



**REQUEST FOR LAND DEGRADATION ENABLING ACTIVITY  
PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER the GEF TRUST FUND**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS**

EA Title:	Iran National Action Programme (NAP) Alignment and Fith Reporting to UNCCD		
Country(ies):	Islamic Republic of Iran	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01053
Other Executing Partner(s):	Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO) <i>Secretariat of National Committee to Combat Desertification</i>	Submission Date:	20 February 2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	18
Check if applicable		Agency Fee:	<b>13,014</b>

**A. EA FRAMEWORK**

<b>EA Objective:</b> To assist Islamic Republic of Iran with the Fifth UNCCD Reporting and Review process and also aligning its NAP with the UNCCD 10-years Strategy					
<b>EA Component</b>	<b>Grant Type (TA/IN V)</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)</b>
1. NAP revision and alignment	TA	1.1 Islamic Republic of Iran have aligned its National Action Plans with the UNCCD 10year strategy and institutionalized them within government development framework	An aligned NAP to the 10 Year UNCCD Strategy that identify and establish priorities for fighting Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) in the context of national development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations, is submitted by Islamic Republic of Iran	14,000	18,000
			Report on NAP alignment priorities based on review	9,000	16,000

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

<sup>2</sup> The UNEP-UNEP-GEF “Monitoring Guidelines of Capacity Development in GEF project – sept 2010” scorecard will be used to monitored project achievement at countries level.

			of relevant plans including current NAP, National and sectoral plan, policies		
		1.2 Enhanced national capacity to assess and monitor baseline and indicators for the implementation of the Strategy and NAP	Training in use and application of indicators, monitoring and evaluation and in the gathering of data	4,150	8000
			A harmonized biophysical and socio-economic baseline and drought warning system	9,000	13,000
			Developed and reviewed indicators for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities	4,500	10,000
			Established National observatory sites and national monitoring and vulnerability assessments system	5,000	16,000
			A national DLDD knowledge management system including useful traditional knowledge and scientific findings	5,000	15,000
			1.3 Enhanced national policies, institutional , financial and technological framework for NAP implementation	Mainstreamed NAP priorities in relevant sectoral policies and foster collaborations at all levels including with scientific community	6,200
		A cross-sectoral institutional mechanisms that will ensure collaboration, coordination and information sharing		5,750	9,000
		A national Plan for NAP implementation that include coordination among stakeholders including scientific communities , technology transfer and		3,700	15,000

			dissemination of information. Communication on outreach strategy for NAP implementation		
			A national analysis of financial resources and an Integrated Financial Strategy and Investment Frameworks available for NAP implementation	8,000	15,000
2. Reporting and Review	TA	2.1 National reports and review process under UNCCD prepared and submitted by Islamic Republic of Iran	A national report from Islamic Republic of Iran on the measures taken to implement the UNCCD Impact Reporting	7,000	18,000
			National level Training to reach common understanding of methodologies, procedures, tools and their application for indicator-based reporting which comply with the reporting requirements of the UNCCD	4,500	8,000
			Systems for long – term data gathering , flows, quality insurance and knowledge management for the reporting and review process	7,470	12,300
			Appropriate consultative processes and Report of stakeholders assessment and workshop on the launch of the reporting process (impact assessment, performance review, best practices and financial flows)	12,139	12,000
			National Report validated and submitted through UNCCD PRAIS portal	4,500	9,000
		2.2. An enabling environment for preparation of national reporting cycle to the UNCCD	Improved linkages of UNCCD reporting and implementation with national development priorities	4,500	9,000
			The National plan to	4,500	9,000

		make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD implementation		
		A Islamic Republic of Iran conceptual approach for harmonization of indicator data and knowledge bases of GEF, Rio Conventions, MEA IKM and other databases relevant to land degradation	5,624	9,000
Subtotal			124,533	233,300
EA Management Cost			12,453	26,700
Total EA Cost			<b>136,986</b>	<b>260,000</b>

