



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

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS.

EA Title:	Support to Ecuador for the development of National Action Programs aligned to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Reporting Process under UNCCD		
Country:	Ecuador	GEF Project ID:	t.b.d.
GEF Agency:	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5370
Other Executing Partner:	Ministry of Environment of Ecuador	Re-Submission Date:	May 9, 2014
GEF Focal Area:	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	12
➤ Check if applicable	NCSA NAPA	Agency Fee (US\$):	13,014

A. EA FRAMEWORK

EA Objective: To facilitate access to GEF funding by Ecuador for Enabling Activities to meet its obligations under the UNCCD: a) NAP development in line with the 10 – Year Strategy and b) Reporting and review process

EA Component	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
I. Preparation of NAP in line with the 10-year Strategy	TA	1. NAP drafted as a national strategic guiding instrument to combat land degradation and desertification in Ecuador, in line with national policy priorities, in close synergies with agriculture, climate change, watershed management and food sovereignty, and aligned to the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy.	1.1 Draft of the NAP updated and aligned with the 10-Year Strategy.	56,506	45,360
			1.2 Rapid stocktaking and review of relevant plans, policies and reports done		
			1.3 NAP revised to identify and establish priorities in the context of development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations.		
			1.4 National consultation process at national and decentralized levels undertaken.		
			1.5 National planning and coordination structures at centralized and decentralized levels established or strengthened.		
			1.6 Action plan for NAP implementation developed.		
		2. Technology and finance framework for NAP implementation established.	2.1 Diagnosis of financial sources for NAP implementation done.	22,242	2,740
			2.2 Integrated Financial Strategy reviewed and Investment Framework designed for NAP implementation.		
			2.3 Technology transfer needs for NAP implementation identified.		
		3. Scientific capacities strengthened for the implementation of indicator-based monitoring and assessment	3.1 Existing cartography on the status of land and land degradation vulnerability gathered	24,842	41,000
			3.2 Indicators developed for land degradation and NAP implementation,		
			3.3 A monitoring system outlined.		
		4. NAP Awareness raised.	4.1 Communication and outreach products supporting NAP alignment elaborated	7,320	9,000
Subtotal alignment				110,910	98,100

EA Component	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
II. Reporting and review process	TA	5. National report and review process prepared and submitted to the UNCCD.	5.1 Information sources, stakeholders and best practices identified	13,860	67,000
			5.2 Draft report prepared.		
			5.3 Training national level stakeholders in the reporting methodologies, procedures and tools done		
			5.4 Validation process done.		
			5.5 Report submitted through the PRAIS portal.		
			5.6 A plan to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD implementation formulated.		
			Subtotal report	13,860	67,000
			Subtotal	124,770	165,100
EA Management Cost				12,216	16,000
Total project costs				136,986	181,100

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

Sources of Cofinancing for baseline project	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	174,360
UNDP	UNDP	cash	2,740
GIZ	GIZ- Adaptation to Climate Change Regional Programme	cash	4,000
Total Cofinancing			181,100

C. GEF/LDCF/SCCF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Ecuador	136,986	13,014	150,000
Total Grant Resources				136,986	13,014	150,000

D. EA MANAGEMENT COST

Cost Items	Total Estimated Person Weeks/Month	Grant Amount	Co-Financing	EA Total
MANAGEMENT TEAM				
<i>PROJECT COORDINATOR</i>	1 PERSON/ 8 MONTHS (10% OF TOTAL)	3,512		3,512
<i>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT</i>	1 PERSON / 8 MONTHS	2,720		2,720
TECHNICAL SUPPORT- INITIAL STEPS			4,000	4,000
EQUIPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS,			7,000	7,000
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL			5,000	5,000
UNDP DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (DPC)		5,503		5,503
MISCELLANEOUS		481		481
TOTAL		12,216	16,000	28,216

PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. Ecuador is a country with a high diversity of ecosystems and agro-productive landscapes, facing important problems in terms of land degradation. Land degradation is mainly caused by deforestation, vegetation loss and erosion, fire use, pastoralism in fragile areas and unsustainable agricultural practices, and uncoordinated watershed management. Agriculture and livestock management are sector of highest economic and social importance in Ecuador. Agriculture is the second more important economic activity of the country, after oil production, representing 20% of its national gross product. The main agricultural trade products are cacao, plantains, coffee. Combating land degradation and attaining sustainable land management are being undertaken by the Government of Ecuador as priority activities in the context of new policies.
2. The Ministry of Environment of Ecuador (MAE) is the national institution responsible for implementing the UNCCD objectives in the country. With the view to promote synergies for NAP implementation, since 2010, the UNCCD national focal point is appointed under the MAE'S Climate Change under Secretariat, Direction of Climate Change Adaptation, promoting a high-level synergistic approach to address UNCCD issues.
3. Ecuador ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on September 1995. The UNCCD entered into force in 1996. The first drafting of the National Action Plan against Desertification (PAND in Spanish) in Ecuador started in October 1995 and consisted on an extensive and participatory consultative process, led by the MAE, the PAND endorsed in 2004 resulted from a participatory process supported by several organizations such as Grupo Esquel Foundation, Arco Iris Foundation, EcoCiencia Foundation and cooperation agencies, mainly the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB or BID in Spanish), the MacArthur Foundation, the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the UN Volunteer Program.
4. Along with several other countries, NAP implementation in Ecuador has faced several difficulties in terms of mainstreaming UNCCD issues into national development policies and budgets, establishing long term cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, creating effective synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as reaching an effective financial resource mobilization from domestic and external sources. Therefore, a gap between planning and actions implementation has been created. According to the National Capacity Self-Assessment (UNDP, 2005), the PAND never became a known and guiding national instrument to combat land degradation and desertification in Ecuador.
5. In 2007, a new Government of Ecuador initiated a profound transformation of policy and legislative instruments leading to restructure the institutional framework and the planning and budgeting processes. The National Development Plan (*Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir - PNBV / National Good Living Plan*) became the main national policy and planning tool. The PNBV (2013-2017) although does not include explicit mention to combating land degradation or to sustainable land management, it do establishes a framework for the conservation of natural resources, outlines sustainable agriculture objectives and provides importance to climate change mitigation and adaptation processes in the framework of the energy matrix diversification. Ecuador is indeed on the way to change also its productive matrix, where a sustainable agriculture and the combat to land degradation shall play a central role in order to attain economic sustainability. At present, national governmental priorities focus on the conversion of the energy and productive matrix. To this end, special attention is given to the country's economic growth based on natural resource management. In this framework, land degradation shall be a crucial issue to be addressed in close linkage with national programmes, tackling biodiversity management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, food sovereignty and watershed management. New environmental, agricultural, productive and economic policies are in place since 2007, therefore the PAND dated 2004 does not fully respond to national priorities, instruments.
6. Since Ecuador developed its NAP between 1995 and 2004, important efforts to implement UNCCD have been done. Along with political instruments in place, intermittent attempts to consolidate a coordination structure have taken place. The consolidation of a national cross-sectoral coordination body at central level is still needed. In recent years the government has developed a consultative group on desertification at decentralized level that needs to be consolidated. Several initiatives are in place in order to strengthen the fight against desertification in Ecuador. National strategic planning for combating land degradation in close linkages with climate change processes are under implementation through the Direction of Climate Change Adaptation.

