



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

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

EA Title:	Support to Alignment of Samoa’s National Action Programme (NAP) to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Preparation of the Reporting and Review process.		
Country(ies):	Samoa	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01281
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Submission Date:	05 June 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	12 months
Check if applicable	UNEP	Agency Fee:	13,014

A. EA FRAMEWORK

EA Objective: The objective of the project is to build capacity of Samoa to review and align its NAP with the 10-year UNCCD Strategy based on the guidelines provided by the Convention Bodies and to prepare the national report on UNCCD implementation in the country using the recently revised reporting tools and PRAIS portal, including reporting on the impact indicators

EA Component	Grant Type (TA/ INV)	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs ²	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Co-financing (\$)
1. NAP revision and alignment o the 10-year UNCCD Strategy Key indicator: A revised NAP aligned to th 10 Year Startegy	TA	1.1.Samoa has a) revised and aligned its National Action Programme (NAP) with the UNCCD 10year strategy and b) institutionalized it within future government and c) international partners development framework	Report on availability, assessment of sectoral development plans, policies and other documents relevant to the UNCCD and recommendation for mainstreaming DLDD in these policies/documents and sectors, elaborated	12,500	11,500
			NAP aligned to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy that identifies and establishes priorities in the context of national development planning, poverty reduction, and mainstreaming of climate change and biodiversity conservation plans through a participatory sector-wide process, developed	21,000	22,000

¹Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

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

		1.1 Enhanced national capacity to assess and monitor baseline and indicators for the implementation of the UNCCD 10-year Strategy and to undertake the NAP alignment assignment	National methodology that will be applied in the NAP development and alignment, drafted	4,500	4,000
			Indicators for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities, developed and reviewed	8,000	3,500
			Training for stakeholders in the use and application of indicators, monitoring and evaluation and in the gathering of data, conducted	8,400	6,700
		1.2 Improved policy and institutional framework and financing mechanisms for NAP implementation	Training for National Stakeholders on National capacity for Land Degradation vulnerability assessments, monitoring, coordination, knowledge development and management including useful traditional knowledge and best practices system, conducted	12,500	10,000
			NAP priorities, mainstreamed, in relevant sectoral policies and in biodiversity conservation and climate change plans	8,500	7,300
			Report on i) national assessment of financial resources available, ii) technology transfer needs, iii) for NAP implementation, iv) integrated investment framework and v) integrated financial strategy, elaborated	10,000	3,300
		2. Reporting and Review Key indicator: National Report on UNCCD implementation	TA	2.1 National report and review process prepared and submitted by Samoa	Appropriate national consultative processes that include key national stakeholders including CSO, Gender consideration and the least favoured social groups, held
National report prepared and review process	11,600				10,500
Validation workshop held to review and finalize the report	7,000				6,700
A national report from Samoa on the measures taken to implement the UNCCD submitted through the PRAIS portal and published for dissemination at national	3,291				750

		level		
		Linkages of UNCCD reporting and implementation with national priorities, donors and National frameworks to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD and synergy with other processes,carried out..	8,400	3,350
		A synergy framework for harmonisation of common indicator data and knowledge bases relevant to the UNCCD national reporting processes established.	4,200	4,700
		Liaison with UNEP, UNCCD, GM Helpdesks for acquiring further knowledge and know-how on the UNCCD review and reporting process, facilitated.	-	12,300
Subtotal			124, 533	110,000
Project Management			12,453	50,000
Total EA Cost			136,986	160,000

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	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	In-Kind	50,000
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)	In – Kind	20,000
National Government/ Project Executing Agency	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	In-Kind	80,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-Kind	10,000
Others			
Total Co-financing			160,000

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

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

D. EA MANAGEMENT COST

COST ITEMS	TOTAL ESTIMATED PERSON WEEKS/MONTH	GRANT AMOUNT	CO-FINANCING	EA TOTAL
LOCAL CONSULTANTS	20	3,000	10,000	13,000
INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS		0	0	0
OFFICES FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND COMMUNICATIONS		3,453	30,000	33,453
TRAVEL		6,000	10,000	16,000
OTHERS				
TOTAL		12,453	50,000	62,453

PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

<p>A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT (Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samoa is a small country with about 180,000 inhabitants, which has always been confronted with natural disasters and structural limitations that are related to its volcanic origin, the insular and archipelagic nature and its location in the Pacific. Due to those factors, the country presents an ecological and landscape vulnerability associated with the geomorphological characteristics of the islands, influences of the actions of climate elements from a tropical climate and, no less important, the entropic pressure on the rather existing resources. 2. Therefore, in the origin of land degradation in the context of the desertification process in Samoa, in addition to the natural phenomena, the social, economic, technological and cultural factors related to the inadequate use of soil, water and vegetation cover, play a preponderant role. The great disproportion between resources and population in constant growth associated with significant increase in poverty and hardship, and widespread degradation to critical landscapes from natural disasters which together translates into high pressure on scarce natural resources further accelerate the process of land degradation, which in turn causes further environmental and social problems, both in urban as in rural areas. 3. This reality meant that recent successive governments have made the combat
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	<p>against land degradation over the recent years a priority in the country' national programs of governance, with the strong support of regional and international stakeholders. This commitment was reflected in Samoa's accession of the UNCCD Convention in 20 August 1998. This shows the strategic importance given to the CCD by the Government of Samoa and its authorities, in an innovative context, making the country a "lead partner" in the Pacific Island-region. The country also signed and ratified the United Nations Conventions for Biological Diversity and Climate Change (UNCBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Besides these Rio conventions, Samoa also ratified others and signed protocols that similarly aim at the preservation of its environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. In 2006, Samoa completed the preparation of its NAP-CCD with a very nationwide participation of all relevant stakeholders targeting in particular local communities and national stakeholders. The NAP was approved by the Cabinet in September 2006 and was given official launch in October of same year during the commemoration of the Land Services Day. 5. In fulfilling its obligations as a Party to UNCCD, the country has thus far prepared and submitted to the COPs five National Reports on UNCCD implementation. The 4th and the 5th national reports were prepared and submitted through the newly introduced Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) portal, as established by decision 12/COP.9. 6. After accession of the UNCCD in 1998, Samoa, through the parallel implementation of the SIDS portfolio Sustainable Land Management (SLM) project and a piloted Vaitele-fou Rehabilitation Project are by-products of the NAP 2006. The SLM resulted in significant acreage of rehabilitated coastal and watershed lands, and it continued to launch greater awareness of issues pertaining specific to UNCCD such as soils, forests, biodiversity and water management components in particular promoting the influential importance of SLM practices as the sustainable mode of working one's land. SLM practices are seen as increasingly customized as a crosscutting practice across sectors which to date is also observed in extensive forestation programmes through our Water Resources and Forest divisions initiatives which saw a recently completed campaign project of one million trees being within a period of three years which ended in 2012. The results of that hard work, will perhaps bear fruits in the next five years, either through having a major wood land area with its consequent results of added resilience to factors of climate change. 7. Within the implementation realm of the NAP-CCD, specific measures were taken to counteract the scenario of unsustainable use of natural resources including unsustainable agricultural practices that which particularly lead to land degradation. The farm activities were subject to permanent follow-up mechanism –the Early Warning System - suitable for assessing the effects of drought and it plays an important role in determining the level of food security of the country. 8. The Government of Samoa, aware of the fragility of the ecosystems and of the insularity and the vulnerability that characterize the country, has elaborated
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instruments for implementation of its development strategy. The aim of this initiative is to mainstream environmental issues in the planning process and to promote sustainable development. The different Government Programmes and its respective National Development Plans in nearly 20 years of governance, the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (2002-2016), the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (DECRP - since 2004), the Programme to Combat Poverty (since 1998), the National Environment and Development Strategy 1992(revised in 2013), the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development (2004 – 2014),), the Agriculture Sector plan 2012 among others, define the strategic axes of intervention in the areas of economy, environment, food security and poverty reduction. These actions aim at a continued and sustained growth of the economy, an improvement of the quality of life of all Samoans, a permanent improvement of national cohesion, wider participation and a full and substantive affirmation of citizenship.

