



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) ¹

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: LDCF

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks		
Country(ies):	Afghanistan	GEF Project ID: ²	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5098
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Submission Date:	November 7, 2012
GEF Focal Area (s):	Climate Change	Project Duration (Months)	60
Name of parent program (if applicable): ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	Agency Fee (\$):	855,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
CCA-1	1.1 Mainstreamed adaptation in broader development frameworks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas	1.1.1 Adaptation measures and necessary budget allocations included in relevant frameworks	LDCF	700,000	2,800,000
CCA-1	1.2 Reduced vulnerability to climate change in development sectors	1.2.1 Vulnerable physical, natural and social assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	LDCF	4,500,000	16,100,000
CCA-1	1.3 Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	1.3.1 Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	LDCF	2,675,000	7,900,000
CCA-2	2.3 Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level	2.3.1 Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities	LDCF	700,000	2,800,000
Sub-Total				8,575,000	29,600,000
Project Management Cost ⁴			LDCF	425,000	900,000
Total Project Cost				9,000,000	30,500,000

¹ It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
1. Climate responsive local development planning	TA	Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes	Climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces Trained at least 250 provincial MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists on climate risk information and appropriate response measures 10 climate sensitive Community Development Plans formulated	LDCF	1,400,000	5,600,000
2. Enhanced rural livelihoods	TA	Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified	At least 100 women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming (e.g. embroidery and carpet weaving) Business development training in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing provided to 20 rural entrepreneurs and 10 SMEs 2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	LDCF	2,675,000	7,900,000
	Inv	Productive infrastructure improvements	Small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) built in selected river sub-basins in 10 communities Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 10 communities 20 karezes ⁵ and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses At least 20 check dams,	LDCF	4,500,000	16,100,000

⁵ A kareze is an underground canal system that taps aquifers by gravity through a series of subsurface tunnels. It often extends for many kilometers before surfacing to provide water for drinking and irrigation.

			contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge			
			Sub-Total		8,575,000	29,600,000
			Project Management Cost	LDCF	425,000	900,000
			Total Project Costs		9,000,000	30,500,000

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	500,000
GEF Agency	UNDP (National Area-Based Development Programme)	Grant	15,000,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	World Bank (National Solidarity Programme)	Grant	10,000,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	World Bank (Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme)	Grant	5,000,000
Total Cofinancing			30,500,000

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

n/a

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1 the [GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF](#) strategies /[NPIF](#) Initiative:

The proposed intervention is fully consistent with the LDCF Programming Strategy, the main objective of which is to address the most urgent and immediate adaptation needs of LDCs. The project, which directly responds to the top priorities identified in the NAPA, seeks to reduce livelihood vulnerability in drought- and flood-prone communities through the rehabilitation and sustainable management of critical rangelands and watersheds, while enhancing and diversifying rural incomes and livelihood opportunities. Since droughts and floods present the most significant climatic hazards in Afghanistan, the project will address the priority development needs of food and livelihood security of vulnerable communities.

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities:

Afghanistan meets all three eligibility criteria of the LDCF: 1) it is classified as a least developed country (LDC) due to its low income, weak human assets and high economic vulnerability, 2) it is a party to the UNFCCC, and 3) it has completed its NAPA. The project is fully consistent with both NAPA and LDCF priorities as it focuses on two of the sectors that are central to development and livelihoods, namely agriculture and water resources.

A.1.3 For projects funded from NPIF, relevant eligibility criteria and priorities of the Fund:

n/a

A.2. national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

Soon after the establishment of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) in 2005, Afghanistan's first Environment Law was drafted, approved and officially promulgated in January 2007. One of the fundamental principles enshrined in the law is that "taking preventative measures to maintain and protect the environment is better than endeavoring to remedy or compensate for such harm." Afghanistan's National Development Strategy (2008-2013) marked a milestone in the country's development planning. Agriculture and rural development and infrastructure (energy and water) form two of the pillars of the strategy, while environmental management is identified as one of the key cross-cutting issues that impacts every sector. The strategy contends that "Both government and donor efforts have under-invested in better water resource management that will have a major impact on the productive capacity of the economy and the lives of the people."

The National Adaptation Programme of Action for Climate Change (NAPA) identified a total of 51 potential adaptation options. Following a first ranking exercise, these were further categorized into the top 11 priority NAPA projects. The proposed project links directly to three of the priority projects: land and water management at the watershed level, improved food security, and rangeland management. It is also fully consistent with the findings of the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/8 (NRVA), which underscores that agricultural activities constitute the main livelihood strategies for the Afghan population and that the main reason for leaving land fallow is shortage of water. The project will help increase both the resilience and adaptive capacity of the agriculture sector by strengthening physical, natural and social assets in response to climate change impacts.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

While Afghanistan has made measurable progress in human development over the past six years, it remains one of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world. It ranked 172 in UNDP's Human Development Report 2011. The Global Adaptation Index ranks it as the most vulnerable country in the world, taking into account the country's exposure, sensitivity and ability to cope with climate related hazards. Climate change scenarios for Afghanistan suggest temperature increases of up to 4°C by the 2060s (from 1970-1999 averages), and a corresponding decrease in rainfall. The biophysical effects of climate change are expected to be significant; droughts are likely to be the norm by 2030 leading to associated dynamics of desertification and land degradation. Coping with the impacts of climate change is a major challenge for development in Afghanistan given that its negative effects are likely to be most severely felt by the poor and marginalized due to their high dependence on natural resources and limited capacity to cope with the impacts of climate variability and extremes.

Afghanistan has a predominately dry continental climate with wide extremes of temperature. High mountain ranges characterize much of the topography; a quarter of the country's land sits at more than 2,500m above sea level. While annual precipitation exceeds 1,000mm in the upper mountains of the northwest, it is less than 400 mm over 75 percent of the country and virtually all of the cultivable land. The cultivable area of Afghanistan is estimated to be 7.7 million ha, representing about 12 percent of the country's area. Approximately 42 percent is intensively or intermittently irrigated. The importance of irrigated agriculture cannot be overstated, since it is the mainstay of food security and income for the majority of the rural population, accounting for more than 70 percent of total crop production. The 2008 State of the Environment report makes it clear that water is the country's most critical natural resource and key to the health and well-being of the Afghan people.

The main climatic hazards identified in the NAPA are periodic droughts, floods due to untimely and heavy rainfall, flooding due to the thawing of snow and ice, and increasing temperatures (see Table 1). There is a discernible trend that these events are occurring more regularly and are more intense in nature. There have been severe flood or drought events in 8 out of the past 11 years. In fact, the period 1998-2006 marked the longest and most severe drought in Afghanistan's known climatic history. At the same time, flood risk is also increasing as rainfall patterns have become more erratic. Areas that traditionally receive 250 mm of rain over a period of six months are now receiving that amount of rainfall during the course of only one or two months, with a devastating effect on agriculture and livelihoods. Unless action is taken to strengthen the resilience of Afghan communities and reduce disaster risk, climate change impacts will jeopardize development gains and could push an even

greater number of Afghans into poverty.

Table 1: Main Climatic Hazards in Afghanistan

Climatic Hazard	Description	Loss of life	Duration	Trends
Periodic drought	Decrease in productivity of crops, forced migration	Around 10,000 casualties per year of severe drought	Up to 8 years	Increasing frequency and intensity
Floods due to untimely and heavy rainfall	Destruction of agricultural lands, loss of crops and livestock	Approximately 750 casualties per year	3 months	Increasing frequency and intensity
Flooding due to thawing of snow and ice	River levels rise, land slides, soil erosion	Around 100 casualties per year	4 months	Increasing frequency
Rise in temperature	Increase in diseases that affect people, agriculture and livestock	Around 1,000 casualties per year	3 months	Increasing frequency and intensity

Source: NAPA

Underlying causes

The underlying causes of Afghanistan’s vulnerability to climate impacts are primarily socio-economic: poverty, food insecurity, a heavy dependence on natural resources, population growth, unclear land tenure, lack of effective governance, and no effective policy or legal framework. More than 80% of the population lives in rural areas and are almost totally dependent on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. Although there have been recent improvements in the provision of education, healthcare, and clean drinking water, food security remains the predominant concern for the majority of village households. More than one out of three Afghans – some 9 million people or 36 percent of the population – lives in absolute poverty and cannot meet his or her basic needs.

Most of Afghanistan’s rangelands are either moderately or severely degraded primarily due to three factors: harvesting of woody biomass for fire wood, conversion of rangelands to rain-fed farming, and overgrazing by livestock. Rangelands provide critical ecosystem services such as watersheds, soil erosion control, flood control, disaster risk reduction, and a habitat for wildlife. Rangelands also support livestock production and the related meat, wool, carpet, dairy and leather industries and provide natural products such as fruits and nuts, all of which are vital to the Afghan economy. Degraded ecosystems such as rangelands and watersheds have made Afghans more vulnerable to both the physical and economic impacts of severe climate events. The high population growth rate of 2.4% places increased demand and pressure on rangeland resources.

Long-term solution and barriers to achieving it

In the long-term, strengthening the resilience of Afghan communities to climate change will require a step change in current practices. To begin with, a greater level of awareness and a more robust knowledge base of climate change impacts are required. Policy and planning must fully incorporate climate risks, particularly in the District

Development Plans and Community Development Plans. Restoring the depleted natural resource base and managing it in a more sustainable manner is a fundamental component of building resilience. Moving beyond subsistence agriculture to food and income security, along with a shift toward more diverse and less vulnerable livelihoods, is also essential. Finally, large-scale investments in climate resilient infrastructure such as storage reservoirs and more efficient irrigation systems are another important pre-condition.

There are three main barriers preventing the long-term solution from being achieved: awareness, technical capacity, and financing. For the most part, Afghan communities are not aware of climate risks and have not incorporated climate change impacts into their development planning. Similarly, provincial government officials do not have adequate knowledge of climate variability and consequently have not put in place supportive policies designed to bolster adaptive capacity. Up until now, rangelands and watersheds have been managed without consideration of long-term ecosystem resilience. Farmers have been applying traditional methods and lack the technical capacity and know-how to implement ecosystem-based adaptation approaches. Finally, most of the development assistance thus far, particularly in the south and east, has concentrated on short-term stabilization programmes, rather than longer term development approaches. Many rehabilitation efforts by necessity have taken the form of emergency assistance, with climate change adaptation and environmental management receiving less attention from the government and donors up until this stage.

The following are the main baseline programmes, upon which the LDCF project will build.

Table 2: Key Baseline Projects

Project Name	Short Description	Implementing Partner	Implementation Period	Available Budget
National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP), Phase 3	The primary objective of the NABDP is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods in rural Afghanistan. The programme, which has activities in all 34 provinces in the country, focuses on five thematic areas: 1) local institutional development particularly of DDAs, 2) productive rural infrastructure, 3) natural resource management, 4) rural energy development, and 5) local economic development.	MRRD	2009-2014	\$300m
National Solidarity Programme (NSP), Phase 3	NSP develops the ability of Afghan communities to identify, plan, manage and monitor their own development projects. Through the promotion of good local governance, the NSP works to empower rural communities to make their own decisions and participate in all stages of their development affecting their own lives and livelihoods. To achieve that, communities elect their leaders and representatives to form voluntary Community Development Councils.	MRRD	2011-2014	\$150m
Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme	The objective of the Rural Enterprise Development Programme is to improve employment opportunities and income of rural men and women, and sustainability of targeted local enterprises. The programme supports community-led enterprise development	MRRD	2010-2015	\$87m

	and SME development.			
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B. 2. [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/NPIF) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

LDCF funding is being requested to meet the additional costs imposed on vulnerable communities to meet their urgent adaptation needs due to the adverse impacts of climate change. While the first component focuses on climate responsive local development planning, the second component concentrates on the implementation of those plans, with a special emphasis on strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options as that was a key priority that emerged from stakeholder consultations. Four provinces have been selected for project activities: Balkh, Panjshir, Herat and Uruzgan. The selection of provinces was made in consultation with key stakeholders and is based on three criteria: 1) the presence of ongoing or planned baseline activities, 2) the inclusion of both food secure and food insecure provinces in order to reach the most vulnerable populations and those areas that have not received significant development assistance, and 3) geographic representation of each major region in the country. Panjshir and Balkh Provinces are generally considered stable and food secure. Herat is moderately food insecure, while Uruzgan is highly food insecure. The additional activities requested for LDCF financing over and above the baseline are described below.

Component 1: Climate responsive local development planning

Baseline: The National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) is designed to enhance district-level governance to deliver services to the poor and vulnerable. Out of 402 districts in Afghanistan, 388 District Development Assemblies have been established and 338 District Development Plans (DDPs) have been formulated. DDPs are updated every three years following an election process. Generally, the priority projects identified under the DDPs have concentrated on access to basic services such as clean water, irrigation and energy. Whereas NABDP concentrates its activities at the district level, the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) operates at the community level. Under NSP, nearly 70% of rural communities have elected Community Development Councils to represent them. Thus far, more than 22,000 Community Development Plans (CDPs) have been formulated. Most of the priority sub-projects identified in those plans focus on basic rural infrastructure such as the construction of water supply networks and road graveling. Under a business-as-usual scenario, Community Development Plans will continue to be formulated without considering climate change impacts. There will continue to be an absence of actionable climate projections and scenarios at the provincial level. In addition, there would not be any incentives or policies in place to encourage water conservation and sustainable management of natural assets. Conflicts between neighboring communities and between sedentary farmers and pastoralists over land and water resources would be likely to persist or exacerbate.

