



# REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

**PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project**

**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: Multi-Trust Fund**

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## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Developing Core Capacity for Decentralized MEA Implementation and Natural Resources Management in Afghanistan			
Country(ies):	Afghanistan	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	5017
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	00894
Other Executing Partner(s):	National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)	Submission Date:	2014-04-22
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multifocal Area	Project Duration(Months)	36
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):		Project Agency Fee (\$):	91,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>➤ For SGP <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>➤ For PPP <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>			

### A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>2</sup>

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
CD-2 (select)	INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS HAVE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO RESEARCH, ACQUIRE AND APPLY INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIONS	INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS TRAINED HOW TO USE DIFFERENT TOOLS AVAILABLE TO MANAGE INFORMATION	GEF TF	182,000	320,000
CD-3 (select)	CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM ESTABLISHED FOR PROACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF ALL INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS	ESTABLISHED PLATFORM (SEMINARS, NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND DIALOGUES) FOR ENABLING ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO PARTICIPATE	GEF TF	91,000	140,000
CD-3 (select)	ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO PLAN, DEVELOP POLICIES AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBAL CONVENTIONS	NATIONAL PLAN FOR MEA IMPLEMENTATION DEVELOPED WITH RELATED POLICIES, FINANCING AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS  INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES ENHANCED IN 5 NATIONAL	GEF TF	182,000	340,000

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

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

		INSTITUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT GLOBAL CONVENTIONS			
CD-4 (select)	4.1 ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO MANAGE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND IMPLEMENT GLOBAL CONVENTIONS	STANDARDS DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED. MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTION GUIDELINES AND REPORTING  CAPACITIES OF 1 CSO AND 3 CBOS AS PARTNERS STRENGTHENED	GEF TF	273,000	435,000
CD-4 (select)	4.2 GOOD ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT STANDARDS DEFINED AND ADOPTED	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES TAILORED FOR EACH OF 5 NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	GEF TF	182,000	340,000
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
<b>Total project costs</b>				910,000	1,575,000

## B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

<b>Project Objective: Building Core Capacity for Decentralized MEA implementation and Natural Resources Management in Afghanistan</b>						
<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)</b>
Component 1 Institutional Strengthening for effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)	TA	Effective inter-ministerial collaboration on MEA objectives	Establishment of an operational national MEA Task Force, supported by a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) A costed MEA implementation road map at national and sub-national level	GEF TF	150,452	250,909
	TA	Effective integration of Rio convention objectives into development plans and programs	Integration of MEA objectives into sectoral priority programmes, such as the National Priority Programme framework.  Strengthened existing national financial and	GEF TF	225,678	381,364

			executing mechanisms for Rio conventions' priorities connected to the Ministry of Finance mechanisms and trust funds.			
Component 2 Strengthening technical and capacity of sub-national stakeholders	TA	Local authorities have the capacity to translate MEA commitments into practice	<p>Delivery of hands-on training for local government, communities, civil society partners, mosques, elders and youth groups on ecosystem management practices in three locations in Kabul province.</p> <p>Improved technical capacity for monitoring environmental degradation and services (mapping, early warning system, data collection) provided to National Environment Agency (NEPA) for its Geospatial Data Monitoring unit.</p> <p>Technical and scientific capacity for ecosystem management approaches in use at sub-national level (visualization techniques, watershed planning, landscape assessments and physical land use mapping)</p>	GEF TF	248,128	443,750
	TA	Local stakeholders effectively participate in MEA implementation	Increased capacity among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to understand and implement MEA requirements in line with existing provincial development plans.	GEF TF	203,014	361,250

			Mentoring for 3 NGOs in how to design a project, to the point where written project proposals, are drafted and submitted to bilateral donors producing practical implementation projects in at least three provinces.			
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Subtotal					827,272	1,437,273
Project management Cost (PMC) <sup>3</sup>				(select)	82,728	137,727
<b>Total project costs</b>					910,000	1,575,000

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

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
National Government	Government of Afghanistan - NEPA	Cash	300,000
National Government	Government of Afghanistan - NEPA	In-kind	400,000
GEF Agency	UNEP/DFID	Cash	300,000
GEF Agency	UNEP/PCDMB	In-kind	360,000
National Government	Government of Afghanistan - MRRD	In-kind	215,000
Others		In-kind	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			1,575,000

### D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Multi-focal Areas	Afghanistan	910,000	91,000	1,001,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0

<sup>3</sup> PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				910,000	91,000	1,001,000

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Indicate fees related to this project.

**F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Cofinancing (\$)</b>	<b>Project Total (\$)</b>
International Consultants	130,752	10,000	140,752
National/Local Consultants	105,177	177,273	282,450

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

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

**PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

**A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF<sup>4</sup>**

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

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Consistency with the NCSA

This project is formulated in response to the recommendations of Afghanistan’s National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment (NCSA). The NCSA, which was published in February 2009 jointly with the country’s National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), provides an analysis of the core capacity needs for the country to implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), and the commitments that have been made under their key implementation strategies.

The NCSA and its Action Plan highlight and list opportunities for synergistic capacity building for the implementation of the Rio Conventions. They address the systemic, institutional and individual levels in all areas of the country (Central and Provincial) and describe strengths and weaknesses in the current situation.

Strengths

<sup>4</sup> 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.

1. The existence of supportive institutions in the shape of NEPA and MAIL.
2. An initial legislative framework created by the 2007 Environment Law.
3. The recognition of participatory approaches to natural resource management.
4. A supportive international community
5. The potential for mainstreaming and tapping global resources.

#### Weaknesses

In the opinion of the NCSA there are several challenges, listed below which, “greatly outweigh associated opportunities, illustrating the challenges that face Afghanistan in the implementation of the Rio Conventions”:

1. Conflict and poverty

- a. Together with the effects of conflict, national institutions and associated policy and legislative frameworks are today fragmented. Natural resource related legislation, where it exists, is outdated and does not reflect modern principles of environmental management.

- b. National research institutions and capacities have been severely affected by three decades of conflict.

- c. Conflict and the legacies of conflict (e.g. minefields) restrict access to large areas of the country. This is particularly so in the semi-arid and arid lands of the southern, south-eastern and south-central regions, where the land is highly vulnerable to desertification and the effects of climate change.

- d. Local, regional, national and international displacement goes hand-in-hand with conflict. Deep poverty and related insecurity present local people with incentives that stimulate the prioritization of short-term survival over medium- to long-term investments in the sustainability of natural resource use.

2. Weak policy and legal frameworks for facilitating compliance with the Rio Conventions

- a. Afghanistan lacks a comprehensive framework of enabling laws that facilitate the implementation of a consolidated approach to national environmental management and compliance with the Rio Conventions.

- b. Desertification, drought, biodiversity conservation and climate change are rarely considered comprehensively during the processes of elaborating rural development plans, sector policies, investment plans and national legislation. Such weak coordination leads to diverging approaches that can generate conflicts in natural resource management.

- c. Pre-2001 legislation does not adequately address environmental management. This is because the legislation developed during the Taliban period failed to incorporate best practices associated with modern environmental management.

3. Weak inter-institutional coordination mechanisms

- a. Inter-institutional coordination mechanisms addressing critical themes related to the implementation of the Rio Conventions are either ineffective or non-existent, associated awareness and technical knowledge is low, vertical and horizontal information flows both at the national level and between the national level and local stakeholders (government and community) are exceptionally weak, and institutional priorities are frequently

diverse and un-harmonized.

4. Lack of strategies and plans for the implementation of the Rio Conventions
5. Low awareness of the Rio Conventions and associated issues
  - a. Awareness raising materials, particularly in local languages, are almost entirely absent. Although the mandate for public education and awareness raising rests with NEPA, the relative youth of this Agency has meant that awareness programmes on desertification, biodiversity and climate change do not exist beyond erratic and generally ineffective seminars or workshops.
6. Lack of data and information
  - a. Afghanistan is affected by both a lack of data and information for monitoring compliance with the Rio Conventions, and similarly lacks a strategic plan (including baseline data, clear monitoring indicators, standardized procedures for data analysis, and so on) for data collection and analysis.
  - b. Lack of capacity at the national level similarly represents a barrier to the establishment and integration of the information that is being collected into a functioning larger framework.
7. Inadequate technical capacities to comply with the Rio Conventions
  - a. One of the most critical constraints affecting Afghanistan's compliance with the Rio Conventions is the limited technical and managerial capacity of related human resources.
  - b. Budget constraints experienced by government departments and institutions responsible for environmental management, together with the lack of a comprehensive capacity-strengthening plan and limited access to capable trainers, limits their ability to effectively build the capacity of available personnel.
8. Unsustainable land and resource management practices
  - a. Conflict, poor returns from agricultural production associated with sub-optimal agricultural practices, drought, desertification and widespread poverty, are all factors that contribute to an under-valuation of land and either an inability or lack of willingness to invest in sustainable land and natural resource management.
9. Lack of Infrastructure
  - a. A large proportion of Afghanistan's infrastructure was destroyed during the last three decades of conflict. At the same time, the conflict itself together with low levels of international investment during the Taliban regime meant that there was little progress in developing or maintaining the physical capital of the country.
10. Inadequate funding
  - a. At a national level in Afghanistan the range and enormity of needs facing the Afghan people has meant that the Government and international aid agencies have concentrated their efforts on emergency response together with high-priority development issues that include education, health and basic infrastructure, amongst others. Accessing available resources at the global level has equally been affected by the inability of relevant sectors within Afghanistan to prepare the necessary proposals.
11. Limited research capacities
  - a. Although a number of research activities are being supported by international organizations in Afghanistan, internal capacity for the realization of research is extremely low. The absence of overall strategic planning

documents for addressing desertification loss of biological diversity and climate change problematizes the realization of useful baseline surveys and the development of comprehensive research programmes.

