REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

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

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Targeted Research for improving understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System (INMS)			
Country(ies):	Global	GEF Project ID:[1]	5400
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01142
Other Executing Partner(s):	International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) hosted by NERC-CEH	Resubmission Date:	September 9, 2016
GEF Focal Area (s):	International Waters	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of Parent Program (if applicable): • For SFM/REDD+ ☐ • For SGP ☐ • For PPP ☐	N/A	Project Agency Fee ($):	570,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK[2]

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount ($)	Co-financing ($)
IW 3 Objective: Support foundational capacity building, portfolio learning, and targeted research needs for joint, ecosystem based management of trans-boundary water systems	Outcome 3.4: Targeted research networks fill gaps		GEFTF	6,000,000	56,575,907
Total project costs				**6,000,000**	**56,575,907**

[1] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.
[2] Refer to the Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework when completing Table A.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To improve the understanding of the global/region N cycle and investigate / test practices and management policies at the regional, national and local levels with a view to reduce negative impacts of reactive nitrogen on the ecosystems

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount ($)	Confirmed Cofinancing ($)
Component 1: Tools for understanding and managing the global Nitrogen Cycle	TA	Stakeholders, including policy makers, scientists, industry, farmers, business and civil society, have an agreed basis for informed decision making on N cycle management. Stakeholders using agreed assessment and quantification methods to evaluate N cycle status acting as a common basis for regional / global scenarios to guide management actions.	Development of Indicators for assessing full N budgets, use, levels and impacts, including N use efficiency and benchmarking. Indicators would be developed of relevance for specific stakeholders Methodology for threat assessment . Approaches to estimate the value of N threats and benefits of N that are of use to multiple stakeholders groups (including the private sector) Methods for determining N fluxes and distribution of N (water, air, land, agriculture, industry, etc.). Approach to using existing N flux/pathway models for regional assessments and visualisation for potential scenarios to assist with development	GEFTF	1,400,000	24,259,170

			and reduction strategies. Understanding the barriers to change at all levels of society (government, private sector and civil society) including technical, financial and socio-political limitations.			
Component 2: Quantification of N flows threats & benefits	TA	Regional and Global information on N cycle fluxes and impacts, enabling strategies to be implemented to minimise negative effects of excess or insufficient reactive N, while maximising the quantified co-benefits for other sectors including the Green Economy.	Quantification and assessment of the regional threats from excess N and insufficient N Detailed overview of regional/local N flux and consolidation into a global assessment of N fluxes and pathways Consolidation of methods and good practices to address issues of excess and insufficient N_r. Definition of programmes and policy options for improved N_r management at local/regional/global levels, supported by cost-benefit analysis to underpin options for the Green Economy. Compendium summarizing the state of knowledge, experience and measures adopted by	GEFTF	1,680,000	16,402,475

			GEF (and others) gained from addressing the issues of excess and insufficient N_r			
Component 3: Demonstration and verification of management tools at local/national levels (building on existing / planned interventions)	TA	GPA, OECD, UNEA and other bodies are better informed to assist states with implementing management response strategies to address negative effects of excess or insufficient N_r, ensuring that any negative effects are minimised.	3/4 regional/ national/local demonstration activities (that build on existing or planned nitrogen management actions providing catalytic results) deliver conclusions refining approaches to national / regional assessments and improving understanding of regional N cycle by addressing: **Case 1:** Challenges and opportunities for developing areas with excess reactive nitrogen. **Case 2:** Challenges and opportunities for developing areas with insufficient reactive nitrogen. **Case 3:** Reactive nitrogen challenges and opportunities for regions with transition economies. **Case 4:** Challenges and opportunities for developed areas with excess reactive nitrogen (using co-financed resources only). Assessment and quantification of impacts from piloting activities to	GEFTF	1,650,000	10,254,630

			reducing negative impacts from poor N_r management, while demonstrating the co-benefits for other issues. Refined benchmarking of indicators for different regions and nutrient flow systems. Plans for inclusion of agreed approach to N cycle assessments in support of the emerging Policy Arena on Nitrogen in engagement with GPA, OECD, UNEA and other bodies.			
Component 4: Awareness raising and knowledge sharing	TA	Local , national and regional expertise to address N_r issues increased and contributes to improved decision making in the Policy Arena on Nitrogen at the regional / global levels Improved access to and sharing of information in cooperation with IW:LEARN. Improved knowledge management with compiled knowledge and experiences about the project shared with other GEF projects and GEF Sec. and accessible on IW:LEARN.	Information sharing and networking portal to assist the GPA, OECD, UNEA, UNECE and other bodies with uptake of understanding of N_r cycle and means to mitigate negative impacts. Training for regional/national experts to sustain and enhance understanding of global N cycle implementation of national indicators, diffusion of new technologies and links across the nitrogen policy arena relevant for inter-governmental processes.	GEFTF	980,000	4,209,632

		Improved project execution from IW Conference participation and the use of the GEF5 IW indicator tracking system.	Overall demonstration of the International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) in support of understanding the Global Nitrogen Cycle to further the objectives of GPA, UNEA, OECD, UNECE and other bodies across the emerging Policy Arena on Nitrogen. 2/3 guidance documents specific to selected private sector stakeholders advising on assessing and presenting nitrogen management and use efficiency issues. Presentation of INMS development to UN Environment Assembly in Yr 2, 3 & 4 With 1% of the project resources in support of IW:LEARN: Dedicated project website connected with IW:LEARN and other GEF knowledge management systems (within 6 months). Documented cooperation and knowledge exchange			

			with (i) IW:LEARN including at least one functioning CoP as well as (ii) with STAP. Participation at the International Waters conferences; at least 3 experiences notes and tracked project progress reported using the GEF5 IW tracking tool.			
Subtotal					5,710,000	55,125,907
Project management Cost (PMC)[3]				GEF TF	**290,000**	**1,450,000**
Total costs (GEF funding; Co-financing)					**6,000,000**	**56,575,907**
Total project costs						**62,575,907**

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME ($) Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form[4] [5]

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

[4] Project Partners are here distinguished as: Coordinating Partners (C1..C3), Delivery and Research Partners (D1..D42), Business Sector Partners (B1..B8), Civil Society Partners (S1..S3), Regional Case Study Partners (R1…R33).