7. An Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS) was designed in 2010 with support of the Global Mechanism. The IFS process led by the Ministry of Environment was done through a series of consultations involving a wide range of stakeholders from governmental institutions at central and decentralized levels.
8. At present, the MAE is implementing an investment project with domestic public funds, in order to support activities dealing with the UNCCD implementation in close synergies between land degradation and adaptation to climate change.
9. Regarding reporting, activities have been undertaken by Ecuador in order to comply with the commitments adopted with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification – UNCCD through presenting country reports (2002, 2004 and 2006). A first PRAIS (*Performance Preview and Assessment of Implementation System*) format report was presented in 2010 and a second report was submitted in 2012. As several other countries, Ecuador needs support to comply with the reporting requirements in the current PRAIS + cycle phase.
10. The NAP is out of date and therefore it is no longer a guiding instrument in line with national policies, instruments, budgetary processes, sectoral programmes and in general, governmental priorities. Current opportunities for mainstreaming and positioning land degradation and sustainable land management in developing policies, as well as coordination mechanisms and the financial architecture need to be tackled by a new national action programme to combat land degradation and desertification in Ecuador.

Proposed Response and Rationale

11. Based on Decision 3/COP 8, UNCCD Parties adopted the 10-year strategy (2008-2018) to enhance the implementation of the Convention. The Decision urged Parties to implement the Strategy in accordance with their national priorities, including the alignment of their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with the Strategy.
12. The 10-year Strategy urges and recognizes “the need for country parties to align their NAPs”. 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”.
13. Outcome 2.2 of the Strategy requests affected country parties to revise their NAPs into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information, and to include them in integrated investment frameworks; outcome 2.3 requests affected country Parties to include their NAPs and sustainable land management (SLM) and land degradation issues in development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.
14. 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. This proposal is for securing GEF funding under the Land Degradation EA through a GEF agency for aligning Ecuador’s NAP and improving reporting and review processes.

Alignment with GEF Focal Area Outcomes

15. The project is in line with LD4 Objective: Adaptive Management and Learning: Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM/SFM/INRM by GEF and UNCCD Parties, and Focal Area Outcome 4.1: Increased capacities of countries to fulfill obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD.
16. If approved, the project will be implemented through UNDP, under the modality of GEF implementing agency.

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Project goal(s)

17. The project aims at assisting Ecuador to align its NAPs with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and to undertake UNCCD

reporting and review process under the PRAIS framework. Ecuador shall formulate an updated version of NAP which would be in line with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy, resulting in improved planning and monitoring of UNCCD implementation at the national level for better decision making and increased investments on land degradation, desertification and sustainable land management issues.

Project Objectives

18. There are two objectives of this project:

Objective I. NAP alignment

To update and align the National Action Programme vis-à-vis the new national policies, instruments and priorities and the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy. This activity shall be conducted in order for the country to count with an updated strategic instrument that provides guidelines and concrete measures for an effective UNCCD-related planning and implementation process. The outcome of this project shall be the establishment of a NAP process addressing sustainable land management in line with new national policies and operational objectives of the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy, As main product. Ecuador shall have a strategic and financeable national action plan validated with a wide range of relevant stakeholders including governmental and non-governmental institutions, academia, local producers, farmers and indigenous peoples and the private sector.

Objective II. Reporting

To contribute with Ecuador to comply with the reporting requirements in the current PRAIS + cycle phase. The project shall provide support to fulfil the country's reporting obligations, focusing on the elaboration of the VI report (2012-2013), to be uploaded in 2014 to PRAIS platform and to submit the country report of the Government of Ecuador to the UNCCD. This activity shall also support the consolidation of a monitoring and knowledge management system of sustainable land management activities.

Overall activities and capacity building

19. NAP alignment and reporting activities shall focus on establishing the following main processes:
- Drafting the NAP
 - Consultation process at central and decentralized levels
 - Establishment of Inter-sectoral planning and coordination structures
 - A monitoring system based on baseline data and local level indicators
 - A knowledge management system based on best practices exchange
 - Communication products
20. Through the development of project activities, awareness will be raised on the importance of combating land degradation, its linkages with economic development, climate change, watershed management and food sovereignty, and the progress of the country on its way to the aligning of the NAP with the UNCCD strategy. A synthesis of best practices and 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 and monitoring system on UNCCD implementation will be initiated in order to improve monitoring, reporting and public awareness regarding land degradation issues.
21. Besides producing an aligned NAP document as guiding instrument, the GEF project will provide support to initiate various activities that strengthen and create an enabling environment for UNCCD and NAP implementation. Capacity building is a central aspect of the process, as an internal team of the Under Secretariat of climate change of the MAE will be in charge of the process, but also through the process of consultation and validation that will be undertaken with a series of stakeholders at central and provincial level, including indigenous peoples and CSOs.
22. The aligned NAP shall envisage guiding principles and national strategies addressing policy, coordination, scientific and financial aspects for combating land degradation and desertification in Ecuador. The planning of the NAP shall be made in close synergies with other sectors, mainly agriculture, forestry, climate change and water management, All this effort shall complement the existing process of capacity building that the MAE is already developing.
23. Capacity building efforts have been oriented to the use of geographic system tools, in partnership with national universities and the identification of a matrix of projects related to land degradation and desertification, as well as the development of capacity building workshops on sustainable land management and land degradation through the national

working group that is under reactivation.

24. The establishment of a national coordination unit at central level and the strengthening of advisory structures at decentralized level shall allow the country to establish a realistic and sustainable planning process as well as information sharing. Scientific capacity building will be pursued mainly through the establishment of indicators and monitoring system that will allow follow up to land degradation in Ecuador, as well as to NAP implementation and also to the reporting process.
25. Finally, the Technical team of the MAE will provide support to the overall implementation of the EA project, therefore promoting internal ownership and capacity building.

Project implementation

26. The Ministry of Environment of Ecuador (MAE), through the Climate change Under Secretariat, Climate Change Adaptation Direction, will act as the national executing partner and will implement the project in collaboration and consultation with relevant ministries and decentralized authorities. To achieve the project outputs, UNDP will ensure necessary support and conditions for the implementation of the project by the national implementing partner. The Executing Entity will closely cooperate with the UNDP to ensure that all the project activities are planned and implemented in an appropriate manner to the project's goals and objectives.

Stakeholders involved

27. The main governmental stakeholders to be involved during the consultative process shall be listed in close partnership with other relevant institutions, namely the *Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries* (MAGAP), the *National Water Secretariat* (SENAGUA) and Decentralized Governments (GADs).
28. The key national stakeholders which will be closely involved in project implementation, mainly regarding NAP formulation, IIF design and establishment of coordination structures, will include:
 - Ministry of Environment (UNCCD technical focal point)
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UNCCD technical focal point)
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries, MAGAP
 - National Water Secretariat, SENAGUA
 - Inter-institutional Climate change Committee
 - Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation, SETECI
 - Decentralized Authorities, GADs
 - CSOs, local Producers, farmers
 - Indigenous peoples,
 - Universities and National Research Institutes
 - Environmental and climate change related projects (ex. ONU-REDD, PACC)
 - Environmental and Water Funds (ex. FONAG)
 - NGOs (ex. FEPP)
 - United Nations (UNDP, FAO, WFP, Technical Working group on sustainable development)
 - International cooperation (GIZ, AECID, SNV, Belgium cooperation, IADB)

Consideration of Gender Dimension

29. Gender and intercultural consideration, ensuring participation of men, women, youths and other groups of all different Ecuadorian cultures will be an integral part of the overall approach to be adopted for NAP alignment, IFS /IIF development, and UNCCD reporting processes in all stages of the project. Gender issues related to UNCCD implementation will also be identified during the report process, with much emphasis on the identification of best practices addressing women needs.
30. The proposed project will be inclusive, involving participation of all stakeholders, including government ministries, decentralized authorities, civil society organizations, private sector, scientific and academic communities and local communities. The project will also include men, women, youths and other groups in the provincial and national consultations to be undertaken for NAP alignment and assure that gender related priorities and participation will be integrated in NAP planning and implementation process.

