PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Establishing National Land Use and Land Degradation Profile toward mainstreaming SLM practices in sector policies – ENALULDEP/SLM.		
Country(ies):	Bangladesh	GEF Project ID:	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01292
Executing Partner(s):	Department of Environment	Submission Date:	30 April 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	36
Name of parent program	N/A	Project Agency Fee ($):	69,406

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-financing ($)
LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape **Outcome 3.1:** Enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management **Output 3.1** Integrated land management plans developed and implemented **Outcome 3.2:** Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities **Output 3.2** INRM tools and methodologies developed and tested **Output 3.4** Information on INRM technologies and good practice guidelines disseminated	GTF	730,594	3,280,000
		730,594	**3,280,000**

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective:						
Project Component	**Grant Type**	**Expected Outcomes**	**Expected Outputs**	**Trust Fund**	**Indicative Grant Amount ($)**	**Indicative Cofinancing ($)**
1. Land use and land degradation profile	TA	Increased understanding of land use and land degradation in the country	1.1. National land use map developed 1.2. Land Degradation profile established 1.3. National roadmap to address SLM developed and validated at national level	GTF	464,176	2,214,328
2. SLM mainstreaming	TA	Capable national institution and stakeholders in favor SLM practices	2.1. National policy including (Including Land Use Policy 2001) and	GEF	150,000	600,000

			institutional framework to mainstream SLM in production sectors (in line with output 1.3 implementation), revised 2.2. SLM practices developed and disseminated by relevant stakeholders and networks at national level 2.3. Training and awareness raising programmes for SLM adoption and dissemination developed and implemented at national and local levels			
3. SLM monitoring	TA	Adequate SLM monitoring and evaluation	3.1. DLDD monitoring indicators developed and a monitoring and evaluation system of SLM impacts established 3.2. Project M&E	TA	50,000	200,000
Subtotal					664,176	3,014,328
Project Management Cost (PMC)[1]				GEFTF	66,418	265,672
Total Project Cost					730,594	3,280,000

C. 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	Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh	In-Kind	680,000
National Government	Barind Rainwater Conservation and irrigation Project (phase – II)	In-Kind	200,000
National Government	National Land Zoning Project	In-Kind	900,000
National Government	Community Based Adaptation in the Ecologically Critical Areas through Biodiversity Conservation and Social Protection (CBAECA) Project	In-Kind	1000,000

[1] To be calculated as percent of subtotal.

National Government/Bilateral (Kingdom of the Netherlands)	Community Based Adaptation in the Ecologically Critical Areas through Biodiversity Conservation and Social Protection Project	Cash	500,000
Total Cofinancing			3,280,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES ($) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount ($) (a)	Agency Fee ($) (b)[2]	Total ($) c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Land Degradation	Bangladesh	730,594	69,406	800,000
Total Grant Resources				730,594	**69,406**	**800,000**

[2] Indicate fees related to this project.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

	Amount Requested ($)	Agency Fee for PPG ($)
• (upto) $50k for projects up to & including $1 million	18,265	1,735

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF ROJECT ONLY

Trust Fund	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in $)		
				PPG (a)	**Agency Fee** (b)	**Total** c = a + b
GEF TF	UNEP	Land Degradation	Bangladesh	18,265	1,735	20,000
Total PPG Amount				**18,265**	**1,735**	**20,000**

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION[2]

A. Project Overview.

A .1.1 GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, ROOT CAUSES AND BARRIERS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

According to Bangladesh National Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2013), land use in the country is diverse and often conflicting: it is intensively used for agriculture, settlements, forests, shrimp ghers, natural fisheries, salt production, industrial and infrastructural developments and tourism. All these have resulted into the following features: demand for expansion in all land uses (urban area, settlement, shrimp etc.); increasing demands for new uses (tourism, export processing zones and others); conflicting land uses and demands, and encroachment and conversion of land from one use to the other. The population is increasing and the land is being converted from directly productive purposes, such as crop cultivation, to other uses like housing and roads and urban development. It is reported that cultivated land has been declining by almost one percent per year. Present per capita agricultural land of 0.05 ha will be decreased to 0.025 ha by 2050. Without effective measures to arrest this alarming trend the land available for crop production will continue to fall.

