



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR UNCCD ENABLING ACTIVITY
PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE GETF

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PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

Project Title:	GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 national reporting process-Umbrella III		
Country(ies):	Global: Dominica, Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname, Grenada, St Vincent and Grenadines, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados, Honduras, El Salvador, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Venezuela, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, Libya, South Sudan, Mongolia, Mexico, Somalia, Bhutan, Seychelles, Burkina Faso	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01628
Other Executing Partner(s):	PISLM Support Office ² and National Focal Points Host institutions of country	Submission Date:	February 16, 2018
GEF Focal Area(s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	24 months
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of Parent Program:	N/A	Agency Fee (\$)	188,265

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM³:

Focal Area Objectives/programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
LD	Focal area Set Aside: UNCCD Enabling Activities	GETF	1,981,735	372,000
Total project costs			1,981,735	372,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) was formulated as a part of the Technical Programme of the Caribbean SIDS Programme . It was adopted at the 14th Session of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and Caribbean held in Panama in November 2003 and endorse by CARICOM/COTED on the Environment in Guyana in April 2008. to provide a framework for assisting Country Parties for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD), and for addressing the land management component of the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy (MSI) in Caribbean SIDS.

³ When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#).

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To enable country Parties to collect necessary biophysical, socioeconomic data, establish sound reporting and monitoring systems at national level and report against the UNCCD Strategy⁴						
Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type⁵	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. National estimates and baselines of metrics/proxies of indicators for UNCCD reporting	TA	Outcome 1.1. Improved and enhanced UNCCD: biophysical progress indicators, quality of collected data, , data management analysis and monitoring system	<p>1.1.1. National Reports by 31 countries on national (i) biophysical and socio-economic baseline information on DLDD, (ii) state of land degradation, (iii) plans and programmes relating to land degradation, (iv) investment patterns, barriers and, opportunities to increase financial investments for UNCCD implementation, and (v) analysis of data to support reporting to the convention, are conducted</p> <p>1.1.2. Training, with due gender consideration, conducted for stakeholders in 31 countries on indicators, data collection methodologies, analysis and application of indicators for monitoring and presenting UNCCD data</p> <p>1.1.3. The set of indicators to be used for improved monitoring of LDN voluntary target setting and/or implementation and to enhanced data management for improved monitoring of impacts of SLM are established in 31 Countries with CSO, research, academic involvement and considerations of Decision 30 COP 13⁶</p>	GEFTF	930,000	100,000
2. 2018 Report including on	TA	Outcome 2.1: Countries have	2.1.1. 31 national training sessions, with due gender	GEFTF	1,020,000	200,000

⁴ Based on the deliberations of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its fifteenth session held in October 2016 and subject to the decisions to be taken by the Conference of Parties at its thirteenth session in 2017.

⁵ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

⁶ Decision 30/COP.13 on Gender equality and women's empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention

LDN Voluntary Targets settings		prepared and submitted their 2018 national reports	consideration, on the use of Reporting templates, the comprehensive guidance manual and Updated reporting platform (PRAIS Portal) are organized by May 2018 2.1.2. At least 31 events including workshops, media events, awareness raising or advocacy activities, including on gender equity in SLM, organized in 31 countries in support of reporting process by June 2018 2.1.3. At least 31 countries report on their LDN Voluntary targets and preliminary implementation results as part of intersessional CRIC meeting prior to COP 14			
			Subtotal		1,950,000	300,000
			Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁷	GEFTF	31,735	72,000
			Total GEF Project Financing		1,981,735	372,000

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: (N/A)

A. SOURCE OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Governments of participating countries ⁸	In-kind	372,000 ⁹
Total Co-financing			372,000

B. GEF FINANCING RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, COUNTRY AND PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Global	Land Degradation		1,981,735	188,265	2,170,000
Total GEF Resources					1,981,735	188,265	2,170,000

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#)

⁷ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

⁸ Estimated cost of time dedicated by national government representatives towards the UNCCD reporting, including preparation and participation in the regional capacity building workshops

⁹ This is the total cofinancing amount for the 313131 countries each with a cofinancing of \$12,000

PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY

BACKGROUND AND

CONTEXT (Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved):

A.1. Enabling Activity Context

The international community through the UN member states adopted, in September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among these SDGs, Goal 15 is particularly relevant for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Through this goal, countries are urged to, “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. The target 15.3 urges countries to “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world” by 2030.

The twelfth session of the Conference of Parties (COP.12) of the UNCCD agreed in October 2015 to integrate the SDGs and related targets into the implementation of the Convention and decided that “striving to achieve SDG target 15.3 is a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD” (decision 3/COP.12). COP.12 also endorsed the definition of land degradation neutrality (LDN) and invited Parties to (i) formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN, (ii) use the UNCCD monitoring and evaluation framework, including progress indicators, to monitor, evaluate and communicate progress towards achieving the LDN target, (iii) explore options on how to integrate the voluntary LDN targets in their UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAPs), and (iv) promote the use of LDN targets and projects and other SLM initiatives as an effective vehicle for mobilizing additional sustainable financing and investments to address issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). LDN has therefore become a guiding principle for UNCCD implementation, while at the same time contributing to other SDGs, including those SDGs relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, food and water security, disaster risk reduction, and poverty reduction.

Decision 2/COP.12 invites affected country Parties to establish national baselines and national-level voluntary LDN targets within their National Action Plans (NAPs). NAPs are considered the main instruments for the implementation of the Convention. Embedding LDN into NAPs will strengthen NAP implementation and increase its impact by providing measurable and verifiable baselines and targets. At the fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) in October 2016, Parties recognized the importance of linking the voluntary LDN target setting process with LDN implementation, taking into account NAPs, as a new opportunity to promote effective action to achieve positive impacts on the ground.

The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008 – 2018), which was endorsed by COP.8, is coming to an end in 2018. Parties, at COP.12, decided to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention (IWG-FSF) in order to consider options for the possible future strategic approach of the Convention until 2030. Decision 7/COP.12 calls for an approach that takes into consideration the text of the Convention, relevant aspects of the SDG target 15.3, appropriate COP decisions and synergies with the Rio Conventions.

The proposed new strategic framework of the UNCCD paves the way for an enhanced reporting and review process within the UNCCD that takes into account the SDG framework. As such, the future UNCCD reporting and review system will be based on (i) progress indicators to measure the progress against the future strategic framework of the UNCCD, and (ii) an implementation framework to assess actions at national and sub-national level relevant for UNCCD implementation. The reporting and review system will also address effective monitoring of financing for UNCCD implementation using refined methodologies in

accordance with COP decisions.

Preliminary findings of IWG-FSF were presented at CRIC.15 in October 2016 followed by the third meeting of the IWG-FSF. The final decision on the future strategic framework of the UNCCD was taken by Parties at COP.13 in September 2017. As such, Decision 7/COP.13 outlines the “strategic objectives” that will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners for the period 2018–2030. Based on this decision taken by Parties, the next UNCCD reporting will take place in June 2018, prior to CRIC.17 (fall 2018).

Barriers to convention reporting

The Project will address the following barriers in order to enable country Parties to establish sound reporting and monitoring systems and to report against the UNCCD Strategy:

Insufficient capacity by Country Parties to collect high quality data on biophysical progress indicators, conduct data management analysis and to establish a monitoring system necessary to prepare and assess national reports for the 2017-18 UNCCD reporting:

CRIC.11 and the IWG for the mid-term evaluation of the 10 Year Strategy identified ‘lack of capacity’ as a major factor that had not allowed developing countries to effectively report during the 2012 UNCCD reporting and review process, with only 42% of African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACPs) having submitted the reports. Nearly all countries in 2012 indicated the need of having financial resources to provide training and capacity building at national level related to UNCCD reporting. This had led to the provision of financial support to Parties, through UNEP/GEF Umbrella project, which contributed to the high reporting rate in 2014 in that 95 per cent of affected country Parties were able to submit reports.

Furthermore, at CRIC.15, as outlined in document ICCD/CRIC(15)/7, most Parties reiterated the importance of securing sufficient funding and capacity building measures from the GEF to enable Parties to submit their reports in a timely manner, and invited developed country Parties to assist in this effort. During the forthcoming 2017-18 UNCCD reporting and review process, Parties are expected to report against progress indicators related to the future strategic framework of the UNCCD.

Three bio-physical progress indicators adopted by previous COPs, namely ‘trends in land cover’, ‘trends in land productivity or functioning of the land’, and ‘trends in carbon stocks above and below ground’, will serve as sub-indicators to compute the SDG 15.3.1 indicator: ‘Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area’, will be used as a means to understanding the status of land degradation and the potential for land restoration.

The UNCCD Secretariat will provide default quantitative and geospatial data for these indicators derived from global datasets. According to the procedures established in decision 22/COP.11, Parties will be able to decide whether these data (a) can be validated; (b) shall be replaced with data sourced nationally/locally; and/or (c) can be complemented by other data available at the national level. The provided data will be vital to assess land degradation trends and can be used to formulate national voluntary LDN targets. Taking into account experiences gained by the LDN pilot project “Towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality: turning the concept into practice” in 2014/15¹⁰ and the LDN Target Setting Programme¹¹, countries will require resources to develop the technical capacity of national teams for the analysis and validation of the default quantitative and geospatial data. In September 2015, the UNCCD

¹⁰ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. (2017). *Towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality: turning the concept into practice. Project Evaluation: final report*. Retrieved from: <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/secretariat/LDN%20project%20evaluation%20report.pdf>

¹¹ Information on the LDN TSP can be retrieved from: <http://www2.unccd.int/actions/supporting-countries-set-land-degradation-neutrality-targets>.

National Focal Points (NFPs) and reporting officers highlighted “difficulties with data”, “lack of understanding of LDN”, “resources” and “lack of broader M&E systems” as the main expected challenges to reporting in a survey carried out within the framework of the “Rapid Assessment of Enabling Activities” under the GSP and the United Nations Environment Programme project “Support to GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programmes and Reporting process under UNCCD” (‘Umbrella Project’).