Consistency and linkages with other Programmes, projects and Initiatives

19. The proposed EA project will take into consideration efforts undertaken in the past, to support UNCCD implementation in Ecuador, such as the **Integrated Financing Strategy** developed in 2010 with the support of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. Also, an analysis of the SLM status and measures was undertaken in 2009 in the framework of a process of **harmonization of public policies for SLM** developed with the support of the Global Mechanism and FAO.
20. The proposed EA project will be co-financed by the Government of Ecuador, through various national on-going programmes:
 - a. The Government of Ecuador will implement during 2014 the **Integrated management to combat desertification** project, a \$50,000, with public national funding. The project has been approved by the National Planning Secretariat (SENPLADES). The objective of this investment project is to promote the integrated management of the fight against desertification, land degradation and climate change adaptation,
 - b. The **National Forest Evaluation** is a programme of the Ministry of Environment, co-financed by FAO, aiming at establishing the baseline information on forest cover and status, This initiative will serve, among others, to fulfil information needs regarding carbon stocks for the REDD+ Mechanism, The programme is providing detailed cartography and baseline data on the current status of forests in the country,
 - c. Current expenses of the Climate change Under Secretariat will be used to support the EA project for equipment, communications and travel.
 - d. The MAE is also preparing to implement the GEF-FAO global project "Decision support for mainstreaming and scaling up of sustainable land management" that builds on the results of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) projects, The project focuses on the development of cartography on land degradation and the identification of best practices, an issue that shall be worked in close synergy with the EA project.
21. Some of the national plans, programmes and projects related to climate change that directly address sustainable land management and therefore are relevant to be taken into account for information gathering regarding land degradation and desertification are:
 - a. **National Climate Change Plan (NCCP)**, recently designed, and where adaptation measures are applied at sectoral level establishing patterns for creating and reinforcing the capacity of social, economic and environmental systems, to face climate change impacts according to what has been prioritized by the NSCC.
 - b. **Ecuador UN-REDD Joint Programme** (PNC ONU-REDD in Spanish). The programme consists on 5 results encompassing a forest monitoring system, civil society involvement, socio-economic analysis and policy design for REDD implementation, follow up and monitoring through the national information registry system, multiple-benefit monitoring system and strategy, and design of a benefit sharing mechanism.
 - c. **Adaptation Project to Climate Change through an effective Water Governability (PACC)**. This is a GEF project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as implementing agency. Its purpose is to increase the capacity of adaptation of Ecuador, through an efficient management of water resources at both local and national scale. The project will close in October 2014. The results of the project focus on vulnerability assessments, community interventions to implement climate change adaptation measures, many of them closely related to sustainable land management, mainstreaming climate change in public policy and capacity building.
 - d. **Project of adaptation to the impact of accelerated retreat of Glaciers in the Tropical Andean Region (PRAA)**. This project started in 2007 with the aim of reinforcing the resilience of local ecosystems and economies to the impacts of glacier retreat, through the implementation of pilot adaptation activities, showing the costs and benefits of adaptation to climate change, It is a regional project developed simultaneously in four countries of the Andean region. The Project is in its final stage. Among the results of the project, that shall be taken into consideration in the NAP process are a series of monitoring systems for water availability installed in glacier watersheds.
 - e. **FORECCSA Project**. This is a joint initiative between the MAE, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP), the consortium of the Jubones watershed, the Decentralized Autonomous Government of Pichincha and the World Food Programme. The objective of the Project is to decrease climate change vulnerability at local level, in Pichincha province and in the Jubones watershed (Azuay, Loja and el Oro provinces) through improving the adaptive capacity of the communities, by promoting an efficient management of water resources, and by focusing on food security.

- f. **Investment Program for the Rural Development of Chimborazo** is a recently approved project of the Decentralized Autonomous Government of the Province of Chimborazo (GADPCH). The project will be funded by a \$15 million IDB loan, Chimborazo is in Ecuador one of the provinces mostly affected by desertification in Ecuador. The objective of the programme is to increase sustainable agricultural productivity, generate added value and improve market access for rural families, through irrigation systems protection of watersheds and roads Chimborazo is a region with mostly indigenous population, one of the poorest provinces most affected by desertification in Ecuador.

22. Finally, it is worth noting that the objectives of the proposed EA project are envisaged under the UNDAF framework into the third concentration area: environmental and risk management sustainability with its Direct Outcome 5: To 2014, relevant public institutions and local stakeholders foster and social stakeholders (men and women) have strengthened skills and tools to ensure their rights to a healthy and safe environment and environmental sustainability, including biodiversity conservation, integrated natural resource management and environmental management.

C. ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Project components, outcomes, outputs and activities are described below:

COMPONENT I. PREPARATION OF NAP IN LINE WITH THE 10-YEAR STRATEGY

23. Regarding the NAP alignment, the process to support the establishment of an enabling environment for defining an iterative process for NAP planning and implementation. The NAP alignment process will follow relevant UNCCD decisions and the technical guidelines for NAP alignment developed by the UNCCD Secretariat.

24. The project shall focus on the following outcomes, outputs and activities:

Outcome 1. NAP drafted as a national strategic guiding instrument to combat land degradation and desertification in Ecuador, in line with national policy priorities, in close synergies with agriculture, climate change, watershed management and food sovereignty, and aligned to the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy.

Output 1.1 Draft of the NAP updated and aligned with the 10-Year Strategy.

25. The draft preparation of the updated and aligned NAP is one of the main activities to be developed during the project. This activity enables the country to count with an updated, effective and synergistic guiding document with concrete policies, objectives, strategies and indicators to efficiently address desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought in Ecuador.
26. The Government of Ecuador, through the Ministry of Environment will conduct the draft of a new national action plan to combat land degradation and desertification through a participatory process carried out at central and decentralized (provincial) levels. The participatory process shall involve cross-sectoral governmental institutions, communities, farmers, non-governmental organizations and the private sector relevant to land management. Through the consultative process, a national coordination unit and decentralized coordination structures shall be established for planning and monitoring land degradation and NAP implementation.
27. The NAP draft is an activity that will be in charge of a Consultant, working as Project Coordinator. The Project Coordinator shall plan and conduct the consultation process and the NAP draft, encompassing the following outputs dealing with revision, consultation process, mainstreaming and establishment of national structure processes.

Output 1.2 Rapid stocktaking and review of relevant plans, policies and reports done

28. The departing activity for draft the NAP will be a rapid stocktaking and review of relevant plans, policies and reports related to NAP (PAND in Ecuador) as well as an assessment of current instruments, priorities and previous inputs for NAP activities gathered from various planning and dialogue national UNCCD-related processes that have direct relevance to combating land degradation in the country. NAP priorities shall be identified in the context of development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations. The national development plan as well as

sectoral action programmes shall be analyzed. The draft NAP will be re-aligned with existing strategies and programmes on poverty reduction, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation and watershed management.

29. Also, a stakeholder mapping will be done for both the drafting of the NAP as well as the reporting. Institutions, programmes, individuals, enterprises influencing on DLDD or working with SLM, will be identified.

Output 1.3 NAP revised to identify and establish priorities in the context of development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations.