#### Consistency with the NAPA

Priorities for adaptation highlighted in the NAPA include actions at the local, provincial and central levels in the areas of health, agriculture, land and water management, water and renewable energy, animal husbandry and livestock management, forest management and biodiversity conservation, as well as a number of cross-cutting adaptation capacity needs such as climate-related prediction and analysis, forecasting and early warning.

#### Consistency with the NAP

Afghanistan is also a Party to the UNCCD since 1995 and has submitted a national report to the Convention in 2009. A National Action Programme (NAP) and accompanying Investment Programme is under development with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which will nevertheless have to be brought in line with the UNCCD's 10-year strategy. Given the pressures on land management and the challenges brought about by drought in Afghanistan, the UNCCD is a key Convention for the country. Afghanistan has not finalized its NAP as of March 2013 but is in the process of accessing enabling activity funding to do so with FAO and UNEP support. This MEA CCCD project will directly interact with the NBSAP update.

#### Consistency with the NBSAP

Afghanistan submitted its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to CBD in May 2012 supported by UNEP with GEF resources. A project to update of the NBSAP with Aichi 2020 Targets started in January 2013. The Government of Afghanistan has included the action plan component in its National Priority Programmes and has committed to deliver the second NBSAP by 2014. This Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) Capacity Development project will directly interact with the NBSAP update.

#### Consistency with national priorities or plans

Afghanistan's development priorities are highlighted in the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS). This provides the overarching vision for the government's plans 2008-2013. Afghanistan's ANDS also serves as its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The Government is currently finalizing a ten-year plan for 2014 to 2024, referred to in Afghanistan as the "Development Decade".

The ANDS is to be implemented through a series of 22 National Priority Programmes (NPPs) that cover a wide range of government services and responsibilities. Essentially the NPPs are costed action plans for the achievement of the Government of Afghanistan's key goals.

NPP 16 is titled 'Natural Resource Management and Environmental Conservation' and will be implemented with national government, international donor and UN support. NPP 16 will form an important part of the baseline project, on which this GEF Cross-Cutting Capacity Development project will build.

For the effective implementation of the NPPs the 22 programmes are further grouped into 6 clusters: 1/.

Governance; 2/. Peace; 3/. Private sector development; 4/. Infrastructure development; 5/. Human resources development and 6/. Agriculture and rural development.

The process of implementing the National Priority Programmes (NPPs) requires clusters of different Ministries.



The ARD cluster is comprised of MAIL, MRRD and NEPA (in addition to some others). The ARD cluster consequently creates a standing coordination mechanism which the MEA Task Force will work to inform and influence.

Afghanistan completed its Rio+20 Country Position Paper in July 2012. This paper draws together all national plans and priorities into one holistic document which summarises links between ANDS, Rio targets and the MEAs. This project will continue this momentum to mainstream the issues addressed in the Rio Conventions into national and sector development plans.

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

This project is being formulated in response to the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Afghanistan (completed in 2008), and as a mechanism for implementing the NCSA Action Plan.

#### Consistency with GEF-5 CCCD Strategy

As such, it is being submitted under the GEF-5 Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Strategy, and supports at least 3 of the 5 key objectives and outcomes highlighted under the Strategy, as follows:

- 2.1 - Through Component 2 of this project, institutions and stakeholders will develop skills and knowledge to research, acquire and apply information collective actions. The project will provide training to individuals and institutions at the central and provincial levels to understand environmental degradation and its links to development and economic well-being.
- 3.1 - Enhanced institutional capacities to plan, develop policies and legislative frameworks for effective implementation of global conventions. Through Component 1, the project will support the development of institutional mechanisms and individual skills required for managing Convention requirements, coordination, as well as the establishment of mechanisms for integrating MEA requirements and objectives into development planning.
- 4.1 - Enhanced institutional capacities to manage environmental issues and implement global conventions: Through Component 2, the project will support the development of capacities among non-governmental stakeholders to understand, address and implement convention objectives by supporting targeted training, awareness raising and the development of small scale Convention-related interventions.

#### A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

The global mandate of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. One of UNEP's strategic priorities is to provide capacity building and technology support at the national level (in terms of the Bali Strategic Plan). The project will be implemented within this framework. The Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch extends UNEP's work in areas of the world where the natural and human environment has been damaged as a direct or indirect consequence of conflict or disaster.

The following points illustrate the comparative advantages of UNEP as the implementing agency for the project:

- UNEP is one of the world's leading environmental organisations: Building institutions for environmental governance: UNEP identifies the current status of environmental institutions and strengthens them through capacity building and reform activities. Such institutions include the government agencies responsible for environmental management, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and other civil society institutions.
- Strengthening environmental law and policy: UNEP provides environmental legal support to national environmental authorities in drafting, reviewing, and implementing environmental laws.
- Strengthening cooperation over environmental resources as a platform for peace-building: UNEP's environmental diplomacy work provides an opportunity for confidence building between former or current conflicting parties, using shared environmental resources as the platform for renewed cooperation. In addition, UNEP helps to ensure post-conflict administrations fulfil their legal obligations under various multilateral environmental agreements.

- Supporting environmental information management: To promote availability of and access to current environmental information, UNEP assists with the establishment of environmental information centres and the development of information sharing, monitoring and reporting standards and procedures.
- Integrating environmental considerations in reconstruction: UNEP regularly acts as the lead agency for the environment in UN interagency processes, thereby ensuring that post-conflict humanitarian interventions and commercial investments do not result in long term environmental damage. UNEP assists other agencies in integrating crosscutting environmental issues in their work and assists governments in developing environmental impact assessment policy and procedure.

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

##### Background and problem statement

75% of Afghanistan's population depends on natural resources for its subsistence and survival (UNAMA 2013). The vast majority of Afghans participate in rural livelihoods, relying on agriculture for food and sustenance. At the same time, the country is highly vulnerable to climate variability and extremes, such as droughts and floods. Devastating environmental change increases the vulnerability of local populations. As Afghanistan struggles to cope after nearly 35 years of conflict and war, the international community through the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework for Assistance to Afghanistan (2013) and the National Government through its National Development Plan is making every effort to reduce the vulnerability of its population, through a Sub-National Development process, that strengthens decentralized development planning, and increases the resources made available.

For the most part this subnational governance planning fails to leverage environmental and social aspects of economic development. Infrastructure building and agricultural productivity is emphasized through mechanisms such as the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the National Priority Programmes (NPPs). However, Afghanistan landscape is semi-arid and ecologically fragile. Careful management and increased capacity for a more environmentally and ecologically sustainable development is needed to protect the country's vital natural resource base.

The Afghan government is assuming greater responsibility over all aspects of governance from 2014 onwards, as the international military forces withdraw. The period from 2014-2019 will be a challenging time, with both security and development concerns competing for government and donor resources. Capacity among local non-governmental and governmental stakeholders to understand and address environmental concerns and their links to development priorities remains low. In this conflict-affected country with limited institutional, human and physical capacities, the principles of sustainability and a holistic approach to natural resource management that are embodied in the Rio Conventions are of critical importance.

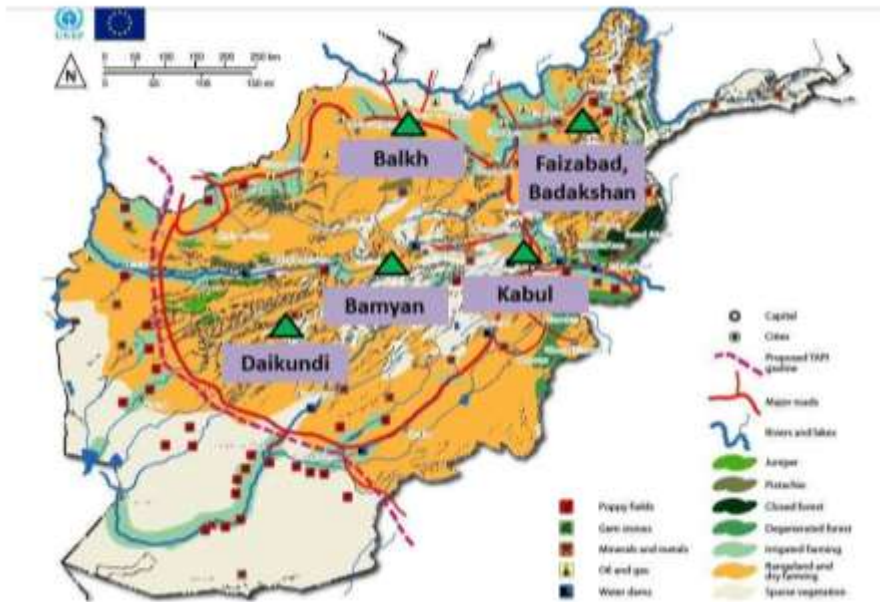


FIGURE 1. 5 KEY NEPA-NEPA SUBNATIONAL STRATEGY PROVINCES.