Without capacity building, technical and financial support at national level, countries would have insufficient capacities to submit good quality national reports by an established time limit. Low number and quality of country reports submitted in the context of the UNCCD reporting process would pose a risk for assessing the achievements of the future strategic framework of the UNCCD. Given the complexity of handling quantitative and geospatial data related to bio-physical progress indicators, Parties, at CRIC.13, highlighted the need for resources at national level to report on UNCCD progress indicators. Within the rapid assessment of enabling activities carried out in September 2015, the UNCCD National Focal Points (NFPs) and Reporting Officers indicated capacity building and technical support as the most important elements required for the forthcoming UNCCD reporting.

Capacity building for UNCCD reporting should not only support countries in the short-term to fulfil their reporting obligations, but ultimately enable countries in the long-term to establish and maintain national monitoring systems related to UNCCD implementation. As such, the report of Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators¹² provides advice that the global monitoring should be based on comparable and standardized national data, and the reporting mechanisms should be improved, in particular by strengthening the coordination function of national statistical offices and /or other national institutions. Functioning monitoring systems would help countries to identify land degradation trends as well as corrective measures. This requires the regular provision, processing and interpretation of relevant data as well as the full engagement of a multitude of stakeholders, including governmental agencies in charge of the planning process and the collecting and interpretation of data at national level.

Decision 3/COP.12 requests the Secretariat to “further develop, keep under review and facilitate, including through pilot projects, the use of the UNCCD indicator framework as a contribution to the monitoring, evaluation and communication of progress towards the national LDN targets”. At CRIC.15, as outlined in document ICCD/CRIC(15)/7, some Parties further noted that the process of establishing a monitoring framework to track the implementation of the UNCCD at national level is still one of bottlenecks for the Parties submitting reports. In addition, collecting data from various sources and coordinating the work of the reporting team across many institutions has proven to be very challenging. Some Parties have further recognized that experiences from countries that succeeded in establishing a monitoring framework demonstrate that putting in place monitoring systems and developing their NAPs can streamline the reporting exercise and transform this complex process into an important and systematized tool to be used effectively at national level.

As such, it is crucial to develop and share knowledge on how to establish and sustain coordination and/or observatory mechanisms for monitoring of the UNCCD progress indicators at national level.

Insufficient funding to support national UNCCD participative reporting process:

The reporting at national levels entails not only collecting and inputting national data in the PRAIS portal, but it includes also establishment and building the capacity of a large group of

¹² United Nations Economic and Social Council (2016). *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators*. Retrieved from: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>

national stakeholders whose inputs are necessary for a credible reporting system. This group will need to be aware of the new reporting requirement both in terms of tools and template. Furthermore, as the UNCCD issues affect all the different sectors and levels of the country, a wide range of consultation and awareness raising is necessary both at national and sub-national level. The use of data and other relevant information to prepare and elaborate the report using the Performance Review and Assessment of the Implementation System (PRAIS) System may additionally require involvement of specific expertise in data handling and IT supports. The capacity building of national team, the stakeholders' consultations and reporting using PRAIS portal may not be adequately done if the National Focal Point and the National Focal Institution do not have resources to conduct these important activities. Some of the resources provided by GEF, will help therefore to overcome these barriers.

Lack of dedicated HelpDesk to support reporting related transactions

Facilitating resource transfer from UN Environment to country Parties includes establishing small funding agreements with each of the Parties involved. This has a lot of implications in term of time and staff engagement to support the process. As such, a dedicated support staff will be necessary This has proven to be efficient during the previous umbrella project.

A.2. Results achieved: the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects,

A.2.1. Global Support Programme (GSP I)

The most relevant baseline project associated with UNCCD reporting is the ongoing Global Support Programme (GSP I) funded by the GEF.

The GSP I is implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from April 2014 to June 2018 and has supported the UNCCD 2014 reporting and review process. The overall objective of the GSP I was to increase the quantity of reports submitted, and improve the quality of information provided through the UNCCD reporting process through strengthening country Parties' capacities in monitoring and reporting, knowledge management and outreach.

The GSP I has achieved its primary objective of increasing the number and improving the quality of the reports submitted by country Parties in the context of the 2014-15 UNCCD reporting process. Thanks to the GSP I, the UNCCD national reports were, for the first time, since the adoption of the 10 Year Strategy, obtained in such completeness: 94% of the affected Country Parties (ACPs) submitted their reports. This achievement was possible due to enhanced reporting tools and strong capacity building component:

- The improved Performance Review and Assessment of the Implementation System (PRAIS2) portal, with simplified off-line fillable reporting templates, reduced number of performance indicators and a fillable unified financial annex;
- A comprehensive reporting manual in the six UN languages;
- Technical backstopping framework by 10 regional consultants under the Regional Coordination Units (RCUs) throughout the reporting;
- 7 regional training workshops covering: explanation of the performance indicators, filling out simplified reporting templates and platform, accessing online helpdesk service and capacity building marketplace (now UNCCD Knowledge Hub) resources;
- Implementation of data quality framework throughout the reporting;
- The online resources made available through the UNCCD capacity building marketplace (now UNCCD Knowledge Hub) including helpdesk and FAQ, e-learning courses on reporting, consultant's database, previously submitted reports, sample reports, etc.

The increased reporting rate enabled the comprehensive assessment of the achievements of the operational objectives and financing to implement the 10-Year Strategy at national, regional

and global levels. Preliminary analysis of the information contained in the reports were reviewed by CRIC.13, and facilitated decision making by Parties at COP.12. Several related awareness raising initiatives were successfully implemented to sensitize stakeholders on issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD), including the production of infographics, informative videos, dynamic maps, countries factsheets and informative reports.

Several activities supporting preparations for the upcoming UNCCD reporting were carried out by the GSP I:

Collection of data on bio-physical progress indicators and fine-tuning of the methodology

Under the GSP I Output 4.1. “Progress indicators derived from existing datasets are made available to ACPs as default value for reporting in collaboration with other Rio Conventions and major data providers”, and in accordance with decisions 22/COP.11 and 2/COP.12, the UNCCD Secretariat/GM teams are processing global datasets to extract national estimates of bio-physical progress indicators for use and validation by Parties. These estimates are currently being made available to LDN Target Setting Programme (TSP) countries in support of the LDN target setting process. While some update and refinement to these estimates might be needed in the next months as new global datasets become available, the methodological approach to data processing established under the GSP I will be fully exploited for the forthcoming reporting.

Reporting templates and PRAIS platform

The UNCCD Secretariat /Global Mechanism (GM) are developing the content and format of the reporting tools against the future strategic framework of the UNCCD to meet the new requirements of the upcoming UNCCD reporting and review process. Unlike previous reporting processes, Parties will receive in the forthcoming reporting process country-specific reporting templates pre-populated with national data on progress indicators derived from global datasets. The Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System portal (“PRAIS 2”), that was developed by the GSP I for the 2014 UNCCD reporting process, will remain the reporting platform with a new name reflecting the third epoch of modifications that has altered the portal “PRAIS3”. Its technical infrastructure is being modified to meet the new requirements for the reporting on progress indicators.

In addition, a public visualization functionality is being created in PRAIS 3 portal to allow Parties accessing historical datasets derived from previously submitted reports. The interface will also include the future data collected on progress indicators

Approach to track finance for UNCCD implementation

The GM, in partnership with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), has carried out an analysis of the changing financial landscape and emerging financial opportunities for UNCCD implementation. Based on the findings, the GM has prepared a report to CRIC 15 outlining options for improved tracking and reporting on financing for UNCCD implementation

The “Global Support Programme II: Strengthening UNCCD reporting – enhancing implementation of the UNCCD” (GSP II) project has recently been approved by the GEF and will be implemented over the same period as this proposed project. The GSP II will build on many of the accomplishments achieved under the GSP I, including: (i) data collection related to UNCCD biophysical progress indicators extracted from global datasets to be pre-populated in the forthcoming reporting process; (ii) upgrading of the PRAIS reporting platform and the related technical infrastructure, (iii) research carried out to enhance tracking of finance for UNCCD implementation, including a methodological paper describing datasets that could be used to complement future SO4 reporting.

In addition to the GSP I, the GSP II will further strengthen countries' capacities to monitor the UNCCD indicator framework in the long-term by identifying prerequisites for the establishment of sustainable monitoring mechanisms at national level. It will also establish systematic interfaces with authoritative repositories of relevant financial data. Going forward, global financial flows of relevance to the UNCCD will not only be assessed on the basis of UNCCD reports, but also verified against existing and emerging reporting initiatives of relevance to the UNCCD. This will reduce reporting burdens for country Parties, minimize discrepancies between financial statistics, and facilitate the identification of funding opportunities for UNCCD implementation.

A.2.2. The LDN Voluntary Target Setting Project

The LDN Voluntary Target Setting Project aims at enabling country Parties to establish national voluntary LDN targets. It is co-funded by the GEF, implemented by IUCN and was endorsed by the GEF CEO on 1 August 2016. The project supports 70 countries in the national Voluntary LDN target setting process focusing on four building blocks: i) Levering LDN; ii) Assessing LDN; iii) Setting LDN Voluntary targets and associated measures; iv) Achieving LDN. The GEF funded LDN Target Setting Project lays the foundation for the UNCCD LDN Voluntary Target Setting Programme, which supports more than 100 countries in the LDN target setting process thanks to the support from other donors. As of 18 October 2016, the list of partners supporting the LDN target setting process includes France, Germany, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the European Space Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Soil Reference and Information Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, Soil Leadership Academy, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and World Resources Institute.

The current project will gain and ensures synergy with the LDN Voluntary target setting project as many Parties will be using the capacity building received from the project in voluntary reporting on their LDN targets set. Furthermore, the LDN process involves substantial data collection at national level; the GSP II will further build on this by providing guidance on the establishment of sound monitoring systems.