30. The planning of the NAP will serve as a departing point for mainstreaming NAP recommendations into relevant national development and strategic programmes, through interacting with a wide range of sectors, programmes, and institutions.
31. During the last decade, important efforts have been done for integrating UNCCD and NAP priorities in national development plans. The need to address desertification and soil degradation is considered in the New Constitution elaborated in 2008. Articles 409 and 410 declares *soil conservation, mainly its fertile layer, of public interest and national priority and the need to establish a regulatory framework for protection and sustainable use in order to prevent degradation, mainly caused by pollution, desertification and erosion*. The Constitution establishes also the need to program and provide incentives for land restoration and reforestation in affected areas and encourages the role of the State to promote agricultural practices to protect the soil in order to promote food sovereignty. Public policy development to put in practice the Constitution with regard to combating desertification is needed and shall address legal and programmatic instruments that will be identified in this project.
32. Also, the project shall identify the means to integrate SLM in Land Use territorial management plans, as well as in policies, programmes and activities developed at decentralized levels.
33. The process of NAP alignment that will be initiated with this project will be done in close synergies with climate change, biodiversity, water management, agriculture and food sovereignty institutions and programmes. Synergistic activities shall be developed in relation to water management, afforestation, reforestation and land use (AFOLU), as well as under an ecosystem perspective.
34. Regarding climate change, since few years ago climate change is a priority issue in the country. Vulnerability to climate change is high, mainly due to the presence of intense droughts, periodic flooding, humid ecosystems becoming arid, desertification of the Amazon basin and retreat of Andean glaciers affecting water availability. These events are magnified by land degradation which responds in Ecuador mainly to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices including fire use, overgrazing, and overuse of agrochemicals, among others.
35. The consultation process for the drafting of the NAP shall include main national climate change-related processes and programmes, as well as the stakeholders involved in them (mainly indigenous peoples and CSOs).
36. The design of the National Climate Change Plan has just finished, including a series of land management measures that will need to be taken into account for developing the NAP, A national REDD+ Strategy was supported by UN REDD Programme, focusing on developing capacity building on relevant land management issues such as forest governance, deforestation and land use, including biotrade. The recently formulated National Climate Change Plan addresses linkages with land degradation and desertification issue that will be taken into account. In conclusion, much emphasis will be put to formulate a NAP addressing synergies and envisaging effective mechanisms for implementing synergies between climate change and land degradation at planning, financing and implementing levels.

Output 1.4 National consultation process at national and decentralized levels undertaken.

37. The main process for drafting the NAP will be the establishment of a consultative process consisting on participatory planning/validation workshops at central and decentralized levels. The planning and validation processes shall take full advantage of national planning processes, programmes and coordination mechanisms currently in place. The planning and validation processes shall include political, technical, scientific and financial issues, many of them responding to the diversity of ecosystems and socio-cultural situations covered during the process, that will be integrated into the NAP.
38. It is planned to organize a series of consultations, meetings and workshops at different levels and with a wide range of

stakeholders at central and decentralized levels.

39. Two national workshops will be organized at central level, gathering various stakeholders involved in planning, financing and environmental issues related to land management. To this end, a stakeholder's mapping will be done as a departure element.
40. At decentralized level, seven workshops will be conducted with decentralized authorities, farmers, community organizations, indigenous peoples, in order to gather inputs for the planning of the PAND. These 2-day workshops will also serve to gather information on finance-related issues, establishing the monitoring system and the reporting. To this end, the project team conformed by the Project Coordinator, the Technical Assistant and the various consultants (described in Annex A) shall develop and facilitate these workshops. By doing so, the workshops will cover all aspects needed for consultation and shall also take full advantage of the different expertise and therefore they will constitute capacity building and planning workshops.
41. Due to the diversity of ecosystems and specificity of the country's morphology, specific measures to combat land degradation in the different eco-regions shall be defined (such as Coastal drylands, coastal semi-arid zones, North Amazon, Southern Amazon, Northern Andes, Central Andes, Southern drylands). The idea is to consolidate the establishment of a decentralized system for planning, coordinating and assuring that effective linkages are put in place between institutional and local levels for NAP implementation.
42. The planning process will build upon capacity building activities that have been organized since 2013 through existing partnerships between the MAE and several universities acting at provincial level in most affected by desertification, such as the *Escuela Politécnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH)*, *Universidad Técnica de Manabí (UTM)*, *Universidad Nacional de Loja (UNL)* and the *Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL)*.

Output 1.5 National planning and coordination structures at centralized and decentralized levels established or strengthened.

43. The project shall initiate the establishment of national coordination structures in order to act as supportive components for NAP planning, validation and implementation processes.
44. The national capacity self-assessment analysis identified the lack of coordination among different sectors, mainly among environment, agriculture and watershed management as one of the main limitations for NAP implementation.
45. Regarding coordination mechanisms and consultative structures, intermittent initiatives have taken place. Since 2004, several discussion processes took place in search of the establishment of a National Coordination Organization (NCO). In 2009 a national inter-ministerial working group for sustainable land management was initiated within the national planning Secretary but was not consolidated.
46. At decentralized level, in 2002, a national working group on desertification (GNTD in Spanish) was conformed through a series of provincial meetings and forums led by provincial focal points. The group remained active and served as a dialogue platform for some years. Regarding NGOs participation, the Ecuadorian Network of Organizations working on desertification, RIOD-Ecuador was an active body mainly during the first planning of the NAP and remained active until around 2008. The working group GNTD at provincial level was reactivated by the Ministry of Environment in May 2012 through a series of consultations with provincial focal points and a First National Meeting of Desert, Land Degradation and Drought (DDLDD) Focal Points held in Cuenca city.
47. In recent years, the Ministry of Environment has developed and coordinated a series of meetings, workshops in areas mostly affected by desertification, land degradation and drought. These meetings were supported by technicians from the provincial departments of the MAE. Participants were mainly technicians and officials of government institutions, Autonomous Decentralized Governments, donors, universities, research centers, NGOs, social organizations, producers and farmers. These meetings are the first steps towards a national system of government coordination linking decisions at the central level and decentralized actions. A national system for coordinating the activities of the NAP was initiated and shall be strengthened, including decentralized authorities and community producers. The enabling activity should give follow up and consolidate the coordination mechanism and extend it by including the participation of CSOs and farmers.
48. The project shall establish a national planning, advisory and coordination structure, with instances and processes to be

developed both at central and decentralized levels. The project shall support the organization and facilitation of meetings and workshops aiming at promoting inter-sectoral dialogue, awareness raising, mainstreaming of LD issues into sectoral planning, through establishing/strengthening the national coordination structure acting at central and decentralized levels. The planning process for NAP drafting, workshops and consultation activities will serve as activities triggering the consolidation of the GNTD through:

- Establishing an intersectoral working group acting at central level, and
- Strengthening a national planning and coordination system for UNCCD implementation at decentralized level.

49. A national consultative working group shall be established with relevant institutions. The idea is to seek for strong coordination and synergies with climate change, watershed management, agriculture, rural development and finance sectors planning and budgetary processes. Several bilateral consultations will be undertaken, meetings, workshops, identifying stakeholders and discussing how to establish a mechanism to consolidate an efficient working group and/or how to integrate the issue of land degradation in existing coordination structures addressing land-related issues.

Output 1.6 Action plan for NAP implementation developed

50. The drafting of the NAP shall also include the development of a plan for NAP implementation. The action plan shall outline guideline strategies, activities and processes that will be agreed to be done at short term. Concrete activities of the action plan shall be reflected in the integrated investment framework and the integrated financing strategy that in turn shall establish activities and mechanisms to mobilize resources for its implementation.
51. The result of the drafting of the NAP will be validated through a consultative process and through bilateral dialogue meetings, including consultations to the coordination units at decentralized level that were strengthened. The project will contribute to the organization of several planning/validation workshops with these structures and with NGOs and relevant producer associations at decentralized levels. In fact, the facilitation process during these workshops shall be done in order to have an effective participatory planning and validating process.