### Institutional, sectoral and policy context

The Afghan government has worked to institutionalize environmental management in the country, with support from the international community. The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), which was set up in 2004 now has offices and staff in all of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. The Environment Law (2007) has been important in creating a legal framework for the management of environmental resources but it is not yet being implemented fully.

NEPA is the government agency responsible for environmental issues, with a mandate to provide overall environmental regulation, policy-making, coordination, monitoring and enforcement. It is obliged to work closely with line ministries responsible for the actual management of the country's environmental resources. NEPA therefore provides the logical institutional foundation for the implementation of this cross-cutting capacity development project.

There are two different lead agencies for the three Rio Conventions. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) is responsible for the UNCCD and the UNCBD, while NEPA is the lead agency for UNFCCC. In addition a number of different government ministries are involved in their implementation. This does present an inherent challenge for a whole-of-government approach to environmental management. However, if this project can facilitate an integrated approach, it has the potential to ensure the inclusion of multiple perspectives and leverage broad-based action.

Other mechanisms are also important. The Committee for Environmental Coordination, legally established in 2006, is a Parliamentary body which works to share information among Parliamentarians. The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency coordinates ex-ante and ex-post responses to disaster risks. Many other government institutions have their own environmental focal points but there is a lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities.

The periodic review of the national and sector development policies and the annual budgeting process provide an important opportunity for the integration of activities that contribute to compliance with the Rio Conventions. The country position paper for Rio+20 specifically mentions the Rio conventions but does not outline a detailed action plan. Working with existing national laws, policies and strategies this project will enable this to take place.

### Baseline analysis and gaps

#### Regulatory baseline analysis

The Afghan government has made meaningful efforts to participate in global efforts to address global environmental challenges. Afghanistan has acceded to the three key Rio Conventions, namely the UNFCCC (in 2002), the UNCBD (also 2002) and the UNCCD (1995). Afghanistan ratified the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC in January 2013.

The Afghanistan Development Decade (2014-2024), the long-term national development, is the obvious platform to integrate a green economy approach and Afghanistan's position paper on Rio+20 into national plans and budgets.

At the same time, most of Afghanistan's progress on MEA conventions has involved the drafting of the national commitment, without clear indication of how Afghanistan is going to implement and enforce the conventions and their commitments. This MEA CCCD project will target specific regulatory gaps and strengthen the component that assists the national and subnational authorities to understand and possess tools to decentralize MEA implementation (as they are currently struggling to do). An important component of this task focuses on the limitations in current MEA environmental information, data and knowledge that guides policy makers and regulators. Clear policy and planning information is lacking, and there is no central repository for geospatial information and data that collates and coordinates regulations. Aside from the 2008 State of the Environment report there is no regular mechanism which tracks progress MEA implementation in Afghanistan.

As part of the reporting obligations to the signed and ratified conventions, the following progress has been made to date:

	<b>UNFCCC:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a national inventory of greenhouse gas emissions (2009).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Law (2007)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change unit set up in NEPA (2011)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National agro-meteorological data information system set up with a focus on food security and crop production (2008)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designation of NEPA and MAIL as lead agencies for agricultural management, watershed rangeland and protection and rehabilitation. Designation of MEW, NEPA, MAIL with responsibility for water resource management (2011)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ratification to the Kyoto Protocol (2013)</li> </ul>
	<b>UNCBD:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan finalized (2012). Revived biodiversity surveys in the Central highlands and Northeast (the Wakhan Corridor, Band-e-Amir, Koh-e-Baba and Ajar Valley)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Protected Areas System Plan designed and launched (2012). Draft natural protected area regulations emphasize sustainable natural resource use and management in those areas adjacent to protected areas.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band-e-Amir declared as a National park (2012)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government and communities are working together with international organizations to restore degraded ecosystems in specific geographical areas (on-going)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of international organizations are providing capacity building (primarily short-term) in identification, conservation and sustainable use of elements of biological diversity (on-going).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decree on the prohibition of hunting issued (2005), now lapsed.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot efforts initiated to ensure that biodiversity-based products are derived from sustainably managed sources. Sustainable community based natural resource management is emphasized in the Agriculture Master Plan and associated Implementation and Investment Programme (IIP).</li> </ul>
	<b>UNCCD:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Deputy Minister of MAIL has been designated as national focal point for UNCCD. Third National Report elaborated and submitted (2009).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency (ANDMA).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural Master plan developed which addresses some of the underlying causes of desertification. The importance of participatory strategies is increasingly being recognized at a national level (2008).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on rangeland productivity is being collected, analyzed and distributed. Similar initiatives are doing likewise for climatic data. Famine early warning systems network established in MRRD (on-going).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International organizations are conducting capacity building and institutional strengthening activities with NEPA and MAIL.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-border coordination and collaboration for the management of the Sistan Wetlands initiated (2005).</li> </ul>

## Technical baseline analysis

The technical baseline analysis shows serious gaps in the technical and operational capacity of the national and subnational authorities to demonstrate the kind of projects and activities, in line with Afghanistan's MEA commitments. Outside of Kabul city, and its highly security focused core of ministries, the rest of the country exhibits highly variable situation when it comes to progress on environmental management and progress towards delivering targets for example on climate change, rangeland issues or biodiversity conservation. The largest rural development programme in Afghanistan is the National Solidarity Programme. The National Solidarity Programme (NSP) is an important national programme for rural development. The NSP, which is funded by the international community and implemented by the Government of Afghanistan, began in 2003 to deliver tangible development and investment at subnational level.

The NSP empowers local communities and councils with funds and training so that they can manage their own affairs and invest in locally defined projects. This aims to build greater local resilience in communities, which are often remote from the influence of a strong central administration.

However, in both the NSP and the NABDP there are a general lack of consideration for more multi-disciplinary and decentralized approaches such as watershed planning, protection of biodiversity and disaster risk reduction in such projects. This GEF CCCD project will aim to add an understanding of the global environmental benefits and sustainability to these subnational level development projects.

The MEA CCCD project will work together with the senior project coordinator at the Ministry of RRD (MRRD) in a dedicated role, by participating both in the annual project design for NSP, as well as in the regular operations and monitoring. NSP will run until 2017. The MEA CCCD project will guide this large, long term development planning programme, providing significant regular mainstreaming opportunities for MEA issues. Since the majority of existing NSP projects involve water management, village protection works, and hard-infrastructure, iron/cement engineering, it will be the role of the GEF project to draw together principles of environmental planning.

Current technical baseline analysis at the NSP MRRD programme shows strong interest from senior technical staff there to benefit from the MEA approach, and MRRD Minister has provided a baseline commitment letter in support of this.

- 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:

The incremental cost reasoning stems from the baseline regulatory and technical activities builds on past and ongoing efforts to develop decentralized capacity for MEA implementation in Afghanistan. Incremental costs are needed to create a dedicated unit that focuses on MEA issues, as well as providing technical capacity both in geospatial and environmental valuation tools as well as in practical field demonstration of the MEA policy and regulatory frameworks applied at field level in one province.

The project consists of two components:

Component 1: Building the capacity of central-level institutions

Component 1 concerns the development of central-level institutions that are capable of delivering Afghanistan's international environmental commitments (IECs). As noted in the NCSA, there is an important gap in terms of inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination. Many ministries whose participation would be crucial to the achievement of MEA objectives are not fully involved.

The objective of component 1 is to strengthen the inter-ministerial collaboration on MEA objectives at a central level.

Activities under component 1 will establish an operational national Task Force on MEAs. The MEA Taskforce will be a high-level body, at a deputy minister or head of division level, which will meet every quarter to six months, depending on the stage of the project. Its role will be to coordinate individual ministry action to implement the requirements of Rio Conventions.

This will be achieved through a Strategic Business Plan/Road map for implementation. This roadmap, which will be an early output of the Task force, will clearly identify and integrate activities, partnerships, timelines and budgets into on-going work-plans.

A technical level group will be constituted to support the taskforce with specific advice and outputs. This will be called the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and will be made up of technical representatives of the same ministries. The TAP will meet more regularly, typically every month, to develop new policies, coordinate action and share information among the ministries. It will also customize existing methodological approaches for undertaking environmental valuation – as a supporting tool for greater policy integration. In its first year the project will develop the monitoring function and in its third year, the project will develop a monitoring function to ensure that each identified partner has succeeded in integrating its MEA objectives into its sectoral work-plans.

