



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Naoko Ishii  
CEO and Chairperson

October 28, 2015

Dear LDCF/SCCF Council Member,

I am writing to notify you that we have today posted on the GEF's website at [www.TheGEF.org](http://www.TheGEF.org), a Project Identification Form (PIF) for a full-sized project proposal from UNDP entitled ***Afghanistan: Adapting Afghan Communities to Climate-Induced Disaster Risks (GEF ID : 6914)***, for funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). This PIF has been posted for Council approval by mail. Council Members are invited to review the PIF and to submit their comments (in Word file) to the GEF Secretariat's program coordination registry at [gcoordination@TheGEF.org](mailto:gcoordination@TheGEF.org) by November 25, 2015.

Following the streamlined procedures for processing LDCF proposals, Council members are invited to approve the following decision:

*The LDCF/SCCF Council reviewed the PIF entitled **Afghanistan: Adapting Afghan Communities to Climate-Induced Disaster Risks (GEF ID : 6914)** (LDCF Project Grant \$5,600,000) (Agency Fee \$532,000), posted on October 28, 2015 and approves it on a no objection basis subject to the comments submitted to the Secretariat by November 25, 2015.*

*The Council finds that the PIF (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) maybe endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project document fully incorporates and addresses the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the PIF, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures.*

*The final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If the GEF CEO determines that there has been a major change to the present scope and approach since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.*

In accordance with this decision, if the Secretariat has not heard from you in writing by November 25, 2015 we will assume that you approve the PIF.

Sincerely,

  
Naoko Ishii  
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, Alternates, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee



# PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF).

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: LDCF

For more information about GEF, visit [TheGEF.org](http://TheGEF.org)

## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Adapting Afghan Communities to Climate-Induced Disaster Risks		
Country(ies):	Afghanistan	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	6914
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5398
Other Executing Partner(s):	NEPA, MRRD, MAIL, ANDMA, Afghan Met Office, MoE, NGOs, MoWA, IDLG	Submission Date:	August 4, 2014
GEF Focal Area(s):	Climate Change	Project Duration (Months)	60 months
Integrated Approach Pilot	N/A	Corporate Program:	N/A
Name of parent program:	N/A	Agency Fee (\$)	532,000

### A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES<sup>2</sup>:

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
CCA-1: Reduce vulnerability of people, livelihoods, physical assets and natural systems	LDCF	2,450,000	36,000,000
CCA-2: Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective CCA	LDCF	2,600,000	10,500,000
CCA-3: Integrate CCA into relevant policies, plans and associated processes	LDCF	550,000	8,221,000
Total Project Cost		5,600,000	54,721,000

### B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Improve preparedness and resilience of selected Afghan communities to climate-induced disaster risks					
Project Component	Financing Type <sup>3</sup>	Project Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
				GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Capacity development on climate information and weather-induced disaster risks	TA	1.1: Decision-making and implementation of climate-induced disaster risks reduction measures are improved in selected communities, through enhanced capacities	LDCF	1,500,000	10,000,000
Community-based Early Warning Systems (CBEWS)	INV	2.1 Community-based early warning systems in place and effectively utilized	LDCF	2,340,000	20,000,000
Resilient Livelihoods opportunities	INV	3.1 Climate-resilient livelihoods are implemented in targeted communities	LDCF	1,000,000	15,000,000
Institutional strengthening and regional knowledge sharing	TA	4.1 Strengthened institutional capacities to integrate climate risks and opportunities into national and provincial development plans, policies, budgetary allocation and implementation mechanisms	LDCF	500,000	7,721,000
Subtotal				5,340,000	52,721,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) <sup>4</sup>			LDCF	260,000	2,000,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>5,600,000</b>	<b>54,721,000</b>

If Multi-Trust Fund project :PMC in this table should be the total and enter trust fund PMC breakdown here ( )

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

<sup>2</sup> When completing Table A, refer to the GEF Website, [Focal Area Results Framework](#) which is an *Excerpt from GEF-6 Programming Directions*.

<sup>3</sup> Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

<sup>4</sup> For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

**C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE**

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP (TRAC)	Grants	1,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	321,000
CSO	Action Aid	In-kind	600,000
Recipient Government	MRRD (WB and ADB projects)	Grants	52,000,000
Recipient Government	ANDMA (GIZ project)	Grants	800,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>54,721,000</b>

**D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), COUNTRY (IES), AND PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS <sup>a)</sup>**

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>b)</sup>	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	LDCF	Afghanistan	Climate Change	NA	5,600,000	532,000	6,132,000
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>5,600,000</b>	<b>532,000</b>	<b>6,132,000</b>

a) No need to fill this table if it is a single Agency, single Trust Fund, single focal area and single country project.

