



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

RESUBMISSION: 07-05-2012

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

EA Title:	Alignment of National Action Programme to the UNCCD 10 Years Strategy and Preparation of the the Fith Reporting and Review process		
Country(ies):	Madagascar	GEF Project ID: ¹	4983
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	00837
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment and Forest, Madagascar	Submission Date:	20 June 2012
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	24
Check if applicable	NCSA NAPA	Agency Fee:	13,636

A. EA FRAMEWORK

EA Objective: To facilitate access to GEF funding by Madagascar for Enabling Activities to meet their obligations under the UNCCD a) alignment of NAPs with 10 – Year Strategy and b) Reporting and Review process.					
EA Component	Grant Type (TA/IN V)	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs ²	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
1. NAP revision and alignment	TA	1.1 Madagascar have aligned its National Action Plans with the UNCCD 10year strategy and institutionalized them within future government development framework	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 Madagascar	14,000	14,000
			Report on Review of relevant plans including current NAP, policies,,priorities and methodology for NAP alignment and a Land risk atlas and internet portal using GIS	9,000	10,000
		1.2 Enhanced national	Training in use and application of indicators,	4,750	5,500

¹Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² 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.

		capacity to assess and monitor baseline and indicators for the implementation of The Strategy and to undertake the NAP align	monitoring and evaluation and in the gathering of data		
			A harmonized biophysical and socio-economic baseline and drought warning system	9,000	9,000
			Developed and reviewed indicators for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities	4,500	5,000
			Established National observatory sites and national monitoring and vulnerability assessments system	5,000	8,000
			A national knowledge management system including useful traditional knowledge and scientific findings	5,000	6,000
			1.3 Enhanced national policies, institutional , financial and technological framework for the implementation NAP implementation	Mainstreamed NAP priorities in relevant sectoral policies and foster collaborations at all levels including withb scientific community	6,200
			A cross-sectoral institutional mechanisms that will ensure collaboration, coordination and information sharing	5,750	7,500
			A national Plan for NAP implementation that include coordination among stakeholders including scientific communities , technology transfer and dissemination of information. Communication on outreach strategy for NAP implementation	3,700	4,000
			A national analysis of financial resources and an Integrated Financial	3,000	5,000

			Strategy and Investment Frameworks available for NAP implementation			
2. 2012 Reporting and Review	TA	2.1 National reports and review process under UNCCD prepared and submitted by Madagascar	A national report from Madagascar on the measures taken to implement the UNCCD Impact Reporting	12,000	12,000	
			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	4,500	5,000	
		2.1 National reports and review process under UNCCD prepared and submitted by Madagascar	Systems for long – term data gathering , flows, quality insurance and knowledge management for the reporting and review process	7,470	7,300	
			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)	12,221	10,000	
			National Report validated and submitted through UNCCD PRAIS portal	4,500	5,000	
			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	5,000
			The National plan to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD implementation	4,500	5,000	
		A Madagascarn conceptual approach for harmonization of	4,500	5,000		

		indicator data and knowledge bases of GEF, Rio Conventions, MEA IKM and other databases relevant to land degradation		
Subtotal			124,091	136,300
EA Management Cost			12,273	13,700
Total EA Cost			136,364	150,000

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National government	Madagascar	In-kind	50,000
Project Executing Agency	Ministry of Environment and Forest	In-Kind	80,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In- Kind	20,000
Others			0
Total Cofinancing			150,000

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) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Madagascar	136,364	13,636	150,000
Total Grant Resources				136,364	13,636	150,000

D. EA MANAGEMENT COST

<u>COST ITEMS</u>	<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED PERSON WEEKS/MONTH</u>	<u>GRANT AMOUNT</u>	<u>CO-FINANCING</u>	<u>EA TOTAL</u>
<u>LOCAL CONSULTANTS</u>				
<u>INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>OFFICES FCILITIES, EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND COMMUNICATIONS</u>		<u>7,273</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>12,973</u>
<u>TRAVEL</u>		<u>5,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>13,000</u>
<u>OTHERS</u>		<u>0</u>		
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>12,273</u>	<u>13,700</u>	<u>25,973</u>

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PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

