Naoko Ishii CEO and Chairperson

June 18, 2014

Dear Council Member,

We were remiss in requesting UNDP and UNEP, as Implementing Agencies for the project entitled: Global: Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports for non Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC (GEF ID 5141), to address Canadian Council Member's comments when we circulated the project document to Council on May 5, 2014.

UNDP and UNEP have re-submitted the attached proposed project document for CEO endorsement prior to final approval of the project document in accordance with UNDP and UNEP procedures.

The Secretariat has reviewed the project document. It is consistent with the objectives of the program approved by the Council in November 2012. The scope of the project activities, however, has changed since work program entry. The GEF grant amount has increased by \$650,000 (from \$6,500,000 to \$7,150,000). This increase in the project budget will allow the project to assist countries with the domestic preparation for their national intended contributions to the UNFCCC.

The issue of domestic preparations for national contributions to UNFCCC was not included in the original project design, and has now been included in the project as a response to decision 1/CP.19 of the UNFCCC, which was taken in Warsaw, Poland at the 19th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC, November 2013. The changes in the various cost elements between the original concept approved by the Council and as recommended in the final project design are summarized in the attached project document and explanation from the UNDP and UNEP.

We have today posted the proposed project document on the GEF website at www.TheGEF.org for your information. Given the impending closing of the GEF-5 period, approval and allocation of funds for projects need to be completed before June 30, 2014 to be included in the GEF-5 approval, we are seeking an expedited circulation to Council, so that the CEO endorsement of the project can be completed before the end of FY 2014. We would welcome any comments you may wish to provide by June 30, 2014 You before I endorse the project. may send your comments gcoordination@TheGEF.org.



PROJECT IDENTIFIER

Name of Amended Project: Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports for non Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC

Country (ies): Global

Implementing/Executing Agency: UNDP and UNEP

GEF Project ID: 5141

Agency Project ID: UNDP: 5164; UNEP: 00941

Focal Area: Climate Change

Project Type: Full-sized Project

Trust Fund: GEFTF

CEO Approval/Endorsement Date: PIF Clearance October 1st, 2012

Approved/Endorsed Grant: USD6,500,000

Agency Project Approval Date: 1 October 2012

Agency Project Approval Amount: USD6,500,000

PROJECT AMENDMENT

Amendment date: 24 April 2014

Type of Amendment: Major Change

Changed amount or objective: An increase of USD650,000, which represents 10% of the originally PIF cleared proposal is being proposed. The objective of the Global Support Programme does not change, neither do the duration, target audience, team composition, and management arrangements. The scope of the project has been broadened, and this is reflected in adjusted language of one component, its outcome and outputs. A limited number of outputs and activities under component 2

and 3 have been added to the programme in order to address a newly identified capacity development support gap, which is the support to non-Annex I Parties in the consultation, identification, reporting, and communication of their intended nationally determined contributions (iNDCs) to the 2015 Agreement under the UNFCCC. The amendment had been discussed with the GEF Secretariat, and efforts complementing parallel supporting initiatives considered, such as the 'Technical dialogue on nationally determined contributions towards a 2015 agreement under the UNFCCC', a UNDP-UNFCCC implemented project that foresees a series of regional dialogues amongst non-Annex I Parties with the intention to increase understanding on the issues involved with iNDCs, and further inform the negotiations leading up to the 2015 Agreement.

Explanation for amendment: A detailed explanation and reasoning has been provided in the annex below. Please, notify that a number of outputs and activities have been added, without reducing the objective and scope of the PIF cleared components, outcomes and outputs. As a consequence, the GEF-grant requested has been increased by a total of 10% of its originally PIF cleared budget.

AGENCY CERTIFICATION

The UNDP and UNEP would like to request approval from the GEF Secretariat for the amendment of the above-mentioned project.

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PROPOSAL FOR GEF PROJECT MODIFICATION
'Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports for non-Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC'
Submitted by UNDP and UNEP

1. Introduction and background

COP 17 of the UNFCCC established the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) with the objective of developing a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention, applicable to all Parties.

In the past two years, the ADP has devoted its work to discussing substantive and technical aspects of the 2015 agreement and has also considered options to increase pre-2020 ambition.

Decisions adopted by COP 19 on the work of the ADP mark the beginning of the last phase of this working group evolving from general discussions to focus work on developing a draft negotiating text. This text should eventually become a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force.

In addition to instructions given to the ADP, the COP also invited all Parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions (iNDCs) in the context of the agreement. These contributions should be communicated well in advance of COP 21 (e.g., by the first quarter of 2015). Developed countries, the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC and other organizations were invited to provide support to this task as early as possible in 2014.

A discussion followed between the GEF Secretariat and the implementing agencies of this project 'Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports for non-Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC' (GSP), on the avenues to respond to this request. Considering the strong ties with components of national communications and biennial update reports, it was suggested to include additional support to non-Annex I Parties in the consultation, identification, compilation and communication of their iNDCs.

Indeed, the decision of the COP does not provide any further guidance or information on iNDCs, and further discussions in the ADP that have followed the latest COP have been inconclusive on this matter. However, past experience during the AWGLCA and national processes relating to low emission and resilient development provide a starting point to develop them. It is generally understood that these contributions refer to national actions to address climate change that will eventually become part of the agreed outcome as targets or objectives of each Party toward meeting the objective of the Convention. Precedents under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol may be used by some countries to guide their own process as well as expectations about the contributions of other countries.

Among other reasons why the GSP has been deemed the appropriate place to include support on iNDCs are:

- Timing with the intention of the GSP to become operational starting this summer 2014, support
 activities could be delivered in a timely manner, ahead of the March 2015 deadline for
 submissions of iNDCs to the UNFCCC; and
- Target audience as the GSP, a follow-up programme to the NCSPI and II, reaches out to all interested non-Annex I Parties, existing networks can be promptly used.

2. Proposed project modifications

Amendments in the project framework have been made exclusively to component 2 of the PIF, which was named '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, methodologies and tools'. The amendments to the component, outcome and outputs are highlighted in the table 1 below. Minor adjustments have been made in order to reflect the broader scope of the work delivered under component 2, and motivate the additional activities and deliverables, as shown by the logframe in table 2. The logframe also shows the additional activities and deliverables under component 3.

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs
Component 2: Provide technical backstopping to national teams for the preparation of NCs, BURs, and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 climate agreement, including the preparation and dissemination of technical and policy-relevant guidance materials, methodologies and tools.	2.1 National Teams are better able to apply UNFCCC reporting guidelines for the preparation of NCs and BURs and equipped with the understanding and technical basis of the information needed to identify, prepare, consult and communicate nationally determined contributions to the UNFCCC 2015 agreement	2.1.1 New and revised guidance notes, tools, methodologies prepared for NCs, BURs and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 climate agreement in identified areas 2.1.2 Networks of qualified experts established 2.1.3 National teams trained on use and application of new and revised guidance notes, tools and methodologies for the different components of the NC, BUR and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 climate agreement
		2.1.4 Teams trained in Quality assurance and control procedures
		established for data collection, management and storage at the
		country level

Table 1: Excerpt of the project framework highlighting the amendments made.

	Objectively	verifiable indicators	Source of Verification	External factors (Assumptions and risks)
	eckstopping to national teams for the property-relevant guidance materials, methodo	reparation of NCs, BURs, and nationally determinal plogies and tools. Baseline:	Sample survey done by the	Senior government officials and
are better able to apply UNFCCC reporting guidelines for the preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports and countries are equipped with the understanding, technical basis and information needed to identify, prepare, consult and communicate nationally determined contributions to the UNFCCC 2015 agreement.	and BUR, are trained in the thematic & cross cutting areas defined by the UNFCCC reporting guidelines. Participants rate training, technical backstopping, supporting tools and guidance notes 'high' in helping them to prepare high quality BURs and National Communications, and in assisting them in the process of identifying, preparing, consulting and communication on nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement.	Available country expertise will be measured during the 1st year of the project (possibly at the GSP inception workshop) to establish the baseline in 10 sample countries Target: From a representative sample of countries national experts have training and experience in all thematic & cross cutting areas defined by the UNFCCC reporting guidelines. From a 10 country sample survey of NC/BUR/nationally determined contributions compilers 90% rated the utility of their training as 'high'	global support programme	project coordinators do not nominate the right calibre of national experts to participate in training workshops There is a risk that capacity building activities have a limited impact as participants in GSP's training and learning events have limited multiplier effects, particularly if participants leave their positions and institutes A lack of proactive engagement of countries in GSP activities
Output 2.1.1 New and revised guidance notes, tools, methodologies prepared for NCs, BURs and nationally determined contributions in identified areas	2.1.1.1 Production and/or compilation and distribution of key publications	Baseline: Under the NCSP II 5 publications (and another 52 country climate profiles) were prepared and distributed reaching out to a wide number of people within 142 countries	Publications distributed to countries during international gatherings (e.g. COPs). All will be made available on the online platform	It is impossible to address all capacity building needs with one single programme. Therefore, the programme will address the most urgent and frequently mentioned capacity development needs, in

	Objectively verifiable indicators		Source of Verification	External factors (Assumptions and risks)
		Target: 9 major publications comprising - guidance notes, lessons learnt, compilation documents and others on critical areas of expertise where gaps persist or have been recently identified		coordination with parallel work from e.g. the GCE.
Output 2.1.2 Networks of qualified experts established	2.1.2.1 Updated and vetted roster of national and international experts in NC thematic assessment areas and BUR components shared	Baseline: NCSP II prepared and shared a vetted list of experts, but this list needs to be updated Target: An updated list of experts covering the different areas of expertise important for sound NCs and BURs.	Roster on the programme's website Working documents proving that the experts have been screened prior to inclusion in the lists	It is hoped that there is a growing pool of international and national experts to facilitate updating of the expert roster.
Output 2.1.3 National teams trained on use and application of tools and new and revised guidance notes, tools and methodologies for the different components	2.1.4.1 Critical skill and knowledge gaps identified are addressed through - Face-to-face workshops with postworkshop online support - Self-paced online learning modules - Organization of webinars with international experts on pertinent technical issues for NCs, BURs and nationally determined contributions.	Baseline: NCSP II trained x people through y face-to-face workshops, reaching out to all regions Target: 22 face-to-face workshops held, targeting 150 people as follows: 2 online learning modules launched, potentially reaching out to 100 people in NAI Parties 12 webinars organized on specific issues brought up by countries, and coinciding with the launch of key publications from the GSP.	-Report of workshop and other training event and lists of participants. -Training/Learning material available on the online platform	There is always a risk of not having the 'right' participants attending training events and therefore not having the desired multiplier effect of the trainings.

	Objectively	verifiable indicators	Source of Verification	External factors (Assumptions and risks)
Output 2.1.4 Teams trained in Quality assurance and control procedures established for data collection, management and storage at the country level	2.1.4.1As part of the output 1.2.1 (National climate change reporting systems and procedures established to harmonize data collection across government institutions, to improve compilation, retention, access and utility of data) number of countries assisted in the formulation of quality assurance and control procedures for data collection, management and storage	Baseline: This issue was not covered under the NCSP II Target: Well established quality assurance and control procedures in at least 10 assisted countries (same countries as under output 1.2.1) and another 40 countries at the most provided with technical support on demand	Minutes of meetings held with the experts from the support programme, working documents and the analyses and working documents and the finalized quality assurance and control procedures for data collection, management and archival.	There is a risk that this exercise remains an academic exercise, if the right persons are not involved in the process.
COMPONENT 3: Enhance knowledg	e management, best practice, communic	cation and outreach		
OUTCOME 3.1: National and/or regional climate change information networking enhanced	In support of components 1 and 2, experts and practitioners rate the networks highly in providing them information and tools improve the quality of their National Communication and Biennial Update Reports.	Baseline: ratings taken at project inception Target: Surveys of practitioners using the networks rated their utility 25% higher as compared to the baseline.	Sample survey done by the global support programme.	Networks are only successful if participants are highly engaged
Output 3.1.1 Sub-regional exchange on experiences, results and lessons learnt carried out	3.1.1.1 Lessons learnt at subregional level completed and distributed 3.1.1.2 Sub-regional sections of the webpage created on the programme's website	Baseline: Support provided through the platform was mainly of global nature during the NCSP II Target: 6 sub-regional sections on the GSP's website	The webpages, their content and activity on the fora	The online discussions have an intrinsic risk of not being very successful if not rightly animated.