A.2.3. The UNCCD Secretariat and GM corporate activities

The UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism support UNCCD reporting and capacity building through their corporate activities. In preparation of the UNCCD reporting and in support of LDN target setting, the Secretariat and GM staff have been jointly working, among others, on:

- Development of reporting templates, and associated methodologies, in accordance with decision 15/COP.12;
- Extraction of data on biophysical progress indicators from global datasets and development of associated methodologies in partnership with data providers such as European Space Agency, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the International Soil Reference and Information Centre;
- Elaboration of technical guide on LDN target setting;
- Elaboration of methodological note to set national voluntary LDN targets using the UNCCD indicator framework;
- Advocacy and awareness raising on issues related to UNCCD.

As in the ongoing GSP, almost all units of the UNCCD Secretariat and GM will to some extent be involved in the reporting process of this proposed project.

A.2.4. The UNEP (UN Environment) Law Division initiative on consideration of legal implication of LDN targets at national level

UN Environment initiated an assessment of the legal implications of setting voluntary LDN targets at national level. The assessment aims at informing country Parties on the possible legal and institutional implications of establishing LDN targets. It is expected that the methodology countries will be using to conduct the assessment will be presented during the regional capacity building workshops scheduled in the context of the GSP II project and reported by the countries.

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES (The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender equality and women’s empowerment are considered in project design and implementation):

B.1. Enabling Activity Goals, Objectives and Activities

The analysis of issues proposed by National Focal Points (NFPs) during a rapid assessment of GSP I and Umbrella projects for future programmes of support, where 46 NFPs responded fully and 76 partially, suggested that future support for umbrella project should focus on finance: to enable gathering up-to-date data and to systematize data collection; to deliver tangible projects to make the case for LDN as tool for convention implementation and for the value of SLM; and to support leveraging of funds from other sources.

During UNCCD COP 13, Parties recognize the relevance of GEF and UNEP efforts in supporting the previous reporting cycle during which a level of 94% reporting rate has been reached. The proposed Umbrella project and the “Global Support Programme II: Strengthening UNCCD reporting – enhancing implementation of the UNCCD” (GSP II) will build on the achievements of the GSP I, the LDN Target Setting Project, the corporate activities of the UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism, based on the guidance provided by COP and CRIC. Taking into consideration that the GSP II will provide capacity for the National Focal Points and the Data Management specialist in each country, the current Umbrella project is developed to provide resources at country level to collect base line information, conduct the reporting process and establish long term monitoring system of LDN for UNCCD implementation.

The project objective is To enable country Parties to collect necessary biophysical, socioeconomic data, establish sound reporting and monitoring systems at national level and report against the UNCCD Strategy.

National UNCCD Focal Points (NFPs) during a rapid assessment of GSP I and Umbrella projects in anticipation of a new Global Support Program suggested that future support for umbrella project should address the issue of up-to-date data gathering, systematize data collection; make the case for LDN as tool for convention implementation and for the value of SLM; and to support leveraging of funds from other sources through the review of funding environment for Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD). Based on these analyses, the project Theory of Change (ToC) is built on the basis that if countries are provided resources to build their capacity and to collect adequate biophysical, socioeconomic data and establish a data management system, the convention implementation will be effective as countries will report in large number which will allow sound analysis and the review of the implementation of the convention. However, these can be achieved if the barriers related to availability of high quality data to serve as basis for reporting and funding is available to support national reporting process are removed. If these barriers are removed and with the assumption that funding will be available in time and that a functional HelpDesk is in place, the 2018 reporting will be achieved with a high rate.

The project intervention logic is built around the fact that if parties are provided resources to : (i) collect biophysical and socio-economic baseline information on DLDD, (ii) assess the state of land degradation, (iii) review plans and programmes relating to land degradation, (iv) review investments patterns, barriers and opportunities to increase financial investments for UNCCD implementation, and (v) conduct analysis of data to support reporting to the convention; (vi) benefited from training on new tools, reporting templates, LDN indicators monitoring and data management; there will be an improved and enhanced UNCCD biophysical progress indicators, quality of collected data and data management analysis and monitoring system. Furthermore, it is assumed that if consultations are conducted on reporting process at national level, there will be a sound review of the first LDN voluntary target setting and implementation by the Committee of Review of the Convention Implementation (CRIC) at its 18 session.

The proposed Umbrella project has three main components with associated expected outcomes and outputs:

- Component 1: National estimates and baselines of metrics/proxies of indicators for UNCCD reporting
- Component 2: 2018 Report including on LDN Targets settings

B.2. EA Stakeholders

National Government/Country Parties including CSO: Main project counterparts will be the national UNCCD Focal Points, who are in charge of the UNCCD reporting process at national level. They will be entirely responsible for preparation and submission of the report, liaising when necessary with national scientific/technical institutions. The project will furthermore promote multi-stakeholder participation, including civil society organizations, and taking into account national LDN working groups supported by the LDN TSP. CSOs will be invited to communicate information and concerns from local communities to the NFPs of their countries, which will be included, as appropriate, in the official report submitted by the NFPs.

Scientific and research organizations: The project will ensure further collaboration with scientific organizations, in particular in the area of data extraction and analysis for biophysical UNCCD progress indicators as well as on other reporting sections requiring inputs from scientific and research organizations.

The Convention's institutions: The UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism with their respective mandates will provide technical assistance and guidance to the project, ensuring availability and sound utilization of templates, guidelines and appropriate platform/system for reporting. They will also provide a platform to allow for continuous exchange of information and peer learning among all stakeholders.

B.3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Are [gender equality and women's empowerment](#) taken into account (yes [to some extent, indirectly] /no)? If yes, elaborate how it will be mainstreamed into project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

Poor rural women in developing countries are critical to the survival of their families. Fertile land is their lifeline. But the number of people negatively affected by land degradation is growing rapidly. As stated in the UNCCD "Turning the tide.", in the last five (2010-2015)

	<p>years, 52 countries made efforts to improve women’s access to decision making, local governance and resources. They strengthened the control and ownership of land, boosted access to financial, extension and market services and the use of new technologies. The global consensus around the Sustainable Development Goals and the adoption of the UNCCD’s future strategic framework are opportunities for policy makers to respond in a gender-responsive way.¹³</p> <p>Through Decision 7/COP.13, the COP “Decides that while implementing the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, all UNCCD stakeholders and partners should take into account the need for gender-responsive policies and measures; they will strive to ensure the full and effective participation of both men and women in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels, and enhance the empowerment of women, girls and youth in the affected areas”. More specifically, COP 13 adopted decision 30 related to “Gender equality and women’s empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention”. The decision adopted the Gender Action Plan which aims at supporting gender-responsive implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework to strengthen the implementation of the advocacy policy framework on gender. These COP 13 decisions reinforce the Decision 3/COP.12 which stresses the importance of empowering women in efforts to achieve SDG target 15.3 in order to ensure that this target addresses the wider elements of the 2030 Agenda, including women empowerment. SDG Goal 5 aims to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. The implementation framework section of the UNCCD reporting template will highlight measures related to activities/projects undertaken during the implementation of the Convention showing that gender equality and women’s empowerment were considered. The analysis of this particular section may elucidate concrete actions implemented on the ground to bring about gender equality and women’s empowerment, facilitate knowledge sharing and transfer and promote participatory decision-making processes.</p> <p>Gender balance will be a major consideration in designing and implementing the project’s capacity building and knowledge management activities. Women representation will be ensured while providing technical backstopping to the country parties. Gender balance aspect will be considered while conducting the biophysical and socioeconomic assessment to establish baseline data for reporting.</p>
<p>C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A).</p>	<p>C.1. Project components and outputs</p> <p>The project objectives will be achieved through two (2) components described below.</p> <p>Component 1: National estimates and baselines of metrics/proxies of indicators for UNCCD reporting</p> <p>The COP 13 adopted Decision 7/COP.13 which relates to “The future strategic framework of the Convention”. Within that Framework, reporting on progress towards the strategic objectives is required provided that (i) Parties have sufficient official national data/information to report or validate national estimates derived from global data sources; and (ii) reporting is provided primarily from official national data. In line with the reporting obligation, indicators for strategic objectives should be reviewed and fine-tuned, as necessary and appropriate, in consideration of the reporting system/indicators for the SDGs and with reference to the follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Rio conventions and other relevant MEAs in order to improve their synergetic implementation and avoid duplication.</p>

¹³ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. (2017). *Turning the Tide. The Gender Factor in Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality*. Retrieved from: http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017_Gender_ENG.pdf

In line with this COP decision and taking into consideration the previous guidance provided by the COP, the first component focuses on providing the resources to countries to collect or review (existing) biophysical and socioeconomic data, to establish a sound data management system related to UNCCD progress indicators, in particular, quantitative and geospatial data related to the three bio-physical indicators. In addition, the component includes the establishment of sustained mechanisms to monitor progress indicators and land degradation trends at national level. As the future reporting of the implementation of the convention will be based on the voluntary LDN targets, the GEF resources will help the countries to establish where it was not done during the LDN target setting process, baseline indicators which will be used to monitor the progress of national effort to achieve land degradation neutrality but at the same time the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of the investment done in area of SLM. This framework of indicators will be institutionalised as a way of monitoring and evaluation of national investment in favour of SLM in the country. Furthermore, as the regional capacity building workshops supported through GSP II will target two participants per country, i.e. the national UNCCD Focal Point as well as a representative from a land monitoring agency or statistical office responsible for monitoring of the SDGs; the umbrella project will provide resources to these two national experts to conduct training of national teams on data collection, management and monitoring and on the 2018 reporting process at national level. The expected **Outcome 1** from this component will be an Improved and enhanced UNCCD biophysical progress indicators, quality of collected data and a data management analysis and monitoring system. According to the result of the survey conducted to assess the effectiveness of the GSP I and Umbrella projects for the last reporting cycle *“19 out of 39 outstanding obstacles to reporting are relate to data (availability, quality, inefficiency in collection, absence of baseline, and lack of systematization of the collection)”*¹⁴ and the lack of a systematic approach to gathering the information needed. This latter issue is connected to problems of insufficient inter-institutional coordination and limited collaboration during baseline data collection. The survey also highlighted that the score for the statement related to *'effective monitoring and reporting being essential to improving Convention implementation'* is the highest of any question measured on a 1-5 scale. The outcomes of this survey give a clear signal as to the significance of the issue of data and national coordination.

