



REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Establishing integrated models for protected areas and their co-management in Afghanistan			
Country (ies):	Afghanistan	GEF Project ID: ¹	4839
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5038
Other Executing Partner(s):	Wildlife Conservation Society, National Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock	Submission Date:	February 20, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	MFA Biodiversity, Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	60
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):		Agency Fee (\$):	644,181
➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> ➤ For SGP <input type="checkbox"/>			

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
BD-1: Improve Sustainability of PAs	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	Output 1: New protected areas (3) and increased coverage (1,095,066 ha) of unprotected ecosystems and improved management effectiveness of 1,155,682 ha (including the new PAs).	GEFTF	2,820,308	11,423,000
LD3: Integrated landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape	LD3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities	Output 3.1: Integrated land management plans developed and implemented across 1,155,682 ha	GEFTF	3,306,211	39,800,000
Subtotal			GEFTF	6,126,519	51,223,000
Project management cost ³				315,300	2,077,000
Total project costs				6,441,819	53,300,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Refer to the [Focal Area/LDCF/SCCF Results Framework](#) when completing Table A.

³ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To establish a national system of protected areas to conserve biodiversity and mitigate land degradation pressures on habitats in key biodiversity areas, initially centered in Bamyan Province and the Wakhan corridor.

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)										
National PA system is established (with legal, planning, policy and institutional frameworks for expansion and management for the PA estate in the country)	TA	<p>1. The National PA system for expansion and management for the PA estate in the country is effective and functioning.</p> <p><i>Indicators:</i> Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Agency (APWA) established, funded, and effective; 2 new National Protected Area Laws and Regulations established. Increased APWA effectiveness: Management Plan Capacity Scorecard 42% increased to 60% Financial Sustainability Scorecard 9.62% increased to 30%</p>	<p>1.1 The Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority (APWA) has been established and has the legal and institutional support to plan, implement, monitor and expand the PAS in collaboration with local authorities and communities as required under the National Protected Area System Plan (NPASP).</p> <p>1.2 Strategic, operating and long-term financial sustainability plans in place for APWA and the PAS.</p> <p>1.3 The APWA has adequate infrastructure, personnel, budget allocation, and technical/managerial capacity to be fully operational and increasingly effective.</p> <p>1.4 Strengthened communication capacity at national, provincial and local levels that places APWA as a central institution capable of inter-sectorial coordination for PAs and biodiversity.</p>	GEF TF	1,364,919	1,400,000										
Management effectiveness is enhanced within existing and new Protected Areas and climate resilient SLM applied to reduce threats in and around PAs	TA	<p>2. Protected area coverage and protection status is improved to increase biodiversity representativeness and ecological resilience.</p> <p><i>Indicators:</i> Management Plans for two Pilot Protected Areas approved and PA area (ha) and number increase</p> <table><tr><td>Name</td><td>Area (ha)</td></tr><tr><td>Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve</td><td>57,664</td></tr><tr><td>Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve</td><td>24,851</td></tr><tr><td>Wakhan Conservation Area</td><td>1,095,066</td></tr><tr><td>New Total PA</td><td>1,155,682</td></tr></table> <p>Management effectiveness increased: Band-e-Amir 60.6- 70%; Big Pamir 53.8- 70%</p> <p>Increased population number rare species including Marco Polo Sheep in Big Pamir 172 grows to 250 females; comprehensive ecological monitoring program for snow leopards established</p>	Name	Area (ha)	Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve	57,664	Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve	24,851	Wakhan Conservation Area	1,095,066	New Total PA	1,155,682	<p>2.1 Clear procedures regarding the establishment and gazetting of new Protected Areas (PAs) in Afghanistan are in place and effective.</p> <p>2.2 PA management plans are written and accepted for the Wakhan Conservation Area and the Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve in preparation for gazetting and formal establishment. These plans will provide for: (i) zonation of PAs for strict protection and sustainable use of natural resources by local communities; (ii) the regulation and management of natural resources within PAs and adjacent areas (including sustainable use of resources by communities); (iii) effective law enforcement governing wildlife poaching; shrub harvesting and other natural resource use; (iv) PA governance, including co-management and conflict resolution mechanisms; and (v) long-term ecological monitoring systems for targeted species and ecosystems, establishing thresholds for resource use and informing PA management</p> <p>2.3 Gazettement of Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve and the Wakhan Conservation Area in north-eastern Afghanistan elevating them to full protected area status and bringing them under improved management.</p> <p>2.4 Sound PA management is implemented for the 4 pilot PAs through co-management structures that: a) defines clearly the rights and responsibilities of communities; b) delineates areas where community interventions will be implemented; c) describes prescriptions for sustainable and biodiversity compatible uses (e.g. sustainable use of NTFPs and sustainable off-take of fuel wood); d) describes resource sharing mechanisms; e) enlist appropriate</p>	GEF TF	4,761,600	49,823,000
Name	Area (ha)															
Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve	57,664															
Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve	24,851															
Wakhan Conservation Area	1,095,066															
New Total PA	1,155,682															

			management activities to be implemented.			
		<p>3. Climate-resilient Sustainable Land Management (SLM) is applied to reduce threats to pilot PAs from land degradation (competition for grazing and water, soil erosion, degradation of hydrological functions) and lead to improved habitat integrity and connectivity</p> <p><i>Indicators:</i> 1,155,682 new hectares put under SLM regime; Increased plant density (30%) in target areas; PA revenue increases from \$5000/yr to \$50,000/yr Increased PA revenue is returned communities 0 - 30%</p> <p>Increase annual income for communities within PA by 30% Increased capacity of community associations: BACA 24% to 35% WPA 24% to 35%</p>	<p>3.1 Long-term monitoring and evaluation systems are in place for PA management, targeted species and ecosystems concerning the status of both biological resources and socio-economic conditions in community managed areas across the landscape and provide relevant and scientifically-based information on the state of biodiversity and livelihoods in relation to sustainable use (particularly regarding adaptation, mitigation, conservation and wellbeing).</p> <p>3.2 Sustainable Land Management (SLM) activities are integrated into PA co-management plans and village land use plans and serviced with extension support on appropriate SLM technologies.</p> <p>SLM pilot projects in community managed protected areas. These will include a) rehabilitation of degraded rangelands and improving management (e.g. providing adequate rest through rotational grazing); b) improved shrub land management (e.g. promoting sustainable fuel wood collection, use of fuel efficient stoves and reduced shrub land grazing)</p> <p>3.3 Improved sustainable livelihoods of participating communities through revenue generating activities, access to financing, and organizational support (with co-financing).</p>			
Subtotal					6,126,519	51,223,000
Project management Cost ⁴					315,300	2,077,000
Total project costs					6,441,819	53,300,000

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Co-financing Amount (\$)
NGO	Wildlife Conservation Society	Grant	300,000
National Government	National Environmental Protection Agency	Grant	1,000,000
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Programme	Grant	2,000,000
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Programme	Cash	1,000,000
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock	Grant	18,000,000
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock	In-Kind	6,000,000
NGO	Agha Khan Foundation	Grant	15,000,000
National Government	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	Grant	10,000,000
Total Co-financing			53,300,000

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Afghanistan	2,965,455	296,545	3,262,000
UNDP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Afghanistan	3,476,364	347,636	3,824,000

⁴ Same as footnote #4.

Total Grant Resources	6,441,819	644,181	7,086,000
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¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

² Indicate fees related to this project.

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks (GEF Only)</i>	<i>GEF amount (\$)</i>	<i>Co-financing (\$)*</i>	<i>Project total (\$)</i>
Local consultants	364	194,400	0	194,400
International consultants	53	157,500	28,000	185,500
Total	417	351,900	28,000	379,900

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF⁵

The project’s strategic results framework has been refined from the version that was presented in the PIF, without changing the overall project objective or planned results. The main purpose of making these changes was: a) to improve the logframe structure as a tool for project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and b) to distinguish more clearly between the Outcomes and Outputs. The project now has 2 components, 3 outcomes and 12 outputs.

The three Outcomes now clearly distinguish among:

- The enabling activities that are required to establish the capacity of the Afghanistan government to design, establish and co-manage protected areas in the country. These enabling activities are structured under four Outputs: the first establishes the Afghanistan parks service with its legal footing; the second enables strategic and operational planning; the third supports infrastructural and operational implementation of the agency; and the fourth enhances the agency’s ability to implement through communication.
- The consolidation and expansion of anchor protected areas including their management plans and co-management structures. These actions are separated into four Outputs: the first assures the establishment and legalization of procedures for effective PA co-management; the second supports management plan creation for the Wakhan Conservation Area and the Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve; the third supports these PAs gazettelement; and the fourth supports co-management at all four pilot PAs.
- Increasing PA management effectiveness and climate-resilient Sustainable Land Management (SLM) with four Outputs: the first is the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems; the second being SLM planning at local and regional levels; the third the implementation of SLM pilot projects at key sites; and the forth being targeted support for sustainable livelihoods.