	Objectively	verifiable indicators	Source of Verification	External factors
			Source of Vermication	(Assumptions and risks)
	3.1.1.3 Sub-section on nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement created and relevant information and lessons learnt distributed	and lessons learnt distributed and 1 sub- section on nationally determined contributions created and consulted globally		
Output 3.1.2 Knowledge and/or information management system established	3.1.2.1 A number of in-focus magazines produced and distributed through the website of the support programme 3.1.2.2 News section on the platform with relevant information updated on a weekly basis 3.1.2.3 Regular (weekly) update of constituents through distribution/mailing lists	Baseline: 29 newsletters were prepared under NCSP II and distributed in English, and partly French and Spanish Target: 11 (2 per year + one additional on iNDCs) infocus magazines produced and distributed in English, French and Spanish Baseline: A news section was part of the NCSP platform but not updated on a regular basis Target: News section will be updated with NC and BUR relevant events, publications, submissions from non-Annex I Parties, and more on a weekly basis in a systematized and semi-automatized way	The in-focus magazines for the quality content Platform and mailing lists for the weekly updated notifications The consultation of the magazines can be followed through freely available online tracking software, such as GoogleAnalytics	Wide consultation will be undertaken to ensure success of the magazines, as the content is written by and for countries. Each number will have a focus (e.g. V&A in the health sector, greening the energy sector and more). Lessons learnt will need to be shared, new tools available featured and related capacity building opportunities highlighted.

Table 2: Excerpt from the project results framework

The following provides more insight into the reasining behind the additional support to countries, and further explains the project results framework and illustrates the adjusted project framework.

In response to the lack of clear guidance and directions on the information countries will need to put forward in their iNDCs, the GSP will prepare guidance material and upon request by Parties, recommendations on how to present the information for the official communication of iNDCs to the 2015 agreement. The GSP will also support countries in the identification, preparation and consultation of their contributions. In this context, guidance would be provided on the involvement of key stakeholders in the consultation process to prepare their contributions and on linkages with priorities at the country level, building on the NC and BUR experiences and arrangements in place, among others.

The work that countries would need to carry out to comply with this new commitment is strongly linked to the activities under the NCs and BURs. Similarly, the process that may need to be put in place to identify, prepare and submit the iNDCs is likely to be similar to the process adopted for NCs and BURs. This may include consultations processes, analysis, prioritization, and technical discussion that may build on the NC and BUR work and experiences. In this context, the GSP will work with NC and BUR counterparts at the country level to assist in the consultation process, identification and preparation of the iNDCs. Emphasis will be given on the use of reliable baseline information that may have been developed as part the NC formulation and other relevant studies as the basis to initiate the discussions and prioritize the areas and sectors that may be considered for the contributions to the 2015 Agreement. Similarly, the GSP will facilitate online consultation on technical issues and exchange of information and experiences to ensure that a minimum level of support is in place so that countries can resolve issues and challenges that may arise during the preparation of the contributions to the 2015 agreement during the second half of 2014 and therefore well ahead of the March 2015 deadline.

In concrete terms, and in addition to the foreseen publications prior to the amendment request, a guidance note will be prepared on how to identify and communicate nationally determined contributions of the 2015 agreement in a robust, realistic and achieveble fashion, and based on extensive and inclusive dialogues within the country with relevant stakeholders, sectors and levels. (Number of GSP publications increased from 8 to 9.)

Furthermore, where the GSP intended to hold webinars and training/learning events, a number of webinars and workshops have been added during the second half of 2014, in order to address iNDC issues.

Moreover, the GSP platform will become the hub for countries to share their experiences in terms of initiating and managing national dialogues, challenges faced during the process of, the format and content of official communications, etc. on iNDCs.

Topics related to the 2015 agreement and experiences from countries in preparing their iNDCs will also be included in the GSP in-focus magazine and information exchange.

3. Proposed budget modifications

The suggested GEF-grant has been increased by USD650, 000 and therefore the original grant of USD6, 500,000 raises to USD7, 150,000 with the requested amendment. The per-component deviations are captured in table 3 below.

Component	PIF Cleared Grant Amount	Amended Grant Amount
Component 1: Broaden and make more robust and operational institutional arrangements for the preparation of NC and BURs	\$1,900,000	\$1,739,125
Component 2: Provide technical backstopping to national teams for the preparation of NCs, BURs, and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 climate agreement, including the preparation and dissemination of technical and policy-relevant guidance materials, methodologies and tools.	\$3,500,000	\$4,208,750
Component 3: Enhance knowledge management, best practice, communication and outreach	\$600,000	\$602,125
M&E	\$0	\$100,000
Project management Cost (PMC)	\$500,000	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$6,500,000	\$7,150,000

Table 3: GEF-grant breakdown per project component. Please, note that the total changes to the budget cannot be ascribed to the inclusion of iNDC-related work, but that a per-component decrease reflects the addition of the M&E cost, which was omitted in the PIF.

The GEF-grant amount increase is fully absorbed by additional deliverables, i.e. an increased number of workshops, publications, and more as described above. The cost of project consultants has not been increased. Likewise, the PMC has remained unvaried, despite the increased overall GEF-grant.

Furthermore, the increased GEF-grant of USD650,000 has been evenly distributed over the implementing agencies as both will have equal responsibilities - though different roles - in the materialization of the additional deliverables.

If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of UNDP or the World Bank to download the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please confirm for us your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

Naoko Ishii

Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachment: Project Document, Council Notification Letter dated May 5, 2014

Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point

GEF Agencies

STAP Trustee



REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

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: ¹	5141			
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP UNEP (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	UNDP: 5164,			
			UNEP: 00941			
Other Executing Partner(s):		Submission Date:	16 Jun 2014			
GEF Focal Area (s):	Climate Change	Project Duration(Months)	60			
Name of Parent Program (if		Project Agency Fee (\$):	715,000			
applicable):						
➤ For SFM/REDD+						
➤ For SGP						
➤ For PPP						

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
CCM-6	Human and institutional	National communications	GEF TF	7,150,000	1,800,000
(select)	capacity of recipient	and Biennial Update			
	countries strengthened	Reports completed and			
		submitted to the			
		UNFCCC as appropriate			
(select)			(select)		
(select)					
(select)			(select)		
(select)					
(select)			(select)		
(select)					
(select)			(select)		
(select)					
	•		7,150,000	1,800,000	

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Improve the quality of non-Annex I Parties' National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs), so they are more widely used for national development planning, climate negotiations, and for funding low emission, climate resilient development projects, while they are also submitted to the UNFCCC in a timely manner. The project will also assist countries initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions.

Project Component	Gran t Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancin g (\$)
Component 1: Broaden and make more robust and operational	TA	1.1 Sustainable national institutional arrangements for climate change	1.1.1 Analysis of, and recommendations for, more robust national institutional	GEF TF	1,739,125	375,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Refer to the <u>Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework</u> when completing Table A. GEF5 CEO Endorsement Template-February 2013.doc

	ı			ı		Т
institutional		reporting established	arrangements			
arrangements for the preparation of NC and BURs		in non-Annex I countries 1.2 NC and BUR data and analyses available and used by a greater number of government ministries and provincial resources managers for	1.1.2 National climate change reporting systems and procedures established to harmonize data collection across government institutions, to improve compilation, retention, access and utility of data 1.2.1 Involve a greater number of Ministries and stakeholders in compiling National Communications and BUR			
Component 2: Provide technical backstopping to national teams for the preparation of NCs, BURs, and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 climate agreement, including the preparation and dissemination of technical and policy- relevant guidance materials, methodologies and tools.	TA	planning purposes 2.1 National Teams are better able to apply UNFCCC reporting guidelines for the preparation of NCs and BURs and equipped with the understanding and technical basis of the information needed to identify, prepare, consult and communicate nationally determined contributions to the UNFCCC 2015 agreement	2.1.1 New and revised guidance notes, tools, methodologies prepared for NCs, BURs and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 climate agreement in identified areas 2.1.2 Networks of qualified experts established 2.1.3 National teams trained on use and application of new and revised guidance notes, tools and methodologies for the different components of the NC, BUR and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 climate agreement 2.1.4 Teams trained in Quality assurance and control procedures established for data collection, management and storage at the country level	GEF TF	4,208,750	1,000,000
Component 3: Enhance knowledge	TA	3.1 National and/or regional climate	3.1.1 Sub-regional exchange on	GEF TF	602,125	125,000
management, best practice, communication and		change information networking enhanced	experiences, results and lessons learned carried out			

outreach□ M&E	TA	M&E of the support programme	3.1.2 Knowledge and/or information management system established 3.1.3 South-South cooperation at the subregional and global level promoted. Holding inception workshop Preparing mid-term and final evaluation reports Doing day-to-day and annual monitoring exercises in compliance with GEF and IA guidelines Subtotal	GEF TF	100,000 6,650,000	1,500,000
	Project management Cost (PMC) ³				500,000	300,000
	Total project cos					1,800,000

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³ PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	450,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash	450,000
National Government	National Governments Contribution (to be decided at country level)	In-kind	900,000
Total Co-financing	1,800,000		

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
GEF Agency				Grant	Agency Fee	Total
	11 ust 1 unu		Global	Amount (a)	$(b)^2$	c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Climate Change	Global	3,575,000	357,500	3,932,500
UNDP	GEF TF	Climate Change	Global	3,575,000	357,500	3,932,500
Total Grant Resources			7,150,000	715,000	7,865,000	

^T 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

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	2,644,457	600,000	3,244,457
National/Local Consultants	523,793		523,793

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT? NO

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency

and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF^4

- A.1 <u>National strategies and plans</u> or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.
- 1. 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 climate change concerns into national planning processes. The Global Support Programme (GSP) is designed to support Non-Annex I Parties in their efforts to fulfill their

table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

² Indicate fees related to this project.

⁴ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter "NA" after the respective question.

GEF5 CEO Endorsement Template-February 2013.doc

climate change reporting obligations under the Convention in ways that promote increasing costeffectiveness and enhance consistencies with various national development priorities and programmes. In this context, the GSP will work with national teams responsible for the NC and BUR projects, along with the GEF Implementing Agencies, to ensure the relevant linkages with the following initiatives:

- i. Poverty reduction strategies/plans;
- ii. Regional and national programmes and strategies to address climate change in a more concerted manner, including low emission and climate resilient development strategies;
- iii. Adaptation projects and the National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA);
- iv. Mitigation projects, including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs);
- v. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) projects;
- vi. National Capacity Self- Assessment Projects;
- vii. Preparation of national Human Development Reports in the context of the climate change threats;
- viii. National UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes to tackle climate change at different levels (national, sectoral, local), including development of water management strategies, drought resistant crops, and renewable energy resources; and
- ix. Capacity building efforts by national governments for effective participation in the climate change negotiations.
- 2. The GSP will also work in close coordination with UNDP's Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme, which is funded by the EU, Germany and Australia. The LECB Programme covers 25 countries in different regions and includes the following areas of work, all of which are relevant for the NCs and BURs: 1) Creation of National GHG Inventory Systems; 2) Identification and formulation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions; 3) Preparation of Low-Emission Development Strategies (LEDS); 4) Design and adoption of mitigation action plans by select industries; and 5) Design of systems for the measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of the proposed mitigation actions. The GSP will build on the work that the LECB Programme is currently carrying out in the 25 countries to ensure the necessary synergies, adopt and/or relevant guidance materials, coordinate with the LECB roster of experts and support network, especially in the areas of GHG inventories, mitigation strategies and MRV systems.
- 3. In light of the recently adopted decision Dec.1/CP19 of the COP in Warsaw in November 2013, the GSP will help build the capacity of non-Annex I Parties to identify, prepare, initiate national stakeholder consults and communicate their intended nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement by 31 March 2015. The COP by its Dec.1/CP19, invited "all Parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions, in the context of adopting a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention for the period post 2020 applicable to all Parties towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2 and to communicate them well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (by the first quarter of 2015 by those Parties ready to do so) in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions."

A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.

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

- 5. A major focus of the GSP is to further strengthen human and institutional capacities that contribute to the design and maintenance of durable institutional frameworks/arrangements that are capable of addressing climate change issues in a more comprehensive manner at the national level and consistent with national development priorities. It is important to note that this support does not involve the creation of new institutions in the countries, but rather the strengthening of the existing institutional capacities and enhanced coordination required to produce the Convention reports in a more sustainable manner. Experiences and lessons learnt during the implementation of the previous support programmes (NCSP) as they relate to the establishment of solid and permanent institutional frameworks involving relevant ministries and government bodies will be taken into account in delivering the support to countries.
- 6. Within the framework of the previous NCSP, attempts were made to assist countries integrate climate change issues into their national, sectoral and other policies; and planning processes. As this integration represents a key strategy of GEF support to countries, the GSP will build on NCSP achievements and support the NC and BUR teams in their role as facilitators and conveners, within the respective institutions, to consolidate a coordination mechanism for regular reporting under the Convention. The ultimate objective of a more strategic support to countries is to facilitate timely submission of qualitatively stronger reports. Furthermore, the GSP will provide technical guidance to national teams in the areas of national GHG inventories, mitigation analysis, and V&A assessments; it will also provide countries with critical inputs to formulate project proposals in the areas of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, which are in turn responsive to their national development needs, and it will provide the technical basis, information and guidance for countries to identify, prepare, consult and communicate nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement. Furthermore, the GSP will assist countries in ensuring that the NCs and BURs provide sound basis for policy and programme formulation.
- 7. In this context, through its technical assistance work, the GSP will provide an important contribution to countries' efforts in linking the NCs, BURs and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement with the sectoral and national development plans to address climate change in a more cohesive manner, while meaningfully and realistically contributing to the post 2020 emission reduction efforts under a renewed 2015 agreement (protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force). It also includes the formulation of project proposals that can be submitted for funding from different sources. The GSP will also work in close coordination with relevant programme by UNDP and UNEP (see section A2) to assist countries with the preparation of low emission, climate resilient development strategies.
- 8. As mentioned earlier, the GSP will build on the NCSP II, a GEF funded global project that has been under implementation for the past 7 years by UNDP and UNEP, and which was completed in early 2013. The numerous activities carried out under NCSP will provide a substantive basis for enhancing the support that has been provided to countries in the past. This includes learning from the 25 regional and training workshops for national communication coordinators and country experts organized by the NCSP. These workshops have provided an opportunity for exchange of information, knowledge and tools on GHG inventories, mitigation analysis, and V&A assessments. In order to avoid duplicating the work that had been done in the past, the GSP will make use of, and update as needed, the NCSP guidance materials to assist national teams with the preparation of their National Communications, including, among others, the following:
 - i. Resource Kit on the National Communications' Process;
 - ii. Guidance on Development of Regional Climate Scenarios for V&A assessments;
 - iii. Guidance on Climate Information for Policy Makers;
 - iv. Country-level climate profiles in collaboration with the University of Oxford; and;
 - v. Guidance document on using the National Communications process and outputs to support climate change integration into national development policy and plans.