Degradation of land refers to loss of its potential production capability as a result of degradation of soil quality and also its loss for effective use. Estimates by BARC indicate that soil related problems may be a major constraint on agricultural growth. Declining soil fertility, soil erosion, and salinization affect 5.6–8.7 million hectares, 5.3 hectares, and 3.05 million hectares of land respectively. Soil erosion being

irreversible, is generally regarded as the most serious problem of soil degradation. Various kinds of soil erosion such as sheet, rill and gully erosion, land slide, riverbank erosion and coastal erosion are occurring in Bangladesh. Accelerated soil erosion has been encountered in the hilly regions of the country.

Soil fertility has declined due to high cropping intensity, unbalanced or over use of chemical fertilizers and less or no use of organic matter. One of the important causes of land degradation in Bangladesh is over-exploitation of biomass from the cultivation fields for fuel, fodder and thatching. BARC estimates that organic matter depletion is observed in 7.5 million hectares of land. With the loss of organic matter soils could become more susceptible to drought. The critical areas in this respect are the areas where Aus followed by transplanted Aman are grown. Another critical area is the Barind Tract, the western part of which shows symptoms of increasing aridity during the dry months, i.e., March and May. The exploitation of ground water for irrigation for dry season rice farming (boro) has gone beyond the capacity of annual recharge of aquifers, with adverse effects on the supply of safe drinking water. The irrigated area has expanded to over 5.5 million ha out of 8.0 million ha of cultivated land, and over three-fourths of the area is irrigated with ground water, mostly by privately installed shallow tube wells. The arsenic contamination of drinking water in large parts of the country is often blamed to exploitation of ground water for irrigation with shallow tube wells.

The north-west region of the country especially the Barind area shows signs of desertification. Such threats will accentuate under current climate change scenario. The country loses about 10,000 ha of land to river erosion every year. Land degradation in the coastal areas of Bangladesh is a result of recurring cyclones and storm surges, which inundate the land. Practice of shrimp cultivation round the year is ultimately increasing the salinity of the degraded soil. Intrusion of saline water in the dry season is attributed to the low flow in the river system. The erosion is particularly severe in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Bogra, Sirajganj, Tangail, Pabna and Manikganj districts which lie in the erosion prone area along the Jamuna River. Erosion of total area and settlement is higher along the left bank compared with the right bank. Along the Padma river, the districts of Rajbari, Faridpur, Manikganj, Dhaka, Munshiganj and Shariatpur are erosion prone. Chandpur on Lower Meghna is also seriously erosion prone. This loss of land in a land scarce country has serious socio-economic impact. There is great potential of increasing land area along the coast of the country. Since 1973, land has been accreted in the Noakhali coast at a rate of 18 sq.km/year. It is projected that by the year of 2050, a land mass of 1,000 sq km can be raised. The process of reclamation can be accelerated through variety of means. If it can be done in a sustainable manner then the country will be greatly benefitted by the extra land.

Natural processes that lead to land degradation in Bangladesh can be considered part of the ongoing land formation process. The upliftment and deposition processes that led particularly to formation of land in the regions of Sylhet, Chittagong, Barind and Madhupur continued during the period of the Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene ages. Throughout the Pleistocene time up to the present, the rivers have been depositing heavy sediments to build up the country's flat alluvial plain, although the processes of erosion and deposition have not been similar all along. There are a few studies on recent sedimentation and erosion that show these processes have been aggravated by human interventions such as encroachment for settlement and improper agricultural practices.

However, land degradation shows regional specificity. Land degradation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is occurring mainly due to rapid changes in demographic patterns, development of roadways and other physical infrastructure. *Jhum* cultivation, the traditional community-based agricultural method practiced by the indigenous people of the CHT, is one of the major causes of land degradation. Degradation of land in the hilly area has also occurred due to destruction of forestland and loss of land cover.

The Madhupur forest area has almost been denuded due to deforestation and has further been aggravated by many other factors such as its closeness to the capital city, improvement of road communication

leading to displacement of population, urbanization and industrialization. This land, a Pleistocene terrace, is naturally raised and flood-free, therefore, it is attractive for infrastructural development. The land in the area has further been degraded by the development activities related to building of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

Land degradation in the Barind Tract is caused mainly due to over exploitation of biomass from agricultural lands and unscientific cultivation of HYV rice through groundwater irrigation. The process has been aggravated by irregular rainfall; and insignificant water flow in the adjacent rivers that normally play a vital role in replenishing soil fertility and recharging groundwater.

