	EGYPTIAN ITALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL	COOPERATION PROGRAM -	Phase II
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NATURE CONSERVATION SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT (NCSCB)

Enhancement of the Egyptian Protected Areas (EEPA)

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1. SUMMARY

This document describes the approach, objectives, expected outputs, foreseen activities and implementation arrangements of the intervention that will support and enhance the Egyptian Protected Areas of the White Desert, Gilf El Kebir, Siwa, Wady Rayan and their surrounding communities. The proposed project, Enhancement of the Egyptian Protected Areas (EEPA), is to be considered as a component of the Nature Conservation Sector Capacity Building Project (NCSCB) of the Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Program-phase II (EIECP) in accordance with the present binding document.

The intervention includes the enhancement of the precious archaeological and cultural heritage of the Gilf el Kebir National Park. The intervention in the GKNP has a twofold aim: a) enhancing and protecting the precious archaeological and cultural heritage, through the restoration of the rock art located in Wadi Sura Caves (namely "The Swimmers Cave" and "Foggini-Misticawi Animals Cave"); b) promoting the sustainable environmental management of the GKNP.

2. CONTEXT

2.1. Origins of the initiative and lessons learned from the EIECP related projects

The intervention "Enhancement of the Egyptian Protected Areas" (EEPA) is to be considered an extension of the NCSCB project, which is a component of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program - Phase II (EIECP). The EIECP started in October 2004 and was designed by the Directorate General of Cooperation for Development (DGCD) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), within the framework of the international donors' initiatives aimed at contributing towards the implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan 2002-2017 (NEAP).

The environmental priorities of the Egyptian Government, reflected in the NEAP include: (i) protecting the bio diversity and promoting the sound management of national parks; (ii) supporting the institutional capacity required for management of natural resources at the national level; (iii) benefiting from international cooperation opportunities in the field of environment to solve the environmental problems in Egypt.

Furthermore, Egypt's strategic objective of environmental policy, in line with MDG 7 "Ensure environmental sustainability", is to integrate environmental concerns and the principles of sustainable development into all national policies, development plans, programs and projects. The medium term objective is to preserve natural resources, biological diversity and national heritage, within the context of sustainable development.

The UNDP-Egyptian-Italian partnership aimed at supporting the EEAA is consistent with UNDP's overall interest in supporting policy development and strengthening national capacities to ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals through an integrated and policy-driven approach.

In general, the interventions foreseen within the framework of the EIECP were designed to be in line with the Second Country Cooperation Framework for Egypt 2002-2006, which stipulated that UNDP support strategy would be implemented through policy advocacy, institutional building, capacity development and policy demonstration projects.

With reference to the current UNDAF Results and Resources Framework (2007-2011) the proposed intervention falls within its scope, and in particular is in line with Country Programme outcomes 3 (Access to and sustainable management of natural resources improved, outputs 3.1, 3.2, 3.4) and 4 (Institutional capacity building for environmental sustainability improved, outputs 4.3, 4.4).

Within the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program, a cross-cutting and comprehensive approach to the overall environmental sector was adopted.

The Program aims at promoting a sound management of the protected areas, through interventions both at local and central level. Moreover, in the field of environmental legislation, the Program contributed at improving specific areas and promoting their legal application also through capacity building and training courses. Other fields of interventions have targeted the management of water resources and solid waste, as well as sustainable agriculture, cultural heritage and sustainable development.

In particular, the interventions in the field of Protected Areas are focused on Gabal Elba, Wady el Rayan, White Desert, Gilf el Kebir and Siwa. The interventions aimed at providing a correct management of the protected area, thanks to the human, technical and infrastructure resources, which have been provided. Protected Areas are considered of pivotal and strategic importance for

the future of the country, due to their strong economic potential, in particular when related to sustainable development principles.

2.2. National Institutional and Legal Framework

The Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA) is the government Authority responsible for environmental policy in Egypt. The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) is the main MSEA executive or administrative body responsible for environmental protection. It was first established under decree No. 631 of 1982 within the Prime Minister's Office; its role was further clarified and strengthened by Law 4/1994 on the Environment. The main rules governing EEAA's mandate, operation, and functions are derived from Law No. 4 of 1994 and complemented by Executive Regulations issued in Prime Minister's decree No. 338 of 1995.

The Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) was created during the 1995 restructuring of the EEAA. Its mandate is to "protect, manage and develop Egypt's wild resources, by conserving the nation's biological diversity, preserving representative samples of the country's natural heritage, and ensuring that the management and use of resources are sustainable and economically productive". The NCS is comprised of two central departments: Protected Areas and Biodiversity.

The establishment of Protected Areas is one of the main instruments of Egypt's strategy for conserving biodiversity and other natural and cultural resources. The creation, development and management of national protectorates is part of the overall environmental and development strategy of Egypt. Since the 1980's the Egyptian Government has undertaken initiatives to preserve significant portions of natural habitats from resource depletion and human disturbance. The legislative basis creating the legal framework of protected areas is Law 102 of 1983.

Since its passage, twenty-seven PAs (as of 2009) have been declared throughout Egypt, making up a network that covers approximately 15% of the terrestrial surface of the country. Several other sites have been already identified as deserving protection and to be declared in future, with the number of PAs expected to reach 40 in year 2017, covering up to 20% of the country.

The PAs are grouped into five management units according to geographic locations: Cairo, Red Sea, Sinai, Western Desert and Upper Egypt. At the level of the individual Protected Areas a manager is generally appointed as head of a Management Unit (PAMU), which can also include senior rangers, rangers, technicians, administrators, ticket collectors and community guards. The management for the PAs varies in degree over a wide range. Some have well-developed infrastructure systems, staffing and programs while others still have very limited management activities occurring on the ground. The better-developed PAs often are the results of individual donor-funded, site-specific Protected Areas projects.

2.3. Geographical context of the proposed EEPA intervention

The proposed intervention EEPA will carry out its activities within the Western desert of Egypt, a large desert region extending to the west of the Nile valley. The Western Desert includes four of the largest terrestrial Protected Areas (PAs) declared to protect the country's natural heritage, according to the national legislation (and more specifically according to Law n.103/1983): the White Desert National Park (WDNP), the Gilf El Kebir National Park (GKNP declared in January 2007), the Wadi el Rayan Protected Area (WRPA) and the Siwa -Protected Area (SIWA PA). Administratively, the Siwa PA falls completely within the boundaries of the Marsa Matrouh Governorate, the Wadi el Rayan PA is inside the Fayoum Governorate while the other two areas (WDNP and GKNP) are included within the administrative limits of the New Valley Governorate.

2.4. Short Description of the 4 Protected Areas

2.4.1. The White Desert National Park (WDNP)

At the northern sector of the New Valley Governorate, and adjacent to the administrative boundary of Six of October Governorate, the White Desert National Park is located in the north of Farafra Oasis, and encompasses one of the most unique and attractive landscapes of Egypt and North Africa. The Park was formally established as a natural protectorate under Law 102/1983 in 2002, by Prime Ministerial Decree 1120/200. The Park includes a high diversity of morphological and landscape features, and is renowned for the limestone erosional features that create a world famous spectacle, attracting large numbers of visitors each year. The area includes various other features, such as the cliffs forming the northern edge of the Farafra Depression, dunes extending from the Great Sand Sea, and small vegetated *wadis* and uninhabited oasis, such as Wadi Hennis, Ain el Maqfi and Ain el Wadi. The total surface covered by the National park was 3010 Km2, later it was extended by the project to 3900 km².

The Italian intervention in the White Desert National Park, named Protected Area of New Valley (PANV), was mainly focused on the protection of the unique landscape of the White Desert. During the implementation of the project, through the extensive natural resource monitoring, the importance of biodiversity aspects has been highlighted. In particular, the presence of the Dorcas Gazelle (Gazzella dorca, IUCN Near Threatened) and of the Sooty Falcon (Falco concolor, IUCN Near Threatened) has been verified. More efforts will be indispensable to further protect these important species.

