



# REQUEST FOR LAND DEGRADATION ENABLING ACTIVITY

## PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE GEF Trust Fund

### **PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS**

EA Title:	Alignment of National Action Programs with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and reporting process		
Country(ies):	PANAMA	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	00919
Other Executing Partner(s):	National Environmental Authority ANAM	Submission Date:	08-15-2012
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	13
Check if applicable:	NCSA <input type="checkbox"/> NAPA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency Fee (\$):	13,636

### **A. EA FRAMEWORK\***

<b>EA Objective: to strengthen national capacities and assist Panama in the alignment of its National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAP) with UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and in complying with UNCCD reporting and review process</b>					
<b>EA Component</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-financing(\$)</b>
Component A: Alignment of National Action Plan with the UNCCD 10- Year Strategy	TA	National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Drought in Panama (NAP) updated and aligned with the ten-year strategy to 10 years convention UNCCD	Output A. 1. NAP alignment needs and priorities identified through review of existing NAP, sector policies, plans, and regulations and consultations with the sectors influencing LD trends and SLM adoption processes	52,000	80,000
			A.2 Relevant stakeholders at regional and local level (with representation of local governments, NGOs, farmers and indigenous organizations) have been consulted and contributed to the validation of the aligned NAP including performance and impact target indicators	8,000	10,000
			A.3 Capacities and framework for the NAP implementation strengthened including institutional coordination, mainstreaming in sectors, financial and communication instruments	15,000	10,000

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

			A.4 Effectiveness of NAP implementation supported by systematic monitoring of results indicators and knowledge management	25,000	50,000
Component B. Reporting an Review Process	TA	Panama fulfills its convention obligations by submitting timely National report to UNCCD complying reporting quality with requirements	B.1 Human and scientific capacities strengthened for implementation of indicator-based monitoring and assessment	5,000	20,000
			B. 2 of the fifth national report and the process for review based on national ownership to improve the reporting process	10,000	20,000
			B.3 Data, indicators, and knowledge bases in relation to GEF, Río Conventions, MEA, IKM, and others relevant to land degradation are harmonized	8,968	20,000
<b>Subtotal</b>				123,968	210,000
<b>EA Management Cost<sup>2</sup></b>				12,396	30,000
<b>Total EA Cost</b>				136,364	240,000

<sup>a</sup> List the \$ by EA components. Please attach a detailed project budget table that supports all the EA components in this table.

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	National Environmental Authority ANAM	Grant	150,000
National Government	National Environmental Authority ANAM	In-kind	90,000
(select)		(select)	
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			240,000

## 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) <sup>2</sup>	Total (c)=(a)+(b)
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	PANAMA	136,364	13,636	150,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>						150,000

<sup>2</sup> This is the cost associated with the unit executing the project on the ground and could be financed out of trust fund or co-financing sources.

#### D. EA MANAGEMENT COST

Cost Items	Total Estimated Person Weeks/Months	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)	EATotal (\$)
Local consultants*				
International consultants*				
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications*		6,396	15,000	21,396
Travel*		6,000	15,000	21,000
Others**	Training (Training (excluding hiring consultants for workshops activities, includes logistical expenses only)			
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,396</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>42,396</b>

\* Details to be provided in Annex A. \*\*For Others, to be clearly specified by overwriting fields (1)-(3)

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TABLE D, IF APPLICABLE:

If costs for office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications, travels are requesting for GEF financing, please provide justification here: The travel is national and local travel of the consultation process

#### PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

<p><b>A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) entered into force in Panama in 1996 and was incorporated under the laws of the country by Law No. 9 of January 3, 1996 and ratified by the legislature on April 4, 1996. The law provides combat and reverses the processes of land degradation in the Country.</li> <li>2. The National Action Plan to Combat Desertification in Panama(NAP, 2005 - 2010) was formulated through a participatory process that involved civil society, national institutions and international cooperation. It was conceived in the framework of the Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Environmental Policy, and includes measures and actions to foster the sustainable management of natural resources, the reduction of environmental vulnerability, and the promotion of economic growth.</li> <li>3. The process of UNCCD implementation in Panama has been developed with the support of the National Commission on Drought and Desertification (CONALSED). This Committee, established by the administrative resolution is the national coordinating body that has been promoting the implementation of the NAP as the national technical tool for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) with the support of the National Environmental Authority as a focal point national Convention.</li> </ol>
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4. As part for the implementation of the NAP and financial resource mobilization for effective action to implement sustainable land gestation has been developing the Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS), 2009, through the efforts and collaboration between ANAM and Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD. The IFS is helping raise the visibility of public finances and policy relevance of the themes of SLM and NAP implementation and identification of mechanisms, instruments and complementary roles of different funding sources (internal, external and innovator). It is anticipated that the consolidation of the implementation of the IFS will result in the development of projects or initiatives with guaranteed financial resources that constitute a sustainable investment portfolio SLM.
5. Current weakness is the lack of NAP of appropriate indicators that would constitute a monitoring system capable of tracking the progress of degradation. To make the NAP implementation more efficient and effective needs the support of ANAM for the creation of this monitoring system with simple indicators at national level on the basis of a technological system for data collection and interpretation of these mechanisms.
6. ANAM as a focal point of UNCCD and SLM and the application has submitted three (3) national reports (2002, 2004 and 2006) on progress in implementing the Convention. However, with the implementation of the UNCCD 10Years Strategy, the adoption of a set of performance and impact indicators required to measure the implementation of the Convention in the country, this is done through the new format called PRAIS (performance review and assessment of implementation). In 2010 Panama was unable to present its report national to the UNCCD Desertification due to the limited information necessary national PRAIS introduced into the system. However, the impact and performance indicators are challenging for the ANAM and CONALSED, given the specificity of the information required and the formats in question. Therefore, specialized technical support required to develop the capabilities of the ANAM and CONALSED to enable the country meet in the delivery of its national report to the country desertification and UNCCD.