Degradation of soil quality in the floodplains is mainly attributed to improper use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to boost agricultural production. Siltation in the floodplains also contributes towards degradation of land due to flashflood and sediments accumulated from riverbank erosion. Dispersed industrial growth and uncontrolled discharges of their untreated effluent in the nearby rivers deteriorate the quality of land and soil

According to M.K. Hassan and A.K. M. Ashraful Alam (JARD, 2006), the average organic matter content of top soils in Bangladesh (high land and medium high land situation) have gone under from about 2% to 1% over the last 20 years due to intensive cultivation which means and decline by 20-46% (Miah *et al*., 1993). Removal of nutrients is also a threat to the agriculture. The negative soil nutrient balance have found in the country and the net removal of major nutrients (N, P, K, S) are as high as ranges between 180 and 250 kg/ha/yr. (Karim *et al*., 1994).

Comprehensive studies are lacking on the issue of land degradation in Bangladesh. The country needs further research and studies to precisely delimit the areas affected by, or vulnerable to land degradation. There are inadequate statistics on how much area is annually brought under shifting cultivation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Statistics on loss of forestlands in Madhupur, Barind and Piedmont plains for agriculture, and other uses are also insufficient. There are few studies on the wastelands created by abandoned brick fields, and associated abandoned roads, but a good amount of land once regarded as good agricultural land has now turned unproductive. Statistics on irrigated area and uses of different pesticides are available, but studies on the extent of land degradation are lacking. The information is insufficient to make a comprehensive nationwide assessment on land degradation. However, a number of case studies are available, which do give an idea of the condition of land and the state of land degradation. A few of these examples are described below.

There are two main barriers to SLM in the country include i) High population pressure on land and the ii) Absence of a revised national land use policy which properly mainstream SLM practices in production landscapes.

A.1.2 The baseline scenario and associated projects

The Government of Bangladesh has developed recently key national development policies which place environment protection in general and fighting land degradation in particular as key pillars. These policies documents include, Bangladesh vision 2021 in its goal 7: to be environmentally sustainable; 6th Five Year Plan (FY2011 - FY2015): Strategy 7.11: Environment Sustainability and National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS , May 2013). Prior to these strategic documents, the country is implementing some project which are important baseline for this project. These include:

- Barind Rainwater Conservation and irrigation Project (phase – II) Barind Rainwater Conservation and irrigation Project (phase – II). Water resources mobilisation to mitigate drought. This project provides mean of lesson learning in addressing land degradation with the water resources mobilisation point of view.
- Community Based Adaptation in the Ecologically Critical Areas through Biodiversity Conservation and Social Protection Project. Addressing land degradation through adoption of

some SLM technologies. The project will be important for the current GEF MSP as it will provide opportunity during the land degradation and land use profile of the country, to understand the role and impacts of activities conducted by the project in fighting land degradation.

- Enhancing Food Security through improved crop water management practices in the Southern Coastal areas of Bangladesh. One of the key issues related to land degradation in the country is the decrease soil fertility and consequent decrease of food production. This initiative will be important for the project in addressing soil fertility issue in the framework of land degradation and related policies review and capacity building activities to be developed and implemented.

A.1.3 The proposed alternative scenario, components of the project and expected outcomes

According the Bangladesh Six Five Year Plan (2011 – 2015), the main goal of the government's land use policy and management is to ensure best possible use of land resources and delivery of land related services to the people through modernized and efficient land administration for sustainable development with accelerated poverty reduction. Ministry of Land has already undertaken projects to conduct digital surveys and introduce e-governance. Land records will be computerized and land mutation will be made automatic. The Government intends to modify and simplify all land-related laws, which is expected to remove many of the land related disputes. Planned use of land according to Land Zoning Maps prepared on the basis of present and potential land uses will be ensured through enforcement of the provisions of relevant laws.

Furthermore, the recently approved National Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2013), recognize the acceleration of land zoning process including formulation of necessary laws and acts as the top strategic priority in area of land degradation. The strategy also, recognized the need to motivate farmers to use recommended/balanced doses of chemical fertilizers, extensive production and use of organic fertilizer, and proper utilization of soil guide and soil testing facilities to enhance soil fertility. The present project is therefore a contribution toward these national targets. The project objective to establish knowledge base and enabling policy and institutional environment for SLM consideration in the country development agenda. The project will achieve this objective through the following components and outputs.