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

9. The two Implementing Agencies UNDP and UNEP have the comparative advantage in developing and delivering technical assistance to countries to countries for their enabling activities. To date these two agencies have supported more than 145 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. A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

Baseline and problems

- 10. 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 more detailed and frequent reporting on GHG inventories and mitigation, in addition to the NC and NAPA reports. This has been requested in an effort to ensure that full attention is given to climate change and its associated impacts, especially for non-Annex I Parties. Countries have highlighted the need to link their NC process more effectively with policy-making to address climate change concerns. Furthermore, countries have set up national steering committees and climate change units, usually supported by a formal institutional structure, to facilitate the preparation of their NC on a continuous basis. Although in a number of countries the institutional framework for the preparation of NCs has been fairly well established over the past few years, the climate change enabling activity projects continue to play a pivotal role in the consolidation of these structures, and in many countries, these reports are the only basis for broad climate change assessments. Nevertheless, countries' efforts to consolidate such institutional arrangements still face critical challenges in terms of technical capacities, coordination among different institutions, and generation of the data required for solid research and studies.
- 11. As governments pay increasing attention to the threat that climate change poses in undermining their development efforts, NCs are playing a more prominent role in shaping the climate change agendas at many levels, including sectors and regions. With the new reporting requirements under the Convention, countries are expected to provide accurate, detailed and more frequent reports. It is expected that through strengthened reporting, countries would be able to mobilize financial, technological and capacity building resources more effectively. 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.
- 12. However, it is important to note that many 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, targets to support these countries through a streamlined platform that offers a range of technical and innovative approaches to facilitate the preparation of timely and good quality NCs and BURs. Guided by the Convention guidelines and the relevant national planning processes, the GSP will provide countries with targeted technical backstopping, tools and training to compile the information and data required for the different studies, apply the appropriate methodologies, analyze the results, and prepare the reports to be submitted to the Convention. The technical assistance strategy will focus on assisting countries to strengthen national institutional arrangements to support the new reporting requirements and establish a support network through regional centers and experts who will be standing by to provide guidance as and when the need arises. The GSP will also establish a system to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of data and information, approaches used by countries, as well as lessons learnt and good practices to enhance South-South learning and collaboration.
- 13. As mentioned earlier, the GSP will thus build on and learn from the NCSP experiences. A lesson learnt document was published by the NCSP in early 2013, partly based on the outcomes and recommendations from the Lessons Learnt Workshop organised in Istanbul, October 2012. This document provides additional information and a strong foundation for the GSP to target its support activities to countries on the basis of identified needs and priorities. The report concludes that the National Communications process could be a

powerful tool for mobilising climate action and the necessary financing. Comprehensive and policy-relevant data and information is critical to fulfilling reporting requirements, but also to planning and budgeting efficiently, taking climate change into account. Institutions therefore need to be further enabled to respond to the increasing reporting demands under the Convention in a streamlined manner. However, the report highlights that the average time to prepare an NC is rather long (8 years), and that new challenges, policies, institutions, and priorities emerge during the life span of a NC project. This represents an important barrier to most countries, as the NCs have not yet been able to provide critical climate change information on a more regular basis. The need for more frequent and reliable information is critical for policy making, especially in an area where new research demonstrate the need for immediate actions to tackle climate change.

- 14. Thus, assisting countries to shorten the NC cycles will be one of the critical challenges the GSP will need to address. Institutional changes and the influence of new players affect the NC preparation process and its potential role in shaping the national climate change agendas in the future. Those countries that can flexibly respond to these changes will most benefit from their NCs. The NCSP lessons learnt workshop provided a basis for sharing ideas on specific activities that the GSP can implement to facilitate knowledge sharing: e.g. a wider and different use of the online platform (e-learning modules); combined global, regional and national support components; compilation of best practices and the update of NC Toolkit, particularly regarding the strengthening of GHG inventory systems and MRV related issues. The conclusions and recommendations of the lessons learned workshop are reflected in the choice of the outcomes and outputs of the proposed GSP, which has ensured that priorities identified by the countries form the substantive basis for the design and delivery of technical assistance activities.
- 15. A key element of the support strategy that the GSP will put in place to help countries shorten the submission periods is the targeted support through continuous monitoring of NCs and BUR project activities, in coordination with the GEF implementing agencies. The GSP will receive updated and regular information from the implementing agencies that will serve as a basis to identify potential technical bottlenecks that may cause delays in project activities. This will in turn provide the basis for the GSP to assist countries resolve technical issues relating to the preparation of their NCs and BUR in a timely manner. Thus regular communications will be carried out with project coordinators and the implementing agencies to avoid gaps in the work-plans and ensure that responses are provided to countries as needs arise. The GSP will build on the in-country support and on-line technical assistance that the NCSP had put in place in the past. This includes technical advice on a wide range of issues of concern to project coordinators and thematic team leaders; ranging from strengthening of GHG inventory systems and MRV related issues to guidance on terms of reference for the different studies, reviews of draft reports on GHG inventories, mitigation analysis and V&A assessments; and feedback on NC reports before submission to the UNFCCC. Similarly, the GSP will carry out dissemination activities including regular distribution of relevant information to countries via an electronic list server and a website, produce thematic newsletters featuring lessons learned and results from the NCs and BURs, and encourage south-south learning via webinars on specific topics.
- 16. In addition to NCs and BURs, the GSP will support countries in their identification process, preparation, consultation and communication of their nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement. Though these contributions are to be communicated to the COP well in advance of the COP21 in Paris in 2015 (the suggested timing is the first quarter of 2015), further guidance or information on these contributions has not yet been provided. The GSP will therefore build on the findings of the UNDP implemented project 'Technical dialogue on nationally determined contributions toward a 2015 agreement under the UNFCCC', which during the first half of 2014 will facilitate a technical dialogue between interested countries on different aspects of the process of putting forward nationally determined contributions, basically by facilitating the organization of regional workshops. The compilation reports of these workshops will provide insights on the key gaps and challenges countries may face in preparing their contributions, capacity building and potential technical assistance needs, potential linkages with other current support or initiatives in the respective regions, and follow up actions to secure a successful submission of countries' contributions

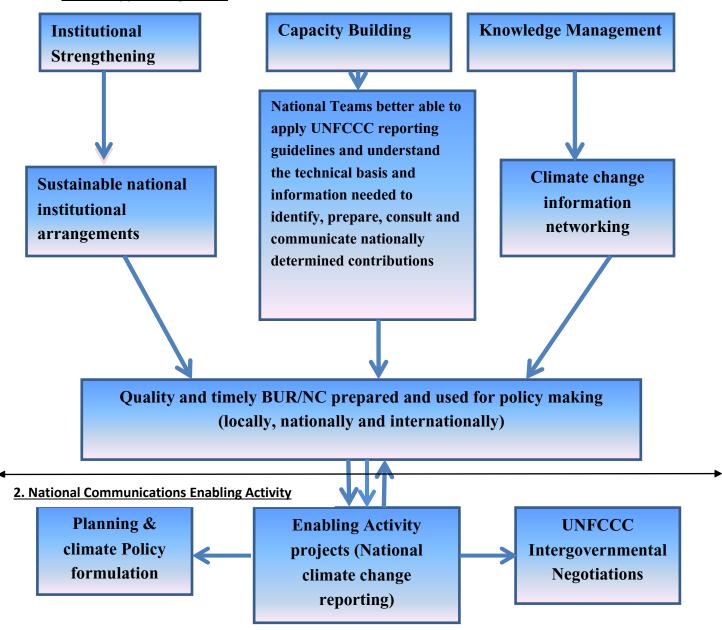
⁵ This project is a joint initiative between UNDP and UNFCCC, which is expected to initiate its activities in March 2014. Three sub-regional workshops are expected to be carried out by the third quarter of 2014.

to the 2015 agreement. NCs and BURs and their respective processes in the countries, are important national platforms to initiate national consultations among stakeholders and to initiate the political process to reach domestic agreement on the contribution. Therefore, some of these insights gained by the above mentioned UNDP-implemented project will be addressed by the GSP.

Theory of Change

17. Guided by the UNFCCC COP decisions and the relevant national planning processes, the GSP will provide countries preparing their climate change enabling activities (NCs and BURs) with targeted technical backstopping, tools and training to compile the information and data required for the different thematic studies/assessments, apply the appropriate methodologies, analyze the results, and prepare the reports to be submitted to the Convention. The technical assistance strategy will focus on assisting countries to strengthen national institutional arrangements to support the new reporting requirements and establish a support network through regional centers and experts who will be standing by to rpovide guidance as and when the need arises. The GSP will also establish a plaform to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of data and information, approaches used by countries, as well as lessons learnt and good practices to enhance South-South learning and collaboration. A schematic representation of the theory of change as applied to the GSP is illustrated below.

1. Global Support Programme



Implementation approach

18. Over its five (5) year period in operation, the GSP will provide support to all non- Annex I Parties as they prepare their NCs and BURs. However, greater emphasis will be placed on assistance those countries with lowest capacities (such as LDCs and SIDS) while making the experience and expertise of the most advanced countries available to all through a collaborative approach. All countries will be informed of the commencement of GSP activities, through all existing channels of communication with eligible countries including but not limited to: (i) communication from the COP of the UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies, and (ii) direct communication from the GEF Agencies. The GSP will also build on the work that UNDP and UNEP are currently providing to countries in the areas of mitigation and adaptation in order to ensure complementarity among relevant initiatives at country level. This 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:

- a) Lack of harmonized national institutional framework for GHG inventories reporting: The programme will not only assist countries design and/or strengthen national institutional arrangements the preparation of GHG inventories for NCs and BURs but will also help create a national system for data access, documenting procedures and processes involved in preparing national GHG inventories. It will thus ensure that data, information, and assumptions are reported and archived in transparent and systematic and easily accessible. The programme will also assist countries define mandates of involved organizations and experts at national level and address political bottlenecks; by providing guidance on how national institutional mandates and processes can be adjusted and/or strenghened to meet Convention reporting needs;
- b) 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, 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 that can provide targetted support. The GSU will guide countries on way to access up to date climate-relevant data, information and appropriate analytical tools to carry out the studies under the different components of the NCs and BURs;
- c) Limited access to data: The reliability and accessibility of data is perhaps the most significant challenge faced by countries when carrying out their GHG inventories, mitigation analysis or V&A assessments. While data gaps and uncertainties have improved over the last few years in many countries, this continues to be a very important barrier to the quality and comprehensiveness of the NC reports, and the sustainability of the NC and BUR processes. The programme will work with national and international institutions and experts to assist countries generate or access national data, while also reviewing institutional arrangements or other legal and financial barriers to data access. 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;
- d) Limited consultation and weak stakeholder consultation processes: The programme will work closely with countries to ensure that a strong stakeholder engagement, solid technical and institutional capacities, adequate coordination mechanisms among all the relevant stakeholders, and the necessary monitoring of actions are put in place to ensure that the quality and frequency of the reporting commitments are achieved. Although stakeholders' engagement in the preparation of NCs has expanded in many countries, there is a need to consolidate and enhance the participation of a wider range of government and non-government organizations in the NCs, and subsequently, in BURs set-up, preparation and follow-up. This participation becomes especially relevant as new and more recent and accurate data will be required for enhanced and solid reporting. The importance of a wide and inclusive consultative process is further highlighted, as this represents the basis for making the NCs and BURs effective tools for identifying critical climate priorities and issues. A strong stakeholder process will also ensure that climate change issues are adequately linked to pressing development policies, in order to facilitate the integration of climate change in the relevant planning processes at the country level.

