GEF-8 REQUEST FOR Land Degradation ENABLING ACTIVITY

Proposal for Funding Under the GEF Trust Fund

Processing Type: Expedited

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SECTION 1: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Enabling Activity Title:	GEF Support to the 2026 UNCCD National Reporting Process - Umbrella III		
Country(ies):	Global: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso Burundi, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Fiji, Guinea, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya Malawi, Moldova, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Turkey, Zambia, Iraq, Samoa, Montenegro	GEF Enabling Activity ID:	11910
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select)	GEF Agency Enabling Activity ID:	229750
Project Executing Entity(s):	National/Regional Technical Entities and UNEP	Executing Partner Type:	National/Regional Government Agencies
		Submission Date:	07 March 2025
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Expected Implementation Start	01 May 2025
	(select)	Expected Duration	24
Type of Report(s):	UNCCD National Reporting	Expected Report Submission to Convention	30 November 2026
	(select)		(date)
	(select)		(date)

A. Funding Elements

GEF-8 Program	Trust Fund	GEF Financing ($)
LD-EA	GEFTF	2,782,209
Total Enabling Activity Cost		2,782,209

Does the enabling activity deviate from the typical cost ranges? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, please describe.

B. Enabling Activity Summary

Provide a brief description of the Enabling Activity

Enabling Activity Objective (max. 200 words, approximately a sentence or two):
In response to outcomes of COP 15 of UNCCD, decisions 9 and 11 of COP15, this project aims to support eligible countries to utilize GEF resources for implementing the Convention and the UNCCD Strategy (2018-2030), which is a comprehensive global commitment to avoid and reduce desertification and land degradation and to restore the productivity of degraded land to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The project will support Parties to enhance their national-level institutions and technical capacities for effective and timely preparation and submission of the 2026 UNCCD national reports. To achieve this, the project will offer technical support to the UNCCD National Focal Points, equipping them with the technical tools to collect data and submit national reports through the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS)[1] reporting tool.

Enabling Activity Summary (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page):

[1] PRAIS Reporting Platform

In 2017, the Conference of Parties to the UNCCD through Decision 7/COP.13, adopted the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework[2] and strongly encouraged parties to apply and, as appropriate, align with the Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification/land degradation and drought, including in their National Action Programmes, as appropriate. GEF as the financing mechanism for UNCCD is providing funding to 26 country parties under umbrella 2 project for national reporting.

The national reporting is based on (i) indicators to measure the progress against the UNCCD's strategic framework, and (ii) an implementation framework to assess actions at national and sub-national levels relevant for UNCCD implementation.

This project will build on the successes and lessons of the reporting cycles under GEF 5, GEF 6 and GEF 7 Global Support Programs and their related umbrella projects to enhance national-level technical and institutional capacity for reporting and land degradation neutrality (LDN) monitoring in the context of the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030 and SDG15.3.

The objective of this umbrella 2 project is to support national focal points and national executing entities and relevant stakeholders in a participatory and inter-institutional process to prepare and submit their national reports to UNCCD by 2026. Through this project, relevant institutions and national focal points will be capacitated to support data collection (default data, spatial mapping, drought status, land-based progress and recovery indicators on LDN targets, LDN, knowledge and technologies inventory, financial flows), undertake comprehensive reviews and detailed analysis and monitoring on progress made towards the implementation of the UNCCD strategic framework and SDG 15.3. The resultant information will be used by the country to prepare and validate the 2026 national report to the UNCCD as well as to support national communication and advocacy on reporting and land degradation neutrality targets achievement at the national level.

The outcome of this project will support Parties to fulfill the recommendations by the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 21) to the UNCCD, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in November 2023[3].