At a national level the focus of capacity development will be NEPA and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) as well as other line ministries that are required to implement aspects of the MEA provisions. These include the Ministry of Water and Energy (MWE), the Ministry of Reconstruction and Rural Development (MRRD), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Ministry of Finance and its General Directorate of Customs Department, the Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA), the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency (ANDMA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### Component 1.1: The creation of a national MEA Task Force and on-going support for its operation

##### Planned activities:

- a. Assistance in developing TORs which will describe the mandates and responsibilities, work plans and membership for the MEA Task Force and the TAP.
- b. Inception workshop
- c. Capacity development and training for the MEA Task Force and the TAP. Training on MEA financing and execution architecture (x1), Ecosystem management and MEAs in line ministries (x1),

##### Expected outcomes:

- Effective inter-ministerial collaboration between NEPA, MAIL, MRRD, MWE and ANDMA through the national MEA Task Force and Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)

#### Component 1.2: Support to the development of a costed MEA implementation road map with TORs

##### Planned activities:

- a. Provision of expertise on MEA implementation, strategic planning and budgeting, at national and decentralized levels. Support from National project coordinator, senior translator and international specialists.
- b. National Conference on core MEA capacity.
- c. Development of a MEA costed road map, which will identify policy and legal gaps in a variety of instruments including the rangelands law, protected areas procedures, water law and the national forest law.
- d. Production of a research output that analyses the role of women as natural resource managers in the achievement of the Rio conventions' objectives and provides recommendations for how gender considerations can be promoted through the implementation of the Rio Conventions.

##### Expected outcomes:

- A clear direction and action plan that the various stakeholders can take forward in their own work.

#### Component 1.3: Support to the integration of MEA objectives into key ministerial programmes and plans

##### Planned activities:

- a. Identification of entry points, and the development of targeted, sectoral briefings for planners and decision makers. Training on ecosystem management and MEAs in line ministries (x1). Support from national project coordinator, senior translator and international specialists.

- b. Preparation of financial and operational plans for the NPPs that are directly relevant to the Rio priorities, namely the water and natural resource management NPPs (2 and 16) and the newly developed NPP for rural energy for development, water resources management and environmental conservation.

Expected outcomes:

- Key stakeholders have a specific understanding of how their own programmes can support MEA objectives and see a range of practical entry points to adjust their own plans.
- Adoption of MEA objectives into future versions of the agricultural and natural resources management policy and national development strategy through the National Priority Programme (NPP) process. The new NPP process will run from 2014 to 2019 as part of the new Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

Component 1.4: Improvement of reporting systems and data sharing mechanisms across the 4 Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) cluster ministries, as well as the Environment (NEPA) and Disaster Management (ANDMA) agencies.

Planned activities:

- a. Technical assistance on developing reporting systems and data sharing mechanisms for relevant technical stakeholders. Support from national project coordinator and international specialists.
- b. Sub-contract to support the Environmental Science Department in Kabul University to oversee the setup and physical creation of the national MEA environment and conservation archive and data library.
- c. Sub-contract for additional technical support to NEPA for geospatial database and mapping. NEPA will maintain the national GIS dataset on MEA shapefiles, remote sensing materials and geodatabases.
- d. Training programmes in methods of monitoring environmental degradation, desertification and the loss of biodiversity developed and delivered to the 6 agencies. Training on reporting systems and data sharing (x1), Poverty-environment cross-cutting issues which have relevant MEA aspects to be included in national planning and practical action, in particular in National Priority Programmes. This training will concern itself in particular with giving key government official the technical skills to be able to first understand and second act on incorporation of environment planning in national policy work. (x1).
- e. Inclusion of central government representatives, as a learning and feed-back exercise, in the provincial ecosystem management demonstration projects listed in component 2: pilot technical planning and village projects for local poverty/ environment project with community groups (x4), pilot interventions for youth intervention for local government/ civil society (x4), pilot interventions for women and MEA/ NRM (x4)

Expected outcomes:

- Ministries are better able to monitor, document, record and share data on natural resource management and Afghanistan's environmental challenges.

Component 1.5: Strengthening of financial and execution mechanisms for Rio Convention priorities.

Planned activities:

- a. Technical assistance on mainstreaming of green accounting principles and environmental valuation techniques. Training on MEA financing and execution architecture (x1).
- b. Technical assistance on alternative mechanisms for financial support of Rio Convention priorities (such as national level 'Green Funds' etc.). Support from national project coordinator and international specialists.

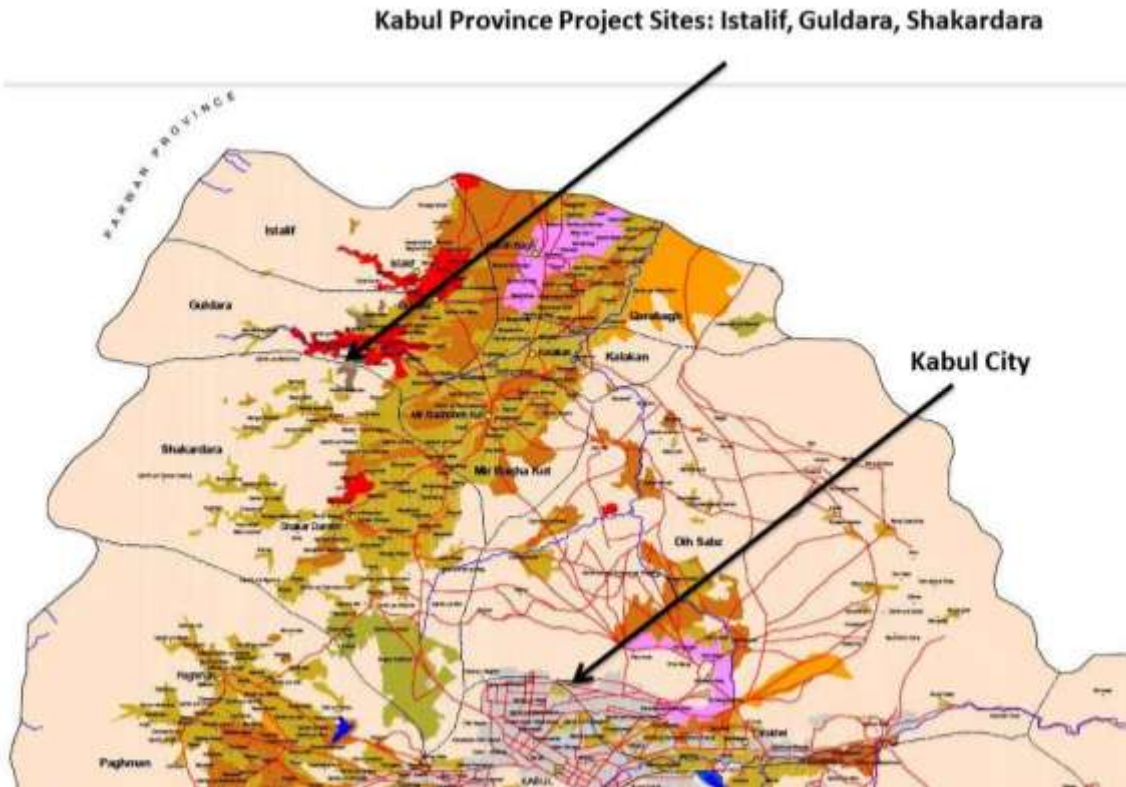
Expected outcomes:

- Effective integration of Rio convention objectives into national planning through the creation of a framework for environmental valuation.
- New innovative, pragmatic mechanisms for funding environmental priorities are developed.

Component 2: Building the scientific and technical capacity of sub-national stakeholders



Component 2 supports the scientific and technical capacity of national and sub-national stakeholders to participate effectively in the implementation of Afghanistan’s MEA obligations. In order to ensure effective on the ground implementation, the project will support the development of concrete scientific and technical tools to mainstream environmental management across sub-national policy and implementation. The project will work with national government to deploy these tools at sub-national level in one province (Kabul Province).



**FIGURE 2 SUB-NATIONAL FIELD SITES IN KABUL PROVINCE**

The objective of Component 2 is to support government capacity to decentralise in order to ensure that local authorities have the capacity to translate MEA commitments into practice.

At a sub-national level the focus will be additional training and seminar programmes that focus on capacity development for the regional and provincial offices of the key government ministries, in particular 5 offices considered key provincial NEPA offices (Kabul, Bamyan, Daikundi, Mazar and Badakshan).

The support to environmental groups in civil society in Afghanistan is key to success for the environment and conservation movement in the country. There is a lot of potential but only given the right support. Consequently the project will also direct advocacy and activities at NGOs and relevant civil society organizations.

Improved environmental management for the Rio Conventions includes hands-on training on ecosystem management. This will include training on project identification and design (e.g. participatory priority identification, vulnerability assessment, logical framework and planning); as well as project implementation and monitoring of environmental benefits (e.g. integrated land and water management with monitoring for ecological services, biodiversity trends and health, or small scale conservation and sustainable use projects with monitoring for resilience and mitigation).

Activities under this component:

Component 2.1: The completion of baseline environmental assessments

Planned activities:

- a. Baseline environmental assessments will be carried out in field sites (Guldara, Istalif and Shakardara in Kabul province) to provide a reference point for progress in improving integrated environmental management. The

government official MEA team who are the recipients of the training described below will conduct these environmental assessments.

Expected outcomes:

- The project will have a reference point to judge the extent to which it is able to influence and improve ecosystem management in the selected pilot sites.

Component 2.2: Hands-on training on ecosystem management practices in ecologically distinct locations in Kabul province (Guldara, Istalif and Shakrdara).