UNDAF mainstreaming

19. The GSP will support the drafting of the National Communications and BuRs. These reports are designed to define and communicate countries' priorities in mitigation and adaptation. The UN will then be able to take these national priorities and mainstream them into their UNDAFs.

Project components and outcomes

20. 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 that adequate backstopping is granted to national teams during their reporting period. The support programme will provide a range of technical assistance focused on three (3) main components:

Component 1: Broaden and make more robust and operational, institutional arrangements for the preparation of NCs and BURs:

- 21. Through this component, countries will be assisted to build national technical teams, enhance and strengthen national institutional arrangements to support the new reporting requirements in the context of strengthened and more frequent NCs and BURs reporting. This component will seek to assist countries develop national documentation processes, build individual and institutional capacities and establish a durable 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 on 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 individually to assist them develop their own strategies on their institutional structure and capacity development required, building on the work done in their previous NCs.
- 22. It is important to highlight lessons learned from the 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 elaborated upon. Furthermore, reporting is often limited to listing stakeholders and a very brief description, if any, of their role on consultations. The work of the GSP would provide guidance, including steps to ensure that the institutional structures are designed to support a sustainable NC process, taking into account the relevant planning structures at the country level. The programme will also work with national teams to help them assess roles of institutions to support NC and BUR preparation and reporting, advice on the required collection of data and information, and catalyze decision-making process to meet climate change objectives, as part of the NC work. Furthermore, the programme will assist countries in carrying out further analysis on the how the relevant institutions may benefit from the NC process to ensure effective communication, coordination and provision of information.
- 23. Under most SNCs, countries are reporting the creation of institutional structure for climate change, which represents a significant progress, due an increase in awareness as well as political support. However, additional understanding is needed on how institutional arrangements may need to be adjusted to facilitate the preparation of more stringent NC reports and to better address the new reporting requirement of BURs. In this context, the programme will assist countries in developing their policy frameworks for managing institutional cooperation among key stakeholders for the NC and the BUR.
- 24. The NCSP has also developed a guidance document on how the NC can provide inputs to 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 GSP will assist countries in using this NCSP guidance from the very beginning of their NC and BUR preparation to ensure stronger linkages and identify the necessary incentives for greater institutional support and capacities in the reporting obligations.
- 25. In particular, the expected outcomes of this component are:
 - i) Outcome 1.1: Trained government staff and technical experts on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports;

- ii) Outcome 1.2: NC and BUR data and analyses available and used by a greater number of government ministries and resources managers for planning purposes.
- 26. This translates into a number of outputs that are listed in table B of part I. Under outcome (1.1), countries will be assisted on a one-by-one basis, with the development and organization of targeted workshops, particularly designed for more and enhanced involvement of government staff dealing with policy formulation and national planning into the NC and BUR processes. To this purpose, material developed within the context of this support programme or other relevant material will be made available and be used as a basis. These national level workshops are intended to address the importance of robust institutional arrangements for climate change reporting, while they provide insights into the how and what, including stakeholder analysis, definition of roles of institutions, development of policy frameworks for managing institutional cooperation, among others. Examples of durable and robust institutional arrangements exist in a number of countries (e.g. inter-ministerial climate change cell, climate change committees), and lessons can be learnt from these existing examples. Countries will also be assisted in the stakeholder analyses and in the design, enhancement or consolidation of institutional mechanisms to support the NC and BUR, in light of the increased reporting requirements.
- 27. Outcome 1.1 will thus look at gaps and achievements of previous institutional structures that can provide both a better understanding of where the interventions would make a greater impact and ideas on how those gaps could be addressed. In doing so, countries will identify experiences from other successful institutional structures that may be replicated, as appropriate, for the NC and BUR. Given the need to improve the quality and frequency of the reporting under the convention and the additional efforts to design measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, the programme will guide the national teams on how to leverage political and, if feasible, financial support, from the relevant government counterparts. This will involve guidance to countries on the definition of roles and responsibilities through the provision of templates, examples, and learning from other countries.
- 28. In particular, this outcome will assist countries in the following:
 - i.Define a country-driven process to assess gaps and opportunities to strengthen the institutional structures;
 - ii.Identify key players and cluster them in smaller groups based on their mandates within the government (e.g. policy, technical, research);
 - iii.Identify non-governmental institutions that may play a critical or even secondary role to expand both support and ownership of the NC process;
 - iv. Outline the roles and responsibilities to ensure clear division of labour, contribution, and decision making;
 - v.Define the communication protocols to facilitate the coordination and consultations on a regular basis;
 - vi.Provide more detailed reporting on the institutional arrangements adopted to both prepare the reports and to consolidate such arrangements for future reporting.
- 29. Outcome 1.2 intends to have well established procedures for data collection across government institutions, in order to improve compilation, retention, access and utility of data and analysis. This support will be provided to a number of countries that identify the lack of such procedures as a significant barrier for NC and BUR preparation. Other countries that may have already made important progress in this area will be involved, under the guidance of the GSP, in south-south learning activities in different regions. Two workshops will be held in different regions to train approximately 60 national experts. As a follow up to these workshops, country-specific support will be provided related to data collection, depending on the demand expressed by countries, and the resources available to support them. These country level activities will include the formulation of procedures across institutes for data collection, management and archiving, particularly focusing on quality assurance and control, and based on a sound analysis of the legal, financial and institutional barriers to undertake data collection.

- 30. In particular this component will assist countries in the following:
 - i.Identify critical data gaps, including the institutions responsible for generating the data;
 - ii.Design a plan to motivate responsible institutions in data improvement strategies;
 - iii.Disseminate and support training activities, as needed, on approaches for data management and archiving, such as those developed by USEPA;
 - iv.Define key quality control and quality assurance procedures that may be reported under the NCs and BURs;
 - v.Determine the training needs, in coordination with the relevant institutions;
 - vi.Design a framework for an inventory management system taking into account the key elements to ensure higher quality reports, such as the GHG inventories, mitigation analysis and V&A assessment, as feasible.

Component 2: Provide technical backstopping to national teams for the preparation of NCs, BURs, and nationally determined contirubtions to the 2015 agreement including the preparation and dissemination of technical and policy-relevant guidance materials, methodologies and tools:

- 31. The support programme will respond to country needs obtained through one on one interactions, on site backstopping, surveys and workshops. Furthermore, it will update, as needed and in coordination with the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the key 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 support national teams to identify innovative policies and incentives on climate change, linked to national development priorities and processes. Through this support, the GSU will assist countries in using the NC formulation and results to support countries' efforts on low emission and climate resilience development. Furthermore, the GSP will assist countries identify entry points for climate change mainstreaming during the preparation of the NCs, and where appropriate, the BURs. This will involve disseminating the NCSP guidance document on climate change integration as the basis for discussions at the country level. Other materials developed by UNDP and UNEP on environmental mainstreaming will also be provided to support efforts in those countries where an "integration agenda" has been prioritized. This element, along with linkages with national development, is considered to be central to the sustainability of the NC and BUR process. Furthermore, the GSP will work with the Implementing Agencies and national teams from the outset of project implementation to ensure that integration issues are adequately considered and reported. In addition, and in response to the lack of clear guidance and directions on the information countries will need to put forward on their contributions, the GSP will prepare guidance material and upon request by Parties, recommendations on how to present the information for the official communication of nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement. The GSP will also support countries in the identification, preparation and consultation of their contributions. In this context, guidance would be provided on the involvement of key stakeholders in the consultation process to prepare their contributions and on linkages with priorities at the country level, building on the NC and BUR experiences and arrangements in place, among others.
- 32. In GHG inventories, a number of areas that would need further improvement, especially in the context of BUR have been identified. These include 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. On this basis the GSP will focus its support activities in the following areas: 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. Central to this support is the inventory years that countries are mandated to report on under both the BUR and the TNC. The GSP will work with countries to ensure that the appropriate years or series are reported, including the use of the appropriate methodologies. In this sense, training, as needed, will be provided in the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for the preparation of national GHG inventories, along with the IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. The GSP will also assist countries in accurately reporting data sources and gaps, as well as the assumptions used for emission inventories, including emission factors. As previously done under the NCSP, the programme will make available to countries GHG reviewers certified by the UNFCCC to carry out technical reviews of the GHG inventory. These reviews will not only identify potential gaps, errors or inconsistencies, but also provide concrete recommendations to address them, in this way the quality of the national inventory reports will be enhanced. Rather than carrying out such reviews at the end of the NC projects, the GSP will encourage countries to not only submit their draft GHG inventory for review as early as possible, but will also offer countries online support to answer any queries they may have during the preparation of their GHG inventories. This would allow countries to make adjustments and correct any mistakes before the reports are submitted to the UNFCCC. This support is critical for the BURs given the potential international consultation process that would be put in place to review the GHG inventories for non-Annex I Parties.

- 33. In the area of V&A assessment, the NCSP has also identified a number of 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, especially to avoid duplication of work carried out in previous NCs. The GSU will work with countries to ensure that clear descriptions are provided on their methodological approaches as well as the challenges faced and assumptions used in their application. This will include, among others the following: better descriptions of the climate scenarios developed or adopted, timeframes chosen, and sources of data; carry out more comprehensive analysis of socio-economic context 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 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 address the gaps of previous NCs and provide the necessary training and technical backstopping to address them. In particular, the GSP will assist countries better articulate the key vulnerability and impacts, building on the work carried out in the previous NCs, through more robust use of climate scenario information. This will include clear reporting of assessment periods, methodological choices, uncertainties of these assessments, and the articulation of an adaptation plan through proposed measures and policies to address climate change impacts. Particular attention will be given to the need to strengthen the socio-economic analysis to avoid vulnerability and adaptation assessments purely based on bio-physical impacts.
- 34. In the area of mitigation, the NCSP found significant differences in the level of detail among the submitted NCs and that in most cases; information reported under mitigation is not comprehensible or complete. This is one of the areas that requires an improved structure and use of methodologies to carry out more solid analyses 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. The GSP will assist national teams to design their plans in greater detail for the mitigation analysis so that the work is prioritized from the beginning and a dispersion of efforts avoided. This approach will help countries make better use of resources (both human and financial) by concentrating on the areas with biggest impacts on GHG emission reduction and strongest linkages with national or sectoral development needs/plans. Given the availability of a number of models for mitigation

analysis, especially in the energy sector, the GSP will coordinate with the CGE, as appropriate and other support initiatives to design more cost-effective ways of training national experts on mitigation analysis. Although the training will make use of existing models, the support will not be centred around modelling exercise alone; on the contrary, it will emphasize the need to ensure a more comprehensive assessment of mitigation options that may include analytical frameworks to identify mitigation options that are aligned with development priorities. This will include the use of appropriate tools for prioritization of such options and for basic viability assessments, including costs, socio-economic impacts, and political support for the proposed mitigation options.

- 35. Regarding the more recent commitment under the Convention that requests all parties to submit their nationally determined contributions to the 2015 Agreement, there is a lack of clear guidance on the content and format of such submission. The work that countries would need to carry out to comply with this new commitment is strongly linked to the activities under the NCs and BURs. Similarly, the process that may need to be put in place to identify, prepare and submit the contributions to the 2015 agreement is likely to be similar to the process adopted for NCs and BURs. This may include consultations processes, analysis, prioritization, and technical discussion that may build on the NC and BUR work and experiences. In this context, the GSU will work with NC and BUR counterparts at the country level to assist in the consultation process, identification and preparation of the contributions to the 2015 agreement. Emphasis will be given on the use of reliable baseline information that may have been developed as part the NC formulation and other relevant studies as the basis to initiate the discussions and prioritize the areas and sectors that may be considered for the contributions to the 2015 agreement. Similarly, the GSP will facilitate online consultation on technical issues and exchange of information and experiences to ensure that a minimum level of support is in place so that countries can resolve issues and challenges that may arise during the preparation of the contributions to the 2015 agreement.
- 36. Concretely, the in-country knowledge base and expertise on the different components of NCs and BURs, and the preparation and communication of nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement will be enhanced through a large number of workshops, guidance materials, on line support, in country support and online training through webinars. The GSP intends to produce or compile available guidance to support countries with their technical studies including the following:
 - i.A guidance note on how to set up for and prepare a quality BUR. This will be a short guidance note in addition to the policy guidance that has been prepared and distributed by the UNFCCC through the CGE. Given that the CGE has developed some basic training materials (NCSP, UNDP, and UNEP are contributing to this work), the GSP will base the guidance note on this material. The CGE will carry out regional training workshops on the CGE training materials, which will serve as the basis for targeted support by the GSP soon after it initiates its activitie;
 - ii.An updated guidance note on integrating climate change in development planning and policy, building upon the easy guide that was prepared under the NCSP and which countries explicitly asked for to have an update on a regular basis;
 - iii. An updated guidance note on how to set up for and prepare a policy relevant NC;
 - iv. An update of sector-specific compilation on tools and methodologies for mitigation analysis and V&A assessments, in coordination with the CGE. Currently the CGE, in collaboration with UNDP and UNEP, is developing the concept note 'Possible elements for the update of the CGE training materials on vulnerability and adaptation assessments'. The exercise includes the identification of the the nature, scope and possiblite elements to update of existing V&A training material, inclusoin of new and additional information and identification of key stakeholders.;
 - v.One compilation document on lessons learnt from national efforts in creating institutional arrangements for tackling climate change. This will be a compilation of the experiences of the supported countries that will be carried out under component 1 of the GSP;
 - vi.One publication on how gender issues may considered and integrated in the NCs and BURs;

vii. An updated guidance on the design of GHG inventory systems in coordination with the IPCC and other relevant institutions, such as USEPA, and in consultation with the CGE. The GSP would discuss with the CGE the training options based on previous experiences regarding the application the CGE training materials on GHG inventories;

viii A guidance note on how to identify and communicate nationally determined contributions of the 2015 agreement in a robust, realistic and achieveble fashion, and based on extensive and inclusive dialogues within the country with relevant stakeholders, sectors and levels.

