



**REQUEST FOR MSP APPROVAL
(1-STEP PROCEDURE)
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund**

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Global Support Programme: Increasing the quantity and improving the quality of information for the review of implementation of the UNCCD Implementation		
Country(ies):	Global	GEF Project ID: ¹	5541
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	01202
Other Executing Partner(s):	Global Mechanism	Submission Date:	March 07, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	24 months
Name of parent program (if applicable):	n/a	Project Agency Fee (\$):	190,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
LD-4(select)	Outcome 4.1: Increased capacities of countries to fulfill obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD. <i>Indicator 4.1: Improved quality and timeliness of reporting compliance by countries</i>	Output 4.1 At least 50 countries implementing UNCCD priorities with improved monitoring of impacts at national level Output 4.2 All country investments in LD Objectives 1-3 are linked to UNCCD action programs and national reporting process	GEF TF	2,000,000	2,460,000
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
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(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
Total Project Cost				2,000,000	2,460,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

Project Objectives: Increased quantity and improved quality of information available for the review of implementation of the Convention

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
1. Capacity development	TA	Outcome 1: Improved capacities of UNCCD reporting entities for indicator-based reporting on Convention implementation using the new reporting guidelines and templates	<p>Output 1.1: Simplified reporting template made available</p> <p>Output 1.2: One (1) comprehensive guidance manual on reporting in at least the working languages of the UN made available to reporting entities</p> <p>Output 1.3: One (1) training package available in the working languages of the UN including modules covering all the sections of the new reporting templates and guidelines and the use of the revised PRAIS.</p> <p>Output 1.4: Training workshops on reporting held between April and May 2014 for each implementation annex of the Convention (Africa, Asia, LAC, CEE, Northern Mediterranean).</p>	GEFTF	925,224	1,935,000
	TA	Outcome 2: Technical Assistance Framework operational to facilitate the work at country level relating to the 2014-2015 reporting and review process	<p>Output 2.1: Regional backstopping system (e.g. regional consultants and dedicated RCU personnel) in place to provide ACPs with technical assistance on progress and performance indicators reporting.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Decentralised Helpdesk (online platform) operational and effective in providing answers and advice to reporting entities, on request.</p> <p>Output 2.3: Capacity Development Market Place available to Convention Parties</p>	GEFTF	484,500	80,000

2. Knowledge management	TA	Outcome 3: Improved UNCCD reporting systems (including simplified PRAIS) that facilitates reporting by all reporting entities.	Output 3.1: A simplified PRAIS reporting system is operational and made available on time in order to enable reporting entities to comply with reporting obligations in 2014 and harness its analytical potential. Output 3.2: A data quality framework (data compilation/input/extraction) is implemented to increase coherence and reliability of data and information provided by reporting entities	GEFTF	80,000	205,000	
	TA	Outcome 4: Improved UNCCD knowledge management and outreach system that facilitates national level M&E on DLDD as well as targeted analysis and dissemination of results.	Output 4.1: Progress indicators derived from existing datasets are made available to ACPs as default value for reporting in collaboration with other Rio Conventions and major data providers. Output 4.2: National M&E systems on CCD implementation strengthened. Output 4.3: System for targeted analysis and active dissemination of collected data for informed decision making on DLDD matters in place.	GEFTF	328,458	140,000	
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
	(select)			(select)			
Subtotal						1,818,182	2,360,000
Project Management Cost ³				(select)	181,818	100,000	
Total Project Cost					2,000,000	2,460,000	

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

³ PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Governments of participating countries	In-Kind	1,440,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	UNCCD Secretariat	Cash	240,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	UNCCD Secretariat	In-kind	250,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Global Mechanism	In-kind	295,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	100,000
(Inter) Governmental Organizations (select)	5 Workshop Host Organizations	In -Kind (select)	135,000
Total Cofinancing			2,460,000

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

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Land Degradation	Global	2,000,000	190,000	2,190,000
Total Grant Resources				2,000,000	190,000	2,190,000

¹ 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

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS: SEE ANNEX E FOR DETAIL

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants			
National/Local Consultants	300,000		300,000

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? N/A

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

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description. Briefly describe the project, including:

1.1. The global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

The mid-term evaluation of The Strategy presented at COP11 noted that reporting on progress made towards achieving the operational objectives has proven difficult, particularly during the fourth reporting process (2012 –2013). This is evident from the low levels of reporting by most Parties through the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS), for which a number of reasons were identified. All countries seemed to have problems with the complexity of the indicators used in reporting. Other problems were a lack of sufficient resources, as well as time to collect and analyze the data required for the report.

At COP11 in September 2013, CRIC12 stated that reporting rates by reporting parties decreased from the first to the second leg of the fourth reporting cycle. In 2012, the total number of 71 ACP countries submitted their reports for CRIC review, none of the CSO reporting entities submitted their reports, and only 3 sub-regional entities submitted reports out of the 3 regional entities and 13 sub-regional entities identified by the Regional Implementation Annexes (<http://www.unccd-prais.com/Data/Reports>). This, however, may be the consequence of a number of factors, including time constraints, decrease and the lack of a specific training programme in the second leg, as reported by Parties themselves.

Some major issues with the national reporting to the UNCCD were identified in the review made by the CRIC at its eleventh session in 2012 as well as in the assessment of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) for the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy:

- a. **The reduced number of reports**, which challenges the analysis of trends in achieving global targets and makes analysis across sub-regions inconsistent. There was a significant reduction in the number of reports received from 2010 to 2012 (from 64 to 45 per cent for affected, and from 30 to 22 per cent for developed country Parties). While 90 per cent of countries who reported in 2012 had also reported in 2010, they only constituted 40 per cent of the reports expected. Some 30 per cent of countries did not report in either round. The lack of capacity was noted as an important factor that has not allowed developing countries to report. Nearly all (96 per cent) ACP/DCPs indicated the need of having a global support programme in place that provides training and capacity-building at the regional/subregional level.
- b. **The quality of information provided**, which limits the reliability of some analysis and leads to controversial findings during the 2012 reporting process, a number of data quality issues were identified in the information provided by reporting entities. As the indicators for the operational objectives are not subject to measurement error, quality checks were confined to consistency/ reliability and credibility. Inconsistent data reported was not included in the analysis, reducing further the knowledge base of the assessment of implementation by the CRIC.
- c. **The limited use of knowledge on best practices on sustainable land management**: Parties recognized that making data reported through the PRAIS portal publically available and easily accessible - particularly on best practices - would bring many benefits. These include opportunities to

connect with other environmental processes and forums, raise awareness and advocate SLM approaches. Information on UNCCD best practices is not consolidated and not easily accessible, and Parties called for an integrated approach by leveraging synergies and cooperation among competent institutions and relevant organizations.

As main factors hampering an effective reporting process, Parties have identified include:

- Weak institutional capacity: some 40 per cent of the reporting countries did not have sufficient scientific and technical knowledge and personnel with experience in sustainable land management issues. National capacity remains the major issue for all those affected countries who could not report in 2012 (55 per cent).
- Complexity of the reporting process, difficulty in the compilation of data and time required for the preparation of the report are among the other main issues reported during the last cycle. Dedicated information systems on sustainable land management are operating in only very few countries.

1.2. The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

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) (“The Strategy”) has paved the way for a results-based approach to global and national efforts to combat desertification. 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. In adopting the Strategy, the COP “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”. Decision 3/COP 8 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)”.

The above COP provisions were complemented by specific recommendations made at the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7). At this session several topics were addressed regarding reporting, for instance: (i) the application and monitoring of the new and standardized reporting guidelines was addressed (par. 86), (ii) it was recommended that a process be established through which the Parties of a subregion or region could harmonize available information at the national level in order to prepare SRAPs and RAPs as appropriate, in the context of the forthcoming regional mechanisms (par. 102), and (iii) the need to develop an indicator system to support well-structured NAPs for data gathering and monitoring (par. 109). Ever since, Parties at the COPs have specified their requests to the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism for clearer guidelines, templates and support mechanisms for strengthening the capacities of the parties for planning and reporting DLDD activities.

The Strategy has taken the Convention to new ground. Most importantly, Parties have laid out a clear vision for a period of ten years in The Strategy, which is to forge global partnerships to reverse and prevent desertification and land degradation. These partnerships are also meant to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas. Coupled with the vision is a Strategy mission: To provide a global framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies that are to contribute to the reduction of poverty. Ever since its adoption, The Strategy has impacted both the quality and quantity of the Reports to the COPs as well as the National, Subregional and Regional Action Plans.

