



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

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**PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Title:	Applying Landscape and Sustainable Land Management (L-SLM) for mitigating land degradation and contributing to poverty reduction in rural areas		
Country(ies):	Georgia	GEF Project ID:	<b>5825</b>
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01291
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia through Regional Environment Centre (REC) for the Caucasus	Re-Submission Date:	May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	36
Name of parent program	N/A	Project Agency Fee (\$):	87,731

**A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:**

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
<b>LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services sustaining the livelihoods of local communities</b> Outcome 1.1: An enhanced enabling environmental within an agricultural sector in support of L-SLM Output 1.1.1 Country level policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that integrate SLM principles developed Outcome 1.2: Improved agricultural management Output: 1.2. Types of innovative SL/WM practices introduced at landscape level Outcome 1.3: Sustainable flow of services in agro-ecosystems Output 1.3. Suitable SL/WW interventions to increase vegetation cover in agro-ecosystems	GTF	500,000	2,000,000
<b>LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape</b> Outcome 3.1 Enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management Output 3.1. Integrated landscape management plans developed and implemented Outcome 3.2. Good management practices in the wider landscape demonstrated and adopted by relevant local communities Output 3.2 INRM tools and methodologies developed and tested Output 3.4. Information on SLM (wider landscape) technology and good practices disseminated	GTF	423,484	1,652,968
Total	GTF	923,484	3,652,968

**B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY**

**Project Objective:** to support integration of good Landscape and Sustainable Land Management (L-SLM) principles and practices into national policy and institutional framework to ensure adoption of economically viable practices by rural communities.

Project Components	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
<b>1: Policy, regulatory and institutional reforms to mainstream L-SLM practices</b>	TA	Adequate legal, policy and institutional framework on SLM at national level	<p>Output 1: National legal framework related to Land Management sector reviewed and recommendations for harmonizing existing SLM framework developed, ammendments prepared and submitted for endorsment to the relevant governmental entities</p> <p>Output 2: Needs assessment report addressing national institutional framework in Georgia to deliver positive SLM adaptive management elaborated and considered by national authorities</p> <p>Output 3: National Integrated Landscape Management Strategy Paper completed and approved by the government of Georgia</p> <p>Output 4: Land degradation e-Atlas at scale 1: 250 000 for whole Terrutiry of Country is prepared and disseminated for governmental institutions and other stakeholders</p>	GTF	200,000	800,000
<b>2: Demonstrating benefits of introducing best L-SLM practices in the production system</b>	TA/Inv	Increased understanding of SLM and it contribution to livelihood at local level	<p>Output 2.1: A vulnerability profile for two selected municipalities established and local community land use plans developed</p> <p>Output 2.2: A package of SLM practices activities with real social and environmental impacts piloted in agricultural, sylvicultural and livestock production</p>	GTF	500,000	2,000,000
<b>3: National DLDD capacity development and knowledge Management</b>	TA	Capable national stakeholders to develop and manage SLM issues	<p>Output 3.1: Training targetting at least 100 decision makers and communities representaive conducted on SLM practices</p> <p>Output 3.2: Training on impact indicators of good SLM practices</p>	GTF	139,531	520,880

		in agricultural, environmental and socio-economic sectors conducted to enable stakeholders to develop indicators and establish a system to monitor and evaluate them			
		Output 3.3: Knowledge and good SLM practices and dissemination products developed and disseminated at local level for implementation through output 2.2			
Subtotal				839,531	3,320,880
Project Management Cost (PMC) <sup>1</sup>			GEFTF	83,953	332,088
Total Project Cost				923,484	3,652,968

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry in charge of Environment	In-kind	50,000
CSO	REC CAUCASUS/ Executing Agency	In - Kind	1,450,000
Multilateral	EU "Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region	Cash (tbc)	1,102,968
Bilateral	GIZ	Cash (tbc)	1,000,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-Kind	50,000
Other			
<b>Total Cofinancing</b>			<b>3,652,968</b>

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

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total (\$) c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Land Degradation	Georgia	923,484	87,731	1,011,215
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				923,484	87,731	1,011,215

<sup>2</sup> Indicate fees related to this project.

**E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)**

	<u>Amount Requested (\$)</u>	<u>Agency Fee for PPG (\$)</u>
• (upto) \$50k for projects up to & including \$1 million		
• (up to) \$100k for projects up to and including \$3 million	45,662	4,338

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

<sup>1</sup> To be calculated as percent of subtotal.

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Georgia	45,662	4,338	50,000
<b>Total PPG Amount</b>				45,662	4,338	50,000

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION<sup>2</sup>**

### **A. Project Overview.**

#### **A .1.1 Problem statement**

Georgian land resources are limited. Therefore, land protection and soil resources are essential for the country. The total area of terrestrial territory is 69.7 thousand square kilometres, including only 15% cultivated land and 70% natural-economic land use (forests, bushes, meadows and pastures). Due to specific climatic and landscape conditions as well as improper agricultural practices, more than a third of agricultural lands are in the process of degradation, erosion, pollution, and damage of soil structure and nutrient lost. One form of land degradation concern is land desertification, which results in the progressive loss of plant cover in dry steppes and semi-deserts. Around 4% of the country (3000 km<sup>2</sup>) is vulnerable to the desertification process. This is mainly in the Shiraqi, Eldari, Iori, Taribani, Naomari, Ole and Jeiran-Choli valleys.

Land degradation continues to be a major problem in Georgia. According to data of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, 60% of the agricultural lands in Georgia were of medium or low productivity. Overgrazing and uncontrolled grazing, poor forest management and loss of forest covers, unplanned urban sprawl are major drivers for the land degradation in Georgia.