<p>A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT (Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Madagascar ratified UNCCD in 1997. Since then, several important efforts were made in country towards their implementation. Madagascar developed and approved the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAPCD) in 2003, 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. Madagascar has also submitted four national reports on the implementation of convention 2. Land resources management in Madagascar is guided by several policies including the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (PAN-LCD, 2003); the country’s national strategy based on global Millennium Development Objectives; the National Environmental Action Plan (PNAE), a major instrument for the National Strategy for Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in relation to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD); the National Strategy for the Management of Risks and Catastrophes, the country’s policy paper for coping/adapting to climatic change.
<p>B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES (The proposal should briefly justify and 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.)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Apart of that Malagasy land resources are limited and protection of land and soil is one of the major problems , there is an absence of comprehensive and integrated vision in the land management sector, lack of efficient land management policies, weak regulatory framework, limited access to appropriate information and technology, weak institutional capacities and lack of cooperation between the various stakeholders along with high rate of natural disasters which are causing significant problems in SLM sector and for overall ecosystem integrity. 4. Madagascar is facing today an absence of comprehensive and integrated policy/vision in the land management sector. In addition irrelevant legal framework sometimes is source of additional “conflicts” with the evolved national strategic and policy packages. 5. In addition, the above mentioned (section A) policies documents, are now out-dated and are not addressing the current land degradation and desertification problems recognized and prioritized at National and Global levels. 6. 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.

7. 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.
8. 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 objectives of The Strategy;
 - b. The Secretariat to facilitate provision of technical assistance to affected country Parties for review, alignment and/or revision of NAPs;
 - 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 ;
 - d. Developed country Parties and financial institutions to assist with funding to eligible country Parties for review, alignment and revision of NAPs³.
9. 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 Convention⁴. 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,

³ 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

⁴The 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.

progress against the operational and strategic objectives. Special attention is also placed on measuring investment flows for UNCCD implementation and dissemination of best practices.

10. Madagascar has presented four National Reports on implementation of UNCCD Conventions. *National Focal Point* has received training and is capable of uploading the report through the PRAIS portal, but for elaborating National Report the key challenges are:
11. The un-unified information and data on degraded lands and *tenures*. There is no modern system of data collection and analysis).
12. 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.
13. Responsibilities are not clearly demarcated between government agencies (the Ministries of Environment and Forest in particular) regarding the land protection sphere.
14. 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 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.
15. After the successful undertaking in 2010 of the first leg of the 4th Reporting and Review process on the performance indicators, financial flows and best practices on SLM technologies, the UNCCD initiates in 2012 the second leg of the 4th Reporting cycle that will also include reporting on the strategic objectives, using the set of identified impact indicators.
16. 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 CRIC⁵ 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.

17. The project aims at assisting Madagascar 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 two years, 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 project objective.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. In order to enable UNEP to track how consideration of socio-

⁵ICCD/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>

	<p>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.</p> <p>21. The key national stakeholders which will closely involve in the project implementation will include relevant departments of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Environment et Forest - Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Livestock production - Ministry of Economy and Industry (in charge of Plan) - Ministry of Water Resources - Ministry of Decentralisation - Ministry of Land Planning - Groupement des Semi-Directs de Madagascar, Maisons des Paysans - Entrepreneurs Organization of Madagascar <p>These institutions will be represented in the Project coordination Committee and therefore will contribute in their respective field in mainstreaming the land degradation issues and directing the process.</p>
<p>C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A).</p>	<p>22. The objective of this project is to facilitate access to GEF funding by Madagascar 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"> - To enable Madagascar to align its National Action Program in light of operational and strategic objectives identified by UNCCD 10-year Strategy - To enable the National Focal Point of UNCCD and national stakeholders to undertake the necessary consultations for completion of the next reporting and review process <p>23. The project will support:</p> <p>(i) Stock taking and awareness raising on NAP alinement: The national experts' team made of specialist of nature</p>

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.

Outputs :

- Report on needs and expectations
- Methodology for NAP alignment available

- (ii) **Strengthening human and scientific capacity for NAP alignment and reporting:** 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.

Outputs :

- Training in use and application of indicators, monitoring and evaluation and in the gathering of data
- Agreed guidelines for NAPA alignment and reporting

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

National experts' team 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 Madagascar. The Executing Agency 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 Ministry of Environment and Forest.