Please see Annex A for the revised strategic results framework, including the list of indicators and the means of verification. Further explanation of the indicators is provided in Part II of the Project Document.

A.1. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc:

N/A

A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.

N/A

A.3. The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage.

In addition to what was described in the PIF, UNDP has finalized its Biodiversity and Ecosystem Framework for 2012 and 2020, which will be integrated in the UNDP Business plan and country programmes. Under the Framework, the

⁵ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question

second Programme is dedicated to unlocking the potential of protected areas, including indigenous and community conserved areas, to conserve biodiversity while contributing towards sustainable development.

A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address.

First, during the PPG it was determined that the project responds to 3 main barriers and as such the project component 2 in the PIF was separated into two components for clarity of structure and to increase the emphasis on sustainable land management activities.

The primary objectives and outcomes have been retained. Increased detail was provided for the Outputs and indicators based on information gathered during the PPG. Other than the change noted above, the attached Project Document provides substantially more detailed analysis than covered in the PIF but there were no significant changes.

As described in the PIF, the baseline project is costed at around USD \$248 million over a period of around 5 years and consists of three broad categories of investments: a) investments made by the national government; b) targeted investments by donors; c) and investments from large cross-sectoral donor-funded national programmes. In addition, the WCS will continue to look for funding opportunities that can be used to as project 'leveraged' financing. This include a recent submission of a \$12 million concept to AusAID, the expectation of a \$300,000 submission to Darwin, discussions with the Government of India for financing \$1 million to Bamyan, and ongoing discussions with UNODC and USAID. Currently, these potential financing sources are not included in project co-financing.

A. 5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project.

No change. The PPG phase was able to clarify the baseline and incremental costs for the project and clarified the incremental reasoning.

The project's global environmental objective is to contribute to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and reduce the risks of land degradation in Afghanistan. Current trends in biodiversity loss and land degradation are rapidly reducing the potential for Afghanistan to assure the survival of globally threatened native and endemic species and effectively manage its forest, mountains and rangelands for long term productivity and ecological resilience. The project seeks to establish a national system of protected areas to conserve biodiversity and mitigate land degradation pressures on habitats in key biodiversity areas, initially centred in Bamyan and the Wakhan. The longer term results of the project will be to provide an effective and efficient PA co-management approach that integrates SLM and sustainable livelihood tools into landscape level management to assure the conservation of endangered globally important species, increase ecological resilience and create opportunities for local populations to escape the poverty – land degradation trap.

Baseline

The current situation with protected areas and sustainable land management in Afghanistan is that most activities are in early stages and there are no replicable examples of exemplary management. The baseline scenario includes uncertainty surrounding roles and responsibilities that continue to thwart efforts to stabilize and reverse land degradation leading to increased loss of land productivity, water shortages, increasing poverty, and the eventual loss of the globally important biodiversity that remains in the country. Without effective models for establishment and co-management of protected areas, the government will struggle to meet its stated policies and international commitments on biodiversity conservation, land degradation and poverty reduction.

Afghanistan is highly dependent on international donor funding and a significant sum of financing is targeted towards environmental and developmental objectives. Many short term gains resulting from donor project financing will not be sustainable without landscape level management models that integrate community groups and local decision making while addressing larger policy goals. Continued over-exploitation and mismanagement of rangeland resources will exacerbate loss in soil quality, water retention, and fodder productivity. This will lead to increasing pressure on native wildlife, diminishing rangeland and water resources, and ultimately loss of critical populations of globally threatened species, endemic species, and opportunities for local populations to escape from a cycle of increasing poverty and decreasing natural resources.

Alternative

In the GEF Alternative, Afghanistan establishes a protected areas and wildlife authority that is capable of unifying lessons learned and develops the capacity to effectively create and manage a growing PAS in partnership with local communities. These PAs will become sites of community supported sustainable land management and examples of PA supported sustainable livelihoods. The newly formed APWA will establish a strong base for implementing the NPASP and eventually achieving its goals of 10% of the country under a conservation regime. The four pilot PAs will be well managed and will form the backbone for an expanding PA network. Community engagement and participation in the co-management of the four PAs will serve as a model for the creation and management of other PAs throughout the country. The populations of Marco Polo sheep, snow leopards and other species will increase as hunting pressure and competition for rangelands is reduced.

System Boundary

The system boundary is natural resource, watershed, and protected areas management in Afghanistan. Strict development and health initiatives are excluded except where they are related to community development including the CDCs and other community associations.

Summary of Costs

The baseline project is costed at around USD \$248 million over a period of around 5 years consisting of investments made by the national government, targeted investments by donors and investments from large cross-sectoral donor-funded national programmes as described below. The Alternative is costed at \$307.35 million with an Increment of 61.7 million including the GEF budget of 6.442 million plus cofinancing.

Global Environmental Benefits

The project will result in a number of global benefits. First, with the establishment of protected areas in and across the Wakhan, viable populations of endangered species such as the snow leopard and Marco Polo sheep will be secured. The region will also become a stronghold of species that have become rare across the region, including wolf, brown bear, lynx, Himalayan ibex, and urial. This protection will also secure important breeding populations of several bird species, including the golden eagle, Himalayan griffon, lammergeier, peregrine falcon, bar-headed goose, ruddy shelduck, Himalayan snowcock, Tibetan snowcock and snow partridge, as well as other high-elevation specialists including the alpine and yellow-billed choughs, redstarts, accentors, larks, pipits, rosefinches, and snowfinches. The PAs are also part of important flyways for bird migration, and the Wakhan's and Band-e-Amir's wide valleys with lakes are key corridors for these migrations. Finally, the expansion of the PA estate and strengthening management effectiveness catalysed by this project will lead, in the future, to other globally important sites elsewhere in the country and the region being secured. In addition the adoption of SLM practices will reduce land degradation and ensure ecosystem services over a landscape of more than an estimated 800,000 ha. Table below provides a summary.

Global benefits	Baseline	Project
<i>BD Benefits:</i> In the baseline, efforts to establish and maintain globally important biodiversity and Afghanistan will be limited by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ lack of legal and institutional support, ▪ inadequate coverage, ▪ absence of replicable co-management models 	The NPASP will be implemented, AWPA will be created with capacity to expand and effectively manage the national network of PAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1,098,190 ha of new PA will be created, 60,616 ha of existing PAs will be more effectively managed, ▪ Key populations of globally vulnerable and endemic species will stabilize or increase ▪ Replicable models for co-management of protected areas in Afghanistan will be established.
<i>LD Benefits:</i> Degradation of rangelands and steppe ecosystems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ indiscriminate cutting of shrub for fuel wood ▪ over-grazing and no attention paid to carrying capacity ▪ open-access regimes with no efforts in rangeland management ▪ increase in less palatable species ▪ hillside farming on fragile slopes 	Improved rangeland management and sustainably managed steppe ecosystem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ sustainable shrub fuel wood collection – including planting of fuel wood species ▪ community managed demonstrations of high-quality fodder production ▪ community-operated nurseries to propagate a) multi-purpose shrubs/trees for use in woodlots or within villages, b) improved fruit and nut trees c) shrubs/trees for rehabilitation or reforestation. ▪ re-seeding or planting of palatable species ▪ introduction of regulated grazing regimes including rotational grazing, seasonal enclosures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved SLM implemented over 800,000 ha results in reduced soil erosion, halt / reverse land degradation process and continued provision of ecosystem services ▪ Improved productivity as measured by increase in primary productivity, reduced erosion rates and/or enhanced RUE (Rain Use efficiency) ▪ Enhanced carbon sequestration in soil and vegetation across landscape in project sites ▪ Increase in net income of local

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conservation farming techniques for dry land agriculture promotion of alternative livelihood options not dependent upon grazing. 	communities
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A.6. Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks.

The following table has been extracted from the UNDP PRODOC, Section I, PART II: Strategy, chapter ‘Risks and Assumptions’.