Planned activities:

- a. Provincial workshop on core MEA capacity.
- b. Hands-on training on ecosystem management practices in ecologically distinct locations (x3). This will include training on integrated land and water management, ecosystem monitoring and reporting, biodiversity monitoring and conservation, forest management and carbon accounting, as well as ecosystem-based adaptation practices.
- c. Technical assistance and training on ecological mapping, environmental assessment, data gathering and management, database sharing and protocols for data management, and role of women in natural resources (x3). This will create a basis for on-going reporting on the environment and support MEA reporting at decentralized level.

Expected outcomes:

- A variety of ecosystem management practices will be used by national and sub-national stakeholders to achieve Rio convention objectives.

Component 2.3: Demonstration of ecosystem management technologies and approaches for the synergistic implementation of MEA commitments (e.g. integrated water resources management (IWRM), environmental benefits analysis (EBA)).

Planned activities:

- a. Field demonstrations which will include watershed planning and community mapping approaches, survey and analysis of renewable energy options and development of implementation plans for renewable energy technologies and solutions (x3).
- b. Demonstration of tools related to land degradation, such as integrated land use planning, and restoration ecology (x3). There will be specific activities on renewable energy, off-the-grid solutions and innovative approaches to fuel and power use.
- c. Pilot interventions for local poverty/ environment projects with community groups (x4), pilot interventions with youth for local government/ civil society (x4).

Expected outcomes:

- Combined with the hands-on training above, this will include the implementation of measures specifically designed to achieve multiple MEA objectives (synergies), with methods for accounting of environmental benefits (in line with the environmental accounting frameworks set in Component 1)
- This activity will have concrete impacts on the ground, particularly in Kabul province, but will be mainly implemented as a pilot demo site, for learning and strategy development for further up-scaling and demonstration to project managers on baseline programmes in land, energy and renewable natural resources management.

Component 2.4: Capacity support for NGOs and CBOs to understand and implement MEA requirements for poverty reduction.

Planned activities:

- a. Technical support, awareness for the standards required in order to meet GEF/MEA standards for NGOs to learn about MEA implementation and objectives, and to design projects that can achieve these objectives. Training on tools and techniques for MEAs at site level in one site, Kabul province (x3)

- b. Training will be provided on consultative and participatory processes (participatory rural appraisal, and vulnerability assessments), project design and formulation, and support for small project implementation, including specifically monitoring and reporting on environmental benefits. The training will also include national and provincial level government officials. The role of women in MEA implementation will also form a strong aspect of the analysis and capacity development support here. Pilot interventions for women and MEA/ Natural Resources Management interventions for local government/ civil society (x4).
- c. Pilot interventions for local poverty/ environment project with community groups (x4)

Expected outcomes:

- NGOs and CBOs will be able to understand, articulate and implement MEA objectives into their own programmes and plans.
- Explain more clearly about NEPA NGO office.

Global environmental benefits: The project’s objective is to build on existing national level projects (see section B.1) to address the core capacity gaps in Afghanistan and assist the country in implementing its international environmental commitments (IECs). Global environmental benefits are expected in terms of significantly increased Afghan capacity to address climate change, biodiversity loss and degraded lands.

The project is expected to lay the foundation for achieving global environment benefits in the three Rio Convention MEAs, through the three main objectives of the CCD Strategy of GEF. In particular, the project will:

- a. enhance the capacities of stakeholders to engage in an MEA synergies process at the national level;
- b. generate information of use to national and local planning and implementation of MEAs, including through integrated tools such as ecosystem valuation and other ecosystem-based tools;
- c. strengthen capacities to develop and implement policies and legal frameworks that support implementation of MEAs;
- d. strengthen understanding of convention guidelines by stakeholders, and
- e. strengthen institutional and individual capacities to monitor environmental trends through integrated approaches.

The project will also improve the results coming from other GEF and non-GEF activities for climate, biodiversity and degraded land under the STAR allocation and the Least-Developed Country Fund climate change adaptation projects. Activities and outputs included in this project are consistent with the following Convention articles, NCSA priorities and GEF Capacity Building Expected Outcomes:

Table 2: Project summary in relation to MEA priorities

Component	Outcome	Outputs	Activities	GEF CD RBM - Outcome	NCSA priority	CCD Art	CB D Art	UNF CCC Art.
<b>1. Central Institutional Strengthening for effective MEA implementation</b>	Effective inter-ministerial collaboration on MEA objectives	Inter-ministerial collaboration between Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock	Support to the development of a costed MEA implementation road map with TORs	3.1	1. institutional strengthening	5	6	4.1, 4.2

		(MAIL), NEPA, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development (MRRD) and the Ministry of Water and Energy (MWE)	<p>Creation of MEA Task Force with quarterly meetings</p> <p>Creation of Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel with monthly meetings</p> <p>Capacity building activities and trainings for MEA Taskforce and TAP</p>					
	Effective integration of Rio convention objectives into development plans and programmes	MEA objectives are integrated into agricultural policy and national development strategies	Support to the integration of MEA objectives into sectoral programmes	3.1	2. Legal, policy and enabling frameworks	5, 10	6b	4.1a, b, d,e,f
			Creation of a framework for environmental valuation to support integration into national planning	4.2	2. Legal, policy and enabling frameworks	5	6	4.1a, b, d,e,f

<b>2. Strengthening technical and scientific capacity of sub-national stakeholders</b>	Local authorities have the capacity to translate MEA commitments into practice	Updated knowledge on environmental degradation and baseline assessments and upgraded environmental management techniques in line with synergistic convention implementation	Provision of technical means for monitoring environmental degradation and services at provincial level (mapping, EWS, data collection) and conduct of baseline assessments	2.1	4.Sustainable land and resource management	4.2, 16, 17	7,8, 9,10, 11, 17	4g
	Local stakeholders effectively participate in MEA implementation	Capacity support for NGOs and CBOs to understand and implement MEA requirements for poverty reduction (support to small NGO-led pilots)  Demonstration of ecosystem management technologies and approaches for synergistic implementation of MEA commitments (e.g. IWRM, EBA)	4.1 2.2	3. Awareness Raising  4.Sustainable land and resource management	5d4. 2, 16, 17	7,8, 9,10, 11, 17	4i, 5a, 4e, 4g	

## Incremental cost reasoning

Afghanistan's National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment (NCSA) identifies the lack of a coherent institutional, legal and policy framework as a main capacity constraint. Without cross-cutting national capacity to analyse and plan for MEAs in national government baseline plans and strategies, Afghanistan will be unable to meet its commitments in the global conventions it has signed.

The alternative of no project would prevent the country from addressing issues such as conservation management effectiveness, climate change adaptation planning, and coordinated response to land degradation. In particular the ARD Government cluster National Priority Programme on Natural Resource Management, Environmental Conservation and Rural Development (NPP16) will be implemented without a strong sustainability lens.

This would result in missed opportunities for Afghanistan to strengthen convention implementation in its new ten-year (2015-2024) development plan, which would benefit the region and the globe. It would also provide an important example of how fragile states and countries in conflict can contribute to global environmental benefits even in challenging times.

The periodic review of the national and sector development policies and the annual budgeting process provide an important opportunity for the integration of activities that contribute to compliance with the Rio Conventions. The country position paper for Rio+20 specifically mentions the Rio conventions but does not outline a detailed action plan. Working with existing national laws, policies and strategies, this project will enable such an action plan (or roadmap) to be developed. Other related MEAs (e.g. CMS, CITES or Ramsar) might be considered where possible or included in the future. However for the time being the project remains focused on the detailed needs of the RIO MEAs in order not to overstretch the project teams or partners, in an already difficult operating situation in Kabul.

Training and educating key national and subnational leaders in how to integrate MEA objectives in national and local projects and initiatives will provide major value-added in terms of impact versus investment. By focusing on the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and the Ministry of Finance for planning and coordination together with the agriculture and rural development (ARD) line ministries for environmental action the project will have a catalytic role in developing future capacity in Afghanistan.

## Project Sustainability

Afghanistan's co-financing for this project and for the activities related to environmental management identified by this project demonstrates the commitment and sustainability required for the medium and long term. UNEP is working also with Ministry of Finance and two strong international partners, DFID-UK and UNDP to ensure long term commitment of national development activities towards internationally sustainable approaches. Based on good performance in this project additional resources from international and national partners are made.

Project sustainability will be assured through extensive government commitments made at project detailed design stage to use this project to guide and provide technical support to the larger national development plans and trust funds (such as the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund) and the national priority programmes on natural resources, environmental conservation, water, energy and food security.

The MEA task force, a combined programme with Ministry of Finance, line ministries and technical civil society partners, will continue to be financed through national budget and will expand as it develops its portfolio of global environmental and national Green Account projects.

Project communities in Kabul province (Guldara, Istalif and Shakrdara) will be able to implement their land-use plans and activities through skills developed with the project. Project inputs at valley scale and through improved valley management plans which will allow them to further engage with national programmes and opportunities under the National Development Strategy, in particular the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), and Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund (AITF). Local government and the MEA task force will also facilitate communities from the Kabul Province to engage in exchange visits to other areas of Afghanistan, in particular the 5 key NEPA provincial offices in Kabul, Bamyan, Daikundi, Mazar and Faizabad, for learning and cross-fertilization of ideas and technologies, as well as bringing communities from other projects to the Kabul Province for demonstration and learning about the pilot project.

