



# GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZED

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Project (LDN TSP)			
Country(ies):	70 countries (see prodoc)	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	9365
GEF Agency(ies):	IUCN (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Other Executing Partner(s):	Global Mechanism of the UNCCD	Submission Date:	18.07.16
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	24
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of Parent Program	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	247,706

## A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES<sup>2</sup>

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
LD-EA (select) (select)		GEFTF	2,752,294	2,983,680
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
Total project costs			2,752,294	2,983,680

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: National voluntary targets established in 70 countries for Land Degradation Neutrality						
Project Components/Programs	Financing Type <sup>3</sup>	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. National LDN baselines	TA	National LDN baselines defined and validated by 70 countries	1.1 LDN assessment	GEFTF	687,847	675,175
2. National LDN measures and target setting	TA	National LDN targets and associated measures defined	2.1 LDN target setting 2.2 LDN investment opportunities	GEFTF	1,586,366	1,626,746
3. LDN target setting knowledge management	TA	Country Parties as well as international organizations and stakeholders engage in the LDN target setting process in a synergistic and coherent manner	3.1 LDN TS partnerships 3.2 LDN peer learning 3.3 LDN global analysis	GEFTF	227,872	316,259

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number remains the same as the assigned PIF number.

<sup>2</sup> When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#).

<sup>3</sup> Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Subtotal					2,502,085	2,618,180
Project Management Cost (PMC) <sup>4</sup>				GEFTF	250,209	365,500
<b>Total project costs</b>					<b>2,752,294</b>	<b>2,983,680</b>

### C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include evidence for co-financing for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Others	Government of Turkey (Ankara initiative)	Grants	1,250,000
Others	Government of Korea (Changwon Initiative)	Grants	1,073,680
Others	Global Mechanism of the UNCCD	In-kind	50,000
Recipient Government	Government of Trinidad and Tobago	Grants	250,000
Others	Government of Luxemburg	Grants	110,000
Donor Agency	UNDP	Grants	250,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>2,983,680</b>

### D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee <sup>a)</sup> (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total (c)=a+b
IUCN	GEF TF	Global	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	2,752,294	247,706	3,000,000
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>					<b>2,752,294</b>	<b>247,706</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

a ) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

<sup>4</sup> For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

## E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS<sup>5</sup>

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	<i>hectares</i>
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	<i>hectares</i>
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	<i>Number of freshwater basins</i>
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	<i>Percent of fisheries, by volume</i>
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO <sub>2e</sub> mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	<i>metric tons</i>
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	<i>metric tons</i>
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	<i>metric tons</i>
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	<i>ODP tons</i>
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries: 70</i>
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries: 70</i>

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

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

## PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

### A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Update the applicable indicators provided at PIF stage. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period.

<sup>6</sup> For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF, no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

A.1. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area<sup>7</sup> strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) [incremental/additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and [co-financing](#); 5) [global environmental benefits](#) (GEFTF) and/or [adaptation benefits](#) (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

No change from the PIF

Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. In the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD (2008-2018). Parties to the Convention further specified their goals: "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".

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal 15, which aims to "protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss". As main expected results it defines under target 15.3 to "combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world" by 2030.

The Global Mechanism provides advisory services, promotes partnerships and demonstrates innovations at the country level. It aspires to be a trusted international partner that translates cutting-edge knowledge into tailored, country-level action. As scale and impact can only be achieved through partnerships - knowledge partnerships, implementation partnerships, and funding partnerships – the Global Mechanism puts a particular emphasis on strategic partnerships. The objective of the LDN TSP is to help countries in establishing national voluntary targets for LDN and identify transformative projects to achieve these targets. LDN aims to sustain the productivity of land resources and support ecosystem functions and services in the way they meet the needs of current and future generations. LDN is also closely related to SDG 15 and target 15.3, but it also relates to many other SDGs as there are direct linkages between land degradation and the SDGs related to poverty, food security, environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

The project builds upon the LDN Pilot Project and responds to requests submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism by 95 countries (as of 21 June 2016) to provide technical and financial support for LDN target setting. Taking into account the positive outcome of the LDN Pilot Project, which covered 14 diverse countries from all continents (all ecosystems and economic systems were represented) and the high number of requests received, it is expected that the LDN target setting approach spearheaded by the LDN TSP will be further replicated by other countries.

Furthermore, the identification of LDN priority areas for intervention as part of the national LDN target setting process is not only a modality to address the most pressing priorities but also a way to encourage increased investments in measures to achieve LDN and to mobilize development partners to support and replicate the process.

The full project document provides more detailed and updated information on the project context.

A.2. *Child Project?* If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

N/A

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<sup>7</sup> For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving..

