



**REQUEST FOR LAND DEGRADATION ENABLING ACTIVITY  
PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER the GEF TRUST FUND**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS**

EA Title:	Development and Alignment of National Action Programme to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Preparation of the Reporting and Review process		
Country(ies):	Azerbaijan	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	5077
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	00924
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	24
• Check if applicable	NCSA    NAPA	Agency Fee:	13,636

**A. EA FRAMEWORK**

**EA objective: To facilitate access to GEF funding by Azerbaijan for Enabling Activities to meet their obligations under the UNCCD a) Development of NAP aligned with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and b) Reporting and Review process.**

EA Component	Grant Type (TA/INV)	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs <sup>2</sup>	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
1. NAP development and alignment	TA	1.1 Azerbaijan have develop and aligned AP with the UNCCD 10 - Year Strategy and institutionalized it within future government	Report on availability and assessment of sectoral development plans, policies and other documents proper the UNCCD	16,000	17,000

<sup>1</sup>Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<sup>2</sup> The UNEP-UNEP-GEF “Monitoring Guidelines of Capacity Development in GEF project – sept 2010” scorecard will be used to monitored project achievement at countries level.

		development framework	Concept paper of NAP of Azerbaijan aligned with the Strategy and An aligned NAP to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy that identifies and establishes priorities in the context of development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations	30,000	33,000
		1.2 Enhanced national capacity to assess and monitor baseline and indicators for the implementation of the UNCCD 10 - Year Strategy and to undertake the an aligned NAP development	National methodology that will be applied in NAP alignment Developed and reviewed indicators for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities	10,000	8,000
			Trained stakeholders in use and application of indicators, monitoring and evaluation and in the gathering of data	15,000	12,000
			Strengthened National monitoring and vulnerability assessments system	5,000	10,000
			Strengthened national knowledge management system including useful traditional knowledge and best practices	5,000	
			1.3. Enhanced national policies and institutional, as well financial and technological framework for the NAP alignment and implementation	Mainstreamed NAP priorities in relevant sectoral policies	5,000
			Strengthened national coordination structures	3,000	4,000

			Report on national assessment of financial resources available for NAP implementation, integrated investment framework and integrated financial strategy	8,000	
			Assessed technology transfer needs for NAP alignment and implementation	3,000	
2.Reporting and Review		2.1 National report for the second leg of the fourth reporting and review process prepared and submitted by Azerbaijan	Appropriate consultative processes held	2,500	5,000
			Draft report prepared for the second leg of the fourth reporting and review process	2,500	5,000
			Validation workshop held to review and finalize the report	4,000	5,000
			A national report from Azerbaijan on the measures taken to implement the UNCCD submitted through the PRAIS portal and published for dissemination at national level	5,000	5,000
		2.2. An enabling environment for preparation of national reporting cycle to the UNCCD established	The National mechanism to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD implementation developed	4,000	5,000
			A conceptual approach for harmonization of indicator relevant processes including MEA and other databases relevant to land degradation developed	3,091	5,000

		Common understanding of methodologies and their application for indicator-based reporting which comply with the reporting requirements of the UNCCD reached	3,000	8,700
Subtotal			<b>124,091</b>	<b>122,700</b>
4. Project Management TA			12,273	27,300
<b>Total project costs</b>			<b>136,364</b>	<b>150,000</b>

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National government	Azerbaijan Central Government	In-kind	70,000
Project Executing Agency	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	In-kind	68,800
GEF Agency	UNEP	In- Kind	10,000
Others		In Kind	1,200
<b>Total Cofinancing</b>			<b>150,000</b>

**C. BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Enabling Activity	Azerbaijan	136,364	13,636	150,000
Total Grant Resources				<b>136,364</b>	<b>13,636</b>	<b>150,000</b>