[5] TBD indicates partners whose co-financing contributions will be determined during the project. Letters of support have been provided.

Partner involvement	Sources of co-financing	Type	Partner name/Name of co-financier	CASH CO-FINANCING	IN-KIND CO-FINANCING	TOTAL CO-FINANCING
			Partners primarily with global focus in the project			
C1	GEF Agency	Policy support	United Nations Environment Programme	-		
					1,708,000.00	
						1,708,000.00
C2	Non-ministry government body	Science and Policy Support	Natural Environment Research Council	1,134,378		
					3,820,322	
						4,954,700
C3	Others	Science and Policy Support	University of Edinburgh	-		
					3,500,000	
						3,500,000
D1	Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Science	Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity			
D2	Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Policy support	UNECE Conventions on Transboundary Water and Transboundary Air Pollution	-		
					100,000	
						100,000
D3	Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Policy support	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and develpment	-		
					387,000	
						387,000
D4	Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Science and Policy Support	Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nation	-		
					1,844,247	
						1,844,247

D5	Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Science	World Meteorological Organisation	-		
					-	
						-
D6	Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Science and Policy Support	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	-		
					2,000,000	
						2,000,000
D7	Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Science and Policy Support	European Commissions, Joint Research Centre	-		
					1,200,000	
						1,200,000
D8	Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Science and Practices	The Interna tional Maize and Wheat Improvement Center	-		
					800,000	
						800,000
D9	Non-ministry government body	Science and Policy Support	PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency	-		
					1,250,000	
						1,250,000
D10	Non-ministry government body	Science and Policy Support	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment The Netherlands	-		
					580,000	
						580,000
D11	Non-ministry government body	Science and Policy Support	Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development	160,000		
					535,000	
						695,000
D12	Non-ministry government body	Science and Practices	National Institute for Agronomic Research	-		
					794,000	
						794,000
D13	Non-ministry government body	Science and Policy Support	United States Environmental Protection Agency	-		
					1,270,000	
						1,270,000
D14	Non-ministry government body	Science and Policy Support	Federal Environment Agency	-		
					1,352,152	
						1,352,152
D15	Non-ministry government body	Science and Policy Support	French Agency for Environment and Energy Management	10,000		
					9,000	
						19,000
D16	Non-ministry government body	Science	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	-		
					200,000	
						200,000
D17	Non-ministry government body	Science	Norwegian Meteorological Institute	40,000		
					200,000	
						240,000
D18	Non-ministry government body	Science and Practices	Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources - Agriculture Division	200,000		
					300,000	
						500,000
D19	Others	Science and Policy Support	Alterra Wageningen University and Research Centre	3,137,000		
					1,866,000	
						5,003,000
D20	Others	Science and Policy Support	Wageningen University and Research Centre, Livestock Research	3,286,250		
					426,250	
						3,712,500
D21	Others	Science and Policy Support	Energy research Centre of the Netherlands	-		
					1,006,250	
						1,006,250
D22	Others	Science and Policy Support	Vrije Universiteit	-		
					300,000	
						300,000
D23	Others	Science and Practices	Nederlandse organisatie voor Toegepast-Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek	-		
					600,000	
						600,000
D24	Others	Science and Policy Support	Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research	-		
					1,470,137	
						1,470,137
D25	Others	Science	University of Bonn	-		
					330,000	
						330,000

D26	Others	Science and Practices	Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering	-		
					20,000	
						20,000
D27	Others	Science and Practices	Aarhus University, Department of Bioscience	-		
					475,000	
						475,000
D28	Others	Science and Practices	Aarhus University, Department of Agroecology	450,000		
					950,000	
						1,400,000
D29	Others	Science and Practices	Aarhus University, Department of Environmental Science	-		
					773,600	
						773,600
D30	Others	Science and Practices	Institute of Water Resources Engineering	-		
					5,500	
						5,500
D31	Others	Science and Practices	Agrophysical Research Institute	-		
					75,000	
						75,000
D32	Others	Science Support	Institute of Physicochemical and Biological Problems in Soil Science	15,000		
					35,000	
						50,000
D33	Others	Science and Practices	Instituto Superior de Agronomia (School of Agronomy) of the University of Lisbon	-		
					258,000	
						258,000
D34	Others	Science and Practices	Ataturk Horticultural Central Research Institute	65,000		
					40,000	
						105,000
D35	Others	Science and Practices	Fundacao da Faculdade de Ciencias da Universidade de Lisboa, FP	480,000		
					50,000	
						530,000
D36	Others	Policy support and Practices	Stockholm Environment Institute at York / York University	5,072		
					2,571,149	
						2,576,221
D37	Others	Science and Practices	University of East Anglia	-		
					98,000	
						98,000
D38	Others	Science, Practice and Policy Support	North American Nitrogen Center	-		
					2,100,000	
						2,100,000
D39	Others	Science and Policy Support	New York University	10,000		
					30,000	
						40,000
D40	Others	Science and Practices	World Resources Institute	-		
					497,000	
						497,000
D41	Others	Science and Practices	University of Missouri	133,000		
					295,000	
						428,000
D42	Others	Science and Practices	AgReseach Limited	100,000		
					450,000	
						550,000
B1	Private Sector/Business	Policy Interest and Practices	Fertilizers Europe	110,300		
					36,500	
						146,800
B2	Private Sector/Business	Science and Practices	Centre for Plant Nutrition Hanninghof, Yara GmbH & Co.KG, Germany	-		
					85,000	
						85,000
B3	Private Sector/Business	Science and Practices	BASF SE	-		
					100,000	
						100,000

