



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

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS**

EA Title:	Support to Montenegro for development of National Action Program aligned to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Reporting Process under UNCCD		
Country(ies):	Montenegro	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01005
Other Executing Partner(s):	<b>Montenegro, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism</b> in collaboration with UNEP regional office for Europe and the Vienna Office	Submission Date:	20/02/2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	12
• Check if applicable		Agency Fee:	13,014

**A. EA FRAMEWORK**

<b>EA Objective: To facilitate access to GEF funding by Montenegro for Enabling Activities to meet its obligations under the UNCCD: a) NAP development in line with 10 – Year Strategy and b) Reporting and review process</b>					
EA Component	Grant Type (TA/INV)	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs <sup>2,3</sup>	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
1. Preparation of NAP in line with the 10-year Strategy and national development policies	TA	Montenegro develops its first National Action Plan in line with the UNCCD 10-year strategy, national development policies and is institutionalized within the future government framework.	<b>Output 1.1</b> Framework and supporting tools/document (Assessment of DLDDD, Guidelines for CSO and Project website for advocacy, awareness raising, education and capacity building (OO1) and addressing DLDD developed	22,600	45,000
			<b>Output 1.2</b> Reports of socioeconomic, policies and	30,500	50,000

<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 monitor project achievement at countries level.

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to Part II Section C for a detailed overview of specific outputs

			institutional assessment that will build the foundation for participative first NAP development and Policy framework to support national efforts on DLDD established (OO2)		
			<b>Output 1.3</b> Scientific assessment, technology and knowledge gaps baseline information reports to support efforts on DLDD are available, including national monitoring and vulnerability assessment, and other relevant biophysical and socio-economic data, and are used to develop NAP.	32,309	33,000
			<b>Output 1.4</b> Financial Mechanism and technology need for NAP implementation established	3,000	5,000
			<b>Output 1.5</b> NAP validated by national bodies, regional and provincial technical and administrative institutions and its provisions mainstreamed in other national, local strategic state-level documents and/or plans	20,000	16,000
2. Reporting and review process	<b>TA</b>	Support to the creation of institutional mechanisms for collection of data for reporting to UNCCD in particular with focus on validation of data collected by different institutes	<b>Output 2.</b> Inter-ministerial Agreement on procedures and guidelines on a long term data collection protocol/mechanism,, the validation of data and reporting to UNCCD	16,124	11,000
Subtotal				124,533	160,000

EA Management Cost	12,453	10,000
<b>Total project costs</b>	<b>136,986</b>	<b>170,000</b>

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

Sources of Cofinancing for baseline project	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National government	Montenegro	In-kind	150,000
GEF Agency	UNEP regional office for Europe and the Vienna Office	In-kind	20,000
<b>Total Cofinancing</b>			<b>170,000</b>

**C. GEF/LDCF/SCCF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Montenegro	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**