**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.)

1. **The EAs will contribute to the Objective 4 of the GEF LD strategy:** "Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM/SFM/INRM by GEF and UNCCD parties". In particular the EAs will contribute to outcome 4.1 "increase capacities of countries to fulfill obligations in accordance with provisions provided in the UNCCD" by strengthening technical and institutional capacities in Panama as allowing for improved quality and timeliness of reporting compliance.
2. **The objective:** of the EA is to strengthen national capacities and assist Panama in the alignment of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAP) with 10-year-Year Strategy of the UNCCD and fulfill reporting and review process obligations to UNCCD.
3. The strategic plan of the Government of Panama (2009-2014) and National Environmental Strategy (2008-2012), are strategic frameworks which should be based on NAP. ANAM is preparing the new Environment Strategy (2013-2020) in this context, it is necessary to update the national action Plan to Combat Desertification Panama (NAP) to consider this new framework that includes planning and instruments new environmental policy. At the same time, it is necessary to align the NAP framework of the 10 years with the operational and strategic objectives of the convention and the current trends of land degradation in the country. Finally, there is also a need to establish a mechanism to monitor the impacts of the implementation of NAP to the systematic observation of trends in land degradation in affected areas to enable better understanding and orientation processes desertification and drought.
4. The agreements reached by the negotiations at COP of the UNCCD member countries are required to submit national reports, including impact indicators and performance standard for the implementation of the Convention. The new requirements have made it necessary to strengthen national capacities to respond to these requirements. In addition, clarification of the performance and impact indicators in the country reports, it is crucial to measure and strengthen the process of implementation of the UNCCD. The development of an information system that supports the continued monitoring of performance and impact indicators, within a sustainable institutional framework is a priority for the government. ANAM develop an impact monitoring system in accordance with new requirements, including the necessary tools for a systematic, harmonized monitoring and degradation trends and developments in the positive impacts of implementing SLM practices. The new system will be institutionalized in the work plan and budget at the Department of Climate Change and Desertification (UCCD) and participation will be local (to ensure representation of women and men, indigenous communities and civil society) and national consultations and evaluations as part of the monitoring process. This would facilitate a clearer vision for the implementation of the NAP and the achievement of the objectives set by the performance and impact indicators.
5. The proposed EAs are also in line with the needs identified in the "self-evaluation of national capacity for achieving the global environment commitments" (NCSA). The action plan resulting from the NCSA identified the following priorities organized in core themes:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Core Theme: Policy Actions and measurements. The goal is to harmonize the legal and institutional frameworks to enable the implementation of the conventions as well as establishing, validating and socializing coordination mechanisms that include the set of responsibilities required to allow the various institutional actors comply with their existing commitments.</li>   <li>2. Core Theme: Generation and Exchange of Information. The goal is to promote the development, maintenance and updating of environmental information systems on the management, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. An integral element to the strengthening of national capacities is the building of awareness at the community level, with special emphasis on women and youths in collaboration with local NGOs</li>   <li>6. To achieve the objectives and deliverables set the EA development and strengthening of national capacities aimed at the alignment of the NAP and the report with high quality indicators of impact, should strengthen capacities at both national and local should be prioritized. Consultation processes will be based on the structures established by the law of environment, in particular, advisory councils, provincial and district, where local governments, civil society organizations and representatives of women, indigenous and ethnic groups are integrated and private sector organizations, NGOs, and community international. Recognizing that the decertification and the process of land degradation affect the poor farmers, indigenous and peasant women, affirmative action strategies in place to ensure that women and indigenous communities are fully represented. Consultation processes will be under the technical supervision of CONALSED</li>   <li>7. NAP performance and impact indicators not only be included in the Country Report to the Convention, but also national indicators on sustainable land management as part of performance indicators to be monitored in relation to the implementation of National Plan Government and National Environmental strategy. This will allow for the sustainability of the monitoring system. Moreover, as mentioned earlier the impact monitoring system will be institutionalized in UCCD / ANAM, which has these activities in its Annual Work Plan and Budget and related activities reporting process that ensures institutional sustainability of the capacity created supported by this EA. In addition, institutional sustainability of the alignment and subsequent implementation of the NAP is guaranteed through coordination by the CSLM with the support of UCCD / ANAM, as was the case for the development and implementation of the NAP so far. As mentioned above (Part II, paragraph A 3). This institutional structure has been established and mandated by law to provide the framework for the coordinated implementation of Panama's obligations under the Convention.</li> </ol>
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<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>1. The objective of this project is to facilitate access to GEF funding by Panama for Enabling Activities to meet its obligations under the UNCCD (i) alignment of NAPs with 10 – Year Strategy and (ii) Reporting and Review process. This will be achieved through following immediate objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To enable Panama to align its National Action Program in light of operational and strategic objectives identified by UNCCD 10-year Strategy</li> <li>ii. 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.</li> </ul> <p>2. The project will support: National thematic and interdisciplinary teams of experts constituted by the SLM Technical Committee (TC) will undertake assessment of existing national plans and programmers, compile relevant biophysical and socioeconomic baseline information, identify and document best practices, and develop a national communication and outreach strategy for NAP alignment and reporting process. The team will also make recommendations on the alignment and develop a list of indicators for NAP alignment.</p> <p><b>Activities and outputs expected:</b></p> <p>3. <b>Component A Expected outcome:</b> National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAP) aligned with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy at national and local level to combat current land degradation and desertification trends in Panama.To achieve this outcome the EA will under support the following outputs and activities</p> <p><b>Output A.1.</b> NAP alignment needs and priorities identified through review of existing NAP, sector policies, plans, and regulations and consultations with the sectors influencing LD trends and SLM adaption processes. Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A.1.1 Rapid stocktaking and review of relevant policies, plans and regulations which will result in the diagnosis of the national policy and legal framework influencing sustainable land management and identification with special emphasis on the benefit to indigenous peoples and female headed house holding sustainable land management, identifying key threats, key gaps and unmet needs as well as the lessons learned from the previous NAP and related initiatives. (USD 12,000 GEF and USD 20,000 co-financing)</li> <li>A.1.2 Review of existing NAP and identification of priorities for alignment to the UNCCD Ten-Years Strategy including forums for national consultation with sector ministries, knowledge institutions, national NGOs, private organizations, civil society and representatives from women's, indigenous and ethnic groups, taking into account the national development strategies as well as the poverty reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation plans. (USD 25,000 GEF and USD 35,000 co-financing).</li> <li>A.1.3 Develop methodologies for the update, evaluation and monitoring of NAP alignment and implementation indicators taking into account national peculiarities and involving the UNCCD in setting national indicators for SLM to be integrated in the national planning tools. (USD 15,000 GEF and USD 25,000 co-financing)</li> </ul>
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**Output A.2** Relevant stakeholders at national level (with representation of central and local governments, academic and research sector, NGO's, women organizations and the private sector) have been consulted and contributed to the validation of the aligned NAP including performance and impact target indicators.

