to guide in designing priority adaptation and mitigation policies and actions to inform development strategies and sector programmes. Adaptation policies and actions identified through national communications have social benefits since they are aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts and increasing climate resilience of most vulnerable groups and sectors. In the field of mitigation, identified priority options help countries move towards a low carbon development pathways. The programme will provide guidance so the needs of the most vulnerable groups are assessed and reported and will include the consideration of gender issues, which so far has not been addressed in previous report.

B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

32. The most probable risks which are likely to arise during the project life span are (i) the possibility of most countries producing reports that lack adequate depth and quality, (ii) the existence of weak institutional arrangements, (iii) the high turnover of project staff/ national authorities and their lack of awareness of the objectives of the project and/or programmes and (iv) poor stakeholder consultation processes in the preparation of these reports. The IAs will work with national governments towards mitigating these risks through the following actions:

Risk	Level of Risk	Commentary and Mitigating Strategies and Actions
National experts limited capacities and inadequate climate relevant data, information and appropriate analytical tools and mainstreaming climate change issues into national and sectoral planning frameworks.	Moderate	IAs will raise the level of project supervision and work closely with the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Non-Annex I countries (CGE) to help countries identify regional centers of excellence in both Annex I and non-Annex I countries to help countries access climate relevant data, information and appropriate analytical tools. These centers of excellence will provide technical assistance to country teams to enhance the overall quality of reporting. Additionally, the IAs would encourage peer support by linking up country teams to exchange data and information, tools and methodologies, lessons learnt and good practices to enhance the quality and utility of these reports. Even in countries where capacity of national experts is a constraint, every effort will be made to ensure that the project outputs are based on sound science
Limited consultations and weak participation process amongst stakeholders due to institutional rivalries and rigidities which hamper responsiveness of project outputs to national development needs as well as effective work delivery and quality of the outputs.	Moderate	The IAs will work with the country counterparts to ensure that appropriate actions are designed within the project proposal to specifically identify priority actions and relevant linkages with development needs. National governments will be requested to outline measures/activities on wider national consultation processes and effective stakeholder engagement, in order to ensure that the existence of this support platform is known beyond the executing partners and that there are no misunderstandings concerning objectives and activities. Efforts will be made to ensure that the project addresses both short term needs of meeting convention requirements and also achieves the long term objective of helping countries address climate change issues in a more sustainable manner
Challenges faced by some countries in particular the	Moderate	IAs will through regular monitoring of project activities at national level and identification of technical bottlenecks, work to assist

<p>least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) due to low technical and managerial capacities as well as institutional limitations to complete all project activities</p>		<p>countries secure the needed external support to ensure effective and timely work delivery. This includes establishing technical support platforms at project and regional levels, provision of on-line training packages and advice on access to methodological tools through a website or electronic capacity building seminars.</p>
<p>High staff turnover in many countries have tended to affect not only the quality of climate change reporting but also the timeliness of delivery of project outputs. The delays in completing project activities within the stipulated time frames imply that:</p> <p>a. national executing agencies will have to find additional funds from their limited financial resources to cover additional project management costs at the national level</p> <p>b. IAs will also have to find additional funds to continue meeting their oversight and supervision responsibilities.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>As a result of recent increased interest in climate change issues by national governments, countries will be encouraged to set up permanent and adequately staffed climate change offices to ensure sustainability of climate change reporting including easy access to information, data and tools used for climate change studies.</p> <p>Wherever there is evidence that project output delivery are affected by politically motivated choices, appropriate mitigation provisions in the project document will be applied to promptly address the problem.</p> <p>It is also necessary to ensure that executing agencies country teams have the technical capacities to follow up the project and be able to identify countries' technical and implementation needs and warn the corresponding agencies in time to overcome national deficiencies.</p>

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

33. National Governments / country Parties are the key stakeholders who will participate in this programme, with an aim of improving their reporting under the UNFCCC. At national level, the programme will support country teams in strengthening existing National Steering Committees, as appropriate, to enhance their capacities to adequately meet the new reporting requirements in a timely manner. The Programme will provide both policy and technical guidance to the national processes and linkages to regional centers, which will work closely with national experts on reporting tools, methodologies and training. At the global level, the Programme will work with the UNFCCC, the GEF Secretariat, and representatives of the IAs through the establishment of a Project Steering Committee. This committee will provide overall guidance on project implementation and emerging needs under the Convention that may require adjustments in given areas of work. The committee would meet in person once a year; teleconferences would be organized twice a year to assess progress and provide recommendations on areas of improvements, as required. The committee may invite members of other constituted bodies under the UNFCCC, as appropriate, to discuss linkages and avoid duplication with other ongoing processes and technical support initiatives. The Programme will ensure representation at the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE).

B.6. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

34. The Support Programme will work closely with the IAs, especially with UNEP umbrella projects for Third NCs and technology needs assessments, to ensure the necessary coordination in the provision of technical support to countries. Linkages will also be made with other related initiatives, such as the support provided by USEPA and UNFCCC for the development of inventory systems in LULUCF sector in a select number of countries. Similar coordination will be done with UNDP as the IA of a large number of Third NCs while synergies will be identified with relevant UNDP global support, such as the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme, which provides financial and technical assistance to 25 countries in the areas of mitigation analysis, NAMA, MRV and GHG inventory systems.