The **Dorcas Gazelle** (*Gazzella Dorcas*) survive on vegetation in grassland, steppe, wadis, mountain desert and in semi-desert climates of Africa, Arabia and into Iran and northern India. About 35,000 - 40,000 exist in the wild. The population of this gazelle has declined throughout its range. The natural predators of Dorcas Gazelles include the cheetah, leopard, and the lion, but due to hunters, there are not very many large cats left to eat them. Nevertheless, the main threat to this species is ever-expanding civilization, which shrinks the gazelle's habitat by converting it to farmland for growing crops, and by introducing new flocks of domestic sheep and goats which compete with the gazelle for vegetation.

The **Sooty Falcon** (*Falco concolor*) is a medium-sized falcon breeding from northeastern Africa to the southern Persian Gulf region. It belongs to the hobby group, a rather close-knit number of similar falcons often considered a subgenus *Hypotriorchis*. This is an elegant bird of prey, 32-37 cm long with a 78-90 cm wingspan. It is shaped like a large Hobby or a small Eleonora's Falcon, with its long pointed wings, long tail and slim body. Its dark trailing edge to the wings and tail distinguish it from the former species, and it lacks the underwing contrast caused by the dark coverts of the larger falcon. This species breeds on islands and coastal or desert cliffs in northeast Africa from Libya to Israel and the Red Sea. It is a long-distance migrant, wintering in east Africa and south to Madagascar. It is a rare vagrant north of its breeding range. The Sooty Falcon eats mainly birds, but it will take large insects, such as dragonflies, which are transferred from talons to beak and eaten in flight. It nests on a ledge or on rocks, laying up to four eggs. It was formerly classified as a Species of Least Concern by the IUCN. However new research has shown it to be rarer than it was believed. Consequently, it was up listed to Near Threatened status in 2008.

2.4.2. The Gilf El Kebir National Park (GKNP)

The recently declared huge Gilf Kebir Protected Area, also referred to as Gilf Kebir National Park/GKNP, constitutes one of the world's largest conservation areas, located in a hyper-arid and very remote region, with the nearest significant human settlement in Egypt (Dahkla) over 350 kilometres away. The Protected Area was established with Decree No. 10 of 2007 signed on January 4th 2007 by the Prime Minister, H.E. Ahmed Nazif, formally recognizing the significance of

the Gilf Kebir and Gebal Ouenat area, significance that extends well beyond the national boundaries.

The GKNP area includes the two most prominent landscape features of Egypt's south-west, the Gilf Kebir and Gebal Ouenat. The Gilf Kebir (the Great Barrier), is a huge residual sandstone plateau, that rises over 300 meters above the desert floor (1075 meters above sea level); its heavily eroded sides are deeply dissected by wadis that have been penetrated by incredible dune systems. The Gilf Kebir plateau extends over 7,700 km2, approximately the size of Switzerland, and contains the Kebira Crater, a 950-meter wide impact crater dating to 50 million years ago and part of a huge meteor field that spreads over 4,500 square kilometers. Gebal Ouenat, situated approximately 150 kilometers south of Gilf Kebir, is a large ancient granite and sandstone massif rising like an island to over 1,930 meters above sea level at the centre of the Libyan Desert, and shared between Egypt, Libya and Sudan.

The Gilf Kebir complex is particularly notable for the pre-historic rock art and artefacts that abound in the area, and are testament to human adaptation to past changes in climate. Research on these topics has been carried out in the Gilf Kebir area for many years by the Egyptian Geological Survey and various academic institutions, such as the Universities of Berlin and Cologne, Germany. The large area of more than 47,940 km² now protected by the Gilf Kebir National Park contains a broad spectrum of different archaeological zones, from sites with small numbers of artefacts or rock art, to complex prehistoric settlements and atelier sites with thousands of stone artefacts and pottery such as Willmann's Camp, the Silica Glass area or Wadi Bakht. The area is world-renowned especially for its prehistoric (Neolithic) engravings (petroglyphs) and rock paintings. Of special importance for the human heritage is the enormous amount of well preserved rock paintings and engravings in the area of the Gilf Kebir and the Gebal Ouenat, which provide a unique insight into the daily life of prehistoric societies. Some sites, including the valleys known as Karkur Talh and Karkur Murr, contain one of the richest concentrations of rock art in the whole Sahara. Another important site, Wadi Sura, lies in the northwestern Gilf El Kebir, and is where the "Cave of Swimmers", made famous by 'The English Patient' movie, was found. Recent discoveries have revealed many other sites dating back over 7,000 years, and it is now certain that one of the unquestionably richest storehouses of prehistoric rock art in the world is found in the awesome natural setting of the GKNP. Furthermore, the rock-art site of Les Animaux/Foggini Mestekawi Cave, in northwest Gilf Kebir, was discovered in 2002 by two Italian desert explorers, Massimo and Jacopo Foggini. Due to its remoteness, the site, like several other prehistoric remains, has been visited by only few hundreds of people. Most of those were tourists with general interest in rock-art. Nevertheless, such Cave needs to be strictly protected from the impact of tourism pressure.

In addition to its richness in prehistoric remains, the area boasts also vestiges of more recent historic events, such as the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) trucks and fuel depots from the Second World War, and the remains of travellers camp sites; all these testify to the area's recent past, and they are important memorials to the history of travel, exploration and warfare in the Western Desert.

However, if it is true that the Gilf El Kebir complex is particularly known from the archaeological and cultural heritage point of view, it has to be underlined that it also represents an outstanding sample of the hyper-arid ecosystems and biodiversity of the Eastern Sahara. The most notable ecological feature of the Gilf Kebir / Ouenat region is its very extreme aridity. Nevertheless, it contains a surprisingly diverse and important desert adapted fauna and flora typical of the Saharo–Arabian province. Some of the wadis are well vegetated, with trees and other shrubs which can remain green for several years after rare rainfall events when other ephemeral plants appear. Animal life is richest around vegetation, but living creatures can also be found hundreds of kilometres from the closest plants and water. Remnant pockets of some globally endangered species, such as the Barbary sheep (Ammotragus lervia), are also found in the area.

The area has also an outstanding importance in terms of geological features and geodiversity. In addition to prominent features such as the previously mentioned impact craters, included in the Gilf

El Kebir Protected Area is for example the largest known deposit of a natural silica glass, which has no equivalent to other material anywhere else on earth. The silica glass is distributed over an area of approximately 130 km long by 50 km wide to the north of the Gilf Kebir. Its origin is uncertain but scientific dates of the glass give a mean of around 28 million years. The unique provenance and qualities of silica glass and its association with the jewellery of Tutankhamen has made the glass a hugely prized item for jewellers and collectors.

In the framework of PANV project, the Italian intervention in such area focused on the establishment of the Protected Area Management Unit (PAMU) and in providing capacity building through on the job training for rangers and community guards.

2.4.3. Wadi el Rayan Protected Area (WRPA)

Wadi el Rayan Protected Area (WRPA), covering 1759 km², is administratively part of the Fayoum Governorate of the Western Desert of Egypt, southwest of Cairo. The WRPA has been declared by prime ministerial decree N.943 in 1989, according to Law N.102/1983.

The WRPA encompasses two slightly brackish, man-made lakes created in the seventies in the lower portion of the Wadi El Rayan sub-depression. A limestone ridge separating Wadi el Rayan sub-depression from the Fayoum main depression to the north was breached in order to remove excess agricultural drainage water and thus slow the increase of the rising water table in the Fayoum main depression and in Qarum Lake. The Lower Lake in Wadi El Rayan is still filling and will reach a stable level only when evaporation and inflow balance.