Activities:

A.2.1 Identification of relevant stakeholders and definition of the different structures and mechanism in which they will be engaged in the process; For this identification especial focus will have gender issues as well as representativeness of local and national organizations of civil society.

(USD 2,500 GEF and USD 3,000 co-financing)

A.2.2 Consultations at national level on LD and desertification processes, opportunities for SLM, and achievements of regional planning and SLM activities to be taken into account in the alignment of the NAP; During the consultations especial attention will be given to gender issues, as well as to the participation of all relevant local and national organizations of civil society.

(USD 2,500 GEF and USD 3,000 co-financing).

A.2.3 Validation at national level of the objectives, instruments and actions of the aligned NAP and performance and impact targets and indicators. The consultations will also serve as awareness raising events to ensure gender equity and community participation. . (USD 3,000 GEF and USD 4,000 co-financing).

**Output A.3** Capacities and framework for the NAP implementation strengthened including institutional coordination, ensuring a financial base and the development of communication instruments.

Activities:

A.3.1 Strengthening of national coordination structures including cross-sectoral institutional mechanisms and institutional coordination structures within ANAM on issues related to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD). (USD 600 GEF and USD 1,000 co-financing)

A.3.2 Mainstreaming of NAP priorities in relevant sector policies and plans through sector consultations and incorporation of priorities and impact target indicators into national planning and impact monitoring.

(USD 1,400 GEF and USD 2,000 co-financing)

A.3.3. Development of NAP implementation plan prioritizing short and medium term actions, roles and responsibilities.(USD 6,000GEF and USD 4,000 co-financing)

A.3.4 Mapping of financial resources available for NAP implementation including an assessment of public finances and international financial cooperation available for SLM in Panama and reflecting director indirect financial resources that could contribute to the NAP implementation.

(USD 3,000 GEF and USD 1,500 co-financing)

A.3.5 Development of a communication and outreach strategy for the NAP implementation that reaches all relevant sectors including forma land non-formal communication tools. (USD 4,000 GEF and USD 1,500 co-financing)

**Output A.4** Effectiveness of NAP implementation supported by systematic monitoring of results indicators and knowledge management practices.