**B. CO-FINANCING FOR THE EA BY SOURCE AND BY NAME**

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Islamic Republic of Iran	Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO)	In-kind	80,000
Islamic Republic of Iran	Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO)	Cash	180,000
Others			
<b>Total Cofinancing</b>			<b>260,000</b>

**C. GRANT RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	EA amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Islamic Republic of Iran	136,986	13,014	150,000
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				<b>136,986</b>	<b>13,014</b>	<b>150,000</b>

**D. EA MANAGEMENT COST**

<b><u>COST ITEMS</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL ESTIMATED PERSON WEEKS/MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>GRANT AMOUNT</u></b>	<b><u>CO-FINANCING</u></b>	<b><u>EA TOTAL</u></b>
<b><u>LOCAL CONSULTANTS</u></b>				
<b><u>INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS</u></b>		<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
<b><u>OFFICES FCILITIES, EQUIPMENT, VEHICULES, AND COMMUNICATIONS</u></b>		<b><u>7,453</u></b>	<b><u>18,700</u></b>	<b><u>26,153</u></b>
<b><u>TRAVEL</u></b>		<b><u>5,000</u></b>	<b><u>8,000</u></b>	<b><u>13,000</u></b>
<b><u>OTHERS</u></b>		<b><u>0</u></b>		
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>		<b><u>12,453</u></b>	<b><u>26,700</u></b>	<b><u>39,153</u></b>

**PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION**

<p><b>A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT</b> (Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Islamic Republic of Iran ratified UNCCD in 1997. Since then, several important efforts were made in country towards their implementation. Islamic Republic of Iran developed and approved the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAP) in 2004, which identifies the priority regions facing the risk of desertification, defines the main factors contributing to desertification in these areas, and determines short- and medium-terms actions. Islamic Republic of Iran has also submitted four national reports on the implementation of convention</li> <li>2. Land resources management in Islamic Republic of Iran is guided by several policies including the UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP); The five years Development programs ,Poverty Reduction Program, National Strategy for sustainable Development, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Outlook Program of the I.R.of Iran (2005 2025), National Water Strategy, National Meteorological Plan ,Early Warning System, National Strategy for Agricultural and Natural Resources, National Plan Watershed Management, and National Family Planning Program have contributed elements and aspects for the NAP formulation and implementation.</li> </ol>
<p><b>B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES</b> (The proposal should briefly justify and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Attempts have been made to boost the NAP coherence with other social development plans in terms of poverty reduction,</li> </ol>

describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender dimensions are considered in project design and implementation.)

family planning and public participation also with other international environmental frameworks including UNFCCC and CBD. However, there is still great need for enhancing the intersectional cooperation for NAP implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the impacts and effectiveness of respective plans. The NAP itself is further out-dated and lacks proper coherence with recent national and sectoral plans, policies and priorities. Other shortcomings area of NAP could be summarised as follows:

- Integrated approach in planning and management of dry ecosystems and participatory natural resource management to meet the needs of the local communities and improve the ecological indexes.
  - Imposing the criteria and indicators of desertification in all infrastructural project development and monitoring and evaluation of desertification processes and drivers
  - Raising awareness and capacity building for all stakeholders at the decision making to the grassroots levels.
4. Base on the above described situation, the first project objective is to elaborate a new National Action Plan to combat desertification with focus on national priorities and being in full compliance with 10-year UNCCD Action Plan as per decision 3/COP 9. In preparation of the NAP all interested parties, particularly Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and private sector will be involved, in order, to ensure ownership and integrated approach.
  5. Over the last decades the UNCCD has undertaken a major reform process aimed at making the UNCCD process more efficient, transparent, and accountable and focused. The adoption by the Parties (decision 3/COP.8) in 2007 of the 10-Year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018) (hereinafter the “Strategy”) has paved the way for a results-based approach to global and national efforts to combat desertification.
  6. Against this background, the project responds to the specific calls made by the committee for the Review of the Implementation (CRIC) and Conference of the Parties (COP) for adequate global capacity development measures, as well as technical and financial support to ensure long-term capacities of Parties to align their NAPs and to monitor the implementation of the Strategy and the Convention in accordance with the new reporting obligations. More in particular the project aims to respond directly to the decisions 3/COP.8 which in adopting the Strategy urges and recognizes “the need for Parties to align their NAPs” and 2/COP.9 on “Alignment of the action programs with The Strategy” which call for:
    - a. Affected country Parties to use the alignment guidelines as the reference tool in aligning NAPs and other relevant implementation activities with the 5 operational