37. The training component of this GSP is rather substantive, with at least the following training events and activities scheduled:

i.Sub-regional and thematic workshops and training, with post-workshop online support, including follow-up activities to the process countries are putting in place in the context of the nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement;

ii.Learning modules and webinars with international experts on pertinent technical issues for NCs, BURs and for the preparation of nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement;

iii. South-south learning through facilitated exchanges via the GSP;

iv.Dissemination on lessons learned and good practices to provide relevant examples which countries may adapt for their own studies in NCs, BURs and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement;

v.Dissemination of templates and formats that countries may adapt for reporting purposes under their NCs and BUR, including online discussion on how to use them, as needed. This activity will also include discussions and recommendation on ways to compile and present nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement;

vi.Diversification of the learning packages offered, in order to address not only a limited number of technical staff from NC and BUR project teams in countries, but involve other less obvious stakeholders and contributors to the NC processes. This planned activity responds to inputs received from a number of countries at the NCSP lessons learnt workshop. In the context of the 2015 agreement, the GSP will also target stakeholders that are relevant for the preparation of nationally determined contributions.

- 38. In addition to the above training events and publications, the GSP will update its vetted list of experts that is now being shared through the NCSP platform, but needs regular update. Indeed, on a regular basis, the implementing agencies are asked by countries to recommend technical experts who can support the development of NC and/or BUR components. The intention of this vetted list of experts is twofold: 1) to have a pool of experts, who have already been screened by the GSP, and therefore meet minimum qualification criteria, from which country teams can easily and promptly select appropriate candidates for identified consultancies, and 2) to create a network of experts that is affiliated to research centers, consultancy firms centers of excellence that can further help country teams train national experts in different thematic areas. Thus, an up to date database will be made available featuring international and national experts, prominent research institutes, and think tanks, on various NC and BUR topics.
- 39. Particular attention will be paid to quality assurance and control procedures for data collection, its management and storage at the country level. Being part of outcome 1, output 1.2.1 in particular, the support programme plans to assist a number of countries on a one on one basis in the formulation of quality assurance and control procedures for data collection, management and storage. It is recalled in this context that more accurate inventories enable non-Annex I Parties to identify major sources and sinks of GHGs with greater confidence, and thus to make more informed policy decisions with respect to appropriate response measures. A variety of QA/QC procedures are made available and are already being applied by countries, though not systematically. Moreover, QA/QC methods and procedures are not always properly reported on or described with sufficient detail in the NCs. Inventory quality needs to be increased, also in light of the future international consultation process that may be put in place to review GHG inventories of non-Annex I

Parties. This includes QA/QC procedures providing cross-checks during inventory compilation and quantification of uncertainties at the source level and for the inventory as a whole.

Component 3: Enhance knowledge management, best practices, communication and outreach:

- 40. 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 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.
- 41. The purpose of this component is to provide support to the previous components 1 and 2 through exchange of best practices. To this end, a database of relevant material per NC and BUR issue, with smart search options will be developed. The support programme's website will offer a list of research centers, with a short narrative on the possible support or area of expertise of the centers/institutions. There will be a launch event of an online forum and related activities, such as webinars and expert meetings online. As mentioned under component 2, the website will become a more interactive and dynamic space for knowledge sharing. The GSP's platform will be a one-stop shop for all information related to NCs and BURs and with the possibility of clustering relevant information on sub-regional basis. Moreover, the GSP platform will become the hub for countries to share their experiences in terms of initiating and managing national dialogues, challenges faced during the process of, the format and content of official communications, etc. on nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement.
- 42. Ten in-focus magazines will be produced and distributed through the website of the support programme and through distribution lists that the GSP will create and maintain to facilitate communications with country teams on a regular basis. These short publications will zoom in on a specific issue, such as a critical discussion on the strengths and limitations of applying specific models, a review of climate mitigation options for priority sectors, etc. The existing newsletter will therefore evolve into publications that will address some technical issues into greater detail. An in-focus magazine with connected webinars and online discussion fora could provide an important added value to the work countries are delivering on the ground. The topics of the in-focus magazine will be decided upon based on requests from countries. These publications will also seek to keep country teams abreast of the latest developments under the UNFCCC negotiations, directly affecting and influencing reporting requirements. Topics related to the 2015 agreement and experiences from countries in preparing their national contributions will also be included in the GSP publications and information exchange.
- 43. In order to complement the dissemination of information, lessons from countries, relevant news and events, the GSP will develop a "Monthly Round Up" on-line publication. UNDP has used this dissemination tool under the Low Emissions Capacity Programme, which has proved to be very useful and highly appreciated by participating countries. The monthly round ups will feature very concise articles and news on different topics, ranging from the specific activities at country level, relevant initiatives from international partners, recommended publication, webinars, workshops, training activities, among others.
- 44. Through all these dissemination and public awareness modalities, the GSP will create a knowledge and outreach platform to feature relevant information for the compilation and completion of NC and BUR reports, and nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement. This platform will be updated on a regular basis (at the occurrence of launch of milestone publications, capacity building events, and more) and constituents will be contacted through distribution lists and relevant information shared. The intention is not to limit these dissemination efforts to the national teams responsible for the NCs and BURs, but to cover a much wider range of stakeholders at the country level, including those involved in the preparation of the contributions to the 2015 agreement, to enhance the understanding of these convention reports. Thus the GSP will coordinate with project managers to identify the key stakeholders in each country who would be targeted under this outreach strategy. As a result, selected articles would feature technical and policy work

that can demonstrate how the NCs and BURs, as well as the contributions to the 2015 agreement, can have greater impacts in supporting the national climate change agendas.

- A.5. <u>Incremental</u> /<u>Additional cost reasoning</u>: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated <u>global environmental benefits</u> (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:
- 45. 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.
- 46. 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.
- A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:
- 47. A general consideration is that as long as climate change, its challenges and transformative opportunities to move towards low emission and climate resilient development strategies, is not a top priority in countries, the design and implementation of successful NCs and BURs is at risk. This is because climate change issues do not compete favourably with other developmental priorities for the limited human and financial resources available in most developing countries. The programme, through its national counterparts, will endeavor to bring climate change to the attention of all stakeholders, using the NCs and upcoming BURs as tools for integrating climate change into development and sectoral planning and policies.
- 48. The planned work to strengthen institutional arrangements and enhance lessons learnt and information exchange (national, regional but also science-policy) will significantly contribute to a general understanding of climate issues by key stakeholders and in particular relevant Ministries. As mentioned earlier in this proposal, countries are at very different levels of capacities and understanding of technical issues. This difference will represent a challenge for the programme to work with a wide range of countries, which have different needs and priorities and whose efforts to integrate climate change into policy and planning also vary significantly. A number of risks are beyond the control of the programme. These risks, such as the outbreak of social unrest in the country, changes in political priorities and institutional structures, extreme weather events and other natural or climate related disasters, may pose some risk to the continuation and success of the NC and BUR project implementation, as has already been experienced in the past in a few countries. From previous work with national climate teams, the NCSP also learnt that contributing to making climate change a priority in national agendas has the potential of overcoming these external and exceptional risk factors, if backed by great support from key stakeholders and decision makers.

- 49. Additionally other probable risks which are likely to arise during the project's life span are (i) the lack of data or availability of only poor data that will affect the depth and quality of the NC reports in some countries (ii) weak stakeholder consultation processes in the preparation of some of these reports, (iii) weak institutional arrangements in some countries and (iv) the high turnover of project staff/ national authorities and their lack of awareness of the objectives and relevance of the NCs and BURs. The GSP will coordinate with the GEF Implementing Agencies to work with national governments towards mitigating these risks through the following actions:
- 50. Risk, Level of Risk and Commentary and Mitigating Strategies and Actions:
 - Risk of countries producing reports that lack adequate depth and quality. This is due to national experts limited capacities and/or inadequate climate relevant data, information and appropriate analytical tools for thematic assessments as well as mainstreaming climate change issues into national and sectoral planning frameworks.

Level: Moderate

Commentary and Mitigating Strategies and Actions: In coordination with the GSP, the IAs will continue to raise the level of project supervision and work closely with the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties (CGE) to help build the capacity of national experts to undertake thematic assessments as well facilitating access to expertise residing in regional centers of excellence to help countries access climate relevant data, information and appropriate analytical tools. These centers of excellence will provide technical assistance to country teams to request from project coordinators 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.

ii) Poor stakeholder consultation processes. 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.

Level; Moderate

Commentary and Mitigating Strategies and Actions: The IAs will work with the country counterparts to ensure that appropriate actions are taken before, during and after the preparation of national project proposals to specifically identify priority actions and relevant linkages with development needs. The GSP and IAs will work with National governments to ensure that the NC teams outline measures/activities on wider national consultation processes and effective stakeholder engagement. Furthermore, the NC teams will be trained to facilitate a support platform that will involve all the relevant stakeholders, beyond the executing partners, so that there are no misunderstandings concerning objectives and activities of the NC and BUR projects. 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 through adequate consultation and participation processes.

iii) Weak institutional arrangements - Challenges faced by some countries in particular the 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

Level: Moderate

Commentary and Mitigating Strategies and Actions: Through regular monitoring of project activities at national level and identification of technical bottlenecks, the GSP and IAs will work together to assist 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 e-capacity (on-line and off-line) building seminars.

iv) 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: a) National executing agencies will have to add own funds from their limited financial resources to cover additional project management costs at the national level; and b) IAs will also have to find additional funds to continue meeting their oversight and supervision responsibilities.

Level: Moderate

Commentary and Mitigating Strategies and Actions: As a result of increased interest in climate change issues by national governments over the past few years, 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. Wherever there is evidence that project output delivery is affected by politically motivated choices as regards expenditures incurred in funding of approved project activities, appropriate mitigative provisions outlined in the project document/legal instruments will be applied to promptly address the problem. It is also necessary to ensure that executing agencies country teams have the technical capacities to adequately monitor the project and be able to identify technical and implementation needs The GSP and the IAs will work together to ensure that national experts and institutions executing project activities take immediate actions to address these problems in a timely manner.

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

- 51. Due to the very nature of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports, there is a strong link with many parallel and related initiatives. Hereinafter, only two obvious links are mentioned, and these are the link with an ongoing umbrella project for implementing Third National Communications, and the link with development strategies, with the view of integrating climate change issues in policies and plans. Furthermore, the programme will coordinate closely with the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) and will draw on their work regarding guidelines and training materials for the preparation of NCs. The project will use methodologies recommended by the UNFCCC and will build on the work carried out under previous NCs, as well as on the workshops and guidance materials developed by the NCSP.
- 52. The GEF-funded Third National Communications umbrella project provides administrative and technical support to 50 non Annex I Parties. As management teams of both the project and the support programme will be working closely together (same offices and same reporting mechanisms), coordination will safeguard from overlap and duplication.
- 53. As mentioned under question A.2 of Part II of this document, 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. These initiatives have been listed earlier in this document.
- 54. The programme will work closely with a number of relevant initiatives including among others: Complementarity exists with other global support programmes jointly carried out by the implementing agencies UNDP and UNEP, such as the GEF supported programme "Assisting Least developed Countries (LDCs) with country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)". This has the objective of facilitating effective medium- to long-term planning for adaptation to climate change in LDCs, by strengthening institutional and technical capacities for iterative development of comprehensive NAPs in LDCs. NAPs are to be country-driven, and based on integrating adaptation into existing national development priorities and plans, to ensure a strategic and properly aligned approach to addressing climate change adaptation. The GSP will coordinate with NAPs Programme to ensure the necessary synergies in the work that countries will carry out to assess their vulnerability to climate change and to design their adaptation strategy.
- 55. Coordination with these initiatives will include the following:

- i. Carry out joint training activities in given areas of the NC and BUR;
- ii. Coordinate the development and/or update of guidance material to avoid duplication;
- iii. Organize joint webinars;
- iv. Facilitate south-south and north-south learning;
- v. Collaborate on the review of draft technical reports.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.