Activities:

A.4.1 Harmonization of biophysical and socio-economic diagnosis of the current state of land degradation in the country, and systematization and integration of existing data on LDD processes and droughts in the National



Environmental Information System (SNIA). This will be done using existing secondary sources. (USD 15,000 GEF and USD 25,000 co-financing)

A.4.2 Identification of indicators for monitoring progress in achieving the targets and results established in the NAP as well as the development of a monitoring plan defining frequency, roles and responsibilities for data compilation and analysis in relation to each indicator. (USD 5,000 GEF and USD 10,000 co-financing)

A.4.3 Implementation of the monitoring and information system in ANAM based on a compilation and analysis of already existing information found in other institutions. This monitoring system will be maintained and operated by ANAM, which will make the necessary agreements with other institutions to ensure access to relevant information. (USD 3,500 GEF and USD 10,000 co-financing)

A.4.4 Training of participants in the monitoring of LD&D processes and drought impacts including the use of indicators, data collection and analysis and systematic monitoring. This training is complementary to the one mentioned in B.1. which is focused on the need of fulfilling the national reporting process agenda. As in A.2.2., during the training especial attention will be given to gender issues, as well as to the participation of all relevant local and national organizations of civil society. (USD 1,500 GEF and USD 5,000 co-financing)

4. **Component B expected outcome:** Panama National reports submitted timely to UNCCD, complying with reporting quality requirements and fulfilling Panamanian convention obligations.

**Output B.1** Human and scientific capacities strengthened for implementation of PRAIS indicator-based monitoring and assessment.

Activities:

B.1.1. Training national level stakeholders in UNCCD requirements for PRAIS indicator-based reporting including methodologies, procedures and tools. (USD 400 GEF and USD 800 co-financing)

B.1.2 Establishment of institutional arrangements for setting up the monitoring system including data collection (primary and secondary sources), processing, analyzing, and development and dissemination of performance and impact indicators of the UNCCD. (USD 400 GEF and USD 800 co-financing)

B.1.3 Creation of a national knowledge management system including terms for the reporting and review process including procedures for maintaining data flow to the system, systematizing experiences and ancestral knowledge of the indigenous people (best practices) on SLM identified with members of the CONALSED and the format proposed by the UNCCD. (USD 3,000 GEF and USD 6,000 co-financing)

B.1.4 Establishing data quality insurance systems before report submission. (USD 1,200 GEF and USD 2,400 co-financing)

To carry out tasks B.1.2 to B.1.4 an information system is to be created. A system that will be:

- ✓ *Flexible:* offering various options for the administration and evaluation of data in both a quantitative and qualitative form,
- ✓ *Specific:* a system capable of adapting to the needs of each indicator,
- ✓ *Continually updated:* it is also intended that it will be able to accommodate developments and additions in the key indicators,
- ✓ *Easily useable:* based on a friendly and interactive format,
- ✓ *Compatible:* with the structure and functioning of the SNIA.

It is intended that once the system and database is established a program of training will serve both UCCD staff and collaborating institutions.

**Output B.2** Report for the 2012-2013 reporting and review process submitted - based on enhanced national ownership of the reporting process

Activities:

B.2.1 Design of a draft detailed work plan for the construction of the report, including roles and responsibilities and appropriate consultative processes based on a system of stakeholder assessment including Women's groups and indigenous peoples. (USD 500 GEF and USD 5,000 co-financing).

B.2.2 By means of an appropriate consultative processes generate a consensual approval of a detailed work plan and identification of opportunities for improved linkages of UNCCD reporting and implementation with national development priorities. As in A.2.2., during the consultation especial attention will be given to gender issues, as well as to the participation of all relevant local and national organizations of civil society. (USD 500GEF and USD 5,000 co-financing).

B.2.3 Draw up draft report. (USD1,000 GEF and USD 5,000 co-financing)

B.2.4 National validation workshop to review and finalize the draft report. (USD 1,000 GEF and USD 2,000 co-financing)

B.2.5 Submission of the report through the PRAIS portal and report independent final audit the project. (USD 6,200 GEF and USD 1,000 co-financing)

B.2.6 Development of a plan to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD implementation. (USD 800 GEF and USD 2,000 co-financing)

**Output B.3.** Data, indicators, and knowledge bases in relation to GEF, Rio

Conventions, MEA, IKM, and others relevant to land degradation are harmonized

B.3.1 Review of databases and monitoring and knowledge management systems used to support the country's reporting and management of different conventions and other institutions and instruments dealing with land degradation issues with the aim to identify opportunities for cost efficiency through avoiding duplication of efforts and harmonization. (USD 3,000 GEF and USD 10,000 co-financing)

B.3.2 Harmonizing to the extent possible data, indicators, and knowledge bases of GEF, Rio Conventions, MEA IKM, and others relevant to land degradation. (USD 5,968 GEF and USD 10,000 co-financing)

#### **EA IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT**

5. 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 Panama 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.