Outcome 2. Technology and finance framework for NAP implementation established

52. This outcome shall strengthen the aligning process to the 10-Year Strategy-s operational objective 5 (financing and technology transfer).
53. The review of the Integrated Financing strategy and the elaboration of an Integrated Investment Framework for mobilizing resources for the NAP action plan will be done by a consultant hired to this end. Workshops carried out for the planning of the NAP may include the identification of financial sources and the elaboration of IFS recommendations and IIF frameworks.

Output 2.1 Diagnosis of financial sources for NAP implementation done.

54. The project shall first focus on conducting a rapid updated diagnosis of financial resources available for NAP implementation. The analysis of financial sources shall be done in close interaction with national institutions and the international cooperation.

Output 2.2 Integrated Financial Strategy reviewed and Investment Framework designed for NAP implementation

55. The finance framework will be established considering the Ecuadorian Integrated Financing Strategy (EFI-Ecuador) designed by the Ministry of Environment in 2010 with the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD support. Several national institutions were involved in the IFS process. The EFI-Ecuador was formulated through consultations priorities for combating land degradation in the process of IFS design.
56. The drafting of the aligned PAND shall integrate a revised action plan and some recommendations of the Integrated Financing Strategy but a revision of IFS action plan shall be conducted. From 2010 to 2014 there have been several changes in the national budgeting process and in the international cooperation architecture. As an example, several

innovative financing mechanisms have been strengthened since then, for instance the national Socio Bosque compensation mechanism for forest conservation, which has included *páramo* and dry forest ecosystems in their operations, largely contributing with innovative finance to the combat to land degradation and desertification in the country. Also, several important programmes are in place, mainly related to climate change.

57. The IFS will need to be revised and aligned with the PAND drafted during this enabling activity project. The resulting product shall be a plan for resource mobilization with concrete measures to be taken at national and decentralized levels. An Integrated Investment Framework (IIF) gathering resource mobilization priorities identified through IFS and therefore guiding investments needs to be designed.
58. For including a decentralized approach, the IFS consultant will be part of the project team assisting to decentralized workshops, in order to include in the consultation process the identification of funds at provincial level, as well as formulating recommendations for improving resource mobilization at provincial levels.

Output 2.3 Technology transfer needs for NAP implementation identified.

59. The IFS/IIF consultant shall conduct also an analysis of technology transfer needs for NAP implementation, in close coordination with the team working on the drafting of the NAP and organizing planning workshops and consultations. Close interaction shall be developed with the Technical Need Assessment initiative of the MAE (TNA project) in areas regarding water management, irrigation and climate change. A set of technology needs will be identified for further exchanges and project development activities, in order to take full advantage of the NAP process in other countries under a South-South cooperation approach.

Outcome 3. Scientific capacities strengthened for the implementation of indicator-based monitoring and assessment

3.1 Existing cartography on the status of land and land degradation vulnerability gathered

60. The project will not develop cartography but will gather existing cartography and geographic analysis on the status of land and land degradation vulnerability.
61. Synergies will be made with the MAE investment project on land degradation and integral management, and also with the GEF LADA II project, if approved, as both initiatives will contribute to the development of a national land degradation map and related cartography.
62. Also, there is scattered information in different analysis done such as the document on land degradation, the SIGAGRO, the forest evaluation initiative, and several initiatives at decentralized levels.

3.2 Indicators developed for land degradation and NAP implementation,

63. A central activity for the drafting of the NAP will be the establishment of indicators. Two levels of indicators shall be established:
 1. Indicators for NAP implementation, aligned with the national development plan indicators as well as with the 10-Year Strategy indicators (Enabling Activity Development and or reviewing indicators for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities) and
 2. Indicators for monitoring land degradation at national and local levels.
64. Activities related to the establishment of indicators, dealing with the training and use of indicators, establishment of harmonized and socio economic baseline and drought warning systems shall be developed through the creation of partnerships with relevant institutions addressing climate change, risk management and rural development. These activities shall directly contribute and be integrated in the enabling activity of reporting,
65. This outcome will be carried out by a specialized consultant whose main task will be to establish indicators and a monitoring system. This shall be done through partnership building with existent partner universities and cartography and monitoring processes related to natural resources, as well as through formulating indicators for land degradation (for national and local levels), and identifying a practical way to monitor the from national and provincial sites.
66. Provincial workshops organized for NAP alignment will also serve to identify local-based indicators.

3.3 A monitoring system outlined.

67. The MAE holds since 2012 partnerships with various universities in rural areas, aiming at jointly addressing the issue of LD and SLM. Universities will be key and strategic partners for the elaboration of the aligned NAP and for the establishing of the monitoring system. Agreements are signed with the Escuela Politécnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH), the *Universidad Nacional de Loja (UNL)*, *Universidad Técnica de Manabí (UTM)* and the *Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL)*. It is worth noting that the latter, the UTPL, has cells and distance learning system covering all national level. The objective of the agreements and areas of joint collaboration include research on indicators for monitoring, DLDD, project development and resource mobilization, and capacity building on SLM, natural resources conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
68. The monitoring system shall also be outlined in close coordination and in complement to the *Sistema Único de Información Ambiental (SUIA)* or Unique System of Environmental Information, which is a system designed to integrate geographic indicators, knowledge and institutional data.
69. The monitoring system to be put in place will be established in close coordination and in support to the reporting activity.
70. A collaborative effort with the resulting tools of the MAE forest evaluation and from the monitoring system will be crucial based on a baseline, and already elaborated cartography. Also, the information raised for the National Climate Change Plan and the UN REDD results shall be useful to the proposed EA. The establishment of land degradation and desertification cartography will be supported by LADA and the GEF project “Scaling up SLM”, if approved. Recent data from Ecuador’s Ministry of Environment estimates that the deforestation rate is 61,764 hectares per year. In Ecuador, out of 24,8 million hectares of land surface, 29,6% is agricultural land (7,34 million hectares), 38,7% are forests (9,66 million hectares) (FAOSTAT, 2011). Permanent pastures cover around 18% (FAO, 2006).
71. According to the National capacity self-assessment developed in 2004 by the Ministry of Environment with support of UNDP, (NCSA-ECU/03/G31), since 1984, MAG-ORSTOM study found out that almost 47,9% of the country was affected by erosion problems. During the last years deforestation rate in Ecuador has been one of the highest of South America, estimated in 2,3% Vegetation cover has disappeared in 36%. The coastal regional, for instance, has lost 92% of its original natural vegetation cover (Sierra et al. 1999). Research undertaken for the National Action Programme at the end of the 90’s found that 27% of the country’s surface was most prone to desertification, with provinces of the Andes and the Coast presenting high levels of land degradation. A more recent study conducted by GM-ECLAC (2011) on land productivity in Ecuador determines that traditionally humid areas of the Amazon basin are already severely affected by land degradation, nevertheless besides forest lost, there is no consolidated cartography specific to land degradation in pasture or agriculture lands.
72. The country shall determine indicators of changes in vegetation and land health and productivity. Special attention shall be given to the identification and gathering of cartographic data on vegetation cover recently developed from national development institutions, the National Planning Secretariat, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP) and provincial governmental authorities (GADs). The establishment of a knowledge management system, based on cartographic tools and indicators shall be put in place in order to measure and monitor land cover (PRAIS Core indicator S-5: Land Cover Status). This will support decisions and monitoring the implementation of policies and application of sustainable land management practices.