**E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)<sup>5</sup>**

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes  No  If no, skip item E.

**PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS**

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee <sup>6</sup> (b)	Total c = a + b
UNDP	LDCF	Afghanistan	Climate Change	N/A	150,000	14,250	164,250
<b>Total PPG Amount</b>					<b>150,000</b>	<b>14,250</b>	<b>164,250</b>

**PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

*Project Overview*

**A.1. Project Description**

The Problem, Root Causes and Barriers

As the variability and intensity of extreme weather effects, including flooding and landslides (rapid onset) and drought (slow onset) increases, the efforts to manage and respond to climate change induced risks in Afghanistan is significantly challenged. According to the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), these key climate change hazards in Afghanistan present a threat to ecosystem services and livelihoods. The most vulnerable economic sectors are water and agriculture. In 2012, 383 natural disaster incidents were recorded in 195 districts that resulted in 4,790 deaths, affected 258,364 people and damaged or destroyed 29,374 homes (OCHA, 2012). Most recently, torrential rains in April 2014 led to flash floods, affecting 27 districts in western, northern, and north-eastern provinces, killing more than 150 people, affecting 67,000 and displacing 16,000. In May 2014, thousands of people were seriously affected during a mudslide triggered by heavy rains, in Argo District, Badakshan. In addition to loss of lives, climatic hazards also caused extensive damage to assets and property worth millions of dollars. It is estimated

<sup>5</sup> PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF upto \$1 mil; \$100k for PF up to \$3 mil; \$150k for PF up to \$6 mil; \$200k for PF up to \$10 mil; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

<sup>6</sup> PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

by UNISDR report<sup>7</sup> that more than 80% of the economic loss is due to climate induced disasters caused by floods, drought and extreme winters.

The Government of Afghanistan's **long term preferred solution** to this worsening problem is to establish efficient and effective mechanisms by which vulnerable communities are better equipped to anticipate and respond to climate change-induced risks.

However, the preferred solution is hindered by several **political, socio-economic, and institutional barriers**, at both the national and sub-national level. In particular, an efficient response to reduce the country's vulnerability to climate-induced disaster risks is constrained, among others, by:

- *Insufficient data and limited understanding of climate change-induced disaster threats:* Across institutions at the national and sub-national levels, there is insufficient understanding of the likely impacts of climate change effects and intensity of climate change-induced disasters. At the community level, there is also limited awareness and ineffective communication on disaster preparedness and the linkages with climate change. There is an absence of centralized data management system for climate change induced disasters and disaster management and an absence of effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track impacts of interventions. Further, there is limited research on the gaps in contingency plans and emergency preparedness and response at village and district levels. Gender sensitive data is missing in the country, which constrains the formulation of adequately targeted responses.
- *Policies and regulations do not efficiently link climate change, disaster occurrence and risks and development planning:* There is an overall absence of adequate policies and regulations on climate adaptation in the context of disaster risk management. Inadequate enforcement of existing relevant policies, plans and programmes including National Priority Programs (NPPs) as well as the obligations under the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is also observed.
- *Insufficient institutional coordination to manage and respond to disasters:* The limited coordination between different governmental agencies, as well as between government and international organizations and non-governmental organizations, hinders the management of disasters at the provincial, district and village levels. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) who are capacitated in disaster response are limited in number and resources, making it difficult for authorities to collect data and information and respond to emergency situations in a comprehensive manner. An effective and functional institutional organizational framework for key stakeholders to implement coordinated action on climate change and DRM is missing. The main government agency tasked with DRM coordination, ANDMA lacks substantive capacity to strategically assess disasters that are linked to climate change and those that are not.
- *Inadequate engagement of women in disaster risk reduction activities:* Women lack capital, networks and influence and have little access and control over land and economic resources that are vital in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and recovery. Unbalanced gender norms affect women's access to assistance from climate induced disasters. Low literacy level and status of women hinders their empowerment to act as promoters of resilience in the communities.

#### Baseline Scenario, Alternative Scenario, Additional cost reasoning, and Expected contributions from baseline per Component

##### DRM Baseline Scenario in Afghanistan

The disaster management approach in Afghanistan has traditionally been relief and response-oriented and the response capacity at all levels has proved inadequate for medium to large-scale disasters. The institutional framework, in the context of disaster management, in the country is comprised by:

- The National Disaster Management Commission (NDMC) is mandated to provide strategic direction through all phases of the disaster management cycle. It is comprised of line ministries, provincial/municipal authorities as appropriate and ANDMA as central coordinating body.