## Project Management and Supervision

The management of the GEF project requires a high level of coordination among stakeholders. The MEA Task force will be established at an early stage during the project. This task force will play a parallel role as a Project Steering Committee. This will be a national mechanism to oversee the project. The task force will be made up of representatives from the four ministries of the agriculture and rural development cluster of the National Priority Programmes, namely MAIL, MRRD, MWE and MoF with the addition of NEPA and ANDMA.

At an institutional level UNEP’s Division for Early Warning and Assessment (UNEP DEWA) will provide technical and fiduciary oversight for the project from Nairobi. NEPA will execute the project and will assign a Project Coordinator to this task, with technical execution support from UNEP Afghanistan.

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:

Afghanistan is a high-risk environment. It has been deeply affected by insecurity and instability for the majority of the last 35 years. It is increasingly seen as a difficult place for international organisations to operate. Even government officials do not have free and secure access the country.

The main risks to the project are listed in the table below. They include: 1/. That the security situation in Afghanistan deteriorates to the point at which operations in Kabul and Kabul province are no longer possible; 2/. That integration of MEA commitments is limited due to a lack of understanding or interest among relevant stakeholders at national and local levels; 3/. That a lack of coordination among different ministerial initiatives may affect the project timeline; 4/. That a lack of coordination between the national policy level and provincial implementation may impact the project timeline; 5/. That limited technical capacity at the project sites may undermine the monitoring of project lessons and the ability of the project to synthesise those lessons for policy-related processes.

These risks will be mitigated through some of the measures listed below. In addition it is important to note that UNEP (which has 10 years of in-country experience in Afghanistan working on these issues), and NEPA have invested significant resources in their own operational capacities. As such the project design is specifically taking risk and sustainability into consideration. This has three dimensions: first, by setting realistic expectations about what can be delivered; second, by being cautious about the limits and challenges placed by the evolving security situation; and third, by not over-estimating the learning absorption capacity of the stakeholders. This means that in particular the leadership and guidance from the MEA unit within NEPA can be seen as the sustainability driver. The realistic outputs both technical and field component in Kabul are carefully designed to endure even in the event of increased social and security instability in coming years.

Table 3: Summary of risks and mitigation measures

Risks	Mitigation measures
<p>The security situation in Afghanistan deteriorates to the point at which operations in Kabul and Kabul province are no longer possible</p> <p><b>High impact</b> <b>Moderate probability</b></p>	<p>The project has selected sites that have a history of relative security and good governance. Project sites have also been selected on the basis of their strong working relationships between communities and the local administration.</p> <p>In addition project staff will monitor the evolving security situation closely and always apply internal UN security standards (MOSS standards) to ensure the safety of project staff, community members and, insofar as possible, of project objectives.</p>

<p>Integration of MEA commitments is limited due to a lack of understanding or interest among relevant stakeholders at national and local levels. In particular on-going violent conflict, poppy-driven drug trade and natural disasters are identified as issues with significant likelihood of disrupting project progress.</p> <p><b>Low impact</b> <b>Moderate probability</b></p>	<p>This risk will be mitigated through dedicated capacity development outputs (technical and policy) and creating strong linkages to the mandate of the National Environment Protection agency, ensuring continued sustainability.</p> <p>National stakeholders and partners participating in this project have sufficient experience in bilateral and multilateral projects and will make everything possible to avoid delays.</p> <p>In addition there are a range of baseline activities implemented by the Afghanistan's government will minimize these risks, and the necessary co-financing for this project will considerably strengthen its profile.</p>
<p>A lack of coordination among different ministerial initiatives may affect the project timeline</p> <p><b>Low risk</b> <b>Moderate probability</b></p>	<p>The timeframe for this project will be managed with special attention. The project management committee will be a critical mechanism to bring together stakeholders at all levels, and will serve to raise levels of MEA awareness.</p> <p>The project will establish strong linkages with ongoing UNEP capacity building programmes of UNEP in Afghanistan.</p>
<p>A lack of coordination between the national policy level and provincial implementation may impact the project timeline.</p> <p><b>Low impact</b> <b>Moderate probability</b></p>	<p>The project will engage government officials at high levels to formalize a multi-sector Project Steering Committee which will oversee the project and its deliverables.</p>
<p>Limited technical capacity at the project sites may undermine the monitoring of project lessons and the ability of the project to synthesise those lessons for policy-related processes.</p> <p><b>Low impact</b> <b>Moderate probability</b></p>	<p>The project will ensure that a proper communication and awareness strategy is in place so that lessons learned can be transformed into local Dari and Pashto language. UNEP in PCDMB has a strong Strategic Communications team with extensive technical capacity in Afghanistan which will mentor the project at all times to ensure results are well shared and explained.</p>

#### A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

A number of other GEF projects are either ongoing or currently in advanced stages of development. These include:

<b>GE F ID</b>	Project Name	Focal Area	Agency	Project Type	GEF + cofinancing	Status
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2532	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management	Multi-foc.	UNEP	EA	200,000 + 15,000	Project Closure
3174	Development of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Bio	UNEP	EA	394,000 + 70,000	Under impl.
4227	Building adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change in Afghanistan	CC	UNEP	FP	4,900,000 + 16,000,000	CEO endorsed
4839	Establishing integrated models protected areas and their co-management	Multi-foc.	UNDP	FP	6,441,820 + 40,038,000	Council approved
5230	Enabling activities for the preparation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)	CC	UNEP	EA	200,000	Project closure
5202	Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat provinces to manage climate change induced disaster risks	CC	UNDP	FP	9,000,000 + 30,500,000	CEO PIF clear.
5202	GEF Small Grants programme (global programme initiated in Afghanistan in 2012)	CC	UNDP	FP	43,794,000 (globally) 1,400,000 allocated for Afghanistan	Under impl.

This project will increase national ownership and involvement in these ongoing and future GEF priority actions. The activities of this grant will overlap with these other GEF STAR allocation activities in CBD, CCC and CCD and allow detailed work to be delivered on policies, legal and financial frameworks.

#### Linkages with non-GEF interventions

This project will ensure that multilateral environmental agreements are integrated into current and future national development practices and programme management in Afghanistan. This project's activities are related and complementary to current and future projects:

- Building Environmental Resilience in Afghanistan – 2013-2017 Country implementation plan, UNEP;
- Emergency Irrigation Rehabilitation Project, FAO;

- Strengthened Approach for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management into the ANDS/PRSP, FAO, UNEP, UNDP;
- Integrated water resource management, European Union, ADB, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Asian Development Fund (ADF);
- Natural Resources Management and Environmental Conservation National Priority Programme, MAIL, MRRD, ANDMA, NEPA, MEW;
- National Solidarity Programme (NSP) and National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP), MRRD.

Linkages between the MEA capacity development project and these major national initiatives will be made at design stage and strengthened through the task force as the project progresses. As all task force members are senior decision makers in their agencies and programmes, and buy-in has already been received at project identification stage, it is expected these links will progress smoothly.

Environment is both a sector and cross-cutting theme in the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS), which also incorporates and addresses the MDG # 7 for environmental sustainability. A sector strategy for environment was developed as part of this process, as well as institutional strategies for key environmental institutions. These strategies clearly demonstrate the cross-sectoral perspective of environmental management, and propose specific activities and considerations to meet national targets for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNEP PCDMB participates in UN efforts for aid coordination as a common UN Country Team approach in coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and the UN Development Assistance Framework. UNEP PCDMB has extensive technical capacity in delivering environmental management and capacity building in post-conflict and post-disaster settings.

Coordination will be ensured with a number of national government and international partners projects. Efforts to strengthen policy and planning management in the Ministry of Agriculture (MAIL) and Ministry of Reconstruction and Rural Development (MRRD) are currently ongoing supported by DFID, UK. This project will coordinate with these initiatives.

The German government programme (through GIZ) has embedded a programme for support to higher level NEPA management in the environment agency. This initiative will ensure to combine resources with this Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) project.

A number of subnational governance efforts are underway in each of the provinces where some trial conservation activities are being considered. This project will attempt to provide the sustainable multi-lateral environment inputs to this programme at this provincial level to ensure that national capacity development and understanding reaches the field level.

## **B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:**

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

Stakeholder mapping and analysis

The landscape of government, international, private and civil society actors in Afghanistan is complex. There is an emerging but vibrant group of between 50 and 100 environmental NGOs in Afghanistan. As government is still developing, particularly in the provinces, their participation is important in projects that seek to implement actions on the ground. Civil society organisations such as Save the Environment Afghanistan (SEA) and a number of community environment conservation groups will participate in field interventions and capacity building.

At the same time, the incoming (2012) GEF Small Grants programme, set up to build local NGO capacity in exactly these situations, has recently activated for Afghanistan. This cross-cutting capacity development project will work closely together with this project.

The project will involve a MEA taskforce and Technical Advisory including, but not limited to, representatives from the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), National Environment Protection Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the Ministry of Reconstruction and Rural Development (MRRD) and Ministry of Water and Energy. A breakdown of the stakeholders' roles and responsibility is in table 3 below.