Further, it will support streamline administrative and financial procedures for access to funds through UNEP as the implementing agency. While UNEP must abide by its fiduciary standards, capacity building training and outreach will be rolled out through the Global Support Programme in collaboration with the Global Mechanism to support countries understand UNEP GEF financial rules and procedures including reporting requirements. In addition, UNEP has begun to take steps towards enhancing efficiency in its procedures by requesting for letters of endorsement from eligible countries in good time and ensuring continued engagement with Parties by updating them on the project preparation process.

The project consists of the following project components, outcomes and outputs.

Enabling Activity Component	**Enabling Activity Outcomes**	**Enabling Activity Outputs**	**GEF Enabling Activity Financing ($)**
Component 1: Supporting effective reporting at the national level against UNCCD indicators,	Outcome 1.1: Enabling technical and coordination conditions allow efficient reporting for eligible Country parties	Output 1.1.1: Processes and institutions in place are capacitated to support data (default data, spatial mapping, drought status, land-based progress and recovery indicators on LDN targets, LDN, knowledge and technologies inventory, financial flows) collection, review, analysis and monitoring. Activities:	1,250,640

[2] UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework
[3] Report of the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 13 to 17 November 2023

including SDG indicator 15.3.1		-Capacity building on UNCCD LDN/DLDD/SLM, baseline analysis and processing of default data, spatial mapping, drought analysis and status, -Capacity building on land-based progress and recovery indicators on LDN targets -Knowledge management and technology inventories - Training on PRAIS, Trends. Earth - training on Land-Use planning and LD/LDN, - Gender analysis and integration of Gender Action Plan and its associated Roadmap as well as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Gender Caucus Indicators - Report of the meeting containing course material, number of participants trained, logistics, etc. - Number of trainings conducted, participants trained and course material used including resource persons - Weblink to knowledge repository/platform - No. of trainings conducted on PRAIS, Trends.Earth, and participants trained - No. of trainings conducted on Land-use planning and LD/LDN - Report on gender analysis and integration.	
		Output 1.1.2: 2026 National Report to UNCCD compiled and validated with participation of key stakeholders and submitted within deadline by GEF-eligible Parties. Activity - Recruitment of lead experts and contributing authors, - Identify sources of information, data analysis - Organize workshops for data review and validation - Gender integration - Reinforcement of CSOs, public and private sector participation - inclusion of the youth and indigenous people, - Production of timely and quality report. Indicators - TORs and signed contracts with lead experts - Reports of workshops organized and held - List of participants and contacts including participation of CSOs, public and private sector representatives, youth, women, representative of indigenous people, etc - Copy of the 2026 National report to UNCCD.	1,023,550
		Output 1.1.3: Communication and advocacy on reporting and LDN targets achievement at national level. Activity	575,150

		- Awareness campaigns - Media engagement - Launch and dissemination of the report Indicators - Communication and promotional material such as policy briefs, media briefings, opening statements, published material in the media, etc.	
Component 2: Monitoring and Evaluation	Effective and efficient reporting ensured through adequate monitoring including on gender considerations.	Findings of the project evaluations available and documented for future reporting processes Desktop review on how gender aspects have been incorporated in the national reporting to feed into the UNCCD Secretariat report on implementation of the Gender Action Plan and its associated Roadmap.	30,000
Subtotal			2,879,340
Project Management Cost			136,988
Total Enabling Activity Cost			3,016,328

SECTION 2: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUPPORTING INFORMATION

C. Eligibility Criteria

(Please provide eligibility information for this enabling activity. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

All GEF-eligible country Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) are eligible to participate in this enabling activity. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was adopted on 17 June 1994 and currently has 197 Country Parties and the European Union. The list of Country Parties is available at the following link: https://www.unccd.int/convention/ratification

The proposed project is directly aligned with the GEF's land degradation focal area and it focuses on supporting UNCCD Enabling Activities. By mainstreaming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this project is in line with GEF's mandate to generate global benefits through activities addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD). The project will assist Country Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the UNCCD and monitor trends for SDG reporting in the context of land degradation neutrality (LDN).