According to the third national report (2013-2014) on the implementation of the UNCCD, the scale of land degradation is much bigger as compared to desertification and it is rather significant problem for almost all Georgia including the Western Georgia and high mountain regions. According to the latest data, about 35% of agricultural lands are degraded. Land erosion type and causes, which has significantly activated during the last years, is the most representative problem related to land degradation. More than 1 million hectares of land is erosion stricken from which plough-lands constitute 380 thousand hectares, pasture lands and hayfields constitute 570 thousand and Black Sea coastal line – 87 thousand hectares. In arid and semi-arid zones of Eastern Georgia about 105 thousand hectares of plough-lands in 18 administrative regions undergo erosion caused by winds. 59 220 hectares of soil is seriously saline, in average -54 340 hectares. Overall area of humus-sulphate soils requiring melioration (land-reclamation) constitutes 15 thousand hectares.

The lack of efficient land management policies, a weak regulatory framework, limited access to appropriate information and technology, a weak institutional capacities and a lack of cooperation between various stakeholders along with high rate of natural disasters are causing significant problems in land management sector and for overall ecosystem integrity.

Therefore, from the management point of view, one of the major problems Georgia is facing today is an absence of comprehensive and integrated approach in land management sector. In addition, an irrelevant legal framework sometimes is the source of additional “conflicts” with the evolved national strategic and policy packages.

Although Georgia has shown clear drive to combat land degradation and improve land management system by moving forward with the establishment of a strong baseline, this includes accession and

implementation of most pertinent international agreements, adoption of several related policies and laws (NEAP, NAPCD, etc.)

The above mentioned factors underlines the importance of the review of the country's existing policy and regulatory framework related to the management of land resources, that will serve as utmost important components to overcome existing barriers to mainstream L-SLM activities. National plans and policies do not reflect holistic land management principles and practices.

There is a failure of national and rural decision making frameworks to provide adequate legal parameters and tools to support SLM. Current policies result in disparate organizations responsible for various land management sectors making unilateral decisions that lead to uncoordinated approaches. Consequently, "on the ground" management decisions made by responsible communities and resource users do not benefit from the guidance of coordinated, national strategies.

Capacity and information pathways do not exist to provide rural community members with examples of alternative, sustainable methods of resource use. Remote communities and resource users now responsible for many land management issues do not have satisfactory access to the information and tools necessary for informed decision-making. As a result, community land use plans and other decision-making tools intended to address land degradation fail to reflect L-SLM principles and practices.

### **A.1.2 The baseline scenario**

To address the above mention barriers and treats, the Government in collaboration with its partners, has/is implementing various initiatives which include

- **The 2nd phase of UNDP project Strengthening the Disaster Risk Reduction System in Georgia** (01 January 2011- 31 December 2012) continues the efforts implemented under the 1st phase. The achievements of the first phase of the project included a) Development of UN Georgia's Contingency Plan based on a multi-hazard and all-phase approach in collaboration with UN emergency planners, and b) Inclusion of Disaster Risk Reduction in the new UNDAF (UN Development Assistance Framework) 2011-2015, based on the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, and in the corresponding UNDP CPD 2011-2015. The overall objective of the project's phase 2 is to make DRR a national, regional and local priority with an established, strong institutional basis for implementation. The second phase envisions technical assistance and policy advice to the Georgian government for the adoption of relevant policies in the priority areas, mainly: Establishing/strengthening an inclusive and functional National Platform for DRR, Mainstreaming DRR in development policies, programmes, and practices, and Enhancing disaster risk management and coordination with a special focus on humanitarian issues through engaging communities at risk, scientific institutions and international organizations in prevention and mitigation of natural disasters.

- The project **Reducing Transboundary Degradation of the Kura-Aras River Basin**, the 3-year project (2010-2014) is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The main objective of the project is to assist the Kura-Aras riparian states in balancing overuse and conflicting utilization of water resources in trans-boundary basins through identification of the principal threats of the trans-boundary water resources and development and implementation of sustainable programme for policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments to address these threats. One of the components of the project is to achieve sustainable water resource use through implementation of ecosystem based integrated water resource management, which requires changes in the current practices and policies in water resource management and related fields including agriculture sector on a watershed based. One of the component of integrate water resource management is to implement proper agricultural practices including sustainable land and pesticide management, risk assessment of natural disasters as well as introduction and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies on a watershed level. The project will closely cooperate with the UNDP project team in order to ensure synergy and complementarity, the memorandum of understanding will be signed with UNDP project in the inception phase.

- CARE International in the Caucasus has launched activities as part of the **Integrated Natural Resource Management in Watersheds of Georgia (INRMW)** Program. The INRMW program primary goal is to improve the current and future lives of people in Georgia by utilizing and managing natural resources more sustainably, including water, soil, vegetation, and the ecosystem that encompasses them. The program will anchor on-the-ground activities in two target river basins in the country, the Rioni (Western Georgia) and Alazani-Iori (Eastern Georgia) basins, that face a representative set of challenges including water quality reduction, increased erosion, more frequent landslides, and the inability of lands to naturally recover from overgrazing and logging, and where there is a significant opportunity to make an impact through introducing innovative state-of-the art approaches to watershed and natural resource management. Efforts will be made to ensure that local actions are replicable and serve as models for national reform CARE will take primary responsibility for the mobilization and engagement of communities in the project activities including assessment of natural resources and related problems in the watersheds, identification of needed priority interventions, development of community level and watershed level INRM plans. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) plans for trans-boundary watersheds of the Alazani-Iori watershed elaborated within this project will be also used as a source of information and mobilised communities in target areas will be more proactive and in better position to benefit from the project. The potential for joint activities as well synergies between these two projects will be ensured through intensive exchange of information and close cooperation.