	<p>objectives of The Strategy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. The Secretariat to facilitate provision of technical assistance to affected country Parties for review, alignment and/or revision of NAPs;</li> <li>c. GM/Secretariat, in accordance with their mandates, to financially assist affected country Parties to develop integrated investment frameworks to foster resource mobilization for NAP alignment ;</li> <li>d. Developed country Parties and financial institutions to assist with funding to eligible country Parties for review, alignment and revision of NAPs<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>7. The Strategy, with its clearly defined strategic objectives (SO) and operational objectives (OO) to achieve enhanced implementation of the Convention, requires all existing NAPs (including those under preparation) to reflect the new implementation framework adopted by the Convention<sup>4</sup>. It also introduces a new monitoring and assessment process within the UNCCD, the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) which is based on sets of performance and impact indicators to measure, respectively, progress against the operational and strategic objectives. Special attention is also placed on measuring investment flows for UNCCD implementation and dissemination of best practices.</p> <p>8. Islamic Republic of Iran has presented four National Reports on implementation of UNCCD Conventions. The Fifth reporting cycle based on the new reporting for elaborating National Report the key challenges are:</p> <p>9. Responsibilities are not clearly demarcated between governmental agencies involved in the process of NAP implementation.</p> <p>10. Information Exchange is not provided at a satisfactory manner between institutions. There is no clear division of tasks and responsibilities between agencies on central and local levels. In addition, there is low communication between government and scientific institutions with the consequence of poor consideration of scientific findings in the decision making processes.</p> <p>11. The current country institutional and technical situation of the country will render it difficult to conduct monitoring on the issues stipulated by Convention and take responsibility over indicators at National level and, finally develop National Reports</p>
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<sup>3</sup> Decision 13/COP.9 CONS O 5 target: By 2014, at least 80% of affected country Parties subregional and regional entities have formulated/ revised a NAP/SRAP/RAP aligned to The Strategy

<sup>4</sup>The alignment of the NAPs is imbedded in the Strategy itself, which puts forward in the outcome areas 2.2 and 2.3 that a revision by affected country parties of their NAP into strategic documents based on socio-economic and biophysical baseline information and integrated in relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies, including integrated investment frameworks, is necessary in order to achieve operational objective two.

in accordance of requirements, if the country is left alone. GEF financial support will enable the country to engage expertise at national and international level and benefit from the Help Desk at international level to enable the country to fulfil its reporting obligation and align it NAP.

12. After the successful undertaking in 2010 of the first leg of the 4<sup>th</sup> Reporting and Review process on the performance indicators, financial flows and best practices on SLM technologies, the UNCCD initiates in 2012 the second leg of the 4<sup>th</sup> Reporting cycle that will also include reporting on the strategic objectives, using the set of identified impact indicators.
13. The project addresses directly decisions 11/COP.9, 13/COP.9, and 17/COP.9 concerning, respectively, 1) the new mandate and functions of the CRIC, 2) the establishment of a comprehensive Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) and 3) measuring progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, and 4 of The Strategy through appropriate impact indicators and performance indicators through an improved process learning from the iterative process initiated for that specific purpose by COP 9. In this respect, Decision 17/COP.9 explicitly calls for inclusion of the impact indicators in future capacity-building initiatives assisting affected country Parties and requests the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) to seek assistance from bilateral donors, relevant international organizations and financial institutions, with particular regard to the Global Environment Facility. At its ninth meeting, the CRIC<sup>5</sup> confirmed strong support for further capacity building and adequate technical and financial assistance to be provided by the GEF to UNCCD country Parties to assist them in fulfilling reporting obligations under the Convention.
14. The project aims at assisting Islamic Republic of Iran in aligning its NAPs with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and to undertake UNCCD reporting and review process, including the review of impact indicators provisionally adopted by the COP and implemented under the PRAIS framework. The two processes (NAP alignment and reporting) will be mutually reinforcing and resulting in improved planning and monitoring of UNCCD implementation at the national level for better decision making on DLDD and sustainable land management issues. As the project will last for eighteen months, it is not anticipated that during this period, the country will have to conduct other activities to comply with possible future COP decisions. However if the necessity arises, the project adaptive management will render it possible to address the emerging issues without compromising the attainment of the current