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<sup>7</sup> [www.unisdr.org/archive/31685](http://www.unisdr.org/archive/31685)

- The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) is the principal executing body and nodal agency at national level acting as the Secretariat for the NDMC and is mandated to coordinate all aspects related to disaster mitigation, preparedness and response. ANDMA’s provincial offices have been recently established but are limited in terms of material infrastructure and human capacities to operationalize and guide the disaster risk management (DRM) needs of the country.
- The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, MRRD considers disaster management as an essential component of its mandate in alleviating poverty and empowering communities. MRRD in co-ordination with ANDMA, invests in building and developing social capital and physical assets to reduce vulnerability. It supports recovery of disaster-affected communities, and assists in long-term reintegration needs of refugees (returnees) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It has also implemented embankment and road clearing projects.
- At provincial level, the Disaster Management Committees /Commissions (PDMCs) act as the extended arm of the NDMC. The PDMCs are the vital link between NDMC, provinces, districts and local levels.
- At local level, the role of NGOs and especially the Community Development Councils (CDCs) is fundamental as they are directly involved with community development and emergency response activities. Shuras and other community-level institutions such as community based organizations, mosque committees, schools and health centers have the ability to reach out to communities in need of assistance during disasters.

In regards to climate change, NEPA plays a major role as it is the Government body with overall regulatory power on environmental issues and houses the NEPA Climate Change Department which provides specific support on CC policy.

### Component 1/Outcome 1.1

LDCF resources will be used to, first of all, raise awareness and increase understanding at the community level on the importance of integrating accurate climate information into DRM efforts, and development planning. The project will build the capacities of the communities and Community Development Councils (CDCs) and the local extension offices of MRRD and MAIL in systematically collecting, monitoring, tracking, and analyzing climate data for adequate preparedness and risk reduction. Communities will be the key actors and decision-makers in a participatory situational analysis to ensure successful mapping, analysis and effectiveness of the adaptation interventions. Given the low technical capacities and the current state of extension offices facilities it has been noted that the technologies procured for this effect should be user-friendly and easy to install and maintain (upstream and downstream gauges, rain gauges, staff gauges, etc). Hazard maps and vulnerability and risk assessments will then be produced by capacitated community councils in collaboration with extension officers and national officers of MRRD and MAIL, so they may further replicate this activity in other provinces. Such maps and assessments will inform CBEWS<sup>8</sup> which will be piloted under Outcome 1.2. Different participatory mapping tools will be explored, including social and resource maps, accessibility maps, hazard and vulnerability maps, seasonal calendars, direct observation, interviews, and ranking tools.

In order to effectively mobilize and train CDCs and provincial authorities, the LDCF project will build on the current efforts led by GIZ, Save the Children, and iMMAP initiatives. GIZ, through its project **“Disaster preparedness in the province of Badakhshan”** is partnering with Afghan Red Crescent Society to build capacities of CDCs and district disaster management committees (DDMCs) on preparedness and emergency planning while identifying and evaluating the risks related to natural disasters. GIZ is using a “training of trainers” approach which can be replicated in other provinces. LDCF will ensure that experiences and lessons from implementing these mechanisms in Badakhshan are capitalized and incorporate monitoring and tracking of climate information and risks, when delivering capacity-building of CDCs and district-level authorities in the target provinces. This project is implemented by ANDMA. (*Expected co-financing: US \$800,000*).

Hazard and vulnerability maps and assessments will be instrumental products of climate information in enhancing preparedness. iMMAP Afghanistan is providing data and mapping support to disaster risk reduction programmes to

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<sup>8</sup> Community-based Early Warning Systems.

facilitate open access to disaster information, through its programme “**Common Operating Picture for Humanitarian Coordination in Afghanistan**”. Save the Children is capacitating communities and key Govt authorities at the provincial and district levels, in Jawzjan<sup>9</sup> on disaster-preparedness themes, including development and interpretation of hazard maps, through its initiative “**Building a culture of resilience in Afghanistan’s provinces**” funded by OFDA<sup>10</sup>. This initiative places children and women at the center of the decision-making and learning processes. LDCF resources can build on these ongoing activities to ensure that climate change risks are reflected into village maps and risk assessments. Catalytic partnerships will be further explored with these organizations during PPG phase to ensure cost-effectiveness towards robust community-based mapping.