A.3. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders and elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project. Do they include civil society organizations (yes ☒ /no ☐)? and indigenous peoples (yes ☒ /no ☐)? <sup>8</sup>

Stakeholder participation will be ensured through the establishment of national LDN working groups. The working groups will be inclusive in its composition in order to incorporate all relevant stakeholders that have a direct relation with land degradation processes and can therefore contribute to the achievement of LDN. The establishment and facilitation of the LDN national working group will be coordinated by the national institution coordinating the LDN target setting process with support of the LDN TSP. The composition of the working group will vary from country to country taking into account national specificities. A rapid stakeholder mapping will be carried out in the initial phases of LDN TSP implementation, and included in the above-mentioned leverage plan, in order to identify key stakeholders to be involved in the process.

Some of the targeted key stakeholder groups, to be included in the national LDN working groups and the LDN TSP activities will include: i) Ministries and Governmental agencies; ii) Civil society organizations, including indigenous people and women; iii) Private sector; iv) Scientific and academic organizations; v) Development partners

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Elaborate on how gender equality and women's empowerment issues are mainstreamed into the project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men. In addition, 1) did the project conduct a gender analysis during project preparation (yes ☐ /no ☒)?; 2) did the project incorporate a gender responsive project results framework, including sex-disaggregated indicators (yes ☐ /no ☒)?; and 3) what is the share of women and men direct beneficiaries (women 50%, men 50%)? <sup>9</sup>

As mentioned under A.3, gender equality and women's empowerment will be taken into account by the project through the support to national LDN working groups. These working groups should include representatives from women's organization.

A.5 *Risk*. Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Some countries may not be able to finalize target setting process prior to COP13	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide timely support to countries</li> <li>• Monitor country work plans</li> <li>• Recruit national consultants for each country to support the process</li> </ul>
Weak national LDN related monitoring systems in place	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish partnerships with specialized institutions to mobilize additional country support</li> <li>• LDN targets will drive future investments, including GEF initiatives, which will continue to strengthen monitoring capacities</li> </ul>
Limited capacities of national UNCCD focal	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify national LDN champions to support LDN target setting process</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> As per the GEF-6 Corporate Results Framework in the GEF Programming Directions and GEF-6 Gender Core Indicators in the Gender Equality Action Plan, provide information on these specific indicators on stakeholders (including civil society organization and indigenous peoples) and gender.

<sup>9</sup> Same as footnote 8 above.

point institutions related to LDN target setting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen capacities of national UNCCD focal point (institution)</li> <li>Project activities explicitly address capacity, through inception process and the Technical Guide for LDN Target Setting</li> </ul>
Insufficient country ownership of LDN process	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation and implementation of LDN TSP Leverage Plan to ensure governmental leadership at the highest possible political level</li> <li>Each country submitted request to participate in LDN target setting process</li> <li>Each country to sign MoU outlining cooperation in the context of the LDN TSP</li> <li>Ensure good communication with national UNCCD focal point institution</li> </ul>
Key international organization do not engage in LDN target setting process	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure country ownership and leadership, which will further facilitate the mobilization of additional partners</li> <li>Identify and establish strategic partnerships at all levels (national, regional, global) with key partner organizations</li> </ul>
Countries are not interested in sharing information and experiences	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out specific project activities targeting information exchange and exchange of experiences</li> <li>Recruit regional consultants to facilitate exchange of information/experiences</li> </ul>
Organizations not always willing to share LDN related data	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish strategic partnerships with data providers</li> </ul>
<b>Assumptions</b>		
Most participating countries are sincere in their ambition to set voluntary national LDN targets prior to COP13		
Governments incorporate LDN concept in national policies		
All ministries and national agencies involved in land management or impacting on land are actively engaging in LDN target setting process		
Government endorses LDN target setting exercise at the highest level in order to facilitate the involvement of all ministries and private industry		
National focal point has the relevant political leverage to secure the above		
Quality of data from nationally and globally available sources will be improved thanks to LDN Partnerships		
Effective cooperation among all LDN partners		

*A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination.* Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Project coordination and management will be ensured by the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD as Executing Agency in close cooperation with IUCN as GEF Implementing Agency. A project steering committee will be established by both institutions in order to agree on operational and policy aspects related to the implementation of the LDN TSP.

Project management will be ensured through the establishment of the following project teams:

1.LDN TSP Coordination Team (PCT): The PCT will include all UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism staff and the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), who are supporting the implementation of the project. Overall coordination of the PCT will be ensured by the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism (+/- 5% time allocation), who will assign technical responsibility for LDN TSP Coordination to one Global Mechanism staff, who will ensure the position of Team Lead of the LDN TSP (+/- 80% time allocation).

