



REQUEST FOR CEO APPROVAL¹

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Support to 20 GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programs and Reporting Process under UNCCD (Add-on Umbrella 2)			
Country(ies):	Global: Mali, Indonesia, Somali Republic, Thailand, Vietnam, Maldives, Rwanda, Sudan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Egypt, Malawi, Namibia, Barbados, Mauritius, Eritrea, Swaziland, Belize, Chile	GEF Project ID: ²	5136
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	00929
Other Executing Partner(s):	National Government Ministries, UNEP-WCMC	Submission Date:	2012-10-03
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	24
Name of Parent Program (if applicable): For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	Focal Area Set Aside (Enabling Activities)	Agency Fee (\$):	100,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
(select) LD-4	LD 4.1 Increased capacities of countries to fulfill their obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD	Output 4.1 At least 50 countries Implementing UNCCD priorities with improved monitoring of impacts at national level Output 4.2 20 investments in LD Objectives 1-3 are linked to UNCCD action programs and national reporting process	GEF TF	1,000,000	1,000,000
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)	Others		(select)		
Subtotal				1,000,000	1,000,000

¹ It is important to consult the GEF Preparation Guidelines when completing this template

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the [Focal Area/LDCF/SCCF Results Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

Project management cost ⁴ (select)		
Total project costs	1,000,000	1,000,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To facilitate access to GEF funding by 20 countries for Enabling Activities to meet their obligations under the UNCCD a) alignment of NAPs with 10 – Year Strategy and b) Reporting and Review process

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
NAP Alignment	TA	20 countries have aligned their National Action Plans with the UNCCD 10 Years Strategy Strategy and institutionalized them within future government development framework	A NAP is submitted that has been aligned according to UNCCD guidance and validated at the country level by 100% of eligible Parties that have received GEF funds for NAP realignment'	GEF TF	600,000	600,000
2012 Reporting and Review	TA	National reports for the second leg of the 4th reporting and review process prepared and submitted by 20 countries	National reports submitted by 100% of eligible Parties that have received GEF funds to support the measures that each Party has taken to implement the national reporting based on the UNCCD Impact indicators Reporting	GEF TF	400,000	400,000
	(select)			GEF TF		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Subtotal					1,000,000	1,000,000
				Project management Cost ⁵ (select)	0	0
Total project costs					1000000	1000000

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
National Government	20 Participating countries	Grant	200,000

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

⁵ Same as footnote #4.

National Government	20 Participating countries	In-Kind	800,000
(select)		Grant	
(select)		In-Kind	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		!!	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Co-financing			1,000,000

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Global	1,000,000	100,000	1,100,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				1,000,000	100,000	1,100,000

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Estimated Person Weeks	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
Local consultants*				0
International consultants*				0
Total		0	0	0

* Details to be provided in Annex C.

F. PROJECT MANAGEMENT COST

Cost Items	Total Estimated Person Weeks/Months	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
Local consultants*				0
International consultants*				0
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications*				0
Travel*				0
Others**				0
	Specify "Others" (2)			0
Total		0	0	0

* Details to be provided in Annex C.

** For others, to be clearly specified by overwriting fields *(1) and *(2).

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex E an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

H. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

The M&E Plan will include the following items, but will also contain the regular monitoring and evaluation activities of the project.

- **Project inception:** Giving the **focus** of this project on in-country activities, there will be no face-to-face inception workshop. However, the Project Steering committee will have a virtual meeting to launch the project. The meeting will include discussions on issues encountered during the project initiation and adapt methods for implementing the project.
- To ensure that the project outcomes are fully embedded in the countries UNDAF processes and that CSO, Gender and Indigenous people issues are well captured and considered in the aligned NAP and reporting, UNEP will request the country that when they are reporting back at the end of the project, they include in the report how they have mainstreamed the project in the UNDAF and national policies processes and how CSO, Gender and Indigenous people have been considered. Resources and tools developed by UNDP and partners in mainstreaming climate change issues (<http://ncsp.undp.org/topics/mainstreaming-climate-change>) will be exploited to suggest simplified way of doing this for DLDD in participating countries.
- **Cost of Terminal Evaluation:** The cost of terminal evaluation is zero as this cost is covered in the Umbrella 1. It will be carried out by an independent consultant, selected by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Evaluation Office. UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, the Convention) , Global Mechanism (GM) and UNCCD Secretariat will be consulted during the process.
- **Any additional M&E costs:** Possible costs are already included in the consolidated project budget.

M&E ACTIVITIES TABLE (REF TO APPENDIX 7 UNEP PROJECT DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS M&E PLAN)

M&E ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BUDGET US \$	TIME FRAME
Project inception and PSC	Project management team and the PSC	0	1 ST month after GEF Council final approval
Inception report	Project management team	0	After inception phase

Annual project progress report and project implementation review	Project management team and UNEP/DEPI	0	End of each year for annual report and first semester of each year for PIR
Operational reports	Project management team	0	Quarterly
Technical reports	Help Desk service with oversight from the UNEP and UNCCD	To be determined based on the technical report required	As required
UNDAF, Gender, CSO and Indigenous People consideration	UNEP Task Manager Countries Parties	0	End of the project
Final external evaluation	UNEP Evaluation Office in collaboration with the WCMC, UNCCD and GM SECRETARIATS	30,000	End of project
Project terminal report	UNEP/GEF	0	End of project
Audits	UN Auditor and UNEP/DEPI	0	Will be based on UN audit calendar
Total indicative cost			30,000

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1. The [GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF strategies/NPIF Initiative](#):

1. The project intends to support the achievement of the overall goal of the GEF-5 Focal Area strategy for Land Degradation (to contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation) by responding directly to its Strategic Objective 4 (LD-4) “Adaptive Management and Learning: Increase Capacity to Apply Adaptive Management Tools in Sustainable Land Management” and, in particular, its outcome 4.1 “Increased Capacities of Countries to Fulfil their Obligations in Accordance with the Provisions Provided in the UNCCD”. The project will contribute directly to the objective of the Focal Area by providing primarily financial assistance to 20 affected country Parties (ACPs) for alignment of their National Action Programmes (NAPs) to the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and for an effective 2012 Reporting and Review process, based on the recently introduced “Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System” (PRAIS) of the UNCCD. A very limited amount of technical support will be offered through consultancies at national level and at international level a common online information sharing platform for participating countries.
2. Alignment of the National Action Plans to combat desertification to the global, results-based framework of the Convention and the indicators-based reporting are a priority for the UNCCD. By providing resources through the umbrella project to address financial needs at the national level the GEF plays its catalytic role in supporting the countries to fulfil their obligations vis – à – vis the Convention.

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities:

N/A

A.1.3 For projects funded from NPIF, relevant eligibility criteria and priorities of the Fund:

N/A

A.2. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e.

NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

3. Over the last decades the UNCCD has undertaken a major reform process aimed at making the UNCCD process more efficient, transparent, accountable and focused. The adoption by the Parties (decision 3/COP.8) in 2007 of the 10-Year Strategic Plan and Framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018) (hereinafter “The Strategy”) has paved the way for a results-based approach to global and national efforts to combat desertification.
4. The Strategy, with its clearly defined Strategic Objectives (SOs) and Operational Objectives (OOs) to achieve enhanced implementation of the Convention, requires all existing action programmes (NAPs, Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAPs) and Regional Action Programme (RAPs)) (including those under preparation) to reflect the new implementation framework adopted by the Convention⁶. It also introduces a new monitoring and assessment process within the UNCCD, the “Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System” (PRAIS), which is based on sets of performance and impact indicators to measure, respectively, progress against the operational and strategic objectives. Special attention is also placed on measuring investment flows for UNCCD implementation and dissemination of best practices. After the successful undertaking in 2010 of the first leg of the 4th Reporting and Review Process on the performance indicators, financial flows and best practices on SLM technologies, the UNCCD Secretariat will initiate in 2012 the second leg of the 4th Reporting cycle that will also include reporting on the Strategic Objectives, using the set of identified Impact Indicators. .
5. The project aims to respond directly to the decision 3/COP8 which in adopting the Strategy urges and recognizes “the need for Parties to align their NAPs” as well as decision 2/COP9 on “Alignment of the action programmes with The Strategy” which call for:
 - Affected country Parties to use the alignment guidelines as the reference tool in aligning NAPs and other relevant implementation activities with the 5 Operational Objectives of The Strategy;
 - The Secretariat to facilitate provision of technical assistance to affected country Parties for review, alignment and/or revision of NAPs;
 - GM/Secretariat, in accordance with their mandates, to financially assist affected country Parties to develop integrated investment frameworks to foster resource mobilization for NAP alignment ;
 - Developed country Parties and financial institutions to assist with funding to eligible country Parties for review, alignment and revision of NAPs.
6. The project goal is to contribute to better targeted investments in Desertification Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD). The objective is to facilitate access to GEF funding by 20 countries for Enabling Activities to meet their obligations under the UNCCD by supporting NAP alignment and 2012 reporting process.
7. To support the countries in fulfilling their obligation to the convention. GEF through this project is contributing resources at country level to support NAPs alignment and /or reporting process depending on the countries priorities.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

8. The obligation of the Parties to communicate to the COP for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the Secretariat, reports on the measures that they have taken for the implementation of the Convention was

⁶ The alignment of the NAPs is imbedded in the Strategy itself, which puts forward in the outcome areas 2.2 and 2.3 that a revision by affected country parties of their NAP into strategic documents based on socio-economic and biophysical baseline information and integrated in relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies, including integrated investment frameworks, is necessary in order to achieve operational objective two.

established in article 26 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, the Convention). Article 23 of the UNCCD. Article 23 of the Convention assigned to the UNCCD Secretariat the specific functions of: (i) facilitating assistance to affected developing country Parties, on request, particularly those in Africa, in the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention; and (ii) compiling and transmitting reports submitted to it.

9. At COP 7, the Parties, drawing lessons from the three reporting cycles conducted thus far, decided to start a process aimed at helping to improve the procedures for communication of information and the quality and format of reports, and established the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) to this end. In its reports to the Committee for the Review and Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the Conference of Parties (COP), the AHWG laid the foundation for the development of new reporting tools by calling for the new guidelines to be: user-friendly, consistent, comprehensible and standardized; facilitate comparison and consolidation at sub-regional, regional and global level and progress assessments in the implementation of action programmes of The Strategy; be concise yet comprehensive; be in line with COP decisions; and allow for the development of synergies with other reporting obligations. The AHWG also stressed that reports to be produced on the basis of these guidelines should concentrate on impacts achieved, and on the use of quantifiable indicators to measure progress against objectives.
10. The adoption of The Strategy enabled this new approach to reporting to come to its full fruition. The Strategy is based on two sets of objectives: four Strategic Objectives with seven expected impacts, and five operational objectives with 21 related outcomes. These expected impacts and outcomes are to be measured through two sets of indicators. The reporting guidelines are developed on the basis of this approach and should serve as a tool for all the reporting entities submitting reports on the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy, enabling them to prepare reports which are organized in a way that facilitates analysis at all possible levels.
11. At COP 8 the Parties by Decision 3/COP 8 adopted the 10 Years Strategy and “Urges affected developing country Parties, and any other affected country Party within the framework of its Regional Implementation Annex, **to align their action programmes** and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with The Strategy by, inter alia, addressing the outcomes under the five Operational Objectives”. The COP also “*Requests* Parties to report on progress made in their implementation of The Strategy, based on the reporting guidelines to be considered at the ninth session of the COP (COP 9)”.
12. In accordance with COP 9 decision, the UNCCD and its Parties, with the technical and financial support from the GEF and UNEP, implemented in 2010 the first steps required for the practical implementation of the GEF funded, UNEP implemented and UNEP-WCMC executed Performance Review and Assessment of the Implementation System (PRAIS), the new monitoring and assessment framework of the Convention. Over 120 country Parties and other reporting entities successfully submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat their official reports using the new harmonized and indicator-based template made available through the PRAIS portal (www.unccd-prais.com). For the first time in the history of the Convention, this has allowed the establishment of a solid and quantitative baseline for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the Strategy, notably on awareness raising, financial flows and best practices on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) technologies. This achievement highly recognized by Parties during CRIC 9 and CRIC10, as GEF support to the Convention through UNEP and the UNCCD Secretariat efforts, has really materialized the paradigm shift in the convention implementation.
13. In reviewing the preliminary results from the 2010 Reporting and Review process, the ninth meeting of the CRIC (CRIC9) confirmed that the adoption of the PRAIS system represents a major and fundamental step forward towards improved evidence-based decision-making within the UNCCD. The Parties confirmed their strong commitment to the full implementation of PRAIS, including through the incorporation of the impact indicators⁷ during the 2012 reporting exercise, and called for further improvement of the approach

⁷ Documents relevant to the impact indicators are: ICCD/COP(10)/CST/2 Report on the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3; ICCD/COP(10)/CST/3 Template and reporting guidelines on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 for affected country Parties; ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.1 Report on the scientific peer review for the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3; ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.2 Report on the pilot tracking exercises for the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3; ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.6; Methodological guide on the use of impact indicators to measure progress against strategic objectives 1, 2

and strengthening of the capacity building activities for country Parties⁸. Furthermore, the analysis of the progress made against the Performance Indicator CONS-O-10⁹ for outcomes 3.3 and 3.4 of The Strategy, shows that amongst the over 120 reporting countries only two (2) had already a NAP fully aligned to the Strategy (ICCD/CRIC9/5). In this respect, CRIC 9 has clearly identified NAP alignment as a priority for the UNCCD and called for intensification of efforts in this respect by affected Parties, including through the financial assistance of the GEF Secretariat (ICCD/CRIC9/16 p 5-6).

14. Taking into consideration decisions taken by Parties at COP 10, the current project aims to support national actions that contribute to the overall strategic goal of the GEF in the Land Degradation Focal Area to increase capacities of countries to fulfil their obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD. The long term objective is to contribute to better targeted investments in sustainable land management worldwide achieved through country-driven, results-based NAPs aligned with The Strategy and based on solid, scientific knowledge on impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and sustainable land management (SLM) responses. The immediate objective of the project is to support the NAP alignment and 2012 reporting process by providing direct financial and limited technical support to Countries.
15. **COMPONENT 1: NAP revision and alignment.** Under this component, the key outcome is “20 Countries have aligned their NAPs with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and institutionalized them within future government development framework”. The outputs will be: **Output 1.1.** “NAP Submitted that are aligned according to UNCCD guidance and validated at country level”, **Output 1.2.** “Measures taken to mainstream aligned NAP with UNCCD 10 Years Strategy in UNDAF process and dialogue with other donors at country level”. Countries utilizing GEF resources will implement NAP alignment-related activities such as stocktaking, consultations, and revision of policies and programmes. The aligned NAPs will be linked to national development agenda, a rigorous UNCCD reporting and review process, including national-level impact indicators and tracking tools, based on the performance and impact indicators called for by the COP. National reporting tools will be utilized by the countries and linked to national processes, encouraging a feedback loop with the UNCCD’s Strategic Objectives. The project will liaise with the responsible unit of the UNCCD Secretariat on approaches and technical assistance for action programme alignment, where appropriate.
16. **COMPONENT 2: 2012 Reporting and Review process.** The key outcome from the execution of the component is “Outcome 2: Countries have prepared and submitted their national reports for the second leg of the 4th reporting and review process”. The key output under the component will be: Output 2.1. National reports that include impact performance indicators and approved by COP9 prepared and submitted by 20 countries. On the basis of information made available by the UNCCD Secretariat as part of its work to facilitate reporting, countries utilizing GEF resources for this component will address national level priorities related to the reporting and review process. It is expected that countries will be in a position to take full advantage of services delivered by the UNCCD Secretariat and the GM according to their respective mandates and within the limit of their approved budget, including revised templates and an upgraded PRAIS portal so that information can be uploaded onto the global database. The project will liaise closely with the UNCCD Secretariat/GM in order to fine-tune timelines of activities relating to reporting at global/regional levels (UNCCD Secretariat) and national level (the project).
17. **COMPONENT 3: Umbrella Coordination and Helpdesk to national-level activities for NAP Alignment and 2012 Reporting and Review process (accepted and financed through the first Umbrella project, to which this project is an Add- On).** This add – on project will be coordinated by UNEP as Implementing Agency through a Project Coordination Assistant who will be recruited under this component (carried out and financed by the first umbrella project) and will be under the supervision of the UNEP Task

and 3; ICCD/COP(10)/CST/4-ICCD/CRIC(10)/14 Guidelines for the preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from Parties and other reporting entities.

⁸ ICCD/CRIC(9)/16, p.15, paragraph 84, 87 and 88; p. 16, paragraph 91; and p. 17, paragraph 105.

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

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

Manager. The key outcome is “Outcome 3: Strengthened national capacity and systems for assessment of socio-economic and biophysical baseline of DLDD to inform NAP revision, implementation and monitoring, including data gathering and country-relevant indicators”. The key output from the component will be: Output 3.1: Practical guidance and know-how on NAP alignment and UNCCD 2012 indicators based (Performance and Impacts) reporting. The Project Coordination Assistant will (i) liaise with country teams to support the national level processes; (ii) support countries with comments on the process and the content of the outputs prepared; and (iii) assist the UNEP Task Manager in all non-oversight roles. The UNEP Project Coordination Assistant liaises with financial staff of UNEP to develop the 20 Small Scale Financial Agreements (SSFA) with countries, disburse funds and support countries on questions on funds. A limited amount of online technical assistance will be provided for national stakeholders to meet minimum requirements in delivering reports using Performance Indicators (assistance provided by UNCCD Secretariat through co-financing) and Impact Indicators and advising on NAP alignment (assistance provided by the UNEP-WCMC on sub-contractual basis paid through the first umbrella). The technical support will take the form of ad hoc distance guidance to national teams and basic online resources including an existing collaboration tool (‘Basecamp’) developed during the UNCCD Impact Indicator Pilot Tracking Exercise (www.impact-pilot.unccd.int) for participating countries to share documents and experiences, enabling peer-to-peer support.

18. The UNEP Project Coordination Assistant and UNEP Task Manager will be supported in these tasks by UNEP-WCMC on sub-contractual basis paid through first umbrella project. The decision to use UNEP-WCMC to support the project execution is governed by (i) the recognized experience of the centre in the Rio Conventions processes, (ii) the experience and highly satisfactory results of the centre in supporting UNCCD Parties during the PRAIS project, (iii) the experience of the centre in providing Helpdesk support on Impact Indicators during their successful piloting through 11 countries in collaboration with UNCCD Secretariat; and (iv) the increasing work of the centre in supporting DLDD global agenda particularly by coordination the development of the UN Common response to drylands (UNEMG 2011 Global Drylands: A UN system-wide response). UNEP-WCMC and the UNCCD have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in which they agree to collaborate on PRAIS and capacity building related to monitoring, indicators assessment and reporting, in order to support the implementation of The Strategy. UNEP-WCMC will assign staffs situated in Cambridge UK who support the Project Coordination Assistant on the Helpdesk function and creation of a common database that will provide technical guidance to countries on NAP alignment and Impact Indicator reporting processes. Under this component, the project will also support the Terminal Evaluation, facilitating the assessment of project achievements and more importantly will draw lessons that will inform the future GEF and other partners’ investments and cooperation for UNCCD Enabling Activities.
19. **Project Coordinating Committee (PCC):** The Project Coordinating Committee has membership from UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, the GEF Secretariat and other relevant partner’s institutions. The PCC will closely coordinate with the UNCCD Secretariat and the GM on matters pertaining to services delivered by those entities and the project timeframe. The PCC will meet virtually or during other global events at no cost to this project.
20. **Modality of application for funds by individual countries:** Although there will be one combined Project Document (ProDoc), UNEP received 20 individual country endorsement letters that have been submitted to the GEF Secretariat. After the ProDoc approval, UNEP will further sign a legally binding SSFA with each of the 20 participating countries for execution of the project. A special notification will be issued with necessary instructions in the SSFA. The SSFA will make special provisions on i) how each country will mainstream the aligned NAP with its national development strategies/priorities including in the dialogue with donors and consideration by the Ministry in Charge of planning, and ii) how gender, indigenous people and CSO will be considered at national level.

B. 2. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

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

B.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read [Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF.](#)"

22. By supporting results-based planning and evidence-based decision-making in the areas of SLM and DLDD, the project is expected to have wide benefits for drylands populations, notably women and other vulnerable groups. NAPs drive implementation of UNCCD at the national level and effective monitoring systems are crucial to inform national and international decision-makers, as well as the public about current trends in a timely and policy-relevant manner. By developing best practice guidance, the project will contribute to ensuring all norms regarding social and environmental safeguards including gender considerations, that means (i) inclusiveness of both men and women in project and implementation of the national consultation processes; (ii) inclusiveness for marginalized and poor communities in the consultations; (iii) collecting of gender disaggregated data and information where possible, and (vi) analysis and articulation of relationships between DLDD and human well-being and poverty reduction, through the impact indicators and the anticipated socio-economic impacts of the aligned NAPs on the national development agenda.
23. In order to enable UNEP to track how consideration of socio-economic benefits and gender dimensions are addressed by Parties, the SSFA will include a provision that these considerations including CSO participation in national processes, should be reflected in the aligned NAPs and/or reporting process. In addition, the Helpdesk will assist in ensuring social/gender issues are integrated in the NAPs and national reports

B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

Risk Type	Risk Probability	Potential Impact	Risk mitigation measures
<p>Political and institutional risks: Limited uptake of NAP alignment and adoption of the impact indicators due to lack or insufficient capacity at national level.</p>	Medium	Medium	<p>The project relies on services delivered at global level by the Convention’s bodies. Although these institutions are duty bound to provide services to Parties on reporting and alignment according to their mandate and COP decisions, the quantity and the quality of such services highly depend on voluntary contributions still to be secured at the time this MSP is developed.</p> <p>Parties have already identified and confirmed NAP alignment and improved</p>

<p>NAP alignment and reporting to the UNCCD may be considered as a lower priority for developing countries</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>DLDD assessment as a major priority during CRIC 9. The country driven approach of the project will minimize risk.</p> <p>The UNCCD activities will be mainstreamed in the national development strategies and policies demonstrating the national benefits of enhanced monitoring and assessment of DLDD issues achieved through the UNCCD process. Parties' confirmation of NAP alignment as priority (80% of NAP should be aligned by 2014 according to the COP 8 decision) will also favour to mitigate the risk.</p>
<p>Financial risk: Limited availability of financial resources was identified as a major constraint by CRIC9 both for the process of NAP alignment and the reporting process.</p> <p>Insufficient resources to support country level activities through Technical assistance which may result in poor or late project outputs delivery</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>To mitigate this risk and in support of the country drivenness policy promoted by GEF Secretariat, the project will provide GEF resources at country level to support stakeholders' involvement and consultations, , and strong linkage with national development agendas. These GEF catalytic resources will foster ownership and a country-driven process (reporting in 2012 and NAP alignment by 2014) which will provide an enabling environment for more resources mobilization to combat desertification at national levels.</p> <p>The project Helpdesk will be remotely supporting countries in the process (2012 reporting and NAP alignment by 2014) although the available resources for this function may not be sufficient to support cost of full time qualified personnel to support the project.</p>
<p>Project timeframe: Potential lack of capacity in the participating countries for implementing the EAs in time</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Following the experience in 2010, Parties at COP10 called for a six month period for the next reporting cycle in order to allow time to negotiate partnerships for e.g., data access.</p> <p>The project will adhere as much as possible to timelines set by the UNCCD convention process which necessitates close liaison with the Convention's institutions</p> <p>The timely availability of reporting tools and alignment guidelines, GEF funding</p>

			and the involvement of the UNCCD focal points at the national level will help countries to deliver on time (Reports in 2012 and NAP alignment by 2014). Each participating country will clarify how it will address the issues related to timeline set by the Convention Bodies for NAP alignment and reporting
Technical risk Complexities and limitations with regards to methodologies and data availability for the impact indicators and NAP baseline assessment. It should be highlighted that the impact indicator pilot study included a large number countries receiving support from the FAO Land Degradation Assessment (LADA) ¹⁰ programme and may not be representative of all affected countries.	High	High	The very minimal technical support offered will go some way towards overcoming the most pressing technical constraints. This minimal support however has a cost. An additional financial support on the Helpdesk will go a long way to minimize this risk and greatly enhance the chances of delivery project outputs/outcomes by 2012 for the National Reports and 2014 for NAP alignment.
Climate risk: In last 5 years, there have been climatic extremes in various regions and countries throughout the world, ranging from floods to concurrent droughts. If such extremes occur during the project period, there is a risk that stakeholders' attention will be diverted.	Low	Low	The capacity building strategy will focus on strengthening the causal relationships between climate risk and land degradation and evidence will be developed, notably in the drylands, to clearly show that appropriate monitoring and assessment of land degradation is an integral part of the adaptation measures being developed and promoted to address the risks associated with climate change.

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

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

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

B.6. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

26. The project design builds on the efficient resources use approach by envisaging to conduct both the NAP alignment and reporting with optimum resources. Combining NAP alignment and Reporting within the

¹⁰ FAO/LADA is a multi-year programme providing capacity building and technical assistance to participating countries that is not available to other countries. Furthermore, countries participating in the pilot study were selected the UNCCD CST Bureau to represent all UNCCD Annexes and not the different levels of capacity available among affected country Parties.

same project will enable a sizable number of countries (20) to benefit from centralized Helpdesk services and support in a cost effective manner, result in coordinated actions at the national level and benefit from synergistic effects through interactions between the two processes. The majority of project funds will be directed to country-level activities with only limited amounts spent on project management and technical support and assistance. Supporting national process on indicator reporting and NAP alignment will The performance and impact indicators will enable sound, rigorous and scientific sound assessments at the national and regional levels on both the Convention implementation and areas of high national priorities, such as land degradation trends and the impact of mitigation measures, plus it will allow for long term planning for SLM as well as enhance synergy with the other Conventions (CBD, UNFCCC) at national level. In combination, these outcomes will result in a very cost-effective project in general and particularly in terms of GEF resources invested, as the country driven approach will make possible.

B.7. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

27. The project will build on the work already done by the UNCCD Secretariat in terms of awareness raising and consultation with Parties in the field of NAP alignment. The action will also build on the achievements of the UNEP-GEF Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) project and on the findings of the refinement of the set of impact indicators to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Strategy. The PRAIS project has built a momentum in which regional centres utilized to support countries are taking more active role in supporting UNCCD activities in their region. Some of these centres including CILSS and COMIFAC are developing partnership with other donors to support UNCCD capacity building needs in their respective region. This umbrella project will build synergies with these processes and create linkage on how to make the activities complementary.
28. The establishment of monitoring and assessment systems at the various levels will be synergistic as much as possible with the monitoring and reporting needs of the other Rio Conventions. The project will particularly gain lessons from the on-going UNEP/GEF pilot project on piloting integrated processes and approaches to facilitate national reporting to Rio Conventions (FNR_Rio) which may provide an additional opportunity to field test the impact indicators and their integration into national monitoring systems in the six recipient countries.
29. UNEP/GEF PRAIS project has supported regional coordination of UNCCD processes through the establishment of Regional Centres which play an active role. Some of these regional centres (e.g. CILSS, COMIFAC) have taken steps in mobilizing partnership at regional level to support UNCCD process through implementation of important baseline projects. UNEP will ensure through this umbrella project, synergies with these initiatives.
30. In relation with linkage with United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Delivering as ONE UNEP Regional Coordinators in relevant regions will ensure that project is mainstreamed into UNDAF and follow up with project task manager to facilitate the integration of project activities are reflected into UNDAF results matrixes in the UNDAF roll out countries either during the strategic programmes retreat or at annual reviews

C. GEF AGENCY INFORMATION:

C.1 Confirm the co-financing amount the GEF agency brings to the project:

31. UNEP cooperates with Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and support collaboration among such agreements, in order to facilitate their effective implementation. UNEP's baseline of work enhances the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, promotes Rio Convention synergies, and promotes a Green Economy paradigm, through e.g., building home-grown (national) expertise, including capacity for South-South cooperation, environmental leadership; and Linking processes and outputs from GEF funding for Enabling Activities with cross-cutting capacity development projects, for greater synergies, cost effectiveness and impact. The UNEP in-kind contribution to the umbrella projects is estimated at \$100,000 over the two years project duration. This amount represent (i) the staff time to develop the project document as no PPG resources will be requested from GEF Trust Fund, (ii) as it is clear the handling of 70 countries both in term of investment for

communication and additional Staff time to manage the SSFA will go beyond the Agency fee from this project, (iii) office equipment and other forms of support that will be provided to the Project Coordination Assistant.

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

C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

33. At corporate level, the project is in line with UNEP's Programme of Work 2012-2013, notably sub-programme 4: Environmental Governance. Its expected accomplishments are: (d) Improved access by national and international stakeholders to sound science and policy advice for decision-making; (b) Enhanced capacity of States to implement their environmental obligations and achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives through strengthened institutions and the implementation of laws; and The United Nations system, respecting the mandate of each entity, progressively achieves synergies and demonstrates increasing coherence in international decision-making processes related to the environment, including those under multilateral environmental agreements; sub-programme 3: Ecosystem Management, expected accomplishments (c) Strengthened capacity of countries and regions to realign their environmental programmes to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services, and (a) Enhanced capacity of countries and regions to integrate an ecosystem management approach into development planning processes. In addition, UNEP was mandated through Bali Strategic Action Plan to support countries capacity building and the UNEP Governing Council Decision 21/1 commits UNEP to supporting UNCCD. Finally, to enforce its commitment to the DLDD issues, UNEP is actually developing a Drylands Strategy, which, when finalized will confirm at corporate level, the consideration of UNCCD related activities as part of its entire programme of work.
34. GEF funding will be provided to country Parties for implementation of national-level activities that will be coordinated by the relevant UNCCD Focal Point. The disbursement of the funds to national governments will be in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration, relying as much as possible on existing national procedures in order to foster ownership and accountability. Where applicable, in the spirit of the UN reform, the project will also foster and rely on UN inter-agency cooperation at the national level, particularly through cooperation with UNDP country offices, including for administration of project funds in accordance with standard inter-agency procedures (i.e. UPL).
35. The UNEP Project Coordination Assistant and UNEP Task Manager will be supported in their tasks by UNEP-WCMC on sub-contractual basis. The decision to use UNEP-WCMC to support the project execution is governed by (i) the recognized experience of the centre in the Rio Conventions processes, (ii) the experience and highly satisfactory results of the centre in supporting UNCCD parties during the PRAIS project, (iii) the experience of the centre in providing Helpdesk support on Impact Indicators during their successful piloting through 11 countries in collaboration with UNCCD Secretariat; and (iv) the increasing work of the centre in supporting DLDD global agenda particularly by coordination the development of the UN Common response to drylands. UNEP-WCMC and the UNCCD have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in which they agree to collaborate on PRAIS and capacity building related to monitoring, indicators assessment and reporting, in order to support the implementation of The Strategy. UNEP-WCMC will assign staffs situated in Cambridge UK who support the Project Coordination Assistant on the Helpdesk function and creation of a common data base that will provide technical guidance to countries on NAP alignment and reporting process. Under this component, the project will also support the Terminal Evaluation, facilitating the assessment of project achievements and more importantly will draw lessons that will inform the future GEF and other partners' investments and cooperation for UNCCD Enabling Activities.

PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT:

- 36. UNEP** is the Implementing Agency for this GEF project. UNEP shall in its role as GEF Implementing Agency, provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. It shall also in partnership with the UNCCD Secretariat and other project partners (e.g. UNEP-WCMC, GM) engage in promoting the project with a view to mobilize scientific expertise. The UNEP Regional Offices in each region will play an important role in facilitation and ensuring liaison with UNEP Headquarter for the delivery of project outputs. The UNEP Regional Coordinators for the Delivery as One United Nations will ensure that UN Countries Teams (UNCT) consider mainstreaming of DLDD in the UNDAF processes that will take place in the coming years.
- 37. National UNCCD Focal Points (NFPs):** At the national level, the project activities will be coordinated by the UNCCD National Focal Point. He/she will bear overall responsibility for the execution of the project activities under the supervision of the National Executing Agency, and act as national representative, facilitating inter-agency coordination and guide the execution of the project in each country. The National Execution Agency (NEA), will establish a National Coordinating Body which ensure the responsibility of directing the national activities toward producing the national report and an aligned NAP to the 10 Years Strategy. The NFP will ensure that capacity needed at national level for reporting process and NAP alignment are provided to relevant stakeholders either with use of national expertise or with the support of the Help Desks established by UNEP, UNCCD and GM Secretariats.
- 38. UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism:** The UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism will provide within their mandates technical and political guidance on the NAP alignment and reporting. Their regional coordination units established by COP 9 are additional support to the timely implementation of the project. Both institutions will provide conceptual and substantive input to the process and hence ensure that the project is fully embedded in a broader framework for monitoring implementation of not only UNCCD affected, but also other development partners. Information provided to the Secretariat by Parties will be analyzed by the two institutions and processed for CRIC 11.

B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:

- 39. UNEP** is the Implementing Agency for this GEF project. UNEP shall in its role as GEF Implementing Agency, provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. Project supervision is entrusted to the Director of UNEP/DEPI who discharges this responsibility through the assigned Task Manager who represents the Director of DEPI on the project steering committee. Project supervision missions by the Task Manager and/or Fund Management Officer shall constitute part of the project supervision plan. UNEP/GEF would perform the liaison function between UNEP and the GEF Secretariat and report on the progress against milestones outlined in the CEO approval letter to the GEF Secretariat. The UNEP/DEPI shall inform the GEF Secretariat whenever there is a potentially substantive co-financing change (i.e. one affecting the project objectives, the underlying concept, scale, scope, strategic priority, conformity with GEF criteria, likelihood of project success, or outcome of the project). It shall rate, on a periodic basis, progress in meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation. UNEP/DEPI will report to the GEF Secretariat through the Project Implementation Review (PIR) report prepared by the Project Coordination Assistant and ensures that the UNEP Evaluation Office arranges for an independent terminal evaluation and submits its report to the GEF Evaluation Office. In order to ensure overall coherence with the Convention process and taking into consideration the fact that this project is meant to increase capacities of UNCCD Parties vis-a-vis the Convention, UNEP/DEPI through the TASK Manager assisted by Project Coordination Assistant, will also work in close consultation with the UNCCD Secretariat and GM on all issues relating to deadlines and deliverables under the project.

40. **UNEP-WCMC¹¹** will support the project execution through a Help Desk function. UNEP-WCMC will assign staffs situated in Cambridge UK who support the Project Coordination Assistant on the Help Desk function and creation of a common data base that will provide technical guidance to countries on NAP alignment and reporting process.
41. As Executing Partner, **UNCCD Secretariat**, representing the depositary of the Convention is consulted in all aspects of the project through the Steering Committee and regular contacts. UNCCD primary responsibility is to advice on timely and effective coordination of the project activities as they relate to the overall reporting exercise that includes reports not only from all affected country Parties¹² but those from development partners. The Secretariat will be providing overall guidance as regards timelines and project implementation to ensure that CRIC receives input for the review of Convention implementation at all levels. It will ensure coherence in the approach across regions and reporting entities as well as provide an interface for reporting from civil society organizations (as requested by COP) through regional coordination units established by COP 9. Documentation resulting from reports will be jointly produced by the Secretariat and the GM for review of Parties at the level of the CRIC. Assistance for the sub-regional and regional syntheses will be in accordance with country Party guidance.
42. As Executing partner, **the Global Mechanism (GM)** is involved in the synthesis documents provided by the secretariat to CRIC. The GM will particularly participate in the Steering Committee and will advise through its Helpdesk on guidelines and tools for the Standard Financial Annexes and Programme and Project Sheet.
43. **Project Coordinating Committee (PCC)**: The Project Coordinating Committee has membership from UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, the GEF Secretariat and other relevant partner's institutions. The PCC will closely coordinate with the UNCCD Secretariat and the GM on matters pertaining to services delivered by those entities and the timeframe set. The PCC will meet virtually or during other global events at no cost to this project.
44. **As Executing partner at country level, the National Executing Agencies (NEAs)**, will have Overall responsibility at the national level. The NEAs will implement the project in collaboration with other national (eg. Ministry in charge of planning), provincial and local government agencies, NGOs, private sector and local communities. In order to ensure joint programming of GEF interventions with related projects, formal and informal inter-agency links will be maintained. Each NEA will sign Small Funding Agreement (SSF), receive funds from UNEP and international technical assistance through the Help Desk which will be jointly conducted by UNEP Project Coordination Assistant, UNEP-WCMC, UNCCD and GM Secretariats.
45. The project approach of pulling the GEF resources at country level, aims at supporting countries to fulfil their obligations at the same time put in place national mechanisms to ensure national capacity building, establishment of long term coordination mechanism and sustainable implementation of UNCCD through mainstreaming of DLDD in relevant national sectors.
46. **National Coordinating Body (NCBs)**: the UNCCD National Coordinating Body, where established or any other existing committee dealing with sustainable management of natural resources will provide guidance to the project and monitor progress and performance. The UNCCD NCB will serve under its national mandate and will monitor and review progress on an annual basis. The NCB will be chaired by the Head of the NEA or his representative. The UNCCD NFP will act as the NCB's secretary. In line with the COP 9 recommendation, it will be an obligation to have at least one (1) Civil Society Organisation (CSO) active in the SLM activities, in the NCB. In order to avoid proliferation of national committees, the project will make use of existing national consultation structures in order to discharge the workload of the project and seek synergies at national level.
47. **National Action Programmes (NAPs)** drive implementation of UNCCD at the national level and effective

¹¹ The WCMC has strong advantages as the executing agency for this project. This includes extensive past work on reporting to the Conventions, harmonizing reporting for biodiversity-related conventions as well as among the Rio Conventions, and knowledge management on indicators. From 2006-2008, UNEP-WCMC worked with the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and the secretariats of six biodiversity-related conventions and agreements on a project on Knowledge Management. This work included the preparation of studies on joint core reporting elements for biodiversity-related agreements including UNCCD. UNEP-WCMC is also the official Secretariat of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership which includes knowledge management for global and national-level impact indicators (see www.twentyten.net).

¹² Including those not covered by the present project proposal.

monitoring systems are crucial to inform national and international decision-makers, as well as the public about current trends in a timely and policy-relevant manner. The project will ensure all norms regarding social and environmental safeguards including gender considerations by ensuring (i) inclusiveness of both men and women in project formulation and implementation of the national consultation processes; (ii) ensuring inclusiveness for marginalized and poor communities in the consultations; (iii) collecting of gender disaggregated data and information where possible, and (vi) analysis and articulation of relationship of DLDD to human well being and poverty reduction, through the impact indicators and the anticipated socioeconomic impacts of the aligned NAPs on the national development agenda.

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

49. Terms and obligations of UNEP

UNEP agrees to:

- a) Provide, in its role as GEF implementing agency, project oversight (through the Task Manager and Fund Management officer). Specifically this will include:
- b) Timely feedback on all substantive and financial issues;
- c) Provide technical support and assistance to the project on a need basis and where required;
- d) Ensure communication and information exchange between the Executing Agency, UNEP, and all other relevant organizations, institutions, programmes and projects;
- e) Liaise with the GEF Secretariat, UNCCD and GM for all matters related to the UNCCD Reporting.

50. Terms and obligations of the Executing Agency

The Executing Agency agrees to:

- a) Provide support to, and liaise with, the various project stakeholders based on guidance from UNEP Task Manager and UNCCD Secretariat;
- b) Implement the project activities in accordance with standard Executing Agency Rules and established business processes;
- c) Make available to the project the cash and in-kind co-financing as set out in **Annex 11** from the Executing Agency and make its best efforts to ensure that all pledged third party co-financing materializes or undertake resources mobilization efforts to compensate for any shortfall in co-financing;
- d) Report to UNEP in accordance with **paragraphs 29 to 31** of this Agreement.
- e) Establish or use a National Coordinating Body /Committee in charge of UNCCD activities to direct the project activities and ensure the committee gains adequate capacity to direct the process
- f) Ensure that CSO, Indigenous Group participation and Gender issues are included in the process and reflected in aligned NAPs;
- g) Establish a long term mechanism for UNCCD implementation at national level;
- h) Take and report measures to mainstream NAP in relevant national sectors and policies.
- i) Take and report measures to mainstream NAP in United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and dialogue with other donors.

PART IV: EXPLAIN THE ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF

n/a

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

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


	NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
	Name	Title	Ministry	Date
1.	Hassan Haji Ibrahim	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Environment, Federal Government of Somali Republic	1 st March, 2012
2	Chote Trachu	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of National Resources and Environment, Thailand	28 May, 2012
3.	Pham Quoc Hung	GEF Operational Focal Point	Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, Vietnam	19 June, 2012
4.	Ahmed Saleem	Permanent Secretary, GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives	28 June, 2012
5.	Dr. Rose Mukankomeje	Director and GEF Operational Focal Point	Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) Rwanda	17 July, 2012
6.	Dr. Babujer Abdakka Ubragun	Undersecretary	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development, Sudan	26 February, 2012
7.	Hla Maung Thein	GEF Operational Focal Point, Director	Environment Division Planning and Statistics Department, Ministry of environmental Conservation and Forestry, Myanmar	8 June, 2012

8.	Dr. Tewolde Berhan G./Egziabher	Director General	Environmental Protection Authority, The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	19 July, 2012
9.	Marilla Telema Manjate	Director	Directorate of Cooperation Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs Mozambique	20 July, 2012
10.	Dr. Fatma Abou Shouk	Ag. Chief Executive Officer/EEAA GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency Egypt	1 July, 2012
11.	Aloysius Kamperewera (PhD)	Ag. Director and GEF Focal Point	Environmental Affairs Department Malawi	30 May, 2012
12.	Teofulis Nghitila	Environmental Commissioner	Office of the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment and Tourism Namibia	16 August, 2012
13.	Dana A. Kartakusuma	GEF Operational Focal Point/Assistant Minister, Economy and Sustainable Development	Economy and Sustainable Development Indonesia	14 March, 2012
14.	Ali Mansoor	Financial Secretary and GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Mauritius	21 August, 2012
15.	Kim Downes Agard	Environmental Officer	Ministry of Environment and Drainage Barbados	22 August, 2012
16.	Mogos Wolde Yohannis	GEF Operational Focal Point and Political Director General	Ministry of Land, Water & Environment Eritrea	27 August, 2012

17.	Alamir Sinna Toure	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministere de l'Environnement et de l'Assainissement Mali	19 December, 2011
18.	JD Vilakati	GEF Operational Focal Point/Executive Director	Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Swaziland	27 August, 2012
19.	Martin Alegria	GEF Operational Focal Point and Chief Environmental Officer	Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries & Sustainable Development Belize	27 July, 2012
20.	Ximena George-Nascimento	GEF Focal Point	Office of International Affairs, Ministry of Environment Chile	4 September, 2012

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Maryam Niamir- Fuller Director, UNEP GEF Coordination Office maryam.niamirfuller@unep.org		10-03-2012	Adamou Bouhari	+254 20 762 3860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (*Component 3 is being funded by Umbrella 1*)

Objectives and Outcomes / Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Baseline / Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Project Objective				
To facilitate access to GEF funding by 20 countries for Enabling Activities to meet their obligations under the UNCCD by supporting NAP alignment and 2012 reporting process	<p>20 countries access GEF funds to fulfil their obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD</p> <p>20 National Reports prepared and submitted to UNCCD</p> <p>20 Aligned NAPs with UNCCD 10 Years Strategy</p> <p>A functional Help Desk</p>	<p>Baseline: a) only 2 countries have aligned their NAPs with the 10 year Strategy and b) No country submitted its 2nd leg of 4th Reporting and Review Process</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 countries gain access to GEF funding for NAP alignment and reporting - 20 countries prepare and submit their National by Report to UNCCD by end of 2012 - 20 Countries aligned their NAP with the UNCCD 10 Years Strategy at the end of the project - A functional Help Desk service to support UNCCD Parties for NAP alignment and reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP report - COP/CRIC documents - Terminal Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political will: NAP alignment and reporting to the UNCCD considered as a high priority in the 20 countries - GEF endorses project - Resources are made available in time
Outcomes (and Outputs)				
Component 1: NAP revision and Alignment				
Outcome 1: 20 Countries have aligned their NAPs with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and institutionalized them within future government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 aligned NAPs submitted to UNCCD CRIC 11/12 	<p>Baseline: COP10 by Decision 2 urges affected country Parties to align their NAP with the 10 Year Strategy and CRIC 9 clearly identified NAP alignment as</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 countries NAPs aligned with UNCCD 10 Years Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial: Countries gain access to GEF funding to enable NAP alignment process. Resources available are sufficient to fund

development framework		a priority for the UNCCD and called for intensification of efforts in this respect (ICCD/COP10/31/Add.1). Only two countries aligned their NAPs Target: 80% of 20 countries submit aligned NAPs to CRIC 11 and all 20 countries by CRIC 12		required national activities. - Technical: Guidance provided by UNCCD Secretariat and support through this project are relevant and sufficient. - Political: Countries engage in the NAP alignment process.
Output 1.1. NAP Submitted that are aligned according to UNCCD guidance and validated at country level	100% of eligible Parties that have received GEF funds submit aligned NAP	Actually, 3 countries out of the 20 participating in this project (5.77)% of countries aligned their NAPs Target: 100% of participating countries.	- COP/CRIC documents - Terminal Evaluation	- Political will: NAP alignment and reporting to the UNCCD considered as a high priority in the 20 countries - GEF endorses project - Resources are made available in time
Output 1.2. Measures taken to mainstreamed NAP aligned with UNCCD 10 Years Strategy in UNDAF process and dialogue with other donors at country level	50% of eligible Parties that have received GEF funds through the umbrella project and under taken UNDAF process in next 2 years reported that they consider UNDAF and dialogue with other donors in the aligned NAP	Base line will be established at the start- up of the countries NAP alignment process Target: 50 % of the 20 countries participating to the Umbrella project	Countries Reports Aligned NAPs	- There will be new UNDAF processes in the Participating Countries - National Government and UNCT have political will to consider DLDD in the UNDAF processes and dialogue with other donors
Component 2: 2012 Reporting and Review				
Outcome 2: Countries have prepared and submitted their national reports for the second leg of the 4th reporting and review process	- 20 national reports on impact and performance before the end of the 2012 reporting and review process. - 20 national reports and completed reports analyzed for CRIC 11	Baseline: COP8 by Decision 3 requests Parties to report on progress made in their implementation of The Strategy Target: 100% of 20 countries submit their	- National reports available from UNCCD Secretariat - CRIC 11 documents	- Financial: Countries gain access to GEF funding to enable reporting during the 2012 reporting and review process. Resources available are sufficient to fund

		national reports. 80% of countries submit on time		required national activities. - Technical: Technical support provided is relevant and sufficient. Data for reporting on indicators are available. - Political: Countries engage in reporting process.
Output 2.1. National reports that include impact performance indicators and approved by COP9 prepared and submitted by 20 countries	100% of eligible Parties that have received GEF funds prepare and submit their reports	Baseline: 0% of 2012 reporting submitted to date Target: 20 National Reports	- National reports available from UNCCD Secretariat - CRIC 11 documents	Financial resources and technical assistance available in time.
Component 3(Funded under Umbrella 1): Project management and Helpdesk services to national-level activities for NAP Alignment and 2012 Reporting and Review process*				
Outcome 3: Strengthened national capacity and systems for assessment of socio-economic and biophysical baseline of DLDD to inform NAP revision, implementation and monitoring, including data gathering and country-relevant indicators	- A functional Help Desk for countries reporting on impact and performance indicators and for aligning their NAP - 20 Small Scale Financial Agreements (SSFAs) signed by UNEP and countries	Baseline: Little/no understanding of UNCCD impact indicators, as countries are reporting for the first time on impact indicators. 3% of countries have aligned their NAP. Target: 20 countries have sufficient technical and financial capacity to meet minimum requirements in delivering reports and aligning NAPs	- Technical report on Helpdesk support published - Small Scale Financial Agreements (SSFAs) available from UNEP	- Countries request support from Helpdesk - Resources available for Helpdesk are sufficient, especially for needs of lower capacity countries. - UNEP Project Coordination Assistant is recruited in time to negotiate SSFAs
Output 3.1: Practical guidance and know-how on NAP alignment and UNCCD 2012 indicators based (Performance and Impacts) reporting				

*Please note that Component 3 is being funded by Umbrella 1 project

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT USING GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ Person Week*</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks**</i>	<i>Tasks To Be Performed</i>
For Project Management			
Local			
International			
Project Manager			
Justification for travel, if any:			
For Technical Assistance			
Local			
International			
Justification for travel, if any:			

* Provide dollar rate per person week. ** Total person weeks needed to carry out the tasks.

ANNEX D: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

A. EXPLAIN IF THE PPG OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PPG ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN.

N/A

B. DESCRIBE FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF ANY:

NO PPG FUNDS WAS REQUESTED

C. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

<i>Project Preparation Activities Approved</i>	<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>				<i>Cofinancing (\$)</i>
		<i>Amount Approved</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>	<i>Uncommitted Amount*</i>	
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
Total		0	0	0	0	0

* Any uncommitted amounts should be returned to the GEF Trust Fund. This is not a physical transfer of money, but achieved through reporting and netting out from disbursement request to Trustee. Please indicate expected date of refund transaction to Trustee.

ANNEX E: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used) : N/A

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