Outcome 4. NAP awareness raised – communication products

Output 4.1 Communication and outreach products supporting NAP alignment developed .

73. The main activity regarding awareness raising will be the development of communication products to support the NAP planning process at central and decentralized levels, as well as the publication of the resulting NAP executive document in Spanish and English uploaded on line and in printings.
74. A specialized enterprise shall be contracted for elaborating a package of communication products. Communication products shall support the overall planning process as well as the activities aiming at mainstreaming and integrating LD issues and NAP priorities into the national development planning and budgetary process and other relevant sectors.

Communication products shall also include tools highlighting land degradation linkages with climate change and the need to address it in close synergies with other national processes such as poverty alleviation, economic development biodiversity conservation.

75. A series of technical booklets on land degradation and climate change have already been produced by the Ministry of Environment, according to gaps identified for NAP alignment purposes, additional information shall be produced.
76. Communication products may encompass the development of resulting cartography, indicators and monitoring related products to be put in a friendly communicative format, if co-financing for these activities is sought.

COMPONENT II. NATIONAL REPORTING

Outcome 5. National report and review process prepared and submitted to UNCCD.

77. A consultant will be hired for 3 months, in order to prepare the VI National Report (2013-2014) .In the lead up to the preparation of the country's National Report to UNCCD, a series of activities will be carried including stakeholder consultations, surveys and studies to collect data etc, related also to identify stakeholders at national and local level, best practices and validate generated information.
78. The consultant for reporting shall develop the following outputs:
 - Output 5.1 Identification of information sources, stakeholders and best practices.*
 - Output 5.2 Preparation of the draft report.*
 - Output 5.3 Training national level stakeholders in the reporting methodologies, procedures and tools.*
 - Output 5.4 Validation process.*
 - Output 5.5 Submission of the report through the PRAIS portal.*
 - Output 5.6 Development of a plan to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD implementation.*
79. As part of the reporting process, SLM related programmes/projects will be identified. The identification of best practices that are currently in place will be done in close synergies with the GEF project "Decision Support for SLM Upscaling". The exchange of information regarding technologies and best practices shall be established during that project, therefore representing an input for the reporting to PRAIS.
80. Ecuador has submitted two PRAIS national reports, the first PRAIS national report in 2010 and the second PRAIS national report in 2012. The Ministry of Environment has started to gather reporting information for PRAIS 3 through a participatory process involving 24 provincial Ministry of Environment officers conducting UNCCD activities in their areas. The 2013-2014 national reporting shall focus on the preparation of the draft report (EA activity drafting the report) and submission of the report through the PRAIS portal in order to assess progress made in meeting the Ten-year strategy according to indicators established at national level as well as PRAIS indicators.
81. Various activities to be developed in preparation of the reporting process were addressed in Outcome 4 of this project, including the gathering of cartography and the establishment of a monitoring system, Activities dealing with national reporting will be developed to establish long-term linkages between the establishment of indicators and the building of partnerships for early warning systems, with the measuring and reporting of concrete data results in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in Ecuador. To this end, the planning and consultative process developed for reporting will be done along with the planning and consultative process for the alignment of the NAP. The validation process shall include relevant institutions, indigenous peoples and CSOs.
82. The consultant working on reporting will work in close interaction with the team of the Ministry of Environment. Permanent staff of the team of the Under Secretariat of Climate Change dealing with desertification issues will be trained in reporting methodologies, procedures and tools during the preparation of the report.

EA IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

83. The project will be implemented over a period of 12 months. The Ministry of Environment of Ecuador (MAE) is the government institution responsible for the implementation of the project and will act as the Executing Agency.
84. UNDP is the *GEF Agency* for the project and accountable to the GEF for the use of funds. The UNDP executes its activity in Ecuador in accordance with the agreement between the Government of Ecuador and UNDP signed in 2005.
85. The overall *responsibility* for the project implementation by the Ministry of Environment, MAE'S Climate Change Under Secretariat, Direction of Climate Change Adaptation, implies the timely and verifiable attainment of project objectives and outcomes. The Ministry of Environment of Ecuador will provide support, equipment and all facilities and inputs for the implementation of all project activities.
86. Working closely with the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) will be responsible for providing Implementation Support Service (ISS), costed in the EA project budget, that includes:
 - a. Administrative management of the project resources,
 - b. Recruitment of project staff and the contracting of consultants and service providers,
 - c. Emission of purchase orders, administration of workshop and travel expenses,
 - d. Overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets approved between UNDP-CO and MAE UNCCD focal point
 - e. 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,

UNDP also agrees to:

- a. Provide, in its role as GEF implementing agency, project oversight (through the Task Manager and Fund Management officer), Specifically this will include:
 - b. Timely feedback on all substantive and financial issues;
 - c. Provide technical support and assistance to the project on a need basis and where required;
 - d. Ensure communication and information exchange between the Executing Agency, UNDP, and all other relevant organizations, institutions, programmes and projects;
 - e. Liaise with the GEF Secretariat, UNCCD and GM for all matters related to the UNCCD Reporting
87. The Ministry of Environment will be responsible of:
 - a. Providing direct supervision to the Project Coordinator and Project Assistant
 - b. Liaise with, the various national project partners and stakeholders
 - c. Implement the project activities in accordance with the project proposal and budget
 - d. Make available to the project the cash or in-kind co-financing agreed,
88. The Director of Climate change adaptation is the UNCCD focal point, he will represent the MAE for the project preparation with UNDP/GEF and the overall project implementation.
89. A National Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be convened by the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, and will serve as the project's coordination and decision-making body (Project Board). The PSC will include representation of MAE (UNCCD focal point) and UNDP. The PSC meetings will be chaired by the MAE national UNCCD focal point (Director of Climate change adaptation). It will meet according the necessity, but not less than once in 2 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.
90. The day-to-day administration of the project will be carried out by the Project Coordinator, who shall manage the implementation of all project activities. The Project Coordinator will be hired for 8 months. He/She will liaise and work

closely with all partner institutions to link the project with complementary national programs and initiatives. The Enabling Activity Project Coordinator is accountable to the Ministry of Environment 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 Project Coordinator will also be technically supported by contracted national consultants.

91. A technical and administrative assistant will also be hired for 8 months, he/she will work in the office of the Ministry of Environment providing direct assistance to the Project Coordinator for logistic, administrative and workshop organization aspects of the project implementation. Equipment, communications and desk support will be provided by the Ministry of Environment, Climate change adaptation direction.
92. During the first month of project implementation, meanwhile the contracting procedures of the Project Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant shall take place; the Ministry of Environment with the collaboration of UNDP-CO shall conduct the formulation of ToRs and contract procedures.

EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

A series of measures are envisaged to be implemented within the proposed EA project in order to increase its cost effective aspects:

1. First, the project shall utilize the existing institutional and administrative set up of the Climate change Under Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment, taking advantage of existing human resources. Staff of the Ministry of Environment shall support the project implementation; an overall assistant to the coordinator will be co-financed by MAE. The team working on desertification under the direction of the national focal point will be fully engaged in the process. This will provide ownership, capacity building and sustainability to the project. The overall administrative, logistic, communications will be provided by the Ministry of Environment.
2. Reduction of the overall management costs will be done through assigning administrative and technical tasks to few persons. The Project Coordinator will be hired to coordinate the overall project but he/she shall conduct the drafting of the NAP and will be directly responsible of the activities undertaken to this end such as consultations, reviews, validation, etc.
3. The consultation process at provincial level will be, when possible, a sequence of planning and validation activities.
4. NAP planning and the establishment of observatories and monitoring systems will be taken together both at the provincial and national levels. This would help in reducing the overall operational costs of the project and consultation expenses.
5. The UNCCD national focal point and the governmental unit working on desertification works also in climate change programmes, this will help to create synergies between climate change and desertification issues.
6. Finally, activities related to information collection, indicators and monitoring systems shall support NAP alignment but also the reporting process.