The process of implementing the National Priority Programmes (NPPs) requires clusters of different Ministries. This is particularly relevant in the Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Cluster which is comprised of MAIL, MRRD and NEPA (in addition to some others). The ARD cluster consequently creates a standing coordination mechanism. The capacities that the project develops will be sustained as the project is closely linked with existing national priorities.

The Taskforce will become a standing entity in the government, coordinated with the MEA office in NEPA. The MEA office within NEPA has been set up under core-government funding and NEPA has successfully defended its budget set up in 2005.

Table 4: Stakeholder Analysis

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Responsibility/expertise</b>
National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)	High level of interest, Low decision making power	NEPA will be the executing agency for this project, with execution support from UNEP AFG. Executing agency and taskforce/ TAP coordinator: Providing overall coordination among the Ministries and helping them to mainstream Rio obligations into their policies, plans and practice. Beneficiary and provider of co-financing.
Ministry of Reconstruction and Rural Development (MRRD)	Medium level of interest, High decision making power	Taskforce/ TAP member: Responsible for rural development and one of the main conduits for Afghan reconstruction funding.
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)	Medium level of interest, Medium decision making power	Taskforce/ TAP member: Responsible for agriculture and livestock issues
Ministry of Economy (MoE)	Medium level of interest, High decision making power	Taskforce/ TAP member: Responsible for the financial mechanisms that underpin and enable all Government activities.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)	Medium level of interest, High decision making power	Taskforce/ TAP member: Responsible for external relations and Afghanistan's international commitments.
Ministry of Water and Energy (MWE)	Medium level of interest High decision making	Taskforce / TAP member. Responsible for water and energy matters across the country.

	organization	
Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA)	Medium level of interest. Medium decision making organisation	Taskforce / TAP member. Responsible for setting and promulgating national standards in Afghanistan.
Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency (ANDMA)	High level of interest, Low decision making organisation	Taskforce member/ TAP. Responsible for coordination of government approaches to disaster risk reduction and response.
Kabul province local government	Medium level of interest, Medium decision making organisation	Not a taskforce member. Responsible for integrating environmental concerns into local government planning. Capacity development beneficiary.
Local community committees in Kabul province (Guldara, Istalif and Shakardara)	Medium level of interest, Non-decision making organisation	Not a taskforce member. Execution and capacity development beneficiary.
NGO: Save the Environment Afghanistan:	High level of interest, Non-decision making organization	TAP member responsible for coordination with civil society actors.
UNEP PCDMB AFG	High level of interest, Non-decision making organization	Execution support to NEPA. Taskforce/ TAP observer. Providing technical inputs and fiduciary oversight to the project.
UNEP DEWA	High level of interest, Non-decision making organisation	Implementation agency

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 (LDCE/SCCF):

This project concerns the development of foundational capacity to implement the objectives of Afghanistan's MEA commitments. The immediate benefits will be realized in terms of individual and institutional capacity to understand and integrate global environmental concerns systematically into development planning. The project will help to integrate international best practice activities into sectoral plans and programmes that will yield socio-economic benefits through the improved performance of those programmes.

This project, by resulting in increased cooperation, coordination and enhanced capacities in the implementation of MEAs, will contribute overall to increased compliance with international obligations on environment. This will occur for instance as a result of increased coordination among focal points of various conventions in Afghanistan, resulting in more streamlined and effective decision-making in regards to MEA related issues, more coordinated and therefore stronger position in MEA negotiations, and more effective decision-making in regards to action needed to comply with the various agreements. All this will in turn contribute to strengthening the rule of law in the field of the environment, in Afghanistan as a result of the project.

A second tier of social, environmental and economic benefits will be achieved indirectly through the demonstration of practical environmental management techniques. By working alongside local communities in the targeted province, integrated land and water management, ecosystem approaches and integrated planning frameworks at the local level will improve social and economic conditions over the short and long term. For example land and water management techniques will demonstrate how sustainable management techniques can enhance the productivity of agriculture, rehabilitate degraded lands, and help to increase the resilience of rural farms to climate shocks such as increased occurrence of natural disasters, such as flooding and droughts, as a result of climate change induced disaster risks.

The national government and NEPA have made progress in enabling a strong civil society sector in Afghanistan. In 2011 an NGO Law was passed, and NEPA itself set up a unit dealing specifically with environmental NGOs. The NGO Law provides a strong basis for activities such as the GEF Small Grants Programme, which began in 2012 with the first deadline for grant applications at the end of February 2013.

It is expected that the demonstration of these environmental management techniques, using governments, communities and NGOs in partnership, will help further integrate the civil society groups into implementation of the conventions' objectives. Involving NGO partners in project delivery should lead to increased agricultural yields, water availability and quality, as well as food security and health in targeted sites. In terms of environmental benefits, the achievement of MEA objectives such as land management and the maintenance of vegetative cover and biomass will help conserve carbon, increase biological diversity, and conserve existing genetic material delivering livelihood benefits for local populations.

As part of the baseline project, UNEP PCDMB and NEPA are already working with national planners to involve women more prominently in the development and implementation of programmes for improved natural resource management. The disaggregated role of women and men as environment managers will be further identified in this project. Gender considerations will be integrated into project activities and strategies, encouraging the equal participation of women at all levels and in all activities at institutional or local level (from capacity building, to the field level projects in the Kabul Province). There will be an emphasis on including NGOs working on issues related to women and natural resources in the project. This will help to build the capacity and profile of those organisations. A research output linking the role of women in the MEA activities in Afghanistan will be produced as part of the project.

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

Project cost effectiveness.

This project will be cost-effective by:

- Enhancing coordination across government, avoiding duplication of mandates and activities and combining national resources to tackle selected priorities;
- Complementing existing information-sharing mechanisms for environmental matters in government, such as the Committee for Environmental Coordination; and,
- Providing a core coordination and project implementation mechanism across government that, if successful, will be taken forward by government for the implementation of other projects and initiatives.

This project will make appropriate use of existing infrastructure, office space in the Ministry of Rural Development and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), as well as UNEP office and logistical as well as security operations in Kabul.

### **C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:**

Management, evaluation and monitoring of the project activities will be the responsibility of the executing agency, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) with the UNEP Afghanistan Programme (UNEP PCDMB AFG) providing execution support. NEPA is the primary Afghan institution responsible for coordinating environmental action across the government at all levels. UNEP PCDMB AFG will support the recruitment of local/international staff and consultants and the execution of the activities according to UN rules and regulations, and in line with the workplan and

expected outcomes. UNEP PCDMB AFG support to project activities will be strengthened by expertise from UNEP MEA Focal Points, and Legal Officers in the Regional Office for Asia Pacific.

At the outset of the project, NEPA will form a National Level MEA Task Force. This will be constituted from representatives of the key ministries responsible for implementing aspects of Afghanistan’s MEA commitments: namely the Ministry of Water and Energy (MWE), the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development (MRRD), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Ministry of Finance and its General Directorate of Customs Department, the Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA), the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency (ANDMA), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). In its third year, the project will develop a monitoring function to ensure that each identified partner has succeeded in integrating its MEA objectives into its sectoral workplans.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be formed with representatives of the key Ministries involved in the project, and Secretariat services provided by NEPA and UNEP PCDMB. The PSC will monitor the progress of the project and guide implementation.

NEPA will submit half-yearly Project Implementation Reports (PIR) to the PSC as well as the Implementing Agency (IA), which will be UNEP’s Division for Early Warning and Assessment (UNEP DEWA).

Half-yearly reports will describe progress in implementation of the project as well as financial statements, work plans and expected expenditures for the next reporting period. They will discuss any challenges that have been encountered during the implementation period, and the steps taken to overcome them.

An independent consultant will carry out a project review mid-way through the project according to GEF rules. This will focus on evaluating the progress and effectiveness to date and will recommend any necessary adaptations to the project. This will be submitted as a mid-term project review to the Project Steering Committee.

A terminal report will be conducted at the end of the project implementation phase. It will review effectiveness against implementation plan, highlight technical output, identify lessons learned and likely design approaches for future projects, and assess the likelihood of achieving design outcomes.

The terminal evaluation (TE) will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, the GEF and their executing partners in particular NEPA.

Table 1: Monitoring and Evaluation Budget

<b>M&amp;E activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Budget (US\$)*</b>	<b>Time-frame</b>
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring following inception workshop	Project coordinator	0	Immediately following Inception Workshop

<b>M&amp;E activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Budget (US\$)*</b>	<b>Time-frame</b>
Half-yearly Project Reports to Project Steering Committee	Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations and technical outputs; Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms implementation plan.	NEPA	0	Month 6, 12, 18, 24 and 30
Project Implementation Review – Midterm review	Progress and effectiveness review for the GEF, provision of lessons learned. This will be organized by UNEP PCDMB AFG, in close consultation with MEA Task Force/ Project Steering Committee.	NEPA + Independent consultant	25,000	Month 18
Terminal report	Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan Highlights technical outputs Identifies lessons learned and likely design approaches for future projects, assesses likelihood of achieving design outcomes	NEPA	0	At the end of project implementation
Independent Terminal evaluation	The terminal evaluation (TE) will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP PCDMB, the GEF and their executing partners in particular NEPA.	Evaluation Office in Nairobi will hire an independent evaluator.	25,000	At end of project implementation
<b>Total indicative Monitoring &amp; Evaluation cost*</b>			<b>50,000</b>	

\*Project steering committee meetings, inception workshop and mid-term review will be carried out back to back with other technical meetings, such as the lessons learned and planning meeting, therefore cost will be considered as “zero”.


