



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Enhanced Cross-Sectoral Land Management through Land Use Pressure Reduction and Planning		
Country(ies):	Serbia	GEF Project ID: ¹	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	01276
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection of Republic of Serbia	Submission Date:	29 April 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	36
Name of parent program (if applicable): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> • For SGP <input type="checkbox"/> • For PPP <input type="checkbox"/> 	n/a	Project Agency Fee (\$):	62,856

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
(select) LD-3 Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape Outcome 3.1: Enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management Output 3.1 Integrated land management plans developed and implemented Outcome 3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities Output 3.2 INRM tools and methodologies developed and tested	GEFTF	661,644	2,900,000
(select) (select)	(select)	661,644	2,900,000
Total Project Cost		661,644	2,900,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](#) when completing Table A.

Project Objective: Reduce pressures on land as a natural resource from competing land uses in the wider landscape through reversal of land degradation and remediation in Serbia and development of instruments and mechanisms for integrated land use management and capacity development.

Project Component	Grant Type³	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
C1. Enabling institutional, policy and scientific environment for long-term integrated land use management	TA	<p>1. Adopted Land Use planning implemented by all land users</p> <p>2. Identified priority sites for remediation with required remediation measures, policy coordination framework, and identified state support for implementation and financing of remediation Indicator: Prioritized sites for remediation in a participatory manner and state support identified.</p> <p>3. Enhanced policy framework for integrated land use management in Serbia. Indicator: new legislation and guidelines regarding land use in Serbia approved and implemented by the government</p>	<p>1. Conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments of the production sector land use</p> <p>2. Identified pollution source and the degree on land use from production sectors and its spatial distribution, including sampling and testing</p> <p>3. A set of remediation priorities (in accordance with Regulation 22/2010): site hazard assessment and classification of sites</p> <p>4. Electronic GPS database - Cadaster of environmental/industrial hotspots in Serbia</p> <p>5. Integrated Land Use Management Plan</p>	GEFTF	260,000	1,700,000

³ TA includes capacity building, and research and development.

		of Serbia				
C2. Landscape-level management of natural resources in Serbia	TA	<p>1. Ecosystem management principles for management of natural resources are in place and allow multipurpose use of resources. Indicator: Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan developed, adopted and implemented resulting in sustainable natural resource use. Indicator:</p>	<p>1. Setup of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and developed methodology for its implementation 2. A package of trade-off measures testing by at community and local levels</p>	GEFTF	179,852	600,000
C3 Capacity building, awareness raising and sharing learned lessons with main stakeholders and wider public based on sustainable monitoring system	TA	<p>1. Strengthened capacities of major stakeholders for environmentally sound practices in sectors competing for land area and natural resources Indicator: 30 government officials trained regarding sustainable land use in Serbia are implementing land use planning</p> <p>2. Lessons learned captured in multi-media format Indicator: videos, manuals, guidelines and interactive</p>	<p>1. Communication and outreach in different regions of Serbia 2. videos, manuals, guidelines, produced 3. Mapping hotspots and development of interactive hot-spot map available to public 4. Organization of conference aimed at presenting best practices in integrated land management in Serbia and the region</p>	GEFTF	161,643	600,000

		maps regarding land use in Serbia produced and distributed amongst major stakeholders result in major changes with regards to an increased number of environmentally sound practices including land use planning	5. Creation of platform for monitoring of environmental, social and economic impacts 6. Establishment of project monitoring system			
		3. Broad and high level commitment to expanding and replicating measures: ensured public support for remediation and SLM of environmental/ industrial hotspots Indicator: All major stakeholders informed and at least 50% adopted integrated land management policies and actions.				
		Subtotal			601,495	2,900,000
		Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴		GEFTF	60,149	0
		Total Project Cost			661,644	2,900,000

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
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⁴ To be calculated as percent of subtotal.