B4	Private Sector/Business	Science and Practices	SKW Stickstoffwerke Piesteritz GmbH	-		
					171,000	
						171,000
B5	Private Sector/Business	Science, Policy and Practices	PigCHAMP Pro Europa S.L.	140,000		
					260,000	
						400,000
B6	Private Sector/Business	Policy Interest and Practices	International Fertilizer Industry Association	-		
					100,000	
						100,000
B7	Private Sector/Business	Science and Policy Interest	International Plant Nutrition Institute			
B8	Private Sector/Business	Practices Development	European Agricultural Machinery			
S1	Civil Society Organisation	Policy and Dissemination	Non-governmental organization New Energy	-		
					15,000	
						15,000
S2	Civil Society Organisation	Policy and Dissemination	World Wide Fund for Nature conservation			
S3	Civil Society Organisation	Policy and Dissemination	Planetary Boundary Initiative			
			Partners primarily with regional demonstration focus in the project			
			CASE 1: Developing regions with excess reactive nitrogen			
R1	Others	Science and Practices	Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences	100,000		
					420,000	
						520,000
R2	Others	Science and Practices	National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences	30,000		
					170,000	
						200,000
R3	Others	Science, Practice and Policy Support	China Agricultural University	400,000		
					100,000	
						500,000
R4	Others	Science and Practices	China Agricultural University	20,000		
					50,000	
						70,000
R5	Others	Science and Support	Beijing Forestry University	-		
					300,000	
						300,000
R6	Others	Science and Practices	Zhejiang University	-		
					500,000	
						500,000
R7	Others	Science and Practices	Chinese Academy of Science, Center for Agricultural Resources Research, Institute of Genetic and Developmental	80,000		
					320,000	
						400,000
R8	Others	Science and Practices	Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere, Hokkaido University	-		
					45,000	
						45,000
R9	Others	Science and Practices	Research Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University	-		
					10,000	
						10,000
R10	Others	Science and Practices	National Institute for Environmental Studies	10,000		
					10,000	
						20,000

R11	Others	Science and Practices	Kyoto University	3,000		
					2,000	
						5,000
R12	Multilateral Agency	Policy Support	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia			
R13	Others	Science and Practices	Rothamsted Research	300,000		
					450,000	
						750,000
R14	Others	Science and Dissemination	Society for Conservation of Nature	-		
					1,150,000	
						1,150,000
R15	Others	Science and Practices	BBRI Bangladesh	-		
					205,000	
						205,000
R16	Others	Science and Practices	CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute	-		
					60,000	
						60,000
R17	Multilateral Agency	Policy Support	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme			
R18	Others	Science Practices and Policy Support	Earth System Science Centre/National Institute For Space Research	-		
					1,050,000	
						1,050,000
			CASE 2: Developing regions with insufficient reactive nitrogen			
R19	Multilateral Agency	Science and Practices	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	-		
					1,000,000	
						1,000,000
R20	Multilateral Agency	Science Support	Livestock Systems and Environment International Livestock Research Institute	-		
					350,000	
						350,000
R21	Multilateral Agency	Practice and Policy Support	Lake Victoria Commission Secretariat	123,000		
					200,000	
						323,000
R22	Others	Science and Practices	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology			
R23	Others	Science and Practices	Ghent University	375,000		
					275,000	
						650,000
R24	Others	Science and Practices	Laboratoire d'Aérologie Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées	58,000		
					443,000	
						501,000
			CASE 3: Nitrogen challenges for transition economies			
R25	Others	Science and Practices	Odessa National I. I. Mechnikov University	-		
					70,000	
						70,000
R26	Others	Science and Practices	Institute of agroecology and environmental management of National Academy of Agrarian Sciences	-		
					270,000	
						270,000
R27	Non-ministry public body	Science and Practices	Federal State Budget Scientific Institution "Institute for Engineering and Environmental Problems in Agricultural	-		
					115,000	
						115,000
R28	Non-ministry public body	Science and Practices	Federal State Budget Scientific Institution "All-Russian Scientific Research Institute for Organic	-		
					150,000	
						150,000
R29	Others	Science Support	Scientific Research Institute for Atmospheric Air Protection	-		
					150,000	
						150,000
R30	Multilateral Agency	Policy and Practices Support	Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	-		
					-	
						-

			CASE 4: Nitrogen challenges for developed regions with excess reactive nitrogen [without GEF resources]			
R31	Others	Science and Practices	University Pierre and Marie Curie	-		
					200,000	
						200,000
R32	Others	Science and Practices	Technical University of Madrid	-		
					90,000	
						90,000
R33	Others	Science Practices and Policy Support	Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas	-		
					106,800	
						106,800
				10,975,000	**45,600,907**	**56,575,907**

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY[1]

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in $)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)[2]	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	International Waters	Global	6,000,000	570,000	6,570,000
Total Grant Resources				**6,000,000**	**570,000**	**6,570,000**

[1] In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

[2] Indicate fees related to this project.

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount ($)	Cofinancing ($)	Project Total ($)
International Consultants	176,000	0	176,000
National/Local Consultants	-	-	-

G. 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[6]

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc

N/A

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

N/A

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

N/A

A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

The broad baseline and the problem the project addresses are unchanged. However the context of the baseline has developed and the means (outputs, components) have evolved in the Project Preparation Grant phase in the following main ways since the PIF was submitted:

Component 1: Several groups have already started working on refining indicators related to nitrogen use efficiency (OECD, TFRN, GPNM, EU-NEP) increasing the amount of baseline information, while UK co-financing (NERC International Opportunities Fund, 'INMS Pump Priming Project') allowed an additional workshop to further prepare on the needs for nitrogen integrated assessment modelling. This work has complemented the PPG activity.