Component 1: Land use and land degradation profile. Through this component, the project will support the national stakeholders to have adequate information and data for good decision making.
Outcome 1: Increased understanding of land use and land degradation in the country

2.1. National land use map developed
2.2. Land Degradation profile established
2.3. National roadmap to address SLM developed and validated at national level

Component 2: SLM mainstreaming. The project will support policy review to address the challenges related to land use identified in component 1, the stakeholders will be capacitated to consider SLM in productions sectors.
Outcome 1: Capable national institution and stakeholders in favor SLM practices

2.1. National policy including (Including Land Use Policy 2001) and institutional framework to mainstream SLM in production sectors (in line with output 1.3 implementation), revised
2.2. SLM practices developed and disseminated by relevant stakeholders and networks at national level
2.3. Training and awareness raising programmes for SLM adoption and dissemination developed and implemented at national and local levels

Component 3: SLM monitoring. The long term sustainability of project outcome will be through the monitoring and evaluation of the policies and SLM mainstreaming impacts.
Outcome 3: Adequate SLM monitoring and evaluation

2.1. DLDD monitoring indicators developed and a monitoring and evaluation system of SLM impacts established
2.2. Project M&E

A.1.4 Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and Co-financing

Without GEF: According to the Bangladesh: State of the Environment (2001) a comprehensive study at the country level on land degradation, covering all its aspects ranging from the physical to economic, is absent. However, it is clear that the quality of land has deteriorated, and its impacts are visible. Over the last decade, crop yield has declined due to deterioration of physical and chemical properties of land and soil. It would be useful to establish a baseline survey on which future monitoring and assessment of further deterioration or improvement could be based. The country has a number of policies to deal with land degradation, but with limited implementation. The existing policies must be implemented, and a number of new activities should be undertaken in the immediate future to address land degradation. Research and its extension to practice are the most important steps that should start without delay.

The GEF alternative: The GEF support through this project will help the country to bridge the gaps of conducting the baseline study to understand the land use and land degradation at the national level. The baseline study will help to develop the land use map, the land degradation profile and key recommendations which will lead to policy and institutional review and the capacity and awareness raising programmes for the national stakeholders.

A.1.5 Global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The project will help to developed harmonized and coordinated land use policies which will be based on the findings from the land use and land degradation profile. The project will also support capacity building and awareness raising for building capable institutions and stakeholders to deal with SLM in the country. The ultimate impacts will be the generation of agro ecosystems services and reduce the vulnerability of the ecosystems and land resources to the human pressure resulting from unsustainable land use and practices.

A.1.6 Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The most important innovation this project is bringing is the fact that contrary to usual practice of addressing policies and institutional review related to the SLM, the project will first help understanding of land use and land degradation in the country before giving key directions toward any institutional review and capacity building. The project in its nature, but its outcomes will create basis for long term sustainable land management as it is link to land use and production systems in the counry. The institutional and individual capacity building including for monitoring land degradation and impacts of interventions and awareness raising and removal of policy and /or administrative barrier is another issue of the project sustainability but also will open avenue of scaling up of SLM technologies through the lessons learning process.

A.2. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation:

The key stakeholders of the project and how they will contribute to the project is summarised in the following table. However, a more elaborate stakeholder's participation plan will be submitted at CEO endorsement.

Name of the Stakeholder	Mandate of the stakeholder	What will be the role in the project

Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI)	Development of soil resource.	Collaborative role. Also they will implement activities related to certain outputs of the project particularly monitoring of SLM.
Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE)	Development of agriculture sector	Collaborative role. Also they will implement activities related to soil fertility improvement and they will benefit from the capacity building activities
Barind Multi-purpose Development Authority (BMDA)	Overall development of Barind Tract (the driest part of the country)	Collaborative role. Also they will implement to certain outputs of the project particularly monitoring of SLM.
Ministry of Land (MoL)	Policy formulation and land administration.	Will Play functional role in revision and up gradation of Land Use Policy 2001. Will be an active partner in the project steering. They will benefit from the project outputs related to the Land Use profile and recommendation for policy review.
NGO, Local community, Research/academic institution		Partners in implementation of the activities including awareness raising at local and sites levels
Planning Commission and DoE	Monitor and evaluate the progress of implementation of NSDS	Partner in monitoring the contribution of the project to the NSDS.