**D. EA MANAGEMENT COST**

<u>COST ITEMS</u>	<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED PERSON WEEK</u>	<u>GRANT AMOUNT</u>	<u>CO-FINANCING</u>	<u>EA TOTAL</u>
<u>LOCAL CONSULTANTS</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>8,000</u>		<u>8,000</u>
<u>INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>OFFICES FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND COMMUNICATIONS</u>		<u>2,000</u>	<u>26,300</u>	<u>28,300</u>
<u>TRAVEL</u>		<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<u>OTHERS</u>		<u>1,273</u>		<u>1,273</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>12,273</u>	<u>27,300</u>	<u>39,573</u>

## PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

<p><b>A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT</b> (Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Azerbaijan has ratified UNCCD on 24 April 1998. Since the ratification of the Convention, it has implemented various activities related to fulfillment of obligations. In 2001, it approved the National Program on Efficient use of pastures and hayfields and on combating desertification. Since the ratification of the Convention 3 National reports have been prepared and submitted to the secretariat.</li> <li>2. Between 2006 and 2009, Azerbaijan implemented a project entitled “Increasing capacity on joint and sustainable management of land resources”. The Project was jointly financed by UNDP Azerbaijan, GEF and Norwegian Government. It organized a series of consultations with relevant stakeholders including relevant Ministries, State Agencies, Scientific Institutions and other organizations. In order to increase awareness-raising of relevant stakeholders it organized 11 regional seminars. The dictionary named “Explanatory dictionary on land desertification” was translated into the national language and published. It implemented practical activities for rehabilitation of 200 ha of land in Goygol region in order to demonstrate the tools and effective practice in rehabilitation of winter pastures areas.</li> <li>3. With the support of GIZ Baku office it prepared a methodology on “Monitoring of biodiversity in summer pastures”.</li> <li>4. At the present time, there is a new initiative by GEF for implementation of “Sustainable land and forest management in the Greater Caucasus landscape”. One of the purposes of the project is to improve capacities in land management. The project is currently submitted to Cabinet of Ministers for further consideration.</li> </ol>
<p><b>B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES</b> (The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Over the last decades the UNCCD has undertaken a major reform process aimed at making the UNCCD process more efficient, transparent, and accountable and focused. The adoption by the Parties (decision 3/COP.8) in 2007 of the 10 Year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018) (hereinafter the “Strategy”) has paved the way for a results-based approach to global and national efforts to combat desertification.</li> <li>6. The Strategy, with its clearly defined strategic objectives (SO) and operational objectives (OO) to achieve enhanced implementation of the Convention, requires all existing NAPs (including those under preparation) to reflect the new implementation framework adopted by the Convention<sup>3</sup>. It also introduces a new monitoring and assessment process within the UNCCD, the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) which is based on sets of performance and impact indicators to measure, respectively, progress against the operational and strategic objectives. Special attention is also placed on measuring investment flows for UNCCD implementation and dissemination of best practices. After the successful undertaking in 2010 of the first leg of the 4<sup>th</sup> Reporting and Review process on the performance indicators, financial flows and best practices on SLM technologies, the UNCCD will initiate in 2012 the second leg of the 4<sup>th</sup> Reporting cycle that will also include reporting on the strategic objectives, using the set of identified impact indicators.</li> <li>7. Against this background, the project responds to the specific calls made by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation (CRIC) and Conference of the Parties (COP) for adequate global capacity development measures, as well as technical and financial support to ensure long-term capacities of Parties to align their NAPs and to monitor the implementation of the Strategy and</li> </ol>

<sup>3</sup>The alignment of the NAPs is imbedded in the Strategy itself, which puts forward in the outcome areas 2.2 and 2.3 that a revision by affected country parties of their NAP into strategic documents based on socio-economic and biophysical baseline information and integrated in relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies, including integrated investment frameworks, is necessary in order to achieve operational objective two.