BUDGETED M&E PLAN:

The project will follow UNDP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. The plan outlined below in the Table *Monitoring and Evaluation* is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy.

EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):N/A

TABLE: MONITORING AND EVALUATION BUDGET

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)*1	Time-frame
Kick-off meeting	Establishment of ToRs and contract process for Project Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD focal point at the Ministry of Environment (MAE-NFP) • UNDP CO 	none	Within one week of project start
Inception meeting	Team conformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAE-NFP • Project Coordinator • MAE team • UNDP CO 	0	When Project coordinator is Contracted
Detailed road map/ workplan	Outline implementation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAE-NFP • Project Coordinator • MAE team 	0	Two weeks after Project coordinator is contracted
Progress Report	Progress report 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Coordinator 	0	Month 3
Periodic Project Review by Steering Committee	Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations and technical outputs; Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms forward implementation plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAE-NFP • UNDP 		Every two months
Progress report	Progress report 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Coordinator 		Month 5
Project Implementation Review	Progress and effectiveness review for the GEF, provision of reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team • UNDP-GEF 	0	6 months after project start
Final project report	Highlights technical outputs	Project Coordinator UNDP -CO	0	Month 9
Financial Audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions	UNDP		At the end of project implementation

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


A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:
(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)
LORENA TAPIA , MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT	GEF FOCAL POINT FOR ECUADOR	MINISTRY OF ENVIROMENT	APRIL 23, 2014

A. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

CONVENTIONS	DATE RATIFICATION/ACCESSION	OF	CONVENTION FOCAL POINT
UNCCD	SEPTEMBER 2005		MR, ANDRES HUBENTHAL, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION DIRECTOR

B. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i		9 May 2014	Helen Negret, EBD Senior Technical Advisor	+507 302-4508	helen.negret@ undp.org

ANNEX A. CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED

Position Titles	\$/person week	Estimated Person week	Task to be performed
For EA Management			
Project Coordinator	\$946.5/person week (3,786/month- 8 months- Total 30,288)	32	<p>To undertake the overall coordination of the project, including general technical and administrative function of the project.</p> <p>Key tasks of the Project Coordinator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborates the overall project work plan and budget and submit it to MAE and Steering Committee for approval. • Ensures that project Objective, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities are executed in a timely and appropriate manner. • Manages the overall project team. • Elaborates ToRs for consultants working on the different project components. • Supervises, facilitates, guide and monitor the work of consultants and technical assistant, and approve their deliverables in coordination with the MAE. • Organizes and assists in project related activities, where required. • Coordinates with other national and international persons, initiatives and programs whose work, outcomes and outputs are relevant to this project's objectives. • Conducts the consultative process for NAP drafting: to define the approach content of meetings and workshops for NAP planning. • Drafts the NAP as main product of the project. • Provides timely reporting gathering the results of all components. <p><i>Qualifications and experience:</i> Advanced degree in environmental or natural sciences, economics, social sciences, management, and-or minimum 5 years management experience. Knowledge and understanding of the relevant UN Convention, environmental issues in Ecuador, mainly on land degradation and climate change issues Good management, leadership, coordination, communication, and facilitation skills are essential,</p>
Administrative Assistant (National Government contribution)	\$425 /person week (\$ 1,700 / month, 8 months Total 13,600)	32 weeks	<p>The overall administrative assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides administrative support to the project • Manages the Agenda of the project coordinator • Organizes all workshops, including calls, logistics and travel arrangements, • Provides logistic support to the project coordinator and consultants. • Provides writing support to the elaboration of reports and the drafting of the NAP.

For Technical Assistance			
IFS consultant	\$1,500/ person week (2 weeks/ month, 4 months, Total 18,000)	12 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revises the IFS developed in 2010. • Carries out the analysis of disposable national financial resources for NAP. • Analyzes current funding sources. • Interacts with relevant institutions to conduct a consultative process on funding sources and potential actions to be undertaken. • Elaborate recommendations to improve resource mobilization. • Draft a resource mobilization action plan. • Develops the Integrated Investment Framework. • Develops the methodology, approaches and recommendations concerning IIF Develops a complex of activities for overcoming the investment barriers interfering with NAP implementation. • Organizes (develops the programme in close coordination with the administrative assistant, and holds) a workshop on IFS-IIF with relevant institutions and donors. • Travel (3 travels) to key provinces to identify decentralized funding sources and partners.
Indicators and Monitoring consultant	\$1250/week \$ 250/ day 60 days total 15,000	12 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies existing cartography, indicators and monitoring systems. • Develop partnerships to develop indicators and a monitoring system based on existing cartography and data on land degradation that allow the follow up of trends and variations according to established indicators, • 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. • Proposes together with the MAE team of indicators the system of biophysical and social and economic indicators of UNCCD implementation according to 10-year Strategy and to the updated PAND. • Assists to the provincial workshops in order to gather information, identify local indicators, and establish observatories for the monitoring system. • Produces documentation on indicators, with the support of the communication enterprise.
Reporting consultant	\$ 1000/person week (\$200/day 4 weeks/month	12 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafts the report. • Works in close coordination with the project team to specify information needs. • Gathers information from the project team (indicators,) and gather additional information

	total 3 months		<p>when needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interacts with the team of the LADA project in order to gather and integrate cartography on land degradation developed. • Conducts an analysis of stakeholders and best practices, • Interacts with the project team prepares the proposals for filling of knowledge management system section, concerning the monitoring information; provides the scientific analysis of the data and gives the estimation of their quality for preparation of the National report; • Trains permanent staff on reporting procedures and methodologies, • Prepares the section concerning the best practice and the science contribution in UNCCD implementation and interacts with the team working on the global GEF- FAO project for Scaling SLM, regarding the identification and exchange of best practices. • Establishes a plan for long-term knowledge management; 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. • Interacts with UNCCD PRAIS related instances for any information need or for training. • Carries out the electronic filling and presentation of the National report to UNCCD secretary through PRAIS system.
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ANNEX B. CHRONOGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Comp	Modules	Guiding activities under each component	Months											
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	NAP alignment	1. Communication products						x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		2. Drafting of the NAP		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
		3. IFS			x	x	x	x	x					
		4. Indicators and Monitoring system			x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
2	Reporting and Review process	5. Data collection				x	x	x						
		6. Draft report					x	x	x	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)	Budget note
Comp, 1 Alignment	MAE	62000	GEF-10003	71400	Contractual Services Individual (Coordinator 90%)	27,259	a
				71400	Contractual Services Individual (Assistant 80%)	11,363	b
				75700	Workshops (NAP planning)	12,200	c
				71600	Travel (to provinces)	5,684	d
				71300	Local Consultants (Finance)	18,000	e
				75700	Workshop (finance)	1,400	f
				71600	Travel (finance to provinces)	2,842	g
				71300	Local Consultants (monitoring/indicators)	15,000	h
				72400	Information Technology (Cartography)	7,000	i
				71600	Travel (monitoring to provinces)	2,842	j
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies (communication products)	7,320	k
GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 1 (Comp 1)						110,910	
TOTAL ACTIVITY 1 (Comp 1)						110,910	
Comp 2, Reporting and Review process	MAE	62000	GEF-10003	71200	Local Consultants	12,000	l
				74500	Information, material	642	m
				71600	Travel	1,218	n
GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 2 (Comp 2)						13,860	
TOTAL ACTIVITY 2 (Comp 2)						13,860	
Project Management	MAE	62000	GEF-10003	71400	Contractual Services Individual (Coordinator 10%)	3,512	a
				71400	Contractual Services Individual (Assistant 20%)	2,720	b
				74599	UNDP - Cost Recovery Charges Bills	5,503	o
				74500	Miscellaneous	481	p
GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 4 (Proj Mgt)						12,216	
TOTAL ACTIVITY 4 (Project Management)						12,216	
SUB-TOTAL GEF						136,986	
GRAND TOTAL (in cash)						136,986	