2.LDN TSP Regional Teams (PRT): PRT will be established according to the UNCCD regional annexes covering Africa (distinguished in Anglophone and Francophone Africa), Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and Eastern European (including the Northern Mediterranean region). Each regional team will include a member of the PCT, as well as regional and country consultants. Main national counterparts for the regional teams will be the UNCCD national focal point (institution) and the national LDN working groups.

3.LDN TSP Outreach Team (POT): Embedded in the communication team of the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism, and coordinated by a member of the PCT, the POT will coordinate the production of all outreach materials, which will be provided by LDN TSP team as well as from stakeholders involved in the LDN target setting process. It will also coordinate the internal communication flows, including the project help desk and the data repository to be developed by the project.

4.LDN Data Management Team (PDT): In cooperation with the GSP, the project will establish a PDM, which will ensure quality control with regard to the collection and processing of LDN related data.

5.LDN Monitoring & Evaluation Team (PMET): One member of the PCT will be in charge of coordinating the M&E of the project activities in cooperation with the UNCCD Evaluation Office and Administrative Services, including the preparation of the project mid-term and final reports. The PMET will closely liaise with IUCN as Implementing Agency in order to take into account IUCN's M&E standards.

6.LDN Administrative Team (PAT): The PAT will be in charge of securing smooth project implementation through the effective delivery of administrative support, including contracting of experts, facilitating travel and supporting procurement. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) will be prepared with each participating country, which will outline the administrative arrangements with the countries.

LDN target setting partnerships will be sought at all levels with service/knowledge providers (e.g. space/remote sensing agencies) and financing partners for LDN target setting and related implementation. LDN Partner Meetings will be organized at least once per year inviting all donors and other international partners directly supporting the LDN TSP at national and/or global level.

#### Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

**A.7 Benefits.** Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

Taking action to achieve LDN by i) avoiding land degradation; ii) upscaling SLM/ILM practices; and iii) adopting restoration and rehabilitation measures is environmentally sound, socially responsible and economically viable to secure the healthy and productive land needed for equitable and sustainable development.

LDN provides multiple environmental and societal benefits, which help to address issues such as food security, income equality, poverty, and resource availability. LDN provides significant benefits for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. Halting and reversing land degradation can transform land from being a source of greenhouse gas emissions to a sink by increasing carbon stocks in soils and vegetation. Simultaneously, LDN plays a key role in

strengthening the resilience of rural communities against climate shocks by securing and improving the provision of vital ecosystem services.

These links between land and climate are well reflected in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) that countries developed to implement the new Paris agreement to fight climate change. More than 100 of the INDCs submitted land-based activities for mitigation as well as adaptation. In this sense, LDN targets and measures contribute directly to the implementation of national climate plans and vice versa. Such synergies should be taken into due account when developing national plans for LDN and climate action.

LDN is also closely related to many other SDGs. There are direct linkages between LDN and SDGs in the area of poverty, food security, environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Implementing LDN creates multiple benefits and will, therefore, make a direct contribution to achieving SDG target 15.3 and other SDGs.

**A.8 Knowledge Management.** Elaborate on the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

The project will support the organization of national multi-stakeholder consultations, including a launching workshop related to LDN target setting process, a technical validation workshop on the status of land degradation at national level (LDN baseline) and a technical validation of national LDN targets and associated measures, including the identification of opportunities for LDN implementation.

The Technical Guide for LDN target setting will be widely disseminated in order to further promote action to achieve LDN at global scale and across sectors and initiatives.

The project will organize and support the organization of international meetings and workshops to share experience on LDN target setting and to strengthen capacities on selected topics of interest to stakeholders involved in LDN target setting. If possible, these meetings will be held in conjunction with other events such as UNCCD COPs and CRICs. A capacity building needs assessment will be carried out by the project, in cooperation with the Soil Leadership Academy and other interested partners, to identify and address key gaps.

The LDN TSP will inform GEF, IUCN and UNCCD and their constituencies with insights from country-level experiences related to the LDN target setting process. The project will put special emphasis on showing the linkages between SLM, landscape restoration, climate change adaptation (including disaster risk reduction) and mitigation (carbon storage) as well as food security. With this in mind, the communication and visibility strategy will be built strongly around the evidence gathered by the feedback from the field.

In the participating countries, the project will support, through national advisors and in cooperation with the national LDN working group, the elaboration and dissemination of outreach products on the LDN target setting process. This will include the full documentation of the national LDN consultation process, including related workshops.