- EU **“Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region”**, a four-year project which aims to ensure continued ecosystem functions and integrity, reduce poverty and enhance food security and income for rural farmers in the South Caucasus countries by combating desertification, strengthening the natural resource base and revitalizing the agricultural sector. The Project has the regional scope and at national level will address policy and institutional issues in the South Caucasus countries as well as will pilot the projects on-site in the transboundary watersheds to identify and promote small community based initiatives proposing sustainable solutions that benefit both the rural poor and the environment. The findings and data gathered within this project for preparation of the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) plans for trans-boundary watersheds of the Alazani-Iori and Khrami –Debeda watersheds will be considered as a baseline information and one the most relevant policy document at local level.

- **Climate-tolerant rehabilitation of degraded landscapes in Georgia, GIZ, Kakheti region, Dedoplistskaro municipality**; The main objective of the project Climate-tolerant rehabilitation of degraded landscapes in Georgia is to rehabilitate degraded arid and semi-arid steppe landscapes in the context of climate change through supporting the development of competencies and capacities of relevant authorities and empower them with available means and resources in order to halt landscape degradation and rehabilitate degraded surface as well as to develop new methods of land use based on traditional know-how. Results achieved include support for the creation of political and legal frameworks necessary to implement the models. Regional authorities use the model plantations and the technical-organisational experience for further reforestation, land, pasture and forest management, as well as windbreak and soil conservation. The rural population benefit directly from the sustainable safeguarding of their habitat and new land use possibilities. Successfully implemented concepts increase willingness for further state investment and allow for extensive rehabilitation of degraded areas. Project team will closely cooperate with GIZ in order to ensure that lessons learned and expertise obtained during the implementation of the above mentioned activities are used as a basis while planning the pilot projects at ground level .

- **Poverty Reduction and Confidence-building in Border Areas of Georgia and Armenia by Strengthening Civil Societies in Sustainable Rural Development" (STAGE II)**, CARE, Kvemo Kartli. The Overall Objective of the project is Poverty Reduction and Confidence-building in Border Areas of Georgia and Armenia by Strengthening Civil Societies in Sustainable Rural Development" (STAGE II) is to contribute to poverty reduction and confidence-building in border areas of Georgia and Armenia by strengthening (democratic) participatory/ empowerment approaches in sustainable rural development. This project targets the border regions of Samtskhe–Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli in Georgia, and Lorri, Tavush and Shirak in Armenia. The current project is a continuation of the previous

project STAGE I that ended on April 30, 2009. The Final Beneficiary of the project is the rural population in the target regions whose rights and needs will be better advocated for by local CSOs (Civic Society Organizations). The network of CSOs established within this project will be used by the project team for better communication of the planned activities as well as the results achieved at local level. Also, all the Community based organizations, will be involved in the project implementation process from the very beginning.

- EU **“Identification and implementation of adaptation response to Climate Change impact for Conservation and Sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in arid and semi-arid ecosystems of South Caucasus”** The project has the regional scope and addresses policy and institutional issues in the South Caucasus countries as well as pilot the activities in selected rural communities located in arid and semi-arid geographical areas to promote community based sustainable practices for agro-biodiversity use and conservation to reduce risk of climate change negative impact that benefit both the rural population and the environment. The project contributes to the promotion of sustainable livelihood and alleviation of poverty via better understanding of problems related to climate change impact, its socio-economic dimension particularly affecting ecosystem integrity, rural production and food security by introducing of adaptation practices, developing regulatory and institutional framework to consider climate change issues in planning, enhancing local capacities for sustaining their livelihood level in face of climate change and developing the replication strategy to extend results of the activities and upscale best practices in other regions of the South Caucasus. Based on vulnerability profiles elaborated by RECC within this project for the arid and semi-arid zones of Georgia, priority areas will be identified for the pilot activities.

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

Despite all these efforts, there are still unresolved issues and gaps to be addressed in order to ensure the SLM in Georgia.

This project will assist Georgia to build urgently needed capacities to mainstream best principles and practices into decision-making structures at all levels. This includes improving the existing regulatory framework, strengthening institutional coordination, lifting the baseline of national expertise, and designing clear pathways for the generation and dissemination of knowledge to foster informed decision-making on national and “on the ground” in rural communities.

The project will (1) integrate L-SLM within current national policies; (2) reform the existing institutional structure to generate a safety net for SLM decision-making; (3) assist the national and local government in integration of L-SLM principles and practices within existing and proposed community land use management and watershed plans; and, (4) provide for demonstrations of economically viable and replicable sustainable land use management practices in select rural communities.

The project will deliver the above mention objectives through the following components:

#### **Component 1: Policy, regulatory and institutional reforms to mainstream L-SLM practices.**

Review of existing national SLM legislation and institutional set-ups in Georgia will be conducted, amendments will be suggested and the approved setting will be disseminated to the stakeholders. The review will also include relevant plans, policies documents, on-going or planned projects in field of Sustainable land management. The amendments will be related to gaps for improving institutional framework in the sustainable land management, which includes strengthening relevant responsible institutions in the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of agriculture. The assessment will also look at communication and information dissemination between different levels and suggest the way to overcome communication barriers including with scientific community. National integrated Landscape management Strategy paper will be elaborated and reviewed by the different stakeholders. The same team will elaborate policies and investment programmes for agricultural development, ecosystem conservation, climate change adaptation, and rural development. Training modules will be developed for inter-sectoral groups of landscape leaders (including grassroots leaders), sub-national and national policymakers build capacity and partnerships to advance strategies for scaling up SLM. Investigation of degraded lands in whole Georgia will be conducted and Maps for publication of land degradation Atlas

will be developed.

As the National plans and policies do not reflect holistic land management principles and practices the local land management plans will be more flexible for implementation the activities at the local levels. As it is already identified during the NAP development process the project will concern 6 municipalities those are affected by desertification. So the local Land management policies will be prepared in two municipalities/regions. The project also will establish the coordination between the different municipalities and their action programmes via consultation and coordination committees.

