



# REQUEST FOR LAND DEGRADATION ENABLING ACTIVITY

## PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE GEF TRUST FUND

### PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

EA Title:	<b>Support NAP Alignment and UNCCD Reporting in the Republic of Belarus</b>		
Country(ies):	Belarus	GEF Project ID:	t.b.d.
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5109
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment of Belarus	Submission Date:	14 August 2012
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	24
Check if applicable:	NCSA <input type="checkbox"/> NAPA <input type="checkbox"/>	Agency Fee (\$):	USD 13,636

### **A. EA FRAMEWORK**

**EA Objective:** To integrate Belarus' obligations under UNCCD into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks and align its NAP in a manner that is in line with UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and UNCCD reporting and review process

EA Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Co-financing (\$)
1. NAP alignment	TA	1.1 Policy and planning tools assessed and awareness of NAP raised	1.1.1 Rapid stocktaking concluding with a report summarizing current NAP-relevant policies and plans; 1.1.2 Priorities for NAP alignment identified;	55,000	45,000
		1.2 Human and scientific capacity for NAP alignment strengthened.	1.2.1. A set of indicators developed for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national context 1.2.2. LD data users and decision makers trained in use of indicators, monitoring and data gathering for NAP alignment; 1.2.3. A harmonized biophysical and socio-economic baseline and drought warning system established; 1.2.4. LD observation sites identified and a monitoring and vulnerability assessment network established and data fed into a national LD knowledge management system, including relevant local / traditional knowledge.		
		1.3. Policy and institutional framework for NAP alignment and implementation strengthened	1.3.1. National coordination structures strengthened for NAP alignment. 1.3.2. National Cross-sectoral council strengthened and capacitated for NAP alignment (this is an existing mechanism which includes representatives of key sectors). 1.3.3. NAP review completed to identify and establish priorities in the context of development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations, paving the way for mainstreaming NAP priorities into relevant sectoral policies.		
		1.4. The finance and technology framework for NAP implementation established	1.4.1 Financial resources available for NAP implementation analyzed and an Integrated Financial Strategy and the Integrated Investment Framework for NAP implementation developed. NAP updated to accommodate priorities, including national targets for investment 1.4.2. Technology that will be applied in NAP alignment identified and technology transfer needs for NAP implementation identified.		
2. UNCCD Reporting and Review process	TA	2.1. Human and scientific capacity for implementation of indicator-based monitoring and assessment for the reporting strengthened	2.1.1. Application of methodologies for indicator-based reporting started in compliance with the reporting requirements of the UNCCD, with relevant national stakeholders trained in the reporting methodologies, procedures and tools. 2.1.2. UNCCD report preparation process streamlined: (a) data collection and review protocols and processes established and maintained; (b) data quality insurance systems before report submission is put in place; (c) liaison with Reference Centers (Helpdesk) for acquiring further knowledge and know-how on UNCCD reporting undertaken.	70,364	290,000

EA Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Co-financing (\$)
		2.2. Reports for the second leg of the fourth reporting and review process prepared	2.2.1. Stakeholder consultations on the launch of the reporting process (covering topics such as: impact assessment, performance review, best practices and financial flows) 2.2.2. The report elaborated and endorsed via a national validation workshop 2.2.3. The report submitted through the PRAIS portal in line with UNCCD requirements.		
		2.3. Enhancing National ownership over the reporting process ensured	2.3.1 A compendium of best practices in combating LD, linking to national development priorities of Belarus, prepared as a tool to support the preparation of UNCCD reports, and widely shared with stakeholders; 2.3.2. Capacities of national UNCCD Focal Point and relevant scientific institutions built to maintain the system for long-term LD monitoring and data management.		
Subtotal				125,364	335,000
EA Management Cost <sup>1</sup>				11,000	35,000
<b>Total EA Cost</b>				<b>136,364</b>	<b>370,000</b>

<sup>a</sup> List the \$ by EA components.

#### B. CO-FINANCING FOR THE EA BY SOURCE AND BY NAME

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Environment	Grant	350,000
National Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	10,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	10,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>370,000</b>

#### C. GRANT RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	EA Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total (c)=(a)+(b)
UNDP	GEF TF	Land Degradation Set Aside	Global	136,364	13,636	150,000
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				<b>136,364</b>	<b>13,636</b>	<b>150,000</b>

#### D. EA MANAGEMENT COST

Cost Items	[GEF only] Total Estimated Person Weeks/Months	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)	EA Total (\$)
Local consultants*	20	9,000	30,500	39,500
International consultants*	0	0	-	-
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications*			4,500	4,500
Travel*				
Others - Audit		Audit 2,000		2,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>

\* Details to be provided in Annex A.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TABLE D, IF APPLICABLE:

If costs for office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications, travels are requesting for GEF financing, please provide justification here:

No such costs are requested from GEF. Further information on the cost breakdown is found in the Total Budget and Work Plan in the attachment.

<sup>1</sup> This is the cost associated with the unit executing the project on the ground and could be financed out of trust fund or co-financing sources.

## **PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION**

**A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT** (Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved):

Belarus is a Party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) since 27 November 2001, under the Presidential Decree No. 393 of 17 July 2001. Belarus belongs to the group of countries under Annex V for CEE. Development and implementation of national action plans to combat desertification and land degradation is a key commitment of each country Party to the UNCCD. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (Ministry of Environment) is the national coordinating body responsible for implementation of the UNCCD objectives in Belarus. Consistent with the national commitments the Ministry of Environment prepared and submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat national reports of the Republic of Belarus on progress in implementing the Convention in 2002, in 2006 and 2010

(<http://www.unccd.int/cop/reports/centraleu/national/2002/belarus-rus.pdf>,

(<http://www.unccd.int/cop/reports/centraleu/national/2006/belarus-rus.pdf>), (PRAIS system). A national Inter-sectoral Council has been established under the Ministry of Environment to coordinate national activity towards implementing the UNCCD. The Council includes representatives of the relevant national government bodies, researchers, land users, and civil society organizations.