- 56. The Support Programme's success is largely dependent on the degree and extent of the active involvement of a number of stakeholders particularly at the national, and to some extent at the sub-national, regional and global levels. Indeed, it is the programme's firm belief that the scale and quality of stakeholder involvement determine the legitimacy and utility of NCs and BURs outcomes as well as the effectiveness of the follow-up actions provided
- 57. Over the years, the NCSP and the Implementing Agencies have developed extensive experience on how to promote the involvement of key stakeholders in both the inception of climate projects and programmes and in their further development and continuity. The GSU and the Implementing Agencies will therefore rely on this experience to help executing agencies set the conditions for wide, significant and qualitative stakeholder involvement. National Governments or country Parties are the key stakeholders who will participate in this programme, with an aim of improving their reporting under the UNFCCC. It is therefore fundamental that they are involved in all stages of NC and BUR projects, from inception, to implementation to follow-up. The programme further intents to broaden their role, alongside with their growing interest and capacities. Where non-implementing Ministries (such as line ministries, the Prime-Minister's Cabinet, and other) have only marginally been consulted at the onset of the projects, their continuous participation will be promoted via different approaches, including board members of an inter-ministerial climate change cell, data providers for the GHG inventories, among others.
- 58. 49. Apart from the involvement of decision makers (through which the individual NC projects contribute to ensuring appropriate actions and relevant linkages with development plans), the programme will further support the participation of academia, research institutes, private sector and other potential experts in order to nurture a policy-science dialogue that is often missing and to make the technical reports comprehensive to key decision makers, whether at the national or grassroots levels. This group of stakeholders can inform on the latest available and reliable data, tools and methodologies and can guide the studies so that they become policy relevant and based on up-to-date and research.
- 59. Another, often overlooked group of stakeholders are the CSOs and NGOs. The GSP will assist countries to design their own strategies for a more meaningful participation of these important groups. Not only should they be consulted during the priority setting for the NCs and BURs, but also participate in the different studies and in the efforts to link them with priorities and needs at the community level. Their involvement is also critical during the development of adaptation and mitigation action plans, as they may convey cost-effective solutions, identify low-hanging fruits and support local actions as a result of consultative NC and BUR processes.
- 60. Donors, private sector and financiers are another important category to be involved in NC and BUR work all along the process, as they have a particular interest of linking the NC and BUR work with existing climate actions, therefore avoiding costly overlap and duplication of efforts. The GSU will assist countries in defining the right mix of stakeholders' involvement. Although all of the stakeholder groups mentioned here should ideally be part of the National Steering Committees established at the national levels, each country, with the assistance of the GSP, would determine the right composition of such committees. The GSP will provide guidance to countries on how these National Steering Committees can operate throughout the life of the NC and BUR projects so that they can contribute to the policy and technical discussions that are expected

to take place during the implementation of these projects.

- 61. At the global level, the GSP will establish linkages with the following initiatives and institutions: (i) the UNFCCC Secretariat, (ii) the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), (iii) the Technology Executive Committee, and any other relevant committees established under the UNFCCC, (iv) the Least Developed Countries Expert Group; (v) the NAP Support Programme, among others. A Project Advisory Committee for the GSP will be put in place. This Committee will consist of technical experts from the implementing agencies (UNDP and UNEP), the UNFCCC Secretariat, the CGE Chair, who is appointed from representatives of non-Annex I Parties, on a yearly rotational basis, and the GEF Secretariat. The raison d'être of this Committee is to provide inputs to the technical team on emerging issues and challenges at the country and sub-regional levels. It will therefore advise on and provide inputs to programme activities, helping the GSP prioritize the support to countries and the delivery mechanisms. The Advisory Committee will also provide advice on the of support programme's publications and materials, by peer-reviewing draft documents, as appropriate. Further details about the role of the Programme Advisory Committee are provided in Part III.
- 62. The GSP will also facilitate the support to countries through a network of sub-regional and regional centers. These centers will work with national experts on reporting tools, methodologies and training. They will also fuel the exchange of lessons learnt, share climate related data, where possible, and assist country teams, as needed.

B.2 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/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

- 63. 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 the design of priority adaptation and mitigation policies and actions, which will in turn inform development strategies and sectoral 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 pathway and link GHG emission reduction objectives with development priorities, such energy access and poverty reduction.
- 64. The programme will provide guidance to NC teams so that the needs of the most vulnerable groups in a community or country are prioritized in the adaptation and mitigation assessments. In this context, both the previous NCSP, and the proposed support programme have and will develop guidance materials that assist countries adopt the appropriate methodological approaches for such assessments, including steps on how to ensure adequate stakeholder participation. Under the previous NCSP, a guide was published on Integrating Climate Change into Development Policies and Planning, and one important section of this publication was about stakeholder involvement, providing a number of successful examples from around the world. Within the context of this support programme, under Outcome 1, countries will be provided tailored guidance and support for successful stakeholder analyses, ensuring all relevant institutions, groups and individuals are part of the sustainable institutional structure on climate change. The latter is one of the cornerstones of the programme. Ensuring that relevant stakeholders are involved throughout the NC and BUR projects within countries, the support programme further aims at working more closely with national teams in order to have socio-economic aspects and benefits given a more prominent role in the different studies.
- 65. The support programme will also put emphasis on assisting countries how to better report socio-economic aspects and benefits in the relevant sections of the NC and BUR reports. Furthermore, the programme intends to explicitly include gender issues in its support activities. These issues have so far not been addressed rigorously and systematically, though they can play a fundamental role in the success of climate actions. Despite the guiding principles within the United Nations (UN) system to incorporate gender considerations, climate change policy-making has failed to adopt a gender-sensitive approach. This failure not only generates concerns in terms of respect for gender equity, but it also leads to shortcomings in the

efficacy of climate-related adaptation and mitigation measures and instruments. It is therefore the programme's responsibility to bring gender issues to the forefront and provide countries with concrete ways of integrating gender issues in their adaptation and mitigation studies. One of the learning modules to be prepared under the GSP will particularly address gender issues, so that technical project staff, project management staff and interested government officials can be trained in this area. In preparing this module on gender issues reference will be made to the UNDP and UNEP gender mainstreaming guidelines for climate change. In addition, a gender mainstreaming specialist will be consulted with before the finalization of all planned publications of the GSP, before the delivery of training material and modules, and before the distribution of in-focus magazines, in order to ensure that gender issues are sufficiently and sensibly represented. If possible and appropriate, a gender mainstreaming specialist from UNDP and/or UNEP will also be invited to advise the Programme as in-kind contribution and on an ad-hoc basis.

B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

66. 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, the project management unit 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.

A. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

- 67. Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) will be conducted in accordance with established UNDP, UNEP and GEF procedures and will be provided by the Global Support Programme management team, country project teams through their project coordinators at the national level and the corresponding Implementing Agency. The Project Results Framework in Annex A provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation, along with their corresponding means of verification. These will form the basis on which the project's M&E system will be built. The M&E plan described hereinafter distinguishes between monitoring and evaluation of individual NC and BUR projects under the support programme and the M&E plan of the support programme itself. It is important to briefly touch upon how M&E takes place at the project level in order to understand how it interacts with the overarching support programme.
- 68. 60. At the national/project level, regular monitoring of the projects' activities will be ensured, as per the rules and procedures of the IAs. The GSP will coordinate with the IAs to ensure that the information generated by the project's regular monitoring is made available for planning purpose. In addition, questionnaires on the projects' progress will be administered twice a year before the meetings of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies and the Conference of the Parties. Through these questionnaires, the Implementing Agencies will not only provide bi-annual reports to the GEF on projects' progress, but will also identify constraints in project implementation and needs for technical backstopping at the country level, so that the support programme design adequate assistance on the basis of emerging needs. This support will ultimately seek to help countries produce quality reports that can be submitted to the UNFCCC in a timely manner. Monitoring is particularly critical for the success of this support programme, as one of the key intentions is to pro-actively provide technical and institutional support to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their NCs and/or BURs. The M&E will also be used as a basis to demonstrate project impacts at the national levels, in coordination with the project managers, through lessons learnt and best practices.
- 69. In sum, per each individual NC or BUR project at the national level, the M&E plan includes:
 - i. An inception workshop within the first 3 months from project start, bringing together stakeholders and deciding on the priorities and workplan of the NC and/or BUR (an Inception Workshop Report is

the outcome of this first step). The inception phase will provide critical information on the capacity building needs of countries for their TNCs and BURs, which will in turn feed into the design of technical backstopping activities by the support programme;

- ii. Twice a year questionnaires reporting progress and identifying bottlenecks (Project Progress Reports to the GEF and UNFCCC are generated);
- iii. Annual progress, lessons, risks and adaptive management and more are reported on in the Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Reports;
- iv. Periodic monitoring, including the day to day monitoring of implementation progress; and
- v. End of project report within the last 3 months of the project, analysing results achieved, making recommendations for future work, next steps towards sustainability of the process and replicability of results.
- 70. It is important to note that the reporting documents of the national M&E plans are relevant inputs to the implementation of all three components of the global support programme (GSP), and therefore fundamental to its success, as they provide important sources of lessons learnt for exchange with other country teams, bottlenecks for pro-active support, recommendations for future steps and remedial actions. The global support programme will track this technical progress in coordination with the Implementing Agencies and the national project coordinators in order to ensure these bottlenecks and recommendations are timely addressed. Through this tracking system, the GSP will aim at identifying a number of common and emerging issues that could be addressed, with the objective of tailoring the targeted support provided to country teams within the financial and technical capacity of the programme.
- 71. At the global support programme (GSP) level, monitoring procedures will follow those of regular GEF full-size projects. The Project Results Framework as outlined in Annex A has identified several means of verification; these are performance and impact indicators that will allow for a close follow-up of the achievement of expected outputs and therefore contributing to expected outcomes.
- 72. During the first three months after project start up, the GSP will prepare an initiation report for wide distribution among the NC project coordinators. This report will set out a detailed narrative of the type of support that countries can expect from the GSP, the modalities of technical assistance, an overall timeframe for capacity building efforts and windows for tailored support, and the thematic areas that will be covered under the programme. This report will take into account the result of a consultation process with countries that was carried out under the previous support programme (NCSP), which developed some key recommendations and suggestions for future technical assistance from the Lessons Learnt workshop of the NCSP that was organised in Istanbul in October 2012.
- 73. The measurement of impact and performance indicators will be done on a periodic basis and will be assessed through the mid-term evaluation to be carried out before the third year of the programme implementation. This evaluation will analyse the programme's progress and deliverables as spelled out the workplan, identify any potential gaps and needs for adjustments, identify key areas that may need to be strengthened or prioritized and make recommendations on how to improve the programme's implementation, as appropriate. The mid-term evaluation will also give the opportunity to rethink and redirect the programme's activities and strategy for service delivery, as needed, so that the GSP responds to countries' needs in a timely and efficiently; seeking to tackle in a holistic manner the challenges identified by national teams. This evaluation will be produced by an independent consultant, following the mid-term evaluation guidance for GEF projects and will represent an important opportunity of self-reflection on the support that the GSP is provides to countries with the objective of introducing any adjustments needed to further enhance its technical assistance.
- 74. The GSP will seek regular feedback from countries, especially when providing targeted technical assistance to national teams, to identify priorities areas of support, as they emerge during the implementation of the NC projects at the national level. The Bi-annual surveys will be used as an opportunity to more broadly and periodically seek inputs from countries on areas of support and on the mechanisms the GSP should use to deliver such support.

75. In-line with the GEF Evaluation requirements the project will be subject to an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE). Additionally, a Mid-Term Review will be commissioned and launched by the project manager before the project reaches its mid-point. The terminal Evaluation will be commissioned no earlier than 6 months before, or later than 6 months after operational completion of the project. The Terminal Evaluation will be managed jointly by UNEP and UNDP Evaluation Offices. The UNEP Evaluation Office will, however, lead the TE and will liaise with the UNDP Evaluation Office throughout the process. Key decision points in the evaluation process will be made jointly by both Evaluation Offices in a collaborative manner [finalization of Evaluation ToRs, selection of independent evaluation consultants and acceptance of draft and final reports]. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, UNDP and executing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The evaluation findings will based on a wide consultation process with non-Annex I Parties that have benefited from technical assistance, the GSP, the country teams/offices involved in the programme, the donor countries, if appropriate, and any other relevant stakeholders (potential partner organizations). The evaluation will, therefore, not only assess the impacts of the programme country's work to prepare their NCs and BURs, but will also identify key lessons learned. The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Offices in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Offices of UNEP and UNDP when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and may be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

M&E budget and workplan

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from	Budget	Time Frame
		GEF (USD)	co-finance	
Inception Meeting		5,000		Within 3 months of project start-up
Inception Report	Advisory committee (UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC, CGE chair, and potentially donors, if any)			1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcomes, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global levels	Global Support Unit (project management team) with support from the Country Teams (including UNDP country offices)			Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP and UNDP				Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee meetings				Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings				Annually
Project Implementation Report (PIR)				Annually, part of reporting routine
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	Global Support Unit (project management team) with support from the Country Teams (including UNDP country offices)	45,000		At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	Global Support Unit	50,000		Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Project Final Report				Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report				Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents				Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Total M&E Plan Budget (USD)		100,000		

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 form. 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 CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator , Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Maryam Niamir- Fuller, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP	M. Man Salle	12/19/2013	GeorgeManful Task Manager	+2542076250 85	George.Manful@unep.or g
Adriana Dinu, UNDP – GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i	<u> </u>	01/13/2014	Yamil Bonduki, Senior Programme Manager, UNDP (Green- LECRDs)	+1 212 906 6659	Yamil.bonduki@undp.or g

LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex A: Project Logical Framework, using standardized UNEP template

Annex B: Response to GEF Review (GEF STAP Council)

Annex C: Status of Implementation of Project Preparation Activities and the use of fund (Table not applicable)

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

(Please note that for the purpose of this programme, only the work of NCSP II has been taken into account for baseline setting, though complementary and equally relevant work by e.g. the CGE has been reflected in the choice of activities to be covered by the GSP.)