#	Description	Type	Impact & Probability	Counter-measures / Mgt response
1	Deterioration of security in country and project sites	Political	Field missions would be curtailed, government may lose focus on PA management and SLM P = likely I = medium	Choice of pilot sites in provinces with historically low security risk; complete integration with government entities; close contact with local security agencies and long-standing good relations with local communities. Strong security management already in place will be adapted by WCS-UNDP to meet changing circumstances during project implementation. Measures include: employment of staff with appropriate Afghan or conflict related experience, as well as trained security guards and drivers as necessary. Internal policies and strategies for minimising risk and reacting to security incidents. Regular review and adaptation of security procedures.
2	International conflicts	Political	One project site is located on the boarder of Tajikistan, China, and Pakistan and border conflicts could create challenges for project implementation P = unlikely I = high	Strong collaboration with local communities will assure that certain project activities continue regardless of political border conflicts
3	Lack of government support	Organizational	Challenges with defining APWA and allocating resources could result in uncertainty over roles and responsibilities for PA management P = unlikely I = medium	Full involvement of key government players in all aspects of APWA design and development will be ensured so that the project focus on establishing APWA as the key institution that will manage the PA estate is owned by and full supported by the relevant govt. agencies.
4	Delays with legislation and regulations	Regulatory	New laws can take several years and sometime new regulations are blocked for many months P = very likely I = medium	The project is designed to 1) identify the most expedient means of promulgating new legislation and 2) most project activities are not dependent upon new legislation and can operate in parallel
5	Mining conflicts	Regulatory	There is increasing interest in mining development in Afghanistan and the Band-e-Amir NP is located north of an iron deposit and south of a coal deposit. As well, China has been discussing a road project in the Wakhan P = moderately likely I = medium	Strong collaboration with key government partners in multiple ministries (in addition to project partners NEPA and MAIL) will help lessen the threat and WCS has a strong history of collaboration with the mining industry to identify good environmental solutions.
6	Massive prolonged droughts	Environmental	Afghanistan is subject to prolonged droughts and extreme droughts could diminish project success through increasing competition for water and	The project design includes measures to promote SLM under moderate drought conditions. Intensive drought conditions would alter the project priorities to

#	Description	Type	Impact & Probability	Counter-measures / Mgt response
			rangeland resources P = moderately likely I = low	address this directly for the local communities
7	Asymmetric power relations and gender issues	Social/cultural	Powerful groups and families in rural communities may capture a disproportionately larger share of benefits from the project while poorer and weaker members may be much intensely affected by changes in access patterns introduced as a result of Protected Area Establishment. Gender issues are also an important consideration. Rural communities in the country are structured in a way which places women in a subordinate position to men. They also tend to be dominated by local elites who derive power from their political, economic or religious status. Thus women P = moderately likely I = medium	The project will support strengthening of existing community-based natural resource management institutions (BACA and WPA), which have transparent and democratic rules and processes that constrain the capacity for local elites to dominate community discourse and decision-making. Reinforcement of women's voices in community decision-making processes through increased representation in BACA and WPA will be ensured. Ongoing monitoring by project staff of gender representation and local power dynamics among project beneficiaries. Continued focus on and targeting of women's groups and women's participation in economic activities.

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

Past GEF investments in the country focused on: a) putting in place the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation such as the WCS-executed "Programme of Work for Protected Areas"; b) linking natural resource management to livelihoods and poverty alleviation objectives such as the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project; c) and strengthening capacities of key national agencies such as NEPA namely the UNEP-GEF "Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme" with co-funding support from the European Commission. The programme has succeeded in establishing key national institutions such as NEPA, helped formulate important policies such as the National Environment Strategy, Environment Law, sectoral laws for Forestry, Livestock etc., EIA guidelines and environmental awareness.

The project will also build on the lessons and achievements of past GEF investments such as the UNEP Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Programme – especially important outcomes such as in environmental coordination, development of environmental legislation, etc. It will also build on other initiatives such as the UNDP implemented Strengthened Approaches for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management Project (SAISEM). SAISEM promoted the formulation of suitable policy and strategic frameworks and implementation guidelines with due consideration of the environment-poverty linkage, integrating environmental considerations in the national and sub-national planning process. It is important to note that this project has been carefully designed to complement the SAISEM project. In addition, collaboration with other initiatives, programmes and projects will be ensured in order to mobilise not only co-financing to the project, but wider government support, including from the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW). Finally at the level of pilot sites, synergies will be sought with different sustainable and integrated natural resources/land management and biodiversity conservation projects, programmes and initiatives, which include the Aga Khan Foundation, Mercy Corps and others.

Several recent GEF funded UNEP projects include proposed coordination of GEF programs. These include "Building adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change in Afghanistan" and "Building Environmental Resilience in Afghanistan." The UNEP is in the process of submitting an additional GEF project entitled "Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks." As NEPA is the GEF focal point and an integral partner in all of these projects including the proposed project, coordination and collaboration will be assured under their oversight.

The proposed program is aligned with the UNDP country program outcomes, which are: (a) fostering good governance, peace and stability; (b) promoting sustainable livelihoods, with a focus on agriculture, rural development, food security and income generation; (c) providing basic social services education and health. The UNDP program in Afghanistan focuses on the first two UNDAF outcomes within four key programmatic areas: (a) Stabilization and peace-building; (b)

Strengthening democratic governance; (c) Livelihoods, natural resource management and disaster risk reduction; and (d) National development policies for economic growth and poverty reduction.

The UNDP / GEF recently launched the Small Grants Program which includes \$1.26 million from the RAF and \$1 million from UNDP core resources over 2 years and has included the two provinces that include the project pilot sites: Bamyan and Badakhshan.

UNDP and UNEP are two of the six UN partners in the Joint Programme on Green Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN), which include the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). To facilitate coordination, UNDP and WCS will meet regularly together and with Afghanistan government partners (especially NEPA and MAIL) to assure strong coordination among the related GEF and non-GEF initiatives.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.

The text that follows has been summarised from the UNDP PRODOC, Section I, Part I: Situation Analysis, chapter ‘Stakeholder analysis’ and Section IV, Part III: Strategy, chapter ‘Stakeholder Involvement Plan’

The PPG phase included consultations with the project’s key stakeholders at the national and local levels. Field trips were carried out to Bamyan and Band-e-Amir, where project sites were visited. Local authorities and community organizations were presented to the project proposal. Two workshops at the national level were also held and the project was thoroughly discussed. In addition, several bilateral meetings were held, mostly with donors and key stakeholders who could not attend the workshops. Generally, project design was a highly participatory process, in line with UNDP’s and GEF’s requirements.

The following table summarizes the key stakeholders involved in the project.

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities
National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA)	NEPA is the government body with overall regulatory power on environmental issues in Afghanistan. NEPA houses the GEF focal point as well as focal points for several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). They will be the principal collaborator in this project with regards to laws and policies. NEPA was established in 2005, the same year that Afghanistan's first Environmental Law was drafted and signed by President Hamid Karzai; this law defines the agency's function and powers. NEPA serves as Afghanistan's environmental policy-making and regulatory institution. Its role is to regulate, coordinate, monitor and enforce environmental laws. NEPA plays a major role in environmental protection and is the central point in dealing with the management of Afghanistan's environment so that it benefits all the citizens of Afghanistan. NEPA will be a key partner for this project and benefit from capacity building at both national and local levels.
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)	MAIL is a partner with NEPA in the development of protected areas in Afghanistan. MAIL’s mission is to restore Afghanistan's licit agricultural economy through increasing production and productivity, natural resource management, improved physical infrastructure and market development. The Department of Natural Resources Management of MAIL is partnering with NEPA in the development of protected areas in Afghanistan. Through a joint agreement with NEPA, (the IPAT) MAIL has the role of CMA for protected areas. This means that the day-to-day administration and management of protected areas is MAIL’s responsibility. As such MAIL will a close collaborator and partner in all levels of this project with a focus on PA and sustainable rangeland management. They will benefit from significant capacity building for PA co-management and sustainable land management tools at both national and local levels.
The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	WCS is an international NGO with over 100 years of experience in research and nature conservation. It will be the executing agency partner for the project on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan. WCS has had a presence in Afghanistan since 2006, working closely with NEPA and MAIL on biodiversity conservation, landscape management and protected area development. WCS was the implementer of the GEF-funded “Program of Work on Protected Areas” project which led to the development of the National Protected Area Strategy Plan for Afghanistan that was officially adopted by NEPA in November 2010. WCS currently works with over 63 communities in the landscapes under consideration by this project, facilitated the creation of BAPAC, BACA and the WPA as overarching landscape management institutions, and has been instrumental in developing Band-e-Amir as Afghanistan’s first National Park.
Band-e-Amir Community Association	In the Band-e-Amir community, local people organized themselves into BACA to facilitate their involvement in PA management and benefit sharing. The communities in and around the protected areas

(BACA) and Wakhan Pamir Association (WPA)	<p>in Wakhan and Pamir have organized themselves under the WPA which is at once a registered community organization and the future co-management structure for the Wakhan PAs. Both associations are registered with the Ministry of Justice as legal entities. Members sitting on the Association's board of directors are elected from the village CDCs. The purposes of the associations are to facilitate conservation and development endeavors, represent and secure interests of the communities and work with other stakeholders for improving socio-economic conditions of communities through sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>Community associations will have a large role in this project. They will organize their members, educate them on SLM techniques, represent their community on the PAC, help NEPA and MAIL in parks identification, demarcation, management planning and their implementation. They will help to identify, plan, implement, and monitor income-generating activities and ensure equitable distribution of benefits and revenues from these income generation activities and PAs among the communities.</p>
Local Communities	The local communities are the custodians and beneficiaries of the natural landscape and protected areas. Under their larger associations (BACA and WPA) and CDCs local communities will participate directly in every level of planning, monitoring and management, especially identifying, planning and implementing adaptation and SLM techniques, income-generating activities. A significant effort will be made to assure strong representation of women in project activities and initiatives.
Private sector (local groups)	The private sector will be responsible for advancing business, particularly in tourism and other income-generating activities. The project will cultivate the participation of the private sector as a critical sustainability mechanism.