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 experts' teams / tasks forces / made of specialists of nature resources (i.e. land, agriculture, forestry, soil) with supervision of the executing agency 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 , institutional 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 prepared by national experts' with supervision of the executing agency main priority directions for National Action Program will be identified and national program outline elaborated. The Project team 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 Madagascar

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

The national experts team will conduct evaluation of financial resources available for NAP implementation, will identify priorities and develop integrated financial strategy. It will be estimated financial resources needed for implementation of each action and included in NAP. This approach will enable Madagascar 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 including with scientific community will be a key issue that will be dealt with 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 , the Ministry of Environment and Forest for acquiring further knowledge and know-how on UNCCD reporting
- Creation of Land degradation risk atlas and internet portal to ensure data gathering and knowledge management for reporting and review process: The national experts' teams / tasks forces based on existing data and information, experts judgment and field work will identify hot spots, in selected areas of Madagascar (identified by previous NAPs as a most vulnerable territories in terms of land degradation) affected by land degradation, with different levels of risk (High, Low, Medium). GIS specialists will work with the task forces to prepare land risk atlas and internet portal using GIS. Risk atlas will indicate sensitive ecosystems affected by land degradation, types of unsustainable land management causing desertification, deforestation and overgrazing and level of degradation. Maps will be by the relevant national authorities in the country (i.e. Ministries in charge of Environment, Agriculture, Regional development, etc.) as well as local authorities. The necessities of elaboration of the maps are crucial since updated and reliable technical data on land resources and their condition does not exist. At present, lands prone to desertification, overgrazing and deforestation are not identified, types of degradation are not determined and the level and general causes for different types of land degradation are not evaluated.

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
- Land risk atlas and internet portal using GIS available

(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 NRPT 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 stakeholders 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 Madagascar on the measures taken to implement the UNCCD Impact Reporting submitted

EA IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

24. 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 UNEP/GEF Coordination 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 Madagascar in regard of the Convention, UNEP/GEF 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.

25. 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.

26. 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 project⁶, 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.

27. UNEP has history of Working with Madagascar both on UNCCD and other GEF activities. On UNCCD, UNEP has supported the country during the PRAIS project and in fact is the good working relationship that leads to the present UNEP/GEF project. Currently UNEP is supporting the Government of Madagascar in the implementation of Montreal Protocol through

⁶Most activities finalised; still awaiting terminal evaluation.

Ozone Programme. In addition, as the UN country team is in the process of developing a new UNDAF, UNEP, through the Regional Office for Africa, is supporting the UNCT to mainstream environment and climate change issues in the UNDAF. Furthermore UNEP has worked with Government of Madagascar on five (5) national projects mainly on Enabling Activities of all Focal Areas and on ten (10) regional projects covering all GEF FAs. UNEP has also recently adopted a Regional Focal Point in dealing with GEF issues. The approach uses identified staffs who give support and guidance to a number of countries in relation to GEF initiatives in the respective countries under his/her coverage. The Focal Point for Francophone Africa has a good working relationship with Madagascar GEF and Conventions FOCAL Points particularly the UNCCD Focal Point.

28. The UNEP in-kind contribution to this project is estimated at \$20,000 over the two years project duration. This amount represent (i) the staff time to develop the project document as no PPG resources will be requested from GEF Trust Fund, (ii) as it is clear the handling of Enabling Activity both in term of investment for communication and additional Staff time to manage the SSFA will go beyond the Agency fee from this project.

29. Ministry of Environment and Forest (MEF): As the Executing Agency 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 Focal Point and address and rectify any issues raised by UNEP with respect to project execution in a timely manner. It shall also support the project adaptive management tool and develop a management response to any review. MEF shall host the Project Management Team and provide high level technical inputs and organize the tasks at national level as well as securing capacity building of the national team. The project team also serves as secretariat to the Project Coordinating Committee (PCC). While devising a knowledge management system for national UNCCD reporting, MEF will liaise with the National UNCCD Focal Point in order to ensure that COP and CST guidance is reflected in the overall system to be devised for the national UNCCD implementation knowledge management tool.