<sup>5</sup>ICCD/CRIC(9)/16, "Report of the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Bonn from 21 to 25 February 2011". Notably p. 9, paragraphs 35 and 36; p. 11, paragraph 51; p.15, paragraph 84, 87 and 88; p. 16, paragraph 91; and p. 17, paragraph 105. <http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric9/pdf/16eng.pdf>



project objective.

15. The project will also support the country to put in place an enabling environment that will lift barriers for long term SLM vision, adequate policies and regulatory framework, and appropriate information and technology transfer. The project will also build capacities for sound data collection and management, proper coordination, information exchanges at all levels and establish appropriate mechanism for sustainable coordination of implementation of the Action Plan and reporting process.
16. The project will ensure all norms regarding social and environmental safeguards including gender and indigenous people considerations by ensuring (i) inclusiveness of both men and women in project formulation and implementation of the national consultation processes; (ii) ensuring inclusiveness for marginalized and poor communities in the consultations; (iii) collecting of gender disaggregated data and information where possible, and (vi) analysis and articulation of relationship of DLDD to human well being and poverty reduction, through the impact indicators and the anticipated socioeconomic impacts of the aligned NAPs on the national development agenda.
17. In order to enable UNEP to track how consideration of socio-economic benefits, indigenous people, gender dimensions are addressed by Parties, the SSFA will include a provision that these considerations including CSO participation to the process at national level, should be reflected in the aligned NAPs and/or reporting process. In addition, the UNEP Help Desk will assist in ensuring social/gender issues are integrated in the NAPs and reports.
18. The members of National Committee to Combat Desertification (NCCD) are the main key stakeholders which will closely involve in the project implementation and include the following ministries and organizations;
  - Ministry of Agriculture,
  - Ministry of Road, housing and city construction,
  - Ministry of Energy,
  - Ministry of Petroleum
  - Ministry of Sciences, Research and Technology,
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Ministry of Interior,
  - National institutions including Department of

	<p>Environment, Management and planning, Cultural heritage and tourism organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Center for Sustainable Development, CENESTA as representative of the NGOs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION</b> (discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A ).</p>	<p>19. The objective of this project is to facilitate access to GEF funding by Islamic Republic of Iran for Enabling Activities to meet its obligations under the UNCCD (i) alignment of NAPs with 10 – Year Strategy and (ii) Reporting and Review process. This will be achieved through following immediate objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To enable Islamic Republic of Iran to align its National Action Program in light of operational and strategic objectives identified by UNCCD 10-year Strategy</li> <li>- To enable the National Coordination Body (NCB) and national stakeholders to undertake the necessary consultations for completion of the current reporting and review process</li> </ul> <p>20. The project will support:</p> <p>(i) <b>Stock taking and awareness raising on NAP alignment:</b> The national Project Management Team (PMT) team made of specialist of nature resources and sociologist / stakeholder will identify needs and stakeholders expectations at the national and local levels and prepare recommendations for how to conduct the alignment process.</p> <p><b>Outputs :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report on needs and expectations</li> <li>- Methodology for NAP alignment available</li> </ul> <p>(ii) <b>Strengthening human and scientific capacity for NAP alignment and reporting:</b> Based on stakeholders’ needs and agreed approach for the NAP alignment, the national experts’ team including professional trainers will agree on how to adapt the guidelines received from the Convention Secretariat and Global Mechanism and conduct necessary workshop for different stakeholders at the national level to have a common understanding and capacities on how the alignment will take place.</p> <p><b>Outputs :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training in use and application of indicators, monitoring and evaluation and in the gathering of data</li> </ul>