Output 1: National legal framework related to Land Management sector reviewed and recommendations for harmonizing existing SLM framework developed, amendments prepared and submitted for endorsement to the relevant governmental entities

Output 2: Needs assessment report addressing national institutional framework in Georgia to deliver positive SLM adaptive management elaborated and considered by national authorities

Output 3: National Integrated Landscape Management Strategy Paper completed and supported by the government of Georgia

Output 4: Land degradation e-Atlas at scale 1: 250 000 for whole Territory of Country is prepared and available for governmental institutions and other stakeholders

### **Component 2: Demonstrating benefits of introducing best L-SLM practices in the production system**

Two municipalities out of the six (6) identified as the most vulnerable during the ongoing NAP development process will be selected. The detailed ecosystem assessment which will include natural resources survey, land degradation assessment, agriculture impacts, Socio-economic conditions etc.; will be conducted and vulnerability profile for local agro-biodiversity and production systems will be elaborated. Based on the vulnerability profile, the local community plans for those two communities will be developed in a participatory manner including real engagement of the women in this planning process. Activities will be selected to initiate the implementation of the plans will be identified and conducted. These activities will include concrete agricultural, silvicultural and livestock raising practices that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. It may include new practices, new crops, diversification, implementing land/soil conservation measures, implementing water conservation, etc. Integrated pest and fertilizer management will be introduced.

Output 2.1: A vulnerability profile for two selected municipalities established and local community land use plans

Output 2.2: A package of SLM practices activities with real social and environmental impacts piloted in agricultural, silvicultural and livestock production\

### **Component 3: National DLDD capacity development, knowledge Management and Project M&E**

Through the participatory process, the capacity of local people to adapt and manage their own agricultural development will be built – to increase their own revenues in a socially sustainable manner while maintaining ecological integrity. Training in contemporary L-SLM principles and practices will be conducted also for national and regional government staff members. The project will also establish through the component a participatory monitoring and evaluation system covering agricultural, environmental and socio-economic parameters in each municipality. This will not only empower the local stakeholders in assessing their progress toward sustainable local development but also it will give an opportunity for adaptive management toward sustainability and local development opportunities. The project success will be replicated to other communities and districts through an established advocacy, scaling up and replication mechanism.



Output 3.1: Training targeting at least 100 decision makers and communities representative conducted on SLM practices

Output 3.2: Indicators on impact of good SLM practices in agricultural, environmental and socio-economic sectors are developed and a system to monitor and evaluate them established

Output 3.3: Knowledge and good SLM practices and dissemination products developed and disseminated

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

**Without GEF:** The analysis of baseline scenario shows, that Georgian government has taken several positive steps towards addressing SLM and related climate change challenges. However, the current national SLM baseline is largely sectional and un-coordinated and enjoys limited technical backstopping. There has been increasing interest in integrated landscape approaches emanating from an expanding group of public, private, and civil society actors in Georgia. However, the scale and impact of such activities remains small relative to the scale of single-objective rural land management approaches. Furthermore, the recent increase in interest and adoption of L-SLM approaches has not been matched by a commensurate infrastructure of systematic reflection, evaluation, and research; knowledge sharing among different communities of practice; and strategic planning and priority setting for future programs and investments. In addition, the dearth of cross-sectoral collaboration and efforts to explicate, develop, and build capacity for L-SLM approaches for traditional sectoral actors (e.g., government ministries, private sector, various donors) has also hampered the mainstreaming L-SLM activities, many of which remain at the experimental or pilot level.

Without this project, it is less possible that progress toward improving the understanding and broader adoption of effective L-SLM will be made. But lessons will need to be re-learned through trial-and-error, less evidence will be available to support the design of effective investments, and cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary collaboration around integrated landscape approaches will be sparser. As a result, public, civil society, private and donor investments may be poorly targeted, opportunities missed, and time lost in the effort to develop sustainable, climate-adapted rural landscapes. In the meantime, single-objective strategies are likely to continue to be pursued, resulting in large land areas devoted to uses that provide some specific benefits to rural population but, overall, provide sub-optimal bundles of food production, ecosystem conservation, livelihood, and economic development benefits. Multiplied across entire regions and the globe as a whole, continued use of such single-objective approaches will result in a failure simultaneously to achieve societal mandates related to increasing food production for a growing population, reducing poverty, maintaining key ecosystem services, preventing species extinction, and avoiding catastrophic climate change effects. To the extent that such sectoral development strategies do not yield the goods, services, and public benefits from rural landscapes on a sustained basis that stakeholders expect, the current increase in development assistance for agriculture is likely to be called into question.

Apart of government efforts, international community and CSOs are making considerable investments into fight against land degradation. There are several on-going project directed at community mobilization. While this initiatives trying to raise community awareness of natural resources management issues. Much of the efforts directed toward SLM are being implemented with communities playing passive role and without meaningful government-CSO collaboration.

**With the GEF investment:** The project will provide incremental benefits by supporting and empowering leaders from all levels to mainstream L-SLM as a viable strategy for integrating agriculture, ecosystem conservation (including biodiversity) and human wellbeing. To provide these benefits the initiative will develop a package composed of technical solutions, human and organizational capacity, and political will, and will feed these key inputs into environmental and agriculture management and governance initiatives at all levels. As presented in the activity descriptions above, the project will do so through the development of knowledge tools and resources; capacity building; technical innovation and development to support the implementation of L-SLM at

the field and policy levels.

The project will support the generation of several benefits related to the Land Degradation Focal Area. Improved management and an enhanced enabling environment (in agriculture sector) will be facilitated through synthetic analysis of alternative approaches and experiences related to integrated landscape management (and the role of governance structures and policies in this management).

The project will also increase the capacity of country to fulfill their obligations under the UNCCD (LD Outcome 4.1)—and increase the capacity of various actors including GEF grantees to support them in doing so—by fostering cross-project and cross-nation learning; assembling and sharing state-of-the-art tools, methods, and processes (e.g., tools for national-level impact monitoring); and providing broad outreach to diverse audiences regarding the benefits of L-SLM for addressing land degradation and desertification.

