PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Implementation of SLM practices to address Land Degradation and mitigate effects of drought		
Country:	Philippines	**GEF Project ID:**	5767
GEF Agency:	UNDP	**GEF Agency Project ID:**	5365
Other Executing Partner(s):	Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Soils and Water Management	**Submission Date:** **Re-submission**	Mar 6, 2014 Apr 10, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	**Project Duration:**	36 months
Name of parent program: **For SFM/REDD+** ☐	N/A	**Agency Fee:**	82,735.50

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-financing ($)
LD-1	GEFTF	391,905	2,827,392
LD-3	GEFTF	478,995	1,331,848
Total Project Cost		870,900	4,159,240

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Strengthening SLM frameworks to address land degradation processes and mitigate the effects of drought in the Philippines

Project Component	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative Financing from GEF	Indicative Cofinancing ($)
Effective national enabling environment to promote integrated landscape management	TA	*National paradigm shift from unsustainable to sustainable land use by Government's agriculture, land management and environmental sectors through:* • Move towards coordinated and integrated (multi-sectoral) land management strategies and plans as opposed to purely sectoral approaches • Prioritization and working together at landscape level planning, implementation and monitoring. *Institutional capacities in placed for promoting sustainable forest and land management in the Philippines, evidenced in the UNDP-GEF Capacity Development Scorecard [focused on institutional collaboration]*	• Approved guidelines on SLM mainstreaming into national and local land use plans and investment programs *[To be field-tested under Component 2]*. • Multi-sectoral stakeholder committee established at national level to oversee and technical advice on the integration of SLM into LGU's development plans. • GIS system to support SLM integration into LGU's development plans and improving informed land use allocation decisions *[Set up as a national system but only populated with the targeted municipality data to be selected under component 2 under this project]*. • Trainer-of-trainers from BSWM, DA Regional Offices, DENR and DAR capacitated in training extension officers from the LGUs in promotion of SLM practices	271,635	1,244,853
Long-term capacities and incentives in place for local	INV	*Pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in targeted municipalities covering at least 20,000 hectares*[1] *are reduced through an*	• Land Use Plans developed for two targeted municipalities with serious LD issues *[following guidance developed under Component 1]*	554,220	2,882,387

[1] One municipality will be selected during the PPG based in the location of the demonstration site. Most of the municipalities are in the region of 10,000 ha; if a demonstration site in a large municipality is selected, the CLUPs will be done for a group of barangays with the same characteristics as the demonstration site to facilitate replication.

communities and LGUs to uptake of SLM practices in two targeted municipality in the Philippines		*integrated natural resource management (INRM[2]) framework, evidenced by:* Regular application of the LD-PMAT (Land Degradation Focal Area - Portfolio Monitoring and Assessment Tool)[3] *Strengthened extension services, availability of best practice models and financing increases SLM adoption in targeted municipalities as measured by:* - Increase in % of SLM guidance delivered by extension services - Land degradation index remains stable or improves in target municipality - At least 100[4] farming households adopt sustainable agricultural practices and integrated SFM/SLM practices. *[Baseline and targets for each will be established during the PPG phase]*	• SLM best practices implemented in targeted municipalities targeting soil erosion techniques, gully stabilisation, fetility management and Rainwater harvesting through small water impounding projects[5] • National and LGU extension services capacitated to incorporate SLM to LD and drought risk areas and deliver targeted support to two targeted municipalities and farmers with similar agricultural threats than found in the pilot municipalities. • Secure additional finances for SLM investments and align existing financial contributions in the forestry and agricultural sectors to support SLM practices in at least two selected municipalities.		
Sub-total				825,855	4,127,240
Project management Cost:				45,045	32,000
Total project costs				870,900	4,159,240

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount ($)
National Government	Bureau of Soil and Water Management	In-kind	697,500
National Government	Bureau of Soil and Water Management	Cash	1,961,740
National Government	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Cash	700,000
Local Government	Local Government Organisations	Cash	100,000
Local Government	Local Government Organisations	In-Kind	200,000
GEF Agency	UNDP Philippines	Cash	500,000
Total Co-financing			4,159,240

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)

NA

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

	Amount Requested ($)	Agency Fee for PPG ($)[6]
• (up to)$50k for projects up to & including $1 million	30,000	2,850

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

[2] That is: *"….a conscious process of incorporating the multiple aspects of resource use into a system of sustainable management to meet the goals of resource users, managers and other stakeholders (e.g. production, food security, profitability, risk aversion and sustainability goals)".* (as defined by Sayer and Campbell (2004) and incorporated into the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy for GEF5).

[3] This measure will specifically be measured in the tracking tool in Worksheet *"I – Project Context & Impacts";* section *"1. Agro-ecological context – Characterization of area in which project is located"*; point *"1 .c Focus of project interventions – Please provide total area covered for only those that apply"*. In addition, targets and indicators would be identified during the PPG for measuring reduction or direct causes and drivers and link this to reporting on section 3 *"Land Degradation (desertification and deforestation) problem"*.

[4] This figure only includes farming households that will be directly impacted by the demonstration sites. Through the demonstration value of the sites, as well as the extension and other capacity development activities and structures that will be put in place by the project, the number of households adopting sustainable agricultural practices and integrated SFM/SLM practices will increase making it more scalable. A more precise figure will be estimated during the PPG.

[5] The Small Water Impounding Project or SWIP is a structure constructed across a narrow depression or valley to hold back water and develop a reservoir that will store rainfall and run-off during the rainy season for immediate or future use.

[6] PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

A.1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A.1.1 Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

The project is designed to act as a catalyst for the widespread uptake of sustainable land management practices in the Philippines to arrest the accelerating land degradation, in particular soil erosion, and mitigate the effects of the reoccurring droughts that the country is experiencing. The current and historic causes of land degradation are deforestation, expansion of urban settlements, improper soil management and inappropriate crop management. In so doing, the project will set in place a national enabling environment to promote integrated landscape management where development needs will be balanced with the environmental services provided by land. This will be achieved through integrating sustainable land management into local development plans, strengthening institutional collaboration between national regulatory units, and facilitating informed decision-making on land management. Further, the project will adapt land use practices in agriculture sector - testing new management measures, as needed to reduce environmental stressors in at least one municipality with major land degradation problems in order to showcase the practices for wider replication.