National Government	Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection	Cash	50,000
National Government	Ministry of Natural Resources, Mining and Spatial Planning	In-kind	500,000
National Government	Serbian Environmental Protection Agency	In-kind	500,000
Local Government	Local authorities responsible for environmental protection	In-kind	400,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	Cash	50,000
Bilateral Aid	Czech republic	In kind	600,000
Bilateral Aid	Austrian Environmental Agency		300,000
Bilateral Aid	Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea,	In kind	350,000
Bilateral Aid	Norwegian Institute for Water Research	In kind	100,000
CSO	Ministry of Natural Resources, Mining and Spatial Planning	In kind	50,000
Total Cofinancing			2,900,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b) ²	Total (\$) c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Land Degradation	Serbia	661,644	62,856	724,500
Total Grant Resources				661,644	62,856	724,500

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

² Indicate fees related to this project.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

	<u>Amount Requested (\$)</u>	<u>Agency Fee for PPG (\$) ⁶</u>
• No PPG required.	-- 0--	--0--
• (upto) \$50k for projects up to & including \$1 million	<u>27397</u>	<u>2,603</u>
• (upto)\$100k for projects up to & including \$3 million	_____	_____

⁵ On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF PROJECT ONLY

Trust Fund	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
GEF TF	UNEP	Land Degradation	Serbia	27,397	2,603	30,000
Total PPG Amount				27,397	2,603	30,000

MFA: Multi-focal area projects; MTF: Multi-Trust Fund projects.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION⁷

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROJECT, INCLUDING ; 1) THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, ROOT CAUSES AND BARRIERS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED; 2) THE BASELINE SCENARIO AND ANY ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS, 3) THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO, WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT, 4) INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING AND EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE BASELINE , THE GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF AND CO-FINANCING; 5) GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEFTF, NPIF) AND/OR ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF); 6) INNOVATIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND POTENTIAL FOR SCALING UP

A 1.1. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, ROOT CAUSES AND BARRIERS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

Serbia is located in the Balkan Peninsula and the Pannonia Plain. The country has several notable topographical features: the Pannonia Plain (mainly Vojvodina) and river lowlands, the Balkan and Carpathian Mountains, the Dinaric Alps, along with hills stretching across the central part of Serbia. Serbia is a landlocked country located at the crossroads of Central and Southeast Europe. Its total area is 88,361 km².

Serbia has already endorsed the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification / Land Degradation (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2007.

Soil conditions in Serbia have been crucially influenced by the geomorphological structure of the terrain – the land relief and its variable petrographic composition, and anthropological influences. The land and soils are vastly utilized. Agricultural areas dominate, spreading over 56% of the country (Corine Land Cover database, 2006). About 26% is occupied by arable land, 16% by complex cultivation and 13% by principally agricultural land with areas of natural vegetation. Semi-natural and forest areas cover almost 40% of the country (broad-leaved forest account for 27%). Land classified as artificial areas occupies nearly 3% and the rest of national territory, about 1.6% is classified as wetlands or water.

From the point of view of their suitability for use in agriculture (land quality), the soil resources of Serbia have been divided into eight classes of land quality, the first four of which incorporate better soils, while Classes 5–8 include soils that are by and large unsuitable for cultivation. Soil limitations for intensive agricultural production are least pronounced in Vojvodina.

In line with the Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, at present the main processes connected with soil loss and degradation in Serbia are as follows: 1) soil loss and damage due to industrial, mining, and power-producing activities, 2) loss of soil organic matter, 3) acidification and salinization of soil, 4) different forms of soil pollution (excessive use

⁷ Part II should not be longer than 5 pages.

of agrochemicals, heavy metals, industrial pollution, etc.), 5) Aeolian and water erosion, and 6) compaction of agricultural soils.

In general, all these processes lead not only to the physical loss of soil but also to soil degradation and are very often interconnected, so that, for example, soil acidification leads to a loss of soil organic matter, soil erosion reduces soil biogenicity, and so on. Historically speaking, between 1957 and 1993, Serbia irreversibly lost around 220,000 ha of mostly fertile agricultural land due to various industrial, mining, power-producing, and traffic activities (Rudić et al. 1995).

The exploitation of mineral raw materials, especially in surface coalmines, leads directly to the loss of soil. While the many problems pertaining to soils affected by this process in Serbia are known, it is not known whether or not they have been subject to statistical analyses, nor is it known how soil degradation of this type is treated, i.e. whether it is regarded as a change in the intended use of the soil or as an instance of soil loss, given the fact that the current legislation mandates that the users of such soils are obligated to eventually revert the soil to its original use. The surface coalmines of the Electric Power Industry of Serbia are currently spread across 10,000-12,000 ha of high-quality agricultural land. The bulk of this acreage is in the areas of the Kolubara and Kostolac mines. Both of these areas can be regarded as environmental hotspots, since for reasons described above, virtually no soil remediation efforts have been undertaken in them since the 1990s (Vujić 2004, Ličina et al. 2005).