A.3 Risk. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable):

Risk Statement	Risk Level	Likelihood of Occurrence	Mitigation measures
Conflict of interests in terms of resource use e.g. fisheries and irrigation at field level	Medium	30%	This will be resolved by involving local leaders and administration in project activities
The possibly slow pace of achieving the conditions needed at the divisional and district levels in terms of a conducive environment for up-scaling SLM practices	Low	20%	The project's component 2 will be addressing this. It will vigorously work with divisional stakeholders for institutionalizing a comprehensive decision support and monitoring system that will guide and catalyze implementation of sustainable land and natural resource management practices and approaches. It will facilitate inter- divisional communication through focal persons and also support the generation of comprehensive, integrated, and legally enforceable land use plans. The multi-

			tiered trainingprogramme will aim to maximize human resources for SLM.
Climatic factors may affect upscaling SLM based activities in project areas and cause some emergencies which may change Government priorities	Medium	30%	The project strategy emphasizes development of know-how for dealing with climate change risks through the design and implementation of decision support system that considers climate change and by integrating climate change concerns and adaptation issues into the formulation and implementation of SLM interventions.
Political unrest may hamper project implementation	Low to medium	10%	The involvement of CSO and research organisations in the project as key executing partners will be an option to implement project activities.

A.4. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives:

The current project will coordonate and draw upon and build on experience gained from implementation of a variety of projects being implemented by line ministries/departments in different agro-ecosystems, particularly in the target areas as described below:

Barind Multi-purpose Development Authority: The Development priorities of the Barind Area particularly concerning the development of Agriculture include :-a) Augmentation of surface water resources and its use b) Increasing irrigation facilities by using underground water through Deep Tube Wells c) Formulate and implement command area development project for creating water supply system for irrigation and development of irrigation d) Insure electrification of irrigation equipment and agro-based industries in the area e) Re-excavation of ponds/Khal for psciculture development and for Irrigation f) Afforestation to achieve environmental and ecological balance g) Improving road communication by construction/Re-construction of feeder Roads h) Crop diversification by using Deep Tubewells, Shallow Tubewells and other pumps. This organization has successfully completed 27 projects to combat desertification and land degradation and another 7 projects is running in Barid region. The lessons related to completed and ongoing project, participatory resource planning, institution building and forging community level agreements on resource sharing and management will be useful for the current project.

National Drought Monitoring System: The main objectives of this study is to develop national system for monitoring drought in Bangladesh based on remote sensing and GIS and conduct research work for further development of the national systems. The project work will contribute to develop and put into operation a Drought Monitoring System to be operated by Space Research Remote Sensing Organization (SPARSO). The current project will draw lessons and coordinate with this project on GIS based district level land use plan and village land management plans that meet SLM and other standards.

Afforestation in the Northern Region: Overall Objective of the project is to check desertification in the Northern zone through development of sustainable source of surface water and plant biodiversity and specific objectives are 1. to create numbers of surface water reservoir using degraded water bodies to promote sustainable utilization for facilitating irrigation, domestic use, fish cultivation etc. 2. to increase tree cover for biodiversity conservation and wildlife habitat restoration, supply of raw materials, contribute to the local energy needs etc. 3. to create sustainable employment generation for the poor women, landless population, destitute, under privileged young generation etc. The current

project will draw lessons at the community level on engaging local communities on sustainable natural resource management and will also ensure sharing of experiences with the national team on various best practices and approaches that the project will implement including the local SLM funds and village land use plans.

In addition, the project will also establish working linkages and coordinate with projects and programs funded by other international donors. These include:

UNEP/GEF /LDCF: Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the Drought-prone Barind Tract and Haor "Wetland" Area. Objective: To reduce the vulnerability of communities to climate change impacts in the Barind Tract and Haor Area using Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA).