35. It is important to note that although the GEF Implementing Agencies provide backstopping to countries, as part of the regular services to facilitate smooth project implementation, the targeted technical assistance required by countries for the improvements of their NC will only continue to increase. This is especially the case of LDC and SIDS which, in spite of their efforts to improve technical capacities, will require continuous support that goes beyond the assistance provided through the regular backstopping and follow up by the IAs. Through this coordination and identification of synergies, the Support Programme will not only avoid duplication of efforts but will also ensure that technical assistance to countries is provided in the most cost-effective manner by building on ongoing relevant support. In this context, the Programme will provide additional technical support, beyond the assistance by the IAs, to help countries further improve the technical quality of the NC reports and more timely submission to the UNFCCC. The Programme's management unit will coordinate the assistance to countries in collaboration with the IAs to ensure coherence in the guidance provided, bring the best available technical expertise from regional centres to support countries, provide opportunities for south-south learning and collaboration, provide targeted training in different areas of the NCs and BURs, and facilitate dissemination of tools, guidance materials and lessons learned. These functions will complement and strengthen the support provided by the IAs to countries and will ensure a more-cost effective approach to technical assistance.

D. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

36. The two Implementing Agencies UNDP and UNEP have the comparative advantage in developing and delivering technical assistance to countries for their enabling activities. To date these two agencies have supported more than 145 countries to prepare their national reports. UNDP has a presence on the ground and is able to roll out standardized products throughout the world, while UNEP has a normative capability in developing national reporting templates and providing training for roll out and testing.

C.1 Indicate the co-financing amount the GEF agency is bringing to the project:

37. The programme targets to enhance Climate Change Enabling Activities reporting for GEF-eligible countries. The IAs will provide co-financing of US\$ 900,000 as in kind contribution for programme technical and managerial oversight, in-house technical expertise, office facilities, equipment and communications.

38. The support programme targets to assist countries implement their Climate Change Enabling Activities and in accordance with convention guidance implemented on an agreed full cost basis requiring only in-kind contribution by GEF-eligible countries. The programme responds to a specific UNFCCC decision regarding the GEF support to Non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of NCs and BURs.

C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's programme (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

39. As stated under section A.1.1 above, this project is in line with the GEF-5 mitigation strategic objective #6, related to supporting enabling activities and capacity building under the Convention, including for the preparation of National Communications and for the preparation of biennial update reports, on the basis of agreed full cost.

40. UNDP, as implemented agency of the GEF, will manage the Programme, in coordination with UNEP, to carry out its activities and ensure consistency with GEF mandate to support capacity building and enabling activities. UNDP is present in 166 countries where it implements programmes in the areas of climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, land degradation, international waters and chemical management and assists countries in designing and implementing activities consistent with the GEF mandate and national sustainable plans. In most countries, UNDP supports a large portfolio of climate change programmes, including the preparation of NCs. UNDP has working closely with countries to ensure that climate changes is adequately addressed under UNDAF and country programming. The NCs will continue to play a critical role in the integration of climate change in these planning processes at the national level. The experience gathered by UNDP throughout the many years assisting countries in a wide range of climate change issues constitute a clear advantage for the implementation of this project.

41. The project is consistent with the 2010-2013 medium term strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme, (UNEP). To ensure effective work delivery within UNEP, an institutional framework will be step up to enable other divisions of UNEP namely the Division of Early Warning and Assessments (DEWA), Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC), Division of Environmental Policy and Implementation (DEPI), and Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC) to place their expertise at the disposal of countries, to guide the national communication process, at the request of countries. DELIC will support national efforts aimed facilitating interlinkages and synergies between the UNFCCC and other MEAs. DEPI will support work in the area of adaptation to climate change, ecosystem services and economics, fresh water and terrestrial ecosystems, marine and coastal ecosystems as well as environmental education and training and will work to strengthen V&A assessments within the framework of the national communications.

42. DEWA will assist in identifying emerging environmental threats and conducting rigorous scientific assessments to inform the science-policy interface is an asset for the GEF Enabling Activities which draw from existing information and numerous environment assessments to inform national policy processes. Due to its cross-cutting nature and existing regional presence, the division will provide support upon request to help strengthen the scientific basis of the thematic assessment work of national communication process.

43. DRC through its strategic presence and close interface with countries is well able to help in identifying regional, subregional and national priorities and trends which effectively contribute to the development and delivery of appropriate interventions. This capability undoubtedly will provide an important platform for strengthening the coordination and implementation of this project. It will also support engagement in UN common country programming processes which provides an excellent conduit for linking UNDAF process to national communication project.



PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		Sept 19, 2012	George Manful Senior Task Manager	+254.20.762.5085	George.Manful@unep.org
Yannick Glemarec Executive Coordinator, UNDP/GEF		Sept 19, 2012	Yamil Bonduki Sr. Programme Manager	+1 212 906-6659	Yamil.bonduki@undp.org