The extensive dune fields of the area are of considerable scientific interest as they provide an example of the widely represented, though little known, sand dune habitats of the hyper-arid Saharan interior. The area receives practically no rain, yet a superficial ground water table supports relatively rich and diverse desert fauna and flora. The new habitats created as a result of the formation of the lakes have attracted considerable wildlife, particularly water birds. Conservative estimates of the biodiversity of the area, which have been updated by the EIECP-WRPA project, raised the number of species at 37 plants, 16 mammals (of which 10 so far confirmed), 121 birds, 11 reptiles, 33 fish and shrimps, as well as a large number of invertebrates, mostly insects and arachnids. In addition, the areas of Wadi Hitan and Garet Gehannam contain valuable Eocene marine fossil deposits, including mammals that have been described and inventoried as part of a paleontological / paleoenvironmental study commissioned by the PAMU. Since 2005, thanks to the intervention of the EIECP- WRPA project, this area is under the umbrella of the Unesco World Herritage Site. The main achievements of the WRPA project are the establishment of the PAMU and the construction of the Visitor Center.

Moreover, around 10 Km from the northern border of WRPA, stands the unique archaeological site of Medinet Madi, which will soon be connected to the Visitor Center of the Protected Area, through the EIECP- ISSEM component, in co-operation with the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

2.4.4. Siwa Protected Area (Siwa- PA)

The Siwa Protected Area was declared in 2002 by Prime Ministerial Decree, and is entirely comprised within the Marsa Matrouh Governorate. It is presently constituted by three Core Sectors, covering a total of 7,800 km2, and a contiguous Adjacent Area, encompassing key natural and cultural heritage sites and important ecological corridors. The Protected Area is situated around Siwa and is bound to the north by the El Diffa plateau, to the west by the international border with Libya and to the east by the Qattara Depression. This is one of the largest and deepest depressions on the planet and one of its most arid environments. The Great Sand Sea, a vast area of uninhabited wilderness, stretches to the south for hundreds of kilometres.

In 1998 the Egyptian and Italian Governments with the collaboration of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, launched a project to promote new agricultural practices in Siwa, based on the diversification of crops and the introduction of improved soil and water conservation techniques. The project, implemented by the Matrouh Governorate, was part of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Program. By working closely with the local communities and its traditional leaders, the project has contributed to strengthening local forms of governance and to the collaborative management of natural resources. The foundations have thus been laid for a wider initiative to establish a Protected Area, with the aim of conserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Siwa region, while ensuring the sustainable and equitable use of its resources. The Protected Area also acts as a focus for the development of innovative and environmentally friendly economic activities, such as ecotourism, which is an important new sector of the Siwan economy.

An Action plan for the visitor centers in the four PAs will be drafted which will provide a knowhow of the usage, role and vision of the four identified areas.

2.5. Project Stakeholders, Targets and Intended Beneficiaries

The intervention will target the PAs in the Western Desert, within the New Valley, Fayoum and Matruh Governorate and their associated communities and user groups.

However the intervention will also have to address PA management related issues in areas falling in adjacent administrative subdivisions, such as the Six of October Governorate, Bahariya Oasis, another of the major oasis of the Western Desert. Bahariya in fact, though lying outside the above-mentioned Governorates, constitutes the "gateway" to the Western Desert, as most of the users of the Western Desert Parks reside or operate from there.

Institutional beneficiaries of the intervention will be the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, and in particular the Nature Conservation Sector of its main executive arm, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, the New Valley Governorate and the town councils. Intended beneficiaries at large of the intervention include the local communities, the tourism private sector and citizens involved in economic activities focusing on the PAs or residing in and around PAs, as well as the general public, that will benefit from the presence of national protected areas for their natural resources, recreational benefits and future returns on natural and cultural resources conservation.

At the local level the principal intervention targets will be the PAMUs of the 4 PAs, but the primary beneficiaries will include also the local communities and related NGOs.

2.5.1. UNDP support

As for the other EIECP projects, the EEPA component will be administered by the UNDP country office within the framework of UNDP National Execution arrangements. UNDP will be responsible, in accordance with UNDP guidelines and procedures, for ensuring proper use of funds for assigned activities, timely reporting of implementation progress, monitoring the project as well as ensuring that regular and appropriate evaluations occur. UNDP will provide support and backstopping to the project in full coordination with the Program Coordination Unit (PCU). UNDP will ensure proper implementation progress, convene periodic meetings with project management, provide the needed flexibility for feedback and ensure that project results are in line with objectives and work plans.

2.5.2. The Italian support

The restoration activities within the Gilf el Kebir National Park will be implemented by the Department of Scienze Storiche, Archeologiche e Antropologiche dell'Antichità, University of Rome "La Sapienza", through the Sansom Center (Centro di ricerca Inter-universitario sulle società

antiche del Nordafrica, del Sahara e dell'Oriente Mediterraneo-Sansom, based at the Siena University).

2.5.3. SCA support

The Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) in accordance with the University of Rome "La Sapienza" will be responsible for the implementation of the archaeological activities in the Gilf el Kibir National Park (GKNP). The SCA will provide all the necessary permits in order to enter the GKNP and carry out the archaeological intervention.

3. STRATEGIES OF THE INTERVENTION

The EEPA is to be considered as a component of the Nature Conservation Sector Capacity Building Project (NCSCB) of the Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Program-phase II (EIECP). It aims at supporting and enhancing the Egyptian Protected Areas system, with particular reference to the enhancement of the interventions already carried out in the framework of the abovementioned Programme in the Protected Areas of the White Desert, Gilf El Kebir, Siwa, Wady Rayan and their surrounding communities, according to the following general and specific outputs and acitivities.

3.1. General Output

The protection of Egypt's natural and cultural resources is enhanced, with a particular attention to the management of the Egyptian Protected Areas, contributing to the sustainable development of the country.

3.2. Specific Outputs

The management of the Western Desert Protected Areas, and in particular SIWA-PA, WRPA, WDNP and GKNP, is enhanced with the full participation of local stakeholders, contributing to the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage and to the sustainable economic development of communities in the surrounding areas.

In order to achieve the abovementioned outputs, several key activities (KA) are identified below. For each activity, indicators and financial allocations are provided respectively in the annexed detailed logical framework and budget, while more specific sub-activities will be detailed in the operational and periodic work plans. It is important to underline that the activities and indicators listed are to be considered as the optimal targets that the project will strive to achieve, even though the limited time frame available for the intervention.

3.2.1. Activity 1: The cultural heritage in the Gilf Kebir is enhanced and protected, through a restoration intervention of the rock arts of Wadi Sura Cave (Cave of the Swimmers) and Foggini-Misticawi Cave (Animals Cave)

Key activities

In order to achieve the abovementioned general and specific output, the following activities will be implemented:

KA 1.1. Restoration activities in Gilf el Kebir National Park, namely The Swimmers Cave and Foggini-Misticawi Animals Cave in Wadi Sura area

Such activities will be developed through:

- Preliminary assessment mission (10 days) carried out by two Italian archaeologists, an Egyptian geologist, two Italian restorers and two experts appointed by the SCA. The aim of this assessment mission is to analyze the status of conservation of the rock arts in the two caves, from both geological and archaeological points of view, and develop an accurate plan of restoration.

Following the results of the preliminary assessment mission, a detailed Work Plan and Budget will be specified for the implementation of the activities to be carried out during the second phase.

- Second phase (about 40 days- the period will be defined after the assessment, and, in particular upon the expertise and evaluation by the restorers, with reference to the type of intervention needed) carried out by three Italian archaeologists, an Egyptian geologist, three Italian restorers, three experts appointed by the SCA and a photographer. Such phase will aim at implementing the abovementioned plan of restoration and protection of the two caves and will entail activities aimed at the consolidation of the rock, the restoration of the caves' paintings and the cleaning and enhancement of the paintings. All the operations will be described, and recorded with multimedia tools. During such phase "on the job" training activities in restoration will be addressed to the experts of the SCA.

Mr. Massimo Foggini will join the team of the Italian experts in both phases.

- The restoration work will be reported on a "diary", as well as documented and illustrated on scientific basis.
- 3.2.2. Activity 2. NCS capacity and resources for conservation in the Protected areas enhanced:

EEAA/NCS institutional and operational capacity to implement conservation in the Western Desert Protected Areas (WDNP, GKNP, WRPA, Siwa- PA) will be enhanced at the central and local level through strengthening of the PAMUs, development of technical capabilities and human resources, upgrading of the management Plans of the targeted PAs, in full coordination and collaboration with local authorities and interest groups.