<p>dimensions are considered in project design and implementation.)</p>	<p>the Convention in accordance with the new reporting obligations. In particular the project aims to respond directly to the decisions 3/COP.8 which in adopting the Strategy urges and recognizes “the need for Parties to align their NAPs” and 2/COP.9 on “Alignment of the action programs with The Strategy” which call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affected country Parties to use the alignment guidelines as the reference tool in aligning NAPs and other relevant implementation activities with the 5 operational objectives of The Strategy;</li> <li>• The Secretariat to facilitate provision of technical assistance to affected country Parties for review, alignment and/or revision of NAPs;</li> <li>• Global Mechanism / Secretariat, in accordance with their mandates, to financially assist affected country Parties to develop integrated investment frameworks to foster resource mobilization for NAP alignment ;</li> <li>• Developed country Parties and financial institutions to assist with funding to eligible country Parties for review, alignment and revision of NAPs<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>8. Furthermore, the project addresses directly decisions 11/COP.9, 13/COP.9, and 17/COP.9 concerning, respectively, 1) the new mandate and functions of the CRIC, 2) the establishment of a comprehensive Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) and 3) measuring progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, and 4 of The Strategy through appropriate impact indicators and performance indicators through an improved process learning from the iterative process initiated for that specific purpose by COP 9. In this respect, Decision 17/COP.9 explicitly calls for inclusion of the impact indicators in future capacity-building initiatives assisting affected country Parties and requests the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) to seek assistance from bilateral donors, relevant international organizations and financial institutions, with particular regard to the Global Environment Facility. At its recent ninth meeting, the CRIC<sup>5</sup> confirmed strong support for further capacity building and adequate technical and financial assistance to be provided by the GEF to UNCCD country Parties to assist them in fulfilling reporting obligations under the Convention.</p> <p>9. <b>The project aims</b> at assisting Azerbaijan in developing a NAP aligned with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and to undertake a second leg of the 4<sup>th</sup> UNCCD reporting and review process, including the review of indicators provisionally adopted by the COP and implemented under the PRAIS framework. The two processes (NAP alignment and reporting) will be mutually reinforcing and resulting in improved planning and monitoring of UNCCD implementation at the national level for better decision making on DLDD and sustainable land management issues.</p> <p>10. The project will also support the country to put in place an enabling environment that will lift barriers for proper coordination and establish appropriate mechanism for sustainable implementation of the Action Plan and reporting process. The project will consider coordination at all levels and across sectors and institutions and will suggest appropriate approach and capacity needs for proper coordination and information sharing particularly with full involvement of scientific communities.</p> <p>11. The project will ensure all norms regarding social and environmental safeguards including gender and indigenous people considerations by ensuring (i) inclusiveness of both men and women in project formulation and implementation of the national consultation processes; (ii) ensuring inclusiveness for marginalized and poor communities in the consultations; (iii)</p>
---	---

<sup>4</sup> Decision 13/COP.9 CONS O 5 target: By 2014, at least 80% of affected country Parties subregional and regional entities have formulated/ revised a NaP/SRAP/RAP aligned to The Strategy

<sup>5</sup>ICCD/CRIC(9)/16, “Report of the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Bonn from 21 to 25 February 2011”. Notably p. 9, paragraphs 35 and 36; p. 11, paragraph 51; p.15, paragraph 84, 87 and 88; p. 16, paragraph 91; and p. 17, paragraph 105. <http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric9/pdf/16eng.pdf>