D. Institutional Framework

Describe the institutional arrangements for implementation of the enabling activity. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

UNEP as the Implementing Agency: shall in its role as GEF Implementing Agency provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner.

Previous experience with the last three Umbrella projects demonstrates the complexities of coordinating individual projects' efforts across multiple countries, each with distinct financial and technical requirements. The UNEP Ecosystems Division will provide essential execution support to participating countries.

As in past GEF cycles, a dedicated Programme Management Officer will oversee UNEP's technical assistance to 26 countries within this Umbrella project. This includes guiding the development of legal agreements, such as Small-Scale Financial Agreements (SSFAs), coordinating access to enabling activity funds, and supporting countries with technical and financial reporting. The SSFAs outline the terms and conditions governing the collaboration between UNEP and participating countries for the implementation of Enabling Activity projects. The project document serves

as an annex to these legal agreements. To streamline fund transfers, a dedicated UNCCD Enabling Activities financial assistant will be recruited within UNEP's finance team.

UNEP shall also, in partnership with the UNCCD Secretariat, engage in promoting the project with a view to mobilizing scientific expertise. The project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalyzing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements. UNEP signed an MOU with the UNCCD secretariat which implemented the UNCCD Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation project (PRAIS) alongside the first leg of the 4th UNCCD reporting and review project, the piloting integrated processes and approaches to facilitate national reporting to Rio Conventions project and has implemented the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership project.

UNEP also supported the UNCCD Secretariat and country parties to implement the Global Support Programs I, II, III and the related National Reporting Umbrella projects in GEF 5, GEF 6 and GEF 7 phases which supported the new generation of reporting to the convention based on performance indicators. Together, these initiatives will provide the GEF with a range of relevant experiences, proof of concept, testing of ideas and access to the best available science and knowledge. Additionally, the GSP IV from which this project will obtain its baseline will contribute to the quality of reporting technical assistance availed to the Country parties.

In relation to the land degradation focal area, the project is fully in line with UNEP comparative advantage as per GEF/C 31/5 Annex H[4]. UNEP will primarily focus on the areas of its mandate, will continue to provide scientific and technical advice to the Global Environment Facility on its policies and programmes.

UNEP agrees to provide, in its role as GEF implementing agency, Enabling Activities (EA) oversight (through the Task Manager and Fund Management officer). Specifically, this will include:

a) Timely feedback to countries on all substantive and financial issues.
b) Review and approve any changes to the implementation plan and detailed timetable during the implementation of the EA.
c) Facilitate communication with UNCCD and Global Mechanism on technical support and assistance to the reporting team where required.
d) Process EA revisions if applicable for e.g. changes to budget or workplan or activity etc.
e) Ensure communication and information exchange between the Executing Agency, UNEP, and all other relevant organizations, institutions, programs and projects in relation to EA implementation.
f) Liaise with the GEF Secretariat for all matters related to the EA implementation.

National UNCCD Focal Points (NFPs): At the national level, the project activities will be coordinated by the UNCCD National Focal Point. He/she will bear overall responsibility for the execution of the project activities under the supervision of the National Executing Agency, and act as national representative, facilitating inter-agency coordination and guiding the execution of the project in each country. The National Execution Agency (NEA) will establish or rely on the existing UNCCD National coordinating mechanism to facilitate those national activities that will ensure the production of a national report. The NFP will ensure that capacity needed at national level for reporting processes are provided to relevant stakeholders either using national expertise or with the support of the Help Desks established by UNCCD Secretariat and GM Secretariats within the framework of UNEP/GEF/GSP IV project.
The NFPs will also be responsible for identifying key stakeholders including relevant NGOs and multistakeholder organizations to be engaged for capacity building, data collection, development of the national report as well as supporting communication and dissemination of the project outputs at sub-national and national level.

[4] COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES OF THE GEF AGENCIES

Potential stakeholders, depending on in country dynamics, may include the following:

Potential stakeholders	**Expected roles**
Government Ministries and Agencies	Lead Ministry/National Focal Point (NFP): Typically, the Ministry responsible for environment, natural resources, or agriculture. They will be responsible for overall coordination, convening stakeholders, providing guidance, compiling the national report, ensuring alignment with national policies and the UNCCD strategic framework, and submitting the final report to the UNCCD Secretariat. They act as the official liaison with the UNCCD.
Other Relevant Ministries and Agencies	Ministries responsible for finance, planning, agriculture, water resources, forestry, economic development, social affairs, and statistics. May support the process by providing relevant data, information, and inputs related to their respective sectors, participating in consultations, contributing to the analysis of the situation, and ensuring that the report reflects cross-sectoral linkages to land degradation, sustainable land management, and drought.
National Coordinating Body (NCB)	A multi-stakeholder platform or committee often established to coordinate UNCCD implementation, including the preparation of national reports. This body may include representatives from government, research institutions, NGOs, and other relevant sectors. Their role includes facilitating inter-ministerial coordination, ensuring broad stakeholder participation, providing technical input and review of the report, and contributing to the strategic direction of the reporting process.
Research Institutions and Academia	Such as universities, research centres, and specialized institutions focusing on environmental science, land management, climate change, and socio-economic issues. They may provide scientific data, research findings, technical expertise, and analysis related to land degradation, sustainable land management practices, and the socio-economic impacts. They may contribute to the development of indicators and the assessment of progress.
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	Mainly organizations working on environmental conservation, sustainable development, land rights, community development, and related issues. Their role may include providing grassroots perspectives, local knowledge, and experiences related to land degradation and the effectiveness of interventions. They may contribute to data collection at the local level, participate in consultations, and ensure that the report reflects the concerns and priorities of local communities and land users.
Local Communities and Land Users	Such as farmers, pastoralists, traditional leaders, and other individuals and groups directly dependent on land and natural resources. They provide first-hand information on land degradation issues, traditional knowledge of sustainable land management practices, and the socio-economic impacts of desertification and drought. Their participation ensures that the report is grounded in local realities and reflects the needs and priorities of those most affected.
Private Sector	Such as businesses and industry. They may provide data on land use practices and environmental impacts, sharing information on sustainable practices they may be implementing, and potentially contributing to solutions for land degradation. Their

	involvement can also help ensure that the report considers the economic dimensions of land management.

UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism: The UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism within their mandates have been fully involved in the development of this project and have contributed to the technical design. They have ensured that guidance from convention bodies has duly been considered in project design. The two convention secretariats will provide technical and political guidance on the reporting. Their regional coordination liaison offices established by COP 9 are additional support to the timely implementation of the project. Both institutions will provide conceptual and substantive input to the process and hence ensure that the project is fully embedded in a broader framework for monitoring implementation not only the UNCCD, but also other development partners. Information provided to the Secretariat by Parties will be analyzed by the two institutions and processed for consideration by CRIC 22.

The Umbrella project, due to its nature for supporting the reporting process, will have a link with other parallel and related initiative. The project will closely work with related initiative including the following:

Coordination with GSP IV

While GSP IV will provide an enabling environment for UNCCD reporting at the global and regional level, it will build operational level synergy with the Umbrella Project at the national level. The Umbrella projects will continue providing timely and coordinated support at the national level. Umbrella project will support the national-level implementation in accordance with countries obligation to the convention. The synergies between the two projects will be ensured through close coordination between the UNCCD Secretariat/Global Mechanism and UN Environment, a coordinated information exchange with countries, systematic cooperation between staff/consultants of both projects, and collaboration in the organization of capacity building events. Under the framework of the GSP IV, each regional annexes will be provided with a Sub-Regional Consultant who will serve as Help Desk and Technical backstop to national teams who will be implementing the reporting activities supported by umbrellas projects. Furthermore, UNEP Umbrella Team will be participating in the Regional Capacity building workshops organised by the GSP IV. During these workshops the linkage with umbrella projects will be clarified and countries encouraged to ensure complementarity of the two separate, but supporting processes.

Coordination with Strengthening Land Degradation Neutrality and drought resilience data and decision-making (Trends.Earth)

The GEF-6 funded Land Degradation Monitoring Project (LDMP), which was implemented by Conservation International in cooperation with UNCCD, NASA, CSIRO and other partners, developed the Trends.Earth[5] tool for monitoring land use change using earth observations in an innovative desktop and cloud-based system. In this context, Trends. Earth was introduced in the UNCCD reporting process and was instrumental during the 2017-18 reporting process to harmonize methods, enhance the comparability of the data and facilitate the integration of national data based on specific national circumstances. Decision 11/COP.15 requests the secretariat to collaborate with Conservation International to ensure that Trends.Earth can support the preparation and analysis of data for reporting in a form that can be automatically transferred to the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) and that the functions of Trends. Earth is expanded to help generate reports to serve at the national level.

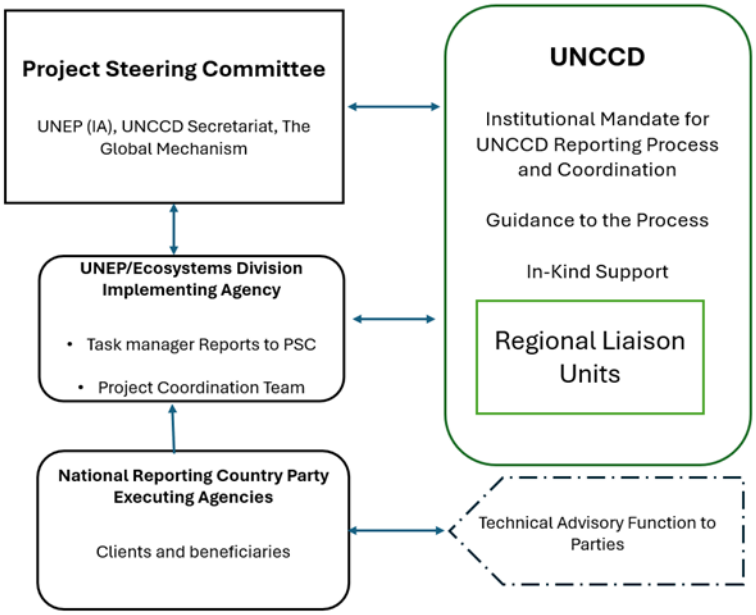
The umbrella project through GSP IV will coordinate the updating of current Trends.Earth tool with additional functionalities, including to assess drought in the context of land degradation for future reporting. The umbrella project through the GSP IV will encourage Parties to use tools and provide hands-on exercises during regional capacity building workshops.

[5] Trends.Earth

It has been established during the previous reporting cycle that there were discrepancies between data provided through Trends.Earth and reality on the ground. Countries will be encouraged to use the resources from umbrella project to bridge the gaps of information including on the ground proofing of the trends observed remotely and which presume discrepancies of data. Parties will be allowed through umbrella projects to conduct verification on the ground in order to correct discrepancies and to alert the Trends.Earth Technical team on the need to review data and information in certain circumstances.

Coordination with FAO and IUCN on LDN, Land Use Planning and Drought:
Following COP decisions (2/COP.15; 23/COP.15; 29/COP.13, etc.), the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism will further strengthen its partnerships on capacity building for drought monitoring and mitigation activities. In this context, synergies will be developed with the enabling activity project implemented by FAO. IUCN is also working on developing project that will focus on Integrating Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) into land use planning frameworks to strengthen national UNCCD enabling environments. The umbrella will build linkages with this activity with respect to integrating LDN into long-term national land use plans.

Collaboration with regional and national institutions
In the 1018 and 2022 UNCCD National reporting, key regional and national institutions have been instrumental in providing technical assistance and support to countries in their regions to deliver quality reporting. In this cycle, the project will partner with these institutions to provide capacity support to the country parties. For example, UNEP will enter into an agreement with PISLM in the Caribbean to provide financial and technical support to 13 countries in the Caribbean with prior agreements with PISLM. UNEP will also partner with Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) in Africa and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in the Pacific including the REC in Caucasus.



Decision making flow chart.

E. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Describe the budgeted M&E plan. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

UNEP Monitoring and Evaluation:

Under Component 2 (Project monitoring and evaluation) the project will implement an M&E Plan that adheres to GEF and UNEP requirements, enables effective evaluation of project progress and impact, reflects the needs of men, women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other vulnerable groups, and will effectively monitor social and environmental safeguards risks. These activities will ensure that the project monitoring system operates effectively, systematically provides information on progress, and informs adaptive management to ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNEP requirements as outlined in the UNEP Project Management Manual (including guidance on GEF project revisions) and UNEP Evaluation Policy under the guidance of the UNEP Evaluation Office. The UNEP Gender and Safeguards Unit in collaboration with GEF Coordination Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with UNEP's project M&E requirements including project monitoring, quality assurance requirements, quarterly risk management, gender mainstreaming and evaluation requirements. Mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy, the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies. In addition to these mandatory UNEP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed. Additionally, UNCCD's Gender mainstreaming Action Plan including its action plan and related indicators will be used during the capacity building trainings to guide the activities by countries to incorporate gender aspects in the execution of this project.

The National Executing Agency:

a) Provide support to and liaise with all key national and international project executing partners and stakeholders, based on guidance from UNEP Task Manager and in line with the approved Enabling Activities document.
b) Deliver the outputs and demonstrate the best efforts in achieving the results/impacts stipulated in the EA implementation plan appended as Annex 4 of the SSFA.
c) Notify UNEP in writing of the need for any deviations/modifications to the agreed Implementation Plan or Budget, for approval.
d) Implement the EA activities in accordance with standard Executing Agency Rules and established business processes.
e) Keep records and documentation pertaining to any cash and in-kind co-financing mobilized for inclusion in the final EA report.
f) Report to UNEP in accordance with technical and financial reporting template and period specified in the SSFA. In response to a specific request by CRIC 21 to facilitate ease of access of financial resources by Country Parties, a 90% initial cash advance of approximately $100,000 per Country will be made upon signature of the Small Funding Agreement (SSFA). These funds are expected to be utilized by the NEA in the main reporting process of the project's implementation.

The final cash advance of $9,590 will be released subject to:

i. Confirmation by the UNCCD Secretariat that the National Report has been submitted in time; and the presentation of:
    - satisfactory financial report showing expenditures incurred on the funds received, and
    - timely and satisfactory progress reports on project implementation.
    - Requests for the final cash advances should be made using the UNEP standard format.

To enable UNEP track consideration of socio-economic benefits and gender dimensions are addressed by Parties, the agreement with Countries will include a provision that these considerations including Civil Society Organization (CSO) participation in national processes, should be reflected in the reporting process.

A crucial lesson from past reporting processes is the pivotal role of national coordinating bodies, such as the UNCCD National Coordinating Bodies, in ensuring a successful process. Reporting is a collaborative effort requiring diverse stakeholder involvement, and these bodies provide the necessary platform for coordinated action. While some countries established new coordinating bodies specifically for reporting, many relied on existing mechanisms or ad-hoc committees.

In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements, and the UNEP Programme Manual and Evaluation Policy, all GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. In the case of Enabling Activity projects that have a total value less than USD 2 million, or which are issuing grants of less than USD 2 million to each implementing country, an Operational Completion Report meets the GEF performance assessment requirements.