Key activities

In order to achieve the abovementioned general and specific outputs, the following activities will be implemented:

KA 2.1. Consolidate and upgrade the PAMUs.

Consolidate the functioning of the Protected Area Management Unit (PAMU) for the White Desert National Park, and support the establishment of a management unit for the GKNP to be based in Dakhla, through:

Recruitment of additional rangers, community guards and support staff, in order to ensure adequate levels of patrolling system for WDNP and to establish a core unit responsible of initiating management activities for the GKNP. Candidates should preferably be selected among residents of the Farafra and Bahariya oasis for the WDNP and of Dakhla oasis for the GKNP.

Facilitate the recruitment of additional ticket collectors (directly under the EEAA), to ensure the ticket collection in the Baharia Oasis, which is the oasis that the majority of tourists visit before arriving to the WDNP.

Provision of training for PAMU staff, including (i) courses on basic principles and skills related to PA management, (ii) on-the-job training undertaken through external technical assistants, advisers and NCS personnel collaborating with the Project, (iii) internships in other protected areas or institutions, possibly also through partnerships with the different institutions involved in protected areas' management. (iv) twinning programmes with Italian Universities and private and/or public Institutions aiming at sharing experience in the natural resources management.

Support the daily activities of the two PAMUs (i.e. current expenses, vehicle maintenance, etc.)

An Architect will be recruited to design the entrance gate in the White Desert National park. The cost of this architect will be covered from other sources than the project budget.

KA 2.2. Enhance monitoring and survey of the natural and cultural resources of the PAs.

Foster the development and dissemination of advanced planning and monitoring tools, as well as the development of studies documenting the importance of the natural and cultural resources of the protected areas, through the collection of additional background information, also in cooperation and coordination with research and academic institutions. These efforts will contribute at finalising officially approved protected areas management plans, as well as other studies and planning tools. Specific sub-activities may include further assessments of conservation and management needs on specific natural and cultural values, (i.e. meetings and workshops, dissemination of relevant documents and strategies, as well as the analysis of financial requirements and revenues for the PAs.)

In particular, the natural resource monitoring activities, which started at the beginning of 2008, will be further enhanced trough:

White Desert National Park: consolidate the existing monitoring scheme and implement a specific monitoring system addressed to the nesting of the Sooty Falcon and to the census of the Dorcas Gazelle.

<u>Gilf el Kebir National Park:</u> establish a simple monitoring scheme. The main efforts will be concentrated on the area where the restoration intervention will take place (Wadi Sura and surroundings). Such monitoring scheme will represent a model to be replicated in other PAs.

KA 2.3. Provide managerial and technical support to the activities in the PAs.

Provide technical, managerial and administrative support to the project activities in the 4 PAs (White Desert, Gilf El Kebir, Siwa, Wady Rayan), which will also promote enhanced integration and coordination with the other project components.

3.2.3. Activity 3. Target areas better managed and controlled, and sound ecotourism promoted:

Visitor use and other legitimate human uses of the areas are more effectively managed and controlled, in collaboration with user groups, ensuring preservation of the protected areas main values and contributing to the financial sustainability of management efforts, while ecotourism opportunities in the area are improved, representing example of innovative, environmentally-compatible, economic activities.

Key activities

In order to achieve the abovementioned general and specific outputs, the following activities will be implemented:

KA 3.1. Enhance operational WDNP fee system.

Enhance the operational fee system for the WDNP, in accordance with the relevant ministerial decree, starting the issuing of tickets from the main office in Farafra. The revenues from the visitor fees should be subsequently allocated to ensure appropriate levels of management of the PA, contributing at guaranteeing financial sustainability to the management activities in the PA. To ensure an appropriate collection system an agreement with the Tourist office in Baharia will be established.

KA 3.2. Enhance the already existing infrastructures and facilities for the visitors.

Enhance the infrastructures and facilities in order to improve their function and use; carry out activities aimed at adequately managing the flows of visitors (i.e. consolidate the network of demarcated tracks, provide further functionality to the visitors centres and possibly additional equipment and facilities to be leased to and managed also by local community organizations). Such activities will be developed through:

<u>Siwa-PA</u>: Setting up the Visitor Centre and the surrounding area. Carrying out environmental education and public awareness activities. Ensuring the correct management of the Visitor Centre through the signature of an agreement with a local NGO.

<u>WRPA:</u> Finalizing the surrounding landscape of the Visitor Center. Carrying out environmental education and public awareness activities. Ensuring the correct management of the Visitor Centre through the signature of an agreement with a local NGO.

<u>WRPA</u>: Consolidate the connection between the Visitor Center of WRPA and the Visitor Center of Medinet Madi, through the construction of a short track.

<u>WDNP</u>: Consolidating and enhancing the set up of Farafra Visitor Centre and its surrounding area, through landscaping improvements. The latter will be carried out by a landscape architect specialized in museology. Ensuring the correct management of the Visitor Centre through the signature of an agreement with a local NGO.

GKNP: Setting up the Visitors' Information Centre in Dahkla.

In coordination with the entities responsible for the Visitor Centers of the 4 PAs, the project will set a plan to regulate the opening and closing timetable of the Visitor Centers and the schedule of the related foreseen activities.

KA 3.3. Develop interpretation facilities and enhance signage system.

Develop basic interpretation facilities (directional signage, and behavioural or information signposts at key points), enhance signage system for the WDNP (i.e. provide support for the construction of symbolic monuments at the two main entrances of the National Park), develop a basic signage system for Siwa-PA and enhance signage system for GKNP, with particular reference to the areas surrounding "The Swimmers" and "The Animals" Caves in Wadi Sura.

3.2.4. Activity 4. Dissemination of information on the Protected Areas and communication improved:

Park and tourism-related community support initiatives aimed at fostering employment and income generation opportunities and widening the awareness for the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the PAs and adjacent areas, as pivotal elements of the development of ecotourism.

Key activities

In order to achieve the abovementioned general and specific outputs, the following activities will be implemented:

KA 4.1. Produce and disseminate information and communication tools.

Produce a set of information and outreach tools, such as brochures, maps or leaflets in several languages with advices for visitors on rules and regulations in the two PAs of Siwa and Wadi el Rayan, as well as other high quality communication tools, guides or information pages accessible via the internet. In particular, such activities will be developed through:

Siwa- Protected Area: editing and printing a pocket guide and an illustrative brochure.

Wadi el Rayan Protected Area: editing and printing an illustrative brochure.

Develop an appropriate visibility program to enhance the results achieved during the Egyptian – Italian Environmental Cooperation Program.

KA 4.2. Carry out public awareness and environmental education activities focusing on the PAs and foster the sustainable socio-economic development of the local communities.

Carry out public awareness activities and engage the local communities and locally-based Associations, in the management of the visitor information facilities to be established in the premises attached to the PAMUs headquarters and satellite offices, also by contributing to the preparation of interpretive panels and displays on the main features of the four Protected Areas. Such activities will be developed through:

Support the selected NGOs for the management of the three Visitors Centres, through the recruitment, within the NGO, of a consultant, who will be responsible for the development and implementation of a defined plan of activities.

WDNP Visitor Center: Carrying out a pilot project aimed at developing an environmental education laboratory addressed to target groups, such as the local schools, through the involvement of international volunteers.

Foster the sustainable socio-economic development of the local communities, through:

Enhancement of the functionality of the VCs surrounding structures (i.e. Siwa handicraft shop and cafeteria, WD handicraft shop and cafeteria) with the aim of contributing at the their sustainable management and creating pilot processes for the socio-economic development of the local communities, which will be involved in the handicraft activities supporting the abovementioned handicraft shops. Such activity will be carried out through the allocation of small grants to local Associations, which will be responsible for the rehabilitation and opening of the abovementioned structures.

4. THREATS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FOUR PROTECTED AREAS

The four PAs, White Desert, Gilf El Kebir, Siwa, Wady Rayan, have a considerable importance for the economy at the local and national level, as they support an increasingly active formal and informal tourism sector.