The Philippines is an island archipelago and covers an estimated area of 29.9 million hectares of land. It has a wet tropical climate with an annual rainfall ranging from about 1,000 mm in the south to more than 4,000 mm in mountainous areas particularly along the eastern coast of the archipelago. This is aggravated by the occurrence of frequent typhoons. About 60 percent of the country has rugged and mountainous topography with large areas in some islands having more than 18 percent slope. Deforestation and land use change have reduced the forest cover in the Philippines from about 90 percent in the 16th century, to 70 percent by 1900 and about 23 percent at present.[7] Of the country's total land area, forest land covers 25.5% of which 83.4% is protection forest, 13.8% is plantation forest and 2.8% is mangrove forest. Agricultural land extends over 43.8% of the country's land area while unmanaged shrubs, grassland and wetlands make up another 28.1% of the land area. Open water areas, urban areas and barren land account for 1.5%, 0.8% and 0.3% respectively.[8] About half of the total population of the country, which stands at around 93 million, are dependent on natural resources as their source of livelihood and income. Small farmers and fishers comprise about 60% of those living below the poverty line. Most of these people (28%) are living below the poverty line. 35% of the labor force is dependent on agriculture. The poorest of the poor are the indigenous peoples, small-scale farmers who cultivate land received through agrarian reform, landless workers, fishers, people in upland areas and women.[9] The agriculture sector's contribution to the economy (GDP) was quite significant in 2010 posting an average of 18%.[10] Philippine agriculture consists of rice, corn, coconut, sugar, banana, livestock, poultry, other crops and fishery production activities. Farming is generally undertaken on small farms. Eighty-five percent of all farms are no larger than five hectares. Under the agrarian reform programme, a farm household cannot own a farm larger than five hectares.

Almost half (45% or a total of 13,559,492 ha) of the arable land in the Philippines have been moderately to severely eroded. Moreover, significant watershed integrity has been lost due to appropriate upland agriculture, deforestation, road construction and mining, leading to water shortages, sedimentation and devastating effects of natural disasters, such as typhoons. About 5.2 million ha are seriously eroded, resulting in 30 – 50% reduction in soil and water retention capacity, which in turn leaves the soil vulnerable to drought. Moreover, eroded soils carried by water runoff is causing sedimentation of dams, irrigation canals, riverbeds and coastal habitats like seagrass beds and coral reefs greatly affecting their productive functions. Severe soil erosion makes the land less suitable to crop production. In some cases, erosion has resulted in total loss of soil productivity.

The causes of land degradation are both human and naturally induced. Human-induced causes include the following: *(i) Deforestation and Removal of Natural Vegetation:* the current high density of human population mainly based on the lowlands of the islands has forced the decline in arable farmland in these areas; reducing since 1991 due to the conversion of agricultural lands to settlements, housing and industrial uses. This, coupled with the fact that the human population is increasing at a rate of 2.3%, has forced large numbers of farmers (mostly subsistence farmers) to move to the uplands and marginalised lands, including forestlands, in the hope of meeting their day-to-day food requirements. At present, approximately 74% of the sloping uplands are used for subsistence farming. Migrant farmers also continue to practice slash and burn agriculture with short cycles leading to much erosion on the sloping lands. Illegal logging and encroachment of dwellers in forested areas, including forested protected areas, are becoming rampant; *(ii) Improper Soil Management:* With the immigration into upland and marginalised farmlands, highly unsuitable vulnerable soils are utilised. About 70% of soils of the Philippines belong to Ultisols and unclassified mountain soils which have generally low contents of essential plant nutrients particularly N and P.[11] The cutting and burning of trees and grass, as well as slope cultivation, are associated with missing or insufficient soil conservation/runoff and erosion control measures. These practices are widespread in hilly and mountain landscapes; (iii) Inappropriate Crop Management: to improve crop yield, extensive use of chemical inputs such as inorganic fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides has been popularized. This has left the soil acidic and unfit for sustainable production. The long term and continued use of urea

[7] Garity et. Al., 1993; Verburg & Veldkamp, 2004
[8] Final Report of the BSWM-FAO project "Land Degradation Assessment (LADA)" in Humid Tropics.
[9] www.ruralpovertyportal.org/country/home/tags/philippines accessed 2/25/2014
[10] NEDA, PDP, 2010
[11] Asio, V.B.; Jahn, R.; Perez, F.O.; Navarrete, I. A.; and Abit, S. M. 2009. *A Review of Soil Degradation in the Philippines.* Annals of Tropical Research.

alone has resulted in serious soil degradation widely known as soil mining. The general trend based on soil analysis conducted by the BSWM covering the period 1970 to 1990 indicated active soil mining, where over time an ever greater amount of fertilizer has been needed to maintain yields. Natural causes of land degradation include *(i) topography*, in particular steep slopes[12] distributed as follows: 30 – 50% slope – 6,293,302 ha (21% of total land area); 50% slope and above – 2,609,900 ha (7% of total land area); *(ii) heavy/extreme rainfall:* the country is hit by 8 to 9 typhoons every year, leading to increased erosion on already degraded areas; and floods; *(iii) volcanoes:* there are more than 200 volcanoes and 4 major volcanic belts in the Philippines. Volcanic eruptions leads to the deposit of pyroclastic material on productive land, heavy ash falls and lahar, and erosion of pyroclastic materials during heavy rainfall spells and depositing it downstream; *(iv) drought:* climatological studies show that major drought events in the Philippines as associated with El Nino occurrences.[13] El Nino is projected to occur in shorter intervals due to the effects of climate change. Water stress periods in the seasonally arid / semi-arid areas now stretch 4 – 9 months. Mean daily temperatures in these areas range from 30˚C to 35˚C, which is higher than other parts of the Philippines, and induce depletion of soil organic matter and significant water loss through evapotranspiration. Soil organic matter content is generally 1% or less, which is very low, compared to normal values of 2.5 to 3.5%.