Focal area objective: Support enabling activities and capacity building under the Convention (UNFCCC)

Focal area outcome: Human and institutional capacity of recipient countries strengthened

Programme objective: : Improve the quality of non-Annex I Parties' National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs), so they are more widely used for national development planning, climate negotiations, and for funding low emission, climate resilient development projects, while they are also submitted to the UNFCCC in a timely manner

	Objectively	verifiable indicators	Source of Verification	External factors
	Key Performance indicator	Baseline – Target (end of project)		(Assumptions and risks)
COMPONENT 1: Broaden ad ma	ke more robust and operational inst	itutional arrangements for the preparation	of NCs and BURs	
OUTCOME 1.1: Sustainable national institutional arrangements for climate change reporting established in non-Annex I countries	From a representative sample of participating countries, government climate change policy making bodies are represented by all sectors affected by and contributing to climate change.	Baseline: From a sample of 10 countries, the level participation of government, nongovernment, private sector and academic representatives in government climate change policy making bodies is identified at the start of the project. Target: In a sample of 10 countries, government climate change policy making bodies are represented at the Director level or above, and equivalent for nongovernment, private sector, and academic representatives.	Sample survey done by the global support programme	The political importance of climate change is not high.

	Objectively v	Objectively verifiable indicators		External factors
	Key Performance indicator	Baseline – Target (end of project)	Source of Verification	(Assumptions and risks)
Output 1.1.1 Analysis of, and recommendations for, more robust national institutional arrangements	1.1.1.1 Number of countries that are provided with guidance for successful stakeholder analysis, assisted to involve relevant institutions, groups and individuals in climate change institutional arrangements	Baseline: From a sample of 10 countries, the percentage of sectors vulnerable to climate change that are represented on government climate change policy making bodies, at the start of the project. Target: From sample, 90% of sectors vulnerable to climate change are represented at government climate change policy making bodies, at the end of project Baseline: Many countries have ad-hoc and poorly functioning institutional arrangements for the implementation of NCs (and now BURs) activities, often contributing to long, costly and ineffective processes. During NCSP II targeted support to countries on this issue was not covered Target: At least 10 countries assisted in performing stakeholder analyses, engaging key stakeholders in the process and a minimum of 40 countries provided with targeted support	Relevant reports including minutes and lists of participants from relevant institutional structure meetings, project documents of the support programme (i.e. the papers/projects submitted after participating in the training(s),) Follow-up review papers, and outcome documents, including definitions of roles of institutions, policy frameworks, etc.	As countries will need to request for this type of support, it is assumed that the country counterparts will be very much engaged and therefore the output is supposed to be successful. A narrow understanding of the challenges and opportunities of climate change may lead to a poor stakeholder analysis and therefore leave out key players at different levels, but also from different sectors.
	1 '			

	Objectively verifiable indicators		Source of Verification	External factors
	Key Performance indicator	Baseline – Target (end of project)	Journe of Termeation	(Assumptions and risks)
	the design, enhancement and/or consolidation of institutional structures addressing climate change	Baseline: Most countries do not have a well-designed and inclusive institutional structures capable of assisting countries address climate change issues/challenges on a more permanent basis Target: At least 10 countries are assisted in setting up well-designed and inclusive institutional structures capable of assisting countries address climate change issues/challenges on a more permanent basis and a minimum of 40 other countries are provided targeted support		
1.1.2 National climate change reporting systems and procedures established to harmonize data collection across government institutions, to improve compilation, retention, access and utility of data	1.1.2.1 Countries assisted in organizing targeted workshops for government staff dealing with policy formulation and national planning addressing climate issues, eventually with the intent to include climate change into their agendas.	Baseline: The NCSP II targeted technical staff of NC project teams and not government staff Target: At least 50 countries have used UNDP/UNEP tools, guidance material and support to facilitate the engagement of new stakeholders.	National development agendas and the presence of climate issues in these agendas Lists of participants of the training events organized in countries Workshop reports Survey of usefulness and needs for update of the tool	There is a risk that technical government staff would be sent to participate in the programme's activities relating to raising the awareness of climate change issues designed for senior government officials and decision makers. It therefore fails to involve the decisionmakers directly.

	Objectively	verifiable indicators	Source of Verification	External factors
	Key Performance indicator	Baseline – Target (end of project)		(Assumptions and risks)
			done	
OUTCOME 1.2: NC and BUR data and analyses available and used by a greater number of government ministries and provincial resources managers for planning purposes	The NC/BUR database supports the development of climate change relevant policies	Baseline: From a sample of 10 countries the number of climate relevant policies developed between 2005-2010 supported by NC/BUR data. Target: From a sample of 10 countries, 80% of climate change relevant policies developed during the life of the project, are supported by data or information from the NC/BUR climate database.	Sample survey done by the global support programme	Lack of political will to set up new and robust interagency collaboration/frameworks to facilitate collection, collation and management of climate relevant data and information for the preparation of the NCs and BURs on a regular basis
Output 1.2.1 1.2.1 Involve a greater number of Ministries and stakeholders in compiling National Communications and BUR	1.2.1.1 Increased awareness of importance of sound data collection, management and archiving among all different stakeholders in countries due to workshops 1.2.1.2 Number of countries assisted in the analysis of legal, financial and institutional barriers to undertake adequate data collection and formulate alternative tracks to overcome these barriers 1.2.1.3 Number of countries assisted in the formulation of procedures across institutes for	Baseline: This issue was not covered by NCSP II Target: 2 workshops targeting 60 participants with diverse backgrounds from all regions and sample surveys on usefulness and applicability of workshops Baseline: This issue was not covered by NCSP II Target:	Workshop reports and participants lists, working documents of workshops follow-up one-to-one work with countries and official communications from government institutions Survey results Minutes of meetings held with the experts from the support programme, working documents and the analyses	Though the programme will target people from government institutions, there is a chance that people with another profile would participate and therefore the activities under this outcome could fail to have the desired impact. There is a risk that this exercise remains an academic exercise, if the right persons are not involved in the process.

	Objectively	verifiable indicators	Source of Verification	External factors
	Key Performance indicator	Baseline – Target (end of project)		(Assumptions and risks)
	data collection, management	Well established procedures in at least	and working documents and	
	and archival.	10 assisted countries that have been	the finalized procedures for	
		closely assisted and supported to	data collection, management	
		undertake the analysis described and	and archival.	
		formulate data collection, management		
		and archiving procedures and ongoing		
		discussions in another 10 countries that		
		have been trained. Additional technical		
		support provided to another 40		
		countries		
OMPONENT 2: Provide techni	cal backstopping to national teams	for the preparation of NCs, BURs, and nation	nally determined contributions to	the 2015 agreement including
e preparation and dissemina	tion of technical and policy-relevant	t guidance materials, methodologies and too	ls.	
UTCOME 2.1: National	National experts compiling the	Baseline:	Sample survey done by the	Senior government officials
eams are better able to	NCs and BUR, are trained in the		global support programme.	and project coordinators do

OUTCOME 2.1: National
Teams are better able to
apply UNFCCC reporting
guidelines for the
preparation of National
Communications and
Biennial Update Reports and
countries are equipped with
the understanding, technical
basis and information needed
to identify, prepare, consult
and communicate nationally
determined contributions to
the UNFCCC 2015 agreement.

thematic & cross cutting areas defined by the UNFCCC reporting guidelines.

Participants rate training, technical backstopping, supporting tools and guidance notes 'high' in helping them to prepare high quality BURs and National Communications, and in assisting them in the process of identifying, preparing, consulting and communication on nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement.

Available country expertise will be measured during the 1st year of the project (possibly at the GSP inception workshop) to establish the baseline in 10 sample countries

Target:

From a representative sample of countries national experts have training and experience in all thematic & cross cutting areas defined by the UNFCCC reporting guidelines.

From a 10 country sample survey of NC/ BUR/nationally determined contributions compilers 90% rated the utility of their training as 'high'

not nominate the right calibre of national experts to participate in training workshops

There is a risk that capacity building activities have a limited impact as participants in GSP's training and learning events have limited multiplier effects, particularly if participants leave their positions and institutes A lack of proactive engagement of countries in **GSP** activities

	Objectively	verifiable indicators	Source of Verification	External factors
	Key Performance indicator	Baseline – Target (end of project)		(Assumptions and risks)
Output 2.1.1 New and revised guidance notes, tools, methodologies prepared for NCs, BURs and nationally determined contributions in identified areas	2.1.1.1 Production and/or compilation and distribution of key publications	Baseline: Under the NCSP II 5 publications (and another 52 country climate profiles) were prepared and distributed reaching out to a wide number of people within 142 countries Target: 9 major publications comprising - guidance notes, lessons learnt, compilation documents and others on critical areas of expertise where gaps persist or have been recently identified	Publications distributed to countries during international gatherings (e.g. COPs). All will be made available on the online platform	It is impossible to address all capacity building needs with one single programme. Therefore, the programme will address the most urgent and frequently mentioned capacity development needs, in coordination with parallel work from e.g. the GCE.
Output 2.1.2 Networks of qualified experts established	2.1.2.1 Updated and vetted roster of national and international experts in NC thematic assessment areas and BUR components shared	Baseline: NCSP II prepared and shared a vetted list of experts, but this list needs to be updated Target: An updated list of experts covering the different areas of expertise important for sound NCs and BURs.	Roster on the programme's website Working documents proving that the experts have been screened prior to inclusion in the lists	It is hoped that there is a growing pool of international and national experts to facilitate updating of the expert roster.

	Objectively verifiable indicators		Source of Verification	External factors
	Key Performance indicator	Baseline – Target (end of project)		(Assumptions and risks)
Output 2.1.3 National teams trained on use and application of tools and new and revised guidance notes, tools and methodologies for the different components	2.1.4.1 Critical skill and knowledge gaps identified are addressed through - Face-to-face workshops with post-workshop online support - Self-paced online learning modules - Organization of webinars with international experts on pertinent technical issues for NCs, BURs and nationally determined contributions.	Baseline: NCSP II trained x people through y faceto-face workshops, reaching out to all regions Target: 22 face-to-face workshops held, targeting 150 people as follows: 2 online learning modules launched, potentially reaching out to 100 people in NAI Parties 12 webinars organized on specific issues brought up by countries, and coinciding with the launch of key publications from the GSP.	-Report of workshop and other training event and lists of participants. -Training/Learning material available on the online platform	There is always a risk of not having the 'right' participants attending training events and therefore not having the desired multiplier effect of the trainings.
Output 2.1.4 Teams trained in Quality assurance and control procedures established for data collection, management and storage at the country level	2.1.4.1As part of the output 1.2.1 (National climate change reporting systems and procedures established to harmonize data collection across government institutions, to improve compilation, retention, access and utility of data) number of countries assisted in the formulation of quality assurance and control procedures for data collection, management and storage	Baseline: This issue was not covered under the NCSP II Target: Well established quality assurance and control procedures in at least 10 assisted countries (same countries as under output 1.2.1) and another 40 countries at the most provided with technical support on demand	Minutes of meetings held with the experts from the support programme, working documents and the analyses and working documents and the finalized quality assurance and control procedures for data collection, management and archival.	There is a risk that this exercise remains an academic exercise, if the right persons are not involved in the process.
COMPONENT 3: Ennance knowle	edge management, best practice, co	immunication and outreach		
OUTCOME 3.1: National	In support of components 1 and	Baseline:	Sample survey done by the	Networks are only successful