PIF Component	Change	Justification
1	The title of the Component has been adapted to: *Tools for understanding ~~to apply methods for understanding~~ and managing the global Nitrogen Cycle*	Improvement in the English
1	The title of Output 1.1 has been adapted to: *Development of Indicators for assessing full N budgets, use, levels and impacts, including N use efficiency and benchmarking. Indicators*	Shortened to streamline long heading

[6] 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.

PIF Component	Change	Justification
	would be developed of relevance for specific stakeholders ~~(e.g. private sector – fertilizer prodcuers)~~	
1	The title of Output 1.4 has been adapted to: ~~*Development of tools for valuation of the*~~ *Approaches to estimate the value of N threats and benefits of N that are of use to multiple stakeholders groups (including the private sector)*	Amended to emphasize meeting the needs of multiple stakeholder groups, with private sector specifically added to respond to GEF Sec request.

Component 2: Increased recognition has been achieved through partner activities (e.g. with TFRN, European Union, OECD) of the need to develop joined up approaches for nitrogen management and mitigation technologies that deliver win-wins for water, air, climate etc simultaneously. Additional funding agreement from the European Commission will already support a workshop on this topic in Summer 2016.

PIF Component	Change	Justification
2	The title of Component 2 has been adapted to: ~~Regional / global~~ *Quantification of N ~~use~~ flows, ~~impacts, and the quantitative~~ threats & benefits ~~of applying best management practices~~*	

Component 3: The INMS PPG activities have allowed further development of the co-financing opportunities for the INMS regional demonstrations, with several new funding proposals being written specifically to provide planned support to INMS over the next years. For example, these include NitroPortugal (EU twinning project), NEWS India-UK (Newton-Bhabha Fund between BBSRC and Department of Biotechnology of India), CINAG and NCYCLE (Newton Fund between BBSRC and Chinese Government). As these project are very new, it has not yet been possible to include the cofinancing in the tables. However, these four projects already represent an additional co-financing of over 15M USD cash contribution. Subject to agreement with partners, it is anticipated that it will be possible to report this (and other future projects) as additional co-financing during the project execution phase, over and above that already committed and shown in the tables.

PIF Component	Change	Justification
3	The full title is retained: *Regional Demonstration of Full Nitrogen Approach and verification of management tools at local/national levels (building on existing/planned interventions)* However, in the tables a short title is also used: "*Regional demonstration of the full nitrogen approach*"	A more economical title summary was needed for the tables.

Component 4: Work during the PPG phase has further developed the thinking behind policy homes for INMS compared with the PIF. This is summarized in the baseline description of the Project Document (ProDoc). The latest thinking emphasizes the need not just to engage with GPA, but also with other international policy frameworks, such

as LRTAP, CBD, UNFCCC, Vienna Convention (Montreal Protocol), CSD and others. In particular, UNEA and OECD may be able to play a role in catalyzing the developing concept of the 'nitrogen policy arena', which would serve to join up N interests and strategies, thereby supporting delivery for each of these conventions and programmes.

In order to address comments of the reviewers, minor changes to the apportioning of GEF finance between Components 1, 2, 3 and 4 since PIF stage have been made, as detailed in Annex B2.

A.5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

N/A

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:

See section 3.6 of the Proposal Document.

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

The work will be conducted to ensure maximum synergy with existing programmes on international environmental governance, such as GPA, CBD, UNECE, OECD and others (e.g. SACEP, PEMSEA, LVBC etc).

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

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

The project includes a broad approach to stakeholder engagement as outlined in the table below:

Stakeholder group	Examples	Engagement in project execution
Nitrogen consumers and local managers	All citizen depend on nitrogen for food, energy and transport. The project is relevant both to members of the public and local managers (e.g., farmers, conservation managers, planners)	Local managers will be engaged through the regional demonstrations, including local case studies of Component 3, while communication activities in Component 4 will engage the wider public, building on established foundation with INI including press engagement.
Private sector	The major private sector interests are fertilizer manufacturers and nitrogen users in agriculture (e.g., farmer groups). Businesses involved in nitrogen innovation also have prospect to become more important.	Fertilizer manufacturer companies and business organizations are involved at global and regional scales, including in indicator refinement (Component 1). Farmer organizations are engaged as stakeholders through the regional demonstrations (Component 3). Links with nitrogen innovators (e.g. agricultural engineering, nutrient recovery and reuse, NO_x capture and utilization will be further developed during the project.
Science and academia	As a targeted research project on the global nitrogen cycle the project is prepared under the lead of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), including a wide range of academic partners globally.	Partners of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) are involved in all components, especially utilizing the INI Regional Centers (East Asia, South Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe and North America), which provide the basis to implement the Regional Demonstrations of Component 3.
International	Given the wide relevance of the nitrogen	IGOs contribute a wide range of roles in the project, bringing underpinning

Governmental Organizations	cycle several key IGOs are included: UNEP, FAO, WMO, OECD, UNECE, CGIAR (including ILRI, IITA), IIASA	expertise, information on practices, datasets needed for modelling and access to policy communities, including governments.
Policy and decision-making	GPA, CBD, UNEA, UNECE (LRTAP and Water conventions), UNFCCC, Montreal Protocol, Regional Seas Conventions.	Engaged at global and regional scales through development of scenarios, policy options and anticipated benefits (Components 2 and 3). Component 4 will serve to develop wider dissemination and networking beyond the project partnership.

With around 80 partner organizations, 'Towards INMS' already includes a large diverse set of stakeholders. Nevertheless, this is a continually developing area, where the project has adopted the following approach:

a) Incorporating well-established partnerships with stakeholders, including those who have been involved in the original conception of 'Towards INMS' (pre PIF stage).
b) Developing partnerships with stakeholders during the PPG phase, specifically to widen the scope of the project activity.
c) Forging new partnerships, including those that will continue to be developed during the life of the project. In such cases contacts so far have served to provide initial introductions, which will become stronger as groups are invited to engage in execution of the INMS Activities.