Institutions and Policies:

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, especially forest and grazing lands, mineral resources, including those in reservation and watershed areas, and lands of the public domain, as well as the licensing and regulation of all natural resources as may be provided for by law in order to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits derived therefrom for the welfare of the present and future generations of Filipinos. DENR is tasked to formulate and implement policies, guidelines, rules and regulations relating to environmental management and pollution prevention and control. In particular, the *Forest Management Bureau* of the DENR provides support for the effective protection, development, occupancy management, and conservation of forest lands and watersheds. The *Biodiversity Management Bureau* of the DENR is responsible for establishing and managing of protected areas, conserving wildlife and promoting and institutionalizing ecotourism. The *Department of Agriculture* (DA) is the government agency responsible for the promotion of agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments, and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises. The *Bureau of Soil and Water Management* (BSWM) of the DA's mission is to establish a technology and policy environment that will ensure the attainment of vibrant rural areas characterized by a sustainable agriculture and fishery productivity and institutionalize the judicious use of the base soil and water resources of the country. Such, BSWM (i) advises and renders assistance on matters relative to the utilization of soils and water as vital agricultural resources; (ii) undertakes the design, preparation and implementation of Small Scale Irrigation Projects with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and Regional Field Units of the DA; (iii) formulates measures and guidelines for effective soil, land and water resources utilization; (iv) undertakes soil and water resources research programs; and (v) prepares necessary plans for the provision of technical assistance in solving soil related problems, prevention of soil erosion, fertility preservation and other related matters. The *Department of Agrarian Reform* (DAR) is the lead implementing agency of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). It undertakes land tenure improvement, development of program beneficiaries, and agrarian justice delivery. Its mission is to lead in the implementation of agrarian reform and sustainable rural development in the country through land tenure improvement, the provision of integrated development services to landless farmers, farm workers, small landowners and landowner-cultivators, and the delivery of agrarian justice, as key to long lasting peace and development in the countryside. The CARP is the redistribution of public and private agricultural lands to farmers and farmworkers who are landless, irrespective of tenurial arrangement, CARP's vision us to have an equitable land ownership with empowered agrarian reform beneficiaries who can effectively manage their economic and social development to have a better quality of life. The *Department of the Interior and Local Government* (DILG) promotes peace and order, ensures public safety, and strengthens the capability of local government units through active people participation and a professional corps of civil servants. Local Government in the Philippines is divided into four levels: (i) Autonomous regions; (ii) Provinces and cities independent from provinces; (iii) Component cities and municipalities; and (iv) Barangays. All divisions below the regional level are called "Local government units (LGUs)". According to the Constitution, the LGUs "shall enjoy local autonomy" and in which the president exercises "general supervision". Provinces, with the exception of the one autonomous region, are the highest-level LGUs. The provinces are organized into component cities and municipalities. Most cities are component cities in which they are part of a province. Municipalities are composed of barangays. Barangays are the smallest of the independently elected Local Government Units. The *Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board* (HLURB) mission is "to promulgate and enforce policies on land use, housing and homeowners associations which promote inclusive growth and economic advancement, social justice and environmental protection for the equitable distribution and enjoyment of development benefits."

Land Use Planning: As per Executive Order No. 72 the preparation of Comprehensive Land Use Plans is the responsibility of the LGUs, who will, in conformity with existing laws, prepare plans and enact the plans through zoning ordinances which shall be the primary and dominant bases for the future use of land resources. These plans however need to be reviewed, evaluated and

[12] Steep slopes are land areas that are steeply dissected with slopes more than 30%.
[13] Warm episodes in the Eastern equatorial Pacific.

approved or disapproved by the HLRB. The laws (PD 933 and EO 648 S, of 1981, as amended by EO 90 S of 1986), also authorizes HLRB to prescribe the standards and guidelines governing the preparation of land use plans and to monitor the implementation of such plans.

Barriers to Sustainable Land Management

The **long-term solution** is to build the necessary conducive environment for sustainable land management mainly consists of a comprehensive decision-making and monitoring and compliance system at national and local level and mobilising the baseline programme to engineer a paradigm shift from unsustainable to sustainable land use while improving the livelihoods of the farming community. The **barriers** to the long term solution on sustainable land management that need to be addressed are multifarious. The more significant ones that demand urgent attention by the government are briefly described as follows:

Absence of national and local level framework for controlling land degradation and upscaling SLM

Philippines's production lands consists of a mosiac of agricultural land and natural ecosystems: the farming system employed by the former can have a major impact on the latter – influencing the functionality of the agro-ecosystem. Therefore, it is essential that institutions that work on agriculture and forestry and other landuses work collaboratively. Further, the plans and programmes of national government agencies (NGAs) such as DENR, DAR and DA are not coordinated and generally lack SLM prescriptions for various agriculture and agro-forestry uses. Sustainable land management is not explicitly integrated into agricultural and forestry sector development plan, documents guided by the Comprehensive Land Use Plans of LGUs. Due to this lack of guidance and prescription from the key sectors, DILG (and their respective LGUs) and HLURD are unable to fully integrate SLM issues into their CLUPs and to adequately monitor and ensure compliance to SLM issues. There is also an urgent need to coordinate extension services, especially between DENR and DA, ensuring a common, agreed message is shared with landowners and other stakeholders. Further, decision-makers lack solid information on which to base their decisions regarding land use management, in particular information regarding SLM technology and farming practices. Moreover, basic assessment and mapping of highly vulnerable areas to land degradation such as soil erosion, nutrient deficiency and soil pollution are lacking. Technical competence on SLM by many of the field staff of national agencies such as the DENR and DAR and the LGUs limits their ability to educate and transfer suitable SLM packages in farming communities under their jurisdiction. Capacity building is very much needed by the staff of these national agencies and the field or extension technicians in SLM technology extension, as well as for the BSWM and its partner organizations to monitor the performance and impacts of SLM technology and farming practices. There is a lack of a structured and systematic system for monitoring and evaluating the performance of SLM projects which is considered critical in improving further the adaptability of the SLM technology to specific local conditions.