Following decision 3/COP.8, an Intersessional Working Group conducted an independent mid-term evaluation of The Strategy, which was presented at the eleventh session of the COP in 2013⁴. The overall finding is that there has been some progress towards achieving the objectives contained in The Strategy, but less than what was hoped. Many improvements are needed if The Strategy is to be implemented successfully. The IWG concluded that the adoption of The Strategy has contributed to a more focused, targeted and intense UNCCD process, and it has also led to efforts in the systematic monitoring and assessing of progress made by individual country Parties and by the Convention as whole. While numerous problems and challenges remain to be addressed, evidence to date suggests that there is a high likelihood of continued long-term benefits from implementing the Convention by way of The Strategy.

The Strategy's impact on reporting: The adoption of The Strategy enabled a new approach to reporting to come to its full fruition. The reporting guidelines developed on the basis of this approach 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.

At CRIC 7, the Parties drew lessons from the three reporting cycles conducted thus far and decided to start a process aimed at improving the procedures for communication of information and the quality and format of reports, and established an 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 new guidelines to : 1) be user-friendly, consistent, comprehensible and standardized; 2) facilitate comparison and consolidation at sub-regional, regional and global level; 3) facilitate progress assessments in the implementation of action programmes of The Strategy; 4) be concise yet comprehensive; 5) be in line with COP decisions; and 6) allow for the development of synergies with other reporting obligations. The AHWG also stressed that reports produced on the basis of these guidelines should concentrate on impacts achieved, and on the use of quantifiable indicators to measure progress against objectives.

A UNEP/GEF project was implemented in 2010-2011, to assist country Parties in meeting the new reporting obligations and submit information during the first leg of the third reporting cycle. An online reporting platform was established, and multilingual reporting tools were devised. Training and assistance offered during the reporting cycle through 14 sub-regional and regional reference centers. This approach proved very successful in increasing the response rate of countries for their reporting and assisting them in realigning their NAPs. Unfortunately, this approach was not continued during the 2011 – 2012 reporting cycle. For the reporting cycle to COP11, for enabling activities assistance through GEF, countries could choose, Direct Access (up to 150.000 \$), using a GEF Agency (up to \$150,000) or a UNEP umbrella project (50.000 \$ per country). In this cycle, as stated above, reporting dropped and now something has to be done urgently to address the problem and make sure that the investment that have been already made are sustained by additional technical assistance of the process.

⁴ Mid-term evaluation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018); Report by the Intersessional Working Group, ICCD/COP(11)/21, July 2013.

Recent developments: In response to calls for simplification and streamlining of national reporting for UNCCD at the most recent COP, the templates, guidelines, manuals and glossaries have been recently revised. The reporting templates for the 2014 reporting exercise for affected and developed country Parties are now available as simple Adobe PDF file, for Parties to familiarize themselves with the revised reporting requirements and to initiate the compilation of the information required for this cycles reporting. Country parties have been informed that, in order to compile and analyze the information submitted and prepare for the next session of the CRIC, national reports are expected to be submitted via the online facility by 30 June 2014.

The previous PRAIS Global Support Programme: The Performance Review and Assessment of the Implementation System (PRAIS) can be considered crucial in both the NAP alignment process as the reporting process. The UNEP/GEF project Enabling Paradigm Shift on Monitoring and Assessment within the UNCCD (GEF Grant: US\$2.54 million; Co-financing: US\$5.4 million) was approved in 2009 to support the development of a new "Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System" (PRAIS) for the Convention. With the technical and financial support from the GEF and UNEP⁵, the UNCCD and its Parties set the first steps required for the practical implementation of the PRAIS⁶. The overall goal was to strengthen Reporting and Review process for implementation of the Convention and its Ten Year Strategy and Action Plan. The main objective of the project was to "establish a scientifically rigorous and credible assessment of the performance of the implementation of the UNCCD at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels, and to build/strengthen capacity and knowledge management systems for subsequent assessments and reporting". Project results were well beyond expectations, and in less than 18 months from its start, the Convention was provided with the first quantitative, indicators-based global assessment of the performance in its implementation.

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) during the first online reporting cycle. For the first time in the history of the Convention, this allowed for 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. The previous Global project for PRAIS, offered a 360 degree capacity building programme, to which about 95% of the countries participated, even if not leading to a same percentage of reports. This achievement was highly recognized by Parties during CRIC 9 and CRIC10, as GEF support to the Convention through UNEP and the UNCCD Secretariat efforts, really materialized the paradigm shift in the convention implementation.

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 represented a major and fundamental step forward towards improved evidence-based decision-making within the UNCCD. The Parties confirmed their strong commitment to the full implementation of PRAIS, including through the incorporation of the impact indicators during the 2012 reporting exercise, and called for further improvement of the approach and strengthening of the capacity building activities for country Parties.

The project closed in 2011, with a terminal evaluation highlighting significant achievements toward the creation of a "consistent, evidence-based means of assessing performance that will be of fundamental value to all stakeholders, and hence, centrally relevant to the programs and objectives of UNEP and GEF in drylands, Sustainable Land Management, and DLDD." In the CRIC12 report for the COP, a survey among parties revealed that the delivery of

⁵ UNEP implemented and UNEP-WCMC executed

⁶ GEF project 4017 (Enabling Paradigm Shift on Monitoring and Assessment within the UNCCD - Piloting the Reporting of the Performance Indicators 2010).

data through the PRAIS portal has presented the possibility of storing the information received and structuring it in a database, thus facilitating its further use and analysis. However, nearly two thirds of all reporting entities experienced difficulties of some kind with the PRAIS portal itself. The difficulties most frequently reported (60 per cent) relate to technical aspects of the portal, while methodological aspects seemed to be less relevant. Parties that had not submitted their reports before the deadline reported difficulties in reporting due to: (1) the overload of the system close to the deadline; (2) slow feedback from the help desk; (3) complexity of the templates; (4) the understanding of the indicators; (5) poor guidelines; (6) poor translation; (7) lack of regional training; and (8) difficulties in uploading files.

Other GEF funding for Parties: Further financial assistance was provided through GEF funding for enabling activities, supporting affected countries in the formulation and alignment of national action programmes to combat desertification (NAPs) with the Strategy and the preparation of the second cycle of national reports, reviewed by the CRIC in 2013. The CRIC12 review in early 2013, showed that 40 countries reported that they had applied for GEF financing..

CRIC12 (ICCD/CRIC(12)/6) expressed that since affected country Parties are now committed to the iterative process, the need for strengthening capacities and improving standards for knowledge management will be crucial. This will ultimately lead to a scientifically rigorous and credible assessment process for the PRAIS, including approaches for validation of the data reported and consistency of methodologies used for data collection.

Actions since 2011: In the current scenario, limited direct capacity building is provided to Parties and limited technical assistance is delivered by the Convention's institutions (the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism) against the provision of funding for activities at national level. CRIC12 reported that most of the capacity-building activities of the UNCCD secretariat and the GM for the last reporting cycle were conducted to help support the alignment of action programmes as well as the reporting against impact indicators and performance indicators. In preparation for reporting on Operational Objectives (OOs) in 2012, the secretariat implemented numerous upgrades and new functionalities to the reporting tools, including revised and new templates, new layout for easier reporting, functionalities to reduce the need for technical support, and an offline version to facilitate data gathering and compilation at national level. Procedures were also developed for data quality checks. For OO 5 and SO 4, the GM had a major role in the revision of the reporting tools. A Help Desk was developed to assist in technical and methodological issues relating to the reporting and review process. By the deadline, 71 affected country Parties and 9 developed country Parties had submitted their national reports. The completeness level of reports submitted by affected country Parties was 90%, which is similar to the level achieved in 2010. For CRIC 11, the secretariat compiled and analysed the content of the reports and prepared documentation for reviewing progress in meeting the five OOs. A trend analysis on the participation of CSOs and science and technology institutions in the 2012 reporting process was also prepared. Feedback was collected from reporting entities on the performance and impact indicators, and the secretariat compiled and presented this information for consideration regarding the refinement of indicators. The RCUs prepared the preliminary region-specific analysis and data quality check on information received from reporting entities. The RCUs also supported Parties in each region to articulate the main concerns and draft regional positions relating to the OOs. The secretariat assisted Parties in reporting by using the impact indicators, and subsequently prepared a preliminary analysis of reports, including regional information, for CRIC 11.