	<p>30. MEF will manage the project through a designated Project Manager to be identified and that will be designated by MEF and based at its headquarters. The role of the manager will be (i) to liaise with country UNCCD processes team to provide technical back up, i.e. provide one to one question and answer sessions; (ii) support country with comments on technical input and content of the reports prepared; (iii) , keeping project database at MEF, and; (iv) assisting the UNEP Task Manager on all non-oversight roles. A financial project assistant also assigned to the project by MEF will assist the UNEP Funds Manager Officer (FMO) to finalize legal agreements with the country, manage funds disbursed by UNEP and make them available to finance national activities indicated in the project document. Specifically, MEF will manage the project in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) MEF will disburse funds received from UNEP to support the country to execute the project according to the agreed work plan ii) In addition, MEF will prepare and coordinate training for country team for the revision NAP alignment and Reporting process iii) MEF will further give guidance and technical advice to country team during implementation of the project as required and make comments on draft NAP and Report before they are submitted to UNEP and UNCCD. <p>31. Project Coordinating Committee (PCC): A Project Coordinating Committee will be established by MEF at the beginning of the project and the members should include UNEP Task Manager and relevant national stakeholders involved in the UNCCD implementation and reporting. Inclusion of representative of relevant Civil Society Organization (CSO) in PCC is mandatory. The PCC will ensure gender and indigenous people issues are adequately addressed both during the alignment and the reporting. The gender, indigenous people and CSO consideration will be particularly pointed out as an item of UNEP Small Funding Agreement with MEF. If available in the country, accredited CSO to UNCCD is automatically member of the PCC. The PCC will meet every three month and UNEP Task Manager will be participating virtually to these meetings.</p>
<p>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED <u>COST-EFFECTIVENESS</u> OF THE PROJECT:</p>	<p>32. 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.</p>

	<p>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 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>E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:</p>	<p>33. 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&E plan for the costed M&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&E related costs are also presented in the costed M&E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.</p> <p>34. The M&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>35. The Project Coordinating Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP 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 Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.</p> <p>36. Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager 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 Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring</p>

	<p>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 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>37. The M&E which will include project inception workshop, inception report, periodic review by the Steering committee, project implementation review, terminal evaluation and report and independent final audit. The costed item will be around US \$5,000.</p>
F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):	N/A

TABLE: MONITORING AND EVALUATION BUDGET

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)*1	Time-frame
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

**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).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)
RALALAHARISOA Christine Edmée	General Director of Environment	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMET AND FOREST OF MADAGASCAR	08 ebruary 2012

B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

CONVENTIONS	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ACCESSION	CONVENTION FOCAL POINT
UNCCD	1997	RALALARIMANANA HERIVOLOLONA TEL : + 261 34 620 25 Email : herivololona.ral@mef.gov.mg Herivololonaralala@yahoo.fr

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, UNEP GEF Coordination maryam.niamirfuller@unep.org		07/05/2012	Adamou Bouhari	+254 20 762 3860	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 Mngement			
Local			
National Project Manager (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
National Project Financial and Administrative	735	104	will be hired on part time basis and oversee expenditures according to

Assistant (National Government contribution)			regulations
International			
N/A			
For Technical Assistance			
Local Consultants			
1. Natural resources management specialist	\$500	20	1. 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 NR.
2. Policy/Institutional expert	\$500	10	2. Policy/Institutional expert: - assessment of national legislation, policy and institutional set-up - development of recommendations
3. Sociologist/specialist for stakeholder analysis	\$500	10	3. Sociologist/specialist for stakeholders - assessment of needs and capacity - development of training modules - conduct trainings
4. Agricultural and grazing specialist	\$500	20	4. Agricultural grazing specialist - participation in development of NAP and NR - assessments of agricultural and pastures degradation
5. Specialist of land degradation	\$500	20	5. Specialist of land degradation - data gathering and analysis on land degradation - participation in development of NAP and NR
			6.

6. Specialist of GIS	\$500	6	7. specialist of GIS - creation of land degradation risk atlas
7. Specialist for web-portal development	\$500	6	8. specialist for web-portal - development of of internet portal on land degradation
	\$500		
8. Reporting		8	Specialist for - support in development of NAP and National Report