	<p>collecting of gender disaggregated data and information where relevant and possible, and (vi) analysis and articulation of relationship of DLDD to human well being and poverty reduction, through the impact indicators and the anticipated socioeconomic impacts of the aligned NAPs on the national development agenda.</p> <p>12. In order to enable UNEP to track how consideration of socio-economic benefits, indigenous people, gender dimensions are addressed by Parties, the SSFA (Small-Scale Funding Agreement) will include a provision that these considerations including CSO participation to the process at national level, should be reflected in the aligned NAPs and/or reporting process. In addition, the UNEP Help Desk will assist in ensuring social/gender issues are integrated in the NAPs and reports.</p> <p>13. The key national stakeholders which will be closely involved in the project implementation will include relevant departments of:</p> <p>14. <b>Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR)</b> is the Focal Point of UNCCD. Consequently MENR is responsible to define and elaborate main directions and policy for protection of the land resources. MENR will be the national lead ministry for the NAP alignment and Reporting.</p> <p>15. <b>Ministry of Agriculture</b> implements state policy on development of production and processing of the agricultural products; necessary service and provision of information to producers of the agricultural products; amelioration and water economy, veterinary, planning and favorable use of the soil etc. Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for organization of activities aiming at rational use of land, recovery and maintaining of land productivity. The Ministry will play an important role in data issues related to this process.</p> <p>16. <b>State Committee of Land and Cartography</b> is the central executive power body implementing land cadastre, land monitoring, geodesy, topography, mapping, gravimetric, land reform, formation of fruitful use of land resources, restoration and increase of land productivity, regulation of land-citizen relations, setting territorial units, state control on geodesy and cartography.</p> <p>17. In addition, an important role belongs to <b>local municipalities</b> which are responsible for initiating and preparing the local plans for land-use at municipal lands. Farms and farm associations, local communities and households as well as scientific research institutions on land resources and soil protection issues also participate in the management of land resources.</p> <p>18. The project activities will be implemented in close cooperation of above mentioned government bodies, which means involvement of the above mentioned bodies in collection, exchange and cross-checking information related to land degradation and desertification processes, as well as in elaboration of the national report and strategy. Drafts of these documents will be considered by all above mentioned bodies, as well as in national workshops with participation of scientific and NGO sectors as well. Representatives of relevant ministries and NGO-s will participate in the project's training activities.</p>
<p><b>C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION</b> (discuss the work</p>	<p>19. The objective of this project is to facilitate access to GEF funding by Azerbaijan for Enabling Activities to meet its obligations under the UNCCD (i) development and alignment of NAP with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and (ii) reporting and review process. This will be achieved through following immediate objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To enable Azerbaijan to align its NAP in light of operational and strategic objectives identified by the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy.</li> </ul>

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

- To enable the National Focal Point of the UNCCD and national stakeholders to undertake the necessary measures for completion of the reporting and review process.

20. The work that will be taken during the reporting and NAP development and alignment process will include:

21. **A.1. Stoctaking and awareness-raising on NAP development and alignment:** The national experts' team made of specialists in natural resources and sociology / stakeholder participation will assess needs and stakeholders expectations at the national and local levels and prepare recommendations for how to conduct the alignment process.

**Expected output:** Appropriate consultative processes and Report of stakeholders assessment and workshop on the launch of the reporting process (impact assessment, performance review, best practices and financial flows) and NAP alignment.

22. **A.2. Strengthening human and scientific capacity for NAP development, alignment and reporting:** Based on stakeholders' needs and agreed approach for the NAP alignment, the national experts' team made of specialist in natural resources and professional trainers will agree on how to adapt the guidelines received from the Convention Secretariat and Global Mechanism and conduct necessary workshop for different stakeholders at the national level to have a common understanding on how the alignment will take place.

**Expected outputs:**

- Training in use and application of indicators, monitoring and evaluation and in the gathering of data
- A harmonized biophysical and socio-economic baseline and drought warning system
- Developed and reviewed indicators for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities
- Established national monitoring and vulnerability assessments system
- A national knowledge management system including useful traditional knowledge and scientific findings

23. **A.3. Establishment and strengthening of the policy and institutional framework for NAP development, alignment , implementation and reporting:** National experts' team will assess the national legislation and institutional set-up in Azerbaijan. The Executing Agency will support the experts in analysing national legislation, institutional set-up, relevant plans, policies and reports, implemented, on-going or planned projects in field of combating desertification and land degradation work and come out with recommendations for improving institutional framework in the land degradation / desertification spheres, which include demarcating responsibilities between government agencies and strengthening relevant responsible institutions in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. The assessment will also look at communication and information dissemination between different levels and suggest the way to overcome communication barriers including with scientific community.