As this project is issuing grants of USD 109,590 to each implementing country, an Operational Completion Report is expected to meet the GEF performance assessment requirements. An Operational Completion Report template is made available by the Evaluation Office. This template will be filled as a self-completion exercise and the report uploaded to the GEF Portal by the Task Manager.

If a management-led Terminal Review is required, the UNEP Evaluation Office will provide tools, templates, and guidelines to support the Review consultant. For all Terminal Reviews, the UNEP Evaluation Office will perform a quality assessment of the Terminal Review report and validate the Review's performance ratings. This quality assessment will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review report, validated performance ratings will be captured in the main report.

However, if an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project is required, the Evaluation Office will be responsible for the entire evaluation process and will liaise with the Task Manager and the project implementing partners at key points during the evaluation. The 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 staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation (or the management-led review) will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office in relation to the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the Project Manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalization of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

SECTION 3: INFORMATION TABLES

F. GEF Financing Table

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	GEF Enabling Activity Financing ($)	Agency Fee ($)	Total ($)
UNEP	GEF TF	Global	Land Degradation	LD EA Set-Aside	3,016,328	286,523	3,046,494
Total GEF Resources					3,016,328	286,523	3,046,494

G. Sources of Funds for Country STAR Allocation

	GFEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Source of Funds	Total
1	UNEP	GEF TF	Afghanistan	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
2	UNEP	GEF TF	Algeria	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
3	UNEP	GEF TF	Armenia	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
4	UNEP	GEF TF	Bangladesh	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
5	UNEP	GEF TF	Burkina Faso	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
6	UNEP	GEF TF	Burundi	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
7	UNEP	GEF TF	Cape Verde	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
8	UNEP	GEF TF	Fiji	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590

9	UNEP	GEF TF	Guinea	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
10	UNEP	GEF TF	Kenya	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
11	UNEP	GEF TF	Kyrgyzstan	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
12	UNEP	GEF TF	Lebanon	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
13	UNEP	GEF TF	Libya	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
14	UNEP	GEF TF	Malawi	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
15	UNEP	GEF TF	Moldova	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
16	UNEP	GEF TF	Republic of the Congo	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
17	UNEP	GEF TF	Senegal	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
18	UNEP	GEF TF	Sierra Leone	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
19	UNEP	GEF TF	South Sudan	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
20	UNEP	GEF TF	Turkey	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
21	UNEP	GEF TF	Zambia	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
22	UNEP	GEF TF	Iraq	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
23	UNEP	GEF TF	Samoa	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
24	UNEP	GEF TF	Montenegro	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
25	UNEP	GEF TF	Democratic Republic of Congo	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
26	UNEP	GEFTF	Egypt	Land Degradation	LD Set Aside	109,590
27	UNEP	GEF TF	Global	Land Degradation	Global Set-Aside	166,988
	Total GEF Resources					**3,016,328**

H. Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Desertification
(multiple selection)	(multiple selection)	(multiple selection)	Desertification 1

I. Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point(s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the *Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s)* with this template.

	Name	**Position**	**Ministry**	**Date** *(Month, day, year)*
1	Mr. Zainul Abedin Abed	Acting Director and GEF Operational Focal Point, Afghanistan	National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)	11/11/2024
2	Mr. Karim Baba	Director of Urban Environment Policy, Algeria	Ministry of Environment	10/03/2024