Soil quality is under threat in other mining areas as well. Besides exploiting the soil, due to the inadequate disposal of tailings containing metallic ingredients and a complete lack of planned land rehabilitation, mines in these localities also cause degradation in the outlying areas of the Timočki, Kosovski, and Kopaonički mining basins, in which the tailings mass is several tens of times larger than the mass of the ore dug out (circa 3,000 ha). A change in the intended use of the soil also occurs when a soil is used as a borrow pit to provide raw material for the clay industry, especially in Vojvodina (areas of the towns of Kikinda, Kanjiža, Sremski Karlovci, Bečej, and others). In this manner, around 1,000 ha of agricultural soil have been destroyed so far due to a lack of soil remediation. Lastly, sand and gravel pits located alongside rivers have also been contributing to the degradation of low-grade alluvial soils found on the banks of rivers such as the Danube, Sava, Drina, Morava, Ibar, and Pek. There are 125 or so gravel pits currently in operation in Serbia that are responsible for the destruction of around 60 ha of agricultural soil each year. Similar is the case with rock quarries and ceramic and fire clay pits (Rudić et al. 2005).

The different forms of soil contamination leading to soil degradation in Serbia (heavy metals, excessive use of agrochemicals, industrial pollution, etc.) have been gaining increasing attention in the country as of late. In addition to a number of pieces of legislation regulating almost all aspects of these instances of pollution, it is also evident that a lot has been accomplished in the practical sense as well, including extensive work on the remediation of sites contaminated by drilling fluid used for oil exploration between 1996 and 2003 (Sekulić et al. 2003, Hadžić et al. 2004, 2005, Nešić et al. 2006), reclamation by afforestation of some parts (971 ha) of the Kolubara surface mines (completed in 1997), changes in ash disposal technology (2005), lignite drying (2005), remediation of soil contaminated by depleted uranium at the Pljačkovica site near Vranje and the Bratoselce site near Bujanovac (2003-2004), and so on. Nevertheless, some of the problems of this kind are not so apparent as to elicit a strong public reaction, or the

undertaking of clear and visible measures.

A1.2. BASELINE SCENARIO AND ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

Land is a complex system of bio-geochemical processes and a critical component in different ecological processes, such as water management and organic carbon cycle. It acts as a natural filter but also prevents floods due to retained precipitation. Industrialization in Serbia led to land degradation causing reduced potential for its uses. Land became contaminated mostly with heavy metals and mineral oils. Once the functions and quality of the land have been violated, its regeneration can be costly and time consuming. Therefore, urgent and comprehensive actions are needed: stimulation of science and technology, strengthening the institutional capacities, development of partnerships for concerted actions, and raising awareness on integrated and Sustainable Land Management (SLM).

The project baseline is constituted by actions related to enhanced land monitoring and reduced industrial/mining pressures on land.

- **National legislation, institutions and responsibilities and strategies and plans regarding land management in Serbia – brief overview:**

In Serbia, the issue of land management lags behind other environmental subjects as water management and air quality. However, significant efforts were made in the past years to highlight the importance of land degradation as a growing problem and start with the activities for quantifying soil contamination. Main governmental institution responsible for monitoring and reporting on the state of land, according to the national and international standards is the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), within the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection. SEPA's activities regarding monitoring included preparation of a manual entitled "Monitoring land - the legal basis, objectives and indicators", which is the starting point for the development of a systematic program for land monitoring. In 2012, SEPA started introducing methods for sampling and analysis of land quality. Set of activities included: adjustment of the existing laboratories for receiving, storage and preparation of samples; construction of a new laboratory for soil analysis; supply of sampling equipment; training of technicians and engineers; and conducted initial sampling on 78 locations collecting 100 samples.

SEPA's reporting responsibilities are reflected through the annually published report on the state of the environment. Additionally, SEPA published the Report on the State of Land for 2011, containing data and information on the area of degraded land, the content of organic carbon in soil, contaminated sites management and land use changes, using indicators from the National List of Indicators.

An Inventory of Contaminated Sites, as a part of Environmental Information System managed by SEPA, is currently being developed. Data is collected from Local Governments based on the Questionnaire for Determination of Contaminated Sites with the instruction for completing. The Inventory is to provide systemized data on pollution sources such as type, amount, manner and place of discharge of pollutants into the soil, so the measures of prevention; rehabilitation and remediation can be implemented.

For further detailed description of the legal framework, strategies and plans, refer to B.1.1 (Description of the consistency of the project with national strategies, and plans or assessments under relevant conventions)

- **Related projects:**

Serbia has implemented a number of projects as interventions to above laws and strategies. Some of the project's outputs and results can serve as a beneficial platform for this GEF project. Some of the project include:

"Transfer of Czech Experience - Contaminated Land Management in Western Balkans", where SEPA participated in a study tour to the Czech Republic with a focus on the remediation and management of hotspot locations. Study tour included a series of activities aimed at raising the capacity of the countries of the Western Balkans in the management of contaminated sites, pollution monitoring, risk analysis, introduction to different methodological approaches and the process of remediation. Within the project, UNDP will draft a regional report with an overview of the current situation in the management of hotspot locations, the requirements of the EU accession process, and recommendations in this area.

In 2013, Austrian Environment Agency (Umwelbundesamt) through Austro-Serbian Twinnign project "Strengthening Institutional Capacity in Hazardous Waste Management – component 4: Prioritization of Hot Spots", has developed a framework for methodology for identification of contaminated sites and prioritization has been developed. The framework will serve for this GEF project, as basis for activities in identification, investigation assessment, evaluation, prioritization of contaminated sites. Additionally, the mentioned project already developed a preliminary risk assessment for two sites potentially contaminated by hazardous waste, a result that can be used for this GEF project.

"Feasibility Study for remediation of Bor Mine surface and groundwaters", implemented by UNDP and local government in 2011, focused on preparation of feasibility studies for selected sites in Bor Mining Complex that served to determine requirements for environmental remediation of pollution sources to water and also introduce a socio-political perspective. As the area of Bor town is one of the most polluted sited due to its mining complex, the results of this project will be taken into account through component 1 of this GEF project.

" Implementation of the Pancevo Action Program – Clean-up of Pancevo Canal" – funded by Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea was implemented after UNEP Balkan Task force identified the South Zone Industrial Complex of Pancevo as one of the most critical environmental hotspots in Serbia. Since the industry in Pancevo Complex is of crucial importance to Serbian economy, it has also been a target of intervention through a number of projects and initiatives. As the objectives of the Program is best environmental governance, identification for risks in the industrial and urban areas of Pancevo, implementation and compliance with international environmental conventions such as UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, promotion of best available technologies, the results of this project will very well contribute to some of the objectives of this GEF project.

Besides the above mentioned few projects that would serve as a good platform for this GEF projects, others worth mentioning are:

- "Strengthening capacities in the Western Balkans countries to mitigate environmental problems through remediation of high priority hot spots" funded by UNDP and Norwegian Institute for Water research.
- "Clean up and Revitalization of Veliki Becki Kanal in the City of Vrbas",
- "Comparative analysis of techno economic parameters for three selected locations

for disposal and treatment of sludge from the Grand Beka Kanal.

A1.3. Proposed Alternative Scenario

The GEF support will provide the lacking resources to follow-up and complete the activities defined by the monitoring program, it will support establishment of state and local networks of sites for land use and quality monitoring and development of a cadaster of environmental/industrial hotspots. Based on the Regulation 88/2010 (see part B1 - Description of the consistency of the project with national strategies, and plans or assessments under relevant conventions) land degradation risk will be defined according to selected indicators reflecting land vulnerability degree. The project will be implemented within three components.

The objective of this GEF project is to reduce pressures on land as a natural resource from competing land uses in the wider landscape through reversal of land degradation and remediation in Serbia and development of instruments and mechanisms for integrated land use management and capacity development.

This will be accomplished through a number of activities which will have positive early, intermediate and long term results and impacts.

Early and intermediate positive results would include number of strategic documents developed such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of production sectors, cadaster of land degraded “hot spots”, integrated land use management plan, enhanced land and soil policies and many others (please refer to outcomes). Implementation of different activities, and achieving the outputs of this GEF project, would have the following long term positive impacts: remediation and betterment of degraded “hotspots” and overall better soil utilization within the framework of sustainable development of agriculture and the ecosystem, and human health as a whole, prevention of further soil loss and maintenance of its quality, especially in the fields of industry, mining, power production and agriculture which are all major economic drivers of Serbia.

The first **Component 1**: Enabling institutional, policy and scientific environment for long-term integrated land use management, will include a set-up of a policy platform for integrated land use management coordination between the sectors, identification of institutional setting and capacity building to improve decision-making and cooperation between key stakeholders. It will analyze challenges and opportunities of an integrated land-use management in Serbia. Within this component, Environmental and Impact Assessments of the production sector land use will be conducted. The status of environmental threats will be determined in accordance with Regulation 22/2010. Pollution sources will be identified along with the spatial distribution, including sampling and testing to establish the degree of pollution and environmental consequences, monitoring of environmental, social and economic impacts will be performed and priorities for remediation will be determined in accordance with Regulation 22/2010 based on the site hazard assessment and classification of sites. **The expected outputs** for this component are: Conducted environmental and social impact assessments of the production sector and land use, identified pollution sources and the degree on land use from production sectors, and its spatial distribution, a set of remediation priorities (in accordance with Regulation 22/2010), , electronic GPS database - Cadaster of environmental/industrial hotspots in Serbia and monitoring and evaluation system

covering environmental and socio-economic parameter; identified priority sites for remediation; and integrated Land Use Management Plan.

The second **Component 2**: Landscape-level management of natural resources in Serbia

Entails that Landscape-level management will include those ecosystem management principles for management of natural resources are in place and allow multipurpose use of resources. Within this component, an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan will be developed. **The expected outputs for this component are:** Setup of Integrated Natural Resources Management and development of the methodology for its implementation, testing of community and local level mitigation and trade-off options

Component 3 of the GEF project will consist of capacity building, awareness raising and sharing learned lessons with main stakeholders and wider public based on sustainable monitoring system. This component will tackle the important limiting factor; the fact that public awareness of the land degradation problem is still very limited. Therefore, a communication and outreach is planned to be executed in different regions; as a preparation – further information will be collected, graphics developed, and photographs selected to be presented. This component will also include development of interactive hotspot map that will be available to public. Additionally, a report on how to “bridge the gap” between past unsustainable and future practices will be drafted. A conference will be organized aimed at presenting best practices in integrated land management in Serbia and the region. Sustainable monitoring platform of impacts will be established in order to monitor and collect information on environmental, social and economic changes. In order to keep track of the project outputs, a monitoring system will be in place. The expected outputs for this component include : strengthened capacities of major stakeholders for environmentally sound practices in sectors competing for land area and natural resources. Lessons captured in multi-media format (videos, manuals, guidelines and interactive maps) and broad and high level commitment to expanding and replicating measures: ensured public support for remediation and integrated land use management. A platform for monitoring of environmental, social and economic impacts will be created, along with establishment of project monitoring system.

All the above activities are in line with the proposed reforms of the land monitoring system listed in the NEAP (p.130/218).

A 1.4. Incremental Cost Reasoning and Expected Baseline Contributions from the Baseline, the GEFTF, LDCE/SCCF and Co-financing

The Government of Republic of Serbia as well as bi-lateral donors and CSOs will provide co-financing for the project. The GEFTF and co-finance funding will jointly support the objectives and the outcomes of the project.

The project will lead to environmental and social benefits on both national and global level and the incremental cost reasoning will be based on the sliding scale approach; the GEF is planned to contribute with approximately 25% of the overall budget, and the co-finance funding with 75%. Co-finance by the Government will be provided in cash and in-kind.

Scenario without the GEF investment: The baseline for the project rationale is mainly based on efforts and actions implemented by the government institutions in cooperation with international funds and agencies. NEAP (2010) has defined several continuous objectives regarding the protection of land, which in 2010-2019 will require 23,1 mil

EUR in total. Described financial mechanism regarding international support. These investments cover main issues, such as uncontrolled changes in land use, unsustainable use of land and lack of systematic monitoring of soil quality and are necessary to implement identified actions. Without the GEF investment, soil quality continues to be threatened by uncontrolled and inadequate land use; there is no integrated land-use monitoring; no developed policies and no capacity building. Social impacts of conservation of land in terms of increase productivity and livelihood are lacking.

Scenario with the GEF investment: GEF funds will serve as catalyst to develop a coherent and coordinated approach to reduce pressures on land as a natural resource from competing land uses such as large scale industry and mining, through reversal of land degradation and development of instruments and mechanisms for integrated land use management and SLM issues.

A 1.5. Global Environmental Benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and/or Adaptation Benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

It is expected that through mobilization of resources meant to support the project goals, that the implementation of UNCCD and its 10-Year strategy will benefit, especially through creating synergies with the ongoing UNCCD NAP alignment process in Serbia, and through utilizing its respective outcomes. Moreover, the Project's components support the operational objectives of the UNCCD 10-year strategy.

By promoting the SLM practices the project will help to reduce the main threats to land and soil in Serbia i.e. soil loss and damage due to industrial, mining, and power-producing activities and different forms of soil pollution (excessive use of agrochemicals, heavy metals, industrial pollution, etc.), and increase productivity thereby generating environmental and social benefits.

The project will contribute maintaining Global Environmental Benefits by strengthening sound practices for land management and thereby reduce pressures to natural eco-systems (especially forests) resulting in improved biodiversity conservation and climate change.

The project will help remediate approximately 400km² of polluted land which has in return numerous social benefits. The most important benefit for the people of Serbia in terms of reducing health risks arising from the soil pollution, and therefore pollution of air, water and natural resources. The mentioned social benefits are especially true for women, who are more exposed, and vulnerable to health risks arising from soil pollution, as they still play an important and dominant role in agricultural and rural economic sector.

Such impact is very important on the regional level due to high potentials for pollution through air and water to neighboring countries (Serbia contains several important water bodies - rivers of local and regional importance). Furthermore, this project will greatly contribute to overall increase in fertility of soil, meaning direct increased productivity of soil, which is of crucial importance to Serbia, whose one of major economical drivers, and traditional trademarks is versatile and consistent agriculture. This would be an additional very important social benefit to rural population of Serbia, which is composed of almost half of whole population (appx. 48%) and is currently economically marginalized.

The project will influence positively the access to environmental information and increase participation of all relevant stakeholders in decision-making for SLM.

A 1.6. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

The project is innovative as it is the first larger scale, nationally driven initiative to reduce pressures on land through development of instruments and mechanisms for integrated land use management and capacity development. There has been numerous small scale and small area projects with a similar aim; however this project would present the first and integrated one at the national level that would comprehensively consider all national data for land, and produce a coherent system to reduce and possibly stop land degradation.

Furthermore the proposed project would be innovative in two main ways. First, this project envisions enhanced collaboration through much greater levels of participatory engagement in expert working groups and with implementing agency leadership. This coordination would make the needed difference in mainstreaming important components to local stakeholders. This is further evidenced by the projects planned awareness building efforts, organizations of conferences aimed at presenting best practices in land management, creation of communication platforms etc.

Second, several of the project outputs would help upgrade the country's land use management into a higher level, especially due to production of all maps and inventories in the digital form, which currently is not available, such as the cadaster with hotspots available in GPS.

The sustainability of the project outcomes (such as development of a cadaster and integrated natural resources management plan developed) benefit the country's bid for accession to the European Union and to comply with international frameworks. Serbia has been involved in several regional processes for strengthening environmental management at the national level, as well as policy-oriented technical assistance from the European Commission's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) mechanisms. The additional value of this GEF project that fundamentally contributes to its sustainability, is that the project is assisting Serbia comply with EU guidelines and standards and conditions, making the project in the long run self-sustainable, as Serbia's succession into EU will continue the activities that will be strongly initiated by this project.

A.2. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation:

The project will be implemented in line with established GEF, Government of Serbia and UNEP procedures. The overall responsibility for the project will be within the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection as the Executing Agency of the project and SEPA. The activities on the ground will be implemented with the support local governments and civil society. The PPG process will be used to further define the management, coordination and consultation mechanisms.

Other stakeholders that will be involved in the project are as described in the table below.

Stakeholders	Role in the Project
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Ministry of Natural Resources, Mining and Spatial Planning	Co-financing in-kind and supporting the project through providing expertise and information regarding strategic planning, harmonization of sectoral policies and establishing research systems.
Ministry of Health	Support to the project through providing expertise on prioritization of measures for preserving and improving the health of citizens.
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management	Support to project through providing expertise on regulations in field of agricultural, forestry and water management policies, rural development and improving the institutional support.
Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection	Support to project through providing activities on the territory of Vojvodina Province
Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia	Support to project through providing expertise on conducting field research and studies, supervision and monitoring.
Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina province	Support to project through providing expertise on conducting field research and studies, supervision and monitoring on the territory of Vojvodina.
University of Belgrade	Support through providing young researchers and experts assisting on the project.
Regional Environment Center–Belgrade Office	Support to project through providing information on case studies and best practice.
Young Researchers of Serbia, NGO	Providing support through the NGO network, i.e. the local communities.
Aarhus Centers: Subotica, Kragujevac, Novi Sad, South and East Serbia	Providing support in communication and access to information for the public.
Local Governments/Secretariat for the Environment	Providing support to implementation of the environmental impact assessments and local level / community mitigation and trade-off option testing.

A.3 Risk. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable):

The following risks have been identified to have a possible threat to the implementation of the project and/or the project achieving full impacts:

Possible Risks	Level of Impact	Proposed Measure
Administrative challenges emerging during setting up policy platform for integrated land use management coordination between the sectors	Medium	The project will focus on previously identified goals regarding land use management, which are necessary to be implemented according to national strategic documents, such as NEAP.
Lack of valuable information on pollution source	Low	National partners will provide resources to conduct sampling and testing of soil. Information collected and processed during implementation of Jyka Project in 2011, Management of Mining Waste will be available.
Lack of possibility for practical community and local level approach to mitigation and trade-offs	Medium	One of the project activities is to ensure testing of community and local level mitigation and trade-off options.
Poor monitoring of environmental, social and economic impacts after the project implementation	Medium	One of the project outputs is to strengthen capacities of major stakeholders for environmentally sound practices in sectors competing for land area and natural resources.
Weak public response	Medium	Public outreach will be covering all regions in Serbia. Lessons learned will be captured in multi-media format (videos, manuals, guidelines and interactive maps) to ensure interaction and interest of the public.

A.4. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives:

The project will create synergies with the ongoing UNCCD NAP alignment process in Serbia, and/or utilize its respective outcomes, which are supported by the GEF and UNEP, as part of the UNEP umbrella project - Support to GEF Eligible Parties for

Alignment of National Action Programs and Reporting Process under UNCCD.

Furthermore, this GEF project will create synergies through cooperation with a number of national, regional and global project and initiatives, especially:

- Sustainable Initiatives in Marginal Rural Areas of Serbia: A Case Study of Dimitrovgrad Municipality,
- Adriatic – Ionian Initiatives on Environmental Protection,
- Sustainable Work Initiative for a Healthier Tomorrow.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.:

Regulations 88/2010 and 22/2010 of the Republic of Serbia, regarding respectfully, programs for systematic monitoring of the land quality, implementation of risk assessment of land degradation and methodology for making of remediation programs and identification of the criteria for determining the status of endangered and environmental priorities for rehabilitation and remediation will be taken into consideration during project preparation and implementation. The legal framework for monitoring the status of land and reporting is provided in the Law on Environmental Protection ("Official Gazette of RS" no. 135/04, 36/09, 72/09, 43/11), Law on Agricultural Land ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 62/06) and by-laws in Regulations on the permitted amounts of hazardous and noxious substances in soil and void for irrigation and methods for their testing ("Official Gazette of RS" no. 23/94) and the Regulation on the content and manner of keeping the information system of environmental protection, methodology, structure, common ground, categories and levels of data collection, as well as the content of the information on which the public is regularly informed ("Official Gazette of RS" no. 112/09).

Besides the fact that this GEF project is in line with country's legislation, it is directly in line with the objectives of the UNCCD, and priorities of Serbia for dealing with land degradations issues. The project will contribute to implementation of the goals set by the National Environmental Action Plan, as well as Serbian regulation penetrating the issues of remediation of environmental/industrial hotspots, as well as to build capacities in the country to deal with the SLM issues.

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

The project will contribute to the Objective 3 of the Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA), Land Degradation Strategy: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape. In particular, the project supports reaching both key outcomes of the Objective 3 (a. Enhanced enabling environments toward harmonization and coordination between sectors in support of SLM by coordinating policy, legal and regulatory frameworks between sectors competing for land area and natural resources; capable institutions that will collaborate and coordinate actions related to land use to avoid negative trade-offs; and knowledge

transfer for decision-support; and b. Good SLM practices in the wider landscape demonstrated and adopted by relevant economic sectors.).

It is expected that the project will lead to increased investments in integrated land use management and SLM in Serbia.

B.3 The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage for implementing this project:

Within the framework of its medium-term strategy, UNEP will continue to focus its efforts during the biennium 2013-2014 on the six cross-cutting thematic priorities, namely climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, harmful substances and hazardous waste, and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production. This GEF project is in line with the UNEP Programme of Work, especially sub-programme 3 Ecosystem Management, Sub-programme 6: Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production and sub-Programme 5; Chemicals and Waste.

The following table highlights specific contribution to the UNEP MTS Expected Accomplishment of the relevant Su-Programmes:

UNEP Sub-Programme	Expected Accomplishments	Project outputs
<p>Subprogramme 3 Ecosystem management</p>	<p>(a) Use of the ecosystem approach in countries to maintain ecosystem services and sustainable productivity of terrestrial and aquatic systems is increased</p> <p>Indicator</p> <p>(i) Increase in percentage of countries integrating the ecosystem approach into sector-based natural resource management, with the assistance of UNEP</p>	<p>Setup of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and developed methodology for its implementation</p>

<p>Subprogramme 6 Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production</p>	<p>(a) Cross sectoral scientific assessments, research, and tools for sustainable consumption and production and green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication developed, shared and applied by policy-makers, including in urban practices</p> <p>Indicator</p> <p>(i) Increase in the number of UNEP supported regional, national and local institutions that progress in the development and integration of green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and sustainable consumption and production approaches and tools in their policies</p>	<p>Integrated Land Use Management Plan</p> <p>A set of remediation priorities (in accordance with Regulation 22/2010): site hazard assessment and classification of sites</p>
<p>Subprogramme 5 Chemicals and waste</p>	<p>(a) Countries increasingly have the necessary institutional capacity and policy instruments to manage chemicals and waste soundly including the implementation of related provisions in the multilateral environmental agreements</p>	<p>Identified pollution source and the degree on land use from production sectors and its spatial distribution, including sampling and testing</p> <p>A set of remediation priorities (in accordance with Regulation 22/2010): site hazard assessment and classification of sites</p>

Furthermore, UNEP cooperates with multilateral environmental agreements, and support collaboration among such agreements, in order to facilitate their effective implementation. UNEP’s baseline of work enhances the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, promotes Rio Convention synergies, and promotes a Green Economy paradigm, through e.g., building home-grown (national) expertise, sub-regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and environmental leadership; and Linking processes and outputs from GEF funding for Enabling Activities with cross-cutting capacity development projects, for greater synergies, cost effectiveness and impact.

The project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalyzing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements. Together, these initiatives will provide GEF with a range of relevant experiences, proof of concept, testing of ideas

and access to the best available science and knowledge. In relation to the land degradation focal area, the project is fully in line with UNEP comparative experience in reference with GEF/C 31/5 Annex H. UNEP will primarily focus on the areas of its mandate, will continue to provide scientific and technical advice to the Facility on its policies and programs.

UNEP has history of working with national authorities in Serbia and in the region on UN conventions, projects and activities. On land degradation, UNEP is currently supporting Serbia within the Umbrella project as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and FYR of Macedonia as stand-alone projects for on the alignment of the NAP Strategy to UNCCD 10 Year's Strategy. To support Serbia to achieve the goals of becoming a modern democracy and an EU member state, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) together with non-resident regionally based UN Agencies with activities in the Country, in accordance with its Mission Statement, and in close cooperation with the Government of Serbia, civil society stakeholders, and the international community, has prepared the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2010-2014. In addition, UNEP office in Vienna is supporting implementation of GEF financed National Strategy on Biological Diversity and projects related to the Environmental Security Initiative related to forestry and climate change. The UNEP through its Office in Vienna also possesses experience working on ENVSEC (environment and security initiative) and in the past decade has worked very closely with countries of the Balkans and Serbia in particular in the preparation of assessments and feasibility studies for remediation of on projects regarding mining sites and other industrial environmental hotspots assessment. All of the previous UNEP experience on the field shows that the agency has a strong national support and is trusted by the government to lead important environmental governance processes.

The UNEP in-kind contribution to this project is estimated at USD 100,000 over the three years project duration. This amount represents the staff time, particularly of the Regional Office for Europe to develop the project document and ensure its timely implementation


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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Ms. Jovana Jaric	Advisor to the Minister	MINISTRY OF ENERGY, DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	03/05/2014

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B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Brennan VanDyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP, Nairobi		April 29, 2014	Adamou Bouhari, Task Manager, Biodiversity and Land Degradation	+254 207 623 860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org