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):

As a GEF Targeted Research Project, the main emphasis of 'Towards INMS' is to demonstrate how better scientific and technical understanding, combined with implementation of joined up approach to the global nitrogen cycle for the first time, can catalyze a transformational change in governments, business and citizens towards better and more sustainable environmental stewardship. Until now, the consequences of human impact on the nitrogen cycle have been addressed in a fragmented way, where fragmented science has been followed on by fragmented policies, for example, addressing the different source/management sectors and the many benefits and threats separately. It is expected that this separation and lack of policy coherency will contribute substantially to the barriers-to-change to improved conditions for transboundary waters, as well as for air, climate and ecosystems at the same time.

In order to mobilize the necessary change, a large scale approach is needed that brings the science disciplines together with the main stakeholders in order to build consensus on the needs for and benefits of a more joined up approach across the global nitrogen cycle. Key outcomes of the project will contribute the necessary building blocks to effect this change. They include: a) provision and agreement of the new kinds of indicators and tools needed (Component 1), b) demonstrating the large scale global picture of threats and opportunities (Component 2, including a high profile consolidated global assessment that can mobilize the world's press, together with practical guidance on the best management options and future scenarios), c) demonstrating how the approach can operate at regional and local scales, building ground-level support for change (Component 3) and d) knowledge-sharing and wider dissemination to raise the profile of the nitrogen opportunity with governments and citizens globally.

In this way, the Targeted Research approach of GEF through 'Towards INMS' will provide the foundation for transforming to a world that pays increasing public attention to better management of the nitrogen cycle, with an increased understanding of the benefits of doing so. In turn, this will lead to the actual socio-economic benefits on the ground, resulting from a more optimized global nitrogen cycle: a) better availability and access to nutritious food, b) improved renewable energy supply through bioenergy sources, c) cleaner water, especially in the coastal zones, but

also in freshwater systems, improving livelihoods, environmental quality and well-being, d) improved air quality, with reduced adverse effects of reactive nitrogen on human health, e) reduced greenhouse gas emissions, especially of nitrous oxide, mitigating climate change threats, while at the same time reducing stratospheric ozone depletion with human health benefits, f) reduced threats on ecosystems and biodiversity from nitrogen deposition leading to a more sustainable natural environment that enriches quality of life and stewards genetic resources for the future, g) healthier soils, as a foundation both for environment and food sustainability in the future. These activities therefore also clearly link with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15), to which further links will be made during the project.

Further consideration of these issues is given in the incremental cost analysis, in section 3.8 of the Project Document (and Appendix 3).

Gender issues are relevant for the project in the INMS East African Demonstration (Component 3), where women play a key role in agricultural production and better education of women can substantially enhance improved nitrogen management. These issues will be addressed in this demonstration by close cooperation with the Millenium Villages Project, which has specifically targeted the gender question. The concerns of indigenous peoples will be addressed should they be encountered, but have not so far been raised during the PPG phase as being a priority concern of relevance to this project for the demonstration areas selected.

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

The 'Towards INMS' project provides a highly cost-effective means to address the challenge to provide better understanding of the global nitrogen cycle towards meeting improved environment, food and energy goals. The focus is very much on developing a catalytic approach where common concerns are brought together as a basis to develop a strong central vision, i.e. that joining up across the global nitrogen cycle will deliver many simultaneous benefits that help overcome the barriers to change for cleaner water, fresher air, less climate change, protected biodiversity and improved soil quality, while helping to feed, warm and transport the world in a more sustainable and profitable way.

The strength of this vision and the great cost-effectiveness of the 'Towards INMS' approach is clearly reflected in the gravity of the partnership, with around 80 partners already committed to the project. In terms of co-finance, the total project value already exceeds 10 times the GEF contribution, and the indications are that both the cash co-financing and the contributions-in-kind will continue to grow through the project execution phase (see A.4).

This cost-effectiveness is achieved in the project design by careful attention to recognize the main stakeholder needs for an International Nitrogen Management System. In this way, a wide diversity of government organizations, academic partners, companies and business organisations, as well as regional stakeholders and civil society groups, have demonstrated their enthusiasm to work together.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Substantive and financial project reporting requirements are summarized in Appendix 8 of the Project Document. Reporting

requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instruments to be signed by the executing agency (CEH on behalf of INI) and UNEP. For the purposes of M&E activities (and the reading of this document), the Project Co-ordinator will function under the direct supervision and control of the Project Director to fulfil the M&E needs.

The project M&E plan, is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Appendix 4 includes Specific, Measureable, Achieveable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) indciators and targets for each expercted outcome. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Appendix 6 will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification and the costs associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators are summarized in the tables at the end of this appendix (sections 4 and 5 of this appendix). M&E related costs arepresented and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.

The M&E plan will be presented to the first meeting of the Project Management Board (PMB) to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. The (PMB) will be responsible for proposing to UNEP management any necessary amendments to the M&E plan during project implementation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned by the PMB. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the PCU but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Co-ordinator to inform UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The PMB will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.