- Agreed guidelines for NAP alignment and reporting

(iii) **Establishment and strengthening of the policy and institutional framework for NAP alignment , implementation and reporting:**

National Project Management Team (PMT) composed of different relevant fields (i.e. land, agriculture, forestry, soil, water) and lawyer will be created. The team will assess the national legislation and institutional set-ups in Islamic Republic of Iran. The FRWO will assist in analysing national legislation, institutional set-up, relevant plans, policies and reports, implemented, on-going or planned projects in field of combating desertification and land degradation work and come up with recommendations for improving institutional framework in the land degradation /desertification spheres, which include demarcating responsibilities between government agencies and strengthening relevant responsible institutions in the NCCD.

Another activity will be the identification of the thematic directions of NAP based on analysis of existing gaps and challenges in the field of land management and degradation. The key challenges in legislation and institutional arrangement will be to identify and make recommendations to the national government for improved and comprehensive system for land degradation and combating desertification will be elaborated. The national report and recommendations will be discussed at multi-stakeholder meeting and will be transferred to the relevant State authorities. The recommendations will be used in further activities of the Project.

Furthermore, it will be conducted identification of priorities for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities. The same national PMT / tasks forces made of specialists of natural resources (i.e. land, agriculture, forestry, soil) with supervision of the FRWO and NCCD will analyse trends and dynamics of desertification and land degradation based on existing data and historical information, experts judgment and consultations

**Outputs**

- Report on Review of relevant plans including current NAP, policies,,priorities , institutionsl set-up
- A national Plan for NAP implementation that include:

coordination among stakeholders including scientific communities , technology transfer and dissemination of information.

- A cross-sectoral institutional mechanisms that will ensure collaboration, coordination and information sharing
- A national knowledge management system including useful traditional knowledge and scientific findings
- Established National observatory sites and national monitoring and vulnerability assessments system
- A harmonized biophysical and socio-economic baseline and drought warning system developed and reviewed indicators for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities

(iv) **Development of the National Action Program:** Based on the analyses of the trends and dynamics of desertification and land degradation, the main priority directions for National Action Program will be identified and national program outline elaborated. The FRWO will organize at least five (5) national consultation meetings with participation of all national as well as local stakeholders first to agree on National Action Program outline. NAP elaboration process will include: data collection and processing, workshops (problem identification, priority actions identification, presentation of the findings and development of NAP document).

**Output :**

- An aligned NAP to the 10 Year UNCCD Strategy that identify and establish priorities in the context of development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations, is submitted by Islamic Republic of Iran

(v) **Establishment of the financial and technological framework for NAP implementation:**

FRWO will conduct evaluation of financial resources available for NAP implementation. It will identify priorities and develop integrated financial strategy. It will estimate financial resources needed for implementation of each action included in NAP. This approach will enable Islamic Republic of Iran to have a long term financial mechanism that will support the implementation of DLDD agenda in the country. To ensure sustainability of the project results, mainstreaming NAP priorities in relevant sectoral policies and fostering collaborations at all levels. Scientific

community will be a key stakeholder that will be communicated by the project.

**Output (s):**

- A national analysis of financial resources and technical framework and an Integrated Financial Strategy and Investment Frameworks available for NAP implementation
- Mainstreamed NAP priorities in relevant sectoral policies and foster collaborations at all levels

(vi) **Strengthening human and scientific capacity for implementation of indicator based monitoring and assessment** which will include:

- Understanding and application of methodologies for indicator-based reporting which comply with the reporting requirements of the UNCCD
- Reviewing at national level with all stakeholders the reporting methodologies, procedures and tools
- Establishment of long term data gathering and knowledge management systems for the reporting and review process
- Maintaining data flow to the knowledge management systems
- Establishing data quality insurance systems before report submission
- Ensure liaison with UNCCD and Global Mechanism Secretariats, the Implementing Agency (UNEP) Help Desk, FRWO for acquiring further knowledge and know-how on UNCCD reporting

**Outputs:**

- National level Training to reach common understanding of methodologies, procedures, tools and the their application for indicator-based reporting which comply with the reporting requirements of the UNCCD
- Systems for long – term data gathering , flows, quality insurance and knowledge management for the reporting and review process

(vii) **Preparation of report for the reporting which will include:**

- Establishment of appropriate consultative processes
- Stakeholder assessment and workshop on the launch of the reporting process (impact assessment, performance review, best practices and financial flows)
- Preparation of the draft report
- National validation workshop to review and finalize the

report

- Submission of the report through the PRAIS portal

From the project start-up the PMT will begin working with relevant consultants and stakeholders to gather information for the preparation and finalisation of the reports for the second leg of the fourth reporting and review process. Interviews and desk studies will be carried out. A draft of the Report will be circulated among the NCCD members and comments will be integrated into the document. The Report will be finalised within the timeframe set by convention bodies.

**Outputs:**

- Appropriate consultative processes during the reporting process
- A national report from Islamic Republic of Iran on the measures taken to implement the UNCCD Impact Reporting submitted

**EA IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT**

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

**22.** 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.

**23.** The project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalysing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements. UNEP signed and MOU with UNCCD secretariat implemented the UNCCD Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation project (PRAIS) project alongside the first leg of the 4th UNCCD reporting and review project<sup>6</sup>, the piloting integrated processes and approaches to facilitate national reporting to Rio Conventions project (FNR\_Rio) and has implemented the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership project. Together, these initiatives will provide GEF with a range of relevant experiences, proof of concept, testing of ideas and access to the best available science and knowledge. In relation to the land degradation focal area, the project is fully in line with UNEP comparative experience in reference with GEF/C 31/5 Annex H. UNEP will primarily focus on the areas of its mandate, will continue to provide scientific and technical advice to the Facility on its policies and programmes.

**24.** UNEP has history of working with Government of Islamic Republic of Iran. Currently, the country is being supported to implement a GEF project to build capacity for implementation of Biosafety Framework. At regional level, Iran is participating in regional projects implemented by UNEP in areas of International Waters and POPs. In previous years, Iran participated also in regional GEF projects under Climate Change and Biodiversity Focal areas implemented by UNEP.

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<sup>6</sup>Most activities finalised; still awaiting terminal evaluation.

	<p><b>25. Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO):</b> As the Executing Agency, FRWO shall take responsibility for the execution of the project in accordance with the objectives, activities and budget and deliver the outputs and demonstrate its best efforts in achieving the project outcomes. It shall also coordinate activities with the National UNCCD and UNCBD and UNFCC national secretariats and focal points. It shall also support the project adaptive management tool and develop a management response to any review. FRWO shall establish and host the Project Management Team (PMT) and provide high level technical inputs and organize the tasks at national level as well as securing capacity building of the national team. The PMT will work directly with the secretariat of National Committee to Combat Desertification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) FRWO will disburse funds received to support the country to execute the project according to the agreed work plan</li> <li>ii) In addition, FRWO will prepare and coordinate training for country team for the revision NAP alignment and Reporting process</li> <li>iii) The FRWO will further give guidance and technical advice to PMT during implementation of the project as required and make comments on draft NAP and Report before they are submitted to UNEP and UNCCD.</li> </ul> <p><b>26. National Committee to Combat Desertification (NCCD):</b> Forest, Rangeland and Watershed management Organization (FRWO) as the National Coordination Body (NCB) of the UNCCD at the national level should activate and benefit from NCCD ( National Committee to Combat Desertification) as the steering committee for supervision and endorsement of the final reports. The NCCD as the Project Coordinating Committee will further ensure that the gender and indigenous people issues are adequately addressed both during the alignment and the reporting.</p>
<p><b>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED <u>COST-EFFECTIVENESS</u> OF THE PROJECT:</b></p>	<p>27. The project will address at the same time performance and impact indicators for the UNCCD implementation which will enable sound, rigorous and scientific reporting at national levels on not only the convention implementation, but also on the land degradation trends and the impact of mitigation measures. Furthermore, the project will allow the country to align its national land degradation and Sustainable Land Management agendas with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy. Such results will</p>