The project will leverage nearly 2 \$ million in co-financing (nearly a 2:1 co-financing ratio. Most of this co-financing would not be available without GEF investment. GEF funding will allow the Implementing Agency, Executing Agency and partners to enhance the initiative in several critical respects: 1) provide funding for designing and commissioning components of the Global Knowledge Base and Global Resource Portfolio of greatest relevance and value for landscape- and national-level leaders, policy-makers, and program managers; 2) support key aspects to build strong action agendas, and strategies for field- and policy-level implementation for mainstreaming L-SLM; 3) support the participation of partners including community and indigenous leaders, and other activities; 4) support capacity building and leadership training to develop a quorum of L-SLM leaders in the country and additional well-positioned leaders in key local and international organizations, national governments, donor agencies, and elsewhere; and 5) support dissemination of the Global Resource Portfolio to leverage action and advocacy through the activities, networks, and partnerships of initiative team members on a landscape and country level.

The main baseline for the GEF increment will be the EU “Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region”, a four-year project, which aims to ensure continued ecosystem functions and integrity, reduce poverty and enhance food security and income for rural farmers in the South Caucasus countries by combating desertification, strengthening the natural resource base and revitalizing the agricultural sector. The Project has the regional scope and at national level will address policy and institutional issues in the South Caucasus countries. With support of GEF project it could be possible to concentrate on legislation review related to Desertification and implementation of UNCCD convention specifically. To this end, the detailed review of the Georgian legal framework, its legal basis, major strategic documents, policies on land degradation and desertification issues as well as and gap analysis on existing legislation and policy will be conducted at national level. An initial review will be conducted in order to clarify whether desertification and land degradation risks are sufficiently reflected in Georgian legislation, policies and programmes in order to recommend the necessary amendments.

In addition GEF funding provides possibility to elaborate Road map for harmonization with EU Directives on land directives and its standards: EU Framework Directives and Regulations (EC) 689/2008 include in the obligations and requirements deriving from associated agreement between Georgia and EU and their reflection in national legislation will also be identified.

#### **A.1.5 Global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)**

The global environment benefits expected from the project is to maintain the landscape and ecosystem diversity and integrity in the region through development and promotion of sustainable land management policies, regulations and demonstrating sustainable land management practices. This will involve the integrated and effective management of soil, water, floral and faunal biodiversity for physical and socio-economic development, paying particular attention to environmental stabilization. The project will develop capacity for SLM through knowledge tools and resources; and technical innovation to support the implementation of L-SLM on the field and at policy level.

The project will support the generation of several benefits related to the Land Degradation Focal Area. Improved management and an enhanced enabling environment (in agriculture sector) will be facilitated through synthetic analysis of alternative approaches and experiences related to integrated landscape management (and the role of governance structures and policies in this management).

The project is having a special focus on social and economic benefits, mainly opens up access for young people, especially women, to the labor market. It establishes mechanisms that assist communities and local administrations in planning and supervising targeted activities to encourage self and local development initiatives through local land use planning. The project will develop and communicate the evidence base on the role that L-SLM can play in improving rural livelihoods through sustainable practices that increase agriculture production, reduce desertification and vulnerability to climate change and other shocks, and increase resilience of natural resource-based economies.

Based on this evidence base, the project will develop and promote specific agendas to support the adoption of L-SLM within a wide range of agriculture and poverty alleviation programs and investments in places where they are likely to be particularly effective. By supporting improved land management and enabling environment to address land degradation, the project will support socioeconomic benefits particularly for poor, natural resource dependent populations (especially women) and rural communities subjected to vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change. Several products of the project focus explicitly on landscape design, management and governance strategies to ensure that needs of poor groups within the landscape are addressed, and action planning processes that include representatives of low-income and marginalized groups in negotiations.

Given that agriculture is conducted predominantly by women — and that women are often more vulnerable than men to effects of land degradation — the project focus stands to benefit women substantially, if not disproportionately. The project relies upon diverse institutions to continue support for improving cooperative and harmonized approaches towards L-SLM. The project also relies upon local stakeholders to embrace, support and adopt integration of SLM principles and practices into local plans

#### **A.1.6 Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

The innovativeness of this project is more related to the national circumstances than prevailing situation of SLM at global level. In the country, land rehabilitation and sustainable land management have never been incorporated in national agricultural policies. While the landscape approach has been applied for many years in the context of forest management and protected area management in sparsely populated areas, there is much less experience applying this approach to address challenges of land degradation for reducing poverty in rural areas in Georgia, where agriculture is a major land use and economic activity. The project will support and advance the use of the landscape approach in these critical contexts by addressing current limitations in knowledge, capacity, and policy and institutional support. The project will not only empower the local stakeholders in assessing their progress toward sustainable local development but also it will give an opportunity for adaptive management toward sustainability and local development opportunities. The project will provide for demonstrations of economically viable and replicable sustainable land use management practices in select rural communities, including adaptation measures to increase resilience of ecosystem and agro-production to climate change in selected pilot landscapes which will help to secure the integrity of significant international waters, and provide replicable models for the achievement of L-SLM

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

The Project will actively work with national and local authorities and will create synergies with relevant institutions and projects to coordinate activities. The relevant stakeholders include farmers and community and local leaders that can support grassroots movements; agribusiness and private sector institutions that are influential in rural land investment and management decisions; leading international organizations involved in integrated landscape management and positioned to mainstream such

approaches; field-to-district level professionals and community leaders who can mobilize action at smaller scales; researchers to help fill the gaps in the evidence base and inform research agendas; donors and investors from the public, private, and philanthropic sectors; regional leaders in integrated landscape development who can build regional networks and adapt tools and programs to meet the needs of particular ecosystem and cultural contexts; and policy-makers working at the sub-national, national, regional scales.