9. Many other sectoral policy documents and reports were prepared and are in line with the NAP alignment initiative such as the nine profiles in The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) on Climate Change; The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 1998 and parallel revision at the moment; and amongst others, the National Implementation Plan for Persistent Organic among others, the Water Sector and Forest sector plans as well as our Agriculture sector plan 2012.

10. In 2006, Samoa undertook a National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) with support from the GEF to enhance implementation of the Rio-Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs). The NCSA project identified constraints and opportunities for capacity building, developed an action plan for synergistic implementation of the MEAs and formulated project profiles for implementation of the NCSA action plan. However, many of the NCSA priorities and recommendations have not yet been put in effect.

11. The Government, with regards to environmental protection, through the MNRE and its implementing partners are responsible for implementing the policy of preservation and rational use of the country's natural resources. Samoa currently has a set of legislative measures that account for protecting land resources from overuse, of which the most relevant are:

- Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa 1960
- Lands, Surveys and Environment Act 1989
- PUMA Act 2004
- Forest Management Act 2011
- Water Resource Management Act 2008

Samoa has participated in several international conferences, including the UN Conferences on Environment and Development and the COP's of the Rio Conventions. It has signed several agreements, ratified others, specific or relevant to the protection of the environment of the archipelago.

12. Given the pressures on different ecosystems, efforts were focused on the creation of

	<p>an Environmental Information System which for Samoa it is required to undertake a survey assessment of the state of its environment through revising and updating its State of the Environment reports every five years. This report document the status quo of the current environment and summarizes the state of the management of natural resources (land, air, water and biodiversity) and the environment in the country and examines how stakeholders including the public sector, private sector, NGOs and civil society, have been using these resources in their interaction with the environment.</p>
<p>B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES (The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender dimensions are considered in project design and implementation.)</p>	<p>13. In Samoa, as a SIDS country, the effective management of natural resources and environmental protection is at the core of sustainable development and guarantee of equity among generations, are essential to preserve life supporting biological systems, improve the quality of life and reduce poverty. Understanding the concept of “land”, according to the UNCCD, “the bio-productive terrestrial system that comprises soil, plants, other living beings and the ecological and hydrological phenomena that originate within this system” is absolutely vital to securing the conditions of existence in the present and for future generations. The geographic situation of the country, the rarity of its natural and non-renewable energy resources, and the tropical type climate, constitute vulnerability factors that limit development of the country. The lack of arable land leads to an intensive use of soils couple with the consistent onslaught of natural disasters, have contributed to speeding up erosion and the consequences of this strong pressure exerted on the environment by the populations threatens environmental balance.</p> <p>14. Over the last decades the UNCCD has undertaken a major reform process aimed at making the UNCCD process more efficient, transparent, and accountable and focused. Based on Decision 3/COP 8, parties to the UNCCD adopted the 10-year strategy (2008-2018) to enhance the implementation of the Convention. The Decision urged Parties to implement the Strategy in accordance with their national priorities, including the alignment of their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with the Strategy.</p> <p>15. The Strategy’s Operational Objective 2 (OO2) urges affected Country Parties to revise their NAPs into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks. The OO2 also encourages affected Country parties to integrate their NAPs as well as SLM and land degradation issues into their national development plans and relevant sectors and investment plans and policies</p> <p>16. Decision 3/COP8 also calls on the CRIC to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and application of new reporting guidelines as well as develop an indicator system that should go hand in hand with the alignment of NAPs. Furthermore, the Decision urges the CST to make use of and contribute to the best practices database and to economical and biophysical baselines.</p> <p>17. Samoa fully supported the reform process and the Strategy. However, the country has very limited financial resources to match the UNCCD reform process and the 10-Year strategic plan and framework with national legal and institutional framework.</p>