	<p>make the project very cost-effective in terms of GEF resources invested, as the enabling environment including capacity building element of the project will facilitate long term planning and investment for SLM as well as enhance synergy with the other conventions (CBD, UNFCCC) and other environment processes as a whole since the indicators based approach will explore harmonization potentials</p>
<p><b>E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&amp;E PLAN:</b></p>	<p>28. 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 to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP. The project M&amp;E plan for the costed M&amp;E and the plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. Other M&amp;E related costs are also presented in the costed M&amp;E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.</p> <p>29. The M&amp;E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop 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 workshop. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the project management team 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 UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.</p> <p>30. The Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The PMT/FRWO will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the NCCD 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 NCCD as the Coordinating Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the reporting process. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.</p> <p>31. The M&amp;E which will include project inception workshop, inception report, periodic review by the Steering committee,</p>

	project implementation review, terminal evaluation and report and independent final audit conducted by an independent audit authority (a recognized firm of certified public accountants or for Governments by a government auditor). The costed item will be around US \$5,000.
<b>F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):</b>	N/A

**TABLE: MONITORING AND EVALUATION BUDGET**

<b>M&amp;E activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Budget (US\$)*1</b>	<b>Time-frame</b>
Inception workshop	Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups	Project team UNEP/GEF	3000	Within two months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	Project coordinator	0	Immediately following IW
Periodic Project Review by Steering Committee	Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations and technical outputs; Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms forward implementation plan.	Project team UNEP/GEF		Every six months
Project Implementation Review	Progress and effectiveness review for the GEF, provision of lessons learned	Project team UNEP-GEF	0	Annually
Terminal report	Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan Highlights technical outputs Identifies lessons learned and likely design approaches for future projects, assesses likelihood of achieving design outcomes	Project team	0	At the end of project implementation
Independent Financial Audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions		2000	At the end of project implementation
<b>Total indicative M&amp;E cost*1</b>			<b>5000</b>	

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

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


<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)</b>
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<p>His Excellency Hamid Baeidi NEJAD</p>	<p>Director General, International Economic Affairs and Specialized Agencies  Political/Operational Focal Point</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p><b>01-21-2013</b></p>
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## B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

CONVENTIONS	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ACCESSION	CONVENTION FOCAL POINT
UNCCD	1997	Mr. Alireza Owrangi TEL : +98 21 22 44 65 08 FaX: +98 21 22 44 65 56 Email : international@frw.org.ir

## B.GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Maryam Niamir-Fuller Director, GEF Coordination Office  Email: maryam.niamir- fuller@unep.org		02/20/2013	Adamou Bouhari Task Manager BD/LD UNEP/ GEF	+25402076 23860	Adamou.Bouhari @unep.org

## ANNEX A: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY

Position Titles	\$/person week	Estimated Person week	Task to be performed
For EA Management			
Local			
National Project coordinator (National Government contribution)	735	104	Manager will be responsible for the overall management and supervision of all aspects of the Project. She will also be responsible for coordination of the working groups, facilitation of meetings, progress reporting and qualitative evaluation of

			reports
International			
N/A			
For Technical Assistance			
Local Consultants			
1. Integrated Natural resources management specialist	\$500	20	1. Integrated Natural resources management specialist - participation in needs and capacity assessment of different stakeholders, - development of training materials, - participation in legal and institutional assessment, - participation in development of NAP and NRM.
2. Policy/Institutional expert	\$500	10	2. Policy/Institutional expert: - assessment of national legislation, policy and institutional set-up - development of recommendations
3. Agricultural specialist	\$500	20	3. Agricultural specialist - participation in development of NAP and NRM - assessments of agricultural degradation
4. Specialist of land degradation and SLM	\$500	20	4. Specialist of land degradation and SLM - data gathering and analysis on land degradation - participation in development of NAP and NRM
5. National planning and budgeting specialist	\$500	40	5. National planning and budgeting specialist - reviewing relevant development plans including current NAP - Develop integrated financial strategy for NAP implementation

6. Reporting	\$500	10	- participation in development of NAP and NRM  6. Reporting Specialist for - support in development of NAP and National Report
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