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

**B.1 Consistency with National Priorities.** Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.:

The LDN TSP will support beneficiary countries to define national LDN targets, building upon previous GEF investments in national sustainable development programmes and, more specifically, previous investments in UNCCD enabling activities (i.e., NAPs, NAP alignment and reporting processes). Furthermore, the LDN TSP will create synergies with LDN related processes, including global and regional initiatives promoting SLM and land(scape) restoration and build on/complement GEF-funded interventions, as GEF has supported and is supporting most countries in LDN related areas (e.g. watershed management, management of protected areas, agroforestry, restoration, enabling activities).

The UNCCD Secretariat carried out in 2014/15, a LDN Pilot Project, funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea in 14 countries. This project tested a methodological approach to guide countries in setting tangible targets,



which could be incorporated in their respective UNCCD NAPs. It will build on the LDN pilot project, which was implemented by the UNCCD Secretariat and funded by the Republic of Korea from May 2014 to October 2015 in 14 countries.

### **C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:**

Monitoring will be carried out primarily by the executing entity, i.e. the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD in close consultation with IUCN and main project counterparts in each country. It will include a quantitative measurement of the rate of progress of delivering the planned commitments, the review of budget allocations/spending and the status of output delivery.

One member of the PCT will be responsible for the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the Project work plan (“M&E Officer”), which will follow the principles of result-based management, applied by the UNCCD institutions since 2008.

In addition to a thorough monitoring of budget commitment and output delivery, project performance will be monitored qualitatively through the active involvement of the national LDN working groups: the participatory monitoring carried out throughout the project through the active involvement of the LDN working groups will provide valuable documentation on the different stages of progress made by the project. To this purpose, the national working plans and timeline for the implementation of the LDN TSP at country level will be aligned with the outputs, indicators and targets of the project.


A project progress report will be elaborated after one year of project implementation (project mid-term report). The report will include a summary of activities carried out by the project at national and global level. The report will also include the assessment of risks and other constraints for delivery and determine what lessons can be learned from implementation experiences. The reports shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final project report will cover the entire project period.

The GEF may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the GEF for independent monitoring reviews.

A final evaluation of the Project will be carried by an independent consultants contracted by the UNCCD Evaluation Office. IUCN will approve the Terms of Reference for the consultant and will participate in the selection process. The final evaluation report will be shared with the participating countries and other key stakeholders. The implementing partners shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation. In addition, the Global Mechanism will submit progress reports on the LDN TSP to UNCCD COP and CRIC meetings.

### **PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)**

#### **A. GEF Agency(ies) certification**

<b>This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies<sup>10</sup> and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.</b>					
<b>Agency Coordinator, Agency Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date (MM/dd/yyyy)</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Jean Yves Pirot		07/18/2016	Jonathan Davies	+254 20 2493570/65/61	Jonathan.davies@iucn.org

<sup>10</sup> GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF  
GEF6 CEO Endorsement /Approval Template-Dec2015

**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).

See chapter 2, page 7 to 10 of the project document

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

The following comments were received from the GEF Council:

1. "The United States welcomes the proposed concept. As the proposal is further developed, we request that UNDP provide additional detail on how this project will differ from the previous pilot project to develop Land Degradation Neutrality targets in fourteen countries and how funding will be allocated among project activities and across the three [sic] target countries."

Response: The project supports the upscaling of the LDN Pilot Project implemented by the UNCCD Secretariat in 14 countries to 70 countries. Lessons learned of the pilot project are described in chapter 3.6 in the full document and proposed changes are included in the Technical Guide for LDN target setting. Proposed changes include the strengthening of LDN national working groups, the alignment to UNCCD COP.12 decisions, the discussions on SDG target 15.3 and the alignment to the LDN Conceptual Framework prepared by the Science Policy Interface of the UNCCD.

2. "Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

Germany supports this global project which aims at supporting/ enabling countries to establish national voluntary targets for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

. With regard to the identification of measures associated with national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targeting, the proposal would benefit from being more explicit about the scope of this deliverable. Germany would recommend that the content of "measures" goes beyond priority areas/zones (para 15) or general opportunities (para 16), but reflects identified opportunities by sector and explicitly outlines the identified linkages to on-going policy development processes (enabling and regulative environment) as well as on-going investment programmes."

Response: The scope of possible LDN measures has been specified in the project document. These measures can indeed be specific for a given area, specific sectors, or addressing the enabling and/or regulative environment. The project document also highlights the importance of synergies with ongoing initiatives and/or investment programmes, including GEF initiatives such as TerrAfrica/Great Green Wall and related investment frameworks.

# ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS<sup>11</sup>

A. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

N/A

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: N/A			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0

<sup>11</sup> If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.  
GEF6 CEO Endorsement /Approval Template-Dec2015

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

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

N/A