



**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**

**PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT/EA**

**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND**

**SUBMISSION: 23 02 2012**

**RE-SUBMISSION: 26 03 2012**

**RE-SUBMISSION: 04042012**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

Project Title:	Support to GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programs and Reporting Process under UNCCD		
Country(ies):	Global: Philippines, Cameroon, Saint Vincent, Guinea Bissau, Togo, Mali, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Congo Rep, Costa Rica, Central African Rep, Haiti, Nauru, Algeria, Niger, Chad, Nepal, Burkina Faso, Moldova, Morocco, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Serbia, Columbia, Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Lao PDR, Turkmenistan, Dominican Rep, DR Congo, Guinea, NIUE, Benin, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Burundi, Kenya, Vanuatu, Mauritania, Iraq, Senegal, The Cook Islands, Comores, Ivory Coast, Gabon, South Africa, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Afghanistan.	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	5229
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	00776.
Other Executing Partner(s):	National Government Ministries UNEP-WCMC,	Submission Date:	23-02-2012
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	24
Name of parent program (if applicable): ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	Focal Area Set Aside (Enabling Activities)	Agency Fee:	283,000

**A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:**

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<b>Focal Area Objectives</b>	<b>Expected FA Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected FA Outputs</b>	<b>Indicative Financing from relevant TF (GEF/LDCF/SCCF) (\$)</b>	<b>Indicative Cofinancing (\$)</b>
<b>LD-4 : Adaptive Management and Learning:</b> Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM/ SFM/INRM by GEF and UNCCD Parties	LD 4.1 Increased capacities of countries to fulfill their obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD.	<b>Output 4.1</b> At least 50 countries implementing UNCCD priorities with improved monitoring of impacts at national level  <b>Output 4.2</b> 52 investments in LD Objectives 1-3 are linked to UNCCD action programs and national reporting process	2830000	2,750,000
Project management cost <sup>2</sup>			0	0
<b>Total project costs</b>			<b>2,830,000</b>	<b>2,750,000</b>

## B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

<b>Project Objective: To facilitate access to GEF funding by 52 countries for Enabling Activities to meet their obligations under the UNCCD a) alignment of NAPs with 10 – Year Strategy and b) Reporting and Review process</b>					
<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Grant Type (TA/INV)</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Indicative Financing<sup>4</sup> from relevant TF (GEF/LDCF/SCCF) (\$)</b>	<b>Indicative Cofinancing (\$)</b>
1. NAP revision and alignment	TA	1.1 52 countries	A NAP is submitted by 100% of eligible	1,560,000	1,560,000

<sup>2</sup> GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project.

<sup>3</sup> The UNEP-UNEP-GEF “Monitoring Guidelines of Capacity Development in GEF project – sept 2010” scorecard will be used to monitor project achievement at countries level.

<sup>4</sup> A maximum US \$50,000 will be provided per country for a total 52 participating countries as one off GEF5 support for the two priority Enabling Activities: a) NAP alignment. and b) Reporting. However, the split of resources between the two priorities as shown here is indicative, and will depend on each country’s decision on use of the funds.

		have aligned their National Action Plans with the UNCCD 10year strategy and institutionalized them within future government development framework	Parties that have received GEF funds for NAP realignment'		
2. 2012 Reporting and Review	TA	2.1 National reports for the second leg of the 4th reporting and review process prepared and submitted by 52 countries	A national report from a 100% of eligible Parties that have received GEF funds on the measures that each Party has taken to implement the UNCCD Impact Reporting	1,040,000	1,040,000
3. Project Management and Help desk services to national-level activities for NAP Alignment and 2012 Reporting and Review process	TA	3.1Strengthened national capacity and systems for assessment of socio-economic and biophysical baseline of DLDD to inform NAP revision, implementation and monitoring, including data gathering and country-relevant indicators	Liaison with Executing Agency (Helpdesk) for acquiring further knowledge and know-how on NAP alignment and UNCCD reporting ensured  Effective and efficient execution is ensured  Small Scale Financial Agreements (SSFAs) negotiated, administered, monitored and reported for 52 countries	230,000	150,000
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>2,830,000</b>	<b>2,750,000</b>

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

Sources of Cofinancing for baseline project	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
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GEF Agency	UNEP	In-Kind	100,000
International NGO	UNEP-WCMC	In - Kind	50,000
National government	52 Participating countries	Cash	520,000
National government	52 Participating countries	In-kind	2,080,000
<b>Total Cofinancing</b>			<b>2,750,000</b>

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

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Global	2,830,000	283,000	3,113,000
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				<b>2,830,000</b>	<b>283,000</b>	<b>3,113,000</b>

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

### **A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:**

#### **A.1. THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. The project intends to support the achievement of the overall goal of the GEF-5 Focal Area strategy for Land Degradation (to contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation) by responding directly to its Strategic objective 4 (LD-4) “Adaptive Management and Learning: Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in Sustainable Land Management” and, in particular, its outcome 4.1 “Increased capacities of countries to fulfil their obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD”. The project will contribute directly to the objective of the Focal Area by providing primarily financial assistance to 52 affected country Parties for alignment of their National Action Programmes (NAPs) to the UNCCD 10-year and for an effective 2012 Reporting and Review process based on the recently introduced Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) of the UNCCD. A very limited amount of technical support will be offered through consultancies at national level and a common online information sharing platform for participating countries.
2. Alignment of the national plans to combat desertification to the global, results-based framework of the Convention and the indicators-based reporting are a priority for the UNCCD. By providing resources to the umbrella project to address financial needs at the national level the GEF plays its catalytic role in supporting the countries to fulfil their obligations vis – à – vis the Convention..

#### **A.2. NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS, IF APPLICABLE, I.E. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, TNAS, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, ETC.:**

3. Over the last decades the UNCCD has undertaken a major reform process aimed at making the UNCCD process more efficient, transparent, accountable and focused. The adoption by the Parties (decision 3/COP.8) in 2007 of the 10-Year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018) (hereinafter the “Strategy”) has paved the way for a results-based approach to global and national efforts to combat Desertification.
4. The Strategy, with its clearly defined strategic objectives (SO) and operational objectives (OO) to achieve enhanced implementation of the Convention, requires all existing action programmes (NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs) (including those under preparation) to reflect the new implementation framework adopted by the Convention<sup>5</sup>. It also introduces a new monitoring and assessment process within the

<sup>5</sup> The alignment of the NAPs is imbedded in the Strategy itself, which puts forward in the outcome areas 2.2 and 2.3 that a revision by affected country parties of their NAP into strategic documents based on socio-economic and biophysical baseline

UNCCD, the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) which is based on sets of performance and impact indicators to measure, respectively, progress against the operational and strategic objectives. Special attention is also placed on measuring investment flows for UNCCD implementation and dissemination of best practices. After the successful undertaking in 2010 of the first leg of the 4<sup>th</sup> Reporting and Review process on the performance indicators, financial flows and best practices on SLM technologies, the UNCCD secretariat will initiate in 2012 the second leg of the 4<sup>th</sup> Reporting cycle that will also include reporting on the strategic objectives, using the set of identified impact indicators.

5. The project aims to respond directly to the decisions 3/COP8 which in adopting the Strategy urges and recognizes “the need for Parties to align their NAPs” and 2/COP9 on “Alignment of the action programmes with The Strategy” which call for:
  - Affected country Parties to use the alignment guidelines as the reference tool in aligning NAPs and other relevant implementation activities with the 5 operational objectives of The Strategy;
  - The Secretariat to facilitate provision of technical assistance to affected country Parties for review, alignment and/or revision of NAPs;
  - GM/Secretariat, in accordance with their mandates, to financially assist affected country Parties to develop integrated investment frameworks to foster resource mobilization for NAP alignment ;
  - Developed country Parties and financial institutions to assist with funding to eligible country Parties for review, alignment and revision of NAPs.
6. To support the countries in fulfilling their obligation to the convention. GEF through this project is contributing resources at country level to support NAPs alignment and /or reporting process depending on the countries priorities.

## **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

### **B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:**

8. The obligation of the Parties to communicate to the COP for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the secretariat, reports on the measures that they have taken for the implementation of the Convention was established in article 26 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, the Convention). Article 23 of the Convention assigned to the Permanent Secretariat (the secretariat) the specific functions of: (i) facilitating assistance to affected developing country Parties, on request, particularly those in Africa, in the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention; and (ii) compiling and transmitting reports submitted to it.
9. At COP 7, the Parties, drawing lessons from the three reporting cycles conducted thus far, decided to start a process aimed at helping to improve the procedures for communication of information and the quality and format of reports, and established the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) to this end. In its reports to the CRIC and the COP, the AHWG laid the foundation for the development of new reporting tools by calling for the new guidelines to: be user-friendly, consistent, comprehensible and standardized; allow comparison; make assessment of progress easy; be concise but cover all necessary areas; enable a consolidation for sub-regional, regional and global review; be in line with COP decisions; allow the measurement of progress in the implementation of action programmes and of The Strategy; and allow for the development of synergies with other reporting obligations. The AHWG also stressed that reports to be produced on the basis of these guidelines should concentrate on impacts achieved, and on the use of quantifiable indicators to measure progress against objectives.
10. The adoption of The Strategy enabled this new approach to reporting to come to its full fruition. The Strategy is based on two sets of objectives: four strategic objectives with seven expected impacts, and five operational objectives with 21 related outcomes. These expected impacts and outcomes are to be

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information and integrated in relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies, including integrated investment frameworks, is necessary in order to achieve operational objective two.

measured through two sets of indicators. The reporting guidelines are developed on the basis of this approach and should serve as a tool for all the reporting entities submitting reports on the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy, enabling them to prepare reports which are organized in a way that facilitates analysis at all possible levels.

11. At COP 8 the Parties by Decision3/COP 8 adopted the 10 years Strategy and “Urges affected developing country Parties, and any other affected country Party within the framework of its Regional Implementation Annex, to align their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with The Strategy by, inter alia, addressing the outcomes under the five operational objectives” the COP also “*Requests* Parties to report on progress made in their implementation of The Strategy, based on the reporting guidelines to be considered at the ninth session of the COP (COP 9)”.
12. In accordance with COP 9 decision, the UNCCD and its Parties, with the technical and financial support from the GEF and UNEP, implemented in 2010 the first steps required for the practical implementation of the Performance Review and Assessment of the Implementation System (PRAIS), the new monitoring and assessment framework of the Convention. Over 120 Country Parties and other reporting entities successfully submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat their official reports using the new indicator/based, harmonized template made available through the PRAIS portal. For the first time in the history of the Convention, this has allowed the establishment of a solid, quantitative baseline for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the Strategy, notably on Performance Indicators, Financial Flows and Best Practices on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) technologies. This achievement highly recognized by Parties during CRIC 9 and CRIC10, as GEF support to the Convention through UNEP and the UNCCD Secretariat efforts, has really materialized the paradigm shift in the convention implementation.
13. In reviewing the preliminary results from the 2010 Reporting and Review process, the ninth meeting of the CRIC (CRIC9) confirmed that the adoption of the PRAIS system represents a major and fundamental step forward towards improved evidence-based decision-making within the UNCCD. The Parties confirmed their strong commitment to the full implementation of PRAIS, including through the incorporation of the impact indicators<sup>6</sup> during the 2012 reporting exercise, and called for further improvement of the approach and strengthening of the capacity building activities for country Parties<sup>7</sup>. Furthermore, the analysis of the progress made against the performance indicator CONS-O-18 for outcomes 3.3 and 3.4 of the Strategy, shows that amongst the over 120 reporting countries only two (2) had already a NAP fully aligned to the Strategy (ICCD/CRIC9/5). In this respect, CRIC 9 has clearly identified NAP alignment as a priority for the UNCCD and called for intensification of efforts in this respect by affected Parties, including through the financial assistance of the GEF secretariat (ICCD/CRIC9/16 p 5-6).
14. Taking into consideration decisions taken by Parties at COP 10, the current project aims to support national actions that contribute to the overall strategic goal of the GEF in the Land Degradation Focal Area to increase capacities of countries to fulfil their obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD. The long term objective is to contribute to better targeted investments in sustainable land management worldwide achieved through country-driven, results-based NAPs aligned with The Strategy and based on solid, scientific knowledge on impacts of desertification, land degradation

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<sup>6</sup> Documents relevant to the impact indicators are: ICCD/COP(10)/CST/2 Report on the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3; ICCD/COP(10)/CST/3 Template and reporting guidelines on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 for affected country Parties; ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.1 Report on the scientific peer review for the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3; ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.2 Report on the pilot tracking exercises for the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3; ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.6; Methodological guide on the use of impact indicators to measure progress against strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3; **ICCD/COP(10)/CST/4-ICCD/CRIC(10)/14** Guidelines for the preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from Parties and other reporting entities.

<sup>7</sup> ICCD/CRIC(9)/16, p.15, paragraph 84, 87 and 88; p. 16, paragraph 91; and p. 17, paragraph 105.

<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric9/pdf/16eng.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> ICCD/COP(9)/13, Annex III – CONS-O-10 “Number of revised NAPs/SRAPs/RAPs reflecting knowledge of DLDD drivers and their interactions, and of the interaction of DLDD with climate change and biodiversity”.

and drought (DLDD) and sustainable land management (SLM) responses. The immediate objective of the project is to support the NAP alignment and reporting process by providing direct financial support to Countries.

15. **COMPONENT 1: NAP revision and alignment.** Under this component, countries utilizing GEF resources will implement NAP alignment-related activities such as stocktaking, consultations, and revision of policies and programmes. The aligned NAPs will be linked to national development agenda, a rigorous UNCCD reporting and review process, including national-level impact indicators and tracking tools, based on the performance and impact indicators called for by the COP. National reporting tools will be utilized by the countries and linked to national processes, encouraging a feedback loop with the UNCCD's strategic objectives. The project will liaise with the responsible unit of the UNCCD secretariat on approaches and technical assistance for action programme alignment, where appropriate.
16. **COMPONENT 2: 2012 Reporting and Review.** 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 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).
17. **COMPONENT 3: Project Management and Help Desk to national-level activities for NAP Alignment and 2012 Reporting and Review process.** The project will be directly managed by UNEP through a Project Manager that will be recruited and will be under the supervision of the UNEP Task Manager. The project Manager will (i) liaise with country teams to support the national level process; (ii) support countries with comments on the process and the content of the outputs prepared; (iii) assisting the UNEP Task Manager in all non-oversight roles. The project manager liaises with financial staff of UNEP to develop the 52 Small Scale Financial Agreements (SSFA) with countries, disburse funds and support countries on questions on funds. A limited amount of online technical assistance will be provided for national stakeholders to meet minimum requirements in delivering reports using impact and performance indicators and advising on NAP alignment. The technical support will take the form of ad hoc distance guidance to national consultancies and basic online resource tools including an existing collaboration tool ('Basecamp') developed during the impact indicator piloting ([impact-pilot.unccd.int](http://impact-pilot.unccd.int)) for participating countries to share documents and experiences, enabling peer-to-peer support. The project and UNEP Task Manager will be supported in these tasks by UNEP-WCMC on sub contractual basis. The decision to use UNEP-WCMC to support the project execution is governed by (i) the recognized experience of the centre in the Rio Conventions processes, (ii) the experience and satisfactory results of the centre in supporting UNCCD parties during the PRAIS project, (iii) the experience of the centre in supporting countries for the NAP alignment through the successful piloting of the exercise with some countries in collaboration with UNCCD secretariat; and (iv) the increasing work of the centre in supporting DLDD global agenda particularly by coordination the development of the UN Common response to drylands. UNEP-WCMC will assign staffs situated in Cambridge UK who support the Project Manager on the Help Desk function and creation of a common data base that will provide technical guidance to countries on NAP alignment and reporting process. Under this component, the project will also support the Terminal Evaluation which helps to assess project achievement but more importantly will draw lessons that will feed the future GEF and other partners investments and cooperation for UNCCD Enabling Activities.
18. **Project Coordinating Committee (PCC):** The Project Coordinating Committee has membership from UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, the GEF secretariat and other relevant partner's institutions. The PCC will closely coordinate with the UNCCD secretariat and the GM on matters pertaining to services delivered by those entities and the timeframe set. The PCC will meet virtually or during other global events at no cost to this project.

19. **Modality of application for funds by individual countries:** Following the endorsement of this Umbrella PIF by the GEF CEO, UNEP will develop a full Project Document (ProDoc). Although there will be one combined ProDoc, UNEP will receive 52 subsequent individual country endorsement letters that will be submitted to GEF secretariat together with the PIF. After the Project Document approval, UNEP will further sign a legal agreement (SSFA) with each of the 52 countries for execution of the project. A special notification will be issued with necessary instructions in the SSFA.

**B. 2. INCREMENTAL /ADDITIONAL COST REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADDITIONAL (LDCF/SCCF) ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FOR GEF/LDCF/SCCF FINANCING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ASSOCIATED ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF) TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT:**

20. If GEF funds are not provided, countries would be expected “self-finance” for the alignment of the NAP and preparation of second leg of the 4<sup>th</sup> Reporting & review process. However, although The Strategy has been in existence since 2008 the 2010 reports identified only 2 countries (of 193 country Parties plus the EU) had in fact aligned their NAPs. Numerous Parties cited financial reasons for not undertaking the alignment. It is clear therefore that self-financing method would be the least effective. In 2010, resources were made available for Parties through the PRAIS project to complete their performance indicator-based reports. In the piloting of the impact indicators Parties indicated the costs would be at a minimum in the tens of thousands to prepare impact indicator-based reports. Since two of the impact indicators are mandatory, some countries might not submit their reports at all, while in other cases countries may be very late in submitting their reports. In both cases, the functioning of the UNCCD, in particular its decision-making processes, will be seriously affected. Without a significant number of national reports, the CRIC 11 and COP11 will be unable to conduct a credible mid-term evaluation of The Strategy, which will seriously hamper the implementation of The Strategy.

**B.3. DESCRIBE THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS, AND HOW THESE WILL SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS(GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF). AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION, READ MAINSTREAMING GENDER AT THE GEF:**

21. By supporting results-based planning and evidence-based decision-making in the areas of SLM and DLDD, the project is expected to have wide benefits for drylands populations, notably women and other vulnerable groups. NAPs drive implementation of UNCCD at the national level and effective monitoring systems are crucial to inform national and international decision-makers, as well as the public about current trends in a timely and policy-relevant manner. The project will ensure all norms regarding social and environmental safeguards including gender considerations by ensuring (i) inclusiveness of both men and women in project formulation and implementation of the national consultation processes; (ii) ensuring inclusiveness for marginalized and poor communities in the consultations; (iii) collecting of gender disaggregated data and information where possible, and (vi) analysis and articulation of relationship of DLDD to human well being and poverty reduction, through the impact indicators and the anticipated socioeconomic impacts of the aligned NAPs on the national development agenda.

22. In order to enable UNEP to track how consideration of socio-economic benefits and gender dimensions are addressed by Parties, the SSFA will include a provision that these considerations including CSO participation to the process at national level, should be reflected in the aligned NAPs and/or reporting process. In addition, the Help Desk will assist in ensuring social/gender issues are integrated in the NAPs and reports

**B.4 INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE, PROPOSE MEASURES THAT ADDRESS THESE RISKS TO BE FURTHER DEVELOPED DURING THE PROJECT DESIGN:**

Risk Type	Risk Probability	Potential Impact	Risk mitigation measures
<p><b>Political and institutional risks:</b></p> <p>Limited uptake of NAP alignment and adoption of the impact indicators due to lack or insufficient capacity at national level.</p> <p>NAP alignment and reporting to the UNCCD may be considered as a lower priority for developing countries</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>The project relies on services delivered at global level by the Convention’s bodies. Although these institutions are duty bound to provide services to Parties on reporting and alignment according to their mandate and COP decisions, the quantity and the quality of such services highly depend on voluntary contributions still to be secured at the time this PIF is developed.</p> <p>Parties have already identified and confirmed NAP alignment and improved DLDD assessment as a major priority during CRIC 9. The country driven approach of the project will minimize risk.</p> <p>The UNCCD activities will be mainstreamed in the national development strategies and policies demonstrating the national benefits of enhanced monitoring and assessment of DLDD issues achieved through the UNCCD process. Parties’ confirmation of NAP alignment as priority will also favour to mitigate the risk.</p>
<p><b>Financial risk:</b></p> <p>Limited availability of financial resources was identified as a major constraint by CRIC9 both for the process of NAP alignment and the reporting process.</p> <p>Insufficient resources to support</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>To mitigate this risk and in support of the country drivenness policy promoted by GEF Secretariat, the project will provide GEF resources at country level to support stakeholders’ involvement and consultations, , and strong linkage with national development agendas. These GEF catalytic resources will foster ownership and a country-driven process which will provide an enabling environment for more resources mobilization to combat desertification at national levels.</p> <p>The project help desk will be remotely supporting countries in the process</p>

country level activities through Technical assistance which may result in poor or late project outputs delivery			although the available resources for this function may not be sufficient to support cost of full time qualified personnel to support the project.
<b>Project timeframe:</b> Potential lack of capacity in the participating countries for implementing the EAs	High	High	Following the experience in 2010, Parties at COP10 called for a six month period for the next reporting cycle in order to allow time to negotiate partnerships for e.g., data access.  The project will adhere to timelines set by the UNCCD convention process which necessitates close liaison with the Convention's institutions  The timely availability of reporting tools and alignment guidelines, GEF funding and the involvement of the UNCCD focal points at the national level will help countries to deliver on time. Each participating country will clarify how it will address the issues related to timeline set by the Convention Bodies for NAP alignment and reporting
<b>Technical risk</b> Complexities and limitations with regards to methodologies and data availability for the impact indicators and NAP baseline assessment	High	High	The very minimal technical support offered will go some way towards overcoming the most pressing technical constraints. This minimal support however has a cost. An additional financial support on the help desk will go a long way to minimize this risk and greatly enhance the chances of delivery project outputs/outcomes.
<b>Climate risk:</b> In last 5 years, there have been climatic extremes in various regions and countries throughout the world, ranging from floods to concurrent droughts. If such extremes occur during the project period, there is a risk that stakeholders' attention will be diverted.	Low	Low	The capacity building strategy will focus on strengthening the causal relationships between climate risk and land degradation and evidence will be developed, notably in the drylands, to clearly show that appropriate monitoring and assessment of land degradation is an integral part of the adaptation measures being developed and promoted to address the risks associated with climate change.

**B.5. IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES, AS APPLICABLE:**

- 23. National Governments / country Parties including national CSO:** They are the key players in putting into operation the implementation of UNCCD and its Strategy, in accordance with their national priorities and in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership. They are responsible for the development and implementation of NAPs and have an obligation to report regularly to the COP on their activities.

24. **The UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism:** As mentioned before, the UNCCD Secretariat and the GM will according to their respective mandates and within the limit of their approved budget, produce the revised templates and an upgraded PRAIS portal.

#### **B.6. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:**

25. The project will build on the work already done by the UNCCD secretariat in terms of awareness raising and consultation with Parties in the field of NAP alignment. The action will also build on the achievements of the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) project and on the findings of the refinement of the set of impact indicators to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Strategy. The PRAIS project has built a momentum in which regional centres utilized to support countries are taking more active role in supporting UNCCD activities in their region. Some of these centres including CILSS and COMIFAC are developing partnership with other donors to support UNCCD capacity building needs in their respective region. This umbrella project will build synergies with these processes and create linkage on how to make the activities complementary.
26. The establishment of monitoring and assessment systems at the various levels will be synergistic as much as possible with the monitoring and reporting needs of the other Rio Conventions. The project will particularly gain lessons from the on-going UNEP/GEF pilot project on piloting integrated processes and approaches to facilitate national reporting to Rio Conventions (FNR\_Rio) which may provide an additional opportunity to field test the impact indicators and their integration into national monitoring systems in the six recipient countries.

#### **C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:**

27. The project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalysing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements. UNEP signed and MOU with UNCCD secretariat implemented the UNCCD Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation project (PRAIS) project alongside the first leg of the 4th UNCCD reporting and review project<sup>9</sup>, the piloting integrated processes and approaches to facilitate national reporting to Rio Conventions project (FNR\_Rio) and has implemented the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership project. Together, these initiatives will provide GEF with a range of relevant experiences, proof of concept, testing of ideas and access to the best available science and knowledge. In relation to the land degradation focal area, the project is fully in line with UNEP comparative experience in reference with GEF/C 31/5 Annex H. UNEP will primarily focus on the areas of its mandate, will continue to provide scientific and technical advice to the Facility on its policies and programmes.
28. As a collaborating centre of UNEP, UNEP-WCMC cooperates with UNEP in the overall delivery of the organization's programme of work, including by serving as an executing agency for several GEF projects related to MEA implementation (BIP, PRAIS, and FNR\_Rio). With regards to the UNCCD implementation, UNEP-WCMC, has piloted and contributed to the scientific refinement of the set of impact indicators to be used in 2012 (impact-pilot.unep-wcmc.org). The exercise, working with 11 countries representing all Regional Implementation Annexes of the Convention, delivered to CST10/COP10 the message that use of these indicators is feasible, although further support for capacity building would be required. UNEP-WCMC has also recently provided technical coordination to and report on behalf of the UN Environment Management Group (www.unemg.org) Secretariat (comprising key UN agencies and MEA Secretariats) for the preparation of a one UN-wide, coherent strategy to address the special needs of drylands. "Global Drylands: A UN response" which is the result of this effort is intended to highlight the importance of drylands to key emerging issues on the global agenda, including

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<sup>9</sup> Most activities finalised; still awaiting terminal evaluation.

climate change, food security and human settlements. It scopes the key issues and proposes a way forward for a coherent UN-wide contribution to land challenges, including the implementation of the 10 year strategic plan of the UNCCD. With UNEP, UNEP-WCMC is also actively engaging in the Great Green Wall Initiative and plan to engage in the forthcoming Economics of Land Degradation project.

**C.1 INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT THE GEF AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT:**

29. UNEP cooperates with multilateral environmental agreements, and support collaboration among such agreements, in order to facilitate their effective implementation. UNEP's baseline of work enhances the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, promotes Rio Convention synergies, and promotes a Green Economy paradigm, through e.g., building home-grown (national) expertise, including capacity for South-South cooperation, environmental leadership; and Linking processes and outputs from GEF funding for Enabling Activities with cross-cutting capacity development projects, for greater synergies, cost effectiveness and impact. The UNEP in-kind contribution to this project is estimated at \$100,000 over the two years project duration. This amount represent (i) the staff time to develop the project document as no PPG resources will be requested from GEF Trust Fund, (ii) as it is clear the handling of 52 countries both in term of investment for communication and additional Staff time to manage the SFA will go beyond the Agency fee from this project, (iii) office equipment and space that will be provided to the project Manager.

30. UNEP-WCMC will support the project through a number of on-going and recent initiatives that will feed into the project: the aforementioned piloting process and expertise on the set of indicators developed therein ([impact-pilot.unccd.int](http://impact-pilot.unccd.int)); the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership; reporting on the Millennium Development Goals and participation in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators, specifically on targets 7a and 7b, and contributions to MDG7 report; World Database on Protected Areas; Carbon sequestration database; FNR\_Rio project; other indicators, assessment, data management and analysis, and capacity building work on-going during the course of the project. The UNEP-WCMC in-kind cofinancing is estimated around US\$50,000

**C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO THE GEF AGENCY'S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:**

31. At corporate level, the project is in line with UNEP's Programme of Work 2012-2013, notably sub-programme 4: Environmental Governance. Its expected accomplishments are: (d) Improved access by national and international stakeholders to sound science and policy advice for decision-making; (b) Enhanced capacity of States to implement their environmental obligations and achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives through strengthened institutions and the implementation of laws; and The United Nations system, respecting the mandate of each entity, progressively achieves synergies and demonstrates increasing coherence in international decision-making processes related to the environment, including those under multilateral environmental agreements; sub-programme 3: Ecosystem Management, expected accomplishments (c) Strengthened capacity of countries and regions to realign their environmental programmes to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services, and (a) Enhanced capacity of countries and regions to integrate an ecosystem management approach into development planning processes. Finally, UNEP was mandated through Bali Strategic Action Plan to support countries capacity building and the UNEP Governing Council Decision 21/1 commits UNEP to supporting UNCCD.
32. . GEF funding will be provided to country Parties for implementation of national-level 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, including for administration of project funds in accordance with standard inter-agency procedures (i.e. UPL).

33. The project and UNEP Task Manager will be supported in their tasks by UNEP-WCMC on sub contractual basis. The decision to use UNEP-WCMC to support the project execution is governed by (i) the recognized experience of the centre in the Rio Conventions processes, (ii) the experience and satisfactory results of the centre in supporting UNCCD parties during the PRAIS project, (iii) the experience of the centre in supporting countries for the NAP alignment through the successful piloting of the exercise with some countries in collaboration with UNCCD secretariat; and (iv) the increasing work of the centre in supporting DLDD global agenda particularly by coordination the development of the UN Common response to drylands. UNEP-WCMC will assign staffs situated in Cambridge UK who support the Project Manager on the Help Desk function and creation of a common data base that will provide technical guidance to countries on NAP alignment and reporting process. Under this component, the project will also support the Terminal Evaluation which helps to assess project achievement but more importantly will draw lessons that will feed the future GEF and other partners investments and cooperation for UNCCD Enabling Activities.

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

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

	Name	(Title) Position	Ministry	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)
1.	Vaitoti Tupa	Director	National Environment Service, Government of the Cook Islands	February 27, 2012
2.	Kone Bakayoko Alimata	GEF Operational Focal Point	Republic of Côte D'Ivoire	February 24, 2012
3.	Louis Léandre Ebobola Tsibah	General Director of Environment and Natural Protection	Republic of Gabon	March, 7, 2012
4.	Carlos Avelino Manuel Cadete	Director of Planning Cabinet	Ministerio do Ambiente, Republic of Angola	January 24, 2012
5.	Mamadou Honadia	Chevalier de l'ordre du Merite	Ministre de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Burkina Faso	December 27, 2011
6.	Epimaque Murengeantwari	Permanent Secretary	Ministere de l'Eau, de l'Environnement, de l'Amenagement du Territoire et de l'Urbanisme, Burundi	December 20, 2011
7.	Justin Nantchou Ngoko	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature, Cameroon	December 15, 2011
8.	Gaourang Mamadi N'garkelo	Secretary General, GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministere l'Environnement et de Ressources, Chad	January 4, 2012
9.	Andriana Soto Carreno	Viceminister of Environment and Sustainable Development	Ministerio de Ambiete y Desorrolle Sostenible, Coloumbia	December 21, 2011
10..	Vincent Kasulu Seya Makonga	GEF Operational Focal Point, Directeur du Développement Durable	Ministère de l'Environnement, Conservation de la	January 20, 2012

			Nature et Tourisme, Démocratique République of Congo	
11.	Santiago Franciso Engonga	GEF Operational Focal Point, Dirección General de Medio Ambiento	Ministerio de Pesca ya Medio Ambiente, Equatorial Guinea	December 18, 2012
12.	Momodou B. Sarr	Executive Director, GEF National Focal Point	National Environment Agency, The Gambia	January 18, 2012
13.	Raymond Babanawo	Technical Director	Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology, Ghana	December 19, 2011
14.	Joseph Ronald Toussaint, Ing- Agr.	GEF Operational Focal Point/Minister	Ministere de l'Environnement Haiti	December 19, 2011
15.	Dr. Ayub Macharia	Ag. Director General	National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya	February 15, 2012
16.	Khampadith Khammounheuang	Acting Director of Department and Operational Focal Point	Department of Environment, Lao People's Democratic Republic	January 18, 2012

17.	Madame Oudine Amel	Operational Focal Point	Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement, Algérie	December 28, 2011
18.	Delphin Aïdji	Secretary General, GEF Focal Point	Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Habitat de de l'Urbanisme, Benin	January 25, 2012
19.	Grégoire Nkeoua	Directeur Général de l'Environnement/GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministere du Développement Durable de l'Economie Forestière et de l'Environnement, République of Congo	December 20, 2011
20.	Ruben Muñoz Robles	GEF Operational Focal Point	Dirección de Cooperación Internacional, Costa Rica	December 21, 2011
21.	Lloyd Pascal	Director	Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries Environmental Coordinating Unit, Dominican Republic	January 18, 2012
22.	João Raimundo Lopes	GEF Operational Focal Point	Secretaria de Estado do Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Durável, Guinée-Bissau	December 19, 2011
23.	Ĝheorghe Sălaru	Minister GEF Political and Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment, Moldova	December 23, 2011
24.	A. Enkhbat	Director to Ecologically Clean Technology and Science, GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism, Mongolia	December 20, 2011
25.	Mohamed Beyahia	Le Directeur du Partenariat de la Communication et de la Coopération	Secrétariat d'Etat auprès du Ministère de l'Energie, des Mines, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement, chargé de l'Eau et de l'Environnement, Morocco	December 22, 2011
26.	Mrs. Olabisi B. Jaji	Director/GEF Operational Focal Point	Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria	December 20, 2011
27.	Sauni Tongatule	Director/GEF Operational Focal Point	Department of Environment, Niue Island	January 18, 2012
28.	Amadou Sébory Toure	Director/GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministere Delegue a l'Environnement, aux Eaux et Forets, Guinea	December 30, 2011

29.	Myagkov Sergey Vladimirovich	GEF Operational Focal Point/Deputy Director Scientific Research, Hydrometeorological Institute	Hydrometeorological Research Institute, Uzbekistan	December 20, 2011
30.	Almair Sinna Toure	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministere de l'Environnement et de l'Assainissement, Mali	December 19, 2011
31.	Mohamed Yahya Lafdal	GEF Operational Focal Point Ministère Délégué auprès du Premier Ministre Chargé de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable Mauritanie	Mauritania	February 16, 2012
31.	Russ J Kun	Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Environment	Republic of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Republic of Nauru	December 23, 2011
32.	Lal Shanker Ghimire	Joint Secretary and GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal	January 4, 2012
33.	Boubacar Sanda	Director General of Planning/GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministere du Plan, de l'Aménagement du Territoire et du Développement Communautaire, Niger	January 2, 2012
34.	Atty. Analiza R. Teh	Under Secretary and GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines	December 6, 2011
35.	Gustave Doungoube	Charge de Mission en matière d'Environnement/GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministere de l'Environnement et de l'Ecologie Central African Republic	December 20, 2011
36.	Lorenço Monteiro de Jesus	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministério das Obras Públicas e Recursos Naturais, Direcção Geral de Ambiente, Sao Tomé	January 16, 2012
37.	Berjan Djeric	State Secretary	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Republic of Serbia	December 16, 2011
38.	Dr. R.H.S. Samaratunga	GEF Operational Focal Point/Secretary	Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka	December 20, 2011
39.	Yao Djwonu Folly	Directeur de l'Inspection Forestière et Environnementale/GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Forestières, Togo	December 19, 2011
40.	Jumamurad Saparmuradov	Deputy Minister/GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Nature Protection, Turkmenistan	January 19, 2012
41.	Edmund Jackson	Director, Environmental Management Department/GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Health and The Environment, St. Vincent & The Grenadines	December 15, 2011

42.	Albert Williams	Director, Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation	Republique de Vanuatu	February 10, 2012
43.	Dr. Ali Al-Lami	Minister Advisor, Ministry of Environment and GEF Operational Focal Point	Republic of Iraq	February, 26, 2012
44.	Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla	GEF Operational Focal Point	Senegal	December, 27, 2011
45.	Lavern Queeley	Director, Economic Affairs and PSIP	St. Christopher & Nevis	March, 1, 2012
46.	Timothy N. J. Antoine	Permanent Secretary/GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economy, Energy & Co-operatives, St. George & Grenada	December 15, 2011
47.	Nosipho Ngcaba	Director General	Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa	March 6, 2012
48.	Ali Mohamed Soilihi	GEF Operational Focal Point	Vice-Presidence En Charge du Ministere de la Production, de l'Environnement, de l'Energie, de l'Industrie et de l'Artisanat, Comores	March 2012
49.	Mrs. Gilda TORRES	Secretary General GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment Paraguay	March 29, 2012
50.	Mostapha Zaher	GEF Operational Focal Point	National Environmental Protection Agency Afghanistan	March 18, 2012
51.	Anyaa Vohiri	Executive Director	Environmental Protection Agency Liberia	March 29, 2012
52.	Dr Kolleh Bangura	Director GEF Operational Focal Point	Environnemental Protection Agency (SLEPA) Sierra Leone	March 30, 2012

## B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

<b>This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.</b>					
<b>Agency Coordinator, Agency name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>DATE (MM/dd/yy yy)</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Maryam Niamir-Fuller Director, UNEP GEF Coordination Office		04-04-2012	Adamou Bouhari	+254 20 762 3860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

<a href="mailto:maryam.niamirfuller@unep.org">maryam.niamirfuller@unep.org</a>					
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