Lack of capacity and inadequate demonstrated experiences in INRM and in particular agriculture-based SLM at the local level

The Philippines does not have operational, "on-the-ground" examples of integrated sustainable land management at municipal scale. Without access to know-how, proven through demonstration, government decision-makers and resource users do not have the tools and knowledge necessary to decrease land degradation. There is a critical unmet need to infuse new management approaches into the management system—focusing on the sectors that are driving land degradation. LGUs set aside a portion of their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) received from the national government for the implementation of their development programs and projects. Most agriculture-based municipalities are poor and have low revenue generating capacity. They therefore have low amount of funds available which are mostly spent for and not even enough to cover the social services requirements of their constituents. The capacity of LGUs to fund SLM projects, which are critical in improving the income of small farmers, is severely constrained. Small farmers comprise a large segment of the population of agriculture-based municipalities and their economic growth is dependent on the performance of agriculture in their area. Henceforth, the LGUs must be able to assist small farmers improve their production and conserve their land resources to sustain productivity. They need to generate enough revenues to be able to allot some funds to support their SLM projects. Better-off LGUs need to provide in their budget an adequate share for agriculture development and soil and water conservation projects. Increase in the allotment of funds for SLM in these LGUs will further drive their economic growth while reducing poverty incidence among small farmers in their areas.

A.1.2 Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

The Government is committed to natural resources management in the Philippines and will invest at least US$ 1.9 billion[14] in environmental protection over the project period. The funding is largely funneled to three sectors, (i) the Environment sector, through its Department of Environment and Natural Resources which receives an annual budget of US$ US$ 450 million[15] (US$ 1.35 billion over project period). Of this, annually, US$ 144 million will be targeted for forest management and US$ 0.825 million for protected area management. (ii) the Agricultural sector which will invest US$ 1.4 billion over the project period in agricultural development through the Department of Agriculture. Of this amount, US$ 8 million is earmarked for soil

[14] http://www.dbm.gov.ph/?page_id=7906
[15] As per 2014 General Appropriations Act: DENR PhP 19,769,662,000 (US$ 459,759,581)

and water conservation. (iii) the remaining funds will be targeted towards the Fisheries sector which is not relevant to this project. The Department of Interior and Local Government as well as its constituent LGUs will invest US$ 235 million over the next 3 years (no specified allocation is made for land use planning), while the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board will invest US$ 280,930 over the same period reviewing and monitoring compliance. The LGUs (these include all the LGUs in the Philippines) will have a combined investment of approximately US$ 1.5 billion in social, economic and environment management[16] during the project period.

There are a number of field-level baseline initiatives being undertaken by BSWM:
The *"Watershed evaluation for sustainable use of sloping agricultural land in the southern Philippines"* project (US$ 230,000) is improving agricultural production in the Cabulig and Inabanga watersheds areas.
The *"Development of Environment-friendly Agricultural Production Technology in Small Islands"* project (US$ 33,000) will involve the adoption of soil conservation and organic farming methods to improve crop production on small islands.
The *"Enhancing Delivery of Extension Services in support to the Philippine Climate Change Adaptation Project"* (US$ 340,181 - World Bank-funded) is supporting SLM through strenghtening the enabling environment for climate change adaptation, and demonstrating climate change adaptation strategies in the agriculture sector particularly adaptive agroforestry technologies.
The "Vulnerability and Suitability Assessment and Digitization of Thematic Maps in support to the Philippine Rural Development Program" project (US$ 300,000 – World Bank-funded) is producing various thematic maps that can be used in SLM assessment studies.
The *"Natural Resources Management in support to the Mindanao Rural Development Program"* project (US$ 37,225 – World Bank-funded) is identifying areas for irrigation development and establishing a small water impounding project.
The "Rehabilitation of Small-scale Irrigation Projects for Upland Productivity and Resources Sustainability" project (US$ 855,154) is producing small scale irrigation projects for upland farming.
The "Monitoring: Nutrient Loading from Cropland into the Manila Bay in Support to the Operational Plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy" project (US$ 90,000) is promoting the optimum use of fertilizers and the method of effective and efficient fertilization schemes
The "Application of Stable Isotopes to the Assessment of Pollution Coming from Various Sources in the Pampanga River System into the Manila Bay, Philippines" project (US$ 75,000) is buying some laboratory equipment for pollution monitoring. It is also developing techniques for monitoring pollution, including measuring pesticides and fertilizer pollution (non-point pollution).
The "*Land Degradation Assessment"* Project (US$ 484,000-FAO-funded) aims to establish a knowledge base on land degradation, including understanding the causes and impacts, to establish priorities for intervention, participatory and sustainable management of territories and an improvement of specific investments and technical support users of the land. It also enables tracking / monitoring of impacts on ecosystem services, environmental services and livelihoods. Local land degradation assessments have been conducted in Barangay Banilad and Barangay Cadawinonan in Dumaguete City; and Barangay Blanco, Misamis Oriental.

A.1.3 Proposed alternative scenario, with description of expected outcomes and components

The Government of Philippines is requesting GEF support through this project to remove, in an incremental manner, the existing barriers **to strengthen SLM frameworks to address land degradation processes and mitigate the effects of drought in the Philippines.** Two components are planned:

Component 1: Effective national enabling environment to promote integrated landscape management: This component will incorporate sustainable land management objectives and safeguards in the land use planning and implementation process. A joint Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among DA/BSWM, HLURB, DILG, DENR and DAR on mainstreaming SLM in CLUP, CDP, ALUDP and FLUDP. Guidelines on SLM mainstreaming will be developed for use at national and local level to guide land use planning and implementation and the development of investment programs that are supportive of SLM practices. A cross-sectoral working group will be constituted that will lead on the development of the guidelines and ensure the land use plans are coherent and consistent with the objectives and methods of mainstreaming SLM. A resource pool of SLM practitioners and experts will be mobilized and for the nucleus of the network that will be established by the project. A network of agencies undertaking SLM programs will be coordinated for purposes of technical assistance referrals and to monitor projects and activities on SLM for documentation of new lessons learned and for reporting on SLM innovations. To ensure that the procedural guidelines are workable, it will be field-tested in at least one municipality under Component 2 prior to wider rollout. The working group will play a coordinating and advisory role in the development of the land use plans resulting in the increased

[16] In accordance with the Joint Memorandum, Circular issued by DILG, 20 % of the LGUs internal revenue allotment should go to development fund composed of focusing on social development, economic development and environmental management; however the 20% development was not broken down, thus the exact budget allotted for agricultural and fishery development and environmental management of the land could not be determined.