- 18.** The project is expected to enable Samoa to improve the institutional coordination and put in place an appropriate mechanism for sharing relevant information among stakeholders, including the scientific community, for long term monitoring of DLDD as well as reporting process. The linkages of UNCCD reporting and implementation with national priorities, donors and national frameworks to make use of the established mechanism for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD and synergy with other processes will also be improved.
- 19.** There is a need to conduct in-deep analysis of measures and activities pertaining to the UNCCD implementation, which are envisaged within relevant State Programmes and Plans, to strengthen their coordination and coherence, avoid duplication and cover gaps, especially in framework of NAP development and alignment process.
- 20.** Accordingly, the proposed project responds well to the calls made by the various COP Decisions and CRIC recommendations to facilitate capacity building as well as providing technical and financial support to affected country parties to enable them to align their NAPs and monitor implementation of the Strategy and the Convention in line with the new reporting obligations.
- 21.** The EA aims at assisting Samoa in developing an aligned NAP with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and to undertake the reporting and review process, including the review of indicators provisionally adopted by the COP and implemented under the PRAIS framework. The two processes (NAP alignment and reporting) will be mutually reinforcing and resulting in improved planning and monitoring of UNCCD implementation at the national level for better decision making on DLDD and sustainable land management issues.
- 22.** The objective of the project is to build capacity of Samoa to review and align its NAP with the 10-year UNCCD Strategy based on the guidelines provided by the Convention Bodies and to prepare the national report on UNCCD implementation in the country using the recently revised guideline and PRAIS portal, including reporting on the impact indicators. The review and alignment process will guarantee that the reviewed and aligned NAP is fully in line with key political priorities of Samoa as clearly informed also for achievement in its SDS 2012-2016.
- 23.** In preparation of the NAP all interested parties, particularly Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and private sector will be involved, in order, to ensure ownership and integrated approach. Gender and the least favoured social group considerations will also be key priority issues. The NAP development will also consider international partners/donors frameworks in order to mainstream NAP and ensure resources mobilization.
- 24.** More specifically, the project will ensure all norms regarding Civil Society participation, gender consideration, social and environmental safeguards including the least favoured social group considerations by ensuring (i) inclusiveness of both men and women in project formulation and implementation of the national consultation processes; (ii) ensuring inclusiveness for marginalized and poor communities in the consultations; (iii) collecting of gender disaggregated data and information where possible, and (vi) analysis and articulation of relationship to

	<p>human well being and poverty reduction, through the impact indicators and the anticipated socioeconomic impacts of the aligned NAP on the national development agenda.</p> <p>25. In order to enable UNEP to track how consideration of socio-economic benefits, indigenous people, gender dimensions are addressed by Parties, the provision will be included that these considerations including CSO participation to the process at national level, should be reflected in the aligned NAP reporting process. In addition, the UNEP Help Desk will assist in ensuring social/gender issues are integrated in the NAPs and reports.</p> <p>26. The key national stakeholders which will be closely involved in the project implementation will include relevant departments of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries - Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development - Ministry of Finance; - Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture; - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Samoa Tourism Authority - Ministry of Works, Technology and Infrastructure - Land Transport Authority - Ministry of Commerce, Labor and Industry - Samoa Umbrella of non-governmental organizations - Samoa Women in Business - Samoa Farmers Association - Samoa Water Authority - National University of Samoa - University of the South Pacific - Scientific Research Organization of Samoa - Samoa Land Corporation - Samoa Trust Estate Corporation <p>27. These governmental bodies and organisations, in accordance with their respective mandates, also have responsibility in the field of development and implementation of the state policy related to combating land degradation/desertification, protection and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as on other matters pertaining to the UNCCD 10-year Strategy implementation in Samoa. In accordance with their specific attributions, they will be involved in different steps of the review and aligned process.</p>
<p>C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION</p>	<p>28. The objective of this project is to facilitate access to GEF funding by Samoa 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 specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enable Samoa to develop an aligned National Action Program in light of operational and strategic objectives identified by UNCCD 10-year Strategy;