To achieve the change expected with outcome 1, the following outputs will be delivered:

1.1.1. National Reports by 31 countries on national (i) biophysical and socio-economic baseline information on DLDD, (ii) state of land degradation, (iii) plans and programmes relating to land degradation, (iv) investments patterns, barriers and opportunities to increase financial investments for UNCCD implementation, and (v) analysis of data to support reporting to the convention, are conducted with CSO, research, academic involvement and due gender considerations.

1.1.2. Training conducted for stakeholders including CSO, research, academic involvement and due gender considerations. in 31 countries on indicators, data collection methodologies, analysis and application of indicators for monitoring and presenting UNCCD data

1.1.3. The set of indicators to be used for improved monitoring of LDN voluntary target setting and/or implementation and to enhanced data management for improved monitoring of impacts of SLM are established in 31 Countries with CSO, research, academic involvement and considerations of Decision 30 COP 13¹⁵31.

¹⁴ Jeremy Smith, 22 September 2015 in “Rapid Assessment of Enabling Activities under the Global Support Programme and United Nations Environment Programme Umbrella Project: Final Report”

¹⁵ Decision 30/COP.13 on Gender equality and women’s empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention

Component 2: 2018 Report including on LDN voluntary Targets settings

Through Decision 7/COP.13; the COP decided that while implementing the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, all UNCCD stakeholders and partners should take into account the need for gender-responsive policies and measures which will strive to ensure the full and effective participation of both men and women in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels, and enhance the empowerment of women, girls and youth in the affected areas. The decision also encourages the Parties to further enhance the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. The decision requests Parties and the Convention institutions and bodies, and invites intergovernmental and regional organizations and agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector to cooperate on capacity building to support the implementation of the Convention at all levels, particularly local and community levels. Furthermore, COP 13 through Decision 15/COP.13 requested the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to coordinate their respective support at the global, regional and national level (through the Global Support Programme II and umbrella projects) in order to provide targeted and timely support to capacity-building for reporting.

Component 2 of the project will provide resources at national level to train stakeholders on the reporting tools and templates so that key stakeholders will be aware on the information needed and in which format are needed to ensure an easy reporting process. On the basis of information made available by the UNCCD secretariat, as part of its work to facilitate reporting, countries utilizing GEF resources for this component will address national level priorities related to the reporting and review process. It is expected that countries will be in a position to take full advantage of services delivered by the UNCCD secretariat and the GM according to their respective mandates and within the limit of their approved budget, including revised templates and an upgraded PRAIS portal so that information can be uploaded onto the global database. The project will liaise closely with the UNCCD secretariat/GM in order to fine-tune timelines of activities relating to reporting at global/regional levels (UNCCD secretariat) and national level (the project). The reporting process, has always been an opportunity for the NFP and relevant authorities to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in awareness raising and sensitisation on the convention implementation at national and local level. Part of the project resources will be dedicated to ensuring an inclusive consultative process with all the different sectors and stakeholders whose commitment will enhance the convention implementation. The **Outcome 2:** Qualitative national reports which will allow sound review of the first LDN target setting and implementation by the Committee of Review of the Convention Implementation (CRIC) at its 18 session; will be expected as result of the component implementation.

To achieve the change expected with outcome 2, the following outputs will be delivered:

2.1.1. Stakeholders, including CSOs, research, academia and gender considerations, in 31 are trained on the use of Reporting templates, the comprehensive guidance manual and Updated reporting platform (PRAIS Portal) by March 2018

2.1.2. Consultations, which include CSOs, research, academia and gender considerations, on the reporting processes (impact assessment, performance review, best practices and financial flows etc) undertaken in at least 31 countries by June 2018

2.1.3. At least 31 countries report on their LDN voluntary targets and preliminary implementation results as part of intersessional CRIC meeting prior to COP 14.

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Annex A: Project Logframe

Annex I: The project key deliverables and benchmark

C.2. Enabling Activity incremental/ additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing;

Decision 15/COP.12 stipulates that the first review of progress indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, including information on LDN target setting and provision of the default data, should be undertaken at the intersessional session of CRIC that will take place in fall 2018.

Without the GEF support through the Umbrella project, Parties and stakeholders at national level would need to master the revised UNCCD indicator framework and the related reporting process through their own capacities. This would probably lead to a substantial decrease in the number and the quality of country reports, which may undermine a thorough assessment of UNCCD implementation in the context of the future strategic framework of the UNCCD. In addition, countries wouldn't have the opportunity to identify sustainable pathways to establish national UNCCD-related monitoring systems and to identify resource mobilization opportunities for UNCCD implementation.

The Umbrella project will enable National Focal Points and Data management experts, who will be trained at national level through the GSP II, to provide effective support to country level teams by providing training on the use of reporting tools, delivering interactive national training sessions and acting as technical resource persons to ensure good quality national reporting. Assessments on effective ways to establish long-term mechanisms to monitor land degradation trends and opportunities for increased finance of UNCCD implementation carried out at global level through GSP II will be shared with countries.

The GEF is a financial mechanism of the UNCCD since May 2010, and the GEF Trust Fund directly contributes to the implementation of the Convention. Decision 2/COP.12 requested the UNCCD and GEF secretariats to continue consultations on the arrangements for the delivery of funding enabling activities for the sixth GEF Replenishment Phase (GEF-6) with a view to securing technical and financial support for the next reporting exercise, including in the area of progress reporting and national target-setting towards achieving LDN. Furthermore, at CRIC.15, as outlined in document ICCD/CRIC(15)/7, most Parties noted again the importance of securing sufficient funding and capacity building measures from the GEF to enable reports to be submitted in a timely manner. Furthermore, COP 13, through Decision 15/COP.13, requested the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism, and invites the United Nations Environment Programme, to coordinate their respective support at the global, regional and national level (through the Global Support Programme II and umbrella projects) in order to provide targeted and timely support to capacity-building for reporting

C.3. Enabling Activity global environmental benefits (GEFTF), and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

The proposed project is in line with the GEF land degradation focal area, specifically the LD Focal Area Set-Aside: UNCCD Enabling Activities, contributing to its main goal to arrest and reverse current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation.

As part of the UNCCD Enabling Activities, the GEF financing of the Umbrella project will support implementation of the UNCCD and its 10-Year Strategy in accordance with country obligations to the convention, and based on decisions from the COP. The financing will also

take into account the need to align focal area portfolio monitoring needs with planned activities by STAP and the UNCCD Secretariat on indicator-based reporting in response to COP decisions.

The present project supports the UNCCD reporting against the future strategic framework of the UNCCD aligned with the Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular SDG target 15.3. Target 15.3 is linked to a variety of global and regional initiatives promoting sustainable land management and restoration/rehabilitation of degraded lands, such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD, the Bonn Challenge on Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR), the New York Declaration on Forests and the 4 per 1000 Initiative, along with the related regional initiatives such as the 20x20 Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). As such, the SDG target 15.3 is closely linked to other SDGs, including the SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (climate action).

The Umbrella project will furthermore facilitate sharing of the outcome on the comprehensive assessment of financing to be conducted within the framework of GSP II as this will support country reporting efforts. Country Parties will have knowledge on investment patterns, potential barriers and opportunities to finance the implementation of the UNCCD.

Overall, the project aims at enabling countries at national level to enhance UNCCD related reporting and monitoring mechanisms to combat land degradation and desertification. This will contribute to the development of effective policies, knowledge sharing opportunities, practices conducive to sustainable land management, all of which will be able to generate global environmental benefits while supporting local and national, social and economic development. By supporting the implementation of this project, GEF generates incremental value for the capacity building at all levels toward global environmental benefits.

C.4. Enabling Activity innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

The project promotes a new approach to support reporting of country Parties to the UNCCD coupled with the provision of incentives to boost UNCCD implementation at country level by providing financial resources for the national level reporting process.

Through the GSP II, Country Parties will be provided for the first time, and as requested by the twelfth session of the COP (COP12), with pre-populated estimates of the revised UNCCD progress indicators, modified reporting tools and comprehensive guidance and training material. This innovation will allow countries at national level, to review the pre-populated data and to compare with existing data or national data to be collected prior to validation. Coupled with the results of the assessment of effective ways to establish coordination/observatory mechanisms at national level to monitor UNCCD biophysical progress indicators, countries will be enabled i) to identify good practices for the establishment of sound reporting and monitoring systems to report against the recently adopted strategic framework of the UNCCD; and ii) to use the data collected through the UNCCD reporting process to formulate/revise corresponding sustainable development plans, including UNCCD NAPs, to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation. This will lay the foundation for the establishment of sustainable land/UNCCD-related monitoring systems. Furthermore, the umbrella project will support the strengthening of synergies with related reporting processes, including SDGs and the other Rio Conventions through comprehensive national consultation process. Activities under component 3- will provide new information to countries, which are currently not available. With the information provided through the GSP II, the umbrella project will help countries to identify sustainable financial mechanisms which

can be tapped in to achieve the objectives of the Convention based on country priorities.

The project also includes some innovative aspects, such as, the combination of national capacity building and technical assistance for the monitoring of progress made in the implementation of the global results based framework (the Strategy). A strong focus on the potential use of the outcomes of the reporting for better decision making on SLM during the technical support will ensure higher potential for incorporating Global Environmental Benefits into national and (sub-) regional development planning. The project includes significant national capacity building measures through training sessions and awareness raising activities that will ensure long-term monitoring of land degradation processes at national level which is an additional element of project sustainability. The project Outputs 1.1.3. “National mechanisms for monitoring of LDN, impacts of SLM and enhanced data management established in 3131 countries”, is another important aspect of project sustainability as it mitigates against team turnover at the national level by assisting new people coming into the system to continue managing national data to support the reporting processes.

Replication: Parties will use harmonised guidelines, formats and time schedules for reporting. Therefore, the project results can be replicated. Also, taking into consideration that the national reporting cycle will include the LDN voluntary targets, the tools and guidelines will facilitate reporting for SDGs as well. The project’s replicability, therefore, will not only target the different reporting entities but also will address the issue of the reporting to other processes including SDGs implementation.