6. 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.
7. The project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalyzing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements. UNEP signed 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, 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 programmer.
8. UNEP is a globally recognized leading international organization in the area of natural resources management and sustainable development. The proposed project would benefit from UNEP extensive work on conservation and sustainable management land resources. UNEP expertise has been built on a number of past and on-going initiatives directly relevant to project objectives. Specifically in the case of Panama, UNEP has a long record of cooperation with the Government in natural resources management; programs and projects that include, sustainable land management, combating land degradation and deforestation.
9. The Representation of UNEP in Panama is supported by the technical staff in the Regional Office (Panama) specialized in sustainable management of natural resources including experts in community management of watersheds and recovery of degraded landscapes who will be supervising the project

implementation and providing technical assistance to the project backed by UNEP global.

10. 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, programmer and projects;
- e. Liaise with the GEF Secretariat, UNCCD and GM for all matters related to the UNCCD Reporting.

**Terms and obligations of the Executing Agency**

The Executing Agency agrees to:

- a. Provide support to, and liaise with, the various project stakeholders based on guidance from UNEP Task Manager and UNCCD Secretariat;
- b. Implement the project activities in accordance with standard Executing Agency Rules and established business processes;
- c. Make available to the project the cash and in-kind co-financing as set out in **Annex 11** 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;
- d. Report to UNEP in accordance with **paragraphs 29 to 31** of this Agreement.
- 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;
- f. Ensure that CSO, Indigenous Group participation and Gender issues are included in the process and reflected in aligned NAPs;
- g. Establish a long-term mechanism for UNCCD implementation at national level;
- h. Take and report on measures to mainstream NAP in relevant national sectors and policies.
- 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

11. The National Environmental Authority is the focal point of the UNCCD, under which the Unit on Climate Change and Desertification (UCCD) will be the project executing agency taking the lead in coordinating and management and progress monitoring. This will be done in a participatory manner with the National Committee to Combat Drought and Desertification (CONALSED) for the process of alignment of the NPA, as well as the development of the monitoring system for impact and performance indicators to be included in