Project oversight and management

The project will be implemented under NGO Execution modality in close collaboration with the GoIRA.

The project's management and implementation arrangements are more fully described in the UNDP PRODOC. For more detail, refer to Section I, Part III: 'Management Arrangements'. The text and figure that follows provides a summary:

The project will be implemented over a five-year period. UNDP is the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the project. WCS will be the executing agency for the project, under UNDP's NGO execution modality, in cooperation with NEPA and MAIL. NEPA is the GoIRA institution responsible for supervising the project and will work with WCS in implementation of the project activities. MAIL will be an execution partner. The project is in line with the Standard Technical Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (1956).

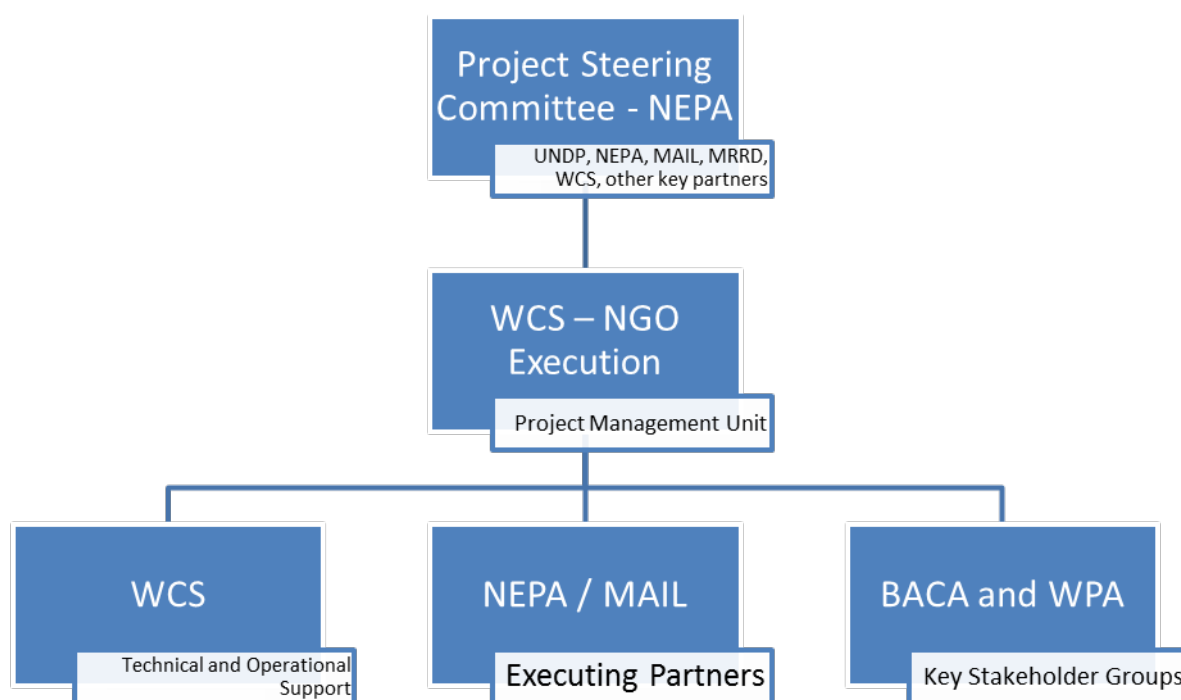
Oversight of project activities will be the responsibility of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). Day-to-day operational oversight will be ensured by WCS in collaboration with UNDP, through the UNDP Country Office in Afghanistan, and strategic oversight by the UNDP/EEG Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) responsible for the project. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a charitable, scientific, and educational non-governmental organization based in New York, USA. WCS was the first environment NGOs to return to Afghanistan following 2001 when WCS reinitiated contacts and was invited by the GoIRA and NEPA to open its program starting in 2006 with surveys in the northeast of the country. Since 2006 WCS has been the primary conservation partner for NEPA and MAIL in terms of capacity building, policy guidance and implementation on the ground. During this period WCS has led multiple surveys with NEPA and MAIL staff to establish baseline ecological and socio-economic conditions essential for conservation planning, played a central role in the designation and development of the associated management plan of Afghanistan's first protected area, Band-e-Amir National Park, and helped NEPA and MAIL mainstream community engagement in sustainable natural resource management through the formation of registered community associations. At the national level NEPA and MAIL have requested WCS technical advice and policy guidance in drafting the hunting and rangeland laws, and formulating Afghanistan's 'National Protected Area System Plan of Afghanistan (NPASP)' and Programme of Works on Protected Areas (PoWPA). At a broader policy level WCS contributed to the National Water and Natural Resource Development Program element of National Priority Program 1 of the GoIRA's Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster. WCS is the principal technical wildlife conservation and protected areas partner of the NEPA and MAIL and GoIRA.

The Bamyan and Wakhan program builds upon the foundation of past natural resource management work undertaken by WCS, the GoIRA and USAID in the region. This project is designed to integrate GEF support to protected area sites within the Bamyan and Wakhan corridor landscapes with the community based natural resource and co-management of PA initiatives coordinated and implemented by the GoIRA and WCS as per the previous agreements and the USAID project framework.

WCS in cooperation with NEPA will take overall responsibility for the timely and verifiable attainment of project objectives and activities. NEPA will nominate a high level Government official (DG of NEPA) who will serve as its representative of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The NEPA representative will chair the Project Steering Committee. NEPA will also be responsible to liaise and coordinate this project with other government entities. UNDP as a GEF implementing agency holds overall accountability and responsibility for the delivery of results. Working closely with WCS and NEPA, UNDP will be responsible for: 1) providing financial and audit services to the project, 2) overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets, 3) ensuring that all activities including procurement and financial services are carried out in strict compliance with UNDP/GEF procedures, 4) ensuring that the reporting to GEF is undertaken in line with the GEF requirements and procedures, 5) facilitate project learning, exchange and outreach within the GEF family, 6) contract the project mid-term and final evaluations and 7) trigger additional reviews and/or evaluations as necessary and in consultation with the project counterparts. The Afghanistan UNDP Country Office Director will be represented on the Project Steering Committee. The UNDP program officer in charge of the Sustainable Development Unit will be involved as necessary in key project meetings, consultations, events and reviews of technical and other reports.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is the project coordination and decision making body. The PSC is chaired by the NEPA representative. It will meet annually to review project progress, approve project work plans and approve project deliverables. The responsibility of the PSC is to see that project activities lead to the required outcomes as defined in the project document. The PSC will oversee project implementation, approve work plans and budgets as supplied by the Project Manager and the Project Management Unit (PMU), approve any major changes in project plans, approve major project deliverables, arbitrate any conflicts which might arise, be responsible for the overall evaluation of the project. The Project Steering Committee includes representatives from NEPA, UNDP, MAIL, USAID, WCS, and other concerned GoIRA Ministries including but not limited to representatives from the MRRD, MoI, and MoF. The PSC representation and TOR's should be finalized in the Project Inception Workshop which will be held at the start of the project.

Site level project management will be the responsibility of the PMU with support from MAIL/APWA and PA management units at Band-e-Amir and the Wakhan. The community associations, BACA and WPA, will be responsible for specific tasks and will be supported by the PMU and PA management teams.



B.2. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

Natural resource management is the foundation for reconstruction in an agrarian society such as Afghanistan. In a country where 80% of the populace depends directly upon the natural resource base for their survival and livelihoods, and where 30 years of conflict has badly degraded the environment, sustainable resource management is critical to improving lives and livelihoods and providing long-term socio-economic stability across the country. If environmental conditions

continue to degrade in Afghanistan, people will no longer be able to carve a living out of mountain and desert-steppe landscapes as they have for centuries. Poverty will spread, communities will dissolve, and rural migration will further erode cultural connections and negatively affect neighboring communities, regions, and the global community. At the same time, natural resource management provides an opportunity to build and strengthen rural governance structures and link them to the central government, a process that greatly strengthens the reach and rule of law in Afghanistan. Protected areas in Afghanistan will help facilitate environmental recovery and stimulate social and economic development after decades of war, including —significant multiplier effects across a national economy, with the greatest economic impact on the poorest and most vulnerable members of society (the distant and isolated rural poor).