<p>(discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A).</p>	<p>- To enable the country and national stakeholders to undertake the necessary consultations for elaboration of the next reporting and review process</p> <p>Component 1: NAP revision and alignment to the 10 Years Strategy</p> <p>Through this component the project will support i) Stocktaking assessment and awareness raising on NAP alignment, ii) Strengthening human and scientific capacity for NAP alignment and reporting, iii) Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for NAP alignment, implementation, review and reporting process, iv) Review and alignment of the of previous NAP, and v) Strengthening financing of NAP priorities in Samoa. The following outcomes and outputs will be delivered:</p> <p>Outcome 1.1: Samoa has a) revised and aligned its National Action Programme (NAP) with the UNCCD 10year strategy b) institutionalized it within future government and c) international partners development framework</p> <p>Output 1.1.1.Report on availability and assessment of sectoral development plans, policies and other documents relevant to the UNCCD and recommendation for mainstreaming DLDD in these policies/documents and sectors</p> <p>Output 1.1.2.NAP aligned to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy that identifies and establishes priorities in the context of development planning, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultation and dialogues with international partners/donors</p> <p>Outcome 1.2. Enhanced national capacity to assess and monitor baseline and indicators for the implementation of the UNCCD 10 –year Strategy and to undertake the NAP alignment assignment</p> <p>Output 1.2.1 National methodology that will be applied in NAP development and alignment;</p> <p>Output 1.2.2.Indicators for NAP alignment and implementation taking into account national peculiarities developed and reviewed;</p> <p>Output 1.2.3.Stakeholders Trained in the use and application of indicators, monitoring and evaluation and in the gathering of data;</p> <p>Outcome 1.3. Improved policy and institutional framework and financing mechanisms for NAP implementation</p> <p>Output 1.3.1.Training for National stakeholder on national capacity for Land degradation vulnerability assessments , monitoring, coordination, knowledge development and management including useful traditional knowledge and best practices system conducted</p> <p>Output 1.3.2. NAP priorities are mainstreamed in relevant sectoral policies and biodiversity conservation and climate change plans</p> <p>Output 1.3.3. Report on review of relevant national and municipal investment programmes on public expenditure frameworks with identified constraints and recommended entry points for increased and predictable financial flows to SLM in Samoa, elaborated</p> <p>Component 2: Reporting and Review Process</p> <p>The project will support establishment of enabling environment for preparation of</p>
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national reporting cycle to the UNCCD. This will be achieved through:

- Establishment of data flow to the knowledge management system and data quality insurance system before submission of reports
- Development of the National plan to make use of the established mechanisms for long-term implementation, monitoring and reporting of the UNCCD taking into account national development priorities and reporting procedures.
- Ensuring of liaison with the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism, UNEP, PRAIS Helpdesks on reviewing and reporting process

Under this component, National report will be prepared and this will include:

- Establishment of appropriate consultative processes.
- Preparation of the draft report.
- National validation workshop to review and finalize the report
- Submission of the report through the PRAIS portal

The expected outcome and outputs from the component will be:

Outcome 2.1. National report submitted to Convention Bodies by Samoa

Output 2.1.1. Appropriate national consultative processes that include key national stakeholders including CSO, Gender consideration and the least favoured social groups, held

Output 2.1.2. National report prepared and review process

Output 2.1.3. Validation workshop held to review and finalize the report

Output 2.1.4. A national report from Samoa on the measures taken to implement the UNCCD submitted through the PRAIS portal and published for dissemination at national level

Output 2.1.4. Linkages of UNCCD reporting and implementation with national priorities, donors and National frameworks to make use of the established system for long-term monitoring of the UNCCD and synergy with other processes, carried out..

Output 2.1.5. A synergy framework for harmonisation of common indicator data and knowledge bases relevant to the UNCCD national reporting processes established.

Output 2.1.6 Liaison with UNEP, UNCCD, GM Helpdesks for acquiring further knowledge and know-how on the UNCCD review and reporting process, facilitated.