Lastly, LDCF resources will build on UNDP’s recent support to GoA through the project “**Response to Devastating Floods and Landslides in Northern Afghanistan**” which will carry out a comprehensive needs assessment in northern Afghanistan disaster-prone provinces to identify early recovery and rehabilitation needs. These assessments will inform hazard mapping and complement vulnerability and risk assessments carried out under LDCF project. (*Expected co-financing (in-kind): US \$200,000*)

#### Indicative Outputs:

- 1.1.1: Awareness raising activities are conducted in communities, CDCs, MAIL and MRRD district-level offices on the need to integrate climate information into DRM and planning efforts
- 1.1.2: Capacity of communities, CDCs, and MRRD and MAIL district-level offices is developed, in monitoring, tracking, and analyzing weather data and hazard mapping
- 1.1.3: Hazard and vulnerability maps and risk assessments are produced in selected communities

### Component 2/Outcome 2.1

A community-based approach to EWS is proposed recognizing that the first response to a disaster always comes from the community itself. In order to pilot effective CBEWS in the selected provinces, this outcome will focus in delivering timely information in order to lessen the negative impacts of weather-induced disaster. The CBEWS will ensure that all community members’ needs, especially the most vulnerable (women, children, people with disabilities) are considered.

In order to do this, the proposal will aim to achieve three main inter-related interventions: i) Ensure that there is a mechanism through which climate hazards can be monitored 24/7, including adequate calculation of lead time and threshold values on which warning and alert levels will be based; ii) Coordinate warning services with relevant stakeholders (extended offices of MAIL and ANDMA) and enable efficient warning dissemination channels using multiple communication channels (mobile phones, sirens, loudspeakers on mosques, TVs and megaphones); iii) Strengthen response capabilities of the communities. It will be essential to define clear roles and responsibilities of the community and plan and allocate human resources. Contingency plans (addressing evacuation, first aid, health, shelter, water and sanitation, and rescue issues) to reduce impact of disaster will be designed in partnership with active NGOs, UN Agencies and other actors (see below).

CBEWSs need to build on existing structures and technical support in order to be sustainable (technically and organizationally). Thus, LDCF resources will build on ongoing baseline initiatives such as the “**Amu River Early Warning**” (*European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)*) project which is implementing a CBEWS in the river basin in Jawzjan province. The project, implemented by ActionAid in partnership with ANDMA is mobilizing CDCs and local volunteers to develop CBEWS operational frameworks (including operational plans, field data recording modalities, communication channels and agreements on roles and responsibilities). However the project does not account for climate causality and therefore does not provide adaptation benefits. LDCF will build on the Amu Daria EWS to capitalize on field work and infrastructure, and more importantly, optimize dissemination of early warnings through an extended network of communication channels in Jawzjan. Resources will be allocated to ensure that climate information and maps produced in the first outcome of the project are integrated into these EWS efforts. Lessons and experiences from the ActionAid project will also be considered when piloting the EWS in Nangahar and Ghor. (*Expected co-financing: USD \$600,000*).

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<sup>9</sup> This project is also active in Balkh, Bamyán, Faryab, Kabul, Kandahar, Saripul, and Urozgan.

<sup>10</sup> Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Further, the proposal will build on a nation-wide World Bank investment, implemented by MRRD with support from UNOPS, on rural access, which will be instrumental to ensure adequate emergency response and contingency planning, and will support efficient CBEWS. The **Afghanistan Rural Access Project (2012-2018)**, is connecting isolated areas that are vulnerable to disaster shocks caused by the active conflict and climate-induced disasters such as droughts, snow storms, and flash floods, by financing the improvement of priority secondary and tertiary roads, building bridges and other infrastructure. The project also provides emergency repairs and access to roads that become impassable due to climatic disasters. Warning dissemination and contingency plans of the proposed CBEWS will certainly benefit from “all season” road access that allows for easier access to basic services and facilities. On the same token, monitoring and hazard maps produced by targeted communities can inform decision-making of the localized rural access interventions of MRRD, which will allow for better access to emergency and relief response in remote rural areas, in case of future disasters. (*Expected co-financing: \$50,000,000*).

The LDCF project will also develop community response measures in close collaboration with ongoing efforts on response and early recovery those agencies that are part of the DRR Working Group in Afghanistan<sup>11</sup>. All of these agencies aim to coordinate on their efforts regarding DRM, including training of communities on EWS and providing equipment; small-scale disaster mitigation infrastructure; contingency activities and policy work. Especially, WFP has active projects in Jawzjan, Ghor and Nangahar on DRR and asset creation and emergency response. Coordination and efficient synergies will be further explored during PPG phase.