In many parts of Afghanistan, the lives of men and women have historically been governed by deeply engrained gender roles. Because of this, special efforts will be made to ensure that women's voices and concerns are heard and acted upon at every stage of the project. In both Bamyan and the Wakhan, the Hazara and Wakhi cultures have much less divided gender roles than most other parts of the country, allowing for greater input, influence, and participation from women. For example, in Band-e-Amir gender participation will be facilitated by BAPAC's chairperson, who is also Afghanistan's only woman governor. In the Wakhan, the project will build on an innovative environmental education program currently implemented in every school in the Wakhan that has proven its ability to attract and involve girls in local resource management. (This is a hands-on program that gets the students out in the communities conducting research and actively engaging in outreach activities.) At the national level, NEPA has already indicated its support for working to increase participation of women in many areas of natural resource management.

The socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project on the national level include providing a strong legal vehicle for access and benefit sharing for protected areas revenues, increased revenue capture from PA management, improved governance tools for natural resource management, strengthened legal and capacity development tools for community associations in NMR and protected areas management, and the creation of a new protected areas agency capable of developing new positions for well-trained gender supportive conservation professionals. On the local level, socioeconomic benefits include increased community revenues from ecotourism, sales of local products, improved sustainable livelihoods such as livestock and food production, women's cooperatives, access to micro-financing and other financing opportunities, and stronger community based organizations capable of providing effective services to local communities. A strong effort will be made to include women at all levels of project implementation at the national level as well as local levels including but not limited to full time conservation professionals, PA management staff, sustainable livelihood specialists, and park rangers. The support for women's cooperatives and engagement of women at the CDC level, community associations, the Protected Areas Committees will encourage increased learning opportunities for women and stronger presence in village and regional decision-making. Access to micro-financing will provide women with increased capacity for entrepreneurial activities and improve farming and livestock management. The CBNRM and rangeland management tools will increase livestock productivity and health and the production of fodder and fuel wood resources will decrease time spent collecting fodder for winter and time spent collecting firewood.

B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

The text that follows has been reproduced from the UNDP PRODOC, Section I, Part II: Strategy, chapter 'Cost Effectiveness'

This project is designed to be cost effective in multiple ways. It creates a national entity (APWA) that will be able to retain lessons learned, replicate success, and consolidate knowledge on wildlife and PAs in Afghanistan. Secondly, it is strongly based on active community engagement in PA management and in SLM initiatives. And thirdly, the project will initiate certain activities as pilot projects that will be expanded and replicated only once they have been found to be effective. Finally, the entire project will help to maintain soil and rangeland quality in some of the most important upper watersheds of Afghanistan and will help prevent costly soil erosion and loss of rangeland fertility. These approaches assure cost effectiveness as compared to potential alternative project designs, for example:

- A. Create expanded PA estate and build capacity using existing institutional framework.
- B. Use traditional centralized PA management methods as opposed to co-management.
- C. Conduct very large scale SLM projects that cover entire watersheds simultaneously.

In comparison with alternative project design A, the creation and strengthening of APWA will result in an organization at the national level capable of amassing knowledge, experience, and skills that will facilitate the replication of the PA creation and management process across the country. Alternative A would maintain PA management run by the CMA based on the IPAT and would lead to continued ambiguity over roles and responsibilities, the absence of clear financing

and operational approaches, and legislative ambiguity on many aspects of PA management. This ambiguity includes issues of community rights and obligations (co-management) and benefit sharing. The establishment of APWA built on a strong legal base, will allow increased effectiveness in all aspects of PA establishment and management. Given the desire of the Afghanistan government to expand its protected areas to cover 10% of the country as stated in the NPASP, it will be essential to have an efficient, well trained and legislatively robust protected area authority. Alternative A would likely result in lack of capitalization of gains made and would require continuous financing over many years to maintain a level of capacity adequate for baseline PA management. The project as planned will allow for continuous growth in competence and the creation of a government organization devoted to effective and efficient PA creation and management. The rapid expansion of the PA estate without this type of capacity and institution building would lead to the creation of many paper parks with little chance for success. Financing would be disbursed across too many sites and it would be unlikely for any individual PA to remain well-managed over time.

In alternative project design B, traditional centralized PA management would require significant investments in equipment, training, and operations to implant a complete PA management team at each PA site location. There would be cultural challenges as many of the most educated staff would be coming from Kabul and could have difficulties integrating with the local political and security situation. As well, conflicts on management approaches would be difficult to manage and costly to resolve. The project design with its strong emphasis on a PA co-management approach is much more cost-efficient as the communities are empowered to participate in the management planning processes, have majority representation on the protected area committee, and become fully engaged in the outcomes of PA management. This results in much lower costs of monitoring, enforcement, and adaptive management. During the co-management process, local rangers are engaged by the community associations and will hopefully be engaged directly by the park management once they have been adequately trained and show clear commitment to this job. The use of local rangers decreases costs and increases effectiveness. Given the security situation and cultural complexities of Afghanistan, the co-management approach is likely to be the most cost-effective approach for the expansion of the PA estate across the country. The project design allows for lessons learned and management capacity built during the project to be replicated in other areas of the country, thus achieving an expanded PA estate in a cost-effective manner.

Compared to massive watershed level projects for SLM actions (Alternative C) this project will build from pilot SLM and sustainable livelihoods approaches where successful initiatives will be expanded over time and so as not to waste money on projects that ultimately are not successful. Lessons learned will be shared among closely related projects such as the NSP, NABDP and USAID's watershed project to assure that successes have the best chance of replication and to avoid ineffectual approaches.

The choice of combining PA establishment with SLM approaches is also cost effective in that many SLM approaches are not built on an underlying land tenure structure and as such, are faced with many challenges to maintaining results over time. In contrast, this project will enable SLM practices to be expanded throughout the landscape via permanent multiple use PAs. The benefits that communities gain from participating in the creation and management of the PA will be an incentive for them to trial and expand successful SLM techniques. As well, given the current positive engagement of the 63 CDCs with WCS and the government's protected area program currently, the project will build from a strong base rather than having to build mutual respect and comfort from the ground up. WCS has been working with some communities in the pilot areas since 2006.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

The project will be monitored through the following M& E activities. The M& E budget is provided in the table below. Gender-disaggregated data will be incorporated into all reporting, monitoring, evaluation and assessments throughout the project, to record and track gender differences and gender treatment by the project.

Key M& E activities

Project start-up:

A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, UNDP country office and where appropriate/feasible regional technical policy and programme advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan.

The Inception Workshop should address a number of key issues including:

- a) Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO and Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) staff vis-à-vis the project

team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again as needed.

- b) Based on the project results framework and the relevant GEF Tracking Tools if appropriate, finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
- c) Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
- d) Detail gender inclusive activities in the annual work plan, indicators and M&E processes, as well as ensuring gender representation in decision making structures and incorporating gender-relevant language in terms of reference (for example).
- e) Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- f) Plan and schedule Project Board meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organisation structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first Project Board meeting should be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.

An Inception Workshop report is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

Quarterly:

- The PMU will provide quarterly reports to the UNDP SDU for input into the Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.
- Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high. Note that for UNDP GEF projects, all financial risks associated with financial instruments such as revolving funds, microfinance schemes, or capitalization of ESCOs are automatically classified as critical on the basis of their innovative nature (high impact and uncertainty due to no previous experience justifies classification as critical).
- Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.
- Other ATLAS logs can be used to monitor issues, lessons learned etc... The use of these functions is a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

Annually:

Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report will be prepared by the PMU and is prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements.

The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual).
- Lesson learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR
- Portfolio level indicators (i.e. GEF focal area tracking tools) are used by most focal areas on an annual basis as well.

Periodic Monitoring through site visits:

UNDP CO and the UNDP RCU will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

Mid-term of project cycle:

The project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Evaluation at the mid-point of project implementation (July, 2016). The Mid-Term Evaluation will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will

highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The management response and the evaluation will be uploaded to UNDP corporate systems, in particular the [UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#). The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

End of Project:

An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final Project Board meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance. The final evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The final evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the RCU and UNDP-GEF.

The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the [UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#).

The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools will also be completed during the final evaluation.

During the last three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

Learning and knowledge sharing:

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums.

The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned. The project will identify, analyse, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects.

Finally, there will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

Communications and visibility requirements

Full compliance is required with UNDP's Branding Guidelines. These can be accessed at: <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>, and specific guidelines on UNDP logo use can be accessed at: <http://intra.undp.org/branding/useOfLogo.html>. Amongst other things, these guidelines describe when and how the UNDP logo needs to be used, as well as how the logos of donors to UNDP projects needs to be used. For the avoidance of any doubt, when logo use is required, the UNDP logo needs to be used alongside the GEF logo. The GEF logo can be accessed at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_logo. The UNDP logo can be accessed at: <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>.