EA IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

1. UNEP/GEF is the project's Implementing Agency. The project is in line with UNEP Medium Strategy. It will particularly contribute to the Sub-Programme 4: Environmental Governance, specifically the its Expected Accomplishments (b) "The capacity of countries to develop and enforce laws and strengthen institutions to achieve internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals and comply with related obligations is enhanced" (c) "Countries increasingly mainstream environmental sustainability in national and regional development policies and plans"

	<p>2. UNEP/GEF shall in its role as GEF Implementing Agency, provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. Project supervision is entrusted to the Director of UNEP/DEPI who discharges this responsibility through the assigned Task Manager who represents the Director on the project steering committee. Project supervision missions if any, by the Task Manager and/or Fund Management Officer shall constitute part of the project supervision plan. UNEP/GEF would perform the liaison function between UNEP and the GEF Secretariat and report on the progress against milestones outlined in the CEO approval letter to the GEF Secretariat. UNEP shall inform the GEF Secretariat whenever there is a potentially substantive co-financing change (i.e. one affecting the project objectives, the underlying concept, scale, scope, strategic priority, conformity with GEF criteria, likelihood of project success, or outcome of the project). It shall rate, on a periodic basis, progress in meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation. In order to ensure overall coherence with the Convention process and taking into consideration the fact that this project is meant to support Samoa to meet its obligations toward the Convention, UNEP/DEPI through the EA, will also work in close consultation with the UNCCD Secretariat and GM through the National Focal Point on all issues relating to deadlines and deliverables under the project.</p> <p>3. 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.</p> <p>4. The project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalysing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements. UNEP signed an 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 project³, 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</p>
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³Most activities finalised; still awaiting terminal evaluation.

ideas and access to the best available science and knowledge.

5. In relation to the land degradation focal area, the project is fully in line with UNEP comparative experience in reference with GEF/C 31/5 Annex H. UNEP will primarily focus on the areas of its mandate, will continue to provide scientific and technical advice to the Facility on its policies and programmes. UNEP is actually developing a Drylands Strategy which is a confirmation of commitment to support UNCCD process and put Land Degradation agenda in its core corporate works.
6. UNEP has a history of working with Samoa both on UNCCD and other GEF activities. On UNCCD, UNEP has supported the country during the PRAIS project and the present UNEP/GEF project built on that experience. Furthermore UNEP has worked and is working with the Government of Samoa on a number of GEF funded national projects, including the review of the National Biodiversity Strategy and action Plan (NBSAP), the National Biosafety Framework and the National Implementation Plan on POPs and other regional and global projects.
7. The UNEP in-kind contribution to this project is estimated at \$10,000 over the 18 months project duration. This amount represent (i) the staff time to develop the project document as no PPG resources will be requested from GEF Trust Fund, (ii) additional Staff time to manage the SSFA which will go beyond the Agency fee from this project.
8. The **Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)** as the Executing Agency, and nominated by the Government of Samoa⁴ shall take responsibility for the execution of the project in accordance with the objectives, activities and budget and, shall deliver the outputs and demonstrate its best efforts in achieving the project outcomes. The Government choice to use MNRE as the EA is justified by (i) MNRE being the UNCCD National Focal point Agency (ii) MNRE has vast experience and many attributions in the field of land degradation management and implementation of the NAP and has implemented and is implementing several SLM projects such as the past and present projects and the forthcoming GEF 5 project on Strengthening multi-sectoral management of critical landscapes' which largely provide support to community SLM initiatives in all the islands of Samoa. Therefore the GEF EA project will reinforce the sustainability of the outcomes from SLM projects at national level by ensuring the synergy with the aligned NAP and national development priorities.
9. MNRE as the National UNCCD Focal Point will address and rectify any issues raised by UNEP with respect to project execution in a timely manner. It shall also support the project adaptive management tool and develop a management response to any review.
10. MNRE will provide a Project Manager and a project financial assistant. The role of the manager will be (i) to liaise with country UNCCD processes team to

⁴ Samoa's GEF Operational Focal Point Letter to GEF CEO dated 4/04/2014 (attached).

provide technical back up, i.e. provide one to one question and answer sessions; (ii) support country with comments on technical input and content of the reports prepared; (iii) , keeping project database, and; (iv) assisting the UNEP Task Manager on all non-oversight roles.