**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)
<b>Mostapha Zaher Director General, National Environmental Protection Agency, Afghanistan</b>	GEF Operational Focal Point	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	05/20/2013

**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
Brennan Van Dyke Director, UNEP GEF Coordination Office		04/22/2014	Monika MacDevette Task Manager	+254-20- 762-4595	monika.macdevette@unep.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).

**Project: Developing Core Capacity for Decentralized MEA Implementation and Natural Resources Management in Afghanistan**

**MTS EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENT (2014-2017)**

**SUB-PROGRAMME 3 – ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

**EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENT (c): SERVICES AND BENEFITS DERIVED FROM ECOSYSTEMS ARE INTEGRATED WITH DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND ACCOUNTING, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO WIDER LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM RELATED MEAS**

**INDICATOR: INCREASE IN NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT INTEGRATE THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UNEP**

<b>Project Objective</b>	<b>Objective level Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Targets and Monitoring Milestones</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions &amp; Risks</b>
<i>Building Core Capacity for Decentralized MEA implementation and Natural Resources Management in Afghanistan</i>	<i>Decentralized MEA Capacity in Afghanistan is improved across line ministries and key stakeholders by Year 3</i>	<i>MEA unit at national government level has been created but still core capacity for MEA decentralised implementation is not in evidence</i>	<p><i>End of Year-1:</i></p> <p><i>MEA units in government understand general work plans for MEA implementation</i></p> <p><i>End of Year-2:</i></p> <p><i>MEA project is decentralized to seven provincial scale sites and is functioning</i></p> <p><i>End of Year-2:</i></p> <p><i>Clear evidence of decentralized core capacity for MEA implementation in seven provinces in</i></p>	<p><i>Initial baseline assessment and capacity review</i></p> <p><i>NEPA Annual Report</i></p> <p><i>State of the Environment Biannual Report by Government of Afghanistan</i></p> <p><i>World Bank Capacity Assessments</i></p>	<p><i>Security situation in Afghanistan is sufficiently calm to allow normal delivery of plans and programmes, both centrally and at provincial sites.</i></p> <p><i>Officials in Government of Afghanistan continue to be closely engaged and motivated by the project</i></p> <p><i>Existing level of Senior cabinet level support for environment in Afghanistan is maintained</i></p>

Component 1	Institutional Strengthening for effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)				
Project Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
<p>Effective Inter-ministerial collaboration between NEPA, MAIL, ANDMA, MRRD and MWE through support to the operation of a national MEA Task Force and a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of a national inter-ministerial MEA Task Force that meets on a quarterly to six month basis</li> <li>• Existence of a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) that meets every 1 to 2 months</li> <li>• Existence of costed MEA implementation road map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While there is currently a small MEA unit with the NEPA there is no standing mechanism for collaboration across the different ministries.</li> <li>• There is currently a national climate change technical advisory panel, but none for MEA generally. Climate panel will be used as baseline.</li> <li>• There is no current MEA road map.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEA Task force meetings take place every 3 to 6 months</li> <li>• TAP meetings take place every 1 to 2 months</li> <li>• Costed MEA implementation Road Map has been adopted by the MEA Task Force</li> </ul>	<p>Progress, mid-term and final reports will detail the frequency of meetings and meeting participants.</p>	<p>That there is sufficient buy-in, political will and availability of staff in the other Ministries to attend regular taskforce meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The stakeholder organizations will agree to provide data to a central</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The text of the MEA Implementation Road map</li> </ul>	organization (NEPA) for the costs of implementing MEA provisions.
Effective integration of Rio Convention objectives into agricultural policy and national development strategy	Number of MEA objectives reflected in iterations of the agricultural policy and national development strategy	Both the current agricultural policy and the national development strategy mention environmental issues but there is insufficient attention to issues of climate change, biodiversity and desertification.	MEA objectives on climate change, biodiversity and desertification fully integrated in the adopted agricultural policy and national development strategy	The text of the revised and adopted agricultural and national development strategy	The wider process to update the agricultural policy and the national development strategy proceeds along the envisaged timetable.
Effective integration of Rio convention objectives through the creation of a framework for environmental valuation to support integration into national planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of environmental valuation techniques in the development of new national and provincial planning documents</li> <li>Research output on role of women as natural resource managers in the achievement of the Rio convention objectives is made available for MEA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typically, national and provincial planning documents incorporate formulaic references to the environment but these are rarely informed by rigorous environmental valuation.</li> <li>There is limited understanding of the role of women as natural resource managers in the achievement of the Rio convention objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental valuation techniques are piloted as part of the development of national and provincial plans.</li> <li>Final report on role of women as natural resource managers in achieving the Rio conventions is prepared and submitted to the MEA Taskforce and TAP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The text of the revised and adopted agricultural and national development strategy</li> <li>Availability of on-line report and distribution of report broadly with key users.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wider process to update the agricultural policy and the national development strategy proceeds along the envisaged timetable.</li> <li>That the MEA Taskforce and TAP continue to support the idea of this report.</li> </ul>

	Taskforce and TAP.				
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Strengthening technical and capacity of sub-national stakeholders</b>				
<b>Project Outcome</b>	<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Targets and Monitoring Milestones</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions &amp; Risks</b>
Local authorities have the capacity to translate MEA commitments into practice	Number of local authorities that are in the process of incorporating MEA commitments into practical annual and multi-annual plans and action.	Ecosystem management practices are rarely used to support biodiversity and land management across the country	3 new local government plans are approved visibly incorporating MEA commitments.	Baseline assessment documents	NEPA and other project stakeholders participate in the capacity building activities under the project
Local stakeholders effectively participate in MEA implementation	Number of stakeholders that are involved in MEA related project activities	No baseline assessments exist but will be conducted as a reference point for subsequent work in field sites.	5 community groups and 5 local government units (MAIL, NEPA, MRRD, ANDMA, MEW) stakeholders are involved in MEA related project activities	Documentation on stakeholder involvement in the environmental monitoring. Site visit and mission reports.	Field sites continue to be the focus of the project as planned.
Through enhanced capacities stakeholders are monitoring environmental degradation and services at a provincial level (mapping, EWS, data collection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of field sites that are using supplied equipment to monitor environmental degradation and services</li> </ul>	NEPA staff and stakeholder organizations at a provincial level do not have adequate capacities and methods of monitoring environmental degradation, desertification and the loss of biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 local field sites Environmental have been supplied monitoring equipment and use it to monitor environmental degradation and services</li> <li>100 staff from</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental centre and database with monitoring data and ecosystem services in steady operation</li> <li>Post training survey and training test</li> </ul>	NEPA and other project stakeholders participate in the capacity building activities under the project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of stakeholders with enhanced capacities to conduct environmental monitoring</li> </ul>		NEPA and stakeholder organizations acknowledge having enhanced capacities in environmental monitoring	results	
Stemming from training provided, government planners are demonstrating ecosystem management technologies and approaches for synergistic implementation on MEA commitments (e.g. Integrated Water Resources Management, (IWRM) & environmental benefits analysis (EBA)	Number of demonstration training events delivered to NEPA and other project stakeholders at the provincial level	NEPA staff and stakeholder organizations at a provincial level are insufficiently trained in methods of ecosystem management.	3 training programmes developed and delivered to 100 NEPA staff and 5 community group stakeholders	Reports of capacity building activities under the project	<p>Expertise available at all levels</p> <p>Timetable and budget sufficient and realistic</p> <p>Commitment from sectors and governments at all levels to participate</p>
As a result of the MEA project and capacity support provided for NGOs, CBOs and academic organisations, new projects are being set up which show understanding and implementation of MEA requirements for poverty reduction (including support to small NGO-led pilots)	Number of NGOs and CBOs receiving support on MEA requirements	Few NGOs and CBOs specifically address MEA requirements in their projects	9 NGOs and CBOs receive a package of support	Analysis of NGO strategy plans and pilot projects, stakeholder interviews, terminal reports.	<p>Expertise available at all levels</p> <p>Timetable and budget sufficient and realistic</p> <p>Commitment from sectors and governments at all levels to participate</p>

**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).

**ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS<sup>5</sup>**

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0

No funds were received for the Project Preparation Activities, rather UNEP worked together with its existing experts in the Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch of UNEP DEPI, the national government team in Kabul, Afghanistan and a UNEP consultant, Oli Brown to prepare the final application for CEO endorsement. As part of the Project Preparatory phase significant consultation and training took place together with the national Government team on Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements, with colleagues from the Ministry of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Rural Development, Energy and Water, Urban Development and the National Environmental Protection Agency all closely involved. Field travel took place to sites in Kabul province, to scope possible pilot interventions and a high level meeting was held in Kabul to brief government colleagues on the importance of MEA interventions in Afghanistan for sustainable development.

A national MEA project team was set up at the beginning of the project preparation activities, to ensure national government colleagues were closely involved in the process. If the project goes ahead this same team will now be available to support project management of the main project.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

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

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

NA