Full compliance is also required with the GEF's Communication and Visibility Guidelines (the "GEF Guidelines"). The GEF Guidelines can be accessed at: [http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08_Branding the GEF%20final 0.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08_Branding_the_GEF%20final_0.pdf).

Amongst other things, the GEF Guidelines describe when and how the GEF logo needs to be used in project publications, vehicles, supplies and other project equipment. The GEF Guidelines also describe other GEF promotional requirements regarding press releases, press conferences, press visits, visits by Government officials, productions and other promotional items. Where other agencies and project partners have provided support through co-financing, their branding policies and requirements should be similarly applied.

M&E Activities, Responsibilities, Budget and Time Frame

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ <i>Excluding project team staff time</i>	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Manager UNDP CO, UNDP GEF 	Indicative cost: 2,000	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP GEF RTA/Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members. 	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop.	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on <i>output and implementation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversight by Project Manager Project team 	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
ARR/PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project manager and team UNDP CO UNDP RTA UNDP EEG 	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project manager and team 	None	Quarterly
Mid-term Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project manager and team UNDP CO UNDP RCU External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team) 	Indicative cost: 40,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Final Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project manager and team, UNDP CO UNDP RCU External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team) 	Indicative cost : 40,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Project Terminal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project manager and team UNDP CO local consultant 	0	At least three months before the end of the project
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP CO Project manager and team 	Indicative cost per year: 3,000	Yearly
Visits to field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP CO UNDP RCU (as appropriate) Government representatives 	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and operational budget	Yearly
TOTAL indicative COST <i>Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses</i>		US\$ 85,000	


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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr Mostapha Zaher	Director General / GEF Operation Focal Point	National Environment Protection Agency	26 Feb 2012

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu, UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i		February 20, 2014	Doley Tshering Regional Technical Advisor, EBD	+66-2-304- 9100 Est. 2600	doley.tshering@undp.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
Objective – To establish a national system of protected areas to conserve biodiversity and mitigate land degradation pressures on habitats in key biodiversity areas, initially centered in Bamyan and the Wakhan.	Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Agency in place and functioning	-	Established, funded, and effective, TOR established for all key positions	Laws, regulations, APWA management plan, capacity and financial sustainability scorecards	<u>Risks</u> : Increased insecurity and fighting, political crisis
	Expanded PA estate with management plans and staff	60,616 ha	1,155,682 ha	Government decrees, management plans	<u>Assumption</u> : the security situation will remain as it is or slightly degraded but not in the pilot project areas. Elections will be relatively uneventful and not cause a major political crisis.
	Effective PA and rangeland co-management with communities	60,616 ha	1,169,647 ha	M&E reports, METT scores, LD scorecard	
Outcome 1. A National PA system is established with legal, planning, policy and institutional frameworks for expansion and management for the PA estate in the country	National Protected Area related legislation approved	0	2	Government Journals	<u>Risk</u> : Political gridlock delays decisions on laws and regulations.
	APWA Management Plan formulated and implemented	0	1	Document	<u>Assumption</u> : continued support of government and absence of major conflict escalation
	Increase in UNDP Capacity Scorecard for APWA	MAIL/NEPA 42%	APWA 60%	UNDP Capacity Scorecard	
	Increase in UNDP Financial Sustainability Scorecard including increased revenues from PA tourism	9.62%	30%	UNDP Financial Sustainability Scorecard – final evaluation	
Outputs: 1.1 The Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority (APWA) has been established and has the legal and institutional support to plan, implement, monitor and expand the PAS in collaboration with local authorities and communities as required under the National Protected Area System Plan (NPASP). 1.2 Strategic, operating and long-term financial sustainability plans in place for APWA and the PAS 1.3 The APWA has adequate infrastructure, personnel, budget allocation, and technical/managerial capacity to be fully operational and increasingly effective. 1.4. Strengthened communication capacity at national, provincial and local levels that places APWA as a central institution capable of inter-sectorial coordination for PAs and biodiversity.					
Outcome 2 Protected area coverage and protection status is improved to increase biodiversity representativeness and ecological resilience	Legal rules and procedures for co-management established	0	1	Government regulations, official records	<u>Risks</u> : Conflicts with mining, warlords, decreasing security situation in areas, political crisis following elections could lead to inability to access pilot areas.
	Improved rangeland habitat within PA core zones			ALEX	
	Management Plans for Pilot Protected Areas written and implemented effectively	2	4	Management plans (English and Dari), minutes from BAPAC and WPPAC	<u>Assumptions</u> : continued status quo and collaboration with key partners including NEPA, MAIL, BACA and WPA
	Increase in PA area (ha) and number Band-e-Amir National Park	1 PA	5 PAs	Official government records	

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
	Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve	60,616	60,616		
	Tegghermansu Wildlife Reserve	0	57,664		
	Wakhan Conservation Area	0	24,851		
	Total	0	1,095,066		
		60,616	1,155,682		
	Increase in METT score for 2 PAs: Band-e-Amir Big Pamir	60.6% 53.8%	70% 70%	METT Scorecards	
	Reduction or elimination of new hillside farming fields in the core PA zone	TBD at start of M&E program	80%	Satellite image interpretation and surveys	
Outputs: 2.1 Clear procedures regarding the establishment and gazetting of new Protected Areas (PAs) in Afghanistan are in place and effective. 2.2 PA management plans are written and accepted for the Wakhan Conservation Area and the Tegghermansu Wildlife Reserve in preparation for gazetting and formal establishment. 2.3 Gazettement of Big Pamir and Tegghermansu Wildlife Reserves and the Wakhan Conservation Area in north-eastern Afghanistan. 2.4 Sound PA management is implemented for the four pilot PAs through co-management structures.					
Outcome 3 Protected Area Management effectiveness and climate-resilient Sustainable Land Management (SLM) is enhanced to reduce threats to pilot PAs	Establish ecological monitoring program for snow leopards based on objectives in the Global Snow Leopard Protection Program	Basic capture / release program in place	Comprehensive ecological monitoring program functional	Annual M&E reports	<u>Risks: deterioration of security in pilot areas, lack of local technical capacity, lack of engagement by communities, climate change impacts</u> <u>Assumption:</u> current collaborative relationships with communities are maintained, initial successes increase community and individual interest.
	Increase in population number for Marco Polo Sheep in Big Pamir	172 females	250 females	Annual Surveys, M&E system	
	Number of Hectares put under SLM regime	0	1,155,682	Management Plan, Annual PA reports	
	Percentage increase in plant density in target areas	TBD at start of M&E program	30%	Sample plots / surveys	
	Communities within PA increase annual income Band-e-Amir Wakhan	TBD at start of M&E program	25%	M&E reports	
	Increase in capacity score of two community associations: BACA WPA	24% 24%	35% 35%	UNDP Capacity Development Scorecards	

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
	Percentage of women in village SLM and PA management committees increases	WPA Board 12.5%	All PA co-management bodies >20%	Minutes from committee meetings	
	PA tourism revenue is returned to local communities rather than retained by government	0%	30%	CMA, BAPAC, and WPA records	
Outputs: 3.1 Long-term monitoring and evaluation systems are in place for PA management, targeted species and ecosystems. 3.2 SLM plans integrated into PA co-management. 3.3 SLM pilot projects in community managed protected areas implemented. 3.4 Improved sustainable livelihoods of participating communities through revenue generating activities, access to financing, and organizational support.					