FAO/GEF: Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling up of Sustainable Land Management Objective: To improve the capability and the decision making of Countries and Regions engaged in the Mainstreaming and Scaling Up of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to Combat Land Degradation, as well as to enhance Food Security, mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change, and preservation of Biodiversity

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

The current project is contributing the major recent national policy and therefore is directly linked to the implementation of the major national agenda. More specifically, the project contribute to the fulfillment of the following national legal and policies frameworks:

- National Constitution: Article 18 A: Protection and Improvement of Environment and Biodiversity, in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, proclaims "The state shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forest and wildlife for the present and future citizens".
- Bangladesh vision of 2021. Particularly Goal 7: to be environmentally sustainable
- 6th Five Year Plan (FY2011 - FY2015): Strategy 7.11: Environment Sustainability
- National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS , May 2013): The NSDS has addressed mainstreaming sustainable development challenges across sectors and integrate economic, social and environmental objectives across sectors. It also includes mechanism for monitoring implementation progress and institutional mechanism for people's participation. One of the NSDS strategic priority is Environment, Natural Resource and Disaster Management: Primary objective of this strategic priority area is to ensure environmental protection for humans, ecosystems and resources which will support conservation, augmentation and efficient utilization of natural resources. It covers land, forest, water, biodiversity, and pollution control as well as climate change as one of the most important issue. It appears that without addressing climate change overall sustainable development cannot be achieved
- The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994, ratified in 1996 and upholds its obligations, including commitments to implement the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD. The project is designed to implement specific measures to combat land degradation identified in the NAP (currently undfer review to align it to the UNCCD 10 years Strategy), including the adoption of integrated and participatory approaches to SLM.
- The concern about environmental issues reflected in different other policy initiatives taken by

the government of Bangladesh. These major policy initiatives, strategies and plans emphasized environment and natural resources management to achieve sustainable development. The National Environment Policy 1992, National Forest Policy 1994, National Water Policy 1999, National Agriculture Policy 1999, National Land Use Policy, 2001 all aimed to ensure development in harmony with the natural environment. National Agriculture Policy highlights the problem of land degradation in the country and recognizes SLM as a viable means for addressing DLDD problems. The National Environment Policy in 1992 sets out the basic framework for environmental action together with a set of broad sectoral action programmes with the prime objective to maintain ecological balance and overall development of the country through conservation and improvement of environment.The National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP) 1995 is the major policy document that recognized links between environmental degradation, poverty, and population growth. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2005 put due priority on the conservation of degraded ecosystems. Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2009 built on six pillars to achieve vision 21 of eradicating poverty and achieving economic and social well being for all the people. The first pillar is "Food security, social protection and health" to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable in society , including women and children are protected from climate change and that all the programmes focus on the needs of this group for food security, safe housing, employment and access to basic services including health. National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) 2009 provided Strategic Natural Resources Management as an Adaptation Response to sustainable land and water management. Biodiversity National Assessment and Programme of Action 2020 stresses the need to take measures to protect and conserve country's forest resources and biodiversity to safeguard food and livelihood security.

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

The project will contribute to the GEF 5 LD strategic objective 3: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land use in the wider landscape. The project will contribute to this objective through the Land Use Map (project output 1.1) , Land Degradation Profile (project output 1.2), Roadmap to address SLM issues (output 1.3) , Policy review (project output 2.1) and DLDD Monitoring indicators and System (project output 3.3), all these will contribute to outcome 3.1 and Output 3.1 of LD-3 strategic objective. Furthermore, the project will help dissemination of good SLM practices (project output 2.2) and support training and awareness raising, therefore contributing to the Output 3.4 of the LD-3 Strategy.

B.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project:

Within the framework of its medium-term strategy, UNEP will continue to focus its efforts during the biennium 2013-2014 on the six cross-cutting thematic priorities, namely climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, harmful substances and hazardous waste, and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production. This GEF project is in line with the UNEP Programme of Work, especially Ecosystem Management Sub-Programme (EMSP): In Expected Accomplishment (EA) (a) "Use of the ecosystem approach in countries to maintain ecosystem services and sustainable productivity of terrestrial and aquatic systems is increased"; b) "Use of ecosystem management approaches in countries to sustain ecosystem services from coastal and marine systems is increased" and c) "Services and benefits derived from ecosystems are integrated with development planning and accounting, particularly in relation to wider landscapes and coastal zones and the implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs. It will also contribute to the_sub-programme 6: Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.
Furthermore, 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, sub-regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and 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.

The project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalyzing 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. 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 programs.

UNEP has history of working with national authorities in Bangladesh and in the region on UN conventions, projects and activities. UNEP has supported the country to develop its National Sustainable Development Strategy adopted in 2013. On land degradation, UNEP is currently.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*
Md Shafiqur Rahman Patwari	Secretary GEF OFP	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	**05/07/2013**

B. **GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	**Signature**	**DATE**	**Project Contact Person**	**Telephone**	**Email**
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