However, the Protected areas included in the proposed intervention still present some constraints in terms of effective management, in particular in relation with the management of the tourist facilities, such as the Visitor Centres. Such constraints may negatively affect the opportunities for the appropriate conservation and valorisation of the natural and cultural resources of the Protected Areas. At the same time, their particular setting and extent represents special challenges in terms of appropriate management.

Most of the threats are linked to the increasing numbers of visitors, which include foreign tourists as well as residents accessing these areas, mostly for recreational purposes. Indeed, the Oases of the Western Desert represent a major attraction for visitors. Due to their relative proximity, in particular with reference to the White Desert and Wady el Rayan, and due to their accessibility, these areas are visited every year by large numbers of visitors, who often camp for one or more nights in the desert, organizing parties and gatherings. Signs of degradation of the habitats and features are increasingly visible in the area, and include, for example, damage to geological features, due to random driving and uncontrolled waste disposal.

On the other hand, most of the GKNP is naturally protected through its remoteness and the steep escarpments that bound it, while extreme climatic conditions restrict periods when people can travel through the area. Nevertheless, the primary concern for the GKNP is the extensive and growing impact of human activities in the area relating to desert tourism, hunting and smuggling. From observations resulted during two management field trips carried out in March 2007 and March 2009, in the framework of the activities of the PANV Project, in support to the newly created NP, it was confirmed that solid waste disposal, destruction of vegetation by careless driving and fire wood collection have serious negative impacts on the integrity of the ecosystems and the overall aesthetic values of the landscape. From the cultural and archaeological perspective, the collection of Neolithic artefacts and driving over archaeological sites were observed to be significant and widespread issues, and the increase in graffiti in sensitive sites was also identified as a growing problem.

These protected areas are the focus of activity of a large number of "desert guides", mostly based in Bahariya and Siwa, who lead tours into the area. As for the GKNP, in recent years this area has become an increasingly important premium destination for the more adventurous travellers, attracted especially by the rock art and the sheer majesty and scale of the desert landscape. Visitation to the GKNP area requires particular equipment, resources and expertise, and the visit is therefore organized only by a limited, although increasing number of specialized tourism operators. The degradation of the natural resources and the reduction of biodiversity may therefore spoil prime assets for nature-based tourism and associated activities, which represent crucial ingredients for pursuing a more sustainable development approach in the region.

Moreover, if properly handled, these activities could substantially contribute not only to the local economy but also to ensure the long term financial sustainability required for a correct management of the PAs. With this regard, a pivotal activity to guarantee the required sustainable returns is the collection of entrance fees. In fact, the establishment of a fee system for the WDNP has already been sanctioned by a Ministerial Decree issued in 2006. Nevertheless, this has not yet been made operational and no entrance fees have been collected until now.

The development and implementation of a correct and sustainable management of the PAs is vital if their values are to be secured. Undoubtedly, the Egyptian authorities will face many challenges. The huge Gilf Kebir Protected area for example presently constitutes one of the world's largest conservation areas; furthermore it is located in a hyper-arid and very remote region where the nearest settlement of Dahkla is over 350 kilometers away. How in the long term effective protection can be implemented for an area of more than 43,000 km², that lies 500 km distant from the nearest inhabited place with no road or track connection in between, but only barren, waterless desert, is still an open question. Moreover, the wide range and variety of prehistoric and historic sites - covering a time span from over 100,000 years until the recent past - will require individual forms of preservation and documentation, which must be developed on a case by case basis. At the same time, the 4 PAs provide an opportunity to explore further innovative methods of conservation and management, such as the desert operator and guide certification initiative that was started for the White Desert National Park in Egypt.

The EEPA will provide further contribution to the integrated and comprehensive intervention carried out under the EIECP Programme, with reference to the enhancement of the Protected Area's system and will be beneficial to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Biodiversity project, currently under discussion with the Minister of Environment.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EEPA PROJECT

5.1. Strategic Lines

In line with the National Environmental Action Plan (2002- 2017) and the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation of Egypt (1997-2017), the project will provide resources

to further develop the capacity of EEAA/ NCS in order to effectively manage a set of National Protected Areas, established under the auspices of Law 102/1983 in the Western Desert of Egypt, based on a model of in-situ conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and on established best practices on PA management. The intervention strategy is mainly based on the support to the appropriate management of the four protected areas, as they are regarded as fundamental tools to ensure the sustainable preservation of the rich heritage of the Western Desert. As the resources in the PAs cannot be considered in isolation from those in the surrounding regions, especially in terms of tourism attractiveness, the intervention will also seek to encourage the conservation and sustainable use of associated resources in nearby areas. This in order to facilitate as much as possible the preservation of the potential of these areas to attract nature-based tourism activities, and therefore to contribute to the sustainable development of local communities.

To address the technical challenges connected to the conservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources in the target areas, the intervention proposes to enhance first of all the NCS capacity to manage the targeted Protected Areas by providing technical assistance, staff, training, equipment and physical facilities to the Protected Area Management Units (PAMUs) that will be in charge of the management of the Protectorates at the local level. Moreover, the component will seek to enhance the capacity of the local government authorities, stakeholder groups, local communities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) formally recognized according to the Egyptian law, to assist in and support the management of the Protected Areas as essential elements of the sustainable development of the region, and to foster the further development of environment friendly economic activities, in particular focused on sustainable tourism, linked to the four protectorates.

The intervention design and execution is aligned with current trends for linking nature conservation and protected area management with the generation of sustainable livelihoods for local people. Furthermore the intervention will strive to further promote the formal participation of local stakeholders and user groups in the management of the four PAs. These trends are elaborated by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (to which Egypt is a signatory) and by the related Programme of Work on Protected Areas, and more specifically by its section on "Governance, Equity, Participation and Benefit Sharing". In essence, the Programme of Work calls for local people's full participation in the management and benefits of Protected Areas.

5.2. Methodologies of the intervention

Within this context, guiding principles for the intervention will be as follows:

The intervention will first of all enhance the resources and capacities for the conservation of the outstanding natural and cultural resources of the target areas. This to ensure their preservation not only as important assets for the country, but also in view of their potential nomination as World Heritage Sites.

The intervention will also seek to contribute in a significant and sustainable manner to improving sustainable tourism-related employment and income generation opportunities. In this respect, the intervention will also contribute to a limited extent to the conservation of the cultural heritage and landscape of the nearby areas, as they should be seen as important components of the sustainable tourism potential of the region.

The project will seek to continue and extend the incipient participatory process initiated with local stakeholders for the planning and management of the four PAs.

The intervention will seek to coordinate with, and utilize the experience and technical resources of sister projects implemented under the umbrella of the EIECP-Phase II and of other related projects like NGOs initiatives on sustainable tourism, which have already piloted successful community interventions. Involvement of and coordination with other partners, e.g. national or international

academic institutes, like the German Heinrich Barth Institute and the Department of Scienze Storiche, Archeologiche Antropologiche dell'Antichità, University of Rome "La Sapienza", other organizations such as the Hans Seidel Foundation, which have the experience and technical resources to assist with some of the activities, and with national institutions like the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Interior, etc. will be necessary to ensure the success of the intervention.

6. SUSTAINABILITY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT

The Nature Conservation Sector of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (NCS/EEAA) will serve as the central coordinating and competent body for implementing the project, responsible also for coordinating the activities performed by the other concerned institutions. Within the EIECP-II framework, the intervention shall be considered as a semi-autonomous component under the umbrella of the Nature Conservation Sector Capacity Building project (NCSCB), and will formally represent a new, additional activity of this project, which will operate with the same modalities and TORs already applied for the NCSCB and other EIECP projects.

As for other EIECP projects, the Implementing Agency will ensure the execution of the project and contribute financially to the investment as well as to the operational maintenance and other relevant project in-kind costs, including provision of staff, and will ensure that land for construction is made available.

6.1. Project administration

As per the organizational framework of the Program, a Project Management Unit (PMU) is designated by the relevant Implementing Agency to execute the NCSCB project on a daily basis, with a full range of autonomy and responsibility in all matters concerning day-to-day operations. Therefore, all administrative aspects of the intervention will be handled by the PCU.

The PMU will prepare all needed documents, which will include the detailed Work Plans, Progress Reports and Financial Reports, to be submitted to the Project Executive Committee. The PMU will implement the approved Work Plan being fully responsible to the Implementing Agency and be fully accountable to UNDP and Project Executive Committee.

The PMU will be headed by a National Co-Manager (NCM) appointed on a full-time basis by NCS, supported by a Technical Advisor, selected and appointed by DCGS, who will assume the duty of International Co-Manager (ICM). The Unit may also comprise other technical, and secretarial support staff, on a full or part-time basis as required, including the PAs managers, who will have the role of site coordinator for all activities.

The National Co-Manager will be responsible for managing the GOE inputs in-kind and ensuring their integration into the project, with particular attention to the staffing and facilities. The International Technical Advisor will provide the required technical advice. Both will jointly comanage the project activities, in accordance with their Terms of Reference.

One of the vehicles purchased by the PANV Project will be assigned to the international comanager and consultants.

6.2. Project Executive Committee (PEC)

As per the organizational framework of the EIECP Program, a Project Executive Committee (PEC) has been established for the NCSCB project. Hence, the EEPA activities will be overviewed by the existing PEC. The Chairman could invite, as per its mandate, the representatives from the New Valley Governorate, as well as representatives from Siwa, Fayoum, Bahariya, Farafra and Kharga

communities, represented by local NGOs, to attend the sessions of the PEC regarding this component.

The PEC will oversee the implementation of the component specific activities and coordinate the inputs from the different departments and agencies. It will meet on a regular basis or as required and will be chaired by the Implementing Agency. The PEC will also review and approve the documents submitted by the PMU: Overall Work Plan and Budget; Quarterly Progress and Financial Reports; and the Final Progress and Financial Report.

To achieve an appropriate level of flexibility, the PEC will have the authority to modify physical targets, project requirements, staffing and budget for the on-going quarters. The PEC's modifying authority is limited to remain within the overall capital cost of the project and its qualitative objectives. The modifications may be reported in the Progress and Financial Reports for the endorsement of the involved Authorities.

6.3. Personnel and Technical Assistance

6.3.1. National personnel

The permanent staff of GKNP – 3 people, including 1 Ranger and 2 Community Guards - and WDNP – 10 people, including 2 Rangers, 4 Community Guards, 3 Drivers, 1 tractor Driver - PAMUs will be recruited by EEAA/NCS (whose staff already recruited is composed by 2 Rangers in GKNP and 1 Director, 2 Accountants, 6 ticket Collectors in WDNP) within the end of the current year. The new PAMU staff to be recruited within the framework of this intervention, both for GKNP – 6 people, including 2 Rangers, 2 Community Guards, 2 Drivers – and WDNP – 4 people including 2 Rangers, 2 Community Guards - will be shifted by EEAA within the end of the project. The required technical, administrative and support staff for the PAMU will be provided as per the approved budget of the project or endorsed workplans. Additional staff from EEAA/NCS and other entities or organizations which will be required for specific project activities will be made available by the relevant institutions, although the project may provide for allowances to cover expenses or additional work loads deriving from the implementation of the project activities, in accordance with EIECP established procedures. Additional technical assistance (TA) services may also be provided by national consultants, according to the approved and endorsed workplans.

6.3.2. International Technical Assistance

While EEAA/NCS will be the main implementing Agency of the intervention, other entities and institutions will be closely involved as project partners in the implementation of the foreseen activities. The Governorates of the New Valley, Marsa Matrouh and Fayoum will represent the main institutional project partners at the local level, ensuring integration with the overall development strategies and assuming a facilitating role in all matters related to its domain of competence. At the site level, full partners of some of the activities of the project will be represented by local NGOs based in the oases of Siwa, Fayoum, Farafra, Dakhla, Kharga and Bahariya, which, in selected cases, may be directly charged with the implementation of particular activities through specific contractual agreements. For example the development of infrastructures and facilities for visitor management, will be preferably pursued with the direct involvement, also through direct subcontracting for works, of locally based and formally recognised non-governmental organizations representative of the resident community and interest groups.

Coordination and cooperation with other institutions, including research and academic institutions will also be sought. In this regard, of particular importance could be the establish a collaboration with the Department of Scienze Storiche, Archeologiche e Antropologiche dell'Antichità, University of Rome "La Sapienza", and the Sansom Center (Centro di ricerca Inter-universitario sulle società antiche del Nordafrica, del Sahara e dell'Oriente Mediterraneo-Sansom, based at the Siena University). that will execute the restoration activities in the GKNP, implemented by the SCA

(Supreme Council of Antiquities). In addition to this the collaboration with the Heinrich Barth Institute of the University of Cologne should be continued. Moreover, collaboration and integration with various partners such as the Hans Siedel Foundation, which has the experience and technical resources to assist in some activities, for example related to the conservation of the architectural build heritage of the oases, will be required in order to ensure the success of the intervention.

In addition to that, close cooperation and interaction with other Government agencies responsible for specific sectors will be continuously sought, in particular with the Ministry of Tourism for all matters related to the tourism management in the GKNP and with Ministry of Interior as well as with the military authorities for matters related to the access to restricted areas.

6.4. Economic and financial sustainability

The component will be financed through the accrued interests on the EIECP Italian Cost-Sharing up till the 31st December 2007 amounting to US \$ 258,789.95 and those accrued in 2008 amounting to US \$ 76.336.25, in accordance with the Budget shown in the attached table.

The activities will be executed in a period of about six months, as per the Budget and the attached Time Schedule.

Upon conclusion of the intervention, the functioning costs (personnel and current expenses) of the structures which have been established and enhanced in the framework of the EIECP, and more specifically within EEPA, will be covered by EEAA/NCS.

6.5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Based on the UNDP format already in use for the other EIECP projects, progress reports will be prepared by the CMU and presented for approval to the NCSCB Project Executive Committee. As already mentioned in previous sections, in accordance with the modalities established for the EIECP projects, and in consideration of the short foreseen duration of the intervention and consequently of the tight schedule that will be required for implementation, progress reports and workplans will be presented and discussed on a quarterly basis, so as to allow for closer monitoring of the implementation of activities and for the adoption of adequate correction measures if needed. The project will be subject to a financial audit at the end of the financial year.

7. ANNEX

7.1. Annex 1: Acronyms

DCGS, Directorate General of Cooperation for Development (Italian)

EEAA, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

EEPA, Enhancement of the Egyptian Protected Areas

EIECP, Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Programme

GKNP, Gilf El Kebir National Park

IDES, Italian Egyptian Debt Swap

IUCN, International Union for the Conservation of Nature

NCS, Nature Conservation Sector

NCSCB, Nature Conservation Sector Capacity Buildings Project

NGO, Non Governmental Organization

PA, Protected Area

PAMU, Protected Area Management Unit

PANV, Protected Area of New Valley Project

PCU, Program Coordination Unit

PMU, Project Management Unit

SAMSON, Centro di ricerca Inter-universitario sulle società antiche del Nordafrica, del Sahara e

dell'Oriente Meditteraneo

TSU, Technical Support Unit

UNDP, United Nation for Development Program

WDNP, White Desert National Park

WRPA, Wadi el Rayan Protected Area

7.2. Annex 2: Financial Budget and Time Table

7.3. Annex 3: Logical Framework

Activities	Indicators	MOV	Key Activities	Inputs
Development Objective: The r				
enhanced with the participation to the sustainable economic dev				and cultural hemage and
Activity 1: Restoration	I	Site visit	Restoration activities in Gilf el	International Personnel
activities in Gilf el Kebir		Oile visit	Kebir National Park, namely	international reisonner
National Park, namely The		Review of	The Swimmers Cave and	Administrative Support
Swimmers Cave and Foggini-		documents	Foggini-Misticawi Animals	Administrative Support
Misticawi Animals Cave in		accamona	Cave in Wadi Sura area	Contracts
Wadi Soura area.			Such activities will be	
			developed through:	Reporting
The cultural heritage			 Preliminary assessment 	
intervention in Gilf Kebir has a			mission (10 days) carried	Survey and Studies
twofold aim: a) enhancing,			out by two Italian	
protecting and restoring the			archaeologists, an Egyptian	Training
rock arts of Wadi Sura Cave			geologist, two Italian	
(Cave of the swimmers) and			restorers and two experts	
Foggini-Misticawi Cave			appointed by the SCA. The	
(Animals cave), and b) integrating the sustainable			aim of this assessment	
environmental management of			mission is to analyze the status of conservation of the	
the existing Gilf el Kebir			rock arts in the two caves,	
National Park (GKNP), in view			from both geological and	
of the tourist activities			archaeological points of	
			view, and develop an	
			accurate plan of restoration.	
			• Second phase (about 40	
			days) carried out by three	
			Italian archaeologists, an	
			Egyptian geologist, three	
			Italian restorers, three	
			experts appointed by the	
			SCA and a photographer.	
			Such phase will aim at	
			implementing the abovementioned plan of	
			restoration and protection of	
			the two caves and will entail	
			activities aimed at the	
			consolidation of the rock, the	
			restoration of the caves'	
			paintings and the cleaning	
			and enhancement of the	
			paintings. All the operations	
			will be described, and	
			recorded with multimedia	
			tools. During such phase "on	
			the job" training activities in restoration will be addressed	
			to the experts of the SCA.	
			 The restoration work will 	
			be reported on a "diary", as	
			well as documented and	
			illustrated on scientific basis.	

Activities	Indicators	MOV	Key Activities	Inputs
			,	
Activity 2. NCS capacity and resources for conservation in the Protected areas enhanced: EEAA/NCS institutional and operational capacity to implement conservation in the Western Desert Protected Areas (WDNP, GKNP, WRPA, Siwa- PA) will be enhanced at the central and local level through strengthening of the PAMUs, development of technical capabilities and human resources, upgrading of the management Plans of the targeted PAs, in full coordination and collaboration with local authorities and interest groups.	Number of PAMU staff Records of training programs Reports and records of PAMUs activities Equipment available for PA staff and management operations	Survey of physical and human resources available for PAMUs Site visits	Consolidate and upgrade the PAMUs. Consolidate the functioning of the Protected Area Management Unit (PAMU) for the White Desert Protected Area, and support the establishment of a management unit for the GKNP to be based in Dahkla, through: • Recruitment of additional staff. • Support the recruitment of Ticket Collectors • Provision of training for PAMU staff. • Support the daily activities of the two PAMUs	Salaries for national personnel Mission Costs National Consultants Training Equipment Administrative Support International consultants Contracts Reporting Survey and Studies
	Planning tools and background studies available	Review of documents	Enhance monitoring and survey of the natural and cultural resources of the Pas. Foster the development and dissemination of advanced planning and monitoring tools. White Desert National Park: consolidate the existing monitoring scheme and implement future activities. Gilf el Kebir National Park: establish a simple monitoring scheme. Such monitoring scheme will represent a model to be replicated in other sectors of the PA.	
	Support staff and technical consultants provided for project activities	Reports of activities	Provide managerial and technical support to activities in the PAs. Provide technical, managerial and administrative support to the project activities in the 4 PAs (White Desert, Gilf El Kebir, Siwa, Wady Rayan), which will also promote enhanced integration and coordination with the other project components.	

Activities	Indicators	MOV	Key Activities	Inputs
Activity 3. Target areas better managed and controlled, and sound ecotourism promoted. Visitor use and other legitimate human uses of the areas are more effectively managed and controlled, in collaboration with user groups, ensuring preservation of the protected areas main values and contributing to the financial sustainability of management efforts, while ecotourism opportunities in the area are improved, representing example of innovative, environmentally-compatible, economic activities.		Site visits EEAA records of revenues from visitor fee system Site visits Record of assets	Make operational WDNP fee system. Enhance the operational fee system for the WDNP, in accordance with the relevant ministerial decree, starting the issuing of tickets from the main office in Farafra. The revenues from the visitor fees should be subsequently allocated to ensure appropriate levels of management of the PA, contributing at guaranteeing financial sustainability to the management activities in the PA. To ensure an appropriate collection system an agreement with the Tourist office in Baharia will be established. Enhance the already existing infrastructures and facilities for the visitors. Enhance the infrastructures and facilities for the visitors. Enhance the infrastructures and facilities for the visitors. Enhance the infrastructures and surrounding area. WRPA: Setting up the Visitor Centre and the surrounding landscape WRPA: Consolidate the connection between the Visitor Center of WRPA and the Visitor Center of Medinet Madi, through the construction of a short track. WDNP: Consolidating and enhancing the set up of Farafra Visitor Centre and its surrounding area, through landscaping improvements. GKNP: Setting up the Visitors' Information Centre in Dahkla.	Allowances and salaries for national personnel Mission Costs National Consultants Equipment Administrative Support Contracts Reporting Survey and Studies Training
		Site visits	Develop interpretation facilities and signage. Develop basic interpretation facilities and signage system for the WDNP, including symbolic monuments at the main entrances, directional signage, and behavioural or information signposts at key points.	

Activities	Indicators	MOV	Key Activities	Inputs
Activity 4. Community support activities initiated and communication improved. Park and tourism-related	Number of publications and other items produced	Survey of publications and other outreach tools	Produce information and communication tools. Produce a set of information and outreach tools, such as brochures, maps or leaflets in	International Personnel Mission Costs
community support initiatives aimed at fostering employment and income generation opportunities and widening the awareness for the		available for distribution to the public at the PAs or at NCS	several languages with advices for visitors on rules and regulations in the two PAs of Siwa and Wadi el Rayan, as well as other high	National Consultants
conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the PAs and adjacent areas, as pivotal elements of the		central offices	quality communication tools, guides or information pages accessible via the internet. Siwa- Protected Area: editing	Contracts
development of ecotourism.			and printing a pocket guide and an illustrative brochure. Wadi el Rayan Protected Area: editing and printing an illustrative brochure. Develop an appropriate	Communication
			visibility program to enhance the results achieved during the Egyptian – Italian Environmental Cooperation Program.	
	Local NGOs engaged in management of visitor information	* Site visit	Carry out public awareness and environmental education activities focusing on the PAs and foster the sustainable socio-economic development	
	facilities associated to the PAs		of the local communities. Carry out public awareness activities and engage the local communities and	
	Local community (i.e. women, children/schools) participating in public		locally-based Associations, in the management of the visitor information facilities to be established in the premises attached to the PAMUs	
	awareness activities and environmental education		headquarters and satellite offices, also by contributing to the preparation of interpretive panels and displays on the	
	laboratory.		main features of the four Protected Areas. Support the selected NGOs for the management of the	
	Local community engaged in the plan of activities of the Visitor Centers (i.e.		three Visitors Centres, through the recruitment, within the NGO, of a consultant. Carrying out a pilot project, at	
	Siwa and WD handicraft activities for handicraft		the WDNP Visitor Center, aimed at developing an environmental education laboratory.	
	shops)		Foster the sustainable socio- economic development of the local communities, through the enhancement of the	
			functionality of the VCs surrounding structures.	

7.4. Annex 4: GENERAL WORKPLAN for the restoration activities (Activity 1)

Preliminary assessment mission

Expected Activity	Time frame	Planned Key activities	Experts
		Geomorphology: recording of the main geomorphologic features of the 2 Caves. Expertise of their conservation state. Consulting for restoration devices.	1 consultant
Assessment For Cave of		Archaeology: Geo-archaeological consideration of the 2 Caves; consulting on the conservation state and restoration strategy; consulting with the geology specialist; planning of the following phase; photographs, descriptions and illustrations drafts.	2 consultants
Swimmers And Foggini/Mistekawi	(10 Days)	Restoration: assessment of the general state of the two Caves/Shelters of Wadi Sura: SWIMMERS and FOGGINI MISTEKAWI. Preliminary, attentive, observation via computer and special lights of the scene groupings. Following the preliminary survey, a specific plan of the intervention (restoration, enhancement, protection in view of public tourist use) will be designed by the restorers in charge.	1 consultant
		SCA representatives	2 members

Second Phase

Expected Activity	Time frame	Planned key activities	Experts
		Geomorphology: Analysis and study of the rock substrate in the framework of the general characteristics of the Gilf region.	1 consultant
Restoration and Conservation activity at Cave of Swimmers And Foggini/Mistekawi	(40 Days)	Archaeology: Attentive analysis of the representation scenes: study of colours, scene groupings, statistics; dimensions of represented subjects (man, woman, animals); categories of animals; type of abstract representation. Inventory of the rock art images for designing and implementing a data base; Ethnographic analogies; insertion of the 2 caves in the Central Saharan framework. Project for the "Restoration diary": texts, illustrations, technical phases of the work.	3 consultants

Restoration, conservation and safeguard: Restoration of damaged and endangered sections of the art panels, already selected, will be carried out on the spot. Devices for protection will be envisaged. This will be extended to including the land strip through which transport vehicles usually pass at the edges of the plateau, where rock art documents may also be present. TRAINING: Field sessions on restoration/conservation technique – particularly directed towards rock art – will be organised by the restorers experts for the SCA representatives which will take part in the mission.	3 consultants
Photography: The two rock art caves will be photographed, and recorded through electronic devices. Photographical reproduction and video, including the general setting and environmental-archaeological scenario, will be carried out. SCA representatives	1 consultant 3 members
DIARY	5 members

7.5. Annex 5.1: International consultants- TORS for the preliminary assessment mission

Senior Archaeologist - Scientific Co-ordination of the Mission

Senior archaeologist with acknowledged competence in the study of Northern African and Saharan prehistoric cultures. Acknowledged expertise in the recording and study of rock art in relation to the archaeological context. Long activity in Saharan surveying and excavations. Expertise in the outline of research projects and in the co-ordination of multidisciplinary scientific teams.

Tasks:

- Geo-archaeological consideration of the 2 Caves
- Consulting on the conservation state and restoration strategy
- Consulting with the geology specialist
- Planning of the following phase

Archaeologist – Analysis, descriptions and line drawings of art-works

Archaeologist with acknowledged competence in Saharan and Egyptian prehistory. Curriculum in field-work and utilization of electronic devices for archaeology. Implementation of database for rock art. Collaboration in rock art recording and description.

Tasks:

- Preliminary recording (photos and drawings) of art images of the 2 Caves
- Project for a rock art- works data base
- Video recording of the trip
- Journal of fieldwork

Geologist

Quaternary geologist with acknowledged competence in geoarchaeological reconstruction of the eastern Sahara. Bibliography in structural geology and geomorphology of the Egyptian Western Desert. Acknowledged curriculum in geological fieldwork.

Scientific competence in the following fields:

- Geomorphological and idrogeological evaluation
- Palaeoenvironmental and palaeoclimatic reconstruction

Tasks:

- Analyzing the status of conservation of the rock substrate
- Geomorphological and idrogeological evaluation
- Palaeoenvironmental and palaeoclimatic reconstruction

Consulting in view of restoration for the following phase

Restorer (N. 2 Members)

Experience in restoration of ancient monuments, frescos and rock art. Experience in planning safeguard and protection of archaeological contexts.

Specialisation competence in the following fields:

- Pictorial restoration
- Restoration of rock art repertoires in desert landscapes
- Thermoigrometer and electromagnetic analyses on pigments
- Site's enhancement and protection in view of public tourist use

Tasks:

- Analyze the status of conservation of the rock arts
- Identify the plan of restoration for the following phase

Annex 5.2: International consultants- TORS for the restoration intervention (40 days mission)

Senior archaeologist – scientific co-ordination of the mission

Senior archaeologist with acknowledged competence in the study of Northern African and Saharan prehistoric cultures. Acknowledged expertise in the recording and study of rock art in relation to the archaeological context. Long activity in Saharan surveying and excavations. Expertise in the outline of research projects and in the co-ordination of multidisciplinary scientific teams.

Tasks:

- Geo-archaeological, multidisciplinary, study of the 2 Caves.
- Consulting on the restoration strategy
- Recording of the different phases of restoration work
- Setting of the art complex within the Saharan repertoire
- Consulting on the training component
- Elaboration of plans for enhancing and protecting rock art documents
- Final, scientific report
- Preparation of texts and illustration for a Diary publication

Archaeologist – Analysis, descriptions and line drawings of art-works (N.2 Members)

Archaeologist with acknowledged competence in Saharan and Egyptian prehistory. Curriculum in field-work and utilization of electronic devices for archaeology. Implementation of database for rock art. Collaboration in rock art recording and description.

Tasks:

Complete recording (photos and drawings) of art images of the 2 Caves, scene groupings, statistics; dimensions of represented subjects; categories of animals; type of abstract representation. Ethnographic analogies.

- Recording of colours (Munsell Charts)
- Video of the restoration steps and phases
- Journal of fieldwork
- Collaboration in the training

Geologist

Quaternary geologist with acknowledged competence in geoarchaeological reconstruction of the eastern Sahara. Bibliography in structural geology and geomorphology of the Egyptian Western Desert. Acknowledged curriculum in geological fieldwork.

Tasks:

- Geological outline of the 2 caves
- Description of the rock substrate
- Setting of the 2 caves in the context of the Wadi Sura geological framework
- Scientific report

Restorers (N.3 members)

Experience in restoration of ancient monuments, frescos and rock art. Experience in planning safeguard and protection of archaeological contexts.

Tasks:

Restoration work will be divided between the 2 caves, for each of them the following activities will be foreseen:

- Analyze the status of conservation of the rock arts
- Cleaning
- Thermoigrometer and electromagnetic analyses on pigments
- · Consolidation of damaged walls
- Restoration
- Training of local experts

Plans for enhancing and protecting rock art documents

Photographer

One professional photographer with a curriculum in:

- Archaeological photography
- Naturalistic photography
- Technical photography of material culture's elements (rock art images)
- Different photographic formats: digital, 35 mm, 6x9, 10x12 (both sun and artificial light).
- Software of digital photo mastery

Tasks:

- General panoramic view of the caves
- Photographic reproduction of the entire repertoire
- Photos of single groups
- Lab processing with digital techniques
- Videos post-production

7.6. Annex 6: List of the international consultants for the restoration activities (the whole cycle of the intervention).

- Prof. Dr. Barbara E.Barich- Professor of African Prehistory and Ethnography at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", Director of the Italian Archaeological Mission in the Farafra Oasis. Scientific coordination.
- *Dr. Giulio Lucarini* Archaeologist, PH.D. in African Cultures at the Istituto Orientale of Naples. Co-Director of the Italian Archaeological Mission in the Farafra Oasis. Archaeological consulting.
- *Dr.Ilaria Venir* Archaeologist, National School of Archaeology, Sapienza University of Rome. Member of the Italian Archaeological Mission in the Farafra Oasis. Archaeologist.
- Prof. Mohamed A.Hamdan. Geo-archaeologist, Professor of Geoarchaeology at Cairo University, Giza. In charge of the paloenvironmental study in the Italian Archaeological Mission in the Farafra Oasis. Geological consulting.
- Arch. Luigi De Cesaris. Restorer. Istituto Centrale Restauro, Rome. Plan of restoration of rock Art. Plan of protection and safeguarding of sites.
- Arch.Cristina Tomassetti. Restorer. Rome. Plan of restoration of rock Art. Plan of protection and safeguarding of sites.
- Mr.Alberto Sucato. Restorer. Rome. Plan of restoration of rock Art. Plan of protection and safeguarding of sites.
- *Mr. Carlos de la Fuente,* Photographer. In charge of Photography courses at the Faculty of Architecture, Sapienza University of Rome. Photography and Video reproductions.