24. Another activity will be the identification of the thematic directions of NAP based on analysis of existing gaps and challenges in field of land management and degradation. The key challenges in legislation and institutional arrangement will be identified and recommendations to the national government for improved and comprehensive system for land degradation and combating desertification will be elaborated. The national report and recommendations will be



discussed at multi-stakeholder meeting and will be transferred to the relevant State authorities. The recommendations will be used in further activities of the Project.

25. Furthermore, priorities for NAP development, alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities will be identified. The same national experts' teams / tasks forces under the supervision of the executing and implementing agencies will analyse trends and dynamics of desertification and land degradation based on existing data and historical information, experts' judgment and consultations.

**Expected outputs:**

- Report on Review of relevant plans including current, policies, priorities and methodology for NAP development and alignment
- Mainstreamed NAP priorities in relevant sectoral policies and foster collaborations at all levels including with scientific community
- A cross-sectoral institutional mechanisms that will ensure collaboration, coordination and information sharing
- A national Plan for NAP implementation that include coordination among stakeholders including scientific communities, technology transfer and dissemination of information.
- Communication on outreach strategy for NAP implementation
- Improved linkages of UNCCD reporting and implementation with national development priorities
- The National plan to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD implementation
- A conceptual approach for harmonization of indicator data and knowledge bases of different processes including Rio Conventions, MEA and other databases relevant to land degradation in the country

26. **A.4. NAP development and alignment** ; Based on the analyses of the trends and dynamics of desertification and land degradation prepared by national experts' with supervision of the executing agency, main priority directions for the National Action Program will be identified and a national program outline elaborated. The Project team will organize at least 4 national consultation meetings with participation of all national as well as local stakeholders first to agree on National Action Program outline. The NAP elaboration process will include: data collection and processing, workshops (problem identification, priority actions identification, presentation of the findings and development of NAP document).

27. **The key outputs will include:** A NAP aligned to the 10 Year UNCCD Strategy that identifies and establishes priorities in the context of development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations, is submitted by Azerbaijan.

28. **A.5. Establishment of the financial and technological framework for NAP implementation:** National expert's team will assess national financial resources available for NAP implementation, review existing national financial mechanisms, financial and investment strategies, frameworks, rules and procedures and prepare recommendations on their improvement for proper integration of the UNCCD priorities according to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy. This approach will enable Azerbaijan to accommodate long term financial instruments that will support the implementation of the UNCCD in the country.

29. **Expected output:** A national analysis of financial resources and an Integrated Financial Strategy and Investment Frameworks available for NAP implementation.

30. **A.6. Strengthening national capacity to assess and monitor baseline and indicators for implementation of the UNCCD 10 - Year Strategy which will include:**

- Understanding and application of methodologies for indicator-based reporting which comply with the reporting requirements of the UNCCD
- Reviewing at national level with all stakeholders the reporting methodologies, procedures and tools
- Establishment of long term data gathering and knowledge management systems for the reporting and review process
- Maintaining data flow to the knowledge management systems
- Establishing data quality insurance systems before report submission
- Ensure liaison with UNCCD and Global Mechanism Secretariats, the Implementing (UNDP/GEF) and Executing Agencies (MENR) for acquiring further knowledge and know-how on UNCCD reporting

31. **Expected Output:** Training in use and application of indicators, monitoring and evaluation and in the gathering of data.

32. **A.7. Creation of Land degradation risk atlas and internet portal** to ensure data gathering and knowledge management for reporting and review process: The national experts' teams / tasks forces / made of specialists in natural resources (i.e. land, agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, soil) based on existing data and information, experts judgment and field work will identify 'hot spots' as a most vulnerable territories in terms of land degradation. GIS specialists will work with the task forces to prepare a land risk atlas and internet portal using GIS. The Land Risk Atlas will indicate sensitive ecosystems affected by land degradation, types of unsustainable land management causing desertification, deforestation and overgrazing and level of degradation. Maps will be by the relevant national authorities in the country (i.e. MENR, Ministry of Agriculture, State Committee on Land and Cartography, etc.) as well as local authorities.