<u>COST ITEMS</u>	<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED PERSON WEEKS/MONTH</u>	<u>GRANT AMOUNT</u>	<u>CO-FINANCING</u>	<u>EA TOTAL</u>
<u>PROJECT MANAGER</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>4,500</u>		
<u>TRAVEL</u>		<u>2,953</u>		
<u>MEETINGS</u>			<u>5,000</u>	
<u>CONSULTANTS</u>				
<u>MOUS</u>				
<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>				
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>		<b><u>12,453</u></b>	<b><u>10,000</u></b>	<b><u>22,453</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>Montenegro ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on March 2007. Since then, several important efforts were made in the country towards the implementation of the Convention. However, the country still lacks a National Action Program (NAP) under the UNCCD.</li> <li>Due to the recent ratification of the Convention, Montenegro has submitted the First National Report to UNCCD in 2012. Nevertheless, the collection of data for reporting purposes lacks homogeneity and collaboration among relevant</li> </ol>
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	<p>institutions needs to be strengthened by introducing a framework system of data collection and sharing.</p>
<p><b>B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES</b> (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>	<p>3. After having called a referendum on 21 May 2006, the Assembly of the Republic of Montenegro officially made its declaration of independence from the State Union with Serbia on 3 June 2006. In the 2007 Constitution, Montenegro is defined as a civil, democratic, ecological and social justice state. The article 2 of the Montenegrin Environmental Law, institutes the logo of “Ecological State” of Montenegro’ According to the Environmental protection Law (“Off. Gazette No 48008) and the existing legislative framework, environmental management is carried out at the state level through the action of government entities, such as the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and the Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture .The Environmental Protection Agency has been established on 16 November 2008 and it is responsible for the implementation of environmental policies along with the Hydro-meteorological and Seismological Institute Service, the Public Institution Centre for Eco-toxicological testing, the Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro, the Public Enterprise for Coast Regional Water Supply and the limited liability company ‘Procon’. Lower level of environmental management is under the responsibility of local governance units. According to Article 8 of the mentioned Law, “environmental protection entities are obliged, within their rights and obligations, to ensure control and prevention of all forms of pollution and environmental degradation”. Nevertheless, international standards, as set by the UN Conventions and other EU relevant strategic documents are not always integrated into the environmental policies implemented at national level. Finally, the rapid development of the country, especially in the touristic sector, will increase the pressure on biodiversity and natural resources, requiring specific instruments of monitoring and preservation of natural habitats.</p> <p>4. Being a country in transition, Montenegro is faced in the post-independence period with numerous social, economic and environmental problems, among which the issue of land degradation stands out as one of the most crucial. Land use in Montenegro suffers from inadequate and irrational planning of resource utilization. <b>Agricultural land</b> covers about 38% of Montenegro; the total agricultural area is 518 064 ha, but not all can be used because of orography and relief, as well as a significant area of shallow eroded land of low fertility. Arable land is around 10 – 12% of the agricultural land but has decreased from 53 000 ha in 1995 to 44 800 ha in 2006. The area of uncultivated land is permanently increasing, while the pasture area is stable. Loss of agricultural land in most cases results from unplanned construction of residential and industrial facilities and infrastructure, irrational exploitation of mineral raw materials, forced migration from the countryside</p>

to the main commercial centres. The exploitation of mineral deposits and other raw materials in Montenegro amounts to some 18,000 tons per year. Some 25,000 cubic meters of soil is being devastated annually.

5. The main problems related to the land degradation/destruction of soil and loss of productive agricultural lands are: (i) destruction of soil caused by exploitation of raw materials, (ii) sand and gravel extractions from river beds at several locations, (iii) production of brick and roof tiles from the raw materials from surface excavation in Tivatsko field, Berane etc. (iv.) construction of residential, (v) industrial and other facilities pollution, (vi) increase in soil acidity, (vii) erosion, (viii) landslides, (ix) intense and non balanced development of certain sectors and (x) deforestation. Other problems that affect land use are: (i) lack of systematic soil monitoring, (ii) lack of a soil/land informational system, (iii) lack of information on soil/land contamination to ensure healthy food production, (iv) lack of an adequate system of land assessment (land classification), (v) lack of a unified land inventory, (vi) lack of implementation of rehabilitation and remedial measures, (vii) low level of awareness regarding the significance of soil and land for sustainable development and survival of the population, low level of land use planning, lack of land maps that would serve for better physical and land use planning.
6. Present issues relevant for sustainable use of natural resources (including land use) in Montenegro, along with challenges connected to the efficient land use are given in the National Strategy of Sustainable Development (NSSD) of Montenegro which is harmonised with the Mediterranean and EU Sustainable Strategy. For the land management, primary goals defined in the NSSD are the improvement of soil management and the prevention of the causes of land degradation and damages. According to the NSSD, one of the first measures for achieving these goals is the ratification of the UNCCD and implementation of measures envisaged by the Convention. However, Montenegro still lacks a National Action Plan in line with the Convention 10 Year's Strategy..
7. The development of NAP to combat land degradation and its integration into the National Development Strategy, PRSP and other relevant national strategies and documents in Montenegro was highlighted in the First National Report on the implementation of the UNCCD, as one of the urgent measures in addressing the problem of land degradation. The project will put an emphasis on the activities aimed at supporting mainstreaming NAP recommendations into relevant national strategic documents and donors cooperation programmes. Due to the specificity of the country morphology, the NAP will be divided in three sub-clusters for the developments of specific measures to combat land degradation in the costal areas, in the mountains as well as in

the plateau in the central part of Montenegro

8. Based on Decision 3/COP 8, parties to the UNCCD adopted the 10-year strategy (2008-2018) to enhance the implementation of the Convention. The Decision urged Parties to implement the Strategy in accordance with their national priorities, including the alignment of their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with the Strategy.
9. The Strategy's Operational Objective 2 (OO2) urges affected Country Parties to revise their NAPs into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks. The OO2 also encourages affected Country parties to integrate their NAPs as well as SLM and land degradation issues into their national development plans and relevant sectorial and investment plans and policies.
10. Decision 3/COP8 also calls on the CRIC to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and application of new reporting guidelines as well as develop an indicator system that should go hand in hand with the alignment of NAPs. Furthermore, the Decision urges the CST to make use of and contribute to the best practices database and to economical and biophysical baselines.
11. Decision 1/COP.8 reaffirms that the focus on the Convention is on protecting threatened ecosystems and eradicating poverty. The decision further calls for increased and sustained efforts in (i) capacity building in all areas relevant to the implementation of APs; (ii) participatory NRM (in particular SLM and IWM approaches) in coherence with national policies; (iii) promoting effective and sustained participation of all stakeholders and in particular civil society and private sector; and (iv) information sharing and technology transfer.
12. Para. 86 of the CRIC recommendations facilitate the implementation, monitoring and application of the new reporting guidelines. Furthermore, Para. 109 notes that development of an indicator system should go hand in hand with the alignment of APs, reflecting knowledge of DLDD drivers and their interactions, and of the interaction of DLDD with climate change and biodiversity.
13. The project aims to assist Montenegro in formulating the its first NAP which would be in line with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy resulting in improved planning and monitoring of UNCCD implementation at the national level for better decision making on DLDD and sustainable land management issues.
14. The preparations of the First National Action Plan will require the setting-up of a National Coordination Body (NCB) as part of this process. The NCB will coordinate interdisciplinary and inter-ministerial efforts to run the forthcoming implementation

UNCCD activities under the National Strategies of Montenegro and the obligations deriving from it. The NCB should include representatives from a variety of stakeholders ranging from government and non-governmental institutions, from civil society representatives to grassroots resource users, academia, and the private sector, in line with the complex and interdisciplinary nature of desertification and other forms of land degradation and their diverse impacts.

15. In establishing the NCB, full integration of human-rights based approaches will be assured by addressing all cross-cutting issues in the planning and organization process (primarily gender sensitivity). It is desirable to create at least three Technical Working Groups within the NCB framework, each focusing on the primary needs as follows: a) monitoring of DLDDD, b) impact and vulnerability assessment, and c) mitigation and response to ensure Sustainable Land Management.
16. The proposed project will be inclusive, involving participation of all stakeholders, including government ministries, departments and agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, scientific community and local communities. These will be assigned roles in project implementation depending on their comparative advantages. Gender balance will also be a key ingredient of the project, ensuring participation of men, women, youths and other groups in all stages of the project.
17. More specifically, the project will ensure all norms regarding social and environmental safeguards including gender considerations by ensuring (i) inclusiveness of both men and women in project formulation and implementation of the national consultation processes; (ii) ensuring inclusiveness for marginalized and poor communities in the consultations; (iii) collecting of gender disaggregated data and information where possible, and (vi) analysis and articulation of relationship of DLDD to human well being and poverty reduction, through the impact indicators and the anticipated socioeconomic impacts of the aligned NAPs on the national development agenda.
18. In order to enable UNEP to track how consideration of socio-economic benefits, ethnic groups, gender dimensions are addressed by Montenegro, the Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) which will be the contractual document between UNEP and Government of Montenegro, will include a provision that these considerations including CSO participation to the process at national level, should be reflected in the 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.
19. The key national stakeholders which will be closely involved in the project implementation will include relevant

	<p>departments of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism Executing partner and a hosting institution of the National UNCCD Focal Point and of the GEF Focal Point.</li> <li>- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>- Ministry of Economy</li> <li>- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.</li> <li>- Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro</li> <li>- Centre for Ecotoxicological Research of Montenegro</li> <li>- Biotechnical Institute</li> <li>- Hydro meteorological and Seismological Institute</li> <li>- Geology Institute</li> <li>- Non Governmental Organization/s selected after public announcement</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul> <p>Numerous other public and professional institutions will be represented in the National Coordinating Body and will therefore contribute their respective field in mainstreaming the land degradation issues and directing the process.</p>
<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>20. The objective of this project is to support Montenegro for development of National Action Programs aligned to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Report process under UNCCD.</p> <p>21. The project will have 2 components as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> Preparation of NAP in line with the 10 year Strategy</li> <li><b>B.</b> Reporting and review processes</li> </ul> <p>The project will support:</p> <p>22. <b>Component A:</b> Preparation of NAP in line with the 10 year Strategy</p> <p><b>1.1 Advocacy, awareness raising and education activities.</b> In order to properly issue of land degradation, it is necessary to increase the level of awareness about anthropic causes of land degradation, at both local and national level. In this light, it might become more obvious that serious human and financial resources are necessary to prepare a policy framework for supporting national efforts on combating land degradation, as well as to asses all aspects of land degradation and drought. No activities have been done in past years on awareness raising and capacity building in the country in this regard. Relevant information and messages will be communicated to the general and professional public through the project website, established at the</p>



beginning of the project, as well as during the launch workshop. In addition, the efforts of Montenegro to address land degradation and drought issues in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction will be supported by the project through technical support. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and the scientific community in the entities and at the state level will be encouraged to engage as stakeholders in the Convention processes. Activities and programs of active national CSOs with regards to degradation and drought addressed through advocacy, awareness-raising and education initiatives will be supported by the project through increased visibility and promotion of such activities as well as providing advisory on how to include the recommendations of UNCCD processes into CSOs activities.

**Outputs:**

- Introductory paper on land degradation and drought issues with identified synergies with climate change adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation prepared and effectively communicated among key stakeholders at both entities and national level.
- Establishment of the project website and an introductory workshop
- Guidelines for CSOs on including the UNCCD recommendations in their Programme of Work (POWs).

**1.2 Policy framework development.** The assessment of policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of land degradation and barriers to sustainable land management will be prepared within the project, along with appropriate measures to remove these barriers. This will be used as a gap analysis for the preparation of NAP, alongside drafting official procedures that will formalize the role of NFP, which is a prerequisite recognized in the National Capacity Self-Assessment for Montenegro Action plan for UNCCD. All activities to prepare NAP in line with the 10 Year Framework Strategy will be implemented in a manner to reflect on the main national issues and to be carried out in a highly participatory manner. A series of workshops will be organized to facilitate NAP preparation and validate the NAP by relevant stakeholders. Link to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation will be introduced and/or strengthened in NAP and consultations/communication with stakeholders.

**Outputs:**

- The assessment of policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of land degradation and barriers to sustainable land management in Montenegro
- Defined institutional setting and legal framework for UNCCD implementation in Montenegro
- NAP mainstreamed in relevant national strategies, policies and plans and synergy ensured with other complementary processes (CBD, UNFCCC, Bilateral donors frameworks, etc.)
- National stakeholders are consulted and consensus reached at

national level on NAP validation, implementation and reporting.

**1.3 Science, technology and knowledge activities.** National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socio-economic trends will be carried out. In order to improve knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected and enable better decision-making by relevant national authorities the results of the findings will be communicated to the state-level public officials, especially those dealing with the relevant sectors for sustainable land use management. This will be achieved through consultative meetings and training. Collection of data for building knowledge on the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas will be supported mainly through technical support to establish research programs and defining the “hot topics” with university and research centers. Preliminary discussion on the knowledge-sharing, at the Western Balkan subregional level and national levels to support policymakers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.

**Outputs:**

- National land degradation monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socio-economic trends carried out and communicated to decision makers
- Databases on vulnerability of ecosystem to climate change, droughts and degraded land established/networked and operational for research programmes
- Initiated subregional and national level dialogue on land degradation and drought issues.

**1.4 Financing and technology transfer.** Development of an integrated investment framework for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions. Development of a strategic plan to improve Montenegro’s capacity to mobilize financial resources from international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF, by promoting the UNCCD/Sustainable land management (SLM) agenda within the governing bodies of these institutions. Identification of innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms to combat land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including from the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade, foundations and CSOs, and other financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and poverty reduction.

**Outputs:**

- Integrated investment framework for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources and a national strategy on funds mobilization
- Identification of innovative funds to combat land degradation and drought.

**1.5 Revision and validation of the NAP by national bodies.** The NAP document will be translated into Montenegrin language and submitted to the Government for adoption. In addition, all relevant documents, such as NAP, assessments, papers and policy papers will be made available through internet tools and events to be organized in the country particularly at provincial and communal levels. In addition, the policy paper on behalf of Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism will be prepared and disseminated throughout the country, to all local, state and entity-level ministries as well as UN bodies and other relevant international organizations present in the country. This paper will contain key messages and issues covering land degradation, as elaborated in NAP, which need to be considered and included in strategic documents and or plans of Montenegro and its entities.

**Outputs:**

- NAP document aligned to the 10 Year UNCCD Strategy, adopted by national authorities, and submitted by Montenegro
- A policy brief summarizing NAP findings and recommendations created and distributed to all relevant stakeholders, and mainstreamed in corresponding national strategic documents.

**Component B:** Reporting and review processes

**2.1 Reports preparation through participatory process.** Establishment of an administrative and institutional framework and technical base line for the long term national reports preparation and elaboration. Identification, collection and analysis of data on mechanisms and activities related with the UNCCD implementation, as well as of all stakeholders that could influence the process. Emphasis will be put on the preparatory process for the national reporting securing the participation of stakeholders at different levels e.g., governmental authority involved in decision making process, scientists, as well as natural resources management and nature conservation, private sector, and NGOs active in the field of land management.

**Outputs:**

- Preparation of a quality reporting process through a participatory approach towards stakeholders.
- Identification, collection and analysis of data on mechanisms and activities related with the UNCCD implementation
- **Establishment of a framework** appropriate consultative process in preparation of the next UNCCD reporting cycle.

**EA IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT**

23. **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/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 Montenegro vis-a-vis 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.

24. 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, subregional cooperation in the Western Balkans and 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.
25. 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>4</sup>, the piloting integrated

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<sup>4</sup> Most activities finalised; still awaiting terminal evaluation.

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.

26. UNEP has history of working with national authorities in Montenegro and in the region on UN conventions, projects and activities. On UNCCD, UNEP is currently supporting Montenegro on the alignment of the NAP Strategy to UNCCD 10 Year's Strategy. In Montenegro, UNEP Office in Vienna has already implemented different initiatives which encompass Integrating Environment Sustainability in the UNDAF process, the support to the development of the Platform of Green economy of Montenegro, presented on the occasion of the World "Earth Summit" Rio+20 this year. In addition, in the framework of the "Environment and Security" Initiative, UNEP through its Vienna Office is facilitating the agreement of relevant authorities for the creation of transboundary natural protected areas which will include the National Park of Durmitor and Prokletije. All of the previous UNEP experience on the field shows that the agency has a strong national support and is trusted by the government to lead important environmental governance processes.
27. 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 particularly of the Regional Office for Europe 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 to support the country will go beyond the Agency fee from this project.
28. **The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism** 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 through 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. The Ex.A shall host a coordinating committee of experts and specialists 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 National Coordination Body (NCB). While devising a knowledge management system for national UNCCD reporting, Ex.A will liaise with the National UNCCD Focal Point in order to ensure that COP and CST guidance are reflected in the overall system to be devised for the national UNCCD implementation knowledge management tool.

29. The Ex.A has requested technical, financial and administrative support from UNEP regional office for Europe and the Vienna Office, which will assist the Ministry, through an MoU, by facilitating access to resources and support the national stakeholders technically to conduct the process through (for example developing ToR for the international consultants, national consultants; support stakeholders dialogue and consultation, facilitating involvement of other donors, providing technical assistance in delivering on the output particularly the action plan). Considering budgetary and institutional constraints in Montenegro, UNEP ROE will support the financial management of the project in close consultation with the Ex.A, the UNCCD focal point and the national coordination body.

30. National coordinating body (NCB) will coordinate interdisciplinary and inter-ministerial efforts to run the forthcoming implementation UNCCD activities under the National Strategies of Montenegro and the obligations deriving from it. The NCB should include representatives from a variety of stakeholders ranging from government and non-governmental institutions, from civil society representatives to grassroots resource users, academia, and the private sector, in line with the complex and interdisciplinary nature of all forms of land degradation and their diverse impacts. It is desirable that within the framework of the NCB, at least three Technical Working Groups will be created, each focusing on the primary needs as follows: a) monitoring of DLDDD, b) impact and vulnerability assessment, and c) mitigation and response to ensure Sustainable Land Management.

31. Under the SSFA, the UNEP and the National Executing Agency, obligations of the two parties will be as follow:

#### **Terms and obligations of UNEP**

UNEP agrees to:

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

	<p>e) Liaise with the GEF Secretariat, UNCCD and GM for all matters related to the UNCCD Reporting.</p> <p><b>Terms and obligations of the Executing Agency</b></p> <p>The Executing Agency agrees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provide support to, and liaise with, the various project stakeholders based on guidance from UNEP Task Manager and UNCCD Secretariat;</li> <li>b) Implement the project activities in accordance with standard Executing Agency Rules and established business processes;</li> <li>c) Make available to the project the cash and in-kind co-financing as set out in <b>Annex 11</b> from the Executing Agency and make its best efforts to ensure that all pledged third party co-financing materializes or undertake resources mobilization efforts to compensate for any shortfall in co-financing;</li> <li>d) Report to UNEP in accordance with <b>paragraphs 29 to 31</b> of this Agreement.</li> <li>e) Establish or use a National Coordinating Body / Committee in charge of UNCCD activities to direct the project activities and ensure the committee gains adequate capacity to direct the process;</li> <li>f) Ensure that CSO, ethnic groups participation and Gender issues are included in the process and reflected in aligned NAPs;</li> <li>g) Establish a long-term mechanism for UNCCD implementation at national level;</li> <li>h) Take and report on measures to mainstream NAP in relevant national sectors and policies.</li> <li>i) Take and report measures to mainstream NAP in United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and to engage dialogue with other donors for resources mobilization and the implementation</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:</b></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. Furthermore, the project will allow the country to formulate its first NAP in line with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy. Such results will make the project very cost-effective in terms of GEF resources invested, as the capacity building element the project will facilitate and make it possible a 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. <u>The development of the NAP will enable identification of possible topics for the development of project proposals, to be financed by the existing environment fund at the entity level.</u></p>
<p><b>E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&amp;E</b></p>	<p>33. The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting</p>

**PLAN:**

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.

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 kick-off meeting. 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. Monitoring remains one of the main tasks of UNEP ROE support to the Montenegrin Ministry in this process, while evaluation will not be undertaken at a significant level. UNEP ROE will assist the executing agency in monitoring activities on a regular basis and provide all information requested by project partners and independent evaluators.
35. The UNCCD National Focal Point will chair the NCB, ensure daily supervision of the project, and consultants, ensure necessary involvement of stakeholders, hired in the project implementation, coordinate the preparation of the report also participating as a an active member of the drafting team. He 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/DEPI. 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.
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 kick-off meeting. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring.



	<p>Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the UNCCD Focal Point 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><b>F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

**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 with the assistance of UNEP ROE - UNEP/GEF	3000	Within two months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	Project Manager with the assistance of UNEP ROE	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 with the assistance of UNEP ROE UNEP/DEPI		Every six months
Project Implementation Review	Progress and effectiveness review for the GEF, provision of lessons learned	Project team with the assistance of UNEP ROE UNEP/DEPI	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 with the assistance of UNEP ROE	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

**A. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE): N/A**

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


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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
ANDRO DRECUN	GEF FOCAL POINT FOR MONTENEGRO	MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM	19/09/ 2012

**A. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION**

CONVENTIONS	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ACCESSION	CONVENTION FOCAL POINT
UNCCD	23/03/ 2007	MILENA KAPA

**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/yy yy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, UNEP GEF Coordination  Maryam.Nimir-Fuller@unep.org		02/20/2013	Adamou Bouhari Task Manager Biodiversity and Land Degradation	+ 254 20 762 38 60	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

Annex A: Consultants to be hired

Position Titles	\$/person week	Estimated Person week	Task to be performed
<b>For EA Management</b>			
Local			
National Project Manager	125	40	Manager will be responsible for the overall management and supervision of all aspects of the Project. S/He will also be responsible for coordination of the working groups, facilitation of meetings, progress reporting and qualitative evaluation of reports
Administration (Finance)	180	25	Oversee expenditures according to regulations, manage the funds, liaise with UNEP on financial issue, ensure regular financial reporting, conduct as necessary budget revision under the guidance of UNEP Fund and National Project Manager.
<b>For Technical</b>			

<b>Assistance</b>			
<b>Local Consultants</b>			
1. Natural resources management specialist	500	48	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 thematic chapters and NAP
2. Policy/Institutional expert	500	30	2. Policy/Institutional expert: - assessment of national legislation, policy and institutional set-up - development of recommendations - participation in development of thematic chapters and NAP
3. Agricultural and grazing specialist	500	30	3. Agricultural grazing specialist - participation in development of thematic chapters and NAP - assessments of agricultural and pastures degradation
4. Land-use and degradation specialist	500	32	4. Land-use and degradation specialist - data gathering and analysis on land degradation - participation in development of thematic chapters and NAP
5. Specialist for GIS	400	5	5. specialist of GIS - preparation of land degradation maps
6. Administrative staff	300	10	6. Various administrative duties

