



# REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: LDCF

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## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

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: <sup>1</sup>	5202
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5098
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)	Submission Date:	January 31, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Climate Change Adaptation	Project Duration(Months)	60
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):	n/a	Agency Fee (\$):	855,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>➤ For SGP <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>		

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

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
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	1,700,000
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	4,521,500	86,300,000
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	2,653,500	11,600,000
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	1,700,000
<b>Project Management Cost</b>			LDCF	425,000	1,700,000
<b>Total project costs</b>				9,000,000	103,000,000

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

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

## 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	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed 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  15 climate sensitive Community Development Plans formulated	LDCF	1,400,000	3,400,000
2. Enhanced rural livelihoods	TA	Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified.	At least 800 women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming (e.g. embroidery and carpet weaving)  Business development training in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing provided to 50 rural entrepreneurs and 30 SMEs  2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	LDCF	2,653,500	11,600,000
	Inv	Productive infrastructure improvements	Small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) built in selected river sub-basins in 12 communities  Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 12 communities  20 karezes and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses  At least 20 check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve	LDCF	4,521,500	86,300,000

			water and enhance groundwater recharge			
			Subtotal		8,575,000	101,300,000
			Project management Cost (PMC) <sup>3</sup>	LDCF	425,000	1,700,000
			<b>Total project costs</b>		<b>9,000,000</b>	<b>103,000,000</b>

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

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash	1,000,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	USAID	Investment	70,000,000
National Government	MAIL	Cash	30,000,000
National Government	MAIL	In-kind	2,000,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>103,000,000</b>

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

n/a

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

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	531,500	0	531,500
National/Local Consultants	463,000	0	463,000

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

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

**PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

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

No significant changes in alignment with the project design of the original PIF have been made. All outputs have been contextualized to fit Afghanistan’s needs.

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

No change

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

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

<sup>4</sup> For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question

No change

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

No change

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

1. There are a number of national programmes/projects that address baseline related problems that the project will build on and seeks to influence.

2. Current GEF projects in Afghanistan include the preparation of the INC (Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC), which was signed by government in early 2012, and the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which will run through the end of 2013. This LDCF initiative will integrate the knowledge from the INC programme, and will make use of the administrative and policy vehicle created by this project in the form of the NCCC (National Climate Change Committee). The GEF NBSAP project concentrates on the development of a strategy, as well as the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation within NEPA, MAIL and other ministries. UNEP is also implementing a LDCF-funded project focusing on early warning systems and adaptation. This project will ensure that there is no overlap of activities between the two projects, and that there is strong cross-pollination of concepts and exchange of lessons learned with respect to conservation protocols and community interactions. Finally, this LDCF financing will be operating upon the priority activities identified during the NCSA/NAPA project funded by GEF and completed in 2005.

3. The **National Solidarity Programme** develops the ability of Afghan communities to identify, plan, manage and monitor their own development projects. The NSP is a very large scale programme funded by multiple donors, including the World Bank, the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF, funded by 14 different nations), the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF), and a number of bilateral partners. It is implemented by the MRRD. The NSP is the primary vehicle for promoting rural development in Afghanistan, and it operates through the establishment and empowering of CDCs throughout the country. These CDCs prepare community development plans, and apply for funding of such activities through the NSP. Activities undertaken by CDCs include a number of infrastructural improvements such as provision of irrigation canals, access roads and bridges, water supply and sanitation improvements, and MHP schemes. The NSP also provides education and livelihoods improvements, although these account for a small part of the budget. As of September 2011, the NSP had disbursed over \$888 million to CDCs, and spent more than \$1.2 billion. The NSP has committed \$10 million for development activities in the selected districts of the priority provinces, and this baseline financing has been allocated for a number of activities (irrigation, agricultural expansion, MHP plants and infrastructural improvements) that will benefit directly from the additionality of the LDCF project's activities.

4. The **National Area-Based Development Programme** (NABDP) is another permanent programme of the MRRD. Operating through seven regional offices, the NABDP focuses on establishing District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and training them in good governance practice and infrastructure project planning and implementation skills. This district-level governance is then used to provide service delivery and livelihood diversification through the productive infrastructure. The NABDP is currently in Phase II (2009 – 2014), facilitated by the UNDP and funded by nine European countries to the amount of \$294.7 million. The principal focus of the NABDP is on: i) local institution building in the form of DDAs to promote private-public partnerships; ii) developing rural infrastructure in the form of roads, bridges and other essential components; iii) natural resource management through community interaction; iv) rural energy development, particularly renewable rural energy in the form of MHP projects; and v) rural economic development to provide a conducive environment for rural enterprise initiatives. Of this amount, \$2.4 million has been allocated for activities in the priority provinces in which the LDCF project will be operating, including development of MHP under the Energy for Rural development in Afghanistan (ERDA) sub-project. These

components will benefit directly from the ecosystem management adaptation interventions undertaken by the LDCF project.

5. The **Community Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development** project funded by ADB (\$10 million) aims at rehabilitating and improving irrigation systems in four provinces of north Afghanistan (Balkh, Ghor, Samangan, Baghlan) to better serve farming communities. The project will be implemented through a community contracting system which will: (i) allow rural populations to manage the implementation of projects in their areas and increase local economic opportunities; and (ii) create a sense of ownership and timely completion as procurement will be done locally with the maximum involvement of local communities. Women's participation will be facilitated through a gender action plan, which will include lessons learnt from earlier projects.

6. The *Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock* in partnership with USAID/Afghanistan is implementing a project called the **Irrigation and Watershed Resource Management Program (IWMP)**, which is a five-year, \$100 million initiative that will assist the Government of Afghanistan in agricultural sector development in line with USAID's Assistance Objective – A Sustainable, Thriving Agricultural Economy. The main purpose of IWMP is to increase agricultural productivity and income through more efficient and sustainable management of water resources and improved capacity of MAIL to design, procure, implement, and monitor irrigation and watershed management activities. To achieve the purpose of the project, IWMP has three main components: (1) Governance and Capacity Building: Develop and strengthen an enabling environment for sustainable, integrated agricultural water resources management; (2) Water Supply Management: improve resiliency and sustainability of water supply for agricultural production; and (3) Water Demand Management: Improve efficiency and equitability of water demand management in the agricultural sector.

A. 5. [Incremental /Additional cost reasoning](#): describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated [global environmental benefits](#) (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

### **Outcome 1: Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes**

#### Without LDCF Intervention (baseline):

7. At present Afghanistan has severely limited capacity to undertake climate change adaptation planning. The NAPA/NCSA process identified a significant lack of expertise within all relevant government departments as a result of the low level of education, poor financing for government departments, and the early stage of establishment of many of the government agencies. Climate change is not presently regarded as a national priority, and training and education about climate change has not occurred.

8. Without this LDCF intervention, there would be very limited knowledge within both national structures and the public about climate change. The NAPA is the first published national document with a specific focus on climate change adaptation, and the INC will be the first formal international communication regarding climate change. At present, there is a considerable amount of ongoing development work in Afghanistan (around 50 billion dollars have been invested through military, reconstruction and aid programmes), but there is no integration of climate change adaptation or recognition of the potential impacts of climate change on this development work.

9. National policy and strategy do not have any significant mention of climate change. The National Energy Strategy (NES), the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA), the Strategic Water Policy, and, most importantly, the ANDS contain no mention of climate change. This gap in knowledge means that the potential gains earned through the implementation of these strategies are at risk under conditions of climate change. The SNAP does specifically mention the potential dangers of climate change with respect to increasing risk of natural disasters, and calls for the development of an EWS. This, however, has not yet been undertaken.

10. Without this LDCF financing, climate proofing of development projects would be non-existent. At the sub-national level and at the community level this is even more important as local development plans do not integrate

climate change adaptation measures in their design, thereby ignoring the risks and impacts of an increase in severe weather events. Although many funded initiatives provide capacity building to government agencies and staff, very few actually focus on climate change impacts. UNEP has recently received funding from the LDCF to initiate such activities but it remains insufficient.

11. In addition to the lack of knowledge about climate change, there is currently limited capacity to integrate such knowledge into policies. Many government agencies (both ministries and specific authorities) do not have a sufficient number of trained staff to allow for the revision of strategies and development of documents beyond what is perceived as their core activities. At present, the NCCC meets only irregularly, and has limited capacity to carry out its mandate. However, it is the best-placed entity to promote climate change adaptation in national policy and to ensure the mainstreaming of policies. The high level of the representatives from government departments in the NCCC could facilitate the uptake of this LDCF initiative within their respective agencies as well as ensure cooperation between them. At present, the NCCC lacks the capacity to effectively address the requirements of MEA obligations and to facilitate the accessing of international funds to assist with this process.

12. The NSP will continue to be the primary vehicle for promoting rural development in Afghanistan, through the establishment and empowering of CDCs throughout the country, but does not include training and capacity building of the CDCs on climate change risks and impacts, and provide them with technical support for designing adaptation measures. Similarly the NABDP focuses on establishing District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and training them in good governance practice and infrastructure project planning and implementation skills, but this does not include climate change knowledge. This LDCF initiative will fill this gap by building capacity at all levels of governance to address and integrate climate change impacts in routine development plans, thereby climate proofing Afghanistan's rural development efforts.

*With LDCF Intervention (adaptation alternative)*

13. This outcome will address the low institutional capacity and planning to address climate change the and low awareness and understanding of climate change risks and impact. This component builds the evidence base for a more climate resilient economy by providing practical field-based experiences of implementing climate adaptation measures, constraints faced, the extent to which livelihoods could be protected from climate change impacts, and the costs of doing so. The project will support the aims of the NABDP, which is working at a national level in supporting an evidence-based strategy, institutional development and local governance.

14. This outcome will build capacity to assess risk and vulnerability, evaluate trade-offs and integrate cross-sectoral initiatives through the preparation of sub-national, integrated climate resilient plans that will allow the prioritization of investment and targeting of adaptation actions that mobilize people's participation, down to local communities. These plans will be territorial, i.e., they will be based on specific administrative area (province, district, community), but will take into consideration other plans (such as river basin plans) that the territory falls under. Capacities for supporting climate risk management at sub-national level, including access to relevant planning information, need to be strengthened or built where necessary.

15. LDCF resources will be used for providing training support and mentoring and facilitate shared learning processes between local groups and between local-level planners and MAIL. Capacity for integrating local sector intervention plans and disaster risk plans into climate resilient green development planning at CDC level will be built through the training of selected district planners, local development agents and community development councils in approaches and methodological tools for area-based, integrated and participatory planning processes. Local development agents will be given the skills and planning tools enabling them to identify and assess climate vulnerabilities, evaluate existing development initiatives and their adaptation value. Where existing development programmes have the potential to build adaptive capacity with the help of technologies or new approaches, these will be integrated.

16. At the national level, building on the World Bank Irrigation Restoration and Development Project, MAIL still has information and capacity gaps that need to be resolved as part of the planning process. The points below outline key capacity constraints and actions that LDCF can take to build capacity for climate resilient analysis, planning and action

in the national context. Capacity for the incorporation of climate information and risks into the planning agricultural sector are constrained due to:

- Insufficient understanding of the type and extent of soil erosion, and agricultural climate-related vulnerability; and
- the impact of current soil conservation measures on stabilizing the resource and reducing its negative effects.

Once this is better understood and modeled, MAIL can assess the adaptation value of management options on climate related risks and establish area-based land use and watershed management plans at an appropriate scale. This initiative will contribute to:

- Improved coordination between/within institutions linked to limited cross-sectoral communication and exchange of information. This will be done through bi-annual meetings of the Project Board, regular updates of the Operational Focal Point (OFP – in this case NEPA), donor coordination, the local consultative group, shared lessons learned in project progress meetings, and the UN country team coordination meetings.
- A greater awareness of the threat of soil erosion in the agricultural sector and of the risk-reducing measures that can be taken by the community in mitigating that threat.

17. Relevant technical and policy staff within MAIL and sector Bureaus/Departments will be trained in gap analysis, interpretation and use of geo-spatial and GIS information in planning, scenario analysis and investment appraisal so that they have enhanced skills to future identify adaptation opportunities, prioritize them and design integrated programmes to tackle them. The understanding of government officials will need to be tested and this will be incorporated into the implementation for experiential training and capacity building in the planning approaches and instruments. LDCF resources will also help MAIL and NEPA update the NAPA that will create a roadmap for prioritizing future climate compatible investments in the agricultural sector that will improve the resilience of the farmers and pastoralists to climate change.

18. Through this Outcome, this LDCF financed intervention will build capacity for preparing sub-national, district and community integrated climate resilient development plans that should enhance the long-term effectiveness of development programmes in the relevant area. By building institutional capacity for coordinated climate-resilient planning, opportunities for the integration of climate risk reducing techniques, practices and processes in the area will be created. It will also provide the vehicle to guide the process of integrating climate change risks and adaptation into development plans at local and sub-national levels.

## **Outcome 2: Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified**

### Without LDCF Intervention (baseline):

19. “Afghanistan is a country with a high-risk profile, due to a combination of climatic and natural circumstances and being a historically grown hotbed of social and political conflict and economic vulnerability. Households that face risky events with negative outcomes that are outside their control experience shocks. The consequences of household shocks can be temporary and relatively mild, but they can also shake the very existence of the household and its members, for which no coping strategy can provide an answer.” (Source National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/2008).

20. With around 80% of the population living in rural areas and dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, climate shocks and extreme weather events, mostly droughts and floods, are the main sources of loss of livelihood. Without improvements to the current livelihood opportunities and efforts to provide an alternative to agriculture, the rural poor in Afghanistan will continue to be very vulnerable to climate change risks and extreme weather events.

21. Currently MAIL, through the Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster, seeks to address problems highlighted here with the implementation of the Food for Life (FFL) Component of NPP2 - National Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development. FFL is an innovative approach to a comprehensive and sustainable agricultural and livelihood development that focuses on production, rural livelihoods and food security. It is a coordinated mechanism and approach to agricultural development working in partnership with private sector enterprises and institutions to meet the growing needs of subsistence farmers, vulnerable groups and sustainable access to nutritious

and safe foods. At the same time, FFL will continue to contribute to increased employment and income generation. However FFL does not integrate climate change risks and adaptation measures in its strategy. This LDCF initiative will add value to this program by providing climate resilient alternative livelihood options to the rural poor in the targeted areas.

22. The Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP) was designed as a national multi-donor funded, Government-led programme to jump start private sector growth in rural Afghanistan. AREDP strengthens the private sector through integrated, value chain, knowledge based interventions from top to bottom and community enterprise development from bottom to top. AREDP is one of MRRD's six national programmes. The overall objectives of AREDP are to: improve employment opportunities for rural men and women; increase income of rural men and women; and provide business know-how for sustainability of targeted local enterprises. These objectives will be achieved by enhancing participation of the rural poor in economic activities, supporting them through business development services and access to finance, and improving market linkages and value chains.

23. Significant investment has been made in the creation of self-help groups (created mainly by NGOs), and these groups have become the basis for further entrepreneurial activities within AREDP. Rural entrepreneurs are often unable to effectively market their products due to uneven quality, lack of knowledge of market demand and limited market access, particularly outside of their immediate surroundings. AREDP aims to improve and 'marry' two critical players of the value chain, i.e., the producers on the one hand, and the buyers on the other, and allow production to be further refined to match market demand. However, AREDP does not integrate climate change risks and adaptation measures in its approach.

24. The Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (World Bank, \$87m) will continue to support and to improve employment opportunities and income of rural men and women, and sustainability of targeted local enterprises. The programme supports community-led enterprise development and SME development. However climate proofed alternative livelihood opportunities are currently insufficiently provided.

25. The primary objective of the National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP) is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods in rural Afghanistan. This programme will continue to contribute to rural development in Afghanistan, but it does not include climate change adaptation measures for livelihoods diversification and climate resilience.

With LDCF Intervention (adaptation alternative)

26. This component will address the limited availability and use of information on climate risks and adaptation options and low levels of extension advice for agriculture and livelihoods, especially for female headed households. Agriculture and livestock activities are especially susceptible to the effects of climate change such as droughts and floods. Women's employment in this sector is often unpaid. By training women in alternative livelihoods and equipping them with business skills and linking them to finance, the project will help reduce dependence on agriculture and provide much needed supplemental income for poor rural households.

27. Building on the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme, this outcome will enhance the livelihoods diversification efforts in Afghanistan and will contribute to strengthening the resilience of poor rural women and men to climate change and associated extreme weather events. It will also provide the foundation to guide the process of expanding such climate resilient initiatives for alternative rural livelihoods within the MAIL and MRRD portfolio.

28. The key needs and vulnerability assessment report in Annex III developed by the project design team during the preparatory phase details the livelihoods diversification needs for the target communities and the strategy that DAIL can use to achieve improved climate resilient rural livelihoods. LDCF financing of these identified needs will contribute to strengthening the technical capacity of the district level MAIL (DAIL) and MRRD, institutions responsible for poverty alleviation and cross sectoral planning. This will complement Government and donor initiatives to reduce poverty.

29. This LDCF initiative will contribute to improving the livelihoods of rural women but will add the angle of climate resilience by training women's self-help groups on income generating activities that are not dependent on agriculture and can be sustained despite climate shocks, such as bee keeping, carpet making, embroidery, poultry and eggs; as well as supporting small businesses like eateries, home appliances repair and cell phone maintenance.

30. During the preparatory and design phase, the livelihoods diversification needs were assessed (see Annex III). A wide range of stakeholders (Government ministries, departments, donors, research institutions, civil society and NGOs - see stakeholder baseline analysis, section 2.1.3) during national level consultations decided to maximize cost effectiveness by directing the funds and efforts on providing rural women with livelihood opportunities and training. The key needs and vulnerability assessment report in Annex III presents the needs and gaps identified during the preparatory phase and provides a good guide to the activities and strategy this project will have to adopt. It provides indicative locations and sites for the implementation of strengthening of livelihoods, and strategies like the kind of training, marketing and financial support needed to deliver this outcome.

31. This LDCF initiative will complement the UNDP/GIRoA NABDP by adding an angle of climate change adaptation measures and will be the basis to initiate the process of expanding climate resilient approaches for rural livelihoods diversification in Afghanistan. Building on the UNEP/NEPA LDCF funded initiative, this LDCF financing will further improve watershed management and contribute to reducing soil erosion and flooding by rehabilitating 2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties. During the preparatory and design phase, consultations with local communities and stakeholders identified specific species like walnuts and berries that have the particularity of being drought resistant, exist naturally in the environment and provide income and food.

### **Outcome 3: Productive infrastructure improvements**

#### *Without LDCF Intervention (baseline):*

32. Afghanistan has experienced an extended period of instability and war, which has hindered development. The majority of the population is engaged in rain-fed rural agriculture or pastoral herding, which makes them extremely vulnerable to drought, floods and loss of soils. Unsustainable use and the resultant degradation of fragile or marginal lands have left rural communities particularly vulnerable to the impacts of adverse climatic conditions. The projected increase in droughts and extreme weather events as a result of climate change is likely to decrease agricultural productivity, impact negatively on the livelihoods of poor individuals, and further degrade productive and marginal ecosystems within Afghanistan.

33. Furthermore, current improvements in rural infrastructure such as irrigation programmes and micro-hydropower installations are not designed to deal with the impacts of climate change. Increased flood intensity and siltation rates coupled with the lack of early warnings to communities may reduce the viability of such improvements, resulting in losses of development gains under conditions of climate change. Protective measures to reduce these impacts such as comprehensive watershed management have neither been tested nor implemented in Afghanistan.

34. In many areas, agriculture is limited to a narrow ribbon around rivers, or is rain-fed where there is sufficient annual rainfall. Surrounding areas provide additional ecosystem benefits such as fuelwood, fodder for animals and wild food sources, which supplement both income and food availability within rural communities. Even a slight shift in timing and intensity of rainfall, intense dust storms (in lowland areas) or a climate change-induced reduction in the availability of other ecosystem resources can have a catastrophic effect on rural livelihoods. Agricultural productivity is currently frequently subject to adverse climatic conditions, and such conditions are likely to increase as a result of climate change.

35. This LDCF initiative has designed adaptation interventions that will be complementary to the baseline activities, enhancing the efficacy of the baseline interventions even under conditions of climate change. With regards to irrigation projects, the NSP and NABDP provide irrigation infrastructure in order to promote agriculture within the catchments and districts in which this LDCF project operates. Such irrigation projects are invaluable to local communities, but are also vulnerable to siltation, reduced water flow and damage from floods from climate change-induced extreme weather. The improvement and climate proofing of productive infrastructure implemented by this

LDCF initiative will reduce the impacts of such weather extremes by: i) increasing soil water infiltration and limiting the amount of runoff from degraded land; ii) reducing erosion; iii) regulating water flow; and iv) reducing the likelihood of extreme floods within the selected catchments with improved canals and check dams. This will increase the efficacy of the baseline projects and consequently increase community resilience even under a changed climate.

36. Baseline development is being undertaken throughout the country, as the international community is currently providing significant investment in infrastructure and priority development projects identified by the GIRoA. However, such development does not take into account the potential effects of climate change, and is therefore at risk of significant setbacks in the medium- and long-term. This LDCF financing will complement these efforts to ensure that these investments are more resilient to climate change.

37. The Community Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development project funded by ADB (10 Million \$) aims at rehabilitating and improving irrigation systems in four provinces of north Afghanistan (Balkh, Ghor, Samangan, Baghlan) to better serve farming communities. The project will be implemented through a community contracting system which will: (i) allow rural populations to manage the implementation of projects in their areas and increase local economic opportunities; and (ii) create a sense of ownership and timely completion as procurement will be done locally with the maximum involvement of local communities. Women's participation will be facilitated through a gender action plan, which will include lessons learnt from earlier projects. This project will continue to provide irrigation rehabilitation to rural communities but the climate change adaptation angle is currently lacking in this programme.

38. The USAID/Afghanistan is implementing a project called the Irrigation and Watershed Resource Management Program (IWMP), which is a five-year, \$100 million initiative that will assist the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA) in agricultural sector development in line with USAID's Assistance Objective – A Sustainable, Thriving Agricultural Economy. The main purpose of IWMP is to increase agricultural productivity and income through more efficient and sustainable management of water resources and improved capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock to design, procure, implement, and monitor irrigation and watershed management activities. These projects, whilst currently in their early stages, provide key baseline activities that LDCF funds can be used to build upon, strengthening their climate change resilience approach.

With LDCF Intervention (adaptation alternative)

39. This component will address the limited availability and use of information on climate risks and adaptation options and low levels of extension advice for agriculture and livelihoods, especially for female headed households. There is tremendous potential for agricultural growth and development and the alleviation of food insecurity and reduction of poverty. The rather long and varied litany of constraining issues for agricultural growth and development clearly means that in order to achieve any substantial progress in alleviating the condition of food insecurity and poverty, there is a need for a concerted effort that is multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-agency in nature. As such, there needs to be careful selection of priority areas and entry points for involvement of the public sector (i.e., Government and development partners). Such an effort also needs to be based on strong collaborative relationships with administrators, technical staff, civil society and the private sector at the provincial, local and community levels.

40. Building on the Community Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development project funded by ADB, small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) will be built in selected river sub-basins in 12 communities. Based on the needs and vulnerability assessment (Annex III), specific and indicative sites have been selected in consultation with local authorities and community development councils (CDCs) during the preparatory and design stage of this project. These small-scale storage reservoirs will act as water reserves during the dryer seasons and will allow for additional irrigation of agricultural lands. In certain cases (particularly in Abshar and Parian districts of Panjshir Province) flood control walls will be erected to mitigate the impact of flash flood and snowmelts.

41. Complementing MAIL's and MRRD's efforts to improve agriculture and rural development, and adding a climate change adaptation approach to ongoing standard projects, this LDCF initiative will introduce water harvesting techniques in 12 communities and drinking water schemes in 3 girl schools that faces serious drinking water scarcity problems. The needs and vulnerability assessment found in Annex III details the identified needs for such interventions in order to adapt to some the impacts brought about by climate change in these areas.

42. Building on the USAID/Afghanistan project on Irrigation and Watershed Resource Management (IWMP), irrigation infrastructure such as traditional karezes (these are underground irrigation canals that carry water from as far as two kilometers) will be cleaned and lined to ensure reduced water leakages and improved delivery. Often the mouth of the spring or water source where these karezes start is silted and needs to be cleaned and rehabilitated to ensure as much water as possible is captured and carried to the irrigation location. The karezes are often very ancient and the lining is broken and irregular, reducing the amount of water that reaches the agricultural fields, therefore a need to repair and reline these structures to ensure minimum water losses.

43. Based on the needs and vulnerability assessment (Annex III) check dams, contour bunds and other facilities to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge will be built in Panjshir, Herat, Uruzgan and Balkh Provinces to improve the resilience to climate change and the scarcity of water of the rural communities identified. This will complement the efforts of the NABDP initiatives to strengthen water security and ground water recharge.

44. Many of the communities visited suffer from energy deficiency and are unable to pump water, even if it is available, to the agricultural lands or community structures (such as schools, meeting halls, etc.) that need it. The use of solar pumps and micro hydro power to provide green sustainable sources of electricity will be put in place where necessary. The interventions follow the “no regret” implementation principle (i.e., the interventions will provide an adaptation benefit under conditions of climate change, but should climate change impacts be less intense than predicted, they will nevertheless provide a benefit to Afghanistan).

A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:

1. There is a risk that the security situation deteriorates in the country and in the project areas. In order to mitigate this, Preference has been given in site selection stable sites, and communities with a good working relationship with UNDP, MAIL and implementing organizations. Strong participatory stakeholder consultations have been undertaken to ensure reasonable expectations and to clarify roles/responsibilities. Continual engagement with local political structures (shuras<sup>5</sup>, community leaders, CDCs) by the Implementing Agency will enhance security and community ownership. Local authorities and community development organizations are given more project responsibility. There will be a stronger focus on permanent experts, MAIL national staff structures and permanent UNDP staff, using short-term experts to facilitate crucial undertakings, and to assist in the building of local capacity. It is possible to extend the project duration in order to allow project activities to reach fruition despite political instability.
2. The issue of the unavailability of requisite human resources will be mitigated by the recruitment of international consultants who will work closely with in-country counterparts 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.
3. Problems related to involvement and co-operation of stakeholders to work cross-sectorally. During the preparatory phase a multi stakeholder consultation and involvement has been conducted to ensure clear commitment of the Ministries and Bureaus to sharing of data and joint programming. This will be strengthened during project implementation by the area-based planning approach that promotes cross-sectoral data sharing. There is low risk that work progresses in a compartmentalized fashion and there is little integration e.g. government departments refuse to share data and information. This risk is always present in such a project. By ensuring that capacity is built across a range of departments and implementing ‘quick win’ measures early (developing products based on internationally available data), these issues can be mitigated.
4. There is a medium risk that climate shocks occur during the design and implementation phase of the project. Coordination will be undertaken with partners such as ANDMA for disaster response in order to ensure that

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<sup>5</sup> A shura is a traditional decision making body made of elders and community leaders.

disaster relief interventions are also directed towards demonstration sites impacted by extreme climatic events. Appropriate species will be used for project interventions in order to minimize the potential impacts in the medium and long-term. Where damage occurs before ecosystem management adaptation approaches can reduce the impacts of extreme events, supplementary infrastructural approaches and planting will be undertaken. After suitable review, the project implementation period could be extended in order to facilitate the establishment of ecosystem management adaptation measures.

5. There is a medium risk that limited capacity within relevant ministries/ insufficient qualified human capacity will delay project implementation. A major part of the project is to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for planning, designing and implementing local level adaptation actions. Technical and capacity building expertise will be contracted in, to work with and train local technical staff. A dedicated National Project Coordinator within the Project Manager will be supported with short term national and international specialist support to ensure smooth and timely delivery of project outputs.
6. There is a low risk of insufficient institutional support and political commitments. The proposed project is strongly supported by Governments and other key stakeholders and development partners. The project, in conjunction with UNDP, will therefore take advantage of this opportunity to seek substantial support from the Governments and forge strong partnership with other development partners. Direct linkages to existing and planned baseline development activities implemented by government, securing of the necessary co-financing, as well as local buy-in will also minimize this risk. It will also be important to establish buy in from all government departments early as the project will utilize data and information from a wide range of departments.
7. There is a low risk of poor provincial responses to the leadership role from MAIL. Provincial authorities have been individually consulted during PPG phase, and have endorsed the LDCF project. The PSC will engage with relevant provincial authorities throughout the duration of the project.

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

In the preparatory phase it has been verified that LDCF financed activities are not duplicated through any other project, but rather build on and climate proof baseline initiatives. The current LDCF request aiming at strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks, will coordinate with and complement other relevant initiatives. These initiatives are part of the UNDP portfolio and will receive the same level of oversight and coordination. The project board supervising the implementation of these initiatives will invite the project managers of the other projects when in session to ensure information sharing and coordination. Regular coordination meetings with the Government, other donors and partners and the implementing teams will be organized to ensure maximum synergies and complementarity.

There are a number of parallel development projects and programmes, the Ministry of Finance is responsible for coordination and knowledge sharing between all projects through the UN Agencies which calls a quarterly meeting of all donor-funded projects and programmes under the Ministry.

The project will coordinate specifically with the projects and programmes listed below through the relevant technical department or government agency, represented in the national Technical Advisory Committee and Project Board:

- The **Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (World Bank, \$87m)** aims to improve employment opportunities and income of rural men and women, and the sustainability of targeted local enterprises. The programme supports community-led enterprise development and SME development. The World Bank also supports the **Irrigation Restoration and Development Project (\$97.8m)**. The proposed grant supports the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) with the continued implementation of the national priority irrigation rehabilitation program to rehabilitate irrigation systems that had become dilapidated as a result of the long conflict and insurgency. The program is a key thrust to support agriculture recovery and has achieved visible results on the ground.
- In Afghanistan one important baseline partner for this LDCF financing is the Agro-Meteorology (AgroMet) Program. This programme was initially operated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and focused on the

development of weather monitoring and agricultural prediction capabilities within MAIL. The WMO has agreed to provide extra funding to the project and extend the period from 2012 to 2015. The AgroMet programme aims to extend the meteorological data gathering capacity of national institutions and to provide infrastructure and training for a global climate change observation system. By developing synergies with baseline activities of the AgroMet programme, this LDCF initiative will assist in the provision of training for capacity building in data management and interpretation, climate impact modeling and development of vulnerability maps. Close interaction with the AgroMet programme will ensure complementarity and development of synergies to develop Afghanistan's capacity to carry out climate change monitoring, modeling and prediction for agricultural purposes.

- The WMO has also provided additional funding to the Afghan Meteorological Authority (AMA) through the Rehabilitation of the AMA project. This funding is provided in order to develop the baseline capacity and infrastructure of the AMA, and includes an integrated system for the coordination of weather data, weather forecasting and data integration. The project also includes staff training in the usage of the system. This LDCF project will build upon this base by complementing this agromet support system with on the ground support to improving agricultural practices and irrigation.
- The UNDP/UNEP **Strengthened Approaches for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management in Afghanistan** (SAISEM) programme is designed to promote and build institutional capacity of the Afghan government and communities for sustainable environment management, and to improve the capability of national and local governance bodies for natural resources and disaster management. The project has run beyond the original timeline, and is scheduled to be completed in 2013. However, the lessons learned from this project with respect to sustainable environmental management will be integrated into the local-level engagements undertaken by this LDCF initiative.
- The Food for Life (FFL) initiative of the MAIL is an innovative approach to a comprehensive and sustainable agricultural and livelihood development that focuses on production, rural livelihoods and food security. It is a coordinated mechanism and approach to agricultural development working in partnership with private sector enterprises and institutions to meet the growing needs of subsistence farmers, vulnerable groups and sustainable access to nutritious and safe foods.

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

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

Stakeholder consultation has been a key feature in the design of this LDCF proposal, and stakeholders have been involved in identifying and prioritizing the proposed intervention activities. Details of the stakeholder engagement during the preparatory phase are provided in Section 2.1.3 in the project document. Ongoing public consultation is critical for successful implementation. This section outlines some of the key consultation principles and processes at a strategic level that will need to be translated into practical action during the project implementation. It provides guidance based on the initial stakeholder analysis, conducted as part of the project preparation process, and the consultations so far. This can be used to define exact activities that will form part of a communications and consultation strategy developed during the inception phase.

#### Objectives

The stakeholder consultations during project implementation will support all outcomes. Overall, the objective of the consultation plan is to provide a framework to guide and promote two-way engagements between the key implementing partner (MAIL) and the key stakeholders (NEPA, MEW, MRRD, PEACs, provincial and district governors, government institutions at sub-national level, DDAs, CDCs, farmers cooperatives and associations, villagers, ICIMOD, international donors (USAID, ADB, DFID, AusAID, KOICA, WB), FAO, WFP, UNHCR, UNCHA, UNEP, NGOs (ACTED, CARE International) and private sector, ACCI) with whom the project will engage and directly impact upon.

It is proposed that several more specific objectives for consultation are adopted:

1. To ensure a general vision and understanding of the project and its expected outcomes by all concerned stakeholders.
2. To engage key stakeholders in planning, implementing and monitoring of specific interventions.
3. To ensure consistent, supportive and effective communication (information, documentation, sharing, learning and feedback) processes with key implementing partners as well as the wider public including farmers groups, CDC members, DDA members and pastoralists/livestock keepers.
4. To influence and ensure strategic level support for project implementation from state and non-state organizations and international agencies through engagement in effective community, private sector and donor forums or platforms.

In delivering these objectives, there are a number of simple qualitative considerations that need to be taken into account when planning engagement processes and what they should be seeking to achieve:

- Identify constraints and solutions: As a two-way engagement, the consultation process should be used as an opportunity to identify with stakeholders possible constraints in the project's implementation and to work with the stakeholders to find sustainable solutions.
- Managing expectations: The LDCF investment is relatively minor, compared to the adaptation demands facing the country. It will be important that consultations take due consideration to manage expectations of stakeholders and stakeholder groups.
- Partnerships for co-financing: The LDCF seeks to add value to its investments by building on existing and parallel projects that represent co-financing and consultations should consider opportunities for partnerships that will leverage co-financing into innovative approaches or technologies that may improve efficiencies and enhance impact.

#### Stakeholders

Stakeholders include a range of types of groups, all with their own interests and concerns. They have different roles to play in the project and the Table below indicates key stakeholders and their possible roles.

#### Activities planned during implementation and evaluation

During implementation, the communication and consultation process should be divided into three main phases, being:

Phase 1 – this is the mobilization phase in the first year of the project. The fine details of the activities and implementation structures will be designed, partnerships for action will be forged and stakeholder engagement will focus around these design processes.

Phase 2 – represents the main implementation phase where investments will be made on the ground in the target areas and stakeholder consultations about engagement will focus on output oriented action.

Phase 3 – represents the completion of the project and the plans for scale-up and long-term sustainability of the LDCF investments. Consultations will focus on learning, bringing experience together and looking at processes for continued post-project impact.

#### Phase I – Developing a strategy and action plan

At mobilization, a simple communications strategy should be developed. Key principles to be considered in the development of the strategy include:

**Who?** Implementer needs to understand the stakeholders well – their needs, the impacts of interventions on each stakeholder group, the opportunities for contribution/engagement, and their power/influence. Whilst, as part of the project preparation, a stakeholder analysis was carried out, during this phase this should be reviewed as stakeholders should be seen as dynamic. The stakeholders that may be involved in or affected by the project are multiple, diverse; so an effective stakeholder identification process will be an important contributor to identifying key factors for success and risks to mitigate.

**Gender:** In engagement with the project implementation, it will be important to consider the different ways that the benefits derived from this project are equally accessed, understood and utilized by both women and men. The project implementer will need to consider how these two groups access project benefits and get feedback through consultation process in selected areas of implementation.

**Why?** Implementers need be clear about the purpose of the consultation process as so that the right stakeholders make the right inputs to the planned activities. During Phase I, MAIL will seek to have secured the support and commitment of key stakeholders required for project implementation. Implementers should make key stakeholders aware of the plan and its intended activities and outcomes and make clear their role and scope for contributing to project decisions and activities.

**What?** In planning stakeholder involvement, the strategy should make as much use of existing mechanisms (institutions and process) as possible, avoiding establishing project oriented structures.

Types of consultation mechanisms:

- An overarching multi-stakeholder group, such as a steering committee will form a governance role, but also be a forum for stakeholder engagement.
- Specific focus groups on technical interventions,
- Information briefings for government and con-financing institutions.

#### Phase II - Consultation through implementation

Once implementation begins, public consultations should become more of an ongoing exchange of information, and there are two main purposes for the various mechanisms outlined under Phase I:

- to gather information from beneficiaries and stakeholders about the impact and effectiveness of the planned adaptation interventions to support adaptive management; and
- To provide interested government and donor stakeholders and the general public with information about the progress and impact of the project as it is implemented.

The first purpose relates to engagement for effective implementation and monitoring, whilst the latter is more concerned with information dissemination, 'public relations' and expectation management. Good public relations will also help encourage collaboration with respect to the objective of the LDCF project.

#### Phase III - Project completion and scale up promotion

This will be a process of ensuring completion, hand-over and long-term sustainability of the LDCF investment. Consultation will focus on bringing experience together, sharing key lessons learnt (through the UNDP SDU and other forums) and looking at processes for promoting scale up of this project in order to have efficient and reliable structures in the country.

#### Social issues and impacts

Different assessments indicate that women and children, elderly people, small scale farmers and pastoralists are among the most affected groups in the society by climate change. The implementation of this project will improve the resilience of rural livelihood options of the Afghan communities in the selected provinces. Hence, the project will benefit all the communities equally but the most affected group like women will have a comparative advantage as most of the burden is on them.

B.2 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

45. At household level, benefits will be most important for those depending on subsistence agriculture. Women and SMEs will benefit directly from the project support in marketing, training and income generation activities. Over 10,000 rural poor Afghans will benefit from the project activities in the area of livelihood diversification with increased income in twelve districts in four provinces. Similarly those living on the plains and prone to recurrent droughts (Uruzgan, Balkh and Herat Provinces) will benefit from the increased capacity of the irrigation infrastructure to retain water and deliver it with minimal losses. Close and strengthened partnerships and communication channels between MAIL and the provincial and district level extension services will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state support to agriculture and livelihoods through better planning, adapted agricultural practices and support.

46. This intervention will have tangible and direct benefits for the population in rural agricultural areas which represents about 5 to 7 million people. In Balkh and Herat Provinces where irrigation infrastructure is critical for production agriculture, the rehabilitation of check dams, reservoirs, karezes and irrigation canals will improve

agricultural output. Similarly in the Panjshir valley, especially in the Abshar and Parian districts, better control of flood waters from the thawing snow will provide improved irrigation capacity and access to drinking water for schools. Drier areas like Uruzgan Province and some parts of Herat which are the base for intense agricultural activity will also benefit from improved water harvesting systems and groundwater recharge. This LDCF initiative will benefit this area substantially by ensuring enhanced irrigation infrastructure and alternative livelihoods that will impact around 1 million people. The project will indirectly benefit a large part of the population of Afghanistan by creating capacity at the national level (in key ministries like the MAIL and MRRD) to produce more climate responsive development plans and train government staff in planning long-term strategies for climate change adaptation.

47. This LDCF initiative will improve the long term planning capacity for climate change adaptation in Afghanistan, particularly in support of enhancing the resilience of livelihoods and irrigation infrastructure and assets of some of the poorest communities. Enhancing awareness and capacity to plan for long-term adaptation strategies has the potential to enable poor communities such as farmers and pastoralists to make informed decisions about their livelihood activities and protect their built assets.

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

48. The preparatory and design phase focused on project implementation principles and approaches that will meet the objectives of the project in the most cost-effective way. The project will contribute to implement four of the NAPA's top 11 priority projects. The project will be implemented through government agencies responsible for agriculture and irrigation, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and multi-sectoral task teams drawing expertise from the departments responsible for planning and implementing climate resilience enhancing practices as this was considered the most cost-effective approach.

49. This LDCF initiative has sought to build on current development initiatives in order to climate proof them. Full costing for interventions in Panjshir, Herat, Uruzgan and Balkh, were done and the projects were deemed cost effective. The effectiveness of the interventions in increasing resilience to climate change will be tested and measured during the course of this LDCF project through M&E and lessons learned mechanisms. This will involve undertaking an economic analysis and performing cost-benefit analyses to ascertain whether each activity is an economically viable option given climate change. The most successful activities will be prioritized for upscaling to other areas in Afghanistan, and details regarding their implementation and lessons learned from the project will be disseminated at workshops and training events to ensure their mainstreaming.

50. Cost effectiveness is further ensured by building upon the current baseline projects in the target areas, ensuring the long-term viability of the activities and investments under conditions of climate change. In addition, by targeting upland areas and focusing at a watershed level, the ecosystem services protected by project interventions will result in significant downstream benefits, ensuring that not only local communities but all households dependent on regular water supplies from the watersheds will benefit from this LDCF financing. This ecosystem management approach to climate change adaptation ensures benefits are widespread, since the value of ecosystem services extends far beyond the local impact.

51. By providing technical training and financial support to community organizations and improving livelihoods through, for example, improved agricultural resilience, the LDCF project will engender ownership of the project and enhanced capacity within these communities. This reduces the overhead for monitoring and maintenance of the activities, and will promote sustainability of project benefits beyond the project lifespan. Building upon current national development programmes and enhancing capacity within the management structures mandated by government further strengthens the cost effectiveness of the LDCF project.

52. The preparatory and design phase also analyzed the training and capacity building options and only those within the scope and cost effectiveness of this project were identified. For example, the options of sending MAIL and MRRD engineers abroad to reputed universities for climate change integrated planning training is more expensive than getting the training done in the country. Most of the training will be done in country either with international experts for short periods, or using national expertise from Kabul University and other research institutions like

ICIMOD with climate change expertise. This will create a pool of knowledge and trainers who will in turn be able to transfer the knowledge to other national or provincial staff thereby extending the outreach and impact of the project. The alternative of outsourcing the training to universities and research institution abroad (mostly in the US and Europe) was deemed too expensive.

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

The project will be monitored through the following M& E activities. The M&E budget is provided in the table below. The M&E framework set out in the Project Results Framework in Part III of this project document is aligned with the AMAT and UNDP M&E frameworks.

#### Project start

A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, UNDP Country Office and where appropriate/feasible regional technical policy and program advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan.

The Inception Workshop should address a number of key issues including:

- Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO and RCU staff vis-à-vis the project team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again as needed.
- Based on the project results framework and the LDCF related AMAT set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document, and finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
- Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
- Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- Plan and schedule PB meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first PB meeting should be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.

An Inception Workshop report is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

#### Quarterly:

- Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high. Note that for UNDP/GEF projects, all financial risks associated with financial instruments such as revolving funds, microfinance schemes, or capitalization of ESCOs are automatically classified as critical on the basis of their innovative nature (high impact and uncertainty due to no previous experience justifies classification as critical).
- Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.
- Other ATLAS logs will be used to monitor issues, lessons learned. The use of these functions is a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

Annually: Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report is prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements. The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual).
- Lessons learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR

Periodic Monitoring through site visits: UNDP CO and the UNDP-GEF region-based staff will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

#### Mid-term of project cycle:

The project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Review at the mid-point of project implementation. The Mid-Term Review will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term review will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term review will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The LD/FC/SCCF AMAT as set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document) will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

#### End of Project

An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final PB meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP-GEF guidance. The terminal evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term review, if any such correction took place). The terminal evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The LD/FC/SCCF AMAT as set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document) will also be completed during the terminal evaluation cycle. The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response, which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

#### Learning and knowledge sharing:

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. There will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus. At various discussion forums the importance of focusing on monitoring and on food insecure areas was mentioned. This will be done and is included in the monitoring plan.

Audit: Project will be audited in accordance with UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ <i>Excluding project team staff time</i>	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Manager (MEE)</li> <li>▪ PIU</li> <li>▪ UNDP CO, UNDP GEF</li> </ul>	Indicative cost: 10,000	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNDP GEF RTA/Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members.</li> <li>▪ PIU, esp. M&amp;E expert</li> </ul>	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop.	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on <i>output and implementation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oversight by Project Manager (MEE)</li> <li>▪ PIU, esp. M&amp;E expert</li> <li>▪ Implementation teams</li> </ul>	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
ARR/PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project manager (MEE)</li> <li>▪ PIU</li> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP RTA</li> <li>▪ UNDP EEG</li> </ul>	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project manager and team</li> </ul>	None	Quarterly
Mid-term Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project manager (MEE)</li> <li>▪ PIU</li> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP RCU</li> <li>▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)</li> </ul>	Indicative cost: 31,500	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Terminal Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project manager (MEE)</li> <li>▪ PIU</li> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP RCU</li> <li>▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)</li> </ul>	Indicative cost : 45,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ Project manager (MEE)</li> <li>▪ PIU</li> </ul>	Indicative cost per year: 3,000 (15,000 total)	Yearly
Visits to field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP RCU (as appropriate)</li> </ul>	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and	Yearly for UNDP CO, as required by UNDP

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ <i>Excluding project team staff time</i>	Time frame
	▪ Government representatives	operational budget	RCU
<b>TOTAL indicative COST</b> Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses		US\$ 101,500 (+/- 5% of total GEF budget)	

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

- A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this form. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
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 CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Ms. Adriana Dinu, Executive Coordinator And Director, a.i., UNDP/GEF		January 31, 2014	Faris Khader, Regional Technical Specialist, EITT	+66 2304 9100 ext 2756	<a href="mailto:faris.khader@undp.org">faris.khader@undp.org</a>

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

<p><b>This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in CPAP or CPD:</b></p> <p><b>Output 5.1:</b> Government capacity to develop policies to manage natural resources enhanced</p> <p><b>Output 5.2:</b> Sub-national institutions and communities are able to promote environmental protection and use natural resources responsibly</p> <p><b>Output 5.3:</b> Government and communities have better capacity for disaster risk reduction</p>					
<p><b>Country Programme Outcome Indicators:</b></p> <p>5.1.1. Indicator: Number of policy formulation initiatives led by the Government using in-house capacity.</p> <p>5.2.1 Indicator: Number of clients received off-farm services (post-harvest technology, market oriented infrastructure, and farm-to-market access)</p> <p>5.3.1. Indicator: Sound environment and natural resource management policies and strategies are being implemented and mainstreamed into development plans at the national and sub-national levels.</p>					
<p><b>Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area (same as that on the cover page, circle one):</b> 1. Mainstreaming environment and energy OR 2. Catalyzing environmental finance OR 3. Promote climate change adaptation OR 4. Expanding access to environmental and energy services for the poor.</p>					
<p><b>Applicable SOF (e.g. GEF) Strategic Objective and Program:</b></p> <p>Objective 1 : Increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global level</p>					
<p><b>Applicable SOF (e.g. GEF) Expected Outcomes:</b></p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Strengthened adaptive capacity to reduce risks to climate-induced economic losses</p>					
<p><b>Applicable SOF (e.g. GEF) Outcome Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporating climate information, warning, and climate change projections into DRM plans, policies and programmes</li> <li>• Strengthening stakeholder comprehension, particularly those most vulnerable, of alerts and climate information</li> <li>• Sustaining technical and operational capacities and the availability of skills and resources beyond the project lifetime</li> </ul>					
	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>	<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>
			<b>End of Project</b>		

<p><b>Project Objective<sup>6</sup></b></p> <p>Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks</p>	<p>1.Capacity of MAIL as per capacity assessment scorecard (baseline: 3; target: 4<sup>7</sup>)</p> <p>2. Domestic finance committed to the relevant institutions to integrate climate change information in development planning</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Minimal</p>	<p>To achieve the Capacity Scorecard score of 4</p> <p>Domestic target financing is \$10 million per year</p>	<p>Capacity Scorecard results</p> <p>Focus group interviews with planning and subject matter specialists</p> <p>MAIL institutions plans and related budgets</p> <p>Field Surveys and climate vulnerability analyses</p>	<p>Deterioration of security situation in project sites.</p> <p>Unavailability of requisite human resources and data</p>
<p><b>Outcome 1<sup>8</sup></b></p> <p>Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes</p>	<p>Amount of budget allocated specifically for climate change adaptation measures in development plans at the provincial level and community development plans (CDCs)</p> <p>Extent to which climate change</p>	<p>Capacity for climate-related analysis and forward planning is limited at national and sub-national level.</p> <p>Institutional capacity for cross-sectoral climate</p>	<p>By end of project, 15 communities and 4 provincial task teams have been trained in and use climate related vulnerability and risk assessments in an integrated area-based planning approach.</p> <p>Climate resilient investment strategies based on integrated climate resilient development plans are in place and attracting</p>	<p>Training records, CCA capacity scorecard assessment, area-based integrated climate change adaptation plans at community and provincial level</p> <p>Sub-national climate resilience plans and</p>	<p>Limited capacity within relevant ministries/insufficient qualified human capacity.</p> <p>Insufficient institutional support and political commitments</p>

<sup>6</sup> Objective (Atlas output) monitored quarterly ERBM and annually in APR/PIR

<sup>7</sup> On a scale of 1 to 5, with: 1 = No evidence of capacity; 2 = Anecdotal evidence of capacity; 3 = Partially developed capacity; 4 = Widespread, but not comprehensive capacity; and 5 = Fully developed capacity.

<sup>8</sup> All outcomes monitored annually in the APR/PIR. It is highly recommended not to have more than 4 outcomes.

	<p>information and adaptation measures are incorporated into MAIL local development plans in 4 provinces</p> <p>Number of climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces</p> <p>Number of MAIL officials, farmers, and pastoralists trained on climate risk information and appropriate response measures</p>	<p>change planning is negligible</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>funding.</p> <p>4 climate change scenarios developed</p> <p>At least 250 MAIL officials, farmers, and pastoralists trained</p>	<p>investment strategies</p> <p>Partnership agreements for adaptation investments</p>	
<p><b>Outcome 2</b></p> <p>Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified</p>	<p>Percentage of project beneficiaries surveyed reporting to gain an increase in personal monthly income at least by 50%</p> <p>Percentage of beneficiaries' households that engage in more than two climate proof livelihoods opportunities</p>	<p>Women and Farmers currently constrained by limited access to and knowledge of diversified livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>Currently there is a lack of access to training, markets, raw materials and financing.</p>	<p>By the end of the project, 800 women and over 30 SMEs have been trained in and tested alternative livelihoods options, of which 35% have adopted them permanently.</p> <p>By the end of the project local administration task teams are able to deliver livelihood diversification support to women and SMEs</p>	<p>Gender disaggregated community survey; community level vulnerability reduction assessment</p> <p>CCA Capacity assessment, evidence of training and demonstration of</p>	<p>Poor provincial responses to the leadership role from MAIL</p> <p>Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts could disrupt project activities and/or damage ecosystems and infrastructure.</p>

	<p>Number of women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming</p> <p>Number of rural entrepreneurs and SMEs trained in business development for handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing</p> <p>Number of hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties</p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>At least 800 women trained</p> <p>50 rural entrepreneurs and 30 SMEs trained in business development</p> <p>2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands rehabilitated</p>	<p>knowledge transfers</p>	
<p><b>Outcome 3</b></p> <p>Productive infrastructure improvements</p>	<p>Crop productivity level from irrigated agriculture (X tons of crops per hectare)</p> <p>Amount of crops and livelihoods assets damaged by floods or drought in the targeted areas</p>	<p>Very limited capacity for applying climate resilient agriculture</p> <p>Informal coping strategies are in use in target areas, no formal infrastructure risk reducing/insurance approaches yet in</p>	<p>By the end of the project, climate resilient agricultural production has increased by 10% in target areas compared to baseline (1t/ha maize) adjusted for rainfall.</p> <p>By the end of the project at least 25% agricultural infrastructure in the target communities is improved to insure against the inherent uncertainty of climate change</p>	<p>Records of micro-irrigation department (MAIL)</p> <p>Local climate / hazard data made available.</p> <p>Community level</p>	<p>Work progresses in a compartmentalized fashion and there is little integration e.g. government departments refuse to share data and information</p> <p>Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts could disrupt project activities and/or damage ecosystems and infrastructure.</p>

		place due to lack of knowledge and hazard information in target areas		vulnerability reduction assessments. Agriculture Bureau statistics.	
	Number of small-scale storage reservoirs built in selected river sub-basins	0	12 small-scale storage reservoirs built		
	Number of communities where micro-water harvesting techniques are introduced	0	Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 12 communities		
	Number of karezes and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses	0	20 karezes and canals improved and rehabilitated		
	Number of check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge	0	At least 20 check dams, contour bunds, and other facilities built		

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS** (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

**Response to Council comments**

**Responses to German Council comments**

Comment	Response	Reference																																					
<p>Germany appreciates the consistent PIF and the focus on enhanced rural livelihood in the context of climate change, which is an important hazard in Afghanistan. However, we suggest some minor adjustments particularly regarding the first component.</p> <p>1) Germany kindly asks to specify the project's intervention sites. As to the PIF, project intervention will be in 4 provinces. While some of the activities seem to be at province level (development of climate change scenarios, training of MAIL officials) the activities on enhanced rural livelihood will be at community level (see project framework, page 2f.). Please specify if community activity will only be realized in the mentioned 10 climate sensitive communities or if other communities will be targeted as well. Please clarify also on the selection criteria and overall selection process of these sites.</p>	<p>The LDCF initiative will carry out activities in four provinces, ten districts, and at least 20 communities, as specified in the table below. The project intervention sites are also detailed in Annex III of the project document on the Key Assessment Reports. The selection of project sites was based on an extensive consultation process at the national, sub-national and local level.</p> <p><b>Project intervention sites</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="646 695 1279 1528"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="646 695 857 728">Provinces</th> <th data-bbox="862 695 1068 728">Districts</th> <th data-bbox="1073 695 1279 728">Villages</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="646 735 857 1058" rowspan="7">Panjshir</td> <td data-bbox="862 735 1068 877" rowspan="4">Abshar</td> <td data-bbox="1073 735 1279 768">Gulab Khel</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 774 1279 808">Dosti Ali</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 814 1279 848">Lala Khel</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 854 1279 888">Sangi Khan</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="862 894 1068 953">Parian</td> <td data-bbox="1073 894 1279 928">Qusur Payan</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 934 1279 968">Qusur Bala</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="862 974 1068 1033">Anaba</td> <td data-bbox="1073 974 1279 1008">Faraj</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 1014 1279 1050">Tawakh</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="646 1056 857 1199" rowspan="3">Herat</td> <td data-bbox="862 1056 1068 1115" rowspan="2">Kohsan</td> <td data-bbox="1073 1056 1279 1089">Qalate Merake</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 1096 1279 1129">Mustafa Bik</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="862 1136 1068 1194">Ghoryan</td> <td data-bbox="1073 1136 1279 1169">Dehran</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 1176 1279 1209">Gordan</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="646 1215 857 1358" rowspan="4">Uruzgan</td> <td data-bbox="862 1215 1068 1249">Tarinkot</td> <td data-bbox="1073 1215 1279 1249">Naqleen</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="862 1262 1068 1358" rowspan="3">Dehrawood</td> <td data-bbox="1073 1262 1279 1295">Lablan</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 1302 1279 1335">Meyan Doo</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 1341 1279 1375">Tacr Yatemark</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="646 1381 857 1524" rowspan="4">Balkh</td> <td data-bbox="862 1381 1068 1440" rowspan="2">Balkh</td> <td data-bbox="1073 1381 1279 1415">Kata Khil</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 1421 1279 1455">Medain</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="862 1461 1068 1520" rowspan="2">Khulm</td> <td data-bbox="1073 1461 1279 1495">Nemaz Gan</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 1501 1279 1535">Payan</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1073 1541 1279 1575">Tahtetaq</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Following local consultations with the Provincial Governor's Office and provincial Departments in each province, a long list of intervention options was identified in target districts. These potential interventions were then further narrowed down to a final shortlist of intervention options. The final list of priority actions was agreed by a joint meeting of rural livelihood experts and civil engineers based on the following selection criteria: the budget requirements, sustainability in terms of climate change awareness,</p>	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Panjshir	Abshar	Gulab Khel	Dosti Ali	Lala Khel	Sangi Khan	Parian	Qusur Payan	Qusur Bala	Anaba	Faraj	Tawakh	Herat	Kohsan	Qalate Merake	Mustafa Bik	Ghoryan	Dehran	Gordan	Uruzgan	Tarinkot	Naqleen	Dehrawood	Lablan	Meyan Doo	Tacr Yatemark	Balkh	Balkh	Kata Khil	Medain	Khulm	Nemaz Gan	Payan	Tahtetaq	<p>Project document, Annex III on Key Assessment Reports</p>
Provinces	Districts	Villages																																					
Panjshir	Abshar	Gulab Khel																																					
		Dosti Ali																																					
		Lala Khel																																					
		Sangi Khan																																					
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		Medain																																					
	Khulm	Nemaz Gan																																					
		Payan																																					
Tahtetaq																																							

	diversification of income resources, and job creation at the community level.	
<p>2) In the same context, please clarify on the role of districts in the project design. District Development Assemblies (DDA) are mentioned to be key stakeholders. However, the PIF does not explain what would be their role. The first component on local development planning e.g. does not target DDAs but Community Development Councils with the respective Community Development Plans (CDPs). Only 10 CDPs will be developed, compared to more than 22.000 which have been formulated. To be able to achieve broader impact and to enable up-scaling Germany suggests considering the following two options during the drafting of the final project proposal: (1) combining the preparation of 10 CDPs with the development of guidelines which can be used in other communities and should therefore become national guidelines and (2) examine if the first component could also address district development plans since the PIF mentions that the incorporation of climate change in both, district and community plans, is important (page 5).</p>	<p>District Development Assemblies (DDAs) were widely consulted during the project design phase and will play an important role during implementation. The DDAs will be consulted and actively involved in the formulation of the climate sensitive Community Development Plans (CDPs) and in all of the community level activities and investments, ranging from the training on alternative livelihoods and enterprise development to the rehabilitation of degraded rangelands and the investments in small-scale productive infrastructure. As replication and scaling up are central to the success of the project, lessons learned, good practices, and experiences will be shared widely so that project results are expanded more broadly and progressively more communities and districts integrate climate change risks and variability into their development planning. Output 1.3.4 is on the formulation of guidelines to stimulate replication on a wider scale. Importantly, the CDPs will feed into the district-level development planning. Particular attention will be paid to documenting information and sharing lessons from the climate resilient local development planning process, which will inform and feed into subsequent planning processes. Project results will be replicated both vertically from the bottom up from the community to district and provincial levels and horizontally across provinces. One of the key expected results of the LDCF intervention is greater coordination and communication between various administrative units at different levels of government.</p>	<p>Project document, p. 34 and Annex IV on Stakeholder Involvement Plan</p>
<p>3) There are certainly significant impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector in Afghanistan. However, the data availability and quality at provincial level might not permit to develop climate change scenarios at the province level which are robust enough (component 1) to inform policy making. During further project development less complex methodologies might be considered (e.g. climate proofing, simple vulnerability analysis methods).</p>	<p>It is true that data availability at the provincial level can be an issue in some provinces. As suggested, the project will take a pragmatic approach. Some flexibility has been built into the project design. Where sufficient data exists, robust climate change scenarios for the agriculture sector will be developed to inform policy making. This would be the first preference. In cases where there is inadequate or unreliable data, the project will explore other options such as climate proofing and vulnerability analysis methods. Whatever tools and methodologies are ultimately chosen, they should strengthen the capacity of the national and provincial government to plan interventions and anticipate possible changes in the agricultural sector in the selected provinces.</p>	<p>Project document, Output 1.1, p. 33</p>
<p>4) Since training is an important activity in this PIF, Germany asks to detail what the <i>use of output</i> of these trainings will be. What will the trained stakeholders do differently once having participated in the</p>	<p>The project will provide training and capacity building to all levels of government on climate change risks and impacts, and provide key stakeholders with technical support for designing adaptation measures. It is expected that following the</p>	<p>Project document, Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, p. 37, Project</p>

<p>training? Please do also formulate indicators beyond the output level (component 1 and 2). With respect to the training of women on alternative livelihoods and business development in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing, Germany kindly asks to specify if and to what extent market accessibility exists.</p>	<p>training, MAIL officials, farmers, pastoralists, and other key partners will have a much greater awareness of expected climate change impacts and will have the capability to participate in and inform the design of effective adaptation responses. It is also anticipated that trained stakeholders will take into account climate change impacts in their development planning processes, something that has not been done under the baseline scenario. Indicators at the objective and outcome level have been formulated. Market accessibility is an area that requires further progress. Under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, there are activities on conducting market surveys and on creating and strengthening linkages with markets, buyers and suppliers.</p>	<p>Results Framework, pp. 51-55</p>
<p>5) ICIMOD was mentioned as an executing partner however without giving information on their respective role in the project. We kindly ask to clarify ICIMOD's role in the final project proposal.</p>	<p>ICIMOD's role in the project will be based on its comparative advantage. ICIMOD has experience in providing training on climate change adaptation, climate modeling including GIS and remote sensing, and in implementing a micro-watershed community approach. It is anticipated that ICIMOD, along with staff from Kabul University and some international experts, will conduct most of the training on climate change under the project. ICIMOD could also potentially be involved in data collection and the development of climate change scenarios for the target provinces, as well as watershed management in some communities.</p>	<p>Project document, pp. 47 and 133</p>

### Responses to Japan Council comments

Comment	Response	Reference
<p>1. Kindly please clarify the relationship between this project and the National Priority Program. We understand that the Government of Afghanistan should keep the NPP and implement as a project partner in line with it.</p>	<p>This LDCF initiative will directly contribute to the national priority programs on Skills Development and Labor, Women Affairs, Water and Natural Resource Management, and Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development. It will make an indirect contribution to the national priority programs on Strengthening Local Institutions and Local Governance. The LDCF project's relevance and contribution to the National Priority Programs is outlined in Annex X.</p>	<p>Project document, Annex X, p. 151</p>
<p>2. We appreciate if you could let us know the breakdown of the budget (e.g. costs of each sub-component, consultants and equipment, and there might be security costs) so as to see the amount is reasonable.</p>	<p>The budget breakdown by sub-component has been provided in the Total Budget and Work Plan in the project document. Total consultant costs for both international and local consultants are provided in Table F of the CEO Endorsement Request. The security premium in Afghanistan is approximately 40%. This premium would apply to international consultants hired by the project, travel to field locations within the country, and rental of premises. This rate is standard across development agencies operating in the country.</p>	<p>Project document, Total Budget and Work Plan, pp. 56-59; CEO Endorsement Request, Table F, p. 3</p>

**ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS<sup>9</sup>**

A. DESCRIBE FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF ANY:

n/a

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

<b>PPG Grant Approved at PIF: \$100,000</b>			
<b><i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i></b>	<b><i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i></b>		
	<b><i>Budgeted Amount</i></b>	<b><i>Amount Spent To date</i></b>	<b><i>Amount Committed</i></b>
Collection and analysis of baseline data from each of the selected provinces	40,000	28,957	11,043
Preliminary climate change vulnerability analysis	15,000	10,000	5,000
Stakeholder consultations with provincial MAIL officials, MRRD, Community Development Councils, farmers, pastoralists and other key partners	15,000	15,000	0
Logical framework analysis with participation of relevant stakeholders	10,000	10,000	0
Detailed design of project activities based on the results of the log frame analysis	10,000	10,000	0
Negotiation and confirmation of co-financing	5,000	0	5,000
Project management arrangements and implementation plan prepared	5,000	2,260	2,740
Preparation of Project document and CEO Endorsement Request	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>76,217</b>	<b>23,783</b>

<sup>9</sup> If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.

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

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

n/a