33. **Expected outputs:**

- Established national monitoring and vulnerability assessments system
- Land risk atlas and internet portal using GIS

34. **A.8. Preparation of National report for the second leg of the fourth reporting cycle which will include:**

- Establishment of appropriate consultative processes.
- Preparation of the draft report.
- National validation workshop to review and finalize the report
- Submission of the report through the PRAIS portal

**Expected outputs**

- A national report from Azerbaijan on the measures taken to implement the UNCCD Impact Reporting
- National level Training to reach common understanding of methodologies, procedures, tools and the their application for indicator-based reporting which comply with the reporting

requirements of the UNCCD

- Systems for data gathering , flows, quality insurance and knowledge management for the reporting and review process
35. Appropriate consultative processes and Report of stakeholders assessment and workshop on the launch of the reporting process (impact assessment, performance review, best practices and financial flows).

#### **EA IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT**

- 36. UNEP/GEF** is the Implementing Agency for this GEF project. UNEP/GEF shall in its role as GEF Implementing Agency, provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. Project supervision is entrusted to the Director of UNEP/GEF Coordination who discharges this responsibility through the assigned Task Manager who represents the Director on the project steering committee. Project supervision missions if any, by the Task Manager and/or Fund Management Officer shall constitute part of the project supervision plan. UNEP/GEF would perform the liaison function between UNEP and the GEF Secretariat and report on the progress against milestones outlined in the CEO approval letter to the GEF Secretariat. UNEP shall inform the GEF Secretariat whenever there is a potentially substantive co-financing change (i.e. one affecting the project objectives, the underlying concept, scale, scope, strategic priority, conformity with GEF criteria, likelihood of project success, or outcome of the project). It shall rate, on a periodic basis, progress in meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation. In order to ensure overall coherence with the Convention process and taking into consideration the fact that this project is meant to increase capacities of Azerbaijan in regard of the Convention, UNEP/GEF through the EA, will also work in close consultation with the UNCCD Secretariat and GM through the National Focal Point on all issues relating to deadlines and deliverables under the project..
- 37.** UNEP cooperates with multilateral environmental agreements, and support collaboration among such agreements, in order to facilitate their effective implementation. UNEP’s baseline of work enhances the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, promotes Rio Convention synergies, and promotes a Green Economy paradigm, through e.g., building home-grown (national) expertise, including capacity for South-South cooperation, environmental leadership; and Linking processes and outputs from GEF funding for Enabling Activities with cross-cutting capacity development projects, for greater synergies, cost effectiveness and impact.
- 38.** The project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalysing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements. UNEP signed an MOU with the UNCCD Secretariat, implemented the UNCCD

Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation (PRAIS) project alongside the first leg of the 4th UNCCD reporting and review project<sup>6</sup>, the piloting integrated processes and approaches to facilitate national reporting to Rio Conventions project (FNR\_Rio) and has implemented the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership project. Together, these initiatives will provide GEF with a range of relevant experiences, proof of concept, testing of ideas and access to the best available science and knowledge. In relation to the land degradation focal area, the project is fully in-line with UNEP comparative experience in reference with GEF/C 31/5 Annex H. UNEP will primarily focus on the areas of its mandate, will continue to provide scientific and technical advice to the Facility on its policies and programmes.