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Comments	Response	Reference in documents
Comments from the GEF Secretariat		
<p>16. Is there a clear description of: a) the socio-economic benefits, including gender dimensions, to be delivered by the project, and b) how will the delivery of such benefits support the achievement of incremental/additional benefits?</p> <p>15 March, YW: Gender issues are adequately addressed. Further information and details are expected at the time of CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>We would like to thank the reviewer for the comment. The project development team has carefully considered the gender issues and impacts in the design of the project. We acknowledge that women have often been excluded from natural resources management and conservation efforts in the country due in part to traditional Afghan institutional and family structures. Recognizing from experience in project pilot sites (Bamyan and Wakhan) that both men and women of affected communities are eager to contribute to protected area management, and each brings a valuable perspective, the project team has consciously taken gender issues into consideration and in fact has engendered several outcomes and outputs. For example, outcome 3 that focusses on strengthening participation of local communities in PA management functions through CBNRM plans at local levels mentions “engendering community support and participation” as a key aspect of these plans. In this regard, the project will support women's groups and encourage women's participation at all levels of natural resource and protected areas management. Likewise, under output 1.1 that will establish the Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority (APWA), specific mention has been made to build capacity of staff on effective integration of gender considerations as a vital tool for conservation management. The project complement efforts under one of the key baseline projects “Institutional Capacity Building for Gender Equality Project (GEP)” that aims to build sub-national institutions to promote gender equality while in tandem, also incorporating lessons learnt from this project into the design of community / local level natural resource management structures and decisions. The details on socio-economic benefits are described in the relevant section of the UNDP Project Document. These include improved agricultural and other livelihood benefits for populations historically marginalized. Women’s group will be directly supported and supported indirectly by their involvement in community organizations (BACA and WPA) that will receive significant technical and financial support. As well, women are included in the co-management structures of the protected areas.</p> <p>Moreover the project will ensure that gender-disaggregated data is incorporated into all reporting, monitoring, evaluation and assessments throughout the project, to record and track gender differences and gender treatment by the project. To this end during the inception workshop, one of the key tasks will be to detail gender inclusive activities in the annual work plan, indicators and M&E processes, as well as ensuring gender representation in decision making structures. The terms of reference of key project personnel also includes the need to pay attention to gender issues and gender impacts. For instance, the TOR of the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) mentions a key function as to “provide technical support and guidance to ensure strong gender consideration throughout program activities”.</p>	<p>Prodoc:</p> <p>Part II – Strategy and section on Sustainability and Replicability</p> <p>Part IV – M & E</p> <p>Annex IX – terms of reference</p> <p>CEO Endorsement:</p> <p>Section B2: Socio-economic benefits</p>
<p>19. Is the project consistent and properly coordinated with other related initiatives in the country or in the region?</p>	<p>The project team has reviewed all relevant past and on-going GEF investments in the country and the region to build on lessons generated and design ways of ensuring cross-learning and exchanges. In Afghanistan past GEF investments have focused on: a) putting in place the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation such as the WCS-executed “Programme of Work for Protected</p>	<p>See Prodoc section: Project Coordination with related</p>

<p>15 march, YW: Adequate information provided at this stage. Further details and arrangement should be clarified at the time of CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>Areas”; b) linking natural resource management to livelihoods and poverty alleviation objectives such as the “Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction” project; c) and strengthening capacities of key national agencies such as NEPA namely the UNEP-GEF “Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme” with co-funding support from the European Commission. The programme has succeeded in establishing key national institutions such as NEPA, helped formulate important policies such as the National Environment Strategy, Environment Law, sectoral laws for Forestry, Livestock etc., EIA guidelines and environmental awareness. The current project will build on the lessons and achievements of these – especially important outcomes such as in environmental coordination, development of environmental legislation, etc. The GEF-UNDP has recently launched the Small Grants Program and has included the two provinces that include the project pilot sites: Bamyan and Badakhshan. In addition the project will also build on other initiatives. For example, the UNDP implemented Strengthened Approaches for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management Project (SAISEM) promoted the formulation of suitable policy and strategic frameworks and implementation guidelines with due consideration of the environment-poverty linkage, integrating environmental considerations in the national and sub-national planning process. It is important to note that this project has been carefully designed to complement the SAISEM project. In addition, collaboration with other initiatives, programmes and projects will be ensured including those implemented by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) and also other UN agencies such as the FAO, UNEP etc. Finally at the level of pilot sites, synergies will be sought with different sustainable and integrated natural resources/land management and biodiversity conservation projects, programmes and initiatives, which include the Aga Khan Foundation, Mercy Corps and others. Further details on these and how partnerships with these agencies will be fostered and activities coordinated are described in greater detail in the UNDP project document.</p> <p>Moreover, NEPA plays a key role in coordinating a range of related activities – especially all GEF related project activities. Additional coordination will be assured by the project itself as collaboration with existing projects and sharing lessons learned is a key project methodology. The integration of a range of projects at the site level is central to project success and will be a key project implementation strategy.</p>	<p>initiatives</p>
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Comments from Council Members (November 2012)

<p>Germany comments:</p> <p>a) The involvement of the relevant ministries and institutions (such as NEPA and MAIL) in the whole project design should be a precondition and is essential for the success of the project. The final project design should therefore also include a greater focus on “institutional capacity development” in the context of project implementation. The PIF does not provide clear information how existing Afghan governmental structures will be incorporated into project implementation.</p> <p>b) We also would like to emphasize that the</p>	<p>a) NEPA and MAIL have been involved with the project design during the PPG phase and will be heavily involved in project implementation. MAIL will be providing staff and will receive significant training on protected areas management and co-management. NEPA will be overseeing the project has head of the project steering committee and will be involved in all legislative revisions for the protected areas and for the creation of a parks service. The creation of an Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Service (APWA, under this or another name) is an essential element of the project and will assure long-term retention of project gains and success. Some current staff of MAIL will be trained during the project and will form the initial staff of APWA.</p>	<p>See Prodoc Part II Strategy and Part II A6 of this document.</p>
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<p>security-related risks for implementation and success are much underestimated; the project document lacks information regarding these security-related aspects and possible consequences for project implementation.</p>	<p>b) Security related risks have been addressed in the risk matrix and the project design. All projects in Afghanistan face threats from insecurity and instability from Armed Opposition Groups (AOG) and criminality. These threats are subject to external mitigation by a range of factors. For the past decade (and in the case of Wakhan even longer) both field sites have historically been the most secure in Afghanistan owing to their physical remoteness and the fact that they are populated by relatively homogenous ethnic groups among whom support for AOGs has never been strong. Furthermore, the principal AOG, the Taliban, have for some time pursued a policy of not targeting NGOs directly, conscious as they are of not alienating communities who benefit from NGO interventions. Analysis of security incidents involving NGOs (conducted by the International NGO Security Organization – INSO) suggests that the Taliban are adhering closely to this policy.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the NGO Executing Agency (WCS) would continue to employ its own security strategies, which have proved effective so far and have resulted in no serious security incidents since it began working in Afghanistan in 2006. These include maintaining very close relations and communication with both local security forces and communities (the latter are often the most reliable and timely source of security information). Maintaining these links is facilitated by the high proportion of locally recruited staff at both field sites and the fact that other Afghan and international staff have extensive experience of working in these and other rural areas in Afghanistan or similar conflict zones. In addition WCS has written security guidelines for each location (Kabul, Bamyan and Wakhan) which all staff are familiar with. These guidelines highlight measures which are designed to reduce the risk of involvement in a security incident and also actions to be taken in certain scenarios. Furthermore, the Bamyan team will shortly be co-located with the protected area ranger teams, which will offer enhanced security, particularly from criminal elements. At other more vulnerable locations WCS, employs guards and vehicle drivers who have undertaken training courses in security measures and risk reduction.</p> <p>WCS believes these measures and structures if regularly reviewed and adapted as necessary to changing circumstances during the course of the project, will continue to be sufficient to provide an acceptable level of security in what is an unpredictable environment. It is however possible that with the forthcoming elections and withdrawal of ISAF forces in 2014, the security situation will deteriorate to a point where effective implementation in the field becomes impossible.</p>	
Comments from STAP		
<p>The project baseline comprehensively describes the problem and the current threats to biodiversity and sustainable land management in Afghanistan. STAP encourages, however, better articulation of these threats at the project level. For example, the baseline could be strengthened by providing the following specific information relevant both to the project and its locality - current biodiversity status, geophysical conditions of the project site (elevation, annual precipitation, slope), and rangeland status to the extent possible given the data limitation as stated in the proposal. For this MFA project,</p>	<p>The project team thanks the STAP for the positive review. The team had taken note of the STAP comments and followed up with specific information during the PPG. The project document now includes a detailed baseline including detailed information on biodiversity, rangelands status, PA coverage and financing situation. Furthermore, specific information such as biodiversity richness, socio-economic characteristics etc. related to the project's proposed pilot sites were also provided under the section 'introduction to project site interventions' for the sites: Band e-Amir National Park and the Wakhan corridor. In addition a detailed section</p>	<p>Context and baseline analysis: Section I, Part I of Prodoc [page 6-21]</p> <p>Strategic</p>