Budget Notes	
a	Project coordinator, Contractual Services Individual, Team leader, technical and Managerial budget expertise (\$3,786 /month, approx., 32 weeks, 8 months, Total \$30,288 +483 Medical insurance for SC holder) 90% budgeted for in component 1, 10% budgeted in Management Expenses. Percentages only apply for total of \$ 30,288
b	Project technical assistant, Contractual Services Individual, Supports overall technical support, documentation and logistic administration and organization of workshops, (\$1,700 /month, approx., 32 weeks, 8 months, Total \$13,600 + 483 Medical insurance for SC holder), 80% budgeted for in component 1, 20% budgeted in Management Expenses. Percentages only apply for total of \$ 13,600
c	Workshops for public consultations – (i) 2 workshops in the capital Quito, \$600/workshop to be developed in UNDP or MAE offices, Budget includes meals and materials (ii) 1 inception workshop in the Capital Quito , \$1200/workshop to be developed in UNDP or MAE offices, Budget includes meals and materials (iii) 7 workshops in provinces, \$1,200/workshops, Budget includes meals, accommodations and travel of some local participants to the workshop.
d	Travel of 2 persons (Coordinator and Assistant)to 7 provincial workshops, Budget includes \$120 transport and \$143 DSA (\$406/travel)
e	National Expert on Integrated Financial Strategy (\$300/day 3 weeks /month - approx, 12 weeks, total 4 months, Total \$18,000)
f	Workshop on Finance, 2-day workshop, Budget includes meals and material,
g	Travel of Finance consultant to provinces to gather information about financial sources at decentralized level, 7 travels (\$406/travel)
h	National Expert on Monitoring and indicators (\$250/day, 60 days, or approx 12 weeks, total lumpsum \$15,000)
i	Information Technology (Cartography) – development
j	Travel to provinces of Nat, Expert team to gather information and establish observatories, 7 travels (\$406/travel)
k	Contractual Services-Companies, Enterprise for development of communication products, PAND publication, Lumpsum \$ 7,320
l	National Reporting consultant, Data collection, report drafting and best practices knowledge management plan, \$200/day, 3months, Total Lumpsum \$12,000,
m	Report material for meetings, for reporting validation, Lumpsum \$642
n	Travel for reporting , 3 travels to provinces (\$406/travel)
o	74599 UNDP Cost Recovery Charges. Direct project services requested by the Government of Ecuador to the UNDP Bureau for supporting the implementation of the project (procurement, payments, travel, others.), according to the provisions of the Letter of Agreement (Annex D).
p	Miscellaneous to cover any unforeseen expenditure during project implementation \$481

ANNEX D. LETTER OF AGREEMENT

LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNDP AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF ECUADOR FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT “SUPPORT TO ECUADOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMS ALIGNED TO THE UNCCD 10 YEAR STRATEGY AND REPORTING PROCESS UNDER UNCCD”, PROJECT ID. 00090031 UNDER THE NATIONAL EXECUTION MODALITY.

1. Within the context of the project “Support to Ecuador for the development of National Action Programs aligned to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Reporting Process under UNCCD” UNDP and the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador (hereinafter referred to as “the counterpart”) agree that the UNDP country office may provide support services for the implementation of the project, at the request of the counterpart and in accordance with the Project Document signed by both parties.
2. The UNDP country office may provide implementation support services without affecting the strengthening of the capacities of the counterpart and the direct execution of the activities described in the Project Document. The costs incurred by the UNDP country office shall be recovered in accordance with the relevant policy.
3. The UNDP country office may provide, at the request of the counterpart, the following support services for the implementation of the project:
 - a. Identification and/or recruitment of personnel;
 - b. Identification and facilitation of training activities;
 - c. Procurement of goods and services;
4. The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of project and programme personnel by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures. Support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be detailed in an annex to the Project Document, in the form provided in Annex 1 to this letter, and , if the requirements for support change during the life of the project, they will be revised and modified in mutual agreement between the parties.
5. All of the privileges and immunities described in the Basic Cooperation Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Ecuador of January 19, 2005, shall apply to the provision of the support services described in this letter. The Government shall retain overall responsibility for the execution of the project through its designated institution. The responsibility of the UNDP country office for the provision of the support services described herein shall be limited to the provision of such support services detailed in the annex to the Project Document.
6. Any claim or dispute arising under in relation to the provisions of this letter shall be handled pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Basic Cooperation Agreement referred to under point 5 above.
7. The manner and method of cost-recovery by the UNDP country office in providing the support services described in paragraph 3 above are specified in the Project Document. The cost-recovery policy of UNDP determines that the direct projects implementation costs incurred by UNDP (previously referred to as Implementation Support Services or ISS) shall be recovered in accordance with the real costs that are expected to be incurred, or on the base of each transaction (using the Universal Price List or the Local Price List form as reference costs) and should be charged directly to the project budget of the project “Support to Ecuador for the development of National Action Programs aligned to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Reporting Process under UNCCD”.
8. The UNDP country office shall submit quarterly progress reports on the support services provided, as well as the costs incurred.

9. Any modification of the present arrangements shall be effected by mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.
10. This letter forms part of the Project Document entered into between the parties and is included as an annex to said document.
11. The parties hereby state their mutual agreement to the points stipulated in this letter, by signing two copies of equal validity.

Yours sincerely,

Signed on behalf of UNDP
Diego Zorrilla
Resident Representative - Ecuador

Signed on behalf of Ministry of Environment of Ecuador
Lorena Tapia
Minister

Attachment

DESCRIPTION OF UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Reference is made to consultations between the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, the institution designated by the Government of Ecuador and representatives of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the nationally managed project No. 00090031 Title: Support to Ecuador for the development of National Action Programs aligned to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Reporting Process under UNCCD “the Project”.
2. In accordance with the provisions of the letter of agreement signed on Date of signature (LOA) and the project document, the UNDP country office shall provide support services for the Project as described below.
3. Support services to be provided:

Support services* (insert description)	Schedule for the provision of the support services	Cost to UNDP of providing such support services (where appropriate)	Amount and method of reimbursement of UNDP (where appropriate)
1. Payments, disbursements and other financial transactions	During project implementation	Universal Price List	Support Services
2. Recruitment of staff, project personnel, and consultants	During project implementation	Universal Price List	Support Services
3. Procurement of services and equipment, and disposal/sale of equipment	During project implementation	Universal Price List	Support Services
4. Organization of training activities, conferences, and workshops, including fellowships	During project implementation	Universal Price List	Support Services
5. Travel authorizations, visa requests, ticketing, and travel arrangements	During project implementation	Universal Price List	Support Services
6. Shipment, custom clearance, vehicle registration, and accreditation	During project implementation	Universal Price List	Support Services

* UNDP direct project support services will be defined yearly, and for those executed during the period, direct project costs will be charged at the end of each year based on the UNDP Universal Pricelist (UPL) or the actual corresponding service cost