The Project stakeholders at the local, national and the regional levels will cover the following target groups: State authorities at the central level (i.e. Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Economic Development, Territorial and Regional Affairs, Emergency Situations and relevant State Departments), Local authorities, Local farmers and communities in the pilot zones, business companies active in the fields of agriculture and nature resources utilization (forestry, water, mining, etc.) scientific institutions, local NGOs / CBOs. Key stakeholders will include:

<b>Key stakeholders</b>	<b>Mandate and institutional responsibility</b>	<b>Anticipated role in the project</b>
<b>Ministry of Environment Protection</b>	<b>Focal Point of UNCCD</b> Defines and elaborates main directions and policy for protection of the land resources	Provide sectoral expertise on the state-of-the-art; Facilitate sectoral dialogue and fostering collaboration Lead the review of SLM policies and dissemination at local level and participate in the monitoring of the impacts Support in general guiding of the project
<b>Ministry of Agriculture</b>	Developes unified data bank for land consolidation, quality assessment of soil and its condition, organizing activities aiming at rational use of land, recovery and maintaining of land productivity, as well as developing state policy in the field of agrochemistry	Provide sectoral expertise on the state-of-the-art;  Facilitate sectoral dialogue and fostering collaboration  Participate in the review of SLM policies and dissemination at local level and in the monitoring of the impacts Support in general guidance of the project
<b>Ministry of Economic and Sustainable Development</b>	Manages the privatization process of state-owned lands and attestation of private ownership over the land parcels formerly owned by the State. MESD is also responsible for the territorial development of the country's cities, towns and other residential areas, approving land-use plans elaborated by the municipalities and constructing zoning maps by ownership types, together with provision of methodological guidance of the above work.	Provide sectoral expertise on the state-of-the-art;  Facilitate sectoral dialogue and fostering collaboration  Participate in the review of SLM policies and dissemination at local level and in the monitoring of the impacts  Support in general guiding of the project

<b>National Agency of Public Registry(NAPR)</b> Ministry of Justice	Sets up and maintains a transparent, secure, comprehensive, modern and customer-oriented land registration system, responding to the needs of the real estate market development.	Provide sectoral expertise on the state-of-the-art;  Facilitate sectoral dialogue and fostering collaboration Participate in the review of SLM policies and dissemination at local level and in the monitoring of the impacts  Support in general guiding of the project	
<b>The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus)</b>	An independent, non-for-profit organization, established to assist in solving environmental problems as well as development of the civic society in the countries of the South Caucasus	GEF Executing Agency of the project  Establish co-organizer and IAC teams; guide and coordinate co-organizer and IAC teams, meetings, and decision-making processes; mobilize additional co-financing; provide staff for administrative and programmatic tasks; prepare M&E reports and evaluations  Contribute in the review of SLM policies and dissemination at local level and in the monitoring of the impacts	Liaise with project executive organizers, provide information, general promotion and direct assistance, assume responsibility for overall execution, accountability, national level coordination, synergies, level with initiatives stakeholder
<b>Local municipalities</b>	Responsible for initiating and preparing as well as approving and submitting the plan for spatial-territorial development and land-use master plan to the responsible body of executive government on the planning, for final approval. However, this kind of plans exists only for a limited number of municipalities. Farms and farm amalgamations, local communities and households as well as scientific research institutions on land resources and soil protection issues also participate in the management of land resources.	Provide regional expertise on the state-of-the-art to local communities; facilitate dialogue and fostering collaboration at local level the review of SLM policies and dissemination at local level and in the monitoring of the impacts  Support local communities in applying the SLM measures	
<b>Local communities/producers</b>	Key users of natural resources	Benefit and implement on field key SLM measures and revenues generations activities linked to good SLM practices  Provide feedback on the impacts of the SLM measures and policy review	

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

Recognition of climate change and land degradation risks by policy-makers could potentially contribute to the success of the project by increasing their interest in and openness to L-SLM. On the other hand, there is a risk that external crises (such as future food price crises) may cause governments and private actors to pursue sectoral or single-objective solutions for rural landscapes, thereby crowding out L-SLM and similar multi-objective landscape approaches.

Key risks to be addressed include natural resource management paradigms that are inadequate to respond effectively to a rapidly changing environment; conflicting paradigms and mandates that inhibit cross-sectoral collaboration and learning; and governance mechanisms that constrain multi-stakeholder landscape planning and action to integrate food production, ecosystem conservation, and sustainable livelihoods. There are also potential tensions and institutional barriers inhibiting effective cross-sectoral analysis and action planning.

To address these challenges and risks, the implementing agency will work closely with partners to develop the initiative program, engage professional facilitation and support functions, and develop communication and outreach plans. Planning processes have been designed and professional facilitators and advisors will be engaged to manage these risks. Another risk is that partners will fail to make anticipated resources available for planned follow-up collaborative work. However, this risk is substantially mitigated by the advance written commitments of project partners to carry out the landscape- and country-level activities that will heavily leverage GEF support to generate the anticipated project outcomes.

Other potential risks are summarized in the table below:

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>Actions proposed</b>
Legal framework amendment will not be finished in time	Medium	Timely actions in legal amendment process, supervision of this aspect and taking in time and measures to avoid the late reactions. Legal amendments will elaborate in close cooperation with Ministries and Parliaments Committees. Review of related Governmental structures will be done by steering committee of the project. The project will place a sustainable mechanism that will ensure consideration of the issues.
Lack of cooperation and institutional infighting	Low	Institutional strengthening is recognized as a priority, so is the need to build up a pluralistic and sustainable system. Capacity building and consultative process are targeted in order to ensure cost-effectiveness and collaboration.
Frequent governmental changes in institutional set-up	Low	Besides working with the State authorities at national and local levels, the project will develop strong cooperation with elected bodies as well as non-state actors of the communities level. The project will identify and adopt a sustainable institutional set up.
Capacity of local communities could be much lower than needed	Medium	The pilot projects will address capacity of local community institutions. The Project will also actively address public

for introduction of innovative sustainable land management practices		raising via wide dissemination of lessons learned among farmers, communities and policy makers both nationally and regionally.
No access to new technologies and best practices for the local communities	Low	The project will develop information packages and knowledge materials on new technologies and best practices for the local communities and authorities.
Unpredicted disaster occurrence that may divert attention on project execution?	Low	Project activities to be scheduled to maximise favourable weather conditions.

