



**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)<sup>1</sup>**  
**PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT**  
**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Project Title:</b>	Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling up of Sustainable Land Management		
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Global	<b>GEF Project ID:<sup>2</sup></b>	4922
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	FAO	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	613307
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	CDE / World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) Secretariat,	<b>Submission Date:</b>	September 19, 2012
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	Land Degradation Focal Area	<b>Project Duration (months):</b>	48
<b>Name of parent program (if applicable):</b>		<b>Agency Fee:</b>	611,673
	• For SFM <input type="checkbox"/>		

**A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>3</sup>:**

<b>Focal Area Objectives</b>	<b>Expected FA Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected FA Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Indicative Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Indicative Co-Financing (\$)</b>
LD-1	1.2: Improved agricultural management Indicator: Increased land area with sustained productivity and reduced vulnerability of communities to climate variability	1.2: Types of Innovative SL/WM practices introduced at field level	GEFTF	3,125,458	21,379,529
LD-3	3.1: Enhanced cross-sector environment for integrated landscape management Indicator: Policies support integration of agriculture, rangeland, forest and other land uses	3.1: Integrated land management plans developed and implemented	GEFTF	500,000	1,500,000
LD-3	3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by communities Indicator: Application of INRM in wider landscape	3.2: INRM tools and methodologies developed and tested	GEFTF	1,000,000	6,000,000
LD-4	4.2: Improved GEF portfolio monitoring using new and adapted tools and methodologies	4.2: GEF-financed projects contribute to SLM/SFM/INRM knowledge base	GEFTF	1,200,000	2,800,000
Sub-Total				5,825,458	31,679,529
Project management cost <sup>4</sup>				291,273	1,583,976
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>6,116,730</b>	<b>33,263,505</b>

<sup>1</sup> It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

<sup>2</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<sup>3</sup> These figures are indicative and refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework when filling up the table in item A.

<sup>4</sup> GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project.

## B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

**Project Objective:** To improve the capability and the decision making of Countries and Regions engaged in the Mainstreaming and Scaling Up of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to Combat Land Degradation, *as well as to enhance Food Security, address mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change, and conservation of Biodiversity*

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. National and local decision-support on combating Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought (DLDD) and on promoting mainstreaming and upscaling of SLM best practices	TA	<p>1.1 DLDD and SLM best practices assessment mainstreamed into national sector policies and programs in 15 countries</p> <p>1.2 Catalytical support for upscaling of SLM best practices in countries within regions, through actions on the ground with 400 000 ha of land, rehabilitated ( 10% increase in productivity and 25% increase in vegetation cover, as well as 20% increase in carbon sequestration) and through strategic decision making in 5 countries</p>	<p>1.1.1 At least 15 countries delivering reliable DLDD and SLM assessments and information on best practices suitable for mainstreaming</p> <p>1.1.2 DLDD and SLM assessment and best practices tools mainstreamed into UNCCD NAPs, CBD NBSAPs, SLM investment frameworks, policies and programs in 15 countries</p> <p>1.2.1 Implementation of SLM best practices in 12 to 15 local sites in at least 8 countries leading to adoption and progressive upscaling of at least 15 cost effective and innovative SLM technologies</p>	GEFTF	5,025,458 (1,260,823 from global, 3,764,325 from STAR)	29,027,761 (from national plus FAO)
2. Global DLDD and SLM knowledge management and decision-support platform	TA	2.1 Knowledge management and decision-support system and tools used to support GEF-6 LD strategy formulation, DLDD and SLM global processes.	2.1.1 One WOCAT based, online and open access DLDD and SLM decision-support platform established. The platform will be networking participating countries and liaise with 2 to 5 global, (sub) regional and national partners and programs involved in the production of technical and scientific information on DLDD and SLM, such as UNCCD CST, IPCC, etc.	GEFTF	450,000 (from global)	1,500,000 (from agencies)
3. Monitoring and evaluation		3.1. Project implementation based on adaptive results-based management .	<p>3.1.1. Project monitoring web based system, collecting data and information from global, regional, national subcomponents and monitoring projects outputs and outcomes</p> <p>3.1.2. Midterm and post-completion evaluation carried out and reports available</p>		350,000 (from global)	1,151,768 (from agencies)
Sub-Total					5,825,458	31,679,529
Project management Cost – (5%)					291,273	1,583,976
<b>Total project costs<sup>4</sup></b>					<b>6,116,730</b>	<b>33,263,505</b>

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

<b>Sources of Cofinancing</b>	<b>Name of Cofinancier</b>	<b>In-kind Cofinancing</b>	<b>Grant Cofinancing</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
GEF Agency	FAO HQ support	1,060,000		1,060,000
GEF Agency	FAO Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) for: The Philippines (TCP/PHI/3302); Grenada (TCP/GRN/3302); the Asia region including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka (TCP/RAS/3312); an the Sahara and Sahel region including Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali, and Niger (TCP/RAF/3302) <sup>5</sup>		1,572,000	1,572,000
Other Multilateral Agency (European Union/Global Mechanism/FAO) implemented by the GEF Agency	FAO Great Green Wall initiative supporting countries in the Sahara and Sahel region in SFM		1,907,356	1,907,356
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	Swiss Development Cooperation (grant to WOCAT)		1,000,000	1,000,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	EU project funding to other projects linked to WOCAT		500,000	500,000
National and local governments	Argentina	270,000		270,000
National and local governments	Bangladesh	12,500,000		12,500,000
National and local governments	Bosnia Herzegovina	990,000		990,000
National and local governments	China	200,000	8,000	208,000
National and local governments	Colombia	559,120		559,120
National and local governments	Ecuador	300,000		300,000
National and local governments	Lesotho	950,000		950,000
National and local governments	Morocco	950,000		950,000
National and local governments	Nigeria	300,000		300,000
National and local governments	Panama	600,000	150,000	750,000
National and local governments	Philippines	181,394		181,394
National governments	Thailand (MOAC-LDD)	3,985,635		3,985,635
National and local governments	Tunisia	4,930,000		4,930,000
National and local governments	Turkey	200,000		200,000
National and local governments	Uzbekistan	150,000		150,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>28,126,149</b>	<b>5,137,356</b>	<b>33,263,505</b>

<sup>5</sup> See section B.1

#### D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

This table include STAR Resources from countries which have provided an endorsement letter of the STAR amount at PIF submission. It is expected that more countries will join allocating STAR resources and providing endorsement letters before CEO endorsement of the fully designed project

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Funds	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c=a+b
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Global	2,163,864	216,384	2,380,250
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Argentina	79,118	7,912	87,030
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Bangladesh	250,000	25,000	275,000
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Bosnia Herzegovina	290,000	29,000	319,000
FAO	GEFTF	LD	China	131,364	13,136	144,500
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Colombia	209,839	20,984	230,823
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Ecuador	86,000	8,600	94,600
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Lesotho	303,500	30,350	333,850
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Morocco	309,182	30,918	340,100
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Nigeria	86,500	8,650	95,150
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Panama	448,636	44,864	493,500
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Philippines	41,000	4,100	45,100
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Thailand	1,328,545	132,855	1,461,400
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Tunisia	131,364	13,136	144,500
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Turkey	86,000	8,600	94,600
FAO	GEFTF	LD	Uzbekistan	171,818	17,182	189,000
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				6,116,730	611,673	6,728,403

<sup>1</sup> In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

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

#### **A.1.1. THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:**

The project is consistent with the goal of the GEF-5 Land Degradation (LD) Strategy to contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation and more specifically desertification. The project will contribute to the following GEF-5 focal area outcomes:

**LD Outcome 1.2: Improved agricultural management** through documentation, assessment and promoting up-scaling of at least 15 innovative sustainable land and water management practices in the 15 countries that have allocated STAR resources to the project (see table D above).

**LD Outcome 3.1: Enhanced cross-sector environment for integrated landscape management** by mainstreaming DLDD and SLM assessment and best practices tools into UNCCD NAPs and SLM investment frameworks, policies and programmes (output 1.1.2) as well as in integrated land management plans for at least 12 local project sites in at least 8 countries.

**LD Outcome 3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities** through INRM tools and methodologies developed and tested in 12 to 15 demonstration sites in national and regional SLM programs.

**LD Outcome 4.2: Improved GEF portfolio monitoring using new and adapted tools and methodologies** by making available information on land indicators, SLM best practices, lessons learned and policy-relevant recommendations to the GEF Knowledge base, in an online, user-friendly format, to enhance knowledge transfer and large-scale uptake in countries and across regions of tools and indicators for effective monitoring and assessment and multiscale applications of land resources assessment and SLM measures.

The project not only wants to support mainstreaming and up-scaling of INRM and SLM investments in each participating country but also aims at contributing to the more global issues related to the implementation of the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018). This include improving the scientific basis and providing more harmonized methodologies for monitoring and assessment of LD processes at a regional and global scale (see section A.2 below). Likewise the project will also contribute to strengthen the GEF LD knowledge base to benefit LD projects in the GEF portfolio also in countries not participating directly in the present proposal but whom are applying land assessment methodologies, as well as mainstreaming and upscaling of SLM practices through other GEF financed and other initiatives (for example India through the WB/GEF LD project and Argentina through the UNDP/GEF LD project). The project will as such also contribute to the GEF LD objective 4 (as mentioned above) and is applying for the funds set aside under the LD focal area to support global important activities under the UNCCD.

#### **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.:**

After a decade of implementation, the UNCCD adopted a 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018) to enhance the implementation of the Convention at its 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2007. The Strategy recognises that limiting factors have prevented optimal deployment of the Convention and that chief among these factors are insufficient financing, a weak scientific basis, insufficient advocacy and awareness among various constituencies, institutional weaknesses and difficulties in reaching consensus among parties. COP8 invited GEF to take the strategy into consideration when planning and programming for the next replenishment period. Further, COP9 of the UNCCD, as a result of its first Scientific Conference, invited the Committee on Science and Technology to consult with the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA)<sup>6</sup> and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)<sup>7</sup> on land degradation/SLM impact indicators and related methodologies for monitoring and assessment, emphasizing the demand for the LADA and WOCAT tools and methods in the implementation of the UNCCD.

The proposed project is consistent with several operational objectives of the 10-year Strategy, such as (1) advocacy, awareness raising and education; (2) policy framework to support the creation of an enabling environment; (3) science, technology and knowledge; (4) capacity building; and (5) financing and technology transfer. The global component 2 of the project and the activities under the regional output 1.2.2 will mainly address the need for scientific and technological excellence in the implementation of the Convention, while the

---

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/nr/lada/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.wocat.net>

national component (component one), through country-driven activities, will contribute to the other objectives of the Strategy through improved quality and timeliness of reporting and implementation of existing and planned National Action Programs (NAPs) of the UNCCD, with linkages in some countries, whenever possible, to the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPS) and the National Communications to the UNFCCC.

## **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

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

#### ***Background***

About 52 percent of the land used for agriculture worldwide is already moderately or severely affected by land degradation, and nearly 2 billion ha of land – an area twice the size of China - are already seriously degraded, some irreversibly. Land degradation reduces productivity and food security, disrupts vital ecosystem functions, negatively affects biodiversity and water resources, and increases carbon emissions and vulnerability to climate change. Estimates reported by FAO put the annual global cost of land degradation at some US\$40 billion. This estimate does not include degradation's hidden costs, such as the need for more external inputs when cultivating degraded lands and the loss of ecosystem services that are essential for food production, water provision and for regulating the global carbon cycle. It would hence be more cost effective to prevent degradation rather than cure it which is the aim of this project by focusing on LD and SLM. In order to improve the ability to diagnose the land degradation problem and its impacts, the GEF and FAO/UNEP supported Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project has developed a Global Land Degradation Information System (GLADIS) as a reference system that allows to illustrate how ecosystem services change according to human actions and natural processes according to six parameters: biomass, soil health, water availability, biodiversity, economic benefit and social benefit. The main findings indicate that:

- Regions vulnerable to water erosion include Northern Eurasia, Australia, Southwest Africa;
- Regions vulnerable to drought include Western United States, Southern Amazon, Central Asia, the Loess Plateau of China and Madagascar. Areas of declining drought includes the Sahel;
- Mountain ranges vulnerable to land degradation includes the Andes, Himalaya and the Alps;
- The drylands of the world are most prone to suffer land degradation caused by low vegetation and land cover.

When matching the results of GLADIS with an impact analysis of the number of people affected and their poverty level, the picture changes considerably. Consequently, nearly the whole of Africa, but in particular the Sahel, Central Africa and the Horn of Africa, as well as parts of India and China emerge as the areas worst affected by land degradation<sup>8</sup>. There are close linkages between the population density and the poverty level in a country/region/province and the level of land degradation and desertification.

Impact assessment is required to justify investment in SLM, but inadequate institutional and human capacity often hampers efforts to assess and monitor the extent of the land degradation problem and to identify possible solutions for SLM. Many practitioners in the field have limited access to land resources mapping and land use planning tools and to information about effectiveness of traditional and innovative SLM approaches and technologies that would enable good practices to be sustained and upscaled. There are also major knowledge gaps related to the costs and benefits of various SLM practices and the values/impacts (direct and indirect) of preventing or mitigating degradation and sustaining or enhancing ecosystem services.

It is thus difficult to make a convincing case to policy makers on the importance of investing in preventing degradation and promoting SLM. Another challenge is how to adapt to new and emerging threats to land resources, such as increasing competition for land due to population increase, biofuel production, change of markets, variability in food prices and impacts of climate change and associated changes in rainfall and hydrological regimes. These capacity-related barriers to SLM are often coupled with weak enabling environments toward harmonization and coordination of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks between sectors competing for land area and natural resources, across landscapes and river basins and among weak institutions in charge of coordinating land issues and the implementation of the National Action Programs (NAPs) of the UNCCD.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Scientific Conference of the UNCCD, that took place in September 2009, identified ten priorities for improving the monitoring and assessment of land degradation and SLM, including the need to develop: (i)

---

<sup>8</sup> SOLAW – State of Land and Water, Thematic Report 3: Land Degradation, FAO, 2011.

rigorous, science-based frameworks to monitor and assess desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD); (ii) integrated assessment models that integrate biophysical knowledge with social, policy, economic and institutional knowledge; (iii) tools relevant to different decision-making levels; (iv) Monitoring and Assessment systems that also pay attention to SLM and the recovery of land; (v) synergies in carbon and biodiversity monitoring and assessment with the UNFCCC and CBD; (vi) cost-benefit analysis to guide decision-making; (vii) a knowledge management platform to integrate global knowledge on DLDD; (viii) cross-sectoral capacity-building; (ix) strengthened scientific capacities; and (x) DLDD/SLM monitoring system.

### ***Baseline activities and investments***

FAO (implementing agency), the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), hosting the Secretariat of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT<sup>9</sup>), and ISRIC-World Soil Information, who are proposing the project together with the participating countries, are key players in the global effort to combat land degradation through the promotion of monitoring and assessment tools for DLDD, SLM technologies and practices, and decision support tools for improved cross sector land use planning and investment frameworks. The work and investments of these institutions are an important baseline for the proposed project and they will provide a total amount of USD 6 039 356 in co-financing to the project (see breakdown below in the case of each institution).

The FAO/WOCAT partnership provides a solid baseline and a unique opportunity to support the implementation of the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy to facilitate the up-scaling of SLM, as it brings various key partners together, and its tools and methods enable a solid analysis and assessment of land degradation and SLM best practices and their impacts on ecosystem services and socioeconomic conditions. Further, the partnership has provided inputs to the GEF for the formulation of its LD GEF-5 focal area strategy and the establishment of the formula for the allocation of LD resources under the STAR systems. The work programme for the partnership for the next biennium includes collecting and harmonizing available FAO SLM best practices and approaches according to a WOCAT format tailored to FAO needs and information availability. Different types of SLM information products are also contemplated and SLM practices will be reviewed and systemized according to their technical description, their applicability in various environmental and socio-economical conditions, their cost effectiveness, their relevance for technical and scientific work, for policy making and for extension services, and analyzed according to various development agendas (e.g. agriculture intensification and food security, land degradation, biodiversity and climate change, green economy). The incremental support from GEF to countries that have indicated a strong interest in applying the LADA/WOCAT tools could catalyze rapid upscaling of SLM best practices that would generate global benefits across three focal areas and lead to protection of ecosystem services important for combating land degradation and poverty, and for ensuring food security, while also protecting biodiversity and carbon stocks in production landscapes.

The baseline activities and investments of each of the three partners (FAO, CDE / WOCAT Secretariat, ISRIC) summarizes as follows:

#### i) FAO baseline activities and investments

FAO is fully engaged and facilitate important resources through its regular and field program taking a lead role at international level, in the assessment and mapping of land and soil resources as well as mainstreaming SLM best practices within development programs on natural resources targeting food security, the combat of land degradation, the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and the alleviation of rural poverty.

FAO is a leading international technical agency on soils, which is an essential component of land resources. The FAO programme on soils includes the development of harmonized soil information, capitalizing on the FAO/UNESCO soil map of the world that has been constantly updated over the past 20 years through the Soil and Terrain mapping approach (SOTER), and more recently with the Harmonized World Soil Database. The latest versions of these databases were just released, and should improve the knowledge base of current and future land productivity as well as the present carbon storage and carbon sequestration potential of the world's soils. Furthermore on the basis of the recommendation of FAO's High-Level External Committee on the MDGs to the Director-General and discussions and conclusions from the 22nd FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the FAO/NRL as host division, has initiated the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). The launching of the GSP was organized by FAO with support of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission on 7-9 September 2011 in Rome with 175 participants representing Governments, major soil partners and CSOs. The

---

<sup>9</sup> The WOCAT global initiative and network is managed by the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern (hosting the WOCAT Secretariat), FAO Land and Water Division, and ISRIC-World Soil Information. WOCAT exists since 1992 and receives its main (core) funding from SDC, but many in-kind inputs at national and regional level.

GSP aims at enhanced awareness of the importance of soils with a view to improved global governance for soil protection and management and enhanced information, knowledge sharing and targeted research on soil resources for sustainable soil management and productivity. The renewed recognition of the central role of soil resources for assuring food security and the increased awareness that soils play a fundamental role in climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as implementation of the UNCCD and CBD Conventions has put soils, as an essential component of land resources and SLM, back on the international agenda. Some FAO resources (USD 1.2 million) have already been allocated for implementation of the GSP, which is expected to provide a very strong platform to the 3 levels of activities proposed by the present GEF project. FAO will provide USD 1 060 000 in-kind co-financing for the proposed project through its regular programme activities.

As far as developing capacities in LD assessment and SLM mainstreaming and upscaling activities are concerned, FAO is investing in several technical cooperation projects (TCP) through its field programme which will provide a total amount of USD 3 479 356 in co-financing of the proposed project. These TCPs are: National Capability Building for Philippine Land Degradation Assessment and Climate Change Adaptation (TCP/PHI/3302); Land degradation assessment and monitoring for sustainable land management and climate change adaptation in South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka) (TCP/RAS/3312); Assistance to develop a methodology for national and local level land degradation assessment in Grenada (TCP/GRN/3302); and the Implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger) (TCP/RAF/3302). FAO is also much involved in the development of the TerrAfrica partnership, and already played a leading role in the preparation of most TerrAfrica knowledge products (vision paper, several technical, policy, investment guidelines, best practices, knowledge base), all well appreciated and largely disseminated and used. FAO also provided technical support for the development of the partnership and for the preparation of several country SLM investment frameworks (Ghana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali). FAO continues to be associated with the overall management of the TerrAfrica partnership, and therefore is well placed to facilitate the mainstreaming of SLM best practices in the African countries of the proposed project.

FAO has been technically leading and executing the Land Degradation assessment in Drylands (LADA) project, in partnership with WOCAT (see below), supported by UNEP as implementing agency from 2006-2011 (EP/GLO/502/GEF). The project was co-funded by GEF, FAO, UNEP, ISRIC, CDE / WOCAT Secretariat, UNU, GLCN and the participating countries (Argentina, China, Cuba, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia). The project, which has just been completed, is an important part of the baseline on which the proposed project will build on. It was designed with two principal objectives: a) to develop and implement strategies, methods and tools to assess land degradation and b) to build national, regional and global assessment capacities to enable the design, planning and implementation of interventions to mitigate land degradation and establish sustainable land use and management practices. Pilot countries that participated in the LADA project, included Argentina, China, Cuba, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia, which could readily become the (sub)regional champions proposed by the present project. Several of the LADA pilot countries have expressed strong interest in follow-up country driven projects for capacity building to scale up and apply assessment findings in order to support cross sector SLM and integrated NRM decision making to catalyze SLM upscaling and investments. At national and sub-national level, the LADA project followed a decentralized, country-driven and integrated approach, aimed at supporting decision making for a sustainable use of natural resources. An important achievement was “Questionnaire for Mapping Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management” (QM), which was developed with WOCAT jointly. QM, on the basis of a systematic Land Use Systems’ (LUS) classification and mapping process, enables the construction of databases with background environmental and social data as well as information on the types and extent of degradation and SLM practices, status and trends, drivers and causes as well as impacts in different Land Use Systems (LUS) and administrative areas. At the local level, LADA developed a comprehensive toolbox and analytical approach that integrates attention to socio-economic drivers and causes of land degradation and livelihood dimensions with the bio-physical characterization of the process. The project complemented field activities with capacity building in order to create and gradually consolidate a sound understanding of the methodology and its meaningful adaptation to the specific conditions of each country. The project also contributed to a systematic compilation of successful SLM practices including technologies and social approaches that contribute to reversing land degradation in drylands using the WOCAT format. The result is a “catalogue of SLM best practices” that practitioners and professionals can consult, and which has a high potential for promoting networking and knowledge sharing. All these tools have been in great part, peer reviewed, and will be made available to the present project.

In addition to and in complement of the LADA project, FAO Land and Water Division’s (NRL) ongoing and future commitments on decision-support activities related to the management of land resources include the long-standing Geonetwork, the Global Land Cover Network and Global Terrestrial Observing Systems, Agro-MAPS and LIMRIS, which all propose a suite of tools, models, data bases on potential and opportunities of natural resources for food security and combating land degradation.

## ii) CDE / WOCAT Secretariat baseline activities and investments

The Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) is the University of Bern's centre for sustainable development research. Founded in 1988 as a part of the Institute of Geography, it became an interdisciplinary university centre in 2009, with the aim of fostering sustainable development-oriented research across various institutes and departments of the University of Bern. The CDE is hosting the WOCAT Secretariat since its initiation and FAO and ISRIC are members of the WOCAT Management group.

WOCAT, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, was initiated nearly 20 years ago by a concerned group of soil and water conservation professionals who identified the need to counter the prevailing pessimistic view of land degradation. Today WOCAT is a thriving knowledge management hub for Sustainable Land Management (SLM). WOCAT is supported by a broad and strong global network with over 50 national, regional and international institutions involved in degradation/desertification issues and sustainable land management, where the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) provides funding for global coordination and secretariat and partly for development of the WOCAT knowledge management (KM) and Decision Support (DS) tools for up-scaling SLM. For the next 2 years (2012 / 2013) an amount of USD 1 000 000 has just been granted by SDC to the WOCAT Secretariat which will serve as co-financing for the proposed project through its regular programme activities. After 2013 an additional 2 years SDC contribution is envisaged. In addition, participating national, regional and global partner organizations and institutions fund field activities on SLM documentation, assessment and upscaling. In collaboration with these partners standard tools and methods for documentation, evaluation and sharing of SLM knowledge have been developed and made available through an online, open-access database. The global database includes more than 300 SLM best practices technologies and over 200 so-called "approaches" (the ways and means needed to successfully implement a technology on the ground to achieve wide uptake and outscaling). In the context of the EU-DESIRE<sup>10</sup> project (USD 12 million), CDE / WOCAT Secretariat was a work block leader for "defining SLM strategies to mitigate desertification" and has used this database to initiate the development of a Decision-Support System with the research community for selection of appropriate measures to combat land degradation. A system for participatory expert assessment and mapping degradation and conservation with a view to achieve better-informed decision making has been elaborated. In December 2011 the EU-CASCADE has been granted as a follow up project. CDE / WOCAT Secretariat is work block leader on "evaluation of land use and management to prevent catastrophic shifts and preparation of guidelines for NR managers" and has been allocated USD 500 000 for the next 5 years providing co-financing to the project.

In 2007 WOCAT has published the book "Where the land is greener" with case studies and analysis of soil and water conservation initiatives worldwide including a new standard for systematic documentation, evaluation and dissemination of SLM knowledge<sup>11</sup>. This publication co-published by CTA, UNEP, FAO and CDE set the standard for further regional and national documentation of SLM practices. In recent years a number of countries have used this standard to report their best practices, such as Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, Senegal, Tunisia. In 2011, WOCAT prepared a very comprehensive handbook SLM in Practice, for the GEF-supported Program TerrAfrica, under the technical coordination of FAO<sup>12</sup>. Furthermore, WOCAT has developed, tested and evaluated a Climate Change Adaptation module within the Pilot Programme on Climate Resilience of the World Bank in Tajikistan and published in 2011 a report including a vulnerability assessment, inventory of best practices, and recommendations for SLM project implementation.

CDE / WOCAT Secretariat will be a key partner of the proposed project i) in developing tools and methods for assessing LD / SLM, populating the database with good quality and comprehensive data on SLM best practices; ii) in assessing impacts of SLM; iii) in providing trainings, training kits and manuals; iv) in further developing and fine-tune decision support tools at local and national level to support upscaling of promising SLM practices; v) in screening SLM best practices for climate change resilience (as for instance drought and flood tolerance, longer term changes in temperatures and precipitation, etc.), and vi) in further enhancing the WOCAT network through mainstreaming of the tools into programs, projects and organizations dealing with SLM at national, regional and international level. Additionally, separately initiated and co-funded research projects will allow for closing knowledge gaps on specific issues and methods for upscaling of SLM.

## iii) ISRIC baseline activities and investments

ISRIC has been a partner in the WOCAT Management Group since the beginning and has been involved in land degradation and conservation assessments for more than two decades. ISRIC is currently applying the WOCAT method in combination with other tools in two initiatives that will contribute to the proposed project: the EU-funded DESIRE initiative promoting promising alternative land use and conservation strategies based

---

<sup>10</sup> [www.desire-project.eu](http://www.desire-project.eu)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.wocat.net/en/knowledge-base/documentation-analysis/global-overview-book.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.wocat.net/en/knowledge-base/documentation-analysis/recent-publications.html>

on a close participation of scientists with stakeholder groups in 18 degradation and desertification hotspots around the world; and the IFAD funded Green Water Credits Program assessing the benefits of improved land management in upstream areas for downstream users and exploring a PES-like compensation mechanism to the upstream land users from these benefits in Morocco and Kenya with plans for expansion to other countries.

iv). Country baseline activities and investments

Further to the LADA pilot countries, the LADA/WOCAT tools and methodology have also been applied in 14 study sites in 12 countries mainly in the Mediterranean financed through the WOCAT/DESIRE project. Around 15 more countries, including countries of the WOCAT network, have expressed interest in applying LADA/WOCAT tools for land degradation assessment, SLM decision-making and upscaling. The many countries that have requested support to embark on LADA/WOCAT exercises have also declared their willingness to share the cost of implementing national and ground surveys and pilot SLM and INRM projects, from their own budget, through staff time, the provision of existing data bases, maps, and statistics, and through providing relevant office space, information systems, and laboratories. The total indicative co-financing that will be provided from the participating countries in grant and in-kind amount to USD 27 224 149.

Below is a preliminary summary of country baseline activities in the countries, which committed to participate in this project proposal and provided the necessary endorsement letters.

Argentina: Argentina has been one of six countries that were selected to participate in the LADA Project. Through the LADA project, Argentina has evaluate the desertification status of 69% of its national territory, considering arid and semiarid areas. Through the WOCAT methodology 117 different land use systems were evaluated. The conclusion was that 81% of the national territory is suffering some degree of degradation. Through the LADA project Argentina implemented 5 representative pilots areas, in which a study on causes and effects of desertification and poverty was conducted. 52 best practices in prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of land degradation were identified and valued in the 5 areas. These practices need further impact evaluation and dissemination. The country is currently initiating or implementing various SLM initiatives including: i) the GEF/UNDP/UNEP project “Sustainable Forest Management in the Transboundary Gran Chaco Americano Ecosystem”, which objective is to ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management in the forest ecosystem of Gran Chaco Americano through field implementation of SFM and SLM protocols. The country has selected four demonstrative areas for this project of a total 247.460 hectares in four provinces: Santiago del Estero, Formosa, Chaco and Córdoba. In these provinces there is a need to install a system for the evaluation of land degradation and its impact and implications for the application of selected practices; ii) the GEF/UNDP project “Sustainable Management of Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystem of Patagonia”, which purpose is to remove weak capacity barriers currently impeding the adoption of SLM in the region and undertake on the ground actions to complement the sustainable sheep husbandry development programme for Patagonia combating land degradation and conserving ecosystem integrity in the region; iii) the National Observatory on Land Degradation and Desertification which was created as an Interagency Network Structure and is expected to become the National Authority for Monitoring Land Degradation, aiming at generating recommendations for the prevention and mitigation of land degradation (the Observatory has an annual budget of pesos Argentinos 200 000 from the National Treasure); and iv) Sustainable Management of Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystem of Patagonia Project, aiming at incorporating sustainable management principles in regional land use planning together with the development of institutional and individual capacities and stakeholder participation through Environmental Production Partner Units (USPAs). The Government of Argentina will provide 270 000 in indicative co-financing for the proposed project from these initiatives and other in-kind co-financing.

Bangladesh: Land degradation in Bangladesh is reflected in soil erosion, soil salinity, soil contamination, deforestation, loss of bio-diversity, water pollution, air pollution, seasonal scarcity of water, falling of ground water levels, dust pollution, drainage congestion and poor hygienic conditions as a result of poor waste disposal. These problems have accumulated over the years because of a combination of factors, including over population, land scarcity, frequent natural disasters, financial constraints, a piece-meal effort to deal with environmental issues and ineffective policies and implementation. Climate change and resulting sea-level rise is also a potential threat to land resources and economy. If all these alarming trends are allowed to continue unchecked, there is a serious threat for food security, livelihoods and long term ecosystem health. Land degradation in Bangladesh has, therefore, attracted the urgent and high level attention of the policy makers to ensure sustainable land services, efficient land use and to protect ecosystems. Bangladesh is committed to address climate change, disaster management, and land degradation in a harmonized way in the framework of the National Action Program (NAP) to Combat Desertification, the National Adaptation Programme of Action for climate change (NAPA), and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP). The land degradation issue is considered to be one of the most urgent development issues and it will remain at the

forefront of country's development paradigm in the days to come. Bangladesh has already long-standing experience in developing and using land information systems, but these are very rarely linked to information on good management practices, and still its use in the framework of national land use policies is quite difficult. Awareness building and development of local capacities are at low level. The government is looking for international support through FAO, for the integration of land information and SLM best practices, and its mainstreaming within ongoing national action plans. The government of Bangladesh already identified human and financial resources that could be mobilized to support the project under several national programmes, like, inter alia, the "Reforestation of Denuded Hills of Chittagong Project" and the "Sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in coastal protection forests" and others indicatively amounting to USD 12.5 million.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH): the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina recently expressed to FAO its need for enhanced national capacity in analyzing the dynamics of land resources, in relation to present and planned land use, aiming specifically at an enhanced monitoring of land degradation and SLM, and an increased capacity of producing the UNCCD impact indicators. BiH has already a strong experience in land management and planning, and showed a lot of interest in getting support on FAO tool derived from LADA and WOCAT experience. The government of Bosnia and Herzegovina will support the project proposal through synergies with other projects, like, inter alia the "Mainstreaming environmental governance: linking local and national action in Bosnia and Herzegovina" with about USD 990 000 USD.

China: The Government of China has always been very active in combating land degradation and desertification, and became a regional champion in using FAO methodologies and tools on that topic, in particular through the last LADA project. Today, China has an emergency to improve and harmonize its country strategies, policies, investments, and field projects on combating land degradation, and already sent an official request to FAO to receive support on developing and using strategically DLDD/SLM assessments and knowledge, at national and subnational and local levels. Several policy reports, recently prepared by China, are providing detailed justification on the need for enhanced decision-making process to combat land degradation, food insecurity and climate change. The government of China already earmarked financial, human and knowledge resources, to co-fund the project proposal, with funds from the national program of desertification monitoring and assessment system and UNCCD implementation led by the National Bureau to Combat Desertification, State Forestry Administration for a minimum of USD 208 000, and in kind contribution from NBCD and the Academy of Forest Inventory and Planning.

Colombia In the past 20 years the Government of Colombia has intensified its programs to combat the land degradation (especially in dry land) and to mitigate the effects of drought supported through the Law 461 of 1998. The Government of Colombia is strongly supporting the proposed project and which is expected to provide key contributions to the actions undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development for the assessment and the reversal of land degradation processes in Colombia and the implementation of the UNCCD NAP. The government of Colombia will provide co-financing from national resources through projects such as the "Design and implementation of a national information system on land degradation integrated in international databases and supporting decision-making and actions in SLM" and "Strengthening of national and local institutions in environmental management of land resources through capacity building, dissemination, and application of technologies and scientific tools for SLM and integrated policies for land resources" for a total of USD 559 120 USD.

Ecuador : The LD policy of the Ecuadorian Government is focused on complying with all commitments of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The Ministry of Environment, as Focal Point of the UNCCD, has been implementing actions to build and strengthen local, regional and national capacities to combat desertification, land degradation and droughts in all provinces of the country. All stakeholders provide the necessary elements to mainstream strategies and plans in the National Program of Action. The country needs international support for the identification, selection and implementation of monitoring indicators and evaluation of desertification, land degradation and droughts, to develop policies and plans in the most affected areas. It also needs to establish mechanisms for technology transfer and engage in scientific information networks to modernize the water services and weather forecasting, which in turn monitor the causes and effects of soil degradation. The Government of Ecuador will provide an indicative amount of USD 300 000 in co-financing of the proposed project

Lesotho: Reversing land degradation and the associated soil erosion is very high on the Government of Lesotho's agenda. It is for this reason that the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation was formed in 2003. As a strategy for addressing issues of land degradation, the Ministry is implementing the Integrated Watershed Management Programme. This programme is solely funded by the Government of Lesotho and has been running since 2007. Cognizant of the fact that poverty is one of the main underlying causes of the observed land degradation problems, the programme is designed to address both poverty and land degradation issues. It

takes a multi-disciplinary approach in which different technical departments (Forestry, Range Resources, and Soil and Water Conservation) engage labourers to implement land rehabilitation activities including, rehabilitation of gullies, rehabilitation of existing forest reserves, protection of wetlands, reseeding of degraded rangelands and removal of invasive species. The programme will the next years provide USD 950 000 in co-financing of the proposed project. The support coming from FAO through this GEF funded global project will help strengthen the technical aspects of this programme and develop the necessary capacities for its smooth implementation.

Morocco:"Sustainable land Management and Combating desertification is central to not only climate change issues, biodiversity conservation, and water and soil conservation, but also to food security and combating poverty. In Morocco, 93% of land is located in dry and arid areas. To deal with the process of land degradation, Morocco as part of the UNCCD implementation process, has adopted a National Action Programme (NAP) in 2001. With international support, the first Morocco's NAP have been translated into effective measures and actions on the ground, based on ensuring coherence between internal and external financing and the integrated application of a range of international instruments for sustainable land management (SLM) and combating desertification. The High Commission for Waters, Forests and Combating Desertification (HCEFLCD) was appointed as the institutional National Focal Point for the UNCCD. The aim of Morocco's NAP has been: i) to include the adaption of the NAP to a specific homogeneous areas while taking into account the objectives of the ten-year strategy (2008-2018) of the UNCCD and interactive aspects with other Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD) including the effects of climate change ii) the operationalization of the Monitoring and Evaluation System of the NAP and iii) the strengthening of the implementation of PANLCD within a partnership framework. Morocco will provide in-kind cofinancing through the program called "Compte d'affectation spéciale-Fonds National Forestier, Article 5000, paragraphe 70, intitulé : Lutte Contre la désertification" amounting to USD 950 000.

Nigeria": Inappropriate land use practices, including in the most fragile northern regions of Nigeria, continue to aggravate land degradation, thus putting ecosystems as well as livelihoods of the rural populations under pressure. It is expected that this situation will worsen as a result of climate change increasing the frequency and severity of both floods and droughts which are common occurrences in Nigeria. The need and urgency for sustainable land management can therefore not be over emphasized. Strengthening capacities for sustainable land management systems at Federal and sub-national levels, is clearly articulated in the country's Vision 20:2020, which accords priority to sustainable use of natural resources as a way to fight poverty. Nigeria therefore places emphasis on conservation of the environment, preventing loss of bio-diversity, restoring degraded areas, protecting ecologically sensitive sites and reducing the impact of climate change on socio-economic development. The measures to be engaged will also help to combat desertification and mitigate impacts of droughts as well as reduce the occurrence and impact of environmental hazards and disasters resulting in improved overall governance of the environment. The objective of the proposed project in Nigeria is to build institutional and local level capacities for sustainable and integrated management and use of land resources. The project is expected to provide technical assistance to strengthen capacities for the assessment, conservation and management of land resources, focusing on appropriate land use systems as well as watershed management systems. It will also complement and build on the on-going interventions and initiatives by Federal and State Governments land management services while at the same time conforming to CAADP pillar 1 of extending area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems. It is envisaged that the Government will provide USD 300 000 in co-financing of the proposed project.

Panama: Panama has been active in combating land degradation and desertification and developed a National Action Plan (PAN) to combat drought and desertification. These issues, as well as climate change and disaster risk management are Government priority issues. Recently, the Government of Panama, through its UNCCD focal point the National Environmental Authority (ANAM), showed interest in using FAO tools derived from LADA and WOCAT experience, and requested assistance to strengthen its capacity at national and community level, to evaluate and monitor land degradation, to identify and define the characteristics of land use systems, to define and map the situation and trends of soil degradation and to identify measures of soil and water conservation, and to improve sustainable land management, in synergy with biodiversity and climate change activities, in order to improve food security and living conditions of its rural population. The Government of Panama will support the project proposal through synergies with other projects such as the "Implementation of agro environmental systems in the River basins of Río La Villa and Río Grande (USD 300 000) and "Restoration of priority watersheds for the production of water resources, biomass, and the source of renewable energy (USD 18 400 000,00). Panama is also committed to reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and is getting prepared to participate in a future REDD+ mechanism currently under negotiation within the framework of the Climate Change Convention. A UN joint programme (UN-REDD) is currently

supporting the readiness activities related to REDD+ (5.3 million USD). The government will provide an indicative amount of USD 750 000 in co-financing for the proposed project.

Thailand: has been involved in LADA activities since 2009, hosting a regional workshop of LADA-WOCAT methods and, at country level, producing sub-national maps of land degradation in a limited area of the country. Those national efforts have been fully sustained by the country budget, but problems emerged in quality of the output, due to the still limited technical capacity of the staff involved and the still insufficient knowledge of the same on the details of the LADA-WOCAT methodology. The Land Development Department has established a Committee and a Working Group on land degradation, in order to provide support to the remedial activities in the sector. Improving the management of natural resources is also one of the Development Strategies of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2012-2016. Operationally, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has a well-developed network of “soil doctors” at village level, which represents an excellent base for the development of activities in the field all over the country. Nonetheless, financial and methodological constraints limit the effectiveness of the system, as well as the reduced possibility of demonstrating the potential of SLM technologies and of training and updating of the field officers, who work on voluntary basis. Overall, in the recent time the Government has invested the equivalent of about 176 million USD in activities supporting sustainable land management in the country. It is estimated that at least 5% (USD 3.9 million) of this amount will be allocated to activities that will provide direct financing to the baseline of this project.

The Philippines: current agricultural programs consist of four guiding principles: food security and self-sufficiency to attain self-sufficiency in staple crop production; sustainable agriculture and fisheries, to promote environmental health and crop diversification; natural resources management through soil and water conservation; and local development that focuses on people empowerment and self-governance. These government initiatives are aligned to the intent of UNCCD which uniquely incorporates both environmental and societal elements in addressing DLDD. In this respect, assessment of current status of land and water resources becomes critically important. Awareness raising and advocacy campaign are also primary concerns to gain support from policy and decision makers in the implementation of sustainable land use practices to address DLDD issues. There is a need to create an enabling environment by strengthening the knowledge management and decision support system on SLM as an important tool for disseminating appropriate practices, and up-scaling and mainstreaming SLM in the country’s development plan. These are important components of the Philippine National Action Plan to Combat Desertification. Thus, the Philippines joins the global project and commits to the project objectives in order to enhance the implementation of its National Action Plan (NAP) in terms of improving its capability to assess current status of land degradation and formulating appropriate and site-specific SLM solutions, and in gaining advocacy and support from critical policy and decision makers. National land degradation assessment using LADA approach for integration with the global data is on-going and there is a strong need to validate the data at the local level. The Government of the Philippines proposes to conduct local land degradation validation for one or two pilot municipalities based on the Philippine Land Use System Map currently being produced. The project will provide capacity building for local land degradation assessment as well as for database development. The Government of the Philippines will provide an indicative amount of USD 181 394 in co-financing of the proposed project.

Tunisia: Due to its geographic situation and climate specificities, Tunisia is seriously exposed to desertification and land degradation ; more than 75% of soils are vulnerable, soil fertility is rapidly decreasing, and nearly 23 000 hectares of agricultural land are lost each year (0.5 %) because of erosion, salinization, urbanization and desertification. A number of strategies, projects have already been implemented in rural development and natural resources protection programs. In particular the following strategies were elaborated: 2 strategies for water and soil conservation (1992-2001 and 2002-2011); and 2 strategies for reforestation, pasture improvement and fixation of sand dune (1992-2001 and 2002-2011). A new strategy for water and soil conservation is presently being developed, with the objective to rehabilitate 115 million ha of land threatened by erosion. The implementation of these new strategies will provide 4.9 million in co-financing of the proposed project. The government of Tunisia sees the proposed project as a major initiative to develop an integrated approach for the evaluation of land resources aiming at upscaling SLM best practices. Land evaluation should include in particular the understanding of the land dynamics within land-use systems ( e.g. root causes of degradation, impact assessment on ecosystems livelihoods of rural populations). Tunisia has requested that the project should focus on :i) training and capacity building in land resources assessment for SLM implementation; ii) the preparation of a national land resources assessment, monitoring and evaluation system; iii) pilot demonstrations showcasing SLM best practices; and iv) participation in the SLM global knowledge base to be build by the project.

Turkey: Soil erosion is a major problem in Turkey and over 86% of the country is prone to land degradation. In order to address this issue, Turkey has been very active in combating land degradation and desertification. The government prepared the National Action Program on Combating Desertification (UNCCD NAP), initiated “Afforestation and Erosion Control Mobilization Action Plan” and “Environmentally Based Agricultural Land Protection Programme” and has already been taking measures for the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands, pastures and agricultural land. The Government of Turkey (the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs) is requesting FAO to contribute to the implementation of ambitious projects related to ‘land consolidation’ (14,000,000 ha) and ‘land use plans’ (24,500,000 ha) by 2023, particularly with the establishment of an effective land use management system which would support the formulation of sound national land use policies and strategies. It is expressing a strong interest in the application of the LADA framework for assessing land degradation at different scales that can provide a baseline, assist in targeting investment and planning interventions for efficient, equitable and sustainable agricultural development. The Government of Turkey has already earmarked financial, human and knowledge resources, to cofund the project proposal, with funds from the government investment programmes for a minimum of 200,000 USD. The Government of Turkey has also requested FAO to revise UNCCD NAP and prepare and implement a full size GEF project on Sustainable Land Management and Climate-Friendly Agriculture in Konya Closed

Uzbekistan : Most of Uzbekistan’s territory is highly vulnerable to land degradation due to the large extent of arid arable lands and the high density of its population. About 53% of the rural population of the country is already significantly affected by land degradation as they live in highly salinized areas. UNCCD has expressed deep concerns on the impacts of desertification and drought in Central Asia, and has initiated a Sub regional Action Programme for the Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification and Drought within the UNCCD context in 2003. Within this context, the Government of Uzbekistan has completed its National Action Programme to Combat Desertification. The Government of Uzbekistan has always been very active in combating land degradation and desertification and it is the most advanced country in Central Asia in the use of FAO LADA approach and methodology. It has already played a leading role within Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CALCIM) for the preparation of national programmatic frameworks on SLM and the consolidation of national land use maps at sub-regional level. It participated in the UNCCD PRAIS reporting and project proposals for GEF-5 STAR. It is requesting FAO’s support on land use mapping in support of SLM planning and decision making and FAO’s assistance with the mainstreaming of SLM best practices to combat land degradation and increase resilience to CC impacts. The Government of Uzbekistan already earmarked financial, human and knowledge resources, to cofund the project proposal, with a minimum of USD 150 000 USD.

**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:**

With the incremental GEF financing coming both from the national STAR allocations and the LD focal area set-aside the project will promote operational use of standardized DLDD and SLM assessment to support decision making and scaling up of SLM best practices in participating countries and regions. Decision-making support implies the identification of some of the most common barriers to SLM adoption and mainstreaming both at global and national levels. The weak human and institutional capacities in assessing and understanding the problem of land degradation will in particular be addressed as well as the most adequate SLM response within the different land-use and livelihood systems. The barriers also concern the lack of policy and institutional support (for example :access to land resources, land tenure , adequate markets , agriculture prices, micro-finance, extension and research) for SLM adoption and upscaling, in the countries participating in the project. The project will also be strongly linked to ongoing national initiatives implemented by Food security programs, Rio + 20 processes, as well as by the UNCCD action plans and reporting processes, The project will be country driven and organized in Three components:

**Component 1: National and local decision-support combating DLDD, as well as promoting mainstreaming and upscaling of SLM best practices**

This component will ensure that national policies and programs, on DLDD and SLM implementation, and their activities on the ground, resulting in effective and reliable production and use of state of the art knowledge on DLDD and SLM best practices. Incremental support will also be provided to the implementation of SLM best practices at national, sub-national and local levels in the 15 participating countries that have allocated STAR resources to the project. These activities will include:

- i) the delivery of reliable DLDD and SLM assessments and information, on best practices suitable for mainstreaming (1.1.1);

ii) the mainstreaming of DLDD and SLM assessment and best practices tools, into UNCCD NAPs, CBD NBSAPs, SLM investment frameworks, policies and programs (1.1.2)

iii) the implementation of SLM best practices in 12 to 15 local sites in at least 8 of the participating countries, leading to adoption and progressive upscaling of at least 15 cost effective and innovative SLM technologies (1.2.1). These technologies will potentially cover half million hectares of land as an outcome of the project (1.2).

The SLM technologies promoted in the project component one, will target the improvement of ecosystem goods and services in terms of vegetation cover, crop, fodder and wood/forest production, biomass for fuel, nutrient recycling, water regulation and carbon sequestration. These SLM technologies, could be based on one, or a combination of several of the following good practices, which final selection would be done at country level during the implementation of outputs 1.1.2, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2:

- *Conservation Agriculture (CA)* combines the three principles: minimum soil disturbance (no-till), permanent soil cover and crop rotation. Each of the principles can serve as an entry point to the technology. However, only the simultaneous application of all principles results in full benefits of the concept. CA is suited to small- as well as large-scale farming, but its adoption is perhaps most urgently required by small-scale land users, especially those facing acute labour shortages
- *Integrated Soil Fertility Management* is a strategy that incorporates both organic and inorganic plant nutrients to attain higher crop productivity, prevent soil degradation and reduce the loss of nutrients. It relies on nutrient application through organic inputs such as compost, manure, inorganic fertilizer and/or the integration of nutrient fixing crops. The integrated use of organic and mineral inputs in crop production is the best method, due to positive interactions and complementarities.
- *Rainwater Harvesting (RWH)* refers to technologies under which rainwater runoff is collected to make it available for agricultural production or domestic purposes. RWH aims to minimize effects of variations in water availability and to enhance the reliability of agricultural production. The basic components of a RWH system are (i) a catchment area, (ii) a concentration / storage area and (iii) a cultivated area. When runoff is stored in the soil profile, (ii) and (iii) are synonymous. RWH covers a broad spectrum of different technologies from simple measures such as V-shaped structures with a planting pit to more complex and large structures such as dams, therefore the investment costs can vary considerably.
- *Sustainable Irrigation:* The main principle for sustainable irrigation is “more crop per drop“. This can be achieved through more efficient (1) water collection and abstraction, (2) water storage, (3) distribution and (4) water application in the field. Micro-irrigation schemes are water-efficient systems that apply small volumes of water at frequent intervals to the spot where roots are concentrated, e.g. in a drip irrigation system. In drip irrigation system, water flows through a filter into special drip pipes and water is discharged directly onto the soil near the plants
- *Vegetative strips* may be composed of grass, shrubs and trees or a combination. Vegetative strips are often used along contours helping to hold back excessive runoff, but may also be perpendicular to wind to control wind erosion. Vegetative strips along the contour often lead to the formation of bunds and terraces due to ‘tillage erosion’ – the downslope movement of soil during cultivation. Compared to terraces and bunds they are much easier and cheaper to establish. Vegetative strips can also be utilized on flat land as shelterbelts, windbreaks or as barriers surrounding fields
- *Structural barriers* are measures on sloping lands in the form of earth or soil bunds, stone lines, etc. for reducing runoff velocity and soil erosion. This is achieved by reducing the steepness and/or length of slope. Structural barriers are well-known and are commonly prominent as traditional soil and water conservation measures. Structural barriers are often combined with soil fertility improvement e.g. soil cover, manure or fertilizer application.
- *Organic Agriculture* is a holistic production management system that avoids the use of synthetic fertilizer, pesticides and genetically modified organisms, conserves soil and water, and optimizes the health and productivity of interdependent communities of plants, animals and people. It includes a series of measures such as: crop rotations and enhanced crop diversity; different combinations of livestock and plants; symbiotic nitrogen fixation with legumes; application of organic manure; and biological pest control, such as “push-pull”. All these strategies seek to make the best use of local resources.
- *Grassland improvement* includes the “improvement” of extensive natural grassland by introduction of selected local or exotic grasses and legumes. It is, along with sown pasture, common in commercial mixed farming and more intensively managed grassland. Techniques usually involve at least temporary suppression of the existing vegetation (by fire, hard grazing, herbicides or mechanically, alone or in combination) and differing degrees of disturbance of the soil surface; fertilizer is often used.

- *Stocking rate regulation*: regulation of the stocking rate and managing the spatial and temporal distribution and composition of livestock are the basis of grazing management. The amount and composition of livestock that a particular area can carry is not dependent on its botanical composition alone, since it has to take into account the management objectives of the graziers and the availability of other resources and their seasonal fluctuations, notably water. Well-distributed water points and seasonal availability of water (as from small dams) help to facilitate movement of livestock. Stocking must be seen in the context of the whole area available and management decisions made in view of local knowledge: extensive grazing is managed at the landscape rather than at the local scale.
- *Afforestation and sustainable plantations*: The purpose of planted forests can be mainly commercial or for environmental/protective use, or for rehabilitation of degraded areas. The sustainability and value of new planted forests depends on what they replace; the replacement of a natural forest by a plantation will hardly be an improvement in land use. The following technical aspects need to be considered: i) Sustaining soil fertility: confining harvesting of forest products to stem wood, soil conservation measures, and application of fertilizer, etc. ii) Proper harvesting planning, e.g. careful citing of extraction routes and felling methods; iii) Selection of species: diversity of trees enhance their resilience; iv) Natural corridors to enhance biodiversity especially in industrial plantations; v) Fire breaks to limit the extent of fires, often combined with access roads.
- *Sustainable Forest Management* aims to ensure that the goods and services derived from the forest meet present-day needs - while at the same time securing their continued availability and contribution to long-term development. This involves administrative, legal, technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the conservation and use of forests. The main techniques used for sustainable management are: spatial zoning for various users, restricted interventions, protective measures, best practices in non-wood forest products harvesting, grazing management planning, improving governance, etc.
- *Agroforestry (AF)* describes a land use system where woody perennials are integrated with agricultural crops and/or animals for a variety of benefits and services, including better use of soil and water resources, multiple fuel, fodder and food products, and provision of a habitat for associated species. There are usually both ecological and economic interactions between the components of the system. AF embraces a wide range of practices: contour farming, multi-storey cropping, (relay) intercropping, multiple cropping, bush and tree fallows, parkland, homegardens; many of them are traditional land-use systems.
- *Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems* optimizes the uses of crop and livestock resources through interaction and the creation of synergies. The waste products of one component serve as a resource for the other: manure from livestock is used to enhance crop production (improving soil fertility), whilst crop residues and by-products (grass weeds and processing waste) are supplementary feed for the animals. There exist other forms of integrated systems apart from crop-livestock systems for example aquaculture.
- *Integrated watershed management (IWM)* combines a range of technological and institutional interventions that improve interaction and co-benefits between land managers, upstream, and land and water users, downstream. Improved private and communal livelihood benefits are generated by managing the watershed as the key landscape unit. The concept of IWM includes institutional arrangements for collective action and market-related innovations.

**Component 2: Global DLDD and SLM decision-support platform** – This component will establish a decision-support platform for monitoring of DLDD trends and environmental and development benefits of SLM by building primarily on WOCAT and GLADIS. The platform will be networking the participating countries and liaise with 2 to 5 major relevant global and (sub)regional partners and programs, such as the CGIAR system-wide program, scientific and technical institutions, CST etc. involved in the production of technical and scientific information on DLDD and SLM. It will also establish linkages with other international and regional processes on primarily combating desertification and climate change, but also on food security, biodiversity and bioenergy for the the Economic Assessment of DLDD supported by the German Government and the UNCCD Secretariat. Moreover, the global DLDD and SLM networking platform can directly contribute to the knowledge management mechanism that is being established by GEF, with information that can inform the further development of the Land Degradation focal area strategy for GEF-6.

**Component 3: Project monitoring and evaluation** – To ensure that project outputs and results are well monitored and aggregated from the local, national and global levels, a web-based project monitoring system will be set up with roles and responsibilities on reporting on progress in meeting output and outcome targets assigned to national and global executing partners. This will allow for yearly adaptive adjustments to the project implementation strategy to ensure the project meets its objectives and outcomes. Independent mid-term and final evaluations will be undertaken and lessons learned will be shared and disseminated globally.

The **global environmental benefits** expected to be achieved with the incremental GEF support are:

- Catalytical support to the upscaling of 15 innovative and cost effective SL/WM best practices in at least 8 countries, potentially covering an estimated 400 000 ha of land. This estimate is the sum of the estimated areas provided by each country participating, and will be revisited during full project formulation. A monitoring system for the GEB resulting from the implementation of SL/WM will be determined by the multi stakeholder country teams, during the implementation of the land degradation and SLM best practices assessment, (outputs 1.1.1). The GEB will contribute to the agreed global environmental benefits in the Land Degradation focal area, with co-benefits in the Biodiversity and Climate Change focal areas, in critical land-use systems in participating countries, such as rainfed and irrigated agriculture, rangelands, and forests and woodlands. These global environmental benefits will include:
  - Improved provision of agro-ecosystem goods and services of areas under SLM, such as food, water and fuel, through improved land productivity and regulation of sediment and water flows (i.e. an estimated 10% increase in productivity and 25% increase in vegetation cover in the areas where INRM and SLM practices and technologies will be implemented (outputs 1.2.1). This preliminary estimate is at this stage based on previous experiences, and the recent outcomes of the SLM Kagera project co-financed by GEF and implemented by FAO. This estimate will be revisited during the project preparation, using data and results from previous experiences collected in the participating countries.
  - Reduced GHG emissions from agriculture and carbon sequestration increased by 20% in land under INRM and SLM. This preliminary estimate is based on recent studies, and may be revisited during the project implementation (mid review) through rapid assessment, on a sample bases, in the areas converted to INRM and SLM (outputs 1.2.1)
  - Reduced vulnerability of agro-ecosystems to climate variability and change through the implementation of climate-resilient SLM best practices in vulnerable land-use systems. These best practices will, at medium and long term, reduce the land vulnerability to extreme weather events and changes in rainfall and hydrological regimes, caused by long-term climate trends. As mentioned in B.4, if the extreme climate events would occur during the project duration, the effective implementation of the project activities on the ground could be at risk as a result of the the harsh climate conditions (for example, in the short term young planted trees may be at risk during a heavy drought occurring during the project implementation, while the medium and long-term benefits of the planted trees to mitigate climate change, should be very effective in the areas being rehabilitated).

**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 A BACKGROUND INFORMATION, READ “[MAINSTREAMING GENDER AT THE GEF.](#)”:**

Land degradation and the loss of productive land incur immense costs to global society. These costs result from loss of productive agricultural land and hence lost income and products, damage to infrastructure and services such as roads and water storage and increased costs of water treatment, flood prevention, and reduced resilience to shocks and climate change. This global project will contribute to national socio-economic benefits through demonstration activities at pilot sites in at least 8 countries, which will include:

- Sustained livelihoods for people dependent on the use and management of land resources (soil, water, biodiversity):
  - The project will pay special attention to assessing the impacts of land degradation on vulnerable groups, such as female headed households, and identifying gender sensitive SLM solutions.
  - The project will ensure that it works with a representative number of female-headed households at pilot sites; that recommended SLM solutions are benefiting men and women equally; and that there will be at least 30 percent women participating in training activities organized by the project.
- Reduced vulnerability to impacts of climate variability and change of people dependent on the use and management of natural resources in agricultural ecosystems through piloting and scaling up of climate resilient land use and land and water management practices. The project will review the impacts of climate change on land resources and affected communities in participating countries and pilot sites and effects of SLM practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation. This will contribute to priority setting.

- Improved food security and land resources conditions at demonstration sites, with a particular focus on enhancing ecosystem services such as food and water provision and sustainable use of biodiversity in the production landscape.

**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	Level	Mitigation measure
1. Divergent Priorities of Project Partners with regard to land resources assessment and SLM	Low	Project partners, e.g. FAO, CDE/WOCAT, UNCCD, GEF land degradation task force etc. will undertake consultations to reach consensus on key issues before finalization and periodic updating of the networking platform on DLDD and SLM and associated tools and methods.
2. Global toolkits, methodologies and decision-support system not taken up by target groups	Low	The global toolkits, methods and decision-support systems will be based on user needs assessments, be peer reviewed, and demonstrated and disseminated for larger uptake at critical global events, such as the UNCCD CRICs, COPs and Scientific Conferences.
3. The catalytic effect of the project on SLM upscaling and investments at national level is not realized.	Low	Interaction with well funded projects and programs at international and national level, and a decentralized approach to land resources assessment and decision support can catalyze investments from multiple sources, including local communities, national governments, NGOs, and international institutions. Only countries with a strong commitment to invest in SLM will become partners in the project.
4. Climate change impacts on land resources and management systems makes the DLDD assessment and SLM Best Practices knowledge platform quickly outdated.	Medium to low	The project will make a particular effort to undertake a stocktaking of climate resilient SLM best practices (win-win practices, mitigating both land degradation and climate change), with the assistance for example of the existing WOCAT database and its recently developed climate change module. The project will also undertaken a systematic assessment of climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits of SLM best practices in representative land-use systems of the participating countries. The assessment will also consider cost benefit issues. The findings will be actively transferred to all partners of the project at all levels, and will be used for the definition of the SLM practices to be implemented on the ground (output 1.2.1).

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

The project is based on partnerships between multiple stakeholders at international, national to local level. It will be guided by a global committee and advised by a technical advisory group with representation of key stakeholders from the policy as well as technical and scientific community:

- Global Steering Committee (GSC) co-chaired by GEFSEC and FAO, with representatives from UNCCD, CDE / WOCAT Secretariat, ISRIC, other GEF agencies as appropriate, major donors, such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and at least five country representatives. The GSC will review program achievements, advise on problems and issues and provide overall strategic guidance. The GSC will be advised by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The GSC will provide suggestions of issues for consideration by the TAG. The GSC will meet once a year, in person and/or through multimedia facilities (e.g. video conferences etc.).
- Global Technical Advisory Group (TAG) chaired by FAO with participation of representatives of main technical institutions directly concerned with LADA-WOCAT implementation, such as the UNCCD CST, CDE, ISRIC,. The TAG will be in regular contact and ensure peer review and overall technical quality assurance of global tools, methods and guidelines. It will also ensure that results from national and local activities are reviewed according to sound quality criteria.

FAO, through a Global Project Coordination Unit (GPCU), will provide the secretariat services for the GSC and the TAG. Countries participating in the project will establish their own National Steering Committees.

The execution of the national components (component 1) will be done by national ministerial partners responsible for land degradation and land management issues in each country in collaboration with local governments relevant in each case. The Execution will be supported and coordinated by the GPCU, based at the FAO headquarters in Rome. A letter of agreement (LoA), will be prepared and implemented for each country participating in the project, through its STAR allocation. Each LoA will specify in details, individual outputs and their corresponding activities, as well as a detailed work plan and budget, the source of funding and cofunding, a description of responsibilities by the various actors and institutions, terms of reference of main contractors, technical backstopping and quality control to be provided by the FAO GPCU, payment schedule and modalities. The main content of these LoA's will be discussed with countries and prepared during the project preparation, funded by the PPG, and will be summarized in an Annex of the final project document.

In addition to its secretariat service, the GPCU will provide all the necessary technical and organizational guidance to the countries, for the smooth and quality implementation of the project. The GPCU will also facilitate the communication and networking of the participating countries, to allow exchange of experiences and skills among countries, in relation to the different activities of the project. The participating countries will also be able to benefit from the global platform to be implemented by the project (output 2.1.1). In order to better coordinate and align the participating countries, both at the technical and organizational levels, targeted international and/or regional workshops as well as e-mail conferences, tele/video conferences, will be conducted with the countries concerned along key steps and milestones of the project implementation. When possible and needed South-South cooperation between interested countries on key activities of the project is envisaged. For example, countries which have an advanced experience, or capacities on SLM upscaling and mainstream (e.g. LD and SLM assessment, on the ground SLM implementation, national coordination and policy frameworks) could be mobilized to assist other neighboring countries which expressed the need for such a technical support. The GPCU will therefore facilitate cooperation arrangements between interested countries, whenever possible.

The details of the implementation and management arrangements of the GEF project (roles and responsibilities of partners and detailed project management activities and budget) will be designed during the project preparation, and described in the final project document. Some flexibility will also be allowed during the project implementation, to optimize the organization of the workplan, and the cooperation within and between countries.

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

The project will establish linkages and synergies with several programs and projects, many of which are GEF funded. These programs could include:

- The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) - is aimed at tackling the degradation of the soil and poverty in the Sahel-Saharan region. In 2007, the project was adopted by the African Union, which made it an African response to the problem of desertification. The "wall" will actually be a mosaic of sustainable land uses and management practices and would link Dakar in the west with Djibouti in the east. The 11 countries involved in the initiative are Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan. Senegal that participated in the LADA project is well positioned to act as a facilitator and train the GGWSSI countries in relevant tools and methods to support decision processes for scaling up of SLM best practices. Likewise, Ethiopia which has a strong national WOCAT initiative could act as a facilitator. The project will assist the GGWSSI, through the output 1.2.2, which is focusing on the provision of technical and organisational decision making support for SLM upscaling in selected GGWSSI countries. Such a support could include technical advisory and backstopping, in relation to for example the identification of SLM best practices to be upscaled, as well as the priority areas for SLM investments in the concerned countries. Discussions on such a cooperation were already undertaken with the GGWSSI, through the "FAO Great Green Wall initiative supporting countries in the Sahara and Sahel region in SFM", which is also providing co-funding to the proposed project (see table C).
- The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) : FAO initiated and hosted on the 7-9 September 2011, the launch of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) for Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. The GSP is a major initiative concerning most of the countries of the world, and aiming towards collaboration and sharing of responsibilities so as to provide a coherent framework for joint strategies and actions of the various existing soils initiatives. The GSP is also targeting the facilitation of the dialogue and the interaction among the various users and stakeholders currently competing for the use of soil resources at global scale. The GSP is to complement similar FAO supported initiatives such as the Global Water

Partnership, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources (VG). The GSP already started to facilitate the establishment of synergies by addressing cross-cutting issues related to soils for food security, climate change, biodiversity and desertification. It is also directing itself towards a strong collaboration and support to the relevant UN agencies dealing with those issues: FAO (Food Security), UNFCCC (Climate Change), CBD (Biodiversity) and UNCCD (Desertification). FAO already initiated some cooperation between the former LADA and WOCAT and the GSP. It is proposed that the GSP and the proposed project establish technical and institutional synergies and linkages on soils and land related issues in the countries that are participating in both the GSP and the proposed project. Cooperation activities between the GSP and the project could include for example the joint preparation of a land and soil national information system (status, level of degradation), the identification and implementation of best practices for land and soil management, in support of national resources management strategies and policies.

- TerrAfrica, PRC-GEF LD Partnership, CACILM, PPCR Tajikistan, India SLEM – will provide harmonized and standardized tools for land degradation assessment, land-use systems diagnostics and best SLM practices assessments across countries and/or provinces, and monitoring and evaluation systems, to support programmatic processes for SLM upscaling. Several of these programs are already to some extent using LADA and WOCAT tools, e.g. TerrAfrica SLM in Practice Guidelines developed by WOCAT and FAO, the FAO/GEF projects for Kagera and Fouta Djallon, the GEF-PRC Land Degradation Partnership, CACILM, and the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) of the World Bank in Tajikistan using the WOCAT climate change adaptation tools. Several participating countries of the proposed project are also partner in these regional initiatives, which gives the possibility to implement a cooperation in these countries, for the mainstreaming and upscaling of SLM activities promoted by these initiatives. Common countries could include for example Lesotho and Nigeria for TerrAfrica, and Uzbekistan for CACILM. In addition, the India-Sustainable Land and Ecosystem (SLEM) Program has already indicated to FAO its interest in developing linkages with the proposed project in order to mainstream the use of LADA/WOCAT tools in India for the monitoring and assessment of DLDD and the upscaling of SLM best practices.
- 2010 BIP –the project should be able to provide a range of relevant data,, both at national and global levels, for the national and global assessments of the CBD indicator ‘area of agricultural ecosystems under sustainable management’. In return, the 2010 BIP should provide technical and institutional support in mainstreaming SLM best practices, as proposed by the project.
- The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) – The UNCCD together with the Government of Germany recently launched an initiative on economic valuation of DLDD with the view to present the ELD study at the Second Scientific Conference of the UNCCD that will take place in 2012. The first steps of the ELD Study have already been taken in the preparation of a Stocktaking Report. LADA, WOCAT and its different databases were identified as key sources of information and close cooperation on assessing the global costs of land degradation will be established between the proposed project and the ELD initiative. A formal cooperation is under discussion between FAO and the ELD for implementation of joined activities that are completely in line with the activities of the proposed project. This latter would provide both critical technical data for the ELD models as well as operational linkages with national and global decision-making processes that are targeted both by the GEF project and the ELD initiative. In return, the ELD would channel the knowledge and the data produced by the project through its networks and academic institutions.
- GIAHS: In order to safeguard and support the world’s *agri-cultural heritage* systems in 2002, FAO started an initiative for the conservation and adaptive management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage systems (GIAHS), co-funded by the GEF. The initiative aims to establish the basis for international recognition, dynamic conservation and adaptive management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and their agricultural biodiversity, knowledge systems, food and livelihood security and cultures throughout the world. The GEF project supports pilot sites in Peru, Chile, China, Philippines, Tunisia, Algeria. Additional sites are also receiving assistance in Kenya and Tanzania through German support, as well as in Morocco, India and Sri Lanka through IFAD. Other countries are also participating through self-financing, and many new potential sites have been identified. These pilot system’s dynamic conservation management approaches are being developed and implemented to assist national and local stakeholders in the conservation and adaptive management of these valuable agricultural heritage systems and their components. The present project will be able to work together with the GIAHS, for the identification and mainstreaming of best management practices of natural resources, in countries that are belonging to both projects, namely China, Philippines, Tunisia, Morocco.

- Other international initiatives and programs involved at international level, in SLM knowledge management and decision-support, and having already good relationship with FAO. It is anticipated that the SLM global platform (activity 2.1.1) proposed by the project will establish linkages with several of these programs linked to , such as for example:
  - Drynet, which is a NGO consortium supporting the UNCCD, coordinated by, CARI (Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales – an association among Africa, and West African countries in particular) and Both Ends (an Environment and Development Service hosted by IUCN Netherlands), and comprising a range of NGOs and research institutions;
  - Land Care: which is a movement promoting stewardship for improved land resources planning and management. It is supported by grassroots organizations led by Australia, and pioneered in several countries such as South Africa, Philippines.
  - Universities and technical institutes which are promoting technology transfer and south-south cooperation at international and regional level, such as: the United Nations University (UNU), the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Berne, and CGIAR centers.

**C. DESCRIBE YOUR AGENCY’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:**

FAO/NRL assists member countries to create an enabling environment for sustainable development of land resources and food security in order to meet the ever increasing needs and demands of the world’s rapidly growing population. It assesses the physical, socio-economic, institutional and legal potentials and constraints with respect to an optimal and sustainable use of land resources, and empowers people to make decisions about how to allocate those resources. In this context, NRL promotes a holistic, participatory and negotiated approach in land use planning and territorial development. This requires also the integration of legal property rights and gender equity in territorial issues. The participative approach established by NRL also offers an important contribution to the resolution of conflicts over land in post-emergency situations, as well as to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

The FAO/NRL regular program for the next biennium (2012-2013) included the constitution of an informal SLM task force with relevant concerned officers, from NRL (soils, land and water), NRC (climate change mitigation and adaptation), FOM (forest and agroforestry), AGP (crops and grasslands), AGA ( livestock), OEKR (TECA for extension products), aiming at the review and collection of existing FAO SLM knowledge, and its harmonization and mainstreaming within FAO.

Further to FAO’s work and expertise in assessment and mapping of land and soil resources and maintenance and updating of data bases (section B.1 above), sustainable land management (SLM) support is provided by FAO, at normative level with the preparation of policy and technical guidelines, and at field level, through the support to several SLM large projects, such as TerrAfrica, the implementation of the Kagera sub-regional project, and the backstopping of 15 countries on territorial management. This project coordinated by FAO proposes a partnership with the WOCAT Secretariat as a result of previous successful collaboration and due to WOCAT’s capacities, achievements and established network developed over the last 20 years related to SLM. Furthermore the project draws on the support by ISRIC as a member of the WOCAT Management Group.

FAO is also regularly providing technical advisory support to the UNCCD international committees (CST) and to the UN EMG on Land, through the preparation of SLM inputs into flagship reports. FAO is also active in strengthening UN inter-agency coordination for water issues, through UN-Water, the UN coordination mechanism for water, and responds to calls by member states and civil society and recently embarked on the development of Voluntary Guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land and other natural resources. FAO regularly advises and builds capacities of governments and other development partners, in the formulation and implementation of appropriate land use and sustainable land management policies, strategies, programs, tools, technologies and best practices.

In order to achieve the objective of the proposed project FAO can bring key partners to the table via its partnership with WOCAT, the Global Soil Partnership and its participation in global, and national initiatives promoting SLM.

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

FAO is provisionally contributing a total of USD 4 539 356 in co-financing for the proposed project through:

1. Headquarter programs and operating expenses supporting SLM, amounting to a total of USD 1 060 000;

2. Technical Cooperation Programs at national and regional level that provide a total of USD 1 572 000 in grant contribution from FAO, and;

3. The FAO/EU Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative funded by EU amounting to a total of USD 1 907 356 in grant contribution.

**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:**

Priorities of sustainable management of natural resources are tied to priorities of reducing hunger and poverty. FAO's Strategic Framework (2010-2019) specifically highlights the twin objectives of sustainable intensification of production to reduce hunger and poverty and sustainable management and use of natural resources. With regard to Land Degradation, FAO's program priorities include integrated land, water and production system policies, (and) planning and management. The project is closely linked to FAO's Medium-Term Plan and its priorities for Combating Desertification:

- *At international level:* liaison with the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; to support UNCCD bodies, in particular participation to the Conference of the Parties and other international meetings; representation of FAO at the Facilitation Committee and the Technical Advisory Group of the Global Mechanism; negotiation and/or implementation of agreement for cooperation with several leading institutions dealing with desertification; preparation of publications on best practices and policies to combat desertification; specific technical publications; CD-ROMs and Web site on desertification;
- *at regional and subregional level:* multi-disciplinary support to several large field projects or investment programs on combating desertification e.g. Terrafrica (under the leadership of the World Bank) and the Fouta Djallon (co-financed by GEF);
- *at national level:* technical and policy support to National Action Plans in several countries, in cooperation with the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat of the UNCCD.

The proposed project is closely linked to FAO's Strategic objective on Integrated Management of Land, Water, Fisheries, Forest and Genetic Resources, which, inter alia, focuses on developing and strengthening monitoring, assessment and valuation of natural resources to optimize decision-making for the efficient management and sustainable use of natural resources. It is also linked to the Strategic Objective on Conservation, Rehabilitation and Development of Environments at the Greatest Risk and its components on monitoring and assessing the state of fragile ecosystems, developing criteria and indicators for their sustainable management and building capacity for environmental impact assessment and risk analysis; and enhancing institutional and planning capacity at the local, national and international levels and incorporating consideration of the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of natural resource use into policies and programs.

At national level, the project will also be anchored in National Medium Term Priority Frameworks (NMTPFs) that are FAO's input in the UN Common Country Programming Process (UNDAF). The purpose is to enhance effectiveness of FAO resource utilization; strengthen partnerships among all development actors; and support resource mobilization for food security and agricultural development. FAO Country Offices through their technical, and operational staff will support the implementation of component 1 in each country and ensure that the project is firmly linked to the NMTPFs in participating countries.

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

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) or [regional endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Ms. Graciela B. Conesa	GEF Operational Focal Point	SECRETARÍA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE, ARGENTINA	27/08/12
Mr Mesbah ul Alam	Secretary in Charge, GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST, GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	28/06/12
Mr Senad Oprasic	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	19/07/11
Ms Jiandi Ye	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	10/09/12
Ms Alejandra Torres Dromgold	Head, Office of International Affairs	MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE – OFICINA ASUNTOS INTERNACIONALES, COLOMBIA	12/06/12
Mrs Marcela Aguiñaga Vallejo	Minister of Environment, GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF ECUADOR	16/07/11
Mr Stanley Damane	Director, Department of Environment, GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LESOTHO	02/07/12
Mr Mohamed Benyahia	Director of Partnership, Communication and Cooperation GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉNERGIE, DES MINES, DE L'EAU ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DÉPARTEMENT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, MAROC	11/05/12
Ms O.B. Jaji	Director, GEF Operational Focal Point	FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NIGERIA	07/08/12
Mr/Ms Sygrid Barragán	Secretaría General, GEF Operational Focal Point	AUTORIDAD NACIONAL DEL AMBIENTE, PANAMA	02/07/12
Ms Analiza Rebueta-Teh	Undersecretary, Chief of Staff, GEF Operational Focal Point	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, PHILIPPINES	15/05/12
<i>Mr Chote Trachu</i>	Permanent Secretary GEF Operational Focal Point	THAILAND, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENT	19/09/12
Mr/Ms Sabria Bnoui Ben Ammar	GEF Operational Focal Point)	MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, TUNISIA	No date on the letter (mail received on 26/06/12)
Prof. Dr. Lüfti Akca	Undersecretary – GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WATER AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN UNION AND FOREIGN RELATIONS,	No date on the letter (mail

		TURKEY	received on 01/06/12)
Dr. Sergey Myagkov	Deputy Director of NIGMI of UzHzhydromet, GEF Operation Focal Point	CABINET OF MINISTERS, THE CENTRE OF HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICE, UZHYDROMET UZBEKISTAN	15/05/12

#### 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 (Month, day, year)</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Laurent Thomas Officer in Charge, Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153, Rome, Italy <a href="mailto:TCI-Director@fao.org">TCI-Director@fao.org</a>		September 19, 2012	Dominique Lantieri Senior Environmental Officer Land and Water Division, FAO, Rome	+3906570- 53295	Dominique.Lanti eri@fao.org
Barbara Cooney GEF Coordinator TCI, FAO				+3906570- 55478	Barbara.Cooney @fao.org