The main factors causing land degradation in Belarus include water and wind erosion, radioactive and chemical contamination, decrease in fertility of agricultural lands, and degradation of ameliorated peat-bog soils due to unsustainable land use practices. Most activities on protection of lands/soils and prevention of land/soil degradation are carried out in the framework of national and sectoral programmes, coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, state committee on Republic Belarus property, and Ministry of Forestry. These programmes envisage a wide range of measures to increase soil fertility, water management, mitigate negative effects of degradation and elaborate actions focusing on combating land degradation.

A UNDP/GEF project in 2003 – 2005 supported the national capacity self-assessment, including the capacity to implement the UNCCD. The self-assessment addressed compliance of the national strategies, programmes, plans and the legal framework with the provisions of the Convention, the capabilities of the key stakeholders, and the financial mechanisms for ensuring sustainable land use. Two cycles of mid-term planning for all national programs (2006-2010 and 2011-2015) have been implemented. With the support of the European Union and UNDP, Belarus implemented in 2009 – 2010 the project titled “National Capacity Building for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Implementation of Environmental Conventions in the Republic of Belarus”. One of the outcomes of the project included the National Strategy on Implementing the UNCCD, supported by the National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation for 2011 – 2015. All of the above documents have been supported by the relevant government agencies, the local authorities and stakeholders and were approved by a resolution of the Ministry of Environment extended meeting (No. 8-P of 28.01.2011).

Despite the progress made, national and sectoral strategies and programmes, managed by the above mentioned Ministries and focusing on protection and rational use of land resources, require significant improvements in order to bring them in conformity with the latest UNCCD guidance. To make this happen, there is a need for enhanced coordination of efforts by different ministries, agencies, scientific and planning organizations, local governments, and land users aimed at combating land degradation. Without this, the decision-making process in land protection will remain ineffective. This project aims at bringing the LD policies and practices in Belarus into conformity with the UNCCD obligations. In line with template structure and guidance, further justification is provided in Sub-section B.

**Proposed Response and Rationale:** The proposed EA project aims to respond directly to the UNCCD COP decisions, i.e. decision 3/COP8 while adopting 10-year strategic plan (the Strategy) urges and recognizes “the need for country parties to align their NAPs” and decision 2/COP9 regarding “alignment of the action programmes with the Strategy” calls upon the “affected country parties and other relevant stakeholders to use NAP alignment guidelines as a reference tool for aligning NAPs and other relevant implementation activities with the 5 operational objectives of the Strategy”.

The project is also in line with the decision 11/COP10 which Urges Parties to access the GEF funding for enabling activities (including NAP alignment and reporting/review process) to meet their obligations under the UNCCD, either (a) through a GEF agency, (b) via direct access or (c) under an umbrella project. This proposal is for securing GEF funding under the Land Degradation EA “through a GEF agency” for aligning Belarus’ NAP and improving reporting and review processes.

**Alignment with Focal Area Outcome(s):**

**LD4 Objective:** Adaptive Management and Learning: Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM/SFM/INRM by GEF and UNCCD

Parties

**Focal Area Outcome 4.1:** Outcome 4.1: Increased capacities of countries to fulfill obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD.

If approved, the project will be implemented through UNDP. UNDP Belarus is well-positioned and well-equipped to implement the ambitious goals that are set forth in the CPD and UNDAF strategic plans given its vast experience not only with grass-roots interventions that UNDP has accumulated over the past few years in Belarus, but also from its experience in the region and in the world including. The UNDP Belarus possesses internal capacities and proven experience to successfully implement projects covering 7 different thematic areas and having a possibility to engage the best national expertise.

**B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES** (The proposal should briefly justify the need for the project.)

The objective of the project is to **integrate Belarus' obligations under UNCCD into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks and align its NAP in a manner that is in line with UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and UNCCD reporting and review process.**

Over the last decades the UNCCD has undertaken a major reform process aimed at making the UNCCD process more efficient, transparent, 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.

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>2</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.

Against this background, the project responds to the specific calls made by the committee for the Review of the Implementation of the convention (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 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 programmes with The Strategy" which call for:

- 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;
- The Secretariat to facilitate provision of technical assistance to affected country Parties for review, alignment and/or revision of NAPs;
- GM/Secretariat, in accordance with their mandates, to financially assist affected country Parties to develop integrated investment frameworks to foster resource mobilization for NAP alignment ;
- Developed country Parties and financial institutions to assist with funding to eligible country Parties for review, alignment and revision of NAPs<sup>3</sup>.

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

<sup>2</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.

<sup>3</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

Global Mechanism (GM) to seek assistance from bilateral donors, relevant international organizations and financial institutions, with particular regard to the Global Environment Facility. At their recent ninth and tenth meetings the CRIC<sup>4</sup> and its tenth meetings of COP 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. The project aims at assisting Republic of Belarus in aligning its NAP 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 impact 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.

The GEF project will help build national capacities and, specifically, capacities of the UNCCD National Focal Point team, to establish contacts, share experience and elaborate trans-boundary and sub-regional cooperation projects through their participation in visits abroad, working visit to the UNCCD Secretariat. The project will also build national expertise through participation in trainings on the development of the National report on the UNCCD implementation, workshops on NAP alignment.

The initiative will be implemented in the national execution modality. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in the Republic of Belarus will act as the national executing partner and will implement the project in collaboration and consultation with relevant subdivisions and ministries. To achieve the aforementioned project outputs, UNDP will ensure necessary support and conditions for the implementation of the project by the national executing partner. The Executing Entity will closely cooperate with UNDP to ensure that all the project activities are planned and implemented in a manner appropriate to the project's goals and objectives.

As a result of the project activities, awareness of people including indigenous people on the issues of land degradation and the progress of the country on its way to the aligning of the NAP with the UNCCD strategy will be raised. A Compendium on land degradation processes technologies will be designed and will serve as a tool to support the reporting process, but also to raise awareness of stakeholders. A knowledge management system on UNCCD implementation in Belarus will be created which will improve monitoring, reporting and public awareness of the issues of land degradation.

**C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION** (discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A ).