	Objectively	Objectively verifiable indicators		External factors
	Key Performance indicator	Baseline – Target (end of project)		(Assumptions and risks)
and/or regional climate change information networking enhanced	2, experts and practitioners rate the networks highly in providing them information and tools improve the quality of their National Communication and Biennial Update Reports.	ratings taken at project inception Target: Surveys of practitioners using the networks rated their utility 25% higher as compared to the baseline.	global support programme.	if participants are highly engaged
Output 3.1.1 Sub-regional exchange on experiences, results and lessons learnt carried out	3.1.1.1 Lessons learnt at subregional level completed and distributed 3.1.1.2 Sub-regional sections of the webpage created on the programme's website 3.1.1.3 Sub-section on nationally determined contributions to the 2015 agreement created and relevant information and lessons learnt distributed	Baseline: Support provided through the platform was mainly of global nature during the NCSP II Target: 6 sub-regional sections on the GSP's website and lessons learnt distributed and 1 sub-section on nationally determined contributions created and consulted globally	The webpages, their content and activity on the fora	The online discussions have an intrinsic risk of not being very successful if not rightly animated.
Output 3.1.2 Knowledge and/or information management system established	3.1.2.1 A number of in-focus magazines produced and distributed through the website of the support programme 3.1.2.2 News section on the	Baseline: 29 newsletters were prepared under NCSP II and distributed in English, and partly French and Spanish Target: 10 (2 per year) in-focus magazines produced and distributed in English, French and Spanish Baseline:	The in-focus magazines for the quality content Platform and mailing lists for the weekly updated notifications The consultation of the magazines can be followed through freely available online tracking software,	Wide consultation will be undertaken to ensure success of the magazines, as the content is written by and for countries. Each number will have a focus (e.g. V&A in the health sector, greening the energy sector and more). Lessons learnt will need to be shared, new tools available featured and related capacity building opportunities

	Objectively verifiable indicators		Source of Verification	External factors
	Key Performance indicator	Baseline – Target (end of project)		(Assumptions and risks)
	platform with relevant information updated on a weekly basis	A news section was part of the NCSP platform but was not updated on a regular basis Target:	such as GoogleAnalytics	highlighted.
	3.1.2.3 Regular (weekly) update of constituents through distribution/ mailing lists	News section will be updated with NC and BUR relevant events, publications, submissions from non-Annex I Parties, and more on a weekly basis in a systematized and semi-automatized way		
Output 3.1.3 South-South cooperation at the subregional and global level promoted.	3.1.3.1 Provide guidance on how to enhance the reporting of climate resilient measures in the NCs	Baseline: This issue was not covered by NCSP II Target: Guidance note prepared and used by the majority of the participating countries	The rosters of research institutes and centers of excellence on the website	Countries may not be motivated to post material on the website.
	3.1.3.2 Per region, on the dedicated sections of the support programme's website, a roster of regional, sub-regional and national research institutes, centers of excellence and more is provided, including a short narrative of the areas of work for each center/institute and respective contact details	Baseline: The NCSP II website did not have research institutes and centers of excellence Target: A platform containing comprehensive and up-to-date rosters of research institutes and centers		

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

The review sheet highlighted the need to further elaborate on a number of issues before CEO Endorsement. Reference is made to where additional language has been included in the text in order to address the issues raised:

Commenter	Comments	UNEP &UNDP Responses
Canada	The Project has a 5 year timeline, yet new National Communications are due by 2016 and BURs by 2014. Please explain.	Although the "official" dates of submissions of TNCs and BURs have been defined under the Convention, a few countries will be able to meet the deadlines. Requests for BUR funding from countries started a year ago (just over 30 countries) while the majority of countries are in the process of preparing the funding requests. This means that the most of the support on BUR will be needed beyond 2014. Furthermore this delay in submitting the BURs will impact the submission of TNC. Thus the proposed implementation period for the Global Support Programme (GSP) is more realistic and aligned with the expected submission dates of these reports by most of non-Annex I Parties. Having said, the GSP will work closely with national teams and the implementing agencies to reduce these anticipated delays as much as possible. It is important to note that GEF funding request processes by Parties is beyond the GSP mandate, which is focused on technical assistance from the time the projects starts in countries.
Canada	The coordination section of the proposal does not mention efforts to coordinate with the UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE). Although the revised terms and mandate of this body post-2012 are not yet determined, it is likely that the CGE will continue to provide training and support to developing countries to prepare their National Communications and BURs and, as such, it would be important that this project seek to coordinate with the CGE's activities.	The CEO Endorsement Request of the GSP includes a number of references to the collaboration and coordination with the CGE. Concrete examples can be found in paragraphs 36.i, 36.vi and 36.vii. Indeed, the CGE renewed mandate and 5-year implementation period provide a great opportunity for close coordination. For instance, both UNDP and UNEP are CGE members, whose representatives are actively engaged in the design of the CGE work programme, identification of activities, and design of training materials and workshops. Furthermore, it has been agreed that the GSP will make use of the CGE training materials and will coorganize training workshops, as appropriate, to ensure synergies and cost-efficiency, while avoiding duplication. Similarly, the CGE chair will be a member of the Advisory Board of the GSP, which will also facilitate the coordination and inputs to the GSP activities. (see paragraph 61 above)
Canada	The proposal indicates that this project will be open to all non-Annex I countries, but it also states that assistance will be prioritized for countries with the least technical capacity, particularly LDCs and SIDS. Please clarify how many countries this	The proposed approach seeks to make sure that those countries with highest technical assistance needs receive adequate attention. During its inception phase, the GSP will carry out needs assessments of countries to determine the priority areas for support and design options for customized technical assistance. This will allow the GSP to cluster groups of countries in terms of both technical assistance needs and areas of support. Furthermore, the

	project will serve and how their	main focus of support will be the 73 countries that are LDC and/or
	eligibility will be determined.	SIDS. Training workshops will target countries on the basis of the needs assessment while other activities implemented by the GSP will have positive repercussions for all NAI Parties. For instance, publications/guidelines/etc will be shared with all Parties, the platform will be accessible to all and lessons learned will target all countries to enhance South-South learning. In the identification of the activities, particular attention will be given to the needs of the LDCs and SIDS and those Parties that have still a longer way to go in order to improve their reporting to the UNFCCC. However, it is important to note that the GSP will not neglect the larger countries or those with higher capacities. On the contrary, given their relevance in terms of their potential to address climate
		change, the GSP will work with those countries as well, but with a focus on ensuring higher quality and timely reporting. Also, the third component of the GSP has the intention to create networks and communities of practice, facilitated through the platform of the GSP. In these communities of practice, more advanced countries will be sharing their experiences with two objectives: 1) to stimulate good practices in countries with higher capacities; and 2) to provide examples to countries that need to gear up their knowledge and understanding.
		Finally, through its direct contacts with the NAI Parties and regular consultations with UNFCCC and CGE, the GSP activities will be demand-driven and be complementary to work delivered by other partners besides the CGE, such as the International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV. The sub-regional training projects on GHG inventory by the UNFCCC, the IPCC training activities, etc. (See paragraph 18 above)
Canada	In addition, if this project targets LDCs and SIDS, there may be overlap between it and the "Umbrella Programme for National Communications to the UNFCCC" (UNEP), which is also seeking funding. Please explain the distinction between these projects.	There is no overlap with the LDC and SIDS umbrella programme of UNEP, as this basically seeks to facilitate accessing GEF funding by expediting project preparation of project preparation and approval. This means that countries participating in UNEP's umbrella programme need the project documents cleared by UNEP only, and do not need GEF approval of project ideas, making the approval process leaner, faster and easier. As with any other project supported by given GEF Implementing Agencies, UNEP will monitor project implementation and provide a minimum level of trouble shooting which, along with UNDP's supported NC and BUR projects, will provide inputs to the GSP in terms of progress at country level and technical assistance priorities, thus complementing and supporting the work of the GSP.
Canada	It is our understanding that many developing countries – in addition to LDCs and SIDS – require assistance to develop their technical and institutional capacity to develop BURs, and National Communications, and that all	As clarified earlier, the GSP will not exclusively focus on the needs of LDCs and SIDS, and will thus bring all interested NAI Parties to participate in the support activities offered by the Programme. In this context, efforts will be made to ensure the same level of knowledge, know-how, and understanding on NC and BUR components so that most advanced Parties can deliver in due course

developing countries would benefit considerably from this project as well as from the south-south learning that wide participation would enable. In our view, it is important that as many countries as possible are served by this programme. Given that LDCs and SIDS have been invited to provide BURs at their own discretion, larger developing countries should be assisted with this additional reporting obligation through this project as they will need to submit these reports within a short timeframe.

on their reporting requirements.

This approach will mean that the GSP will become involved in capacity development activities on highly technical issues that are of interest to a smaller number of more 'advanced' Parties. As also mentioned above, one of the objectives of the GSP is indeed to create a community of practice where frontrunners lead by example and help other Parties to leapfrog on technically challenging issues.

Finally, while the GSP will be demand-driven, it will also ensure that no country is left behind in terms of the support it may need to prepare its BUR or NC. Thus the GSP will work with each country and the respective GEF implementing agency to evaluate if progress and activities implemented will allow a given country to complete their projects with the expected results and in a timely manner. Targeted activities will thus be designed to group of countries with similar level of progress and capacities, as well as shared set of issues and priorities.

GEF-Sec	There is a clear description of the socio-economic benefits, further	This question has been answered in detail on section B.2 of this document. "In this context, both the previous National
	-	-
		technical project staff, project management staff and interested government officials can be trained in this area".
GEF-Sec	Further information on the project implementation and execution arrangements should be provided at the CEO Endorsement stage.	Additional information on the Project implementation and execution arrangements have been provided for in the Request for CEO Endorsement in Section A.4 paragraph 15 on page 7 of this document

GEF-Sec	Further information on the co- finance should be provided at CEO Endorsement.	UNDP and UNEP will provide respectively cash and in-kind co- finance to the programme of \$ 450,000 each, totaling \$900,000 of contribution. These commitments are confirmed in the endorsement letters attached to this document.		
		UNDP's cash contribution will be covered through the following:		
		(i) The advisory support provided by senior programme managers to the GSP. This represent approximately 10% time of a New York based UNDP senior staff member at P5 level. UNDP will provide Programme Oversight of the GSU, which will include guidance to the project manager who will be recruited for the GSP, as such building on UNDP's longstanding experience and involvement with countries preparing their NCs. This represents approximately \$120,000 over the 5 year period.		
		(ii) The Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme which covers 25 countries around the globe to help the respective governments design NAMAs, LEDS, and MRV in the context of their efforts to move towards low carbon growth. A key component of the projects in participating countries is the design of GHG inventory systems and mitigation analysis. In this context, the LECB Programme has allocated more than \$330,000 to provide technical assistance to countries in these areas of work, which will directly feed into the activities that the GSP will provide to countries on the preparation of their GHG inventory and mitigation components of the NCs. Both programmes will closely coordinate their support activities to ensure that the GSP can benefit from the guidance, material, and training activities developed by the LECB programme.		
		UNEP will provide in-kind contribution totaling US\$ 450,000 over the five year period from 2014-2018. This support will cover the following:		
		(i) UNON Administrative cost covering services provided to the project at no cost. These include the provision of financial services, human resource services, security and procurement services, medical, and workshop and conference facilities totaling about US\$170,000;		
		(ii) UNEP non-GEF staff costs (covers staff time of the DTIE Paris office, and Other Divisions of UNEP) totals to about US\$ 80,000;		
		(iii) The UNEP led Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) was established to respond to the need for a coordinated and focused global research support on vulnerability,		

impacts and adaptation (VIA) knowledge to scientists and policy makers. The PROVIA guidance which serves as a

much needed update of earlier IPCC Guidelines (1994) and the UNEP Handbook (1996) also aims to help Adaptation Experts from developing countries to select the appropriate methods and tools for conducting Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation assessments within the framework of preparing their national communications. The PROVIA guidance has been accepted by the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) and referenced in their most current training materials prepared for use by developing countries. Over the next 5 years, support to the GSP through the UNEP's PROVIA initiative would amount to at least US\$200,000, particularly as they relate to V& A training programmes.

In-kind contributions from national governments are a rough estimation of the contributions in the form of staff time as part of the national steering committees, higher level oversight of the project at ministries, and other government staff who directly or indirectly will contribute to the GSP. Among the activities that are considered in-kind support from the national government, the following are highlighted-:

- (i) Annual updates shared with the GSP by government staff on lessons learnt, gaps and capacity needs;
- (ii) Participation on surveys to identify priority areas and emerging needs for support by the GSP;
- (iii) Engagement of government officials in the regional and sub-regional networks for information sharing enabled by the GSP;
- (iv) Hosting and facilitation of GSP workshops;
- (v) Contribution to the GSP in-focus magazines and monthly round ups;
- (vi) Participation at side events and other GSP events;
- (vii) Other emerging activities as the GSP is rolled out.

Based on similar co-financing activities from countries to other global support programmes in the past, an average of \$1,500 per year per country has been estimated. On the basis of a 5-year programme and the participation of 120 countries, this in-kind co-financing from countries total \$900,000 during the life of the programme. It is important to note that this is a rough average, given that countries hosting specific events, such as workshops, regional information exchange events, will have higher contribution as they will be providing venues and logistical support to these nationally hosted activities.

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS 6

A. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: N/A			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted	Amount Spent	Amount
	Amount	Todate	Committed
Total	0	0	0

If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.

GEF5 CEO Endorsement Template-February 2013.doc

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A