- 11.** Also, the project will work in close collaboration with the CEO of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment which will designate a focal point that will guarantee better integration of environmental issues. The MNRE will work with others stakeholders that are also part of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), therefore each stakeholder will make the link and will work to integrate the objectives and results of the revised and aligned NAP with the objectives and expected results on the different sectoral policy instruments that are more directly related to combat desertification issues. In the development of several consultancies, planning and validation workshops, expected trainings among other activities, the project coordination will ensure that key stakeholders will be involved and the recommendations will be taken into account. On the other hand, the TAC will also act as a steering committee that will meet regularly for the monitoring and evaluation process.
- 12.** The NAP review and alignment coincides with a political guidance towards the evaluation and review of major sectoral plans, which promotes a cross-sectoral dialogue to mainstreaming the objectives and expected results of the NAP.
- 13.** The MOF will assist MNRE in liaison with the UNEP Funds Manager Officer (FMO) to finalize legal agreements, manage funds disbursed by UNEP and make it available to finance national activities indicated in project document. Specifically, MNRE will manage the project in the following manner:
- 14.** MNRE will work as a Project Management Unit, e.g. will receive funds from UNEP through the MOF to support the country to execute the project according to the agreed working plan and activities, ensure EA's outputs and provide necessary financial management
- 15.** MNRE will be in charge of the project implementation in procurement of consultants and goods, reporting, coordination, financial issues and monitoring
- 16. Project Coordinating Committee (PCC):** A Project Coordinating Committee will be established by MNRE at the beginning of the project and the members should include UNEP Task Manager and key national stakeholders that are part of the TAC and are involved in the UNCCD implementation and reporting, thus ensuring the NAP mainstreaming on sectoral policies. The PCC will meet every three months and UNEP Task Manager will be participating virtually to these meetings and physically as necessary within its role of GEF IA. Relevant Ministries and NGOs will be involved in the process.
- 17.** Under the SSFA, the UNEP and the National Executing Agency, obligations of the two parties will be as follow:

	<p>Terms and Obligations of UNEP</p> <p>UNEP agrees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Provide, in its role as GEF implementing agency, project oversight (through the Task Manager and Fund Management officer). Specifically this will include: 19. Timely feedback on all substantive and financial issues; 20. Provide technical support and assistance to the project on a need basis and where required; 21. Ensure communication and information exchange between the Executing Agency, UNEP, and all other relevant organizations, institutions, programmes and projects; 22. Liaise with the GEF Secretariat, UNCCD and GM for all matters related to the UNCCD Reporting. <p>Terms and Obligations of the Executing Agency</p> <p>The Executing Agency agrees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Provide support to, and liaise with, the various project stakeholders based on guidance from UNEP Task Manager and UNCCD Secretariat; 24. Implement the project activities in accordance with standard Executing Agency Rules and established business processes; 25. 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; 26. Report to UNEP in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. 27. 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; 28. Ensure that CSO participation and Gender issues are included in the process and reflected in aligned NAPs; 29. Establish a long-term mechanism for UNCCD implementation at national level; 30. Take and report on measures to mainstream NAP in relevant national sectors and policies. 31. 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.
<p>D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:</p>	<p>32. The project will address at the same time the 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 land degradation trends and the impact of mitigation measures. Furthermore, the project will allow the country to develop its national SLM agenda aligned with the UNCCD 10 Year strategy. Such results will make the project very cost-effective in</p>

	<p>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. The project will be in synergy with similar projects impleted in more than 80 UNCCD Countries Parties and with the Global Support Programme designed to support capacity development fr the reporting exercise.</p>
<p>E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:</p>	<p>33. The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the CEO of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and UNEP.</p> <p>34. The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented includes specific ouptputs These key deliverables will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the costed M&E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.</p> <p>48. The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. As this is specific UNCCD Enabling Activity project, the two main indicators which will be monitored are: a) An aligned NAP to the UNCCD 10 Years Strategy and c) National Report to the Convention bodies Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the PMU 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. UNEP Task Manager will ensure that synergy and lessons learn from the entire UNCCD EA portfolio which comprises of about 100 countries project, will be effective and that the project terminal evaluation will captured these lessons learn.</p> <p>35. The Project Coordinating Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Task Manager in UNEP-GEF. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.</p> <p>36. Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be</p>