institutional collaboration of national government agencies to manage multiuse landscapes and empowering local governments and communities. The project will downscale the results of the LADA study at the national level to municipal level. Maps of appropriate bigger scale for municipal level planning and project implementation will be generated for use by the LGUs for mainstreaming SLM in their respective LUPs. These maps will be stored in the computerized and web-linked database for easy access of partner agencies and LGUs. A database and decision support information system on managing and monitoring SLM impacts on agriculture and forestry will be installed at BSWM with network linked to DA and other partner institutions (DAR and DENR) through a dedicated website on SLM. To be able to track down the impacts of SLM, a monitoring system will be developed that among others will monitor the SLM-related implementation of land use plans. The decision support system will be anchored on the BSWM database and will have a component on monitoring the performance of SLM projects in terms of their impacts to the conservation of land and to increase the production and income of small farmers. Decision protocols on conflicting and competing land uses in accordance with existing laws and regulations will be developed. This decision protocol aided by the development of SLM decision support system will provide the needed information, menu of viable options and advice to decision-makers helping them make timely and judicious decisions. Selected SLM specialists (potential trainers of trainers) of DA/BSWM and partner agencies will be trained on SLM technology, transfer and other management measures. Training will be conducted for carefully selected potential trainer-of trainers from BSWM, DA Regional Offices, DENR and DAR who will be tapped in training the agriculture and forestry officers of LGUs. After the training, the trainees will gain the technical competency needed to explain and demonstrate in the field the various SLM technology packages that are intended to conserve the land resources and improve the productivity of agriculture crops. Procurement of selected equipment needed for training, laboratory analysis, mapping and monitoring and SLM technology transfer will be done.

Component 2: Long-term capacities and incentives in place for local communities and LGUs to uptake of SLM practices in one targeted municipality in the Philippines: This component will develop at least one Comprehensive Land Use Plan for a municipality to be selected during the PPG[17]. This CLUP will be developed in such a manner as to ensure optimal allocation of land resources to generate development benefits and critical environmental benefits in tandem. Solid and up-to-date information regarding the land degradation issues in the municipality will be collected, documenting the main causes or drivers of land degradation, and solid recommendations will be made for avoiding and mitigating the land degradation impacts of the main sectors in the municipality. Further, compliance monitoring, based on the newly developed CLUP, will be strengthened. Best practices on SLM for replication in a priority area will be demonstrated, documented and packaged for replication. A set of criteria for selecting the SLM demonstration for replication will be developed during the PPG in order to select the most appropriate site. These criteria will include: cost-effectiveness, resource efficiency, sustainability, level of economic impacts, environmental soundness, and social acceptability. Priority will be given to agrarian settlements where possible. Candidate sites include:

1) *Barangay Dalaoig, Alcala, Cagayan.* Techno-demonstration farm project in corn producing area. Technology to be demonstrated: 1) Erosion control measure: i) buffer cropping using widely spaced fruit tree hedgerows with double row grass strips, pineapple strips, pigeon pea and trash line of corn stubbles; ii) banana hedgerows. 2) Gully stabilization: i) brush dam made of indigenous materials such as post, bag of corn cobs and stones.
2) *Barangay San Lorenzo, Ilagan, Isabela.* Pilot area: 5 hectares; Technology to be demonstrated: 1) Erosion control measure: i) buffer cropping using widely spaced fruit tree hedgerows with double row grass strips, pineapple strips, pigeon pea and trash line of corn stubbles; ii) banana hedgerows. 2) Gully stabilization: i) brush dam made of indigenous materials such as post, bag of corn cobs and stones.
3) *Barangay Palacian, Aglipay, Quirino.* Pilot area: 5 hectares; Technology to be demonstrated: 1) Erosion control measure: i) buffer cropping using widely spaced fruit tree hedgerows with double row grass strips, pineapple strips, pigeon pea and trash line of corn stubbles; ii) banana hedgerows. 2) Gully stabilization: i) brush dam made of indigenous materials such as post, bag of corn cobs and stones.
4) *Talugtog, Nueva Ecija.* Pilot area for soil conservation: 5 hectares. Technology that will be demonstrated – 1) Rainwater harvesting through small water impounding project; 2) water management in the service area; 3) plantation forest; 4) contour farming; and 5) agro-forestry within the watershed.
5) *Barangay Tagas, Tangalan, Aklan.* Pilot are – 45 hectares; Technology to be demonstrated: 1) vegetative erosion control; 2) supplemental structures to control gully formation; 3) soil fertility improvement and farm residue management; and 4) rain water harvesting.
6) *Barangay Blanco, Balingasag, Misamis Oriental.* Pilot area-5 hectares. Technology to be demonstrated: 1) terracing, introduction of hedgerows, alley cropping; b) green manuring and use of microbial inoculants; c) organic farming and vermin-composting.
7) *Barangay Banilad, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.* Pilot area- 5 hectares. Technology to be demonstrated: 1) erosion control measure; b) organic farming and vermi-composting; c) establishment of small farm reservoir; d) intercropping; e) minimum tillage

[17] The municipality will be selected through the selection of the demonstration site. Once the demonstration site has been selected, the municipality in which it falls will be selected for CLUP to be developed.

In order to address the limited incorporation of SLM content in extension services, training material on appropriate SLM practices will be developed for areas with land degradation risk. In addition, targeted capacity building of extension officers and farmers will be achieved through the implementation of training programs in the selected municipality on SLM practices for sustainable subsistence and commercial agriculture, irrigation projects, and recovery/protection of forest areas. Support will also be provided for the production of rural extension plans for the selected municipality to ensure that this gives sufficient weight to SLM issues. To ensure uptake of SLM by small farmers in the pilot sites proper information and education campaigns will be launched stressing the benefits of the SLM technology in increasing their production and income and the low cost of SLM-related agricultural practices. Further, to replicate the implementation of SLM wider than just the immediate farmers, farmers experiencing similar conditions and threats to their agricultural production will be brought to the demonstration sites to further buildup their knowledge and confidence in adopting SLM technology and farming. A critical element of this component will be the provision of adequate financial incentives to promote greater uptake of SLM practices. The incentive system will come in the form of technical assistance in the application of SLM and the marketing of produce. The LGU can also generate revenues by charging a minimum fee for marketing which is far cheaper than what middlemen charge. Those farmers, particularly upland farmers, who continue to practice destructive farming practices such as clearing of trees and kaingin will be penalized and and fined. These fines will be used in rehabilitating the lands that were degraded by their illegal practices. Although it is recognized that the fines will not fully cover the cost of rehabilitation, it will act as a deterrent to these practices. The compliance monitoring and fining of these practice could be incorporated as duties of extension offices, thereby addressing the feasibility of the disincentive being applied in the field. These incentive and disincentive system will be pursued through the issuance of local ordinances. The process of increased funding allocation towards SLM by the project will also involve a process of review and alignment of existing funding to the agricultural and forestry in the selected municipality.