	<p>national reports to the UNCCD</p> <p>12. <b>Unit Climate Change and Desertification (UCCD)</b> is the technical unit for the formulation of policies and regulations and monitoring of national, regional of these United Nations Conventions. As the technical focal point for the UNCCD is responsible for complying with the country's obligations to the Convention and the execution of the EA. The monitoring of the implementation of the NAP and the reporting capacities developed by the EA will be sustained through their incorporation into ANAM planning processes.</p> <p>13. <b>The National Committee to Combat Drought and Desertification (CONALSED)</b> is in charge of the implementation of NAP and is composed of government institutions related to the subject and organized civil society, including Indigenous people, international agencies, academia, CSO/NGO's, private sector, representing all key national players as well as being gender balanced. This committee will provide information, monitor and validate the alignment process and the presentation of national reports, serving as a platform for coordination and participating actively in the process of the EA</p> <p>14. <b>Coordination and Synergies. This EA will be in close coordination with other programs and projects concerning LD, desertification, and SLM including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Project Sustainable and Climate Friendly Development in Veraguas Province- Project Participa.</b> The project's overall objective is to promote sound and sustainable land management and increase carbon sequestration through reforestation, agro forestry and the development of climate-friendly enterprises. As a result, sustainable rural development and environmental management in the province of Veraguas will be promoted, reducing poverty and contributing to the conservation of natural resources (soils, water and biodiversity).</li> <li>• <b>Electricity Transmission Company, SA (ETESA) ETESA,</b> the national water balance (2011-2012), which includes a chapter on the study of drought nationwide. This initiative will provide information for the biophysical analysis of LD and trends of decertification and the formation of watershed councils for use as an organizational structure for socialization and consultation of the NPA and the national report..</li> <li>• The Drought Commission, a consulting Commission which assesses the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture (MIDA) to improve its capacities in coping with recurrent severe droughts that affect Panama and have strong impacts on social, economic and ecological sectors</li> <li>• The Program to Combat Poverty implemented by the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES)</li> <li>• The National Protected Areas System (SNAP).</li> <li>• The Panama GEF-5 STAR resources for LD will be used for the project: LADA " in synergy REDD". This project is in the design process and could benefit from the data produced and strengthened capacities for LD trends and SLM monitoring created by the EA project</li> </ul>
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<p><b>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED <u>COST-EFFECTIVENESS</u> OF THE PROJECT:</b></p>	<p>1. The project will address at the same time performance and impact indicators for the UNCCD implementation which will enable sound, rigorous and scientific reporting at national levels on not only the convention implementation, but also on the land degradation trends and the impact of mitigation measures. Furthermore, the project will allow the country to align it 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>
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<p><b>E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&amp;E PLAN:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP. The project M&amp;E plan for the coasted M&amp;E and the plan are consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. Other M&amp;E related costs are also presented in the coasted M&amp;E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget</li> <li>2. The M&amp;E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the project management team but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to inform UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion</li> <li>3. 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&amp;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</li> <li>4. 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 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.</li> <li>5. The M&amp;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 coasted item will be amount US \$5,000</li> </ol>
<p><b>F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

**TABLE: MONITORING AND EVALUATION BUDGET**

<b>M&amp;E activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Budget (US\$)*1</b>	<b>Time-frame</b>
Inception workshop	Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups	Project team UNEP/GEF	3000	Within two months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	Project Manager	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 with this template).

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>DATE (Month, day, year)</b>
Sygrid Barragan	GEF Technical Focal Point	<b>THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY</b>	<b>11-04-2012</b>


**B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION**

<b>CONVENTION</b>	<b>DATE OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION (mm/dd/yy)</b>	<b>NATIONAL FOCAL POINT</b>
UNCBD		
UNFCCC		
UNCCD	April 04 1996	ISRAEL TORRES
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION		



**C. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for Land degradation Enabling Activity approval.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail Address
<b>Maryam Niamir-Fuller,</b> Director, GEF Coordination Office UNEP		08/15/2012	<b>Robert Erath</b> Task Manager LAC Biodiversity and Land Degradation UNEP/GEF	+507 305 3171	robert.erath@unep.org

## CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ Person Week</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks</i>	<i>Tasks to be Performed</i>
<b>For EA Management</b>			
Local			
International			
<b>For Technical Assistance</b>			
Local			
<b>Consultant:</b> Specialist in environmental legal and policy framework	500	12	<p>Rapid stocktaking and review of relevant policies, plans and regulations which will result in the diagnosis of national policy, the legal framework influencing sustainable land management and identification of adjustments to be included in the NAP. Consultations at national level on LD and desertification processes, opportunities for SLM and achievements of regional planning and SLM activities to be taken into account in the alignment of the NAP. Validation at national level of the objectives, instruments and actions of the aligned NAP and performance and impact targets and indicators. The consultations will also serve as awareness raising events to ensure gender equity and community participation.</p> <p>Mapping of financial resources available for NAP implementation including an assessment of public finances and international financial cooperation available for SLM in Panama and reflecting direct or indirect financial resources that could contribute to the NAP implementation; and development of NAP implementation plan, prioritizing short and medium term actions, roles and responsibilities. Establish a harmonized biophysical and socio-economic diagnosis of the current state of land degradation in the country, (reflecting the biophysical status of the soil), and the systematization and integration of existing data on LDD processes and droughts in the national emergency system.</p> <p>Draw up draft report and perform an appropriate consultative process to review and finalize the draft report, with national validation consultative processes to review and finalize the draft report</p>