#### Indicative Outputs:

- 2.1.1: A mechanism for continuous monitoring of climate hazards to generate accurate and timely warnings is established
- 2.1.2: Efficient communication channels and procedures for issuing and disseminating warnings (e.g. through mosques radio, mobile phones, television) are devised
- 2.1.3: Effective community response mechanisms are developed (emergency operations centers, disaster mgmt. committees, drills and mapping of evacuation routes) in collaboration with stakeholders

### Component 3/Outcome 3.1

LDCF resources will be used to complement improved preparedness with more resilient physical assets and income-generating opportunities for community beneficiaries. Based on appropriate vulnerability assessments and hazard maps completed under Outcome 1.1, MRRD will support CBOs and community authorities to design, assess (through appropriate feasibility studies) and build climate-proofed habitats and emergency shelters. Households will be better equipped to endure harsh weather conditions (heat or cold), as well as be less susceptible to damages from intense flooding, rains, and/or landslides. Climate-resilient emergency shelters will be multi-functional to serve as temporary education facilities, community meeting places, emergency supply storage, and/or primary health care. These infrastructures would also support home-based economic activities such as storage of food and agro-products, processing and canning. Secondly, location-specific risk planning and land zoning will help identify suitable areas for these infrastructures as well as other land uses such as crop culture, agroforestry, forestry and horticulture. Micro-enterprise development with a specific focus on women and youth will help communities capitalize on these new opportunities by incorporating improved disaster preparedness and CBEWS set up in Outcome 2.1. These efforts will ultimately help increase savings and enhance food security at the community level, reducing the vulnerability of these communities to climate-induced disasters. Livelihood interventions will be identified during PPG phase to ensure tailored design that engages the most vulnerable. A robust market survey will be conducted to ensure that income-generating activities have a real market demand.

An important aspect of this project will be to protect the communities’ vulnerable livelihoods to the shocks of climate disaster. The ADB-funded project “**Community-Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development**” (MRRD) is active in Ghor province and aims to improve agricultural productivity so that farming communities are better served with irrigation infrastructure. At least 100 traditional small-scale irrigation systems will be rehabilitated and bring

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<sup>11</sup> This Group is comprised of international NGOs (AfghanAid, ActionAid, FOCUS, Tearfund, ACTED, Save the Children, CARE, Medair, Oxfam, Concern); national NGOs (AREA, SOFAR, COAR), UN Agencies (OCHA, FAO, WFP, UNDP, UNOPS, UNEP), and GoA and is facilitated by ANDMA.

about significant benefits to local communities, improving livelihoods and stability. LDCF project will contribute to this effort in Ghor by ensuring that the CBEWS provides tailored warnings to farmers in a way to minimize risk to crops. On the same token, LDCF micro-economic activities focused on storage of food and agro-products can benefit from BAU interventions on improving irrigation infrastructure. (*Expected Co-financing: \$2,000,000*).

LDCF will build on ongoing efforts from ACTED Country Strategy “**Towards sustainable livelihoods security**”. ACTED is empowering communities to provide secure ownership of and access to resources and incomes which enable them to offset risks, shocks, and meet contingencies. However, at present these efforts are not taking into account climate risks, nor adaptation responses. Currently, through this strategy, ACTED is engaging 2,300 CDCs nation-wide, in partnership with more than 10 donor agencies. LDCF will build on ACTED’s efforts in the selected provinces of Ghor, Jawzjan, and Nangahar to incorporate lessons and experiences on risk and shock mitigation in the assessment and design of micro-economic activities for targeted communities who are susceptible to climate-induced disasters.

#### Indicative Outputs:

- 3.1.1: Climate-resilient habitats and emergency shelters are built in target communities
- 3.1.2: Income-diversification opportunities with a focus on women and youth empowerment, are created.

### Component 4/ Outcome 4.1

In order to address the limited understanding of the implications of climate change in disaster risk and in development, this project will provide capacity-building to key government actors, to increase institutional coordination and synergies on climate change adaptation efforts. LDCF resources will be used to strengthen technical capacities within the Climate Change Department within NEPA on climate change policy, adaptation, and linkages between CCA, DRM, and development, at the national level. This is critical to ensure that national climate change policies and strategies are adequate and that the Department is able to promote, across ministries, the importance of incorporating climate risks into longer-term development planning. This Outcome aims to support the GoA in kick-starting the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process to establish a mechanism whereby medium and long-term development planning and budgeting takes into account climate risks. This is particularly important when planning for DRM/DRR efforts, and in the case of Afghanistan, it is vital to sustain any development interventions. LDCF resources will be used to capacitate government officials to strengthen institutional frameworks and coordination on DRR and CCA. Officials from ANDMA, MRRD, Met Office, MAIL and the CC Unit within NEPA, will all participate in trainings in different aspects of development planning that takes into account CCA and DRR. These efforts will be closely coordinated with the NGO FOCUS, which already delivers some training on disaster preparedness to government officials through a recent agreement with ADPC<sup>12</sup>, MRRD, and ANDMA, in order to avoid duplication of efforts. At the provincial and district -levels, the project will conduct revisions of Provincial Development Plans and District Development Plans to fully integrate climate risks and gender inclusion for disaster preparedness. Ministry of Economy acts as custodian of provincial plans and provides secretariat support to the Provincial Development Councils who prepare and approve these plans; the ministry will provide access to these plans. IDLG coordinates disaster management issues at the local provincial level through sub-national level governance and will therefore also play a key role in the plan review process. Provincial and Development councils will be capacitated as well on this topic so that they ensure a smooth process of integrating DRR and CCA in development plans, given their oversight role. Mechanisms will be set to ensure that knowledge is also transferred at the community-level to adjust community development plans. Regional knowledge exchange will be emphasized for the execution of this outcome, particularly on the Confidence Building Measures for Disaster Management (CBM-DM) instrument under the Istanbul Process. Considering that geographic, climatic, and disaster risks contexts are similar across other countries in the region (Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) the LDCF experience will be shared with these countries in an attempt to form stronger regional partnerships on adaptation to climate-induced disasters.