A.1.4 Incremental cost reasoning and global environmental benefits

The project will contribute to global environmental benefits primarily though reduced soil erosion, reduced risk of degradation, and increased maintenance of biodiversity. The global benefits that will be delivered primarily include the adoption of SLM practices that will reduce land degradation and secure ecosystem services over an area covering at least 10,000 ha in the targeted municipality as follows:

Table: Identification of benefits associated with alternative production systems promoted by project.

Current practices	Alternative production systems	Expected benefits*
Limited adoption of soil management practices (increased mechanization, failure to observe contour lines, increased monocultures, etc.)	Soil erosion control techniques: e.g. mulching, zero-tillage, hedge management and windbreakers, crop diversification, mulching systems, terracing, gully stabilization, etc.	Reduced soil and nutrient losses and soil compaction; higher soil moisture and increased water availability; improved soil biological/chemical quality and productivity
Excessive and inappropriate use of chemical inputs (herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers)	Biological control; adherence to requirements for chemical inputs; mulching systems; crop rotation to reduce pests. (possibly only through extension, to be determined during PPG)	Reduced groundwater contamination; improved soil quality; improved worker health

***** Targets to be defined in PPG phase

A.1.6 Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The project demonstrates many approaches for the first time in Philippines, including integration of land degradation data and sustainable land management practices into land use planning and issuance of a joint statement by different sector departments in order to ensure an integrated response at the local level. Innovative SLM practices will also be demonstrated in order to showcase appropriate responses to the serious land degradation issues experienced in the Philippines.

Gender[18] aspects: The SLM policies and programs to be devolved by the consortium of the DA-BSWM, DENR, DILG and DAR will be designed to be gender sensitive in accordance with the UNDP and NEDA Guidelines on Gender and Development. As such these SLM programs will provide equal opportunities to women in terms of access to training, technology and financial support to augment and diversify their families' sources of incomes. Women groups will be encouraged to attend planning sessions and consultation workshops and shall likewise be involved in the selection and implementation of SLM projects and in monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the projects to be piloted.

Sustainability: This project is building on a strong baseline. First, a policy and institutional framework for integrating natural resource management into land use planning already exists. Secondly, there is a strong commitment from Government to address the land degradation issues in the Philippines. Third, the project has financial sustainability written into it, through the review and realignment of public expenditure and the brokering of additional public and private funding towards sustainable land management. The key gaps in the current process are capacity and coordination among all the spheres of Government to recognise the values of natural resources and the ecosystem values it provides and the cost of land degradation, and the

[18] Gender benefits of the project and women involvement in the context of this project will be elaborated in further details during the PPG stage.

application of this recognition in the land use allocation and permitting process – which this project is designed to address. The project aims to empower local stakeholders (LGUs and farmers) to become custodians of the important natural resources in the respective areas. Specifically, the project will: (a) Improve capacity of all regulatory authorities that impact on natural resources at a municipal and barangay level and support the embedding of this by developing sustainable mechanisms for institutional cooperation and coordination between spheres of government and civil society that deliver improved regulatory efficiencies and effectiveness; (b) Secure sustainable financing for natural resource management through realignment of public expenditure streams and brokering additional funds for sustainable land management; (c) Empower local decision-making bodies and communities to co-manage natural resources.

Replication will be achieved through the direct replication and scaling up of sustainable practices and methods demonstrated by the project. The project will develop and use a knowledge management system to ensure the effective collation and dissemination of experiences and information gained in the course of the project's implementation. A series of workshops will be held as part of the project to trigger replication in additional municipalities including replicating the experience in the municipality that will be developing a comprehensive land use plan during the project period. The project will also be issuing a joint agreement from national agricultural, land development and environment government agencies to LGUs to integrate SLM into land use plans and guidelines will be developed on SLM mainstreaming into national and local level land use plans and investment programs. These policy documents will not only apply to the municipality the project will be covering, but will have national coverage establishing the enabling environment for the project initiatives to replicated in all other municipalities of the Philippines.

A.2. STAKEHOLDERS. IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS (INCLUDING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, GENDER GROUPS, AND OTHERS AS RELEVANT) AND DESCRIBE HOW THEY WILL BE ENGAGED IN PROJECT PREPARATION:

STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANT ROLES
Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Soil and Water Management	The BSWM is the lead agency in SLM. It develops, tests and widely disseminates SLM practices and technology packages. For the SLM project, it will undertake project planning, implementation and management including coordination, monitoring, evaluation and project reporting. It will also develop knowledge management system and lead capacity building program; and establish SLM demonstration sites on soil conservation, erosion control, organic farming, nutrient balance management and other technology packages.
Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Forestry Management Bureau	The FMB is the agency responsible for planning and implementing forest conservation policies and programs. For the SLM project, it will undertake project planning and implementation of SLM covering upland farmers and agro-forestry. It will also mainstream SLM in DENR forestry development plan and programs allotting budget thereof; conduct project performance monitoring and reporting; and establish SLM demonstration sites on agro-forestry and participate in capability building program.
Department of Agrarian Reform	The DAR implements the country-wide program on land distribution and corresponding support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries. For the SLM project it will conduct project planning and implementation of SLM covering agrarian reform beneficiaries. It will also mainstream SLM in DAR agrarian reform development plan and programs allotting budget thereof; conduct project performance monitoring and reporting; and establish SLM demonstration sites on conservation-oriented farms of agrarian reform farming communities and participate in capability building program.
Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)	The DILG is responsible for supervising LGUs, issuing policies, and monitoring and evaluating their progress and development, among other functions. For the SLM project, it will provide inputs in project planning and implementation. It will also issue policy directives to LGUs in mainstreaming SLM in their CDPs and allocating funds thereof; and participate in the formulation and development of financial instruments for SLM.
Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB)	The HLURB is responsible for issuing guidelines for the preparation of CLUP by cities and reviewing the quality of their plans aside from their legal and program development functions. For the SLM project, it will provide inputs in the preparation of guidelines for mainstreaming SLM in CLUP of LGUs. It will also be tapped in the conduct of capability building program on SLM.
Provincial and Municipal LGUs (PAOs and MAOs)	The LGUs' PAOs and MAOs are responsible for preparing and implementing agriculture sector development plans and programs aside from providing extension services to farmers. For the SLM project, they will mainstream SLM in their CLUPs and CDPs and allot budget thereof. They will also be the major participants in capability building programs for SLM. They will also provide inputs in SLM project monitoring and performance evaluation.
Farmers organizations	The farmers' organizations in priority LGUs are the downstream beneficiaries of the project. They will participate in SLM project implementation as technology receiving constituents. They will also participate in SLM training and technology adoption; and provide feedback on the benefits and performance of SLM technology adopted.