<p>Consultant: Specialist in Information Systems, Knowledge management</p>	<p>450</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Develop methodologies for the update, evaluation and monitoring of NAP alignment and implementation indicators taking into account national peculiarities and involving the UNCCD in setting national indicators for SLM to be integrated in the national planning tools. Articulate arrangements for setting up the monitoring system including data collection (primary and secondary sources), processing, analyzing, and development and dissemination of performance and impact indicators of the UNCCD, and establishment of data quality insurance systems before report submission. Collaborate with the Creation of a national knowledge management system including terms for the reporting and review process including procedures for maintaining data flow to the system and the format proposed by the UNCCD. Implementation of the monitoring and information system based on a compilation and analysis of already existing information. Training of personnel of ANAM and collaboration institutions in the operation and maintenance of the information system. Development of a plan to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD implementation</p>
<p>Consultancy Company/institution: Specialists in biophysical and socio-economic characterization of DLDD, early warning systems and monitoring systems.</p>	<p>2000</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Establish a harmonized biophysical and socio-economic diagnosis of the current state of land degradation in the country, (reflecting the biophysical status of the soil), and systematization and integration of existing data on LDD processes and droughts in the national natural disaster early warning system Training of regional and local participants in the monitoring of LDD processes and drought impacts (peasant leaders, representatives of NGOs, private sector, academia, indigenous peoples, women groups etc.) including the use of indicators, data collection and analysis and systematic monitoring</p>

Consultant: Strategic Planning Specialist	500	8	Development of NAP implementation plan prioritizing short and medium term actions, roles and responsibilities. Mainstreaming of NAP priorities in relevant sector policies and plans through sector consultations as well as the incorporation of priorities and impact target indicators into national planning and impact monitoring. Strengthening of national coordination structures including cross-sectoral institutional mechanisms and institutional coordination structures within SERNA on issues related to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD).
Consultant: Specialist in: 1. Information Systems, 2. Integrated management of natural resources (DLDD specific topics) 3. Rio Conventions	1000	20	<p>Establishment of institutional arrangements for setting up the monitoring system including data collection (primary and secondary sources), processing, analyzing, and development and dissemination of performance and impact indicators of the UNCCD.</p> <p>Creation of a national knowledge management system including useful traditional knowledge; systematizing experiences-and ancestral knowledge (best practices) on SLM identified with members of the CONALSED. This will also include terms for the reporting and review process including procedures for maintaining data flow to the system and the format proposed by the UNCCD. Establishing data quality insurance systems before report submission.</p> <p>Ensure liaison with Reference Centers (Helpdesk) for acquiring further knowledge and know-how on UNCCD reporting</p> <p>Design of a draft detailed work plan for the construction of the report, including roles and responsibilities and appropriate consultative processes based on a system of stakeholder assessment. By means of a national workshop generate a consensual approval of a detailed work plan and identification of opportunities for improved linkages of UNCCD reporting and implementation with national development priorities. Draw up draft report and hold a national validation workshop to review and finalize the draft report. Submission of the report through the PRAIS portal. Development of a plan to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD implementation.</p>

Consultant: Specialist in the Rio conventions, knowledge of the operation of inter-institutional coordination ANAM	625	20	Review of databases and monitoring and knowledge management systems used to support the country's reporting and management of different conventions and other institutions and instruments dealing with land degradation issues with the aim of identifying opportunities for cost efficiency through avoiding duplication of efforts and harmonization. Harmonizing to the extent possible data. indicators, and knowledge bases of GEF, Río Conventions, MEA IKM, and others relevant to land degradation
International	2500	4	Provide technical backstopping to the NAP alignment and reporting process Provide guidance on capacity development Support PRAIS report preparation