	<p>assessed with the Coordinating Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by Directorate General of Agriculture and Rural Development and UNEP. The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the reporting process. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.</p> <p>37. The M&E which will include project inception workshop, inception report, periodic review by the Project Coordinating Committee, project implementation review, terminal evaluation and report and independent final audit. The costed item will be around US \$10,486.</p>
F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):	N/A

TABLE: MONITORING AND EVALUATION BUDGET

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)*¹	Time-frame
Kick-off meeting	Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups	Project team UNEP/GEF	6,740*	Within two months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	Project team	0	Immediately following IW
Periodic Project Review by Project Coordinating Committee	Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations and technical outputs; Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms forward implementation plan.	Project team/ PCG UNEP/GEF	2000	Every three months
Project Implementation Review	Progress and effectiveness review for the GEF, provision of lessons learned	PMU 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	PMU	0	At the end of project implementation
Independent Financial Audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses	UNEP and DGADR	1746	At the end of project implementation

and terminal evaluation	probity of expenditure and transactions			
Total indicative M&E cost*¹			10,486	

(*) Includes flight tickets and DSA for 15 stakeholders from different islands

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

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


NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr. Suluimalo Amataga Penaia	GEF Operational Focal Point &CEO of MNRE	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT	04 April 2014

B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

CONVENTIONS	DATE OF ACCESSION BY SAMOA	CONVENTION FOCAL POINT
UNCCD	20 August 1998	Mr. Suluimalo Amataga Penaia Tel : +685 67200 Email: amataga.penaia@mnre.gov.ws

B.GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

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

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan VanDyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office UNEP		June 05, 2014	Adamou Bouhari Task Manager, BD/LD UNEP/D EPI	+254 20 762 3860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

ANNEX A: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY

Position Titles	\$/person week	Estimated Person week	Task to be performed
For EA Management			EA implementation in Samoa
Local			
National Project Coordinator (Government Contribution plus EA Funds)	500	58	Manager will be provided on part-time basis. He/she will be responsible for management and supervision of all Project activities. S/he will also coordinate the thematic and Technical teams and facilitate their meetings, as well as prepare reports on progress of activities.
Project Finance and Administrative Assistant (Government Contribution plus EA Funds)	500	45	The Finance and Administrative Assitant will provide part-time services to oversee compliance of expenditures to budgets and work plans in line with the established guidelines and provide administrative support to organisation of activities, particularly meetings, workshops and consultancy activities.
Local Experts:			
1. Policy/Institutional experts	1000	10	Assessment of national policy and institutional set-up - development of recommendations; - participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process etc.
2. Experts on social and gender issues, public relations and awareness raising	1000	12	Public awareness raising on NAP alignment, review and reporting process (web-pages, publications, trainings, workshops, etc) - development of recommendations - participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process, etc.
3. Experts on agriculture and soil protection	1000	15	Gathering and analysis of relevant data, baselines, indicators, and methodologies - development of recommendations - participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process, etc.
4. Experts on land resources and sustainable land management	1000	18	Gathering and analysis of relevant data, baselines, indicators, and methodologies - participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process, etc. - development of recommendations; Participate in harmonisation of common indicators for synergy framework and on the establishment of

			mechanisms for long-term implementation and monitoring of the UNCCD;
5. Economic and financial experts	1000	12	Assessment of financial resources available for NAP implementation; - review existing national financial mechanisms, financial and investment strategies, frameworks, rules and procedures and preparation of recommendations on how to improve them; - participation in NAP alignment, review and reporting process, etc.
6. National Reporting to UNCCD	1000	8	7. Expert for support of preparing the national report and review process