



**INITIATION