Public awareness, communications and mainstreaming strategy: Public awareness is one of the pillars of the implementation of the Convention at the national level. This will be achieved by this project both in ensuring stakeholders’ participation and communication and mainstreaming strategy. The public participation will include (i) involvement of key stakeholders, including the Civil society, in the national reporting process; (ii) organization of inclusive meetings during the processes and results validation meetings; (iii) special meetings with Government officials to address the issues of SLM and national development policies and strategies; and (iv) targeted media involvement in the delivering key messages to the larger public particularly during the stakeholder’s meetings.

Parties at COP 9 adopted the new UNCCD communication strategy and, at COP 13 in Ordos (China), Parties adopted Decision 4/COP.13 in which they agreed to: (i) promote the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and land degradation neutrality as tools for enhancing the effective implementation of the Convention; (ii) invite Parties, civil society organizations, the media, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders to engage in various awareness-raising events and activities, including the World Day to Combat Desertification, UNDDD and the Land for Life programme, to promote the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

The communication and mainstreaming activities of this project will be mainly the implementation of some activities at national level as part of the implementation of the short Communication Plan called for by the COP 13 Decision 4.

Environmental and social safeguards: This project is environmentally friendly and no activities will be carried out on the ground that will harm the environment and/or communities. The project objectives involve building capacity for the assessment of land degradation at the national level, development of knowledge management systems and reporting systems based on the COP approved indicators contained in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework adopted by Decision 7/COP.13. A limited number of international flights will have to be undertaken, with the emissions offset through the recognized United Nations

mechanisms and the policy of the UNEP as the Implementing Agency of the project. The project will avoid duplication of efforts by synergizing with other existing initiatives as much as possible particularly with GSP II.

C.5. Project Institutional Framework

A. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT:

UNEP is the Implementing Agency for this GEF project. UNEP shall, in its role as GEF Implementing Agency, provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. It shall also in partnership with the UNCCD Secretariat engage in promoting the project with a view to mobilize scientific expertise.

National UNCCD Focal Points (NFPs): At the national level, the project activities will be coordinated by the UNCCD National Focal Point. He/she will bear overall responsibility for the execution of the project activities under the supervision of the National Executing Agency, and act as national representative, facilitating inter-agency coordination and guide the execution of the project in each country. The National Execution Agency (NEA), will establish or rely on the existing UNCCD National coordinating mechanism to facilitate those national activities that will ensure the production of a national report. The NFP will ensure that the capacity needs at national level for the reporting process are provided to relevant stakeholders either through the use of national expertise or with the support of the Help Desks established by UNCCD Secretariat and GM Secretariats within the framework of UNEP/GEF/GSP II project.

UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism: The UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism have been fully involved in the development of this project and have contributed in the technical design of the project. They have ensured that guidance from all Convention bodies have been duly considered in the design of this project. The two organs of the Convention will provide technical and political guidance on the reporting activities, whilst regional coordination units, established by COP 9, will provide additional support to the timely implementation of the project. Both institutions will provide conceptual and substantive input to the process and hence ensure that the project is fully embedded in a broader framework for monitoring implementation of not only UNCCD, but also for other development partners. Information provided to the Secretariat by Parties will be analyzed by the two institutions and processed for CRIC.

Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) was formulated as a part of the Technical Programme of the Caribbean SIDS Programme . It was adopted at the 14th Session of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and Caribbean held in Panama in November 2003 and endorse by CARICOM/COTED on the Environment in Guyana in April 2008 to provide a framework for assisting Country Parties for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD), and for addressing the land management component of the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy (MSI) in Caribbean SIDS. PISLM will act as the Executing Agency of 11 Caribbean countries in this umbrella as specifically requested by the concerned Parties.

B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:

UNEP is the Implementing Agency for this GEF project. UNEP shall, in its role as GEF Implementing Agency, provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are

adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieve expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. Project supervision is entrusted to the Director of UNEP Division of Ecosystems who discharges this responsibility through the assigned Task Manager who represents the Director of the Division of Ecosystems on the project steering committee. Project supervision missions by the Task Manager and/or Fund Management Officer shall constitute part of the project supervision plan. UNEP/GEF would perform the liaison function between UNEP and the GEF Secretariat and report on the progress against milestones outlined in the CEO approval letter to the GEF Secretariat. The UNEP/ Division of Ecosystems shall rate, on periodic basis, progress in meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation. UNEP/ Division of Ecosystems will report to the GEF Secretariat through the Project Implementation Review (PIR) report prepared by the Project Coordination Assistant and ensures that the UNEP Evaluation Office arranges for an independent terminal evaluation and submits its report to the GEF Evaluation Office. In order to ensure overall coherence with the Convention process and taking into consideration the fact that this project is meant to increase capacities of UNCCD Parties vis-a-vis the Convention, UNEP/ Division of Ecosystems through the Task Manager assisted by Project Coordination and Finance Assistants, will also work in close consultation with the UNCCD Secretariat and GM on all issues relating to deadlines and deliverables under the project.

Even though the National institution/Department hosting the UNCCD Focal Points, serves as the National Executing Entity, UNEP Division of Ecosystem Service, through the Help Desk will provide execution support to the countries. The UNEP Project Coordination Assistant liaises with financial staff of UNEP to support countries in development and of Small Scale Financial Agreements (SSFA) with countries, disburse funds and support countries on questions related to funds. The countries will be providing their Work Plan in line with the project framework and to be executed within the Convention deadlines. A limited amount of online technical assistance will be provided for national stakeholders to meet minimum requirements in delivering reports. Due to the tight deadline associated with this project Parties are requested to produce and submit their national report (June 2018) to the convention bodies, the timely availability of resources to the countries will be a great challenge. To overcome this challenge, the Project Coordination Assistant will be supported by a Financial Assistant (G5) who will be recruited under this component and be dedicated exclusively to UNCCD EA as financial activities with more than 80 countries will be time consuming. Furthermore, it has been proven very effective in the previous umbrella projects that the establishment of a physical Help Desk during the Convention bodies meetings, provide opportunity for the project coordination assistant to discuss execution issues and reporting requirements with Parties.

As Project Partner, **UNCCD Secretariat** representing the depositary of the Convention is consulted in all aspects of the project through regular contacts. UNCCD primary responsibility is to advice on timely and effective coordination of the project activities as they relate to the overall reporting exercise. The Secretariat will be providing overall guidance as regards timelines and project implementation to ensure that CRIC receives input for the review of Convention implementation at all levels. It will ensure coherence in the approach across regions and reporting entities as well as provide an interface for reporting from civil society organizations (as requested by COP) through regional coordination units established by COP 9. Documentation resulting from reports will be jointly produced by the Secretariat and the GM for review of Parties at the level of the CRIC.

As project partner, **the Global Mechanism (GM)** is involved in the synthesis documents provided by the secretariat to CRIC. The GM will particularly participate in the Steering of the process and will advise through its Helpdesk on guidelines and tools for the Standard Financial Annexes and Programme and Project Sheet.

As Executing partner at country level, the National Executing Agencies (NEAs), will have overall responsibility at the national level. The NEAs will implement the project in collaboration with other national (e.g. Ministry in charge of planning), provincial and local government agencies, NGOs, private sector and local communities. In order to ensure joint programming of GEF interventions with related projects, formal and informal inter-agency links will be maintained. Each NEA will sign Small Funding Agreement (SSFA), receive funds from UNEP and international technical assistance through the GSP II.

Eleven countries (11) from Caribbean countries Parties requested PISLM to act as the Executing Agency. For these countries, the funds will be channelled through the PISLM which will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement with UNEP. PISLM will be responsible of making the funds available for countries activities, report to UNEP on the utilisation of funds and the technical activities conducted and the deliverables obtained in line with the project framework. PISLM will base on case by case agreement with each country, support the technical execution of some activities. This arrangement has been experienced by some countries during GEF 5 support to NAP alignment process. The experience has been proven successful evidence is the number of countries which engage for that arrangement in line with the current project.

The project approach of pulling the GEF resources at country level, aims at supporting countries to fulfil their obligations while at the same time put in place national mechanisms to ensure national capacity building, establishment of long term coordination mechanism and sustainable implementation of UNCCD through mainstreaming of DLDD in relevant national sectors.

National Coordinating Body (NCBs): The UNCCD National Coordinating Body, where established or any other existing committee dealing with sustainable management of natural resources will provide guidance to the project and monitor progress and performance. The UNCCD NCB will serve under its national mandate and will monitor and review progress on an annual basis. The NCB will be chaired by the Head of the NEA or his representative. The UNCCD NFP will act as the NCB's secretary. In line with the COP 9 recommendation, it will be an obligation to have at least one (1) Civil Society Organisation (CSO) active in the SLM activities, in the NCB. In order to avoid proliferation of national committees, the project will make use of existing national consultation structures in order to discharge the workload of the project and seek synergies at national level.

GEF funding will be provided to country Parties for implementation of national-level reporting activities that will be coordinated by the relevant UNCCD Focal Point. The disbursement of the funds to national governments will be in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration, relying as much as possible on existing national procedures in order to foster ownership and accountability. Where applicable, in the spirit of the UN reform, the project will also foster and rely on UN inter-agency cooperation at the national level, particularly through cooperation with UNDP country offices, as requested by Countries including for administration of project funds in accordance with standard inter-agency procedures (i.e. UPL).

C.6. Enabling Activity Benefit: Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. Do any of these benefits support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) and/or adaptation to climate change?

The delivery of socio-economic benefits at national and local levels is a major priority for the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area. The UNCCD progress indicators are considered effective

means to enable country Parties to monitor the conditions of ecosystems and living conditions of populations affected by DLDD. They also provide an important framework for action to monitor the achievement of voluntary national LDN targets and associated measures as well as policies and to contribute to the achievements of SDGs at country level. The forthcoming reporting, based on COP guidance, attempts to link global level reporting with monitoring efforts undertaken at country level on the basis of both quantitative and qualitative information and active stakeholder participation.

According to an extensive study conducted in 2016 by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)¹⁶, land degradation has already reached 29% of global land area with human-induced biomass productivity decline found in 25% of cropland (including combined vegetation-crop mosaics), 29% of forest mosaics with shrub- and grasslands, 33% of grassland areas (including pasture grazing land), as well as 23% of areas with sparse vegetation (Global Mechanism/Mirova, 2016)¹⁷.

According to Global Mechanism/Mirova (2016), “in financial terms, deforestation alone was estimated to cause annual economic losses of roughly e1.5-3.4 trillion in 2009,13 equivalent to 3.3-7.5% of the global GDP in 2008 (ELD Initiative, 2013¹⁸). Estimates of the overall lost ecosystem services due to land degradation hover around US\$6.3-10.6 trillion annually (ELD Initiative, 2015)¹⁹”. The social returns of taking action at a global level are estimated at five US dollars for every US dollar invested in the restoration of degraded land.²⁰

The upcoming reporting, and the associated capacity building and technical support rendered through the project at national level, will help country Parties to better assess the conditions of their ecosystems and the welfare of populations depending on them.

C.7. Enabling Activity Risks: Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental future risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks:

Risk Description	Level	Proposed measure
Reporting timeframe: Potential lack of capacity in the participating countries for reporting on time due to tight deadlines	High	Timely preparation of supporting documents and timely organization of national workshops will be required to allow countries sufficient time to internalize the reporting process and to prepare national reports. It is also important that the preparation of the national report is supported by the same person(s) attending the trainings provided under GSP II. This will be emphasized in the invitation letters to countries for the GSP regional training.

¹⁶ IFPRI (2016). *Economics of Land Degradation and Improvement – A Global Assessment for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ifpri.org/publication/economics-land-degradationand-improvement>

¹⁷ Global Mechanism/Mirova. (2016). *Unlocking the market for LDN*. Retrieved from:

http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/GM_mirova_unlocking_the_market_for_ldn_june_2016.pdf

¹⁸ ELD Initiative. (2013). *ELD Business Brief; Opportunity lost: mitigating risk and making the most of your land assets*. Retrieved from: http://eld-initiative.org/fileadmin/pdf/ELD_Business_Brief.pdf

¹⁹ ELD Initiative. (2015). *The value of land: Prosperous lands and positive rewards through sustainable land management*. Retrieved from: [http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/2015_The%20Value%20of%20Land%20-%20ELD%20Initiative%20\(2015\).pdf](http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/2015_The%20Value%20of%20Land%20-%20ELD%20Initiative%20(2015).pdf)

²⁰ UNCCD. (2016). *Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Kenya: The Economic Case*. Retrieved from: http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/LDN_Country_%20Profile_Kenya_20161016.pdf

Political and institutional risks: Limited uptake of reporting and adoption of the progress indicators due to lack or insufficient capacity at national level and lack of necessary political will to report/ Reporting to UNCCD may be considered as a lower priority for developing countries	Medium	Supports rendered by the GSP II and Umbrella projects are intended to increase awareness and understanding from and or Parties related to the UNCCD reporting process. Demonstrating the national benefits of utilizing the UNCCD indicator framework will increase the integration of LDN voluntary targets in county level policy processes.
Coordination between national level activities and GSP regional support	Low	GM and UNCCD secretariat will liaise to ensure engaging a large number of country Parties

C.8. Enabling Activities coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives:

This project requires close coordination and synergies with two GEF-financed initiatives: the successor UNEP/GEF/GM GSP II project and IUCN-implemented LDN Target Setting Project.

Coordination with the LDN Voluntary Target Setting Project

The LDN Voluntary Target Setting project supports 70 GEF eligible countries to establish national LDN baselines and voluntary targets. This information can be used by country Parties for the UNCCD reporting process facilitated by the Umbrella and GSP II projects. In addition, the Umbrella project will build on the lesson-learned gained by the LDN TSP in the area of data gathering, monitoring and validation and address the challenges identified during the regional capacity building workshops and assessments. This will ensure that all experiences obtained through the LDN Voluntary TSP in selected countries will be made available to all UNCCD stakeholders and fully incorporated in the Umbrella delivery mechanisms. All reporting materials (e.g. reporting manual, online training material) related to the UNCCD biophysical indicators will capitalize on the methodological approach and technical documentation developed by the LDN Voluntary TSP.

Coordination with UNEP/GEF/GM GSP II project

While the GSP II is expected to set the framework for global support for the UNCCD reporting process, the “Umbrella” project “Support to GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programmes and Reporting process under UNCCD” will support implementation at national level related to, inter alia, (i) enabling national reporting; and (ii) supporting NAP implementation. As such, UNEP/GEF ‘umbrella’ project is expected to provide support at national level for preparation of country reports, and render available resources for national technical assistance through activities to be planned and executed by the NFP and the national team.

Taking into account the recommendations of the “Rapid Assessment of Enabling Activities” under the Global Support Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme ‘Umbrella’ Project”, to forge stronger links between the GSP and the Umbrella project and to ensure that combined, they bring greater value than the sum of the two, synergies between the two projects will be ensured through close coordination between the UNCCD

Secretariat/Global Mechanism and UNEP, coordinated information exchange with countries, systematic cooperation between staff/consultants of both projects, and collaboration in the organization of capacity building events.

Coordination and synergy with other MEAs and Sustainable Development Agenda processes

The current project supports the UNCCD reporting against the convention strategic framework adopted at COP 13 and which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular SDG target 15.3. Target 15.3; The framework is linked to a variety of global and regional initiatives promoting sustainable land management and restoration/rehabilitation of degraded land such as Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD, the Bonn Challenge on Forest and Land Landscape Restoration (FLR), the New York Declaration on Forests and the 4 per 1000 initiative along with the related regional initiatives such as the 20x20 initiative for the Latin America and the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). The central element for implementing the Paris Agreement are the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of each Party. NDCs are national climate plans highlighting climate actions, including climate related targets, policies and measures governments aims to implement in response to climate change and as a contribution to global climate action. The project will ensure that the data collection on biophysical, socioeconomic and investments opportunity give due consideration to the climate change issues as it relate closely to Sustainable Land Management. The project will emphasize this link and the need for the countries at national level to ensure effectively this synergy but also the regional help desk through experts who will be recruited to support countries in each region during the reporting Process.

C.9. Enabling Activity knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

Knowledge management will play important role throughout the implementation of the project, including knowledge capturing and knowledge sharing.

Training/Education Strategy: The Training/Education Strategy is based on the paradigm shift in understanding of reporting, changing from a perception that it is a burden on the Parties to an appreciation of reporting and implementation as an opportunity for contributing to national development agenda particularly the LDN voluntary targets set by Parties. This change of the mind-set can then help to prioritise the effective allocation of scarce resources for implementation. Efficiency of the reporting processes are expected to improve through wide availability of the best tools and methods. Through the paradigm shift, Parties would become empowered to do the reporting themselves (notably by the national UNCCD Focal Points), rather than hire consultants to complete reports for them to simply fulfill an obligation. This shift in approach will necessitate a major effort at awareness-raising and the capacity development. Part of the task of the project is to educate Parties about the indicators and of mainstreaming UNCCD in national agenda so they are comfortable enough with them to draw lessons recommend for improvement and approve them as part of LDN implementation strategy. The training needs and guidelines for data collection, management and monitoring for the preparation of National reports and national workshops to conduct training in use of format/template for National Reports are key deliverables out of this training/education approach

The reporting results will be placed on the reporting platform PRAIS, including their

	<p>integration into a public user interface to query and visualize the data by wider audience. The results of the studies carried out in the context of components 2 and 3 of the GSP II will be made available on the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and initial results shared during the national Capacity Building Workshops foreseen.</p> <p>C.10. Enabling Activity consistency with National Priorities. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /no <input type="checkbox"/>). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NCs, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.</p> <p>The project contributes to the monitoring of implementation of UNCCD’s National Action Programmes (NAPs). The UNCCD contains specific provisions on the communication of information (article 26), according to which each Party shall communicate to the COP reports on the measures, which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention and its overall impact on sustainable development. In particular, affected country Parties shall provide a description of the strategies and priorities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and a detailed description of the NAPs and of their implementation. Developed country Parties shall report on measures undertaken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing under the Convention. The revised UNCCD reporting process provides a new framework to assess the status of land degradation and to monitor implementation of UNCCD NAPs.</p> <p>The project will support countries to identify opportunities for the establishment of synergies with other national strategies, including the national SDG process and relevant national policies developed in the context of the Rio Conventions, including national action related to the UNFCCC (e.g. National Adaptation Plans and other climate commitments such as NDCs) and CBD (Aichi target, NBSAPs).</p>
<p>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED <u>COST-EFFECTIVENESS</u> OF THE PROJECT:</p>	<p>Cost effectiveness is ensured in the project at all levels.</p> <p>The project is aimed at enabling country Parties to establish sound reporting and monitoring systems. Based on the lessons learnt from the previous reporting and review cycles, responding to COP and CRIC guidance, and building on the GSP I and previous Umbrellas projects, the project intends to deliver support to the forthcoming 2017-18 UNCCD reporting and review process in the most optimal and cost-effective way. This is ensured through optimal combination of online guidance, technical backstopping, hands-on regional trainings and the compilation of global studies through GSP II, providing guidance for enhanced UNCCD implementation at country level. All reporting tools, technical infrastructure, capacity building materials, and deliverables under the project are aimed at the long-term benefits for country Parties and stakeholders, and are intended to be utilized in the future reporting periods and beyond. Close coordination with core programmes of the UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism as well as other GEF-financed initiatives, including the LDN Voluntary TSP and GSP II project, will maximize the impact and ensure synergies and gains for project beneficiaries.</p>
<p>E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:</p>	<p>M&E budget and workplan containing above mentioned activities is attached as Annex G.</p> <p>The project will follow the UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation process, templates and procedures. The project M&E Plan (see Annex G enclosed to the project document) is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. The project results framework presented in Annex A and includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome</p>

as well as mid-term and end-of –project targets. These indicators along with key deliverables and benchmarks included in Annex I will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are achieved. The means of verification associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators are summarized in Annex A. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the costed M&E plan and fully integrated in the overall project budget.

The project Steering organs will receive semi-annual reports on progress and provide guidance on project implementation, including possible adjustments of the project results framework or M&E plan. The UNEP Project Task Manager will provide project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures. The executing agency will submit periodic progress and financial reports to UNEP, which will ensure that the outputs produced by the project are in line with the expected deliverables. The UNEP Task Manager will provide technical guidance as necessary for project implementation, feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to assess the quality of the project outputs according to UNEP standards.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The UNEP Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project, which will be communicated to the project partners. The emphasis of the UNEP supervision will be on outcome monitoring without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by all project partners, including UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored annually by UNEP to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The UNEP Evaluation Office (EO) will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager and Executing Agency (through the Task manager) throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

- (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
- (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the EO when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The direct costs of terminal evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

M&E budget and workplan containing above mentioned activities is attached as **Annex G**.

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

N/A

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

A. Record of Endorsement²¹ 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 [SGP OFP endorsement letter](#)).

	NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
1	Lloyd Pascal	Head, Environmental Coordination Unit, Ministry of Health and Environment	Dominica	15 February 2017
2	Sharon Ramclam-Young	CEO, Ministry of Natural Resources	Belize	09 March 2017
3	Jean Pierre Moise	Ministry of Environment	Haiti	14 February 2017
4	Marsha Henry Martin	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Jamaica	17 March 2017
5	Indarjit Ramdass	Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency	Guyana	22 February 2017
6	Nataly Plet	Environmental Policy Officer at the Cabinet of the President	Suriname	17 March 2017
7	Fitzroy James	Director, Department of Economic and Technical Cooperation	Grenada	28 March 2017
8	Janeel miller- Findlay	Director, Environmental Management Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Information and Labor	St Vincent and Grenadines	11 April 2017
9	Caroline Eugene	Department of Sustainable Development	St. Lucia	28 March 2017
10	Lavern Queely	Director, Economic Affairs and PSIP	St. Kitts and Nevis	29 March 2017
11	Daphne Kelman	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Drainage	Barbados	05 May 2017
12	Carmen Cartagena Gómez	General Director, Directorate General of Water Resources	Honduras	19 April 2017
13	Lina Pohl	Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	El Salvador	09 February 2017
14	Ivy Eliana Beltran Jauna	Ministry of Environment	Bolivia	03 March 2017
15	Patricia Abreu Fenandez	Vice Minister of Cooperation and International Affairs	Dominican Republic	27 March 2017
16	Miguel Stuntiz Schottlander	Ministry of Agriculture	Chile	04 March 2017
17	Hayden Romano	Managing Director, Environmental Management Authority	Trinidad and Tobago	20 March 2017
18	Diann Black Layne	Director, Department of Environment, Ministry of Health and Environment	Antigua and Barbuda	16 March 2017
19	Mariangel Perez Ramirez	Director General, Office of Integration and International Affairs	Venezuela	08 March 2017
20	Alejandro Nario Carvalho	Director of National Environmental Directorate, Ministry of Housing Land Planning and Environment	Uruguay	07 April 2017
21	Reuben Munoz R.	Costa Rica directorate of intenational cooperation	Costa Rica	06 June 2017
22	Angelica Maria Mayolo	Head of Internaional Affairs Office,	Colombia	19 October 2017

²¹ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

	Obregon	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development		
23	Sydney Alexander Samuels	Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Guatemala,	24 April 2017
24	Abolaid Omar Masoud		Libya	10 April 2017
25	David Batali Oliver	Director General, Ministry of Environment and Forestry	South Sudan	26 October 2017
26	Ariuntuya Dorjsuren	Director General Climate Change and International Cooperation Department Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Mongolia	23 November 2017
27	Camila Zepeda Lizama	Director General Ministry of Finance and Public Credit	Mexico	15 November 2017
31	Mr Abdirizak Mohamed Mohamed	Director General of Environment Office of the Prime Minister	Somalia	18 November 2017
29	Rinchen Wangdi	Director Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC)	Bhutan	29 November 2017
30	Willis Agricole	GEF Operational Focal Point Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Botanical Gardens Mt. Fleuri	Seychelles	15 March 2017
31	Pamoussa OUEDRAOGO	Technical Programs Coordinator GEF Operational Focal Point	Burkina Faso	11 March 2017

B. GEF Agency(ies) Certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies²² and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for a medium-sized project approval under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Kelly West, Senior Programme Manager & Global Environment Facility Coordinator Corporate Services Division UN Environment		February 16, 2018	Adamou Bouhari, UNEP Task Manager	+22552113701	adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (Applicable only to newly accredited GEF Project Agencies)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required [GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template](#) to be attached as an annex to this project template.

ENABLING ACTIVITY ANNEXES

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

²² GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

Please see **Annex A. Logical framework**

Objectives and Outcomes / Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Baseline / Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Project Objective				
To enable Country Parties to establish sound national reporting and monitoring systems to enable effective reporting against the UNCCD Strategy	Number of countries prepared and submitted National Reports to UNCCD	No country submitted its 2018 National Reports to UNCCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP report - COP/CRIC documents - Terminal Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political will: reporting to the UNCCD considered as a high priority in the 31 countries - GEF endorses project - Resources are made available in time
Outcomes (and Outputs)				
Component 1: National estimates and baselines of metrics/proxies of indicators for UNCCD reporting				
Outcome 1: Improved and enhanced UNCCD : biophysical progress indicators, quality of collected data, , data management analysis and monitoring system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of countries being able to produce national reports on biophysical, socioeconomic taken into consideration Decision 30 COP 13²³, state of land degradation, investment trend and data to support supporting to UNCCD reporting - Number of persons taken into consideration Decision 30 COP 13 having the capacity to engage in effective 2018 	<p>Baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National estimates on biophysical, socioeconomic (including gender specific issues), state of land degradation, financing are either not existing or outdated - National teams are not yet trained on 2018 UNCCD Reporting - No mechanisms in place for long term monitoring of LDN and for data management <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31 countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP report - COP/CRIC documents - Terminal Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial: Countries gain access to GEF funding to enable NAP alignment process. Resources available are sufficient to fund required national activities. - Technical: Guidance provided by UNCCD Secretariat and support through this project are relevant and sufficient. - Political: Countries engage in the NAP alignment process.

²³ Decision 30/COP.13 on Gender equality and women's empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention

	<p>UNCCD reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of national mechanisms established for long term monitoring of LDN and for enhanced data management which support UNCCD reporting processes 	<p>collect baseline data taken into consideration Decision 30 COP 13²⁴, for reporting and establishment of long term monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31 National UNCCD teams including women trained on 2018 reporting process - 31 countries have established mechanism with due gender equity consideration for LDN monitoring and UNCCD related data management 		
<p>Outputs 1.1.1. National Reports by 31 countries on national (i) biophysical and socio-economic taken into consideration Decision 30 COP 13, baseline information on DLDD, (ii) state of land degradation, (iii) plans and programmes relating to land degradation, (iv) investments patterns, barriers and opportunities to increase financial investments for UNCCD implementation with due gender equity consideration, and (v) analysis of data to support reporting to the convention, are conducted</p> <p>Outputs 1.1.2. Training with due gender consideration, conducted for stakeholders in 31 countries on indicators, data collection methodologies, analysis and application of indicators for monitoring and presenting UNCCD data</p> <p>Outputs 1.1.3. The set of indicators to be used for improved monitoring of LDN voluntary target setting and/or implementation and to enhanced data management for improved monitoring of impacts of SLM are established in 31 Countries with CSO, research, academic involvement and considerations of Decision 30 COP 13²⁵</p>				
<p>Component 2: 2018 Report including on LDN Voluntary Targets settings</p>				

²⁴ Decision 30/COP.13 on Gender equality and women’s empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention

²⁵ Decision 30/COP.13 on Gender equality and women’s empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention

Outcome 2: Countries have prepared and submitted their 2018 national reports	Number of countries submitting timely 2018 reports	Baseline: COP 12 and 13 Decisions requested Parties to report in June 2018 Target: 31 countries submit their 2018 national reports. 80% of the 31 countries submit within the timeline set by the convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National reports available from UNCCD Secretariat - CRIC documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial: Countries gain access to GEF funding to enable reporting during the 2018 reporting and review process. Resources available are sufficient to fund required national activities. - Technical: Technical support provided is relevant and sufficient. Data for reporting are available. - Political: Countries engage in reporting process.
	Output 2.1.1. 31 national training sessions with due gender consideration on the use of Reporting templates, the comprehensive guidance manual and Updated reporting platform (PRAIS Portal) are organized in the countries by March 2018			
	Output 2.1.2. At least 31 events including workshops, media events, awareness raising or advocacy activities including on gender equity in SLM organized in 31 countries in support of reporting process			
	Output 2.1.3. 31 reports on LDN Voluntary targets and preliminary implementation results available at the intersessional CRIC meeting prior to COP 14”			

ANNEX B: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A

ANNEX C – Status of PPG implementation. N/A

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A

Annex E: Consultants to be hired²⁶

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$ USD/ Person Week</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks*</i>	<i>Tasks To Be Performed</i>
For Project Management			
Local			
Project Finance Assistant (G5)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support timely funds transfer to countries - Review and consider financial reports - Support project financial revisions and closure
Justification for travel, if any:			
International			
			-
Justification for travel, if any: PMU / PSC meetings, training, technical assistance			
For Technical Assistance			
Local			
Project HelpDesk (1) Assistant (G7)			<p>(i) liaise with country teams to support the national level processes as necessary;</p> <p>(ii) assist the UNEP Task Manager in all non-oversight roles. The UNEP Project Coordination Assistant liaises with financial staff of UNEP to develop the 143 Small Scale Financial Agreements (SSFA) with countries, disburse funds and support countries on questions related to funds</p>

²⁶ The cost related to these consultants are considered in Umbrella I PMC

International			
Justification for travel, if any: <i>Technical assistance, training</i>			

ANNEX F-1 - RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GEF ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET AND UNEP BUDGET LINE (GEF FUNDS ONLY US\$)									
Project title:									
Project number:									
Project executing partner:									
Project implementation period:		Expenditure by project component/activity				*Insert actual year			
From:		Add additional components/activities as required				Add additional years as required			
To:						Expenditure by calendar year			
UNEP Budget Line		1	2	3	Total	Year 1*	Year 2*	Year 3*	Total
10	PERSONNEL COMPONENT								
1100	Project personnel								
1101	Programme Assiatnt: Help Desk Assitant				-	-	-	-	-
1102	Finance Assistant				-	-	-	-	-
1103					-	-	-	-	-
1199	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1200	Consultants								
1201					-	-	-	-	-
1202					-	-	-	-	-
1203					-	-	-	-	-
1299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1300	Administrative Support								
1301					-	-	-	-	-
1302					-	-	-	-	-
1303					-	-	-	-	-
1399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1600	Travel on official business								
1601	Physical Help Desk During UNCCD Meetings			6 000	6 000	3 000	3 000,00		6 000
1602	Regional Workshops			9 027	9 027	4 514	4 513,50		9 027
1603					-	-	-	-	-
1699	Sub-total	-	-	15 027	15 027	7 514	7 514	-	15 027
###	Component total	-	-	15 027	15 027	7 514	7 514	-	15 027
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT								
2100	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for cooperating agencies)								
2101	Sub-contract with rec	930 000	1 023 000		1 953 000	1 464 750	488 250,00		1 953 000
2102					-	-	-	-	-
2103					-	-	-	-	-
2199	Sub-total	-	-	-	1 953 000	1 464 750	488 250	-	1 953 000
2200	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for supporting organizations)								
2201					-	-	-	-	-
2202					-	-	-	-	-
2203					-	-	-	-	-
2299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2300	Sub-contracts (for commercial purposes)								
2301					-	-	-	-	-
2302					-	-	-	-	-
2303					-	-	-	-	-
2399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
###	Component total	930 000	1 023 000	-	1 953 000	1 464 750	488 250	-	1 953 000
30	TRAINING COMPONENT								
3200	Group training								
3201					-	-	-	-	-
3202					-	-	-	-	-
3203					-	-	-	-	-
3299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3300	Meetings/Conferences								
3301					-	-	-	-	-
3302					-	-	-	-	-
3303					-	-	-	-	-
3399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
###	Component total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT								
4100	Expendable equipment								
4101					-	-	-	-	-
4102					-	-	-	-	-
4103					-	-	-	-	-
4199	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4200	Non-expendable equipment								
4201	IT Equipments			3 708	3 708	3 708			3 708
4202					-	-	-	-	-
4203					-	-	-	-	-
4299	Sub-total	-	-	3 708	3 708	3 708	-	-	3 708
###	Component total	-	-	3 708	3 708	3 708	-	-	3 708
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT								
5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment								
5101					-	-	-	-	-
5102					-	-	-	-	-
5103					-	-	-	-	-
5199	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5200	Reporting costs								
5201					-	-	-	-	-
5202					-	-	-	-	-
5203					-	-	-	-	-
5299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5300	Sundry								
5301	Communication materials			10 000	10 000	5 000	5 000,00		10 000
5302					-	-	-	-	-
5303					-	-	-	-	-
5399	Sub-total	-	-	10 000	10 000	5 000	5 000	-	10 000
5400	Hospitality and entertainment								
5401					-	-	-	-	-
5402					-	-	-	-	-
5403					-	-	-	-	-
5499	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5500	Evaluation								
5501	Terminal Evaluation				-	-	-	-	-
5502					-	-	-	-	-
5581					-	-	-	-	-
5599	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
###	Component total	-	-	10 000	10 000	5 000	5 000	-	10 000
99	GRAND TOTAL	930 000	1 023 000	28 735	1 981 735	1 480 972	500 764	-	1 981 735

Annex G. Costed²⁷ M&E Workplan

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP Task Manager • UNCCD Secretariat • GM/GSP PMU 			Within 2 months following project start-up
Inception report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP 			1 month after project inception meeting
Project Steering Committee Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP • GM • UNCCD Secretariat 	Back to back with UNCCD meetings		As required, at least once a year. Including back to back with capacity building workshops/teleconference
Reports of PSC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP 	-	-	Within 2 weeks after the PSC meeting
PIR to GEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP 	-		June 2019; June 2020
Expenditure reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFP 	-		June 2018, January 2019
Progress reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 			January 2019, January 2020
Terminal evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP 			Within 6 months of end of project implementation**** *
Project final report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP 	-		Within 2 months of the project completion date
Live Help Desk during Convention meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP Project Help Desk 			During CRIC and COP
Total M&E Plan Budget				

**** In-line with UN Environment Evaluation Policy and the GEF's Monitoring and Evaluation Policy the project will be subject to a Terminal Evaluation. The Evaluation Office will be responsible for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the Task Manager and Executing Agency(ies) throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UN Environment, the GEF, executing partners and other stakeholders. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The Terminal Evaluation will be initiated no earlier than six months prior to the operational completion of project activities and, if follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, should be completed prior to completion of the project and the submission of the follow-on proposal. Terminal Evaluations must be initiated no later than six months after operational completion. The draft Terminal Evaluation report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project

²⁷ The cost related to this M&E plan are considered in Umbrella I

performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalized and further reviewed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office upon submission. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and may be followed by a recommendation compliance process

Annex H: Project Implementation arrangement – See sub-section B of the Section C5 above.

Annex I: Key deliverables and benchmarks

Component/Outcome/Outputs	Activities	Deliverables	Benchmarks
<p>Component 1: National estimates and baselines of metrics/proxies of indicators for UNCCD reporting</p> <p>Outcome 1: Improved and enhanced UNCCD : biophysical progress indicators, quality of collected data, , data management analysis and monitoing system</p>			
<p>Outputs 1.1.1. National Reports by 31 countries on national (i) biophysical and socio-economic taken into consideration Decision 30 COP 13 baseline information on DLDD, (ii) state of land degradation, (iii) plans and programmes relating to land degradation, (iv) investments patterns, barriers and opportunities to increase financial investments for UNCCD implementation with due gender equity consideration, and (v) analysis of data to support reporting to the convention, are conducted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct national assessments on (i) biophysical and socio-economic baseline information on DLDD, (ii) state of land degradation, (iii) plans and programmes relating to land degradation, (iv) investments patterns, barriers and opportunities to increase financial investments for UNCCD implementation, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Report on (i) biophysical and socio-economic baseline information on DLDD, (ii) state of land degradation, (iii) plans and programmes relating to land degradation, (iv) investments patterns, barriers and opportunities to increase financial investments for UNCCD implementation, 	<p>Report available by April 2018</p>

<p>Outputs 1.1.2. Training with due gender consideration conducted for stakeholders in 31 countries on indicators, data collection methodologies, analysis and application of indicators for monitoring and presenting UNCCD data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To conduct training sessions at national level on on indicators, data collection methodologies, analysis and application of indicators for monitoring and presenting UNCCD data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training sessions 	<p>Training sessions organized by May 2018</p>
<p>Outputs 1.1.3. The set of indicators to be used for improved monitoring of LDN voluntary target setting and/or implementation and to enhanced data management for improved monitoring of impacts of SLM are established in 31 Countries with CSO, research, academic involvement and considerations of Decision 30 COP 13²⁸</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feasibility study on the establishment of National mechanisms for monitoring of LDN, impacts of SLM and enhanced data management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations on the mechanisms to be established and mechanisms established 	<p>Recommendations available by June 2018 and the mechanisms in place by December 2018</p>
		3.	
<p>Component 2: Component 2: 2018 Report including on LDN Voluntary Targets settings</p> <p>Outcome 2: Countries have prepared and submitted their 2018 national reports</p>			

²⁸ Decision 30/COP.13 on Gender equality and women’s empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention

<p>Output 2.1.1. 31 national training sessions due gender consideration on the use of Reporting templates, the comprehensive guidance manual and Updated reporting platform (PRAIS Portal) are organized in the countries by March 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation of national training sessions on the use of Reporting templates, the comprehensive guidance manual and Updated reporting platform (PRAIS Portal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training sessions on reporting process 	<p>Training conducted by May 2018</p>
<p>Output 2.1.2. At least 31 events including workshops, media events, awareness raising or advocacy activities including on gender equity in SLM organized in 31 countries in support of reporting process by June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise media events, awareness raising or advocacy activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Events organized for awareness raising and advocacy 	<p>Awareness raising events organized by June 2018 AND BEYOND</p>
<p>Output 2.1.3. 31 reports on LDN Voluntary targets and preliminary implementation results available at the intersessional CRIC meeting prior to COP 14”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaboration of 2018 national report for the convention implementation 	<p>National reports produced and submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat</p>	<p>National Reports submitted to the Convention Secretariat by June 2018</p>

Annex J: GEF tracking tool (enclosed Excel file)

Annex M: Environmental and social safeguards (Enclose as separate file)

Annex K. Countries Endorsement Letter (enclosed in the package as PDF file)

Annex K. Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACP	Affected Country Party
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of Parties to the UNCCD
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
CSOs	Civil Society Organization
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
ESA	European Space Agency
FAO/GSP	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Global Soil Partnership
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF TF	Global Environment Facility Trust Fund
GM	Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
GSP	Global Support Programme
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
INRM	Integrated Natural Resource Management
ISRIC	International Soil Reference and Information Centre
IWG-FSF	Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JRC	Joint Research Centre
KM	Knowledge Management
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
LDN TSP	Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSP	Medium Sized Project
NAP	(UNCCD) National Action Programme
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFP	UNCCD National Focal Point
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PISLM	Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM)
PRAIS	Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System
RIA	UNCCD Regional Implementation Annex
RCU	UNCCD Regional Coordination Unit
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
Secretariat	UNCCD Secretariat

SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SPI	Science-Policy Interface
Umbrella Project	The United Nations Environment Programme project to “Support to GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programmes and Reporting process under UNCCD”
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)