Additionality: The project will build upon, influence and facilitate improvements in the NABDP and NSP baseline programmes. With funding from the LDCF, Community Development Plans in at least 10 communities will fully integrate climate change risks and vulnerability. It is expected that in the development plans, particular attention will be paid to identifying options to restore and rehabilitate vulnerable natural assets such as critical rangelands and watersheds, taking into account species that are likely to thrive in new climate conditions. Climate change scenarios will be developed for the agriculture sector in the selected provinces, which government officials and community representatives can act upon. The climate scenarios can be used to inform local development planning. With information on the projected climate impacts at the provincial level, local government officials and community members can adjust and adapt their development interventions accordingly. Provincial MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists in selected provinces will be trained on climate risk information and appropriate response measures. In addition, a feasibility assessment will be conducted for managing water demand in the context of increasing pressure on the availability of water resources. By the end of the project, it is expected that Afghan communities in the selected provinces will have a much greater level of awareness of the expected climate change effects and that plans will be in place at the local level to help vulnerable communities cope better with those impacts.

Component 2: Enhanced rural livelihoods

Baseline: The goal of the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) is to increase the income and sustainable employment opportunities for men and women by supporting rural enterprises. The main focus of the program is to facilitate access to finance and improve business skills for both on-farm and non-farm employment opportunities. AREDP has activities in nine provinces, including Balkh, Herat and Uruzgan, which are three of the targeted provinces under the proposed LDCF initiative. So far, 17 Village Savings and Loans Associations have been formed and more than 30,000 people have joined a Savings Group. In terms of productive infrastructure investments, under NABDP 2,000 productive rural infrastructure projects have been completed across all 34 provinces. Although some of the projects involve the construction of flood protection walls, by and large the projects have centered on basic infrastructure needs such as irrigation and roads and have not taken into account projected climate change impacts. In the absence of the LDCF project, there would continue to be a low level of water storage capacity and a lack of infrastructure to conserve water and distribute it efficiently. Women would continue to be engaged in unpaid employment in agriculture and livestock activities.

Additionality: Climate change is putting increasing pressure on traditional means of livelihood such as agriculture and livestock production. The NAPA identifies the loss of livelihoods as one of the main impacts of the observed trend of more frequent and intense climate events. With the LDCF project, business development training in handicrafts and other small enterprises will be specifically targeted to farmers who have lost their livelihoods as a result of floods or drought. The training will provide practical, hands-on guidance on how to start and manage a business, with particular attention paid to off-farm business opportunities. Potential enterprises could include handicraft SMEs, small-scale manufacturing, and quarrying and cutting stones for sale as building materials, among others. At the same time, livelihoods training will be conducted specifically for women on embroidery and carpet weaving to expand their income generating opportunities. In addition, a participatory, community-led approach will be applied in restoring critical rangelands and watersheds. Rangelands provide essential ecosystem services such as flood control and disaster risk reduction and are thus a vital adaptation measure. Under this participatory approach, communities will have the primary responsibility for managing natural resources so that they continue to provide ecosystem services, contribute to the local economy and enhance resilience. Finally, critical productive infrastructure such as storage reservoirs, check dams, and canals will be constructed and improved. These infrastructure investments will directly contribute to more resilient livelihoods as they will enhance water availability for farming and improve food security for households. UNDP's environmental and social screening procedures and safeguards policy will be applied to these investments.

B.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read [Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF.](#):

The total rural population of the four selected provinces is about 2.4 million people. It is expected that at least 500,000 people will benefit, either directly or indirectly, from the project activities. The central focus of the proposed LDCF initiative is on strengthening and diversifying the livelihood options of rural communities. As described elsewhere in the PIF, many farming families in Afghanistan live on the brink and are one disaster away from losing their only source of livelihood. The project will target communities that are particularly food insecure and exposed to climate hazards. Community members will be trained on how to set up and run their own businesses in order to increase their income and diversify their livelihoods away from agriculture. These newly established rural enterprises in turn will be a source of job creation.

Gender equity is a fundamental principle of the project and will be applied to all activities. Women, especially in rural areas actively contribute to the household income through employment (often unpaid) in agriculture and livestock activities. The project will train at least 100 women on alternative livelihoods to farming, notably embroidery and carpet weaving. This training will create opportunities to generate much needed supplemental

income for poor rural households. The skills acquired by the trainees can be passed on to their daughters and other women in the community, resulting in a positive spillover effect. Beyond that, women’s participation and representation will be actively encouraged in all interventions. Community development plans will be formulated with the involvement of both male and female community members.

The project will also deliver tangible socio-economic benefits by investing in and restoring ecological infrastructure such as rangelands. Rangelands are vital to the Afghan economy since they support livestock production and related industries and provide natural products such as fruits and nuts. With the enhanced resilience of ecosystems, climate change induced changes and extreme events are likely to be more gradual and less severe than under a ‘business as usual’ scenario. This will help reduce livelihood losses from severe climate events. Finally, investments in small-scale rural infrastructure such as water management and irrigation will contribute to higher food security and poverty reduction for those currently operating on rain fed land.

B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

Risk	Mitigation Measure	Risk Rating
The political situation in Afghanistan remains volatile and security risks could affect project implementation	In less secure areas, the project will work through local NGOs to deliver the project outputs. The security situation in the selected provinces will be monitored closely and if necessary, project activities will be shifted to more secure districts or provinces.	High
Leakages and ineffective management of financial resources could reduce the amount of project resources	To the extent possible, the project will work directly with communities and local NGOs to maximize the results on the ground and to reduce the risks of financial mismanagement.	High
Conflicts between communities and between settled farmers and nomadic Kuchis over land and water resources could affect project implementation	MAIL will work closely with customary dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve any conflicts. It will also ensure an inclusive, participatory approach involving all key stakeholders and an equitable distribution of benefits.	Moderate

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

Stakeholder	Expected Role
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)	It is expected that MAIL will serve as the main implementing partner for the project. Its mission is to regenerate Afghanistan’s agricultural economy through increasing production and productivity, natural resource management, improved physical infrastructure and market development. The project will help put into action MAIL’s national

	sustainable rangeland management plan in selected provinces.
National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)	NEPA serves as Afghanistan's environmental policy-making and regulatory institution. Its role is to regulate, coordinate, monitor and enforce environmental laws. NEPA also serves as the GEF Operational Focal Point. It is expected that NEPA will play an important role in providing strategic advice to the project, especially on strengthening policy provisions.
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)	MRRD is the implementing partner of the National Area-Based Development Programme, the National Solidarity Programme, and the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme, all of which are key baseline programmes for the LDCF initiative. The project will work closely with MRRD to incorporate climate resilience into its activities.
Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW)	MEW is mandated to develop the country's water resources. In addition to the water sector, the Ministry is also responsible for the generation and distribution of electrical power. MEW will carry out large-scale infrastructure improvements such as construction of storage reservoirs.
Provincial Environment Advisory Councils	Thus far, 19 Provincial Environmental Advisory Councils have been established to incorporate environment into the provincial planning process. They will support project activities at the provincial level.
District Development Assemblies (DDAs)	Up until now, MRRD has established 388 DDAs through the National Area-Based Development Programme. They will support project activities at the district level.
Community Development Councils (CDCs)	CDCs were established under the National Solidarity Programme. Since 2003, more than 22,000 Community Development Councils have been elected by local communities and 32,000 projects have received grants which enable villagers to tackle poverty themselves. The CDCs will be important partners at the community level.
Farmer cooperatives and associations	The project will collaborate with farmer cooperatives and associations on enhancing agricultural productivity.
Villagers	As most of the project activities will take place at the community level, the active participation and engagement of villagers will be integral to the success of the project. A community-based natural resource management model will be demonstrated by and for the benefit of the local people.
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	ICIMOD is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing center. It aims to assist mountain people to understand climate-related changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services. ICIMOD will be an important project partner, particularly on improving watershed management.

B.6. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

The project will link up with related initiatives to ensure that activities are complementary and that there is an exchange of experiences. At the national level, there are two ongoing projects with an explicit focus on climate change adaptation: Climate Proofing of Horticulture in Afghanistan, managed by MAIL, and Building Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in Afghanistan, the first LDCF project supported by UNEP-GEF that will be managed by NEPA. The UNEP project targets activities in the provinces of Badakshan, Balkh, Daykundi and Bamyan, while this proposed LDCF project will have activities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces. Both initiatives are complementary since the

UNEP supported project also seeks to increase resilience and adaptive capacity to address climate change in the water sector and to foster climate-resilient ecosystem management. Having Balkh Province in common will allow for joint supervision missions by UNDP and UNEP and will allow for information sharing and an exchange of best practices.

In addition, there are some regional climate change adaptation initiatives that are relevant to this project, notably: the South Asia Water Initiative, the Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP), the Regional Rangeland Programme, and the project on Livelihoods and Ecosystem Services in the Himalayas: Enhancing Adaptation Capacity and Resilience of the Poor to Climate and Socio-economic Changes (AdaptHimal). The HICAP project aims to contribute to enhanced resilience of mountain communities, particularly women, through improved understanding of vulnerabilities, opportunities, and potentials for adaptation. The goal of AdaptHimal is to reduce rural poverty and increase the resilience of the rural poor to the changing environmental and socioeconomic situations in the mountain areas of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. During the design phase, the LDCF project will establish linkages with these regional initiatives and take stock of the results and lessons from those interventions, with a view toward incorporating successful adaptation/coping mechanisms.

Finally, in addition to the key baseline projects presented in Table 2, there are several ongoing government programs that are pertinent to the LDCF project. These include: the Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Programme (ASGP), the Afghanistan Rural Access Project, the Gender Equality Project, and the Irrigation and Restoration Development Project. Where possible, the LDCF project will build upon the existing activities of these programmes and introduce climate resilience aspects in these efforts.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

UNDP has a strong comparative advantage to implement this project, both corporately based on its extensive experience and knowledge in the field of climate change adaptation, and locally on the ground based on its ongoing activities in the country. Since 2002, UNDP's National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) has assisted the poorest of Afghans by rebuilding schools, clinics, roads, wells and alternative energy mechanisms in some of the most damaged communities throughout the country. The current phase of the project comprises a \$300 million budget covering the period 2009-2014, with contributions from more than 10 donors. It is estimated that more than 14 million Afghans have benefited from the more than 2,360 rural infrastructure projects that have been built under the programme. NABDP focuses on local institution building, rural livelihoods and rural infrastructure development with regard to water supply, rural energy and disaster management.

C.1 Indicate the co-financing amount the GEF agency is bringing to the project:

UNDP Afghanistan will contribute \$500,000 in direct cash co-financing to the project and will leverage an additional \$15,000,000 through the National Area-Based Development Programme.

C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2010-2013 identifies three priority areas of support, one of which centers on "sustainable livelihoods: agriculture, food security and income opportunities." This priority area has three specific aims:

1. Increase agricultural output and access to diversified food;
2. Improve the capacity to manage natural resources and hazards in ways that reduce poverty, resolve disputes and mitigate peoples' vulnerability to natural disasters;
3. Improve, expand and diversify the opportunities people have for decent work and income.

The proposed project will contribute directly to each of these three UNDAF outcomes. On the cross-cutting issue of environment, the overriding aim is that "improved management of ecosystems increases the resilience of the poor and their livelihoods to environmental risks, including natural disasters, the effects of climate change and environmental shocks that threaten their livelihoods and undermine food security." The

project directly responds to this objective.

Since 2002, the UNDP programme in Afghanistan has supported stabilization, state-building, governance and poverty reduction. The new country programme reflects a shift to more long-term development oriented programmes that target poverty, human security and sustainable livelihood issues and concentrates on a few key strategic outcomes where UNDP has a clear comparative advantage. The new country programme for 2010-2013 will focus on institution building, sub-national governance and livelihood development programmes aimed towards the most vulnerable groups. One of the programme areas is on livelihoods, natural resource management and disaster risk reduction, which ties in closely with the objectives of this project.

The Afghanistan country program is the largest UNDP operation in the world, with 130 international staff and more than 400 national staff. In 2011, UNDP was engaged in all 34 provinces supporting some 40 government ministries and agencies, and civil society organizations, to improve basic service delivery and the lives of Afghans. UNDP Afghanistan delivered close to US\$753 million in assistance in 2011. The Environment and Sustainable Development Unit in UNDP Afghanistan consists of one international and three national professional staff.

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 template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr. Mostapha Zaher	Director General	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	10/23/2012

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Executive Coordinator UNDP-GEF		11/7/2012	Faris Khader, Regional Technical Specialist	+66 2304 9100 ext 2756	faris.khader@undp.org