Out of 71 affected country Parties that submitted their report, 63 (89 per cent) provided a response on the two minimum indicators and 43 countries (60 per cent) used the common baselines and methodology as defined by the CST. In 2012, affected country Parties reported for the first time on Strategic Objectives (SOs) 1, 2 and 3. A module on impact monitoring was included in PRAIS, and reporting templates, guidelines and a glossary covering

impact indicators were updated accordingly. The analytical framework, including methodologies for aggregating national data for regional and global assessments, was completed after COP 10.. In the context of OO 4, the secretariat developed an online Capacity Building Marketplace, which provides resources and training opportunities for capacity-building, e-learning modules, a calendar of activities related to capacity-building within the UNCCD context, a library with a search index for documents, reports and other material, and online forums and discussions. The secretariat and the GM also provided technical support and advice to countries.

For the most recent reporting cycle, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided funding for enabling activities for eligible countries to report and formulate and/or align their action programmes. An assumption was made that those parties that had received capacity building through the previous PRAIS Project should be able to continue their effective reporting. However, this assumption has proven faulty, due to several reasons: a). the new impact indicator framework wasn't incorporated in the capacity building under PRAIS project; b). There was no funding for regional and global capacity building for that leg , which has lessened the momentum; c). there was no galvanization process during the second cycle to embed NAP and reporting mechanisms better into the operations of the Country Parties; d). there is a high fluctuation of persons within the responsible Country Party institutions, leading to a loss of already capacitated human resources . There were no arrangement for the subregional institutions, involved in the first leg , to follow up with countries parties to guide them towards submitting their reports in the 2nd leg, which contributed as well to the decline of reporting. Consequently, and due to the demanding reporting on impact indicators, the turnout of reports submitted was lower than the previous reporting legs, which benefited from a GEF PRAIS project, with a strong capacity building component.

During the Mid-Term Evaluation of the UNCCD 10-year strategy, updating the performance indicators was recommended, which should involve a revision of the guidelines and templates for reporting, including the specification of the responsible reporting entities, data sources and data acquisition methods. In addition, the PRAIS mechanism for reporting should be reorganized to, inter alia, allow for the use of various sources of information and types of data, building on the reporting results in 2011 and 2013. The PRAIS portal should be made more user-friendly including the CSO component and the format of the national reports should be improved to allow for their use as an essential tool for raising awareness about DLDD issues among interested stakeholders. The UNCCD secretariat was encouraged to undertake a series of capacity-building activities on interalia NAP alignment, performance and impact reporting in each region or subregion as a matter of priority. The necessity and effectiveness of these activities for 2014–2015 and 2016–2017 should be carefully examined, subject to the availability of resources. The capacity-building activities were recommended to include regional workshops, on-line consultations and distance learning, and they should involve the RCMs. To further simplify the reporting process, the secretariat were recommended to make indicator values derived from global datasets available to all through pre-populated PRAIS forms for those indicators for which global datasets are available. It could include the use of existing datasets and the development of guidelines and standardized methodologies for the Parties. These would effectively become ‘default indicators’ that the Parties could accept, reject, or replace with indicators based on their own data sources.

Post COP 11 Situation: The above recommendations have been taken to heart. In accordance with the decisions taken at COP11 (see for more information Annex P), the secretariat and the Global Mechanism have implemented a number of improvements to the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS). The goal of these changes is to make the reporting and review process simpler and more effective and sharply increase the quantity and quality of information to be reviewed by the CRIC. Among the main improvements for the 2014 reporting exercise⁷:

⁷ <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Reporting-review-and-assessment/Pages/defaultnew.aspx>

Reporting requirements

- Reduced number of performance indicators: in accordance to the feedback provided by Parties on e-smart criteria, some performance indicators have been discarded. For other indicators, the compilation will be done by the secretariat or the GM on the basis of information provided by country Parties in their reports. As a result of this process, the number of performance indicators has been reduced from 14 to 11 for affected country Parties (ACPs), and from 10 to 8 for developed country Parties (DCPs).
- Unified financial annex: the format for reporting on financial flows has been significantly simplified and enhanced, with the merging of the Standard Financial Annex and Programme and Project Sheet into one Unified Financial Annex. The number of required fields has thus been reduced by 70% and the number of Relevant Activity Codes by 60%.
- Simplified templates: reporting templates for country Parties and other reporting entities have been revisited according to the completeness of reports submitted in the last two reporting cycles, the analysis made of the information and its actual use according to the analytical framework, and its utility in the review process at CRIC 9 and CRIC 11. The number of required fields has thus been reduced by 40% in the ACP template, and by 65% in the DCP template.
- Separate reporting manual: reporting guidelines have been revised and compiled in a separate manual, which will be made available online in the six UN official languages. The new layout of the reporting template makes it an effective tool for communication, awareness-raising and advocacy at national and international levels.

PRAIS offline facilities

- Improved online reporting platform: The format of the new reporting templates (fillable Adobe Live PDF) facilitates off-line compilation of reports, and makes the submission more user friendly. Draft reports can be saved and edited off-line if required, and be uploaded by National Focal Points or reporting officers through a new secure online submission facility. It is planned that the new online reporting platform will be open for submissions of reports starting from May 2014, while access to the old PRAIS portal will be discontinued for the time of the reporting.
- Knowledge management and information sharing: the new PRAIS platform will also have a clear function in disseminating valuable convention-related information for local and national decision-making on DLDD. To this end, it is planned that the PRAIS platform will be equipped with data mining functionalities starting from July 2014.

Financial assistance

- UNEP, in consultation with the secretariat and the GM, is submitting a proposal for a Global Support Programme (GSP) (current proposal), which is expected to complement the GEF funding for enabling activities on reporting and alignment. Those countries that have not requested such enabling activities funding have been invited to undertake the necessary actions to secure the same.

Technical assistance

- Helpdesk service: Similar to the previous reporting exercises, an online help-desk facility, including a section on questions and answers, is available to promptly respond to queries from Parties and other reporting entities. Other services will be made available through the Capacity-Building Marketplace as relevant.

In view of the challenges to reporting expressed by CRIC and the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Strategy at the most recent COP11 in Windhoek (Namibia), Parties agreed on the above outlined expected progress. As a reaction to the assessment and in response to the call by Parties, UNEP and UNCCD conjointly expressed interest in continuing supporting the reporting process under the Convention and submit a medium-sized project (MSP) on GEF Land Degradation Set Aside. For the next cycle, the UNCCD Executive Secretary targets a 100% reporting rate. UNEP in collaboration with UNCCD decided to set up a Global Support Programme for the GEF funding, that would lead to a more broad based capacity of country Parties and to a strong increase in reporting .

1.3. The proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

The project objective is: to ***increase quantity and improve quality of information available for the review of implementation of the Convention.*** Through its 4 outcomes, the project focuses on strengthening the key stakeholders in promoting and supporting effective policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, capable institutions, knowledge sharing and monitoring mechanisms, together with good practices conducive to sustainable land management and that are able to generate global environmental benefits while supporting local and national, social and economic development.

The project objective will be achieved through: (a) developing further the national capacity to monitor the implementation of action programmes and to report to the governing bodies of the UNCCD; and (b) improving knowledge management and information sharing at national, regional and global levels. The two main project's components are: 1. Capacity development; and 2. Knowledge management. The logical framework (annex A) gives an overview of outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets to be achieved during the programme implementation.

Priority will be given to the objective of drastically increasing the number of reports submitted by Parties (in 2014) and approaching the expected number of aligned national action programmes by the end of its implementation (in 2015). The Global Support Programme (GSP) builds on previous efforts to streamline UNCCD reporting and complements the GEF funding for enabling activities on reporting and alignment.

Component 1: National capacity development

The development of national capacity will be achieved through:

- Regional training sessions: training workshops will be convened for each Regional Implementation Annexes (RIAs) of the Convention, to which national officers (National Focal Points and Reporting Officers), as well as officers from the subregional/regional organizations involved in the reporting process as identified by Parties, will be invited. The regional workshop for Annex IV (Northern Mediterranean) will be also open to affected country Parties not belonging to any Regional Implementation Annex and to developed country Parties. Training sessions will focus on performance and progress reporting and monitoring implementation of action programmes and will last up to 3 working days. Participants will be provided with a set of reporting tools (reporting manual and a full-fledged training package on the revised reporting guidelines, templates and simplified PRAIS on-line platform) in the relevant UN working languages, which will provide broad based capacitated human resources for the national level reporting to the Convention. The

TOR for the regional trainings has been included in Annex Q, which includes a small component on the relationship of a well-structured aligned NAP with a facilitated reporting structure.

(b) Technical assistance: technical backstopping on substantive, technological and organizational matters relating to the reporting process will be ensured throughout the duration of the project by: (i) assistance provided by two regional consultants per RIA, locally recruited to complement the usual UNCCD secretariat's and the GM's staff support to the countries ; (ii) on-line helpdesk services, to respond to specific queries from reporting entities; and (iii) custom-tailored web-based training material made available through the Capacity Development Market Place of the secretariat.