NGOs and academic and research institutions	The NGOs and academic and research institutions to be tapped by the SLM project will serve as resource persons in SLM training and documentation of best practices. They will also provide advocacy support in SLM technology adoption; and participate in SLM monitoring and performance evaluation.
UNDP Manila	The UNDP is the implementing agency of the GEF and is responsible in facilitating the development, review and submission of projects for GEF financing. For the SLM project, it will be responsible for the successful management and delivery of program outcomes and monitoring of project implementation and performance. It will also approve any deviation from the project implementation plan.

A.3 RISKS

Risk	Level	Mitigation
Financial risk: Counterpart funds are diverted to more urgent projects	Low	Contribution of DA-BSWM in kind such as personnel complement, use of facilities and establishments of demonstration sites will be secured through official commitment and programming of resources to avoid any diversion. Cash contribution is more secured since on-going SLM projects of DA-BSWM are adequately funded. SLM activities will be prioritized to ensure that limited available funds will be able to support their implementation in case of counterpart funding failure.
Political risk: Failure of LGUs of pilot project areas to fully participate in the project due to their busy schedule.	Medium	Drawing official commitment from LGU top executive to support the project through MOA. Issuance of policy directive (e.g., administrative order) by DILG to pilot LGUs mandating them to participate in the SLM project for the benefit of their farming communities.
Climate change risk: Typhoons, monsoon rains or drought could affect SLM projects and delay their implementation. Project performance may suffer from natural disasters affecting pilot areas.	Medium	SLM technology packages will include hazard mitigation measures to cushion the impacts of typhoons, monsoon rains and drought. These hazard mitigation measures will be built-in to the SLM package for hazard prone pilot areas. Soil nutrient rehabilitation and management measures will be made an inherent component of SLM technology to be applied in disaster devastated farm lands.
Social risks: Reluctance of small farmers in pilot sites to adopt SLM because of apprehension to new technologies and their cost of maintenance.	Medium	Proper information and education campaign to farmers in pilot sites stressing the benefits of the SLM technology in increasing their production and income and the low cost of their maintenance. Bringing the farmers to demonstration sites to further build-up their knowledge and confidence in adopting SLM technology and farming practices.
Environmental risks	None	The SLM project is conservation oriented project and will not harm in any way the land resources.

A.4. COORDINATION. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT GEF FINANCED AND OTHER INITIATIVES:

Given that the proposed SLM project would establish the enabling framework for linking national and local SLM implementation system and employing the integrated landscape approach to combat land degradation in the Philippines, the following complered and on-going GEF projects and related loan initiatives in the Philippines are of particular relevance to this proposal. The SLM project will build on the results, findings and recommendations of the following GEF projects. The *"Sustainable Conservation and Utilization of Philippine Indigenous Crops Species"* project seeks to mitigate the loss of diversity in Philippine indigenous crop species through an in situ conservation strategy, which integrates biodiversity conservation in agricultural production systems and sectors. The two main objectives of the project are: (i) In situ knowledge management system developed; and (ii) biodiversity-friendly practices for indigenous crops promoted and adopted in production system or target sites. The project developed a replicable model of conservation in farmers' fields, a form of in situ conservation that addresses the implementation mechanism of adaptive management that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity. The SLM could include the conservation system as part of its proposed array of SLM technology. The "*Integrated Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Ancestral Domains in the Zambales Mountains Range"* project is aimed at demonstrating the viability of an ecologically sustainable, Indigenous People's managed ancestral domain. It serves as a model that establishes ancestral domains as part of a network of community conservation areas that effectively complements the existing national protected areas system. The proposed SLM project can include under its documentation component the indigenous method of managing conservation areas for showcasing as an SLM management

technology. The *"Strengthening Coordination for Effective Environmental Management (STREEM)"* project focused on the establishment of coordination mechanisms at the Convention focal point agencies for effective environmental management. The findings and recommendations of this project are useful in the establishment of coordination mechanism among DENR, DAR, DA and LGUs in the development of CLUPs and the planning and implementation of SLM projects at the pilot sites. The proposed SLM project will be coordinated with on-going GEF projects related to agriculture and watershed management to avoid duplication and promote complementation among their efforts: The *"Partnerships for Biodiversity Conservation: Mainstreaming in Local Agricultural Landscapes"* project's objective is to assist Local Government Units (LGUs) in critical eco-regions of the Philippines to better incorporate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources in their development planning systems and economic growth strategies. The project will directly address barriers to biodiversity conservation in surrounding production landscapes of Protected Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas through an integrated approach aimed at strengthening the enabling policies at the national level for encouraging LGU Landscape level biodiversity conservation efforts; providing the tools for enhancing the capacities of LGUs in mainstreaming biodiversity in local development; and by demonstrating in selected pilot sites the systems, policies and tools for landscape-level biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The outputs of this project on which the proposed SLM project can build include the promotion of LGUs of biodiversity friendly agriculture practices that will conserve the genetic stocks of indigenous agricultural crops; incorporate biodiversity and certification system for biodiversity agricultural production system. The SLM project can benefit from the *"Expanding and Diversifying the National System of Terrestrial Protected Areas in the Philippines / New Conservation Areas in the Philippines"* project's experience in terms of its development of new tools and mechanisms for sustainable financing. The strategies and mechanisms for sustainable financing developed under this project could serve as a framework and sample model template that can be adopted or further custom fitted for SLM sustainable financing.