At the national level, and given MRRD’s mandate on DRM/DRR in Afghanistan, LDCF will build on **MRRD Disaster Management Strategy (2014-2017)** to scope adaptation objectives in this sector and identify and budget

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<sup>12</sup> Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

adaptation options for disaster reduction efforts that the Ministry is planning for. UNDP Afghanistan is developing the **Afghanistan Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (ACCSAP)**, as a long-term strategy that outlines climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities and action plans (*expected in-kind co-financing: \$121,000*). Synergies will be ensured between ACCSAP and LDCF intervention to identify strategic financial and operational linkages of integrating adaptation across planning in different sectors. At the local level, provincial and district development plans will serve as baselines for LDCF interventions.

#### Indicative Outputs:

- 3.1.1. Building on MRRD DRM Strategy, adaptation objectives at national levels are set and adaptation options are identified, benefits evaluated and costed
- 3.1.2: Provincial Development Plans and District Development Plans are revised to fully integrate climate risks and gender
- 3.1.3: Technical capacity on climate change policy and financing of NEPA CC Unit is strengthened
- 3.1.4: Policy-makers in MRRD, MAIL, ANDMA, Afghan Met Office, CC Unit are trained on processes and methodologies to integrate climate into medium and long-term development planning in Afghanistan
- 3.1.5: Lessons and best practices of project results are shared through regional mechanisms (i.e., Istanbul Process)

The project will target between 1 – 3 provinces with the expectation that successful practices may be replicated by GoA to cover a larger geographic scope. After numerous consultations with government institutions (ANDMA, NEPA, and MRRD), UN Agencies, and NGOs, target provinces for the proposed project were selected taking into account the following criteria:

- *Climate-induced disaster-prone level*
- *Humanitarian needs adversely affected by climate change and disaster*
- *Accessibility, ongoing ground-work (baseline development initiatives) and security limitations*
- *Geographic, climatic, and socio-economic diversity*

Based on the above criteria, it was agreed to target one, two, or all three of the following provinces (final target provinces and the number of targeted communities/household beneficiaries within these provinces will be determined during PPG; target provinces may change if GoA requests it, during PPG phase):

- Jowzjan: highly prone to disaster caused by flash floods and extended drought
- Nangarhar: highly prone to disaster caused by flash floods and extended drought
- Ghor: highest vulnerability in terms of food security and affected by extended drought

#### Adaptation Benefits

It is expected that this LDCF project will deliver substantial adaptation benefits in the following areas: i) Vulnerable communities will increase their adaptive capacities to the adverse effects of climate change, including climate-induced disasters; ii) Communities' livelihoods will be protected against disaster shocks, by ensuring that decision-making of government investments on livelihood diversification and rural access take into account climate information and are linked to effective early warning systems in the communities; iii) Women and youth have proactive roles in awareness activities, advocacy, and implementation of early warnings, for efficient preparedness against disaster; iv) Government institutions are better equipped to plan for sustainable development and absorb current and future climate finance, by enabling national and community-level mechanisms to incorporate climate change information and risks into medium and long-term development planning;

#### Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Incorporating adaptation in DRR efforts, is in itself an innovative approach in Afghanistan. Moreover, the project focuses on empowering communities to be proactive in disaster reduction as opposed to reactive, leading to a potential decrease in losses and damages from disaster events and allowing for opportunities to increase income and savings (through promotion of resilient livelihoods).