3	H.E. Mr. Hakob Simidyan	Minister, Armenia	Ministry of Environment	11/18/2024
4	Dr. Farhina Ahmed	Secretary, Bangladesh	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	11/27/2024
5	Mr. Pamoussa Ouedraogo	Point Focal Opérationnel du Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial (FEM), Burkina Faso	Secrétaire Permanent du Conseil National pour le Développement Durable (SP/CNDD	10/08/2024
6	Eng. Prosper Dodiko	Operational Focal Point, Burundi	Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock	12/20/2024
7	Mr. Alexandre Nevsky Medina Rodrigues	National Director of Environment, Cape Verde	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment	11/28/2024
8	Dr. Sivendra Michael	Permanent Secretary, Flji	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	12/09/2024
9	Dr. Jasim Abdulazeez Humadi ALMOHAMADI	Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs, Iraq	Ministry of Health and Environment	03/03/2025
10	Dr. Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno	Principal Secretary, Kenya	State Department for Environment and Climate Change	11/06/2024
11	Mr. Mirslav Amankulov	Deputy Minister, Kyrgz Republic	Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Technical Supervision	10/30/2024
12	Dr. Elzein Tamara	Minister, Lebanon	Ministry of Environment	11/06/2024
13	Omar Sharif	OFP, Libya	Ministry of Environment	10/27/2024
14	Mr. Evans Njewa	Chief Environmental Officer, Malawi	Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change	11/01/2024
15	Dr. Aliona Rusnac	State Secretary, Moldova	Ministry of Environment	12/10/2024
16	Mrs. Arlette Soudan-Nonault	Minister of Tourism and Environment, RoC	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	12/16/2024
17	Mr. Baba Drame	Directeur de l'Environnement et des Etablissements classes, Senegal	Ministere de l'Environnement et du Developpement Durable	11/06/2024
18	Mr. Sheku Mark Kanneh	Assistant Director, National Climate Change Secretariat, Sierra Leone	Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone	11/04/2024
19	Mr. David Batali Oliver	Director for Pollution Control, South Sudan	Ministry of Environment, South Sudan	11/14/2024
20	Mr. Ahmet Bağci	Deputy Minister, Turkiye	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	11/20/2024
21	Godwin Gondwe	Director – EMD - Zambia	Ministry of Green Economy and Environment	8/27/2024

22	Mr. Fodé Toure	General Director of Environment and Natural Capital Fund	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Guinea	9/17/2024
23	Lealaisalanoa Frances Brown-Reupena	GEF OFP/UNCCD National Focal Point	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa	03/26/2025
24	Jelena Ban	GEF OFP, Montenegro	Ministry of Tourism, Ecology and Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development	02/25/2025
25	Mr. Benjamin Toirambe Bamoninga	GEF OFP, Secrétaire Général á l'Environnement et Développement Durable	Ministere del'Environnement et Developpement Durable, Congo DR	04/17/2025
26	Dr. Ali Abo Sena	GEF OFP and Chief Executive Officer	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Egypt	04/23/2025

ANNEX A: RESPONSES TO STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Describe how the enabling activity has addressed comments from stakeholders, including Council Members, Convention Secretariats, and STAP (if applicable).

ANNEX B: PROJECT BUDGET TABLE

Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template:

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)									Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		*Component 2*		*Component 3*		*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 3.1*	*Outcome 3.2*					
Grants/ Sub-grants	Costs of direct execution of activities by the Country Parties executing agencies to support the preparation of 26 Countries' National Reports	2,849,340						2,849,340			2,849,340	National or Regional Executing Agencies
Staff costs	Umprella project Coordination Programme Management Officer (P3) and Finance Assistant Costs for 2 years of project execution									100,000	100,000	UNEP
Travel	UNEP National Reporting Helpdesk Function Travel costs							0		22,049	22,049	UNEP
Other Operating Costs	Terminal Evaluation							0	30,000	14,939	44,939	UNEP
Grand Total		2,849,340	-	-	-	-	-	2,849,340	30,000	136,988	3,016,328	

[1] In exceptional cases where GEF Agency receives funds for execution, Terms of Reference for specific activities are reviewed by GEF Secretariat

Project budget uploaded in the portal.

ANNEX C: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Attached any screening documents or other ESS related documents (if applicable). ESS screening is not required for EAs but should be included if its available.
UNEP ESS screening document uploaded in the portal.

Check this box if ESS screening is not required per Agency's regulations