39. UNEP has history of Working with Azerbaijan both on UNCCD and other GEF activities. On UNCCD, UNEP has supported the country during the PRAIS project and it is the established good working relationship that leads to the present UNEP/GEF project. Currently, UNEP is supporting the Government of Azerbaijan in the implementation of Montreal Protocol. In addition, as the UN country team is in the process of developing a new UNDAF, UNEP, through the Regional Office for Asia, supports the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to mainstream environment and climate change issues in the UNDAF. Furthermore UNEP is working with Government of Azerbaijan on project “Stabilizing GHG Emissions from Road Transport through Doubling of Global Vehicle Fuel Economy: Regional Implementation of the Global Fuel Efficiency Initiative (GFEI)”. UNEP has also recently adopted a Regional Focal Point in dealing with GEF issues. The approach uses identified staff who give support and guidance to a number of countries in relation to GEF initiatives in the respective countries under his/her coverage. The Focal Point for Asia supports the countries of the region in line with UNEP’s standard working arrangements.
40. The UNEP in-kind contribution to this project is estimated at \$10,000 over the two years project duration. This amount represent (i) the staff time include from Regional Office to develop the project document as no PPG resources will be requested from GEF Trust Fund, (ii) as it is clear the handling of Enabling Activity both in term of investment for communication and additional Staff time to manage the SSFA will go beyond the Agency fee from this project.
41. **Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan (MENR): As the Executing Agency** shall take responsibility for coordination of the project implementation in accordance with the objectives, activities and budget and deliver the outputs and demonstrate its best efforts in achieving the project outcomes. It shall also address and rectify any issues raised by UNEP with respect to project execution in a timely manner. MENR shall host Project Coordinating Group (PCG) and the National Focal Point for the project will be the UNCCD Focal Point.
42. **19. Project Coordinating Group (PCG):** A Project Coordinating Group will be established by MENR at the beginning of the project and its members should include UNEP Task Manager, relevant national stakeholders involved in the UNCCD implementation, review and reporting, CSOs, Project Management Unit (PMU). The PCG will meet every three months. The UNEP Task Manager will be participating in the PCG activities thorough electronic means of

---

<sup>6</sup>Most activities finalised; still awaiting terminal evaluation.

	<p>communication. Relevant Ministries and NGOs will be involved to the process.</p> <p>43. Under the SSFA, between UNEP and the National Executing Agency , the obligations of the two parties will be as follow:</p> <p><b>Terms and obligations of UNEP</b></p> <p>UNEP agrees to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide, in its role as GEF implementing agency, project oversight (through the Task Manager and Fund Management officer). Specifically this will include:</li> <li>b. Timely feedback on all substantive and financial issues;</li> <li>c. Provide technical support and assistance to the project on a need basis and where required;</li> <li>d. Ensure communication and information exchange between the Executing Agency, UNEP, and all other relevant organizations, institutions, programmer and projects;</li> <li>e. Liaise with the GEF Secretariat, UNCCD and GM for all matters related to the UNCCD Reporting.</li> </ol> <p><b>Terms and obligations of the Executing Agency</b></p> <p>The Executing Agency agrees to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide support to, and liaise with, the various project stakeholders based on guidance from UNEP Task Manager and UNCCD Secretariat;</li> <li>b. Implement the project activities in accordance with standard Executing Agency Rules and established business processes;</li> <li>c. Make available to the project the cash and in-kind co-financing as set out in <b>Annex 11</b> from the Executing Agency and make its best efforts to ensure that all pledged third party co-financing materializes or undertake resources mobilization efforts to compensate for any shortfall in co-financing;</li> <li>d. Report to UNEP in accordance with <b>paragraphs 29 to 31</b> of the Agreement.</li> <li>e. Establish or use a National Coordinating Body / Committee in charge of UNCCD activities to direct the project activities and ensure the committee gains adequate capacity to direct the process;</li> <li>f. Ensure that CSO, Indigenous Group participation and Gender issues are included in the process and reflected in aligned NAPs;</li> <li>g. Establish a long-term mechanism for UNCCD implementation at national level;</li> <li>h. Take and report on measures to mainstream NAP in relevant national sectors and policies.</li> <li>i. Take and report measures to mainstream NAP in United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and to engage dialogue with other donors for resources mobilization and the implementation</li> </ol>
<p><b>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED <u>COST-EFFECTIVENESS</u> OF THE PROJECT:</b></p>	<p>44. The project will address at the same time not only performance and impact indicators for the UNCCD implementation which will enable sound, rigorous and scientific reporting at national levels on not only the UNCCD implementation, but also on the land degradation and desertification trends and the impact of mitigation measures. Furthermore, the project will allow the country to develop its national SLM agenda aligned with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy. Such results will make the project very cost-effective in terms of GEF resources invested, as the capacity building element of the project will facilitate long term planning and investment for SLM as well as enhance synergy with the other conventions (CBD, UNFCCC) and environmental protection processes as a whole since the indicators based approach will explore harmonization potentials.</p>
<p><b>E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&amp;E</b></p>	<p>45. The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP</p>

**PLAN:**

legal instrument to be signed by the MENR and UNEP. The project M&E plan (See table below) for the costed M&E and the plan are consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the costed M&E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.

46. The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the PMU but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager 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.
47. The **Project Coordinating Group** 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 plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Task Manager in UNEP-GEF. 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.
48. Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Coordinating Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by MENR and UNEP. The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the reporting process. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

**TABLE: MONITORING AND EVALUATION BUDGET**

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)*1	Time-frame
Kick-off meeting	Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups	Project team UNEP/GEF	2,000	Within two months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	Project coordinator	0	Immediately following IW
Periodic Project	Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations	Project team		Every six month

	Review by Steering Committee	and technical outputs; Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms forward implementation plan.	UNEP/GEF		
	Project Implementation Review	Progress and effectiveness review for the GEF, provision of lessons learned	Project team UNEP-GEF	0	Annually
	Terminal report	Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan Highlights technical outputs Identifies lessons learned and likely design approaches for future projects, assesses likelihood of achieving design outcomes	Project team	0	At the end of project implementation
	Independent Financial Audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions		2,500	At the end of project implementation
	<b>Total indicative M&amp;E cost*<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>4,500</b>	
<b>F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):</b>	N/A				

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


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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr. Huseyn Bagirov	Minister/Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	08/02/2012

## B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

CONVENTIONS	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ACCESSION	CONVENTION FOCAL POINT
UNCCD	1998	MR. OGTAY CAFAROV  TEL : + 994 50 3395557  Email : o_jafarov@yahoo.com

## C. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

<b>This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.</b>					
<b>Agency Coordinator, Agency name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, UNEP GEF Coordination  <a href="mailto:Maryam.Niamir-Fuller@unep.org">Maryam.Niamir-Fuller@unep.org</a>		08/22/2012	Adamou Bouhari	+254 20 762 3860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

## Annex A: Consultants to be hired

Position Titles	\$/person week	Estimated Person week	Task to be performed
For EA Mnagement			
Local			
National Project Coordinator (Contribution of the MENR)			National Project Coordinator will be responsible for the overall coordination of all aspects of the Project.
PMU Project Manager	660	10	Director of the PMU
Project Financial and Administrative Assistant	640	10	Deputy Director of the PMU
Local Experts			



1. Natural resources and biodiversity experts	500	40	1. Natural resources and biodiversity expert - gathering and analysis of relevant data, baselines, indicators, and methodologies - development of recommendations - participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process
2. Policy/Institutional experts	500	20	2. Policy/Institutional expert: - assessment of national policy and institutional set-up - development of recommendations - participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process
3. Experts on social issues, public relations and awareness raising	500	20	3. Expert on social issues and public relations: - gathering and analysis of relevant data, baselines, indicators, and methodologies - development of recommendations - participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process
4. Experts on agriculture and soil protection	500	40	4 Expert on agriculture and soil protection - gathering and analysis of relevant data, baselines, indicators, and methodologies - development of recommendations - participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process
5. Experts on land resources and sustainable land management	500	30	5. Expert on land resources and sustainable land management: - gathering and analysis of relevant data, baselines, indicators, and

<p>6. Economic and financial experts</p>	<p>500</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>methodologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development of recommendations</li> <li>- participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process</li> </ul> <p>6 .Economic and financial expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-assessment of financial resources available for NAP implementation</li> <li>- review existing national financial mechanisms, financial and investment strategies, frameworks, rules and procedures and preparation of recommendations on how to improve them</li> <li>- participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process</li> </ul>
<p>7. Reporting</p>	<p>500</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>7. Expert for support of preparing the report for the second leg of the fourth reporting and review process</p>