This project is deemed to be sustainable, per the following considerations: Communities and local entrepreneurs will contribute to the project, investing not only their time and facilities but also by providing their indigenous knowledge and labour. The participative approach and the empowerment of grassroots beneficiaries aside with state and

community-level authorities will guarantee for the long-term sustainability of the intervention. The adoption of new plans, no-regret interventions and policies at the State and province level, together with the increased attention of the Afghan authorities to the adaptive and resilient agriculture/rural sector since 2011, are all elements in favour of the sustainability of the proposed initiative. In order to identify accurately what works, an effective impact assessment strategy using the randomized control trials (RCT) methodology will be used to ensure the best practices and lessons are accurately captured. The strategy will include working meetings on sharing and cross learning between district and provincial councils and scaling up to ensure that the lessons and best practices from the baseline projects and from this initiative are efficiently disseminated. LDCF funds will be used to create the best conditions for scaling up activities by making sure best practices and lessons learned are shared among partners, important stakeholders and the Govt of Afghanistan. LDCF funds will be used to leverage partners who might be able to invest in additional adaptation. This includes the private sector such as SMEs and agricultural commodities grower associations, farmers, and exporters of agricultural produce. An effective capacity-building strategy that trains sufficient numbers of government staff at the national and sub-national level is expected to support the scaling up and sustainability effort of the project activities. Based on the above, the project will be able to ensure sustainability is central to the project strategy.

As mentioned above, government beneficiaries of the project are expected to take an active role in promoting regional and South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange in regards to best practices and lessons captured. It is expected that these capacitated Government officials can act as “champions” who will also advocate for the scale-up of this project’s interventions and promote that future investments and decision-making in Afghanistan incorporate climate risks and adaptation.

## A.2. Stakeholders

Government institutions and relevant Ministries, the civil society, and UN Agencies in Afghanistan have been extensively consulted and have been involved in the preparation of this proposal, its components, outcomes, and outputs. During PPG phase, further consultations will be conducted with these institutions, as well as community members and beneficiaries.

Stakeholder	Relevant Role in Project Preparation
MRRD	MRRD will be the main implementing partner of this project and will implement this project through its CDCs already established through NSP.
ANDMA	ANDMA is mandated to coordinate all aspects related to disaster mitigation, preparedness and response at the central and provincial levels.
National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA)	NEPA is the government body with overall regulatory power on environmental issues in Afghanistan. NEPA houses the GEF focal point as well as focal points for several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). NEPA Climate Change Unit will be a key partner for this project and benefit from capacity building at both national and local levels.
MAIL	MAIL will be close collaborator and partner with MRRD in the establishment of community based early warning system. MAIL staff will be benefited from significant capacity building for early warning system both at the national and local level.
Community Development Councils (CDCs)	CDCs will participate directly in every level of planning and implementing early warning system as well as managing the implementation of the community based irrigation infrastructure and livelihood activities. A significant effort will be made to assure strong representation of women in project activities and initiatives.
The Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA)	The ministry will take special steps to reduce vulnerability of women in disaster prone areas. Department of Women Affairs (DOWA) at the provincial level supports outreach to women in the communities.
Ministry of Education	This ministry can coordinate with the local authority and arrange for mock drills, search and rescue drills.
Ministry of Interior	The ministry houses the Central Statistics Office and Geodesy and Cartography Section, which are useful information sources for disaster preparedness and response.
Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG)	IDLG coordinates disaster management issues at the local provincial level through sub-national level governance
Ministry of	Ministry of Economy will facilitate integration of DRR and CCA in provincial development plans

Economy	
Ministry of water and Energy (MoWE)	This ministry is improving and expanding irrigation systems to cope with drought contributing to the reduction of vulnerable and displaced people and in destruction of crops, livestock, property and other livelihoods.
Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)	ARCS Disaster Management Department responds to displaced people and refugees affected by natural and unnatural disasters like flooding, earthquake, drought and armed conflict.
National Disaster Management Commission (NDMC)	The NDMC sets out national policy direction towards reducing risk of disasters through vulnerability reduction before disaster and responding to emergency situations after disaster.
Afghanistan Metrological Authority	Afghanistan Metrological Authority has the mandate to report on weather changes and localized hazard-oriented Early Warning Systems
Provincial Governor Office (PGO)	Coordinate disaster management related activities among province level officers. Liaise with Department of Disaster Preparedness (DDP) and national Emergency Operation Center (EOC).
District Governor Office (DG)	Coordinate among district level officers. Liaise with province Emergency Operation Center (EOC).
Community-Based Organizations and beneficiaries	Community members and CBOs will play a key role during PPG consultations. Specifically, consultations will be designed to capture the needs of the most vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities.