In consultation with the UNCCD secretariat and the GM, and in accordance with the specific request made by Parties at COP 11, simplified reporting templates and an improved platform for on- and off-line reporting will be devised. These outputs will be made available prior to the regional training sessions.

Component 2: Knowledge management

The improvement of knowledge management and outreach will be achieved through:

(a) Improved PRAIS reporting platform: an improved reporting platform will be established, which will allow for on-line and off-line reporting from all reporting entities in the relevant UN languages. It will allow uploading of the simplified templates in PDF form. The platform will be released for data uploading in April 2014, i.e. in time for the regional workshops so that it can be used also for training purposes. A data quality framework will be defined and implemented, to facilitate compilation of information and data entry at country level, and manage data extraction for analytical purpose, with the aim of increasing coherence and reliability of data and information provided by reporting entities.

(b) Improved knowledge-management and outreach system: the PRAIS platform will also have a clear function in disseminating valuable convention-related information for local and national decision-making on DLDD. To this end, the PRAIS system will be equipped by June 2014 with data mining functionalities. Furthermore, a comprehensive knowledge management guide informing countries on various data mining options will be released in July 2014 and a global report on the overall results of the reporting exercise will be released in time for CRIC 13. To further incentivize a proactive engagement of all country Parties in the reporting exercise, efforts will be made at increasing the use of data and information collected through the reports for the purposes of raising awareness and support decision-making at all levels. This will include relevant communication campaigns to sensitize all stakeholders towards the achievement of the targets set forth by the Strategy and mainstream sustainable land management and other UNCCD-related objectives in policy processes and investment frameworks.

Activities under this component are expected to take place from the second half of 2014 onwards and will focus on the strengthening of national UNCCD-related monitoring and evaluation systems, including the monitoring of progress indicators as outlined by the Strategy.

The GSP will hire international consultants for specific tasks to be executed within the Year Plans: one Project Officer, one Admin and Financial officer, two training and capacity development experts, ten Regional backstopping consultants, 2 financial/statistical analysis experts or entities, one consultant for the development of relevant modules of the Capacity Development Market Place (CDMP) and their integration in the UNCCD Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP), one expert in data quality framework/Knowledge Management and one Monitoring & Evaluation expert. More information about their tasks and responsibilities can be found in Annex E. Regional consultants will be recruited (2 per Regional Implementation Annex on average) to support the RCUs as well as the Project Management Unit in backstopping any requests for assistance from the national and regional reporting

entities. They will be involved in the regional training initiatives in order for them to build rapport with their assigned countries and regional entities and provide targeted support afterwards.

More information on the intervention logic can be found in **Annex A** – Strategic Results Framework and **Annex I** – Key Deliverables and benchmarks.

1.4. Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline , the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing;

Without GEF funding for the Global Support Programme: The baseline consists mostly of current work undertaken by the UNCCD secretariat, the GM, the UNEP, the countries, the regional Parties that are mandated to render support to affected country Parties on action programme alignment and reporting and also by the GEF support to countries for UNCCD Enabling Activities under GEF 5. This baseline work has a strong focus on national as well as global benefits. Through the PRAIS, data and information can now easily be collected, treated and shared with Parties and reviewing bodies. However, the baseline work is insufficient to address effectively the reporting by Affected Country Parties, who have indicated a need for additional guidance, technical assistance and training to plan, implement and monitor actions in the framework of the Convention.

The regional coordination mechanism RCMs, the regional committee, the SRAP/RAP entities and the reference centers – can only provide ad-hoc support to the countries, and not support in a structural way. The PRAIS, as a one-stop-shop for convention information, will still be collecting insufficient and low quality data as basis for reporting for the COPs and global environmental benefits. Lack of stable financing options for Action Plan implementation and revision will lead to outdated action plans and unsustainable land management practices – and, because planning and reporting are intimately linked, also to unrealistic reporting of progress. The benefits of combatting desertification and of DLDD is not apparent to key stakeholders in relation to other Conventions (UNCBD, UNFCCC), thus the need for data and information to provide the evidence so as to draw attention to the needs of the Parties. As a result of inadequate information from the monitoring and reporting activities, decision makers in ACP will continue with uncoordinated planning, the land continues to degrade, biodiversity is lost, and opportunities for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change are missed. In addition to that, global monitoring of Convention implementation is uneven, leading to ineffective advocacy and limited awareness of decision makers to this global environmental threat. The Mid-Term Evaluation of The Strategy and COP11 has made recommendations that will help to remedy this situation; as stated above.

In its report to the COP11, The GEF outlined progress made on the LDFA Portfolio from July 2011 to June 2013. The report identified a total of 108 projects that were approved with funding from the LDFA. The total GEF grant for the projects amounted to US\$655.7 million, with an additional US\$2.47 billion in co-financing. Of the total GEF grant, US\$199.2 million were LDFA resources utilized by countries through stand-alone focal area projects or through multi-focal area projects. The total LDFA resources requested at that time by all countries for the Enabling Activities through the three modalities is US\$8.49 million, with about 70% targeted for alignment of National Action Programs with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and Action Plan, and 30% for Reporting and Review Process. Some challenges were expressed in the report: (1) indicators and tools for monitoring these GEBs are only just being developed under the various sub-projects; (2) Important indicators such as vegetation cover and biomass accumulation were noted as difficult for monitoring and measuring at the landscape scale; and (3) There is still no consistency in tools being used for measurement of GEBs, and emphasis is mainly at farm scale in the pilot demonstration sites. Improved monitoring and reporting of the RBM framework of the Strategy can incorporate elements into PRAIS in order to tackle these challenges.

Scenario with the GEF investment: GEF funds will build on the baseline provided under paragraph A.4. GEF funds will provide a catalyst to develop a coherent and coordinated approach to provide technical assistance to affected country and regional Parties to build capacity for adequate reporting and to develop monitoring systems at national and regional level in accordance with a simplified PRAIS. The project will complement the investments done by national and international institutions, and increase the return on GEF investments: GEF funds will be mainly used to increase capacity at national, at national level on reporting to UNCCD, while the UNCCD secretariat, its Regional Coordination Units and the Global Mechanism invest further in improving methodologies and facilitating the reporting process through guides and simplified templates, for the review at global level.

The proposed GEF project will complement the ongoing assistance provided by GEF through UNEP and other agencies as part of the enabling funding made available by the GEF for reporting at national level. The new GSP should focus on getting the timely reporting for the CRIC in preparation to the COP up to 100%.

Through its focus on data, monitoring and reporting, this project gives added value for a results-oriented national reporting and effective planning mechanisms. By integrating the use of tools and methodologies developed by LADA and Carbon Benefits Project, both of which are GEF financed projects, the project will build on accomplishments in combat of DLDD achieved on a global scale. There are certain indicators pertaining to Sustainable Land Management as outlined by the GEF, that will be incorporated into the PRAIS, so that this M&E tool will effectively serve the GEF in its requirements for reporting as noted in the MoU it has with the UNCCD secretariat.

1.5. Global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

The Global Support Programme and its proponents aim to enhance planning and monitoring mechanisms to combat desertification at national at the regional level, which require a longer-term commitment to capacity-development efforts, synergies between conventions, and above all, mainstreaming sustainable land management to secure the delivery of eco-system services. These three elements are crucial to ensuring Parties' long-term capacity gains and ownership for the implementation of their national, regional and the global agendas and at the same time improved provision of agro ecosystem and forest ecosystem goods and services, reduced vulnerability of the ecosystems to climate change and human induced impacts. Through its 4 outcomes, the project focuses on strengthening the key stakeholders in promoting and supporting effective policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, capable institutions, knowledge sharing and monitoring mechanisms, together with good practices conducive to sustainable land management and that are able to generate global environmental benefits while supporting local and national, social and economic development.

The planning and monitoring mechanisms, as consolidated in the PRAIS and the tools and guidelines for planning and reporting, include the promotion of best practices in support of livelihood options; hence the GEF support will generate socio-economic benefits. By supporting the implementation of this project, GEF clearly brings in its incremental value for the capacity building at all levels toward global environmental benefits. This project is in line with the goal of the GEF land degradation focal area, which is to contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation.

1.6. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

The project includes some innovative features such as the combination of capacity building and technical assistance for monitoring of progress made in the implementation of the global results based framework (the Strategy). This combination has so far not been attempted. Training on the new reporting tools and the revised PRAIS will, in combination with the Capacity Building Market Place and the improved Helpdesk, offer the ACP countries an opportunity to grapple with the guidelines and at the same time get hands-on experience with their 2014 reporting exercise – since filling the revised reporting template is part of the training. A strong focus on the potential use of the outcomes of the reporting for a better decision making on SLM in ACPs during the training will ensure higher potential for incorporating Global Environmental Benefits into national and (sub-)regional development planning.

Both at the regional trainings and as backstopping support, regional consultants and workshop host entities (which are mostly the Regional Reference Centres, SRAPs or RAPs in the UNCCD Annexe regions) will provide the ACP teams with the necessary local expertise and experience to expedite the reporting for the COP12 and the years to come. Opening the regional training for the CEE en North-Mediterranean for (auto-financed) participation by DCP teams will ensure that cross-fertilization of lessons learned by ACP and DCP can be widely disseminated among all parties. In coordination with the umbrella project implemented by UNEP on enabling activities, this project will provide the necessary and needed support and guidance to national, sub-regional and regional stakeholders to coherently address these two major milestones of UNCCD implementation.

The project design will include strategies to provide technical assistance for planning and monitoring of results building on the consolidated approach and specific mechanisms of the Convention, including the Regional Coordination Mechanisms. Secondly, it will deliver outputs that can be used by decision-makers for further advocacy work at national and international level to optimize resource mobilization and support from the international community thereby ensuring the sustainability and the scaling up potential of the project outcomes. The project includes significant capacity building measures that will ensure long-term monitoring of land degradation processes at national level and across regions which is additional element of project sustainability.

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

Based on the above, and given the resources available, the Global Support Programme will target the following stakeholders:

* **National Governments/country Parties:** The ACP/DCPs 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 have an obligation to report regularly

to the COP on their activities, as outlined in their Action plans. Activities at country level will be implemented through national stakeholders, primarily the National Focal Points and the National Committees to Combat Desertification, as well as the civil society organizations, including the private sector and scientific institutions where appropriate, following the participatory approach of the Convention at country level.

Under the GSP, selected representatives of these stakeholders⁸ will receive technical assistance through the Regional Training Workshops, Regional Technical Assistance, the reporting Help Desk, and the Capacity Development Market Place. RCUs will coordinate with National Focal Points about the need to collect all the necessary data prior to the workshop.

* **Subregional and regional organizations** of the implementation annex of the Convention (Africa, Asia, LAC, CEE, Northern Mediterranean), which are requested to prepare subregional and regional action programmes (SRAPs and RAPs), as well as subregional and regional reports on implementation, will be also invited to assist – on auto-financing basis as a contribution to the UNCCD process – affected country Parties in their respective regions and delivery of planning and monitoring instruments at subregional/regional levels).

* **The Convention’s institutions**, the Global Mechanism, the UNCCD secretariat and its RCUs, will - according to their respective mandates and within the limit of their approved budget - provide institutional guidance and methodological assistance, ensuring availability of templates and guidelines for reporting and alignment and operability of mechanisms and systems required.

More information about their roles in the management of the programme has been included in **Annex H**.

Stakeholder	Mandate and Baseline Project	Role in the Project
Country Parties	UNCCD national focal points are the key contact partners for UNCCD implementation at national level. They implement projects and are responsible for coordinating work at national, sub-national and local levels	UNCCD focal points will coordinate timely reporting and action programme alignment and monitoring in line with the project timelines and deliverables and ensure synergies at national level with other projects
Workshop host organizations	12 subregional and 4 regional institutions are mandated to work on issues relating to land degradation and sustainable land management. They constitute an important source of information and capacity that can assist country Parties in the alignment and reporting processes	Regional training workshop will be held for each UNCCD regional implementation annexes, hosted by a country or a (sub)regional organization involved in the UNCCD reporting process. The host organizations will lead the organization and delivery of the training workshop, in close consultation with the GM, the UNCCD Secretariat and its RCUs.
Convention’s institutions	UNCCD secretariat and the GM have responsibilities to facilitate the work of affected country Parties. As such they undertake work relating to alignment of action programmes, mobilization of resources and reporting that will be instrumental for preparing guidance to country Parties on	Secretariat and GM staff will be supporting the project with staff time and deliverables produced under their own Convention budget

⁸ Due to budgetary constraints, the GSP can only cover 2 participants per country. However, a country may decide to send one CSO representative as part of its delegation of two.

	those issues	
Other Reporting entities	There are many stakeholders involved in UNCCD implementation that are also invited to report to the Convention, including subregional and regional organizations (SRAP/RAP), as well as United Nations and other intergovernmental organisations (UN/IGO).	Coordinate and facilitate the reporting of a particular organization or group of stakeholders regionally or globally as appropriate. These stakeholders would be invited on a self-financing basis or through financing specifically for the participation of these stakeholders

The project will also promote the engagement of other stakeholder groups in the UNCCD alignment and reporting processes as follows:

- **CSOs/NGOs and R&D institutions.** Many CSOs/NGOs and R&D institutions have their own databases on natural resources management. They also often are doing Action Research in the field, collecting valuable grassroots data and applying these in awareness raising, lobbying and campaigning. They will be invited to become active partners of UNCCD processes, promote the integration of social/gender issues in national action programmes and reporting obligations. In particular, CSOs will be invited to communicate information to the NFPs of their countries, and complement information to be officially reported through the NFPs.
- **Subregional and regional institutions.** Subregional and regional institutions will be invited to continue to assist country Parties in the action programme alignment and reporting processes and in ensuring that social/gender issues are duly taken into consideration (auto-financed).
- **Other institutions.** Other institutions, notably the Statistics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/ESS), will be requested to assist in data quality improvement and accessibility of information of best practices on sustainable land management.

A.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):

The delivery of socio-economic benefits at the national and local levels is a major priority for the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area, because financing is directly linked to agricultural, rangeland, and forest landscapes where human livelihoods (especially of the rural poor) are intertwined. The progress and performance indicators incorporated into PRAIS represent options that are appropriate for portfolio level monitoring and reporting. The strategic results framework for this project provides targeted estimates that are appropriate to the context and relative to the baseline conditions.

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. At the national level effective monitoring and reporting systems of NAP and UNCCD implementation are crucial to inform national and international decision-makers, as well as the public about current trends in a timely and policy-relevant manner. Developing simplified instruments, guidelines and capacities for adequate monitoring and reporting on implementation will cater to better decision making and its financing. The project will contribute to ensuring that norms regarding social and environmental safeguards including gender considerations can be considered at the national level by enabling analysis and articulation of relationships between DLDD and human well-being and poverty reduction through the progress indicators. In order to enable UNEP to track how consideration of socio-economic benefits and gender dimensions are addressed by Parties, the hands-on trainings will include a provision that these considerations are reflected in the reporting process.

A.4 Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks:

The following risks (table 1) have been identified as posing a possible threat to the smooth implementation of the project and/or the project achieving full impacts:

Table 1: Risks and measures.

Risk Description	Level	Proposed Measure
Project timeframe: Potential lack of capacity in the participating countries for reporting in time	high	Following the experience in 2010, Parties at COP10 called for a six month period for the next reporting cycle in order to allow time to negotiate partnerships for e.g., data access. The project will adhere as much as possible to timelines set by the UNCCD convention process which necessitates close liaison with the Convention's institutions. The timely availability of reporting tools and alignment guidelines, GEF funding and the involvement of the regional entities and UNCCD focal points at the national level will help countries to deliver on time (Reports and NAP alignment by 2014). During the trainings, the parties will work hands-on on their reports and receive on the spot guidance for aligning their NAPs.
Risks related to non-participation of some UNCCD eligible countries due to conflicts: Whenever there are conflicts happening (which is currently the case in some countries parties) in affected countries or regions, the attention of the country Parties is averted elsewhere. With greater incurrence of climate related catastrophies and scarcity of water and land resources that follow, more affected countries are likely to prioritise other more	high	Issues related to land degradation should be integrated into the monitoring and reporting of DRR and disaster response strategies, which have alternative scenarios for the combat of DLDD in the case of the rise of conflicts. Links between the gathering of data and reporting for these strategies and NAPs should be established. Emphasis can be put on the utility of those structures responsible for actions that build natural resource security and resilience of communities established under the convention implementation to assist in broader conflict resolution.