The UNEP Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project, which will be communicated to the project partners during the first meeting of the PMB. The Project Co-ordinator will also be responsible for initial screening of the financial and administrative reports from the core partners prior to their submission to the Finance and Management Divisions of the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Progress vis-à-vis the delivery of agreed project outputs will be assessed by the PMB and endorsed by the Project Partners Assembly (PPA) at least annually. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly reviewed both by project partners and the PCU on behalf of UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR), preparation of which will be the responsibility of the Project Manager. The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR, which will be approved by the PMB. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

A Mid-term Review (MTR) or Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) will be organized by the UNEP Evaluation Office or the Task Manager in consultation with the Project Co-ordinator and the outcomes reported to the to the Project Management Board. The review/evaluation will include all parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office for terminal evaluations and will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools, as relevant. The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and

which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools. The review will be carried out using a participatory approach whereby parties that may benefit or be affected by the project will be consulted. Such parties were identified during the stakeholder analysis (see section 2.6 of the project document). The Project Management Board will participate in the mid-term review/evaluation and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP will manage the terminal evaluation process. A review of the quality of the evaluation report will be done by EO and submitted along with the report to the GEF Evaluation Office not later than 6 months after the completion of the evaluation. 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:

- to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
- to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e. correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

Indicative terms of reference for the terminal evaluation are included in Appendix 11. These will be adjusted to the special needs of the project.

The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO 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 EO when the report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The GEF tracking tools are attached as Appendix 14. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool.

Indicative M&E activities and responsibilities are shown below. Further details can be found in Appendix 7.

TABLE 8: INDICATIVE M&E ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Budget US$	Time frame
Project Management Board & Project Partners Assembly Inception Workshops	Project Coordinator PCU PMB UNEP Task Manager Project Partners Assembly provides endorsement	38,000	1st PMG and PPA Meetings will serve as Inception workshop and will be held within first four months of project start up.
Inception Report	Project Coordinator PCU	None	Immediately following inception workshop

	PMB UNEP Task Manager Project Partners Assembly provides endorsement		
Measurement of indicators set in the Project Results Framework (Project Progress and Performance to be measured on an annual basis)	UNEP Task Manager Project Coordinator in collaboration with PCU	None	Annually prior to APR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
APR and PIR	Project Coordinator & PCU UNEP Task Manager PMB	None	Annually
Periodic status reports	PCU	None	To be determined by PCU, UNEP and EAs
Technical reports/Project publications	For previously agreed reports: Component, Activity and Task Leaders as appropriate For new reports: PMB, Component, Activity & Task Leaders, Hired consultants as needed	95,950	To be determined by Project Team, UNEP and PCU, EA
Mid-Term Review	Project Coordinator & PCU UNEP Task Manager Project Partners Assembly provides endorsement External consultant	20,000	Halfway through project cycle
Terminal External Evaluation	Evaluation Office PCU UNEP Task Manager Project Partners Assembly provides endorsement External Consultants	30,000	At the end of project implementation
Terminal Report	PCU PMB UNEP Task Manager Project Partners Assembly provide endorsement External Consultant*	38,000	At least one month before the end of the project
Lessons learned	PCU UNEP Task Manager Partner executing agencies*	None	Yearly as part of the APR
Audit	UNEP Task Manager PCU EA accredited Auditor	4,000	Yearly
TOTAL indicative COST		224,500	

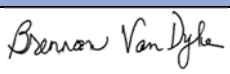
PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

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).

N/A

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**
Brennan Van Dyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		September 9, 2016	Isabelle Van der Beck Task Manager	+1-202-974-1314	Isabelle.vanderbeck@unep.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Please see Appendix 04 of the project document

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).

	GEF Secretariat Comment at PIF	Response
	Question 6: Is (are) the **baseline project(s),** including problem(s) that the baseline project(s) seek/s to address, sufficiently described and based on sound data and assumptions?	
1	SHansen (10.04): Prior to CEO endorsement please do provide a more detailed description of the policy options for track 1. This includes the criteria for an appropriate science based policy and advisory system.	The policy options are discussed in section 3.1 of the Project Document. In order to satisfy business stakeholders, it has been emphasized that the role of INMS focuses on Track 2. Conversely, Track 1 is the role of governments. Nevertheless, the discussion highlights how INMS is stimulating governments to consider their options under Track 1. The relationships between the three different tracks (Track 1: policy, Track 2: science; Track 3: practices application) have been considered in depth in Appendix 19 of the documentation, which identified the different criteria and options.
2	Further, and as pointed out in the STAP comments, the GPA has been assumed as the de facto arrangement. This should be analysed further in the project preparation phase, with a view to either identifying additional options, and/or providing greater focus on what is needed in the policy institution(s).	The analysis has been conducted based on wide discussions prior to and during the PPG phase. The key messages of this analysis related to 'policy homes' of INMS are included in section 3.1 of the Project Document. In addition, the analysis is being extended in the form a draft paper (**Appendix 20**) for submission as a peer review article This will be used to stimulate further discussions with stakeholders during the implementation of the INMS project to guide the

	GEF Secretariat Comment at PIF	Response
		recommendations on the most appropriate future mechanism(s) for INMS. From the analysis described in Appendix 20 it should be clear that GPA is not automatically the default arrangement and that the emerging conclusion points towards the development and strengthening of an emerging 'nitrogen policy arena'. This concept has recently been advanced by a joint workshop of the OECD and TFRN which provided an additional opportunity for validation of the INMS plan.
	Question 7: Are the components, outcomes and outputs in the **project framework** (Table B) clear, sound and appropriately detailed?	
3	SHansen (1.15.2014): By CEO endorsement please revise the heading belonging to component 3 along the lines of: "Demonstration and verification of management tools at the local / national levels (building on existing or planned interventions)"	As requested, the revised Component 3 heading now clearly emphasizes that the regional demonstration activities "build on existing and planned interventions". This also reflects the reality that each of the regional demonstrations has been selected based on criteria that includes further developing existing and planned activities (See criteria for selection in Appendix 17).
	Question 10: Is the role of public participation, including CSOs, and indigenous peoples where relevant, identified and explicit means for their engagement explained?	
4	(April 26) Prior to CEO endorsement please provide a description of how public participation, CSOs and indigenous peoples will be involved in the demonstration activities.	Each of the regional demonstrations is designed to work with a broad stakeholder group, including public participation and CSOs according to regional relevance. The specifics of each of the GEF funded regional demonstrations are described in Appendices 17a to 17d. The extent to which these issues can be

	GEF Secretariat Comment at PIF	Response
		addressed in the unfunded demonstration is described in Appendix 17e. In addition, the regional demonstrations will engage with Component 4 which specifically addresses dissemination and public engagement. Issues connected with indigenous peoples have not been found to be a key concern for the demonstration regions selected.
	Question 11: Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk mitigation measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)	
5	April 26) Taking into consideration that the project is global relevant risks has been pointed out (mainly relating to proper scientific collaboration and not least a fruitful transference of assessments to the relevant political level). These risks should be further elaborated prior to CEO endorsement.	The risks associated with human management of the nitrogen cycle including for food and energy, water, air, climate, ecosystems and soils have been further elaborated in the baseline description (especially Section 2.2 to 2.4 of the Project Document).
6	SHansen (10.04): The overall budget for component 3 has been reduced (1.8 to 1.5 mio USD from GEF resources with 160 K USD moved to component 2 to dev. the compendium and 140 K USD to component 4 to strenghten the engagement of stakeholders at all levels (in response to STAP comments)). However, incufficient outreach is still considered a major risk. Therefore, and as pointed out in previous comments, by CEO endorsement please do provide a more detailed description as to how this complex message will be communicated to key stakeholders.	A detailed description of the importance of managing the nitrogen cycle is incorporated in the Project Document (Sections 2.1-2.2), with additional resources allocated to Component 4 (Activity **4.1 & 4.5**) to allow further distillation of the key messages. At present these messages focus on a) emphasis of the win-win environmental opportunities linking across the nitrogen cycle, b) business case for action, by improved resource use efficiency for nitrogen, c) opportunity for N approach to help overcome barriers-to-change. Additional resources have also been allocated to Component 3 (from 1.50 M to 1.65M) to strengthen regional/national/local pubic engagement.

	GEF Secretariat Comment at PIF	Response
		Further refinement of developing the simple messages has continued during the PPG phase, most recently in the joint workshop of OECD and TFRN (May 2016) and in preparation for the OECD Environment Ministers' Workshop. Such high-level interventions will continue in the Implementation phase of the project and with strong press coverage will be critical to both addressing the risks and raising the public profile of the nitrogen issue.
7	(April 26) -Prior to CEO endorsement please elaborate on the mitigation strategy regarding country-buy-in: how will the project ensure a representative buy in from e.g. farmer's organizations?	As outlined in the Project Document and above, this issue is addressed by: a) emphasizing the resource efficiency opportunities for business (e.g. improving nitrogen use efficiency saves farmers money) and b) emphasizing the win-win opportunities of a more joined up approach across the nitrogen cycle. In practice, this means not only focusing on the performance of indicators related to environmental threats, but also addressing indicators that link reduced pollution with increased business performance (such as variants of nitrogen use efficiency). Experience during the PPG phase has already shown that this strategy is developing buy-in by many types of organization including countries, international organizations and business groups. The most proactive business sector has been the fertilizer manufacturers and large agricultural technology companies, as illustrated by their engagement as project partners. Farmer organizations tend to be

	GEF Secretariat Comment at PIF	Response
		both more regionally based, and the focus here is on building partnerships through Component 3 at the regional / national scale.
	Question 13: Comment on the project's **innovative aspects, sustainability, and potential for scaling up**. • Assess whether the project is innovative and if so, how, and if not, why not. • Assess the project's strategy for sustainability, and the likelihood of achieving this based on GEF and Agency experience. • Assess the potential for scaling up the project's intervention.	
8	SHansen (10.04): Prior to CEO endorsement please do provide a convincing description of the future sustainability of the INMS, e.g. who will fund the INMS beyond the current project period (network of scientific institutions etc.).	Please see response 2. In essence, the longer term sustainability of INMS will depend on building wide recognition of the value of the approach, especially through engagement with countries through the developing 'nitrogen policy arena'. Specific resources are reserved to further develop this engagement through Component 4.
	Question 16: Is the GEF funding and co-financing as indicated in Table B appropriate and adequate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?	
9	(April 26) By CEO endorsement please do address the points in the baseline (box 6) and components, outcomes and outputs (box 7) in order to evaluate the appropriateness of GEF funding.	Addressed in Project Document Sections 3.3 and 3.4 on project components/activities and incremental cost analysis respectively.
	Question 24: STAP Review	
10	'*Please be aware that a review of the draft final targeted research prodoc by a STAP Advisory Science Committee prior to CEO endorsement stage is both desirable and likely. UNEP will be kindly asked to plan accordingly and allow appropriate time before endorsement (at least a month before endorsement plus give an early "heads-up" to STAP to allow for timely constitution of the advisory science committee).*	UNEP consulted with the STAP. The STAP Secretary however stated that in line with policy GEF STAP C.43 Info 02, STAP would not review the CEO endorsement documents. STAP engagement on Targeted Research projects will be consistent with recommendation 5 (see below for ease of reference. The PIF was however extensively reviewed by a panel of two experts recruited by the STAP and STAP considers this sufficient.

Comments from STAP

STAP Comment at PIF	Response
3. During project preparation there should be a continued focus on "change agents" amongst the different stakeholders concerned about the information and tools to be provided in the INMS. Such a distinction and future work on providing real value add in terms of tools will be critical beyond the relevant policy aspects that are in the domain of "countries".	The project preparation phase has included a strong attention to 'change agents' among the different stakeholder, in particular: • Seeking to build **partnerships with financing bodies** to deliver the necessary critical mass well beyond the GEF contribution • Seeking to build partnerships with **'nitrogen champions'**, working to raise the nitrogen issue from official level to senior official level and ministerial level, allowing ministers to act as key 'agents for change' • Utilizing a diversity of **inter-governmental frameworks** to mobilise interest in and support for a joined up nitrogen approach, including OECD, UNECE, CBD, GLOC. • Building on established **press engagement** by use of novel ideas positioning nitrogen in the public mind (e.g. see selection of press articles stimulated by the PCU in The Times, Economist, BBC etc during PPG phase – See Appendix 21)
4 Considering the very large numbers of participating organisations in the proposed project a project component 5 should be carefully designed that address project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Project implementation and M&E will be an important component of this project to ensure clear guidance to partners and to synthesize the learning from the different components and actors involved. The formation of the Scientific and Policy Advisory Group SPAG) is welcomed. The planned participation of a range of concerned stakeholders in the SPAG should ensure that the results of the projects are useful to different "change agents". STAP further advises that a strong ICT strategy is developed as part of this component. This goes	The INMS PPG team considered the need for an additional component but have opted to have the M&E activities embedded in the four existing components to ensure a close linkage between the monitoring/evaluation and management response. As emphasized above, Component 4 is designed to facilitate the learning and dissemination process, and develop strong links with the GEF IW:LEARN to ensure that results are available to GEF IW projects and more widely (through the partners existing links with other fora). The size of the partnership (c.80 organisations providing co-finance) necessitates the use of a 'Project Partners Assembly' as a means to engage all partners/stakeholders. This will provide an opportunity for this broad partnership (private sector, NGOs, international

STAP Comment at PIF	Response
beyond a project website linked to IW Learn and could include clear strategies on online communication tools amongst the partners (visualization, voice, video and written texts) and joint data repositories using "cloud" technology.	organisations, etc.) to engage in discussion on the direction and results of the INMS project. An early output from Component 4 will be the finalization of a communication strategy that will identify innovative communication approaches to convey the results and recommendations to a wide range of policy-maker-to-practitioner stakeholders. For example, parallel co-financing (through the NEWS India-UK project will allow the trialing of a first Massive Online Open Course – N-MOOC) as a contribution to the developing INMS dissemination strategy.
5. The future global institutional ownership of the INMS should be discussed during project preparation and resolved during project implementation.	As discussed above (GEF Response 2) this is addressed in Section 3.1 of the Project Document, supported by a paper in preparation for publication in a peer review journal to further stimulate this discussion with governments, science community, press, business, CSOs and others.

Comments from Council Members

Council Comments at PIF	Response
Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account: Suggestions for improvement to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal: UNDP is attempting to improve the available data and management options regarding nitrogen cycle. The scheme encompasses about 100 partner organizations and $6 million of funding and planned co-financing of $47 million within 4 years. To our knowledge there are no cases where opportunity costs for lost fishery revenues or lost tourism revenues were outweighed by investment costs into the prevention of coastal dead zones. However, the benefits of the activity are probably in linking different actors, mainstreaming, and public awareness campaigns. • Germany approves the project proposal, but recommends a stronger focus on the mentioned plan to raise public and political support.	The proposers of 'Towards INMS' note the observations from Germany and the recommendations to strengthen the 'outreach' is noted in Component 4 and by active engagement in policy discussions. This has already been reflected in the PPG phase by active support from the PPG phase towards the German Nitrogen Strategy in meetings in Germany, through UNECE and OECD. This is illustrative of how INMS is working with champion countries such as Germany to mobilize action on the nitrogen challenge.
The **United States** requests that the UNEP modify the project prior to GEF CEO Endorsement in accordance with our technical comments. The United States recognizes that excess nitrogen is one of the most significant global pollutants, especially in coastal and marine ecosystems. This proposal is technically strong and the proposed project components have received significant support from the global scientific community including the GEF STAP. Nonetheless, the United	The proposers of 'Towards INMS' take note and appreciate the comments from the United States on the technically strong proposal. The proposal has been submitted as a *Targeted Research* Project and as such does indeed address the research needs associated with identifying and quantifying pathways of reactive nitrogen balanced by a practical approach to testing methods through regional pilots. We understand that any proposal to change the project name would need to be agreed with GEF Secretariat. The proposers are open to

Council Comments at PIF	Response
States believes the GEF should be cautious about supporting projects that have a significant research focus. At the same time, the project components included in this proposal (ie: tool development; quantification of nitrogen use flows and impacts; demonstration and verification of management tools; knowledge sharing / information management and capacity development) are required to facilitate future mitigation of reactive nitrogen on ecosystems and therefore we do not consider them research. For this reason, we recommend that the project title be modified to include the other aspects of the project proposal.	refine the project title if the GEF agrees that this would be useful. For example, an option could be: "Targeted Research, **tools and capacity development** for improving understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System (INMS)."

ANNEX B.2: JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES TO BUDGET AND **STRUCTURE**

The overall structure remains unchanged from the PIF, while only minor budget changes have been made to strengthen delivery of the project in responding to the reviewers' comments:

Component 3: Increased GEF resource from 1.5 M USD to 1.65 M USD to strengthen stakeholder, farmer and public engagement in the regional demonstrations (response to GEF Secretariat Review Comments 6 and 7).

Component 4: Increased resource from 0.94M USD to 0.98 M USD to strengthen stakeholder, farmer and public engagement (response to GEF Secretariat Review Comments 6 and 7 and to STAP Review Comment 4).

These changes have been achieved by the following amendments:

- **Component 1:** Decreasing resource from 1.48 M USD to 1.4 M USD. This decrease is more than compensated by an extremely high level of co-financing demonstrating strong partner mobilization of resources to support this work.
- **Component 2:** Decreasing resource from 1.79 M USD to 1.68 M USD. Again, a high level of partner co-financing will ensure that the objectives can be met, with the GEF contribution fulfilling a catalytic role.

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS[7]

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **$150,000**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent To date***	***Amount Committed***
Staff & Other Personnel Costs	89,320	89,320	0
Conference services			
Travel	60,680	60,680	0
Total	**$150,000**	**$150,000**	**0**

[7] 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.

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