**Note:** In line with advice, received by the UNCCD Focal Point from the GEF Secretariat and UNDP, the Outcome/Output/Activity structure was constructed using the outcome/output/activity matrix proposed under the Direct Execution modality, but adjusted in line with country priorities and context and UNDP approach to EA development. Below is a detailed Description of Activities per Project Component.

**Component 1. NAP alignment**

**Key Outcomes, Outputs and associated activities, expected under this component includes the following:**

**Outcome 1.1:** Policy and planning tools assessed and awareness of NAP raised.

This Outcome will achieved by means of the following outputs:

Output 1.1.1 Rapid stocktaking concluding with a report summarizing current NAP-relevant policies and plans.

The stocktaking and assessment of national strategic documents, which have relevance to combat land degradation, will be carried out in the first phase of the project. A connection will be established with fundamental programmes of social and economic development of the Republic of Belarus and a corresponding report will be prepared.

Output 1.1.2 Priorities for NAP alignment identified.

Further to the stocktaking exercise, a review will be prepared on the first years of implementation of the National strategy for UNCCD the NAP. Based on these, priorities for re-alignment of NAP with UNCCD COP guidance will be elaborated. It is planned to involve a national and an international experts to elaborate priorities for NAP alignment

**Outcome 1.2:** Human and scientific capacity for NAP alignment strengthened.

<sup>4</sup> ICDD/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>

Output 1.2.1. A set of indicators developed for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national context

Existing national LD indicators will be scrutinized to assess their appropriateness for reporting in the context of the re-aligned NAP and UNCCD 10-year Strategy, and a new/adjusted system of indicators will be put in place and harmonized across other environmental, social and economic reporting instruments relevant for land use and protection Reports and suggestions will be prepared on correspondence of the existing national data in the context of the requirements for NAP aligning with, including the system of indicators and establishing harmonized basic levels for them. Cooperation with UNCCD Reference Centers on this issue will be established. In order to reconcile indicators across the borders with other countries in the UNCCD Group, an exchange of experience between UNCCD National Focal Point team and LD experts is envisaged, involving UNCCD teams and experts from Ukraine and Armenia, as well as participation of Belarus experts in the work of regional meeting of CEE countries on the road to CRIC 11.

Output 1.2.2. LD data users and decision makers trained in use of indicators, monitoring and data gathering for NAP alignment; As a training mechanism for the application of adjusted land degradation biophysical and social-economic indicators, a series of short field seminars (i.e. organized in areas prone or currently experiencing degradation issues) will be organized for a wide range of national, regional and local stakeholders.

Output 1.2.3. A harmonized biophysical and socio-economic baseline and drought warning system established; Harmonized baseline levels will be established using the indicators elaborated under Output 1.2.1, upon corresponding training of data users and decision makers under Output 1.2.2.

Output 1.2.4. LD observation sites identified and a monitoring and vulnerability assessment network established and data fed into a national LD knowledge management system, including relevant local / traditional knowledge.

Once the LD indicators are clarified, analysis of the existing system of sites to observe and monitor different types of land degradation using those indicators and in accordance with the objectives of the 10-year UNCCD Strategy will be carried out. Suggestions on their optimization will be elaborated. An electronic data information system on the UNCCD implementation in Belarus will be set up. It will include a knowledge management block, inter alia traditional knowledge. Among other purposes, this will provide for accurate and timely collection and analysis of quality information and its regular update for the purpose of NAP alignment and subsequent National reports' preparation.

**Outcome 1.3:** Policy and institutional framework for NAP alignment and implementation strengthened.

Outputs 1.3.1. National coordination structures strengthened for NAP alignment.

A visit of UNCCD FP and leading LD experts to the UNCCD Secretariat will be organized to hold consultations on the elaboration of appropriate indicators, receive training in development of regional cooperation in this regard and NAP alignment and implementation.

Output 1.3.2. National Cross-sectoral council strengthened and capacitated for NAP alignment (this is an existing mechanism which includes representatives of key sectors).

The composition of the existing National Inter-sectoral council on the UNCCD implementation functioning under the National coordination body (Ministry of Environment) will be reconsidered with the view to broaden the scope of stakeholders. Targeted short training sessions will be organized for the Council on the NAP re-alignment process and mechanisms for mainstreaming of LD concerns into economic sectors.

Output 1.3.3. NAP review completed to identify and establish priorities in the context of development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations, paving the way for mainstreaming NAP priorities into relevant sectoral policies.

A report will be prepared on the structure and contents of NAP with the view of its correspondence with the perspective sectoral development plans, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, water use and mining. The draft NAP will further be re-aligned with existing strategies and programmes on poverty reduction, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. On this basis, policy recommendations for the adjustment of sectoral programs and strategies will be designed and submitted to Government for approval.

**Outcome 1.4:** The finance and technology framework for NAP implementation established:

Output 1.4.1 Financial resources available for NAP implementation analyzed and an Integrated Financial Strategy and the Integrated Investment Framework for NAP implementation developed. NAP updated to accommodate priorities, including national targets for investment

A national consultant will review the current picture with respect to financing available for NAP and will develop proposals for improvement of the financing. These will be discussed at a stakeholder workshop. A draft of Integrated Financial Strategy and Integrated Investment System will be elaborated. The corresponding NAP sections will be updated.

Output 1.4.2 Technology that will be applied in NAP alignment identified and technology transfer needs for NAP implementation

identified.

A consultant, working with Team Leader, and in consultations with UNCCD Secretariat, will identify technology transfer needs and prepare recommendations that will be reflected correspondingly in the updated NAP.

## **Component 2. Reporting and Review process**

**Outcome 2.1:** Human and scientific capacity for implementation of indicator-based monitoring and assessment for the reporting strengthened

Output 2.1.1. Application of methodologies for indicator-based reporting started in compliance with the reporting requirements of the UNCCD, with relevant national stakeholders trained in the reporting methodologies, procedures and tools.

A series of training will be held in the second half of the project, once the LD Information System (Output 1.2.4) has been run for some time and basic data on LD fed into it. This time the trainings will concentrate on using the data appropriately to prepare the UNCCD reports. Guidance and methodologies for the use of data for UNCCD reporting will be developed before the training and applied during and after the trainings.

Output 2.1.2. UNCCD report preparation process streamlined:

Based on the first experience of using the LD Information system for UNCCD reporting, the national experts will analyze the experience. The data collection and review protocols and processes will be revised and maintained as such for the future. The data quality insurance systems before report submission will be put in place. In this process, the key role is delegated to liaison with Reference Centers (Helpdesk) for acquiring further knowledge and know-how on UNCCD reporting undertaken.

**Outcome 2.2:** Reports for the second leg of the fourth reporting and review process prepared

Output 2.2.1. Stakeholder consultations on the launch of the reporting process (covering topics such as: impact assessment, performance review, best practices and financial flows)

A series of local stakeholder consultations on the impact indicators, efficiency, examples of best practices and evaluation of financial resources for preparation of National Report will be held. An International expert experienced in the second leg of the fourth reporting process under UNCCD will be involved.

Output 2.2.2. The report elaborated and endorsed via a national validation workshop

Two workshops will be held with the involvement of the stakeholders on the reporting process (launching and validation): the participants will consider the approaches and the draft National report, prepared by the experts.

Output 2.2.3. The report submitted through the PRAIS portal in line with UNCCD requirements.

Based on the results of the stakeholder consultations and validation workshop, the national experts will finalize the report. Once endorsed by the Government, it will be submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat via the PRAIS system

**Outcome 2.3:** Enhancing National ownership over the reporting process ensured

Output 2.3.1 A compendium of best practices in combating LD, linking to national development priorities of Belarus, prepared as a tool to support the preparation of UNCCD reports, and widely shared with stakeholders;

Such compendium will depict LD issues and present approaches and standards for tackling them. It will serve as a key technical guidance for sectors, Governments, as well as operators of the LD Information System, when preparing reports to UNCCD and updating NAP.

Output 2.3.2. Capacities of national UNCCD Focal Point and relevant scientific institutions built to maintain the system for long-term LD monitoring and data management.

A set of recommendations for improvement of the UNCCD Focal Point and his team will be designed with a view to the improve land protection planning and implementation (in policies and in practice), as well as for mainstreaming LD concerns into sectors and regional programmes, now that the NAP and UNCCD reporting process is going to operate with new / updated biophysical and economic indicators and will be based on the LD Information System.

## **Project consistency with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments relevant for the UNCCD, as well as other cross-cutting assessments and priority setting exercises**

At a national level, the key strategies, policies and plans that are relevant for Republic of Belarus Enabling Activity Proposal are:

- In 1997, as a pioneer among CIS countries, Belarus adopted a *National Sustainable Development Strategy* that further evolved into the *National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Belarus until 2020 (NSSD-2020)*<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> The National Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Strategy for the period till 2020 of the Republic of Belarus (NSSD-2020), was adopted by the Council of Ministers in June 2004.

The NSSD-2020 recognizes the importance of improvement of mechanisms of integration of environmental concerns into policy and planning processes among the conditions for country's transition to sustainable development.

- *Environmental Strategy of the Republic of Belarus till 2025* defines the main principles and directions of Environmental policy implementation in the country;
- *National Action Plan on land degradation for 2011 – 2015* includes activities on land conservation and rational land use including activities on the improvements of the legal framework, institutional fundamentals and economic mechanisms, technological processes, information support etc

This project is a follow-on to the existing NAP, and it is consistent with it. It will be guided by priorities in *National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Belarus until 2020*, *Environmental Strategy of the Republic of Belarus till 2025*, *National Action Plan on land degradation for 2011 – 2015*. The project builds on previous biodiversity planning and UNCCD reporting processes. It also builds on the conclusions from previous capacity assessments, taking these one step further.

### **Collaboration and synergies with related initiatives**

UNDP has a large and active GEF *to combat land degradation* portfolio in Belarus. The project manager, the host initiations and the UNDP Country Office will ensure that this project projects can benefit from technical synergies. These synergies will be created primarily with the following projects:

- "*Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into Territorial Planning Policies and Practices*", which will enable regulatory, policy and institutional framework for land-use planning that reflects biodiversity considerations outside protected areas and develop models for development and enforcement of biodiversity-compatible land-use plans at the district levels (2010 – 2014);
- "*Landscape approach to management of peatlands aiming at multiple ecological benefits*" planned for 60 months which will be launched soon;
- *Small Grants Program*, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which provides opportunities for NGOs and local communities to address environmental issues and contribute to improvement of their local living conditions;
- "*Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental cooperation in the Republic of Belarus*" (2011 – 2013) which aims to extend capacity of the Republic of Belarus in strategic planning and governance in the field of environment and environmental information;
- *Renaturalization and sustainable management of peatlands in Belarus to combat land degradation, ensure conservation of globally valuable biodiversity and mitigate climate change (2005 – 2010)*.

A number of other relevant initiatives could be mentioned but are not for the sake of brevity. Representatives and experts from the on-going relevant land degradation projects will be invited to NAP workshops and to participate, where relevant, in specific working groups. The aim is to ensure that the knowledge on land degradation that these projects have collected and are producing can be incorporated into the NAP, as well as the knowledge that project staff can bring to the discussion table based on their experience.

### **Project implementation arrangement**

The project will be implemented over a period of 2 years. The Ministry of Environment of Belarus (MoE of Belarus) is the government institution responsible for the implementation of the project and will act as the *Executing Agency*.

UNDP is the *GEF Agency* for the project and accountable to the GEF for the use of funds. The UNDP executes its activity in Belarus in accordance with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) signed in 1992 between the UNDP and the Government of Belarus. In December 2010 the Belarusian Government signed the 2011-2015 UNDAF which specifies five areas of cooperation between Belarus and the United Nations for 2011-2015, including assistance for ensuring environmental sustainability.

The overall responsibility for the project implementation by Ministry of Environment of Belarus implies the timely and verifiable attainment of project objectives and outcomes. Ministry of Environment of Belarus will provide support to, and inputs for, the implementation of all project activities.

Coordination of the project activities as well as representing and supporting the project objectives at high decision-making levels



will be the responsibility of the National Project Coordinator (NPC) who will be appointed by the Ministry of Environment. For effective and timely project implementation, a Project Manager will be hired.

Working closely with the by Ministry of Environment of Belarus, the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) will be responsible for: (i) providing project assurance services to government (ii) recruitment of project staff, if so requested by government, and the contracting of consultants and service providers, especially international; (iii) overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets approved by PSC; and (iv) ensuring that all activities including procurement and financial services are carried out in strict compliance with UNDP/GEF procedures. A UNDP staff member will be assigned with the responsibility for the day-to-day management and control over project finance.

*A National Project Steering Committee (PSC)* will be convened by the Ministry of Environment of Belarus, and will serve as the project's coordination and decision-making body (Project Board). The PSC will include representation of all the key project stakeholders. The PSC meetings will be chaired by the NPC. It will meet according the necessity, but not less than once in X months, to review project progress, approve project work plans and approve major project deliverables. The PSC is responsible for ensuring that the project remains on course to deliver products of the required quality to meet the outcomes defined in the project document.

The day-to-day administration of the project will be carried out by the Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator. The project staff will be recruited using the applicable recruitment procedures for the modality NIM. The Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator will manage the implementation of all project activities. He/She will liaise and work closely with all partner institutions to link the project with complementary national programs and initiatives. The Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator is accountable to the Ministry of Environment and UNDP, and the PSC for the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of the activities carried out, as well as for the use of funds. The Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator will also be technically supported by contracted national and international consultants.

### **Comparative advantage of UNDP in Belarus with respect to this project**

UNDP assisted Belarus in the preparation of its existing and its existing NAP and the National Report to the UNCCD. The Government of Belarus has requested UNDP assistance in designing and implementing this project, due to UNDP's track record in combat desertification. UNDP currently supports the development and implementation of GEF project in the area of concervation and sustainable management iof petlands. UNDP has an established national office in Minsk with well-developed working relationships with the key stakeholders of the project, uncluding the Minsitry of Environment.

The UNDP Belarus Country Office's structure includes a Programme Unit (9 people), Programme Support Unit (3 people), Finance Unit (3 people), Procurement Unit (3 people), HR Unit (2 people), and Logistics Unit. The UNDP Country Office's Environment & Energy Unit counts on 2 professionals who have experience in running GEF projects (and are currently supervising GEF financed projects). One of them has a MSdegree in Environmental Sciences and Policy from the Central European University. Specialists from the Finance and Programme Support have intensive expeceience in processing paymentst under GEF project, including budgeting and financial monitoring of GEF projects expenditures. The Procurement Unit has been procuring goods and servisies within GEF projects for more than 5 years; and the HR specialists have been recruiting and administrating national and international experts for GEF projects for several years. plus senior management, operations and support staff. UNDP also has extensive experience in integrated policy development, human resources development, institutional strengthening, and non-governmental and community participation.

### **Project's alignment with UNDP's programme for Belarus**

The current UNDAF (see above) specifies "assistance for ensuring environmental sustainability" as one of the five areas of cooperation between Belarus and the United Nations for 2011-2015. Among the main results the UNDAF country Outcome 3. "Environmental sustainability is increased" with agency Outcome 3.3. "Mechanisms for integration of environmental concerns into decision-making in Belarus are supported."

The UNDP Country Programme Document for 2011-2013 aims at achieving its Outcome 3.2: "Sustainable use of the country's natural resources promoted."

## Stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the project

The stakeholder involvement element is embedded in several activities within this proposal which will have a consultative and participatory character. A full stakeholder involvement plan will be developed in connection with the preparation of the UNDP Project Document that will operationalise this proposal at the level of UNDP, allowing Belarus to access the funding. This plan will depart from the following indicative and non-exhaustive list:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (the UNCCD Focal Point);
- Specialized Institutes of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (RSE «BelNIC «Ecology» and others);
- Ministry of Economics;
- Specialized Institutes of the Ministry of Economics (SSE «Research economic institute» and others);
- State committee on Republic Belarus property;
- Specialized Institutes of the State committee on Republic Belarus property (RSE «BelNICZem», RSE «Belgiprozem» and others);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Foods;
- Specialized Institutes of the Agriculture and Foods (SSE «Institute of agrarian economy» and others);
- Ministry of Finance;
- Ministry of Forestry;
- Specialized Institutes of the Ministry of Forestry (RSE «BelGOSLES» and others)
- Universities (Belarus state university, Belarus state agricultural academy and others);
- Research institutions and centres for sustainable land management («Soil science and agrochemistry institute» and others);
- Non-governmental organizations (Public association «Protection of birds of fatherland», «Belarus geographical society» and others);
- Women's groups («The Belarus female information-coordination centre» and others);
- Local land-users, farmers, and their associations;

The participation of NGOs and CSOs stakeholders in the implementation of this project will be ensured in every stage of it. NGOs and CSOs in Belarus are active in the environment arena. They play an important role with respect to sustainable land management. Many of them count on networks of stakeholders and have produced research data that can help enrich the products that this project will be concerned with. These advantages will be explored in full during project implementation.

## Gender marking

The project will apply a uniform **gender mainstreaming** approach throughout all the project activities implementation in line with the provisions below:

- \* Participants for trainings, workshops, study tours etc. will be selected with respect of existing gender composition in the corresponding target audience.
- \* Whenever possible, gender balance will be ensured, with the minimum ratio of 35 % of underrepresented gender for one-gender-dominated target audiences.

The process of NAP re-alignment itself will take into account the impact of land degradation on women (especially in agricultural sector) and possibilities for their involvement in activities aimed at land conservation.

## D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

The project will complement the UNCCD Global Mechanism funding, which is herewith presented as co-funding and in-kind support from the National Government of Belarus (since it is channeled through the National Government). Such an arrangement will ensure the application of resources in the most critical way. The proposed project is in line with the national priorities which will also ensure its sustainability. The government contribution to the project includes the staff time of a National Project Coordinator and of support staff of the National Executing Agency, a number of project activities, organization of and participation in Project Steering Committees, and other work related to narrative reporting and financial reporting.

**E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:**

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ <i>Excluding project team staff time</i>	Time frame
Inception Meeting	Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator UNDP CO UNDP GEF	None (in-kind contribution, co-financing)	Within first two months of project start up. The meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment.
Inception Report	Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator UNDP CO	None	Immediately following IM
Simplified Annual Project Review / Project Implementation Report (APR/PIR)	Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator UNDP-CO UNDP-GEF	None	Annually
Quarterly progress reports	Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator	None	Quarterly
CDRs	Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator	None	Quarterly
Lessons Learned Log	Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator UNDP CO Programme Staff	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Quarterly
Final Project Report	Enabling Activity Technical Coordinator UNDP-CO local consultant	Printing cost only	One month before the end of the project
Audit	UNDP-CO Project team	\$2,000 in total To be included in the CO audit plan.	Yearly
TOTAL indicative COST <i>Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses</i>		US\$ 2,000	

**F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):**

-- 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 [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).


NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (Month, day, year)
Mr. Vitaly Kulik	First Deputy Minister, GEF OFP in Belarus	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	15 June 2012

**B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION\***

CONVENTION	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION (mm/dd/yy)	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT
UNCCD	11/27/01	Mrs. Natalia <b>Zharkina</b> Deputy Head of the Department for Biological and Landscape Diversity Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

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

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for **LAND DEGRADATION** Enabling Activity approval.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail Address
Adriana Dinu UNDP-GEF Deputy Executive Coordinator		14 August 2012	Maxim Vergeichik, Biodiversity and ecosystem management specialist for Europe and CIS, EBD	+ 421 259 337 152	maxim.vergeichik@undp.org

## ANNEX A. CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$ / Person Week</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks</i>	<i>Tasks to be Performed</i>
<b>For EA Management</b>			
<i>Local</i>			
Team Leader (management functions)	450	20	<p>To undertake the general administrative requirements of the project, including those related to project management and funding. The key tasks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure that project Objective, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities are executed in a timely and appropriate manner.</li> <li>- To develop annual work plans and budgets, and submit these to the Steering Committee and to the UNDP Country Office for approval.</li> <li>- To develop TORs for Consultants for technical services, consultants, experts, and specifications of materials as required by the project, in communication with the Project Director/UNDP.</li> <li>- To facilitate, guide and monitor the work of consultants, and approve their deliverables in association with the Project Committee.</li> <li>- To organize and assist in project related activities, where required. These may include planning for meetings, local and national workshops, consultations, trips, and other project related activities.</li> <li>- To establish and maintain linkages with national and international organizations and persons which/who can be of assistance to the objectives of the Project.</li> <li>- To provide timely reporting of project status as required by the Project Committee and the UNDP.</li> <li>- To maintain records of Project Committee meetings, decisions, actions etc.</li> <li>- To coordinate with other initiatives and programs whose outcomes and outputs are relevant to this project's objectives.</li> </ul> <p><i>Qualifications and experience:</i> advanced degree in environmental or natural sciences, economics, social sciences, management, preferably with professional exposure to land degradation issues with a minimum of 3 years management experience at a senior level. Knowledge and understanding of the relevant UN Convention, environmental issues in Belarus, good leadership, coordination, communication, and facilitation skills are essential.</p>
<b>For Technical Assistance</b>			
<i>Local</i>			
Team Leader (technical input)	450	20	<p>Is responsible for planning and coordinating activities of the national experts, and also for timely and qualitative preparation of separate sections of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to carry out the estimation of the current state of measures for combating the degradation of the lands/soils in the Republic of Belarus and their presentation in the national strategic documents;</li> <li>- to generalize the results of activities of the experts and to develop on their basis the proposal on conformity of the available national data in the context of the requirements to bring to NAP alignment and to 10-year Strategy UNCCD, including the system of indicators;</li> <li>- to carry out the coordination of activities of the national experts in preparing and drawing up the National report on the UNCCD implementation within the frameworks of the 4th cycle of the reporting;</li> <li>- to analyse the condition and develop the proposals for perfecting scientific support and application of traditional knowledge in the practice of solving the problems of a sustainable land management, including the questions of combating the degradation of the lands/soils;</li> <li>- to define the content of programs of the scheduled seminars for the purpose of the fullest and all-round discussions and development of constructive proposals within the framework of the project tasks, to act the part of a moderator when carrying out the working seminars;</li> <li>- to carry out the coordination of activities of the national experts for the preparation of the illustrated monography about the processes of degradation of the lands/soils in Belarus and measures to combat it.</li> </ul> <p><i>Qualifications and experience as in the previous TOR</i></p>
Expert on policy and framework for NAP alignment and	350	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- carries out the estimation of the current state of measures of combating the degradation of the lands/soils in the Republic of Belarus and their presentation in the regional and sectoral plans and projects;</li> <li>- prepares proposals for introduction of NAP priorities in the documents of regional and sectoral planning;</li> </ul>

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$ / Person Week</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks</i>	<i>Tasks to be Performed</i>
implementation			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- develops a complex of activities for overcoming the institutional and social and economic barriers interfering with the realization of NAP;</li> <li>- prepares the plan of carrying out and takes part in the seminar for NAP alignment and implementation;</li> <li>- develops the proposals for filling the section of knowledge management system with the view of implementation of UNCCD (KMS), concerning NAP alignment and implementation;</li> <li>- develops the section concerning NAP implementation scheme in the illustrated monography.</li> </ul>
Expert on Integrated Financial Strategy	400	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- carries out the analysis of expenses of the State budget for financing the activities connected with SLM;</li> <li>- carries out the analysis of disposable national financial resources for NAP implementation and makes the proposals to increase the efficiency of their use;</li> <li>- develops the program and together with other experts holds an adjusting seminar for working out the projects of the Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS) and Integrated investment framework (IIF);</li> <li>- develops the methodology, approaches and recommendations about IFS project;</li> <li>- develops IFS project together with other experts;</li> <li>- develops a complex of activities for overcoming the financial barriers interfering with NAP implementation;</li> <li>- develops the program and holds the final seminar on acceptance of IFS and IIF projects;</li> <li>- prepares the proposals for filling the section of knowledge management system, concerning the financial sources of NAP implementation;</li> <li>- prepares the section in the illustrated monography concerning the financial provision of activities for combating the degradation of the lands/soils.</li> </ul>
Expert on Integrated Investment Framework	350	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- analyzes disposable financial resources of the international, non-state and private foundations for realization of projects on combating the degradation of the lands;</li> <li>- develops the proposals for attraction of financial aid from the international donors for NAP implementation;</li> <li>- participates together with other experts as a lecturer at an adjusting seminar for working out of IFS and IIF projects;</li> <li>- analyzes the Investment programs of the development of the Republic of Belarus for 2011-2015, administrative areas and the town of Minsk and the extend of their conformity with the priorities of NAP implementation;</li> <li>- develops the methodology, approaches and recommendations concerning IIF project;</li> <li>- develops a complex of activities for overcoming the investment barriers interfering with NAP implementation;</li> <li>- participates in working out the program and holding the final seminar with the object of approving IFS and IIF projects.</li> </ul>
Expert on environmental monitoring system	400	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- carries out the analysis of the existing national monitoring system of the lands/soils and its provision with the normative legal and normative technical bases;</li> <li>- analyses and develops the proposals for estimation of the representativeness of the network of ranges for supervision over various kinds of degradation of the lands/soils;</li> <li>- reveals the existing problems and unresolved questions in the field of monitoring of the lands/soils pursuant to the problems of 10-year Strategy UNCCD;</li> <li>- proposes the measures of institutional, scientific, organizational-technical character destined for the optimization of the network of ranges for supervision, for the improvement of functioning of monitoring system of the lands/soils, and also for perfecting the information data delivery to the State management bodies, scientific organizations, land users, public organizations;</li> <li>- prepares the proposals for filling of knowledge management system section, concerning the monitoring information;</li> <li>- proposes together with other experts the system of biophysical and social and economic indicators of UNCCD implementation according to 10-year Strategy UNCCD;</li> <li>- prepares the section devoted to the organization, conducting, structure, content and application of the results of monitoring of the lands/soils, for the illustrated monography about the processes of degradation of the lands/soils in the Republic of Belarus;</li> <li>- presents the results of monitoring of the lands/soils and proposed measures for its perfection at working seminars;</li> <li>- develops the proposals for long-term monitoring of UNCCD implementation.</li> </ul>
Expert on indicators for NAP implementation and	370	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- carries out the analysis of the existing national indicators of influence and effectiveness in the context of reporting requirements and 10-year Strategy UNCCD;</li> </ul>

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$ / Person Week</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks</i>	<i>Tasks to be Performed</i>
UNCCD reporting			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- defines the most priority indicators according to the features of display of biophysical processes of the land degradation and social and economic conditions of land tenure in the Republic of Belarus;</li> <li>- develops with the interested parties the program of training on reporting methodology and procedure of information gathering for preparation of the National reporting;</li> <li>- proposes the national system of indicators providing the estimation of NAP implementation progress and preparation of the National report according to the regulations of 10-year Strategy UNCCD;</li> <li>- defines conceptual approaches to harmonization of knowledge databases and the data by the indicators of GEF , Rio Conventions, FAO and other databases of the international organizations;</li> <li>- presents the developed system of effectiveness indicators at the final seminar and carries out their generalization for the inclusion in the National report;</li> <li>- prepares the section of indicators of NAP effectiveness for the illustrated monography.</li> </ul>
Expert on knowledge management system	400	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- develops web site of UNCCD implementation in Belarus;</li> <li>- develops the reference system on UNCCD implementation, including the traditional knowledge, examples of the best practice, etc;</li> <li>- prepares the proposals for guaranteeing the data inflow into reference system and their use for drawing up reporting;</li> <li>- together with other experts provides qualitative filling and regular updating of the data in the information system for the purpose of their placing on the national web site of UNCCD;</li> <li>- carries out the electronic filling and presentation of the National report to UNCCD secretary through PRAIS system;</li> <li>- informs the interested parties of the structure and functioning of the developed information system and represents at the final seminar;</li> <li>- prepares section of knowledge management system in the illustrated monography.</li> </ul>
Expert on science and best practices	350	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provides the scientific analysis of the data and gives the estimation of their quality for preparation of the National report;</li> <li>- defines the national priorities in the directions of combating the degradation of the lands/soils and their presentation in the national reporting on UNCCD;</li> <li>- together with other experts proposes the perspective system of the national biophysical and social and economic indicators of degradation of the lands/soils;</li> <li>- prepares the report on the interested parties estimation of the involved in the process of UNCCD reporting;</li> <li>- takes part in the seminars and presents the results of examples of the best practice for the purpose of its distribution;</li> <li>- carries out the expert appraisal of the data quality used when preparing the National report;</li> <li>- prepares proposals and materials for filling of knowledge management system sections, concerning the part of scientific support and examples of the best practice;</li> <li>- prepares the section concerning the best practice and the science contribution in UNCCD implementation in the illustrated monography.</li> </ul>
Expert on peatland	350	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- analyzes the synergetic role of peatland in the sustained land tenure, carries out the estimation of ecological threats of their condition;</li> <li>- analyzes the current policy of peatland management in the Republic of Belarus;</li> <li>- develops the biophysical indicators of degradation of peatland under the influence of various kinds of use;</li> <li>- informs of the examples of the best practice in preservation of the restored degraded peatland and prepares the materials on the best practice for inclusion in the National report on UNCCD implementation;</li> <li>- prepares the report on NAP conformity estimation in the context of climate changes and biodiversity conservation;</li> <li>- makes proposals for perfection of peatland monitoring and definition of representative ranges for its carrying out;</li> <li>- prepares the section of the illustrated monography devoted to measures of combating the degradation of peatland.</li> </ul>
<i>International</i>			
Expert on priorities and framework for NAP alignment and implementation	1500	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- prepares the report on the regulations of 10-year Strategy UNCCD, approaches and methodology for NAP alignment;</li> <li>- collects the information and analyzes the global, regional and subregional priorities in the field of a sustainable development in the context of UNCCD;</li> <li>- generalizes the information and prepares the proposals on the system of indicators and basic levels for the progress estimation UNCCD implementation;</li> </ul>

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$ / Person Week</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks</i>	<i>Tasks to be Performed</i>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- develops the proposals on the structure of knowledge management system for providing a constant process of estimation of NAP implementation on the basis of the analysis of available international experience</li> <li>- participates as a lecturer at the national seminar with a view to establish the priorities for NAP alignment, develop a system of indicators for assessing the progress in NAP implementation and to establish basic levels.</li> </ul>
Expert on UNCCD reporting	1500	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- prepares the review on methodology of collecting the information for preparation of National reports on UNCCD implementation taking into account the available international reports and statistics on these given points;</li> <li>- carries out the analysis and develops proposals for creating and structure of knowledge management system for the process of preparation of the National report on UNCCD;</li> <li>- generalizes the information and positive experience on the second leg of the forth reporting process under UNCCD received during the pilot project for 12 countries within UNCCD;</li> <li>- participates as a trainer at the national level training of stakeholders, involved in UNCCD reporting process.</li> </ul>



## ANNEX B. CHRONOGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Comp	Modules	Guiding activities under each module	Year 1				Year 2			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	NAP alignment	1. Rapid stocktaking and review of relevant plans, policies and reports			x					
		2. Identification of stakeholders; consultations and awareness			x					
		3. Rapid assessment of the causes and consequences of land degradation				x				
		4. Developing the strategy and actions to implement NAP alignment					x			
2	Reporting and Review process	5. Establishment of appropriate consultative processes						x		
		6. Development of a plan for capacity development for UNCCD reporting							x	
		7. Draft report								x

**ANNEX C. UNDP TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK-PLAN**

GEF Component (Outcome) /Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/ Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	ATLAS Code	Atlas Budget Description	TOTAL Amount (USD)	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Budget note
Comp 1. NAP alignment	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71200	International Consultants	3,000	3,000		a
				71300	Local Consultants	4,500	3,000	1,500	b
				71300	Local Consultants	3,500	3,500		c
				71300	Local Consultants	12,000	8,000	4,000	d
				71600	Travel	6,000	4,000	2,000	e
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	9,000	4,500	4,500	f
				72200	Equipment and Furniture	5,000	5,000		g
				71300	Local Consultants	2,800	2,800		h
				71300	Local Consultants	2,000	2,000		i
				71300	Local Consultants	1,200	1,200		j
				71300	Local Consultants	2,000	2,000		k
			72800	Information Technology Equipmt	4,000	4,000		l	
<b>GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 1 (Comp 1)</b>						<b>55,000</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITY 1 (Comp 1)</b>						<b>55,000</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	
Comp 2. Reporting and Review process	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71200	International Consultants	3,000		3,000	s
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs	18,000	12,000	6,000	m
				71300	Local Consultants	4,500		4,500	b
				71300	Local Consultants	4,000		4,000	i
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	10,000		10,000	f
				71300	Local Consultants	2,500		2,500	j
				71600	Travel	6,000		6,000	
				71300	Local Consultants	4,000		4,000	k
				71300	Local Consultants	3,500		3,500	o
				71300	Local Consultants	3,500		3,500	p
				72800	Information Technology Equipmt	8,000		8,000	l
			74100	Professional Services	3,364		3,364	n	
<b>GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 2 (Comp 2)</b>						<b>70,364</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>58,364</b>	
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITY 2 (Comp 2)</b>						<b>70,364</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>58,364</b>	
Project Management	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71300	Local Consultants	9,000	3,000	6,000	q
				74100	Professional Services	2,000		2,000	r
<b>GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 4 (Proj Mgt)</b>						<b>11,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITY 4 (Project Management)</b>						<b>11,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	
<b>SUB-TOTAL GEF</b>						<b>136,364</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>78,364</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL (in cash)</b>						<b>136,364</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>78,364</b>	

<b>Budget Notes</b>	
a	Int. Expert on priorities and framework for NAP alignment and implementation fees (lumpsum \$3K / or approx. 2 weeks)
b	Team leader fee for non-managerial (technical expertise) input (lumpsum \$9K / or approx. 20 weeks) - the non-managerial budget for Team Leader is divided equally among the 2 components
c	Nat. Expert on policy and framework for NAP alignment and implementation fees (lumpsum \$3,5K / or approx. 10 weeks)
d	Nat. Expert on Integrated Financial Strategy fees (lumpsum \$12K / or approx. 30 weeks)
e	2 international flights
f	Workshops for public consultations - budget divided equally among the 2 components
g	Equipment to strengthen the national coordination structures for NAP alignment under Output 1.3.3
h	Nat. Expert on Integrated Investment Framework fees (lumpsum \$2,8K / or approx. 8 weeks)
i	Nat. Expert on environmental monitoring system fees (lumpsum \$6K / or approx. 15 weeks) - 1/3 budgeted for in component 1 and 2/3 in component 2
j	Nat. Expert on indicators for NAP implementation and UNCCD reporting fees (lumpsum \$3,7K / or approx. 10 weeks) - 1/3 budgeted for in component 1 and 2/3 in component 2
k	Nat. Expert on knowledge management system fees (lumpsum \$6K / or approx. 15 weeks) - 1/3 budgeted for in component 1 and 2/3 in component 2
l	Computer aided referral system which will serve as a tool to collect and store information on land degradation in Belarus for LD specialists and decision makers, including the UNCCD National Focal Point. Will be used for UNCCD reporting. Covered by Outputs 1.2.5, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4
m	The compendium on land degradation envisaged under Output 2.3.1
n	Web-site will be created as a mechanism for LD and UNCCD related information dissemination aiming at the general public. Covered by Outcome 2.2.
o	Nat. Expert on science and best practices fees (lumpsum \$3,5K / or approx. 10 weeks)
p	Nat. Expert on peatland fees (lumpsum \$3,5K / or approx. 10 weeks)
q	Team leader's fee for management responsibilities under the project (lumpsum \$9K / or approx. 20 weeks)
r	Audit
s	Int. Expert on UNCCD reporting (lumpsum \$3K / or approx. 2 weeks)
t	2 international flights - one each for Team leader and Expert on Integrated Financial Strategy