immediate issues, like food security, relocation of displaced people, etc.		
Coordination between national level activities and sub-regional/regional support	Medium	The PMU will be hosted by the GM and liaise strongly with the UNCCD secretariat in order to ensure that a) support is provided to the GM to engage a large number of country Parties and b) that timelines of the project are in sync with timeliness decided upon by the COP.
Different levels of capacity in beneficiary country Parties to respond to the obligation brought about by the Convention	Medium	The PMU, in consultation with the project Steering Committee, will monitor regularly the participation of country Parties in the project and their individual progress made in the project implementation, through the regional staff and consultants. The monitoring will be done through the online reporting portal that provides at an easy glance progress reports of country Parties as they undertake the reporting exercise. Reporting will be monitored with the assistance of UNCCD staff working at the regional level on the basis of a tracking framework for progress monitoring specifically developed for this purpose.
Political and institutional risks: Limited uptake of reporting and adoption of the impact indicators due to lack or insufficient capacity at national level.	Medium	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. Parties have already identified and confirmed NAP alignment and improved DLDD assessment as a major priority during CRIC 9. The country driven approach of the project will minimize risk.
Financial risk: Limited availability of financial resources was identified as a major	Medium	To mitigate this risk and in support of the country driven policy promoted by GEF Secretariat, the project will foster ownership and a country-driven

constraint by CRIC9 both for the reporting process and the linked NAP alignment		process for reporting in 2014 which will provide an enabling environment through the generation of evidence for more investments into combatting desertification at national levels.
Insufficient resources to support country level activities through technical assistance which may result in poor or late project outputs delivery Country level limitations with respect to institutional frameworks for implementing the UNCCD	Medium	Next to direct assistance to the countries through the regional training programmes and the backstopping consultants, the Capacity Building Market Place will assist in strengthening ACPs capacities to access information on available capacity building opportunities as well as provide e learning tools on reporting
Reporting to the UNCCD may be considered as a lower priority for developing countries	Low	Demonstrating the national benefits of enhanced monitoring and assessment of DLDD issues achieved through the UNCCD process.

A.5. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

The project design builds on the efficient resources use approach by envisaging to conduct targeted capacity building and backstopping for the 2014 and 2015 reporting exercises with optimum resources. Combining Reporting and Monitoring through PRAIS within the same project will enable Parties to benefit from centralized Helpdesk and Capacity Building Market Place services and support from experts and regional consultants under the GSP in a cost effective manner, result in coordinated actions at the national and regional level and benefit from synergistic effects. The majority of project funds will be directed to establishing a global and regional enabling environment through technical support and assistance for national level activities.. A more detailed focus on the more encompassing performance and progress indicators (such as those noted in the SLM context) will enable sound, rigorous and scientifically 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. Their inclusion in a simplified PRAIS will induce a more cost-effective manner of reporting on Global Environmental Benefits in the short and long term.

The main investments on the planning and reporting process will be ensured by affected country and regional Parties. Co-financing will be also provided by a series of stakeholders to the project namely the

Convention's institutions (the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism) and workshop host organisations, that will provide in-kind contribution through investments in time and logistics. Ensure the collaboration of the latter organisation will enhance their commitment to the success of the Strategy and will lead to a more locally targeted support structure for ACPs, with corresponding cost-effectiveness. It is likely that other donors that supported previous initiatives on reporting, will be providing technical and financial assistance in the course of project implementation. GEF and co-finance funding will be merged to jointly support the outcomes and the objectives.

A.6. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives [not mentioned in A.1]:

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, which is closely linked to reporting. The action will also build on the achievements of the previous Global Support Programme, the UNEP Umbrella Project and on the findings of the refinement exercise of the set of progress indicators to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Strategy. UNEP/GEF PRAIS project supported regional coordination of UNCCD processes through the involvement of Regional Centers which will be encouraged to be involved also in the new GSP. The PRAIS project built a momentum in which regional centers and their networks took a more active role in supporting UNCCD activities in their region..

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 projects on integrated processes and approaches to facilitate national reporting to Rio Conventions (FNR_Rio, such as being undertaken under the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Strategy of the GEF) which may provide an additional opportunity to field test the impact indicators and their integration into national or even local monitoring systems in the recipient countries.

The GSP will support all UNCCD country Parties eligible for GEF funding that are either engaged in the UNCCD reporting activities starting in 2014 with guidance and technical assistance..

The GSP will coordinate action with a number of initiatives supporting UNCCD implementation at global level, primarily:

- GEF projects 4829 and 5136 (Support to GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programs and Reporting Process under UNCCD and its Add-on), which provide to eligible country parties funding for enabling activities to meet Convention's obligation (reporting and planning);
- The UNCCD secretariat's and Global Mechanism's work on the revision of reporting templates and guidelines, further to the decisions that was made at the eleventh session of the COP on the basis of

the recommendations of CRIC 11 and the IWG for the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy;

- GEF project “Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to Rio Conventions”, known as the FNR-Rio project, which aims at increasing synergies in the process of reporting of the three intergovernmental treaties and developing integrated approaches to data collection and analysis at national level;
- The work of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) between the three Rio conventions, which was established and meets yearly since 2001 and explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increasing coordination among the conventions. Synergies in reporting is a standing agenda item of the Group, which has recently supported the work done by UNEP with financial support from the GEF, within the framework of the FNR-Rio Project;
- The GEF projects within the context of the Cross-cutting Capacity Development Strategy, which in several countries focuses on mainstreaming of convention issues in local sustainable development planning and building national and local EMIS for this task;
- GEF Project 4922 (Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling up of Sustainable Land Management), in which both FAO and WOCAT are involved, and with whom coordination will be ensured with particular regard to best practices on sustainable land management and impact indicators.

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 at the national level and follow up with the UNEP Task Manager, the GSP PMU and UNCCD RCUs 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.

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).

A.7 Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation:

Please see **Annex H**.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

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

The UNCCD contains specific provisions on the communication of information (article 26), according to which each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties (COP) reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention and its overall impact on sustainable development. In particular, affected country Parties shall provide a description of the strategies and priorities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and a detailed description of the national action programmes (NAPs) and of their implementation; developed country Parties shall report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention. Any group of affected country Parties may make a joint communication on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in the framework of action programmes. Decisions 11/COP.9, 12/COP.9 and 13/COP.9 regulate the revised reporting and review process of the UNCCD after the adoption of the Strategy.

According to provisions contained in article 9 and article 10 of the UNCCD, affected country Parties shall prepare, make public and implement national action programmes. The purpose of national action programmes is to identify the factors contributing to desertification and practical measures necessary to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. With the adoption of the Strategy, affected country parties were urged to align their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with the Strategy (decision 3/COP.8). The preparation of NAPs shall be closely interlinked with other efforts to formulate national policies for sustainable development, such as the National Action Programmes for Adaptation, the National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Cross-cutting capacity building needs for the implementation of the Rio conventions have been identified during the National Capacity Self-Assessment process, which in most cases has lead countries to formulate a National Strategy and Action Plan for Capacity Building for National and Global Environmental Management. Such strategies and action programmes shall be updated through a continuing participatory process on the basis of lessons from field action, as well as the results of research.

Decision 1/COP.8 reaffirms that the Convention has a wider scope than just land degradation: it focuses on protecting threatened ecosystems and eradicating poverty. The decision further calls for increased and sustained efforts in (i) capacity building in all areas relevant to the implementation of APs; (ii) participatory NRM (in particular SLM and IWM approaches) in coherence with national policies; (iii) promoting effective and sustained participation of all stakeholders and in particular civil society and private sector; and (iv) information sharing and technology transfer. The Strategy's Operational Objective

2 (OO2) urges affected Country Parties to revise their NAPs into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks. The OO2 also encourages affected Country parties to integrate their NAPs as well as SLM and land degradation issues into their national development plans and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies. Para. 109 of the CRIC recommendations to COP11 notes that development of an indicator system should go hand in hand with the alignment of APs, reflecting knowledge of DLDD drivers and their interactions, and of the interaction of DLDD with climate change and biodiversity. This indicator system, integrated into the PRAIS, will provide ACP/DCP countries with baseline information that can be used for sustainable development planning in the country-specific context. As such, by implementing The Strategy, ACP and DCP necessarily have an impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Please see **annex P** for details on COP guidance in the design of the GSP.

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

The project is in line with Objective 4 of GEF 5 Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy: Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM/SFM/INRM by GEF and UNCCD parties. It will particularly contribute to outcome 4.1: Increased capacity of the countries to fulfil obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in UNCCD. This contribution from the project is particularly due to the fact that it will:

- (a) Lead to improved reporting and planning processes at national, sub-regional and regional level through the availability of better information. As a result, the numbers of national reports submitted in the next reporting cycle will increase;
- (b) Improve the monitoring capacities of country Parties and contribute to the improved planning at national level and the monitoring of the progress made at the global level. Both achievements will assist to enhance advocacy for UNCCD issues at national and global level through the dissemination of best practices and a host of quantitative data that can be used to further the understanding of the underlying causes and threats of land degradation.
- (c) Lead to increased investments in SLM through targeted advocacy activities using information collected and verified at national, subregional and regional levels.