### A.3. Gender Considerations.

During initial consultations, it was recognized that oftentimes the specific needs of women and other vulnerable groups are not taken into account during disaster-risk awareness, preparation and response measures. Through this project, GoA is prioritizing the inclusion of women, youth, peoples with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups in the decision-making and implementation of adaptation measures as a response to climate-induced disasters. As mentioned above, the CBEWS will ensure that all community members' needs, especially the most vulnerable (women, children, people with disabilities) are considered. Capacity-building efforts will also involve women participation. MRRD will work in collaboration with MOWA and DOWA to ensure that the project's efforts build on their expertise and work within their mandates to address these issues.

### A.4 Risk.

Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Measure
The political situation in Afghanistan remains volatile and security risks could affect project implementation	High	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
Limited capacity of ANDMA to coordinate and implement the project.	High	Capacity will be built in key ANDMA national, provincial district officials to implement and monitor project activities
Organizational conflicts	Medium	The UNDP will be implementing this project as NIM with MRRD and other national partners, based on capacity assessments, so if a large political problem occurs, a different implementation modality may be used
Unavailability of requisite human resources and data	Medium	This issue can be mitigated by recruiting international project manager and consultants who will work closely with national counterparts (MRRD) and by targeted capacity building activities. Training activities of local personnel will also be part of all aspects of the work and the relevant institutions will be encouraged to expand the staff base if it is weak in particular areas
Extreme climate events such as floods could disrupt project activities and/or damage ecosystems and infrastructure	High	Coordination will be undertaken with partners such as ANDMA for disaster response in order to ensure that disaster relief interventions are also directed towards demonstration sites impacted by extreme climatic events

Limited technical capacity and human and financial resources of CBOs	Medium	The project will deliver extensive capacity development support to the CBOs, for proper institutionalization and organization, as well as ensuring CBOs comply with their legal requirements.
Limited engagement of women in communities	Medium	The project design will ensure prioritization of women and vulnerable groups' needs in decision-making and implementation

The project will implement Community-Based Early Warning Systems in targeted disaster-prone communities of Afghanistan. Further, one of the project's outputs involves building climate-resilient habitats and emergency shelters in target communities. During PPG phase, it is therefore critical that the necessary assessments are conducted in order to appropriately account for risks of maladaptation and/or climate-induced disasters and hazards during implementation of adaptation measures. During this phase, experts may re-assess target sites in collaboration with the Government, if needed, and budget for a sound feasibility study to be conducted in these sites, during the first stage of project implementation.

### A.5. Coordination.

This LDCF project will be closely coordinated, primarily, with other LDCF-funded projects, implemented by UNDP and UNEP. It will also coordinate actions on the ground closely with associated baseline initiatives (as detailed above) on disaster relief and emergency response, implemented by FAO, OCHA, and IOM. Synergies and detailed collaboration in specific project outputs will be explored during PPG phase. All of these UN agencies were consulted during PPG phase. Particular attention will be paid on coordinating activities under Outcome 4.1 with the support that is already being provided in the context of NAP to GoA, under the NAP GSP jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP. Lastly, the project will coordinate activities with active national and international NGOs (especially those that are members of the DRR working group) in regards to mobilization and capacity building of communities and community-level authorities, as described in the baseline initiatives above. Special attention will be given to build on these NGOs ongoing efforts on DRR (such as FOCUS partnership with MRRD, ADPC and ANDMA), including hazard mapping techniques, vulnerability assessments, training of trainers, advocacy and awareness-raising mechanisms in schools, mosques, etc.

### B.1 Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes /no ).

The LDCF project is consistent with the priority themes highlighted in the NAPA: natural disaster preparedness and infrastructure, and capacity building. The project will implement activities under the regulatory frameworks of Afghanistan's Provincial disaster management and development plans, Afghanistan Disaster Management Law (ADML), Afghanistan National Disaster Management Plan, National Disaster Management Framework, Disaster Management Strategy, Mitigation Policy and Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP), Sectoral DM Plans, and Provincial DM Plans. The project places emphasis on the HFA priorities, especially on gender. Finally, the project is aligned with UNDAF (2015-2019) Outcome 1 – "Economic growth is accelerated to reduce vulnerabilities and poverty, strengthen the resilience of the licit economy and reduce the illicit economy in its multiple dimensions".

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

**A. Record of Endorsement<sup>13</sup> of GEF Operational Focal Point (S) on Behalf of the Government(s)**

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mostapha Zaher	Director General	National Environmental Protection Agency	07/09/2014

**B. GEF Agency(ies) Certification**

<b>This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies<sup>14</sup> and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.</b>
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Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Adriana Dinu UNDP – GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i.		Sept. 22, 2014	Ms. Claudia Ortiz	+66 2304 9100 ext. 5092	Claudia.ortiz@undp.org

<sup>13</sup> For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

<sup>14</sup> GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF