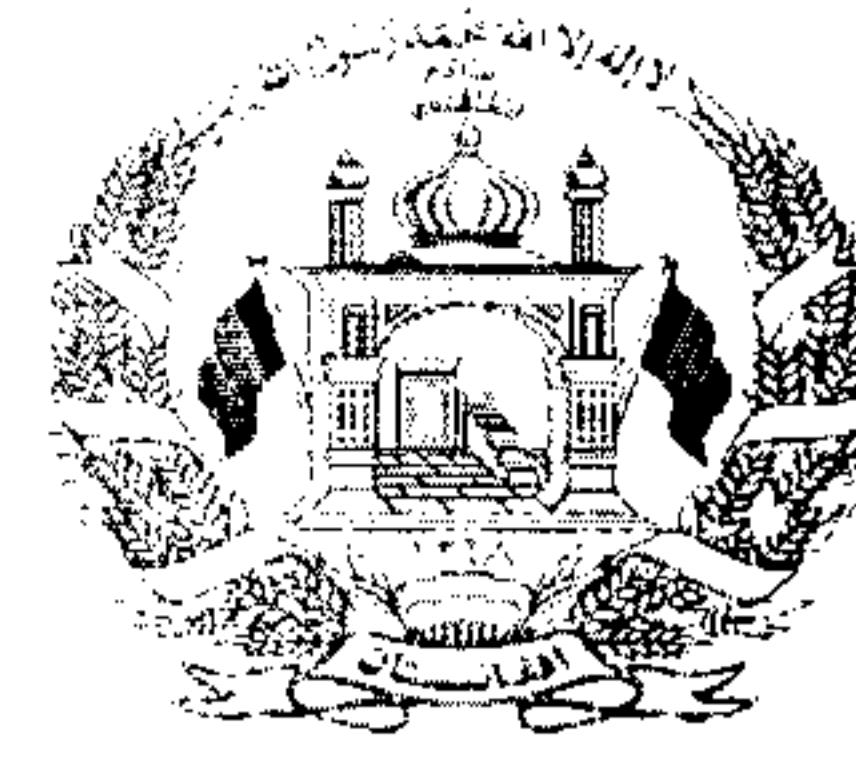




جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
اداره ملی حفاظت محیط زیست د چاپیریال ساتنی ملی اداره
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



National Environmental Protection Agency

Executive Office

Date: 20 May 2013

No: 3067

To: Maryam Niamir-Fuller
Director, GEF Coordination Office
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, Kenya
maryam.niamir-fuller@unep.org

Subject: Endorsement of GEF Medium Size Project (Developing Core Capacity for Decentralized MEA implementation and Natural Resource Management in Afghanistan)

Dear Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller,

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and as Director-General of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), I hereby confirm that the above project proposal is in accordance with my government's priorities identified in National Capacity-needs Self Assessment (NCSA) in Afghanistan. I also confirm our commitment to implement the NCSA action plan.

NEPA sets the agenda for sustainable environmental management in Afghanistan as enshrined under Article 15 of the Constitution and the Environment Law 2007. Our activities include national and provincial environment offices, engagement in law, policy, technical and scientific guidance to line ministries, provincial and local government, as well as, to our citizens.

This project is being submitted under the GEF-5 Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Strategy to support four objectives and outcomes highlighted under the strategy. Implementation of this project enables Afghanistan to carry out these activities:

- Effective inter-ministerial collaboration on MEA objectives.
- Effective integration of Rio Convention objectives into development plans and programmes.
- Local authorities have to have the capacity to translate any commitments into practice.
- Local stakeholders effectively participate in MEA implementation.

The project is comprised of two components. Firstly, to build the capacity of central-level institutions and secondly, to build the scientific and technical capacity of sub-national stakeholders. The project will create a Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Taskforce, made up of high-level representatives of relevant Ministries, which will coordinate the implementation of Rio Convention objectives by the Line Ministries. This will be supported by a Technical Advisory Panel made up of technical experts from those same Ministries as well as relevant community based organisations and non-governmental organisations.

If approved, the project will be executed by the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) with technical support from UNEP Afghanistan. I hereby confirm that NEPA is willing to take on the responsibilities necessary to execute the project and convene the MEA Taskforce and the Technical Advisory Panel.

The total financing (from GEF Trust Fund) being requested for this project is US\$1,040,250 inclusive agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for Afghanistan is detailed as below:

GEF agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name- Global	Project amount (A)	Agency fee (B)	Total (C=A+B)
UNEP	GEFTF	Multifocal area	Afghanistan	950,000	90,250	1,040,250
Total resources:				910,000	90,000	1,000,250

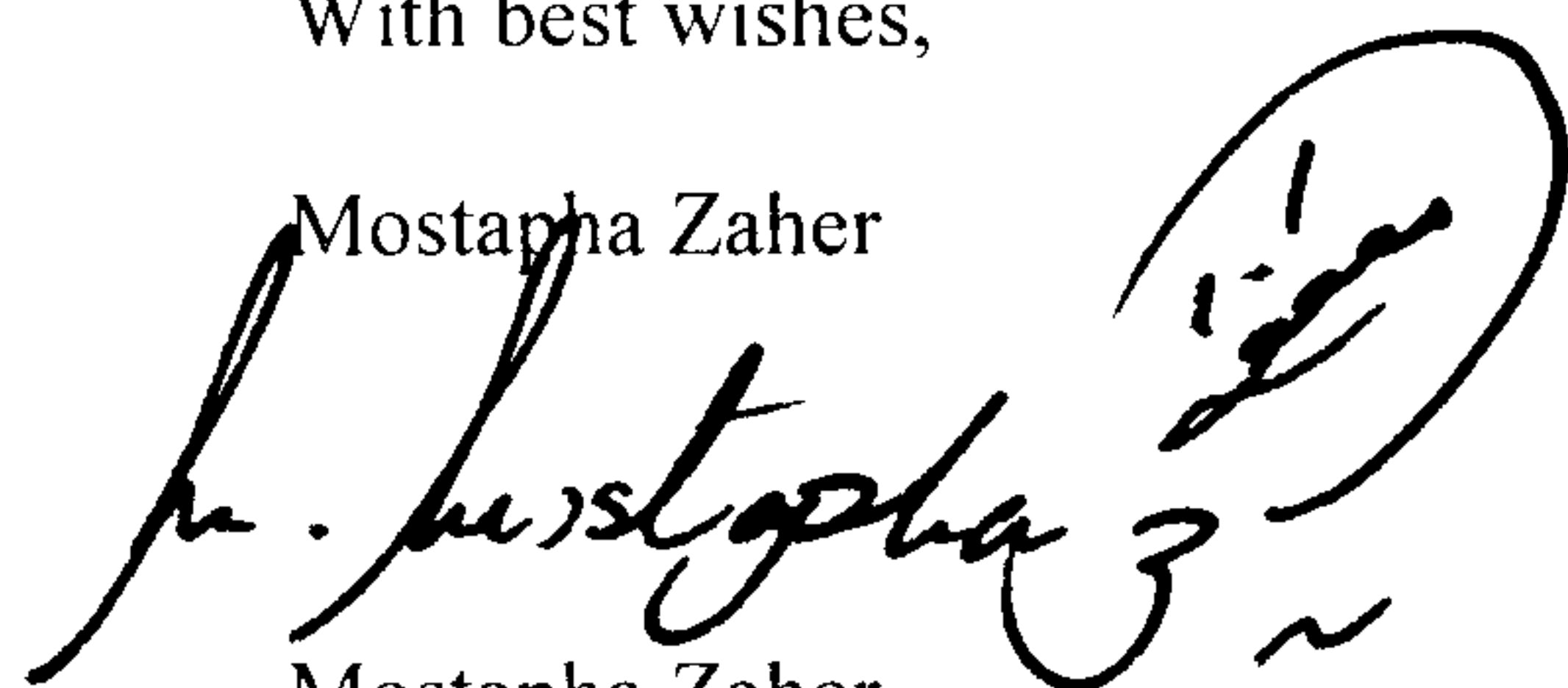
NEPA will commit resources at the central government level in Kabul and at the provincial level in Kabul Province (Guldara, Shakardara and Istalif districts) respectively to the amount of US\$700,000 (seven hundred thousand US dollars). Of this amount, US\$300,000 will be in grant co-financing and US\$400,000 will be in-kind co-financing for office space, staff time, travel, as well as, operational support to the project.

I hereby consent to the inclusion of NEPA's baseline resources in the accounting of funds for the GEF CCCD project, and look forward to the development of additional activities to consolidate the progress made by NEPA thus far.

I thank you in advance, for your kind and sustained cooperation. Please accept, Ms. Niamir-Fuller, the assurances of my highest consideration.

With best wishes,

Mostapha Zaher



Mostapha Zaher

Director - General
National Environmental Protection Agency
Member of the Council of Ministers
Advisor to the President on the Environment
GEF Operational Focal Point
ABS Inter - Governmental Committee National Focal Point
CIF- World Bank Focal Point
CC:
Convention Focal Point for UNFCCC
Convention Focal Point for UNCBD
Convention Focal Point for UNCCD
UNEP Kabul, PCDMB