B.3 The GEF Agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and Agencies comparative advantage for implementing this project:

UNEP/GEF is the project's Implementing Agency. 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 project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalyzing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements. UNEP signed an MOU with UNCCD secretariat and implemented the UNCCD Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation project (PRAIS) project alongside the first leg of the 4th UNCCD reporting and review project, the piloting integrated processes and approaches to facilitate national reporting to Rio Conventions project and has implemented the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership project. Currently, UNEP is supporting about 86 countries Party to access GEF funds and conduct their Enabling Activities approved during GEF 5(NAP alignment and Reporting). Together, these initiatives will provide GEF with a range of relevant experiences, proof of concept, testing of ideas and access to the best available science and knowledge. In relation to the land degradation focal area, the project is fully in line with UNEP comparative experience in reference with GEF/C 31/5 Annex H. UNEP will primarily focus on the areas of its mandate, will continue to provide scientific and technical advice to the Facility on its policies and programmes. Currently, UNEP is Chairing the Environment Management Group (EMG) which has developed an Action Plan to implement the recommendation that come out from the UN Common Response to Drylands. UNEP is also developing a new approach to strengthen it support to UNCCD Convention. In relation to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Delivering as ONE UNEP Regional Coordinators will ensure that project is mainstreamed into UNDAF and follow up with project Task Manager to facilitate the integration of project activities and ensure that they are reflected into UNDAF results matrixes in the UNDAF roll out countries either during the strategic programmes retreat or at annual reviews.

UNEP's comparative advantage derives from its mandate to coordinate UN activities with regard to the environment, including its convening power, its ability to engage with different stakeholders to develop innovative solutions and its capacity to transform these into policy- and implementation-relevant tools. UNEP's comparative advantages in the GEF are also aligned with its mandate, functions and Medium Term Strategy and its biennial Programme of Work (2014- 2015). The proposed project is consistent with the Environmental Governance thematic priorities outlined in UNEP's Medium-term Strategy. These focal areas and key foci will be met in the following way:

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

<p>Areas of UNEP comparative advantage in the GEF (all Focal Areas)</p>	<p>UNEP Thematic Priority Areas</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------

		Climate Change	Disasters & conflicts	Ecosystems management	Environmental governance	Harmful substances & hazardous wastes	Resource efficiency
1. Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers	Early warning and emerging issues				X		
	Science to Policy linkages				X		
	Environmental monitoring and assessment			X	X		
	Norms, standards, and guidelines			X	X		
	Enabling Activities for MEAs and synergies			X	X		
2. Cooperation, coordination and partnerships (regional or international)	Trans-boundary cooperation				X		
	Regional, or South-South cooperation				X		
	Global transformative actions						

3. Technical assistance and capacity building at country level (contribution to Bali Strategic Plan)	Technology assessment, demonstration, and innovation						
	Capacity building				X		
	Lifting barriers to market transformation						
4. Knowledge management, awareness raising and advocacy			X	X			

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument. The project M&E plan (see **Annex G**) is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Annex A includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Annex I will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification and the costs associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators are summarized in Annex A. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the costed M&E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget. In addition, it is understood that the project will be implemented as part of the UNCCD Enabling Activities and hence Parties at CRIC13 and COP 12 will evaluate project outputs and deliverables as part of the iterative process requested by Parties at COP 9.

The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception period to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception period. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the PMU but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to inform the UNEP Task Manager of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The project Steering Committee will receive annual reports on progress and will make recommendations to the project partners concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Task Manager in UNEP-GEF. The executing agency will submit periodic progress and financial reports to UNEP which will ensure that the outputs produced by the project are in line with the expected deliverables. The UNEP Task Manager will provide technical guidance as necessary for project implementation, feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to assess the quality of the project outputs according to UNEP standards

To ensure that the project outcomes are fully embedded in the countries UNDAF UNEP will request the its regional teams and Offices to ensure that the project have been mainstreamed in the UNDAF and national policies processes and how CSO, Gender and Indigenous people have been considered as its applies.

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

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

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

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e. correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

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

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

The LD GEF tracking tool is attached as **Annex O**. The tool will be filled out during the inception phase and updated at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool.

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

Annex G: Monitoring and Evaluation Budget and Workplan

Template for Costed M&E Workplan (to be inserted in the CEO endorsement template)

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNEP Task Manager ▪ <i>UNCCD secretariat</i> ▪ <i>GM / GSP PMU</i> ▪ <i>RCUs</i> ▪ <i>Regional Consultants</i> 	Indicative cost: US\$ 34,500		Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GSP PMU ▪ UNEP ▪ UNCCD secretariat ▪ GM 	none		1 month after project inception meeting
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GSP PMU 	none		Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD secretariat • GM • UNEP 	Indicative cost: US\$ 15,000	To be detailed in Inception Phase and Workshop.	Once a year or as needed
Reports of PSC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP PMU 	none		Within 2 weeks after the PSC meeting
PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GSP PMU ▪ UNEP ▪ UNCCD Secretariat 	none		Annually, part of reporting routine

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GM 			
Terminal Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNEP in collaboration with: ▪ UNCCD Secretariat ▪ GM ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team) 	Indicative cost : US\$ 55,000		Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Project Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GSP PMU ▪ UNEP 	Indicative cost: US\$ 6,000		Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report			none	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Total M&E Plan Budget		US\$ 110,500 (+/- 5% of total budget)		


Monitoring the values of co-financing will enable portfolio level monitoring and assessment of overall funding leveraged for successful achievement of the project outcomes. The focus here is mainly funding from sectors that benefit from SLM. The list here is therefore based on the potential value-added of ecosystem services generated through SLM as justification for investment in the project during implementation.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan VanDyke, GEF Coordination Office UNEP		March 7, 2014	Adamou Bouhari Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation UNEP	+254207623860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

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

This project will contribute to achieving the following Strategy Outcome as defined in UNCCD 10-year Strategy 2008 - 2018:

“The aim for the future is to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.”

Expected Outcome(s) of the 10-year Strategy:

Strategic objective 1: To improve the living conditions of affected populations;

Strategic objective 2: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems;

Strategic objective 3: To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD;

Strategic objective 4: To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

Expected Strategy impacts of the 10-year Strategy:

Expected impact 1.1. People living in areas affected by desertification/land degradation and drought to have an improved and more diversified livelihood base and to benefit from income generated from sustainable land management.

Expected impact 1.2. Affected populations’ socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced.

Expected impact 2.1. Land productivity and other ecosystem goods and services in affected areas are enhanced in a sustainable manner contributing to improved livelihoods.

Expected impact 2.2. The vulnerability of affected ecosystems to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced.

Expected impact 3.1. Sustainable land management and combating desertification/land degradation contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change.

Expected impact 4.1. Increased financial, technical and technological resources are made available to affected developing country Parties, and where appropriate Central and Eastern European countries, to implement the Convention.

Expected impact 4.2. Enabling policy environments are improved for UNCCD implementation at all levels.

Programme Outcome Indicators:

Indicator S-1: Decrease in numbers of people negatively impacted by the processes of desertification/land degradation and drought.

Indicator S-2: Increase in the proportion of households living above the poverty line in affected areas.

Indicator S-3: Reduction in the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption in affected areas.

Indicator S-4: Reduction in the total area affected by desertification/land degradation and drought.

Indicator S-5: Increase in net primary productivity in affected areas.

Indicator S-6: Increase in carbon stocks (soil and plant biomass) in affected areas.

Indicator S-7: Areas of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management.

Indicator S-8: Increase in the level and diversity of available funding for combating desertification/land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought.

Indicator S-9: Development policies and measures address desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area (same as that on the cover page, circle one):

SDG 7: Sustainable Management of the Environment

Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program: GEF Strategic Objective and Program:

Strategic Objective 4 (LD-4) “Adaptive Management and Learning: Increase Capacity to Apply Adaptive Management Tools in Sustainable Land Management”

Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes:

Outcome 4.1 “Increased Capacities of Countries to Fulfil their Obligations in Accordance with the Provisions Provided in the UNCCD”.

Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators:

* 75% of GEF projects financed under Objective 1, Objective 2, and Objective 3 address priorities identified in UNCCD Ten-year Strategy and national reporting process;

* 50% of GEF projects financed through the LD FA that take up emerging knowledge from targeted research projects or projects with targeted research component.