combining biodiversity with land degradation, the explicit choice of a set of four to six impact indicators is advisable, and these then would form the focus of baseline description. This will enhance the tracking and monitoring of subsequent impact as the project proceeds. □	<p>on policy and institutional review including gaps and weaknesses that have to be addressed, has also been added to clearly situate the project in the current / emerging policy context in the country.</p> <p>The project team has also chosen relevant impact indicators that reflect both biodiversity conservation and Sustainable Land Management (SLM). These include for example extent of PA coverage (increase); effective PA and rangeland management with co-management with local communities. These indicators are fully supported with baseline descriptions and will allow for easy monitoring of the project's impacts. These indicators have been incorporated into the results framework.</p>	Results Framework: Section II, Part I of Prodoc [page 67-58]
2. STAP also recommends including climate projection/trends data as well as the potential impacts of climate change on land uses, given the intended emphasis on climate resilient land management interventions. Paying closer attention to climate change and its potential effects on land use will strengthen the proposed climate resilience approach currently, weak in the proposal. Thus, the project developers may wish to refer to UNDP's Climate Change Country Profiles, or the World Bank Climate Change Portal to strengthen the baseline as well as the suggested climate resilience/land management interventions	Climate change is a major concern to both the biodiversity of Afghanistan and to local and national livelihoods. According to the National Action Plan for Adaptation ⁶ "key climatic hazards in Afghanistan include periodic drought; floods due to untimely and heavy rainfall; flooding due to thawing of snow and ice; increasing temperatures; frost and cold spells; hail, thunder and lightning, and 120-day winds. The compilation of a sensitivity matrix indicated that droughts, floods due to untimely and heavy rainfall, and rising temperatures present the greatest hazards to ecosystem services, livelihood activities and means of livelihood in Afghanistan. Sectors identified as most vulnerable to climate change were those of water resources, forestry and rangeland, and agriculture." As such climate change has been recognized as a critical element to project design and the baseline and project activities have been influenced by available projections – warmer and drier – for project areas. Climate change has also been reflected as an important risk to monitor (together with deterioration of security in pilot areas) in particular due to the fact that local communities have a heavy reliance on natural resources in the face of poverty and uncertainties of a changing climate. Likewise, several project outputs incorporate climate change elements such as allowing for PA management plans to integrate climate change risk management while ensuring that the government staff and communities have the necessary capacities to do so.	Context and baseline analysis and results framework: Part I, Section I, and Section II, Part I Prodoc
3. The project framework makes a brief reference to non-timber forest products (NTFPs), but this activity is not defined further in the proposal – for example under component 2. It would be useful to detail further this activity in the full proposal, as well as other alternative livelihood strategies the project will focus on. STAP also recommends referencing case studies (published, or carefully document unpublished resources) on how NTFPs, and other proposed alternative activities, contribute to livelihoods.	We thank the STAP members for this comment. Upon careful consideration and in full consultation with the stakeholders, the project team has decided to not include NTFP in the final project. While extremely important, the issue of promoting sustainable NTFP collection (and also marketing) is currently supported through a number of other initiatives. However, efforts will be made to enhance the resiliency of the range of natural vegetation in the target areas. The sustainable livelihood projects will be initiated and implemented almost entirely by the local associations and village groups with project co-financing. Various suggested sustainable livelihood activities have been described in the Prodoc and further details are provided in the Annex on rangeland management.	None

⁶ Afghanistan: National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) and National Adaptation Programme of Action for Climate Change (NAPA) Final Joint Report, 2009

<p>4. Furthermore, STAP acknowledges that NTFPs have the potential to impact local livelihoods in ways that may contribute to the sustainability of protected areas. Sustainable harvesting and marketing of NTFPs does, indeed, have a potential to bring local benefits to people while protecting the larger ecosystem. Nonetheless, it is important to consider the comprehensive context of NTFPs to fully assess their viability, potential contributions to livelihoods and protected areas, as well as the constraints associated with harvesting and marketing NTFPs. Thus, STAP recommends for the project developers to specify further whether the project will conduct a market chain analysis of NTFPs, and, if so, to detail this analysis in the full proposal. STAP also encourages UNDP to specify whether it will offer NTFPs training, as well as additional support (e.g. how to seek micro-finance) to assist project recipients get started with NTFP harvesting and commercialization activities. Additionally, STAP recommends defining explicitly the risks affiliated with NTFPs, and the mitigation responses (e.g. overharvesting of NTFPs; hence, affecting the status of local biodiversity and livelihoods). Also, STAP encourages the project developers to consider how climate change may impact the density of the species of interest for NTFP activities.</p>	<p>NTFPs were not included in the final project. Please see response to comment 3</p>	
<p>5. STAP supports the intention to co-manage the PAs with local communities. It is unclear, however, whether farmers are an important stakeholder group in the targeted sites and whether they will have effective decision-making, and whether they will derive significant benefits. If so, STAP encourages UNDP to consider how the (frequent) competing demands between farmers and herders will be accounted for in the proposed interventions. It would also be appropriate to undertake some simple cost-benefit analysis to ensure that land management activities are financially rational for land users to undertake. It is often problematic that local professionals promote land management practices that incur substantial burdens on local farmers, causing those practices to be abandoned after the project has ceased.</p>	<p>We agree that a primary strategy for the project to ensure effectively managed protected areas in the country is to demonstrate the establishment of viable models of co-management of protected areas. The project however will not be promoting one land use activity over another. It will support improved conservation farming methods for those areas currently under agriculture and support improved animal husbandry and rangeland management for those areas currently being grazed. One key aspect of the co-management approach will be to support improved sustainable livelihoods with the local communities, including women's groups, such that they experience direct benefits from participating in the co-management process.</p> <p>In terms of community participation in decision making, it may be noted that there are already co-management community governance organizations that are fully functional and currently deal with land use problems. For example, community co-management governance structures already exist in both Band-e-Amir (BAPAC), including duly elected members from all 14 communities in and around the park and Wakhan (WPA) consisting of duly elected members from 56 CDCs in Wakhan District (42 Wakhi and 14 Kyrgyz CDCs). BAPAC is already fully operational in terms of actively co-managing the National Park, while WPA has participated in the development of a draft management plan for the proposed Big Pamir Reserve. Thus, the existing and new PA management plans for the four pilot PAs will be put into effect by the community co-management entities BAPAC, BPPAC Big Pamir Protected Area Committee, and the new PACs that will be formed for Teggermansu and the Wakhan</p>	

	<p>Conservation Area. Further local level communities in are organized throughout the country into Community Development Committees (CDCs) who have access to certain government development financing programs including the National Solidarity Program (NSP) run through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). The CDCs in the areas targeted by this project have organized into larger scale community groups. These associations are officially registered with the Ministry of Justice and take a lead role in representing the communities as well as managing the existing and proposed protected areas. BACA members sit on the BAPAC as part of the co-management structure. WPA members will sit on the PAC for the Wakhan PAs once they are gazetted. BACA has also a separate women's business committee with 5 members. Many of the household heads are women who are part of the association's general body members. Building on this successful model, the project will endeavour to increase the number of women who have a role in governance and advocacy.</p>	
<p>6. STAP suggests describing further the proposed fuel-efficient stoves for example, what type of stoves will be introduced; will the project will include training on how to use the stoves; and how the training will be gender sensitive? Also, it would be useful to provide evidence of sustained adoption of the proposed fuel efficient stoves if they are currently in use in the targeted region or elsewhere in Afghanistan. This could be in the form of rigorous unpublished documents.</p>	<p>We fully appreciate the comments from STAP regarding fuel-efficient stoves. While the current project alone will not be able to address the issue comprehensively, promotion of fuel efficient stoves will have not only have immense impact on the natural environment but also contribute to improving the lives of the remote communities in Afghanistan greatly. Afghanistan is among the 10 countries worst affected by indoor pollution, given that over 95 per cent of its estimated 31 million people burn wood and other solid fuels in their homes, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Owing to this, in the recent years a number of agencies supported adoption of fuel efficient stoves. According to the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, more than 37,000 households have adopted improved biomass cookstoves in Afghanistan. The UNDP-GEF initiative will build upon work that has been done by UNEP, the Government of Finland, and the Conservation Organization of Afghan Mountains to promote clean cookstoves in Bamyan Province. The UNEP-supported project brings together local metal-smiths, engineers and environmental experts in Bamyan Province to design prototypes for clean cookstoves and other low-cost energy solutions. Villagers are involved in testing all of the prototypes, which will contribute to their sustained adoption. Two of the most promising prototypes developed so far are a <i>tandoor</i> (called the "Sutra" meaning clean) and a <i>bhukari</i> (called the "Foladi" meaning iron). The cookstoves will be connected to vents to take the fumes outside of the home.</p> <p>Local communities will be supported with the necessary training in the operation and maintenance of the fuel efficient stoves. As the primary user of the technology, targeted training to female members of the households will be carried out. Training programs will be designed to be gender-sensitive. Finally the project will ensure that assessments are carried out to verify the effectiveness of the program and incorporate such information to further guide project initiatives.</p>	No change

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS⁷

A. DESCRIBE FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF ANY:

None

B. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

<i>Project Preparation Activities Approved</i>	<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>GEF Amount (\$)</i>				<i>Co-financing (\$) *</i>
		<i>Amount Approved</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>	<i>Uncommitted Amount*</i>	
Activity 1. Site profiling and detailed baseline information analysis	Completed	35,000.00	24,671.59	10,328.41	#N/A	0
Activity 2. Capacity assessment and systemic and institutional levels.	Completed	35,000.00	26,059.58	8,940.42	#N/A	0
Activity 3. Socio-economic assessment and identification of community capacity needs.	Completed	35,000.00	27,006.00	7,994.00	#N/A	0
Activity 4. Feasibility analysis and budget.	Completed	35,000.00	9,394.83	25,605.17	#N/A	0
Total		140,000.00	87,132.00	52,868.00	#N/A	0.00

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used):

N/A

⁷ If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.