A Technical Working Group will be established that ensembles technical experts on sustainable land management and all the related projects in Philippines will be represented on this group. Regular meetings will be held between the different projects to leverage synergies and ensure efficiency in implementing the projects. The studies conducted and information gathered under the other projects will be integrated into project development and implementation.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS, IF APPLICABLE, I.E. NAPAS, NAPS, NBSAPS, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, TNAS, NCSAS, NIPS, PRSPS, NPFE, BIENNIAL UPDATE REPORTS, ETC.:

The SLM project is also consistent and supportive of the strategies embodied in several important national policies and plans. The project is aligned with the *"Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2011 – 2016"* strategies to make the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector competitive and sustainable. Within the next six years, the agriculture and fisheries sector aims to carry out development strategies to improve food security and increased rural incomes; increase sector resilience to climate change risks; and enhance policy environment and governance. The SLM project will contribute to these agricultural development strategies by sustaining land productivity through minimizing land degradation, enhancing soil fertility, and capacitating LGUs in undertaking SLM technology. The *"Philippine National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (2010 – 2020)"* is a plan that clearly lays down the convergence and harmonization of efforts on sustainable land resources management by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, Science and Technology (DOST), and Agrarian Reform. It calls for harmonization of efforts of the DA, DOST, DENR and DAR to address integrated watershed governance and provide needed site-specific technologies to reverse declining agricultural productivity and enhance the supply of freshwater. Agencies of the government responsible for managing land resources are faced with budget limitations in the implementation of the NAP-DLDD. The SLM project will accelerate the implementation of NAP-DLDD and help ensure that the ecosystem service projects being proposed by other donors are fully in-line with modern sustainable management practices. The project will also contribute to the objectives of the *Agri-Pinoy Framework*. The framework is a set of principles and practices focused on developing Philippine resources and capabilities to meet the food production requirements of Filipino people. It focuses not only on the utilization and management of agricultural resources but also on enhancement of capabilities of people in the agriculture sector (particular small farmers and fisherfolk). Agri-Pinoy has four guiding principles: food security and self-sufficiency (roadmaps are being developed to attain self-sufficiency in staple crop production); sustainable agriculture and fisheries (promote environmental health and crop diversification); natural resources management (soil and water resources conservation) and local development (focus on people empowerment and self-governance). Under the Forestry Management Sector of the updated *Environment and Natural Resources Framework Plan (2011 – 2025)*, the strategies which are related to the SLM project include the following: 1) establish upland livelihood enterprises that would provide technology, credit and marketing assistance; 2) encourage communities to develop multi-purpose forest on open, denuded and degraded areas into economically-productive asset; 3) promote alternative livelihood to encourage resource-depended communities practice conservation measures; 4) intensify technical assistance for the preparation of Forest land use plans (FLUP) identifying areas for investment; 5) develop Agro-forestry farms; and 6) encourage communities to enhance productivity of reforestation and upland areas for livelihood and poverty alleviation. The proposed SLM project is supportive if these development strategies to be pursued by the DENR-FMB particularly in improving soil conservation in agroforestry systems.

B.2. GEF FOCAL AREA AND/OR FUND(S) STRATEGIES, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES

The project addresses LD-3 Reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape, by promoting integrated land use planning at the municipal level, and engineering a shift from unsustainable land practices to sustainable land management. The project introduces the concept of Integrated Land Use Planning and implements investments to demonstrate its viability in one municipality, with potential for scale up to cover the 13,559,492 ha of arable land in the Philippines that are moderately to severely eroded. These activities are in conformity with Output 3.1 *"Integrated land management plans developed and implemented"* and Output 3.2 *"Appropriate actions to diversify the financial resource base"* of the GEF LD-3. The project will also implement best practices in SLM in the one targeted municipality, with a focus on agricultural systems. This is in line with LD-1 Outcome 1.2 "Types of Innovative SL/WM practices introduced at field level" of the GEF. Through these LD-focused activities, the project helps to prevent soil erosion, loss of productivity and other ecosystem services in the Philippines. Detailed LD benefits expected form the project have been described above and will be further elaborated at the PPG stage. The project is in line with the "UNCCD 10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008 – 2018)" and supports all 4 of its strategic objectives namely: 1) To improve the living conditions of affected populations; 2) To improve the condition of affected ecosystems; 3) To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD; and 4) To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors.

B.3 THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS PROJECT:

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Philippines (2012 – 2016) has identified four outcomes and seventeen sub-outcome areas on which its support will be concentrated. Outcome 4 on Resilience toward disasters and climate change has a sub-outcome on environment and natural resources protection and conservation. Under this sub-outcome, UNDP will support the sharpening of policy frameworks, plans and mechanisms and the strengthening of capacities of duty bearers to deliver on their obligations and claimholders to assert their rights. This project is on line with the outcome in that it will increase the capacities of national and local government officials and communities to conserve and sustainably manage the country's environmental and natural resources. UNDP Philippines has an extensive track record in developing and implementing environmental management and conservation programmes, including a large GEF-supported investment cumulatively totaling in excess of US$ 40 million. The UNDP Country Office has a total of 5 staff in its Environment Unit. Staff in the Operations and Financial Management unit also supports project implementation, and oversight is provided by the senior management team composed of the UNDP Resident Representative, Country Director and Unit Team Leaders. UNDP Philippines delivers approximately US$ 15 million per year in overall development assistance, derived from a variety of sources including core UNDP programme funds, bilateral donors and multilateral mechanisms such as GEF and MDG Achievement Fund. Furthermore, the project will be backstopped by a Regional Technical Advisor based in UNDP's Regional Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT AND GEF AGENCY:

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).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh	Undersecretary and GEF-Philippines Operational Focal Point	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	01/23/2014

B. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator	Signature	Date	Project Contact	Telephone	Email Address
Adrianna Dinu UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i.		6 March 2014	Johan Robinson Regional Technical Advisor	+ 662 3049100	johan.robinson@undp.org