Oucomes/Outputs	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones towards End of Project 2016	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
Project objective ⁹ (equivalent to output in atlas) Increased quantity and improved quality of information available for the review of implementation of the Convention	100 % of affected country Parties (ACPs) are empowered to report on UNCCD implementation follow the new reporting guidelines and templates through capacity building, technical assistance , supporting tools and knowledge management	Baseline: In 2012, 79 out of 144 ACPs submitted their reports to the UNCCD	A drastic increase in the number and quality of reports prepared and submitted by ACP countries to the UNCCD	- UNEP report; - COP/CRIC documents; - Terminal Evaluation	- Political will: NAP alignment and reporting to the UNCCD considered as a high priority in the countries - GEF endorses project - Project resources are made available in time	
Outcome 1¹⁰ Outcome 1: Improved capacities of UNCCD	Indicators Training workshops on the	Baseline: The number of ACPs reporting to the UNCCD in	o <i>The 2014 reporting templates meet the specific</i>	- Project Reports; - Workshop reports; - Guidance manual	- Financial: GEF funding is made available for the	MTS Expected Accomplishment

⁹ Objective (Atlas output) monitored quarterly ERBM and annually in APR/PIR

¹⁰ All outcomes monitored annually in the APR/PIR. It is highly recommended not to have more than 4 outcomes.

reporting entities for indicator-based reporting on Convention implementation using the new reporting guidelines and templates	new reporting templates, including guidance on NAP alignment, are delivered to reporting officers from ACPs from all UNCCD Regional Implementation Annexes (RIAs)	2014 is the same or lower than in 2012	<p><i>requirements set by decision 16/COP.11</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>1 guidance manual published on reporting, translated in the 6 official UN languages</i> ○ <i>1 training package available to reporting entities in all UN languages;</i> ○ <i>100 requests / downloads of training packages;</i> ○ <i>400 NFPs and reporting officers trained;</i> ○ <i>Workshop evaluations indicate “fully satisfactory”</i> 	on reporting; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop manuals; - PRAIS; - GEF reports; - Training evaluations; - Reporting progress tracking framework 	organization of the workshops in time for the 2014 reporting exercise. Resources required for the delivery of the training workshops do not exceed the estimated budget. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical: Guidance provided by project partners and technical assistance provided through this project are relevant and sufficient. - Political: Countries engage in the NAP alignment process. 	
<p>Outputs</p> <p>Output 1.1: Simplified reporting template made available</p> <p>Output 1.2: One (1) comprehensive guidance manual on reporting in at least the working languages of the UN made available to reporting entities.</p> <p>Output 1.3: One (1) training package made available in the working languages of the UN including modules covering all the sections of the new reporting templates and guidelines and the use of the revised PRAIS.</p> <p>Output 1.4: Training workshops on reporting held between April and May 2014 for each UNCCD Regional Implementation Annex (RIA)</p>						PoW Output Reference Number
<p>Output targets:</p> <p>Templates available by 31/03/2014</p> <p>Training manual published by 31/03/2014</p> <p>Training package on reporting, available in the UN languages by 15/04/2014</p> <p>Training workshops held between April and May 2014 for all UNCCD Regional Implementation Annexes</p>						
Outcome 2	Indicators	Baseline:	○ <i>More than 50% ACPs supported in</i>	- National reports ; - CRIC13	- Financial: Resources	MTS Expected Accomplishment
Outcome 2: Technical	An effective	ACPs are not receiving				

Assistance Framework operational to facilitate the work at country level relating to the 2014-2015 reporting and review process	technical assistance framework is made available to ACPs, including a regional backstopping system, a decentralized helpdesk and a Capacity Development Market Place (CDMP)	capacity building at regional and global level in the reporting exercise, which is likely to affect the quantity and quality of data available for the 2014 reporting and review process, as well as the achievement of the NAP alignment targets	<p><i>the use the enhanced reporting systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>80% Percent of questions answered within allowed response time</i> ○ <i>Evaluation of responses provided for 70% positive;</i> ○ <i>Online helpdesk platform operating with a service level of 100% response rate within 2 working days to the full satisfaction of users</i> ○ <i>Over 500 hits on the CDMP web-site during first 6 months of GSP</i> 	documents; - Project Reports; - PRAIS; - CDMP website; - GEF reports; - Reporting progress tracking framework	available are sufficient to fund the necessary technical assistance activities. GEF funding for this component is released in time. - Technical: Technical support provided is relevant and sufficient. -Political: Countries engage in reporting process.	
<p>Output 2.1: Regional backstopping system (e.g. regional consultants and dedicated RCU personnel) in place to provide ACPs with technical assistance for on progress and performance indicators reporting.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Decentralised Helpdesk (online platform) operational and effective in providing Q&A and advice to reporting entities.</p> <p>Output 2.3: Capacity Development Market Place available to Convention Parties</p>						PoW Output Reference Number
<p>Output targets: Regional backstopping operational by 30/04/2014 Online helpdesk platform active from 01/04/2014 Capacity Development Market Place operational on 01/04/2014</p>						
Outcome 3 Improved UNCCD reporting systems (including simplified PRAIS) that facilitates reporting by all	Indicators An enhanced reporting system that minimize the reporting burden and maximize the	Baseline: UNCCD reporting entities do not have access to an enhanced reporting system, which is likely to lead to a further reduction in the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Revised PRAIS reporting system is operational and made available</i> ○ <i>1 global report on overall reporting</i> 	- National reports; - CRIC 13 documents; - Project Reports; - PRAIS	- Financial: Resources available are sufficient to fund the incremental enhancements in	MTS Expected Accomplishment

reporting entities.	quality of data, is made available to all UNCCD reporting entities	number of reports submitted and in the usability of data contained therein for the performance review of UNCCD implementation	<p><i>results published by the UNCCD in the UN working languages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>80% completeness and 90% reliability of information provided by reporting entities</i> 		the UNCCD reporting systems. GEF funding for this component is released in time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical: Technical improvements introduced are effective and fully operational. - Political: Countries engage in reporting process and adequately use the enhanced reporting systems. 	
Output 3.1: A simplified PRAIS reporting system is operational and made available on time in order to enable reporting entities to comply with reporting obligations and harness its analytical potential.						PoW Output Reference Number
Output 3.2: A data quality framework (data compilation/input/ extraction) is implemented to increase coherence and reliability of data and information provided by reporting entities						
Output targets: Simplified PRAIS available on 31 March 2014 Global Report available by 30 September 2014 Data quality framework devised by and implemented since 01/06/2014						
Outcome 4 Outcome 4: Improved UNCCD knowledge management and outreach system that facilitates national level M&E on DLDD as well as targeted analysis and dissemination of results.	Indicators The data collected by the UNCCD through the 2014 reporting exercise is harnessed for awareness raising and decision making initiatives at all levels	Baseline: Data collected through the 2012 reporting exercise is not sufficiently harnessed and used in support of decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>All UNCCD country Parties informed about data use options</i> ○ <i>1 KM guide, available and disseminated in the UN working languages</i> ○ <i>Technical</i> 	- National reports ; - CRIC 13 documents; - KM guide; - National M&E systems	- Financial: Resources available are sufficient to fund improvement of KM, data mining and outreach. GEF funding for this component is released in time..	MTS Expected Accomplishment

	through knowledge management (KM) and data mining options		<p><i>assistance provided on the implementation of the KM guide</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The data collected by the UNCCD through the 2014-2015 reporting exercise is harnessed for awareness raising and decision making initiatives at all levels</i> ○ <i>Number of reports disseminated by the UNCCD on the results of the 2014-2015 reporting exercise</i> ○ <i>Infographics and other communication tools devised</i> 		<p>- Technical: Technical solutions introduced to improve KM, data mining and outreach options are effective. Data for reporting on progress indicators are available.</p> <p>- Political: Countries engage in reporting process and in the use of the resulting findings in support of decision making.</p>	
<p>Output 4.1: Progress indicators derived from existing datasets are made available to ACPs as default value for reporting in collaboration with other Rio Conventions and major data providers.</p> <p>Output 4.2: National M&E systems on CCD implementation strengthened.</p> <p>Output 4.3: System for targeted analysis and active dissemination of collected data for informed decision making on DLDD matters in place.</p>						PoW Output Reference Number
<p>Output targets:</p> <p>Default national estimates made available through PRAIS by 01/06/2015</p> <p>Guide available by 01/10/2014</p> <p>At least 10 awareness raising and decision making initiatives at all levels supported and documented by 30/10/2015</p> <p>Listing of technical report available by 01/03/2015</p>						