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

Currently, RECC is executing a project on “Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region”, focusing on strengthening policy, planning and regulatory environments for promotion of sustainable land management (SLM) in transboundary watersheds of the South Caucasus region via development and endorsement of bilateral watershed SLM. This regional initiative targeting transboundary area will be link with the current GEF project to replicate key findings at national level. The Action Plans developed under the project identified SLM priorities and comprising needed regulatory, institutional changes and technical assistance for different sectors and institutions involved at the watershed level, which the GEF project will help to address at national level.

The country is currently implementing a UNDP/GEF project titled “Harmonization of Information Management for Improved Knowledge and Monitoring of the Global Environment in Georgia”. The project objective is to develop individual and organizational capacities in the Ministry of Environment and National Environmental Agency for improved monitoring of environmental impacts and trends for elaboration of collaborative environmental management. The SLM project will collaborate with this project both in terms of experience sharing particularly on the definition of indicators for environment monitoring but also in using mutual products when necessary.

In addition the UNEP/GEF Global Forest Watch 2.0 FW 2.0 project which objective is to develop and apply innovative GFW2.0 technology that will contribute to reducing deforestation, forest and land degradation, reducing illegal activities and supporting biodiversity conservation in the pilot countries, as well as on a global scale, is currently starting. Collaboration and coordination mechanism will be established to explore how these two projects can be mutually supporting.

Furthermore, collaboration and coordination mechanism will be established with the following projects:

- Climate-tolerant rehabilitation of degraded landscapes in Georgia, GIZ, Kakheti region, Dedoplistskaro municipality;
- Integrated Natural Resources Management in Watersheds of Georgia(INRMW) Program, USAID, Alazani-Iori (Eastern Georgia) basins
- Poverty Reduction and Confidence-building in Border Areas of Georgia and Armenia by Strengthening Civil Societies in Sustainable Rural Development" (STAGE II), CARE, Kvemo Kartli.

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

The country's primary environmental policy framework is outlined in the **Second National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP 2012-2016)**. The NEAP clearly emphasizes the need to maintain an environmentally sustainable framework supporting the SLM principle as a baseline to protect land resources and vulnerable ecosystems of arid and semi-arid zones, as well as considering elaboration of national level land management, which is one of the outputs of the Project. Land degradation is mentioned as one of the priority problems in National Environmental Action Plan of Georgia. According to the report, land degradation can be avoided through development and implementation of well-thought and well elaborated policy, spatial planning and land management practices. In this report, the long term goal for agricultural sector is sustainable and integrated management of land resources in order to achieve the best possible results.

**National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAPCD)**, developed and approved in 2003 and currently under revision, which identifies the priority regions facing the risk of desertification, defines the main factors contributing to desertification in these areas, and determines short- and medium-actions.

The **National Report on the State of the Environment of Georgia (2007-2009)** indicated that erosion and desertification are the most prevailing forms of land degradation in the country. These data from the Ministry of Agriculture (2006) indicate that, around 60% of agricultural lands are of medium or low productivity. Soil fertility loss is accelerated by improper use of agricultural lands. The report recommends the identification of vulnerable areas and the preparation of special action plans to restore land degradation problems. In addition, the programme defines special measures to maintain biodiversity based on the pressures associated with desertification and proposes the development of sustainable use programs for agricultural sector.

**Second National Communication under UNFCCC** completed in 2009 identified arid and semi-arid ecosystems as the most vulnerable and indicated the importance of implementing innovative adaptation measures and sustainable agricultural practices in the rural areas of high biodiversity values, particularly agrobiodiversity. The Second National Communication outlines the rehabilitation of degraded pastures and agricultural lands as well as the implementation of proper land management strategies as well as the introduction of drought resilient agricultural and forestry practices in a long term strategy.

**Agricultural Development Strategy (2012-2022):** Land degradation is one of the most important problems in agriculture management sector in Georgia. Soil erosion is caused by both natural factors and anthropogenic influences including unsustainable land management. The decrease in the fertility of land resources is caused by improper management of pesticides and fertilizers, problems in drainage systems and uncontrolled management of waste as well as by natural disasters intensified by climate change. The document identifies the following measures to be addressed in order to improve the situation. These include: proper management of fertilizers and pesticides, waste monitoring, improvement of melioration infrastructure and implementation of early warning systems for natural disaster management.

**Georgia Regional Development Strategy (2011-2017)** recommends implementation of land cadastre, especially in the most vulnerable regions, in addition to develop and implement utilization norms of agricultural lands. One of these recommendations includes the development and the implementation of national legislation and policy framework for land ownership and sustainable use as well as preparation and implementation of rehabilitation and adaptation plans for agricultural lands, especially for those areas vulnerable to natural disasters.

**Assessment of Georgia's Risks for the Year 2010-2013 (adopted by order of President of Georgia**



in September 2010) identified natural disasters, land degradation and erosion processes are also considered as risk-factors, which can have negative impact on country's security.

**National Implementation Plan (NIP) for 2007 -2022** adopted in 2010, is to develop and to improve the most effective POPs management strategy with implementation means of a sustainable land management policy while securing human health and cleaning environment

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

GEF support will address the barriers of up scaling good SLM practices by catalyzing a coordinated approach to defining, piloting and replicating sustainable land-use systems and practices that are adapted to the ecological and socio-economic conditions in Georgia, and that lead to increased productivity, increased revenues and improved status of natural resources. The practices will also facilitate the resolution of conflicts. GEF support will catalyze the coordinated involvement and investment leading to an overall sizeable intervention that can make a real difference. GEF support will also facilitate up scaling and dissemination by integrating the sustainable practices into the large baseline of agriculture and rural development sectors.

More specifically, the project addresses the different GEF5 LD Strategies as follow:

The project will focus primarily in two communities which would be selected during the project implementation from the 6 municipalities which are affected by land degradation/ desertification. Those six municipalities are already identified during the NAP alignment to the 10 year strategy project implementation. GEF support will generate the following outcomes in three Components:

The first Outcome will be *Adequate legal, policy and institutional framework on SLM at national level*. This will cover the six municipalities. This Outcome focusses on the necessary institutional development, capacity building, data collection, analysis and participatory planning that will form the basis for the design of the technical interventions under Outcome 2. The project objective of creating an enabling environment within agricultural sector conforms closely to strategic objectives One (LD-1): maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustaining the livelihoods of local communities. Still in line with GEF5 LD1 objective, the project also intends to Build SLM partnerships to arrest current trends in Land degradation in Georgia. By creating strong "SCO-government – community partnership, the project will generate knowledge and ensure that institutions at all levels have the knowledge and capacity" to integrate L-SLM issues into policies and actions at national, regional and local levels. The project aims to review national legal framework related to Land Management sector and develop recommendations for harmonizing existing SLM related gaps; to elaborate the assessment report addressing national institutional framework in Georgia to deliver positive SLM adaptive management; to develop National Integrated Landscape Management Strategy Paper; to elaborate and publish the Land Degradation Atlas.

The second project outcome will be "Increased understanding of SLM and its contribution to livelihood at local level". The project will support urgent priorities identified in Outcome 1, thereby contributing to LD-3: reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape, of the Focal Area (FA) objective. Further project contribution to LD-3 include ensuring intersectoral coordination by building capacity for decision maker and also include putting in place a policy and institutional environment conducive to prevention and control of land degradation and ground level actions to protect fragile ecosystems and their functions by identifying, testing and disseminating good SLM practices in different landscapes. This will simultaneously improve livelihood of rural land users at watersheds level including their ability to adapt and cope with the effects of climate change impact.

The third Outcome will be "Capable national stakeholders to develop and manage SLM issues". Through this outcome the project will contribute to both LD-1 and 3 objectives particularly related to outputs 1.5 and 3.4. This will focus on obtaining district, regional and even national commitment to the replication of good SLM practices developed and tested at the two municipalities level to other communes and districts. Moreover, the general lessons learnt under the project may be applicable to other countries – and these will also be captured. Actions may include multi-media lesson storage,

lobbying, public awareness raising and strategising. Finally, the project will also establish through the component a participatory monitoring and evaluation system covering agricultural, environmental and socio-economic parameters in each commune. This output will not only empower the local stakeholders in assessing their progress toward sustainable local development but also it will give an opportunity for adaptive management toward sustainability and local development opportunities.

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

UNEP has history of Working with Georgia both on UNCCD and other GEF activities. On UNCCD, UNEP has supported the country during the PRAIS project and is currently supporting the country to develop its National Action Plan aligned to UNCCD 10 Years Strategy. Furthermore UNEP has worked or is currently working, with Government of Georgia on regional project related to Biodiversity strategy and action plan development, DSSA Demonstrating and Scaling Up Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for the Control of Vector-borne Diseases in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia and the project on Stabilizing GHG Emissions from Road Transport through Doubling of Global Vehicle Fuel Economy: Regional Implementation of the Global Fuel Efficiency Initiative (GFEI) and Global Forest Watch.

The present project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalyzing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements.

More specifically, the project lies within the following areas recognized by GEF as areas where UNEP has a comparative advantage:

- *Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers*, notably by strengthening science-to-policy linkages and by strengthening environmental monitoring and assessment;
- *Technical assistance and capacity building at country level*, notably by strengthening technology assessment, by demonstration and through innovation, and also by directly developing capacity;
- *Knowledge management*, including through awareness raising and advocacy.

The UNEP's comparative advantage derives from its mandate to coordinate UN activities with regard to the environment, including its convening power, its ability to engage with different stakeholders to develop innovative solutions and its capacity to transform these into policy- and implementation-relevant tools. UNEP's comparative advantages in the GEF are also aligned with its mandate, functions and Medium Term Strategy and its biennial Programme of Work (2015- 2016). The proposed project is consistent with the Ecosystem management thematic priorities and the Environmental Governance thematic priorities outlined in UNEP's Medium-term Strategy. These focal areas and key foci will be met in the following way:

UNEP's science and technical focus will bring comparative advantages as summarized in the following table:


Areas of UNEP comparative advantage in the GEF (all Focal Areas)		UNEP Thematic Priority Areas					
		Climate change	Disasters & conflicts	Ecosystems management	Environmental governance	Harmful substances & hazardous wastes	Resource efficiency
1. Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers	Early warning and emerging issues			x			
	Science to Policy linkages			xx	xx		
	Environmental monitoring and assessment			xx	xx		
	Norms, standards, and guidelines			xxx	xx		
	Enabling Activities for MEAs and synergies						
2. Cooperation, coordination and partnerships (regional or international)	Trans-boundary cooperation						
	Regional, or South-South cooperation						
	Global transformative actions						
3. Technical assistance and capacity building at	Technology assessment, demonstration, and innovation						

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Nino Tkhlava	GEF Operational Focal Point in Georgia Head of Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION	03/11/2014

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

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Brennan Van Dyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office UNEP		May 12, 2014	Adamou Bouhari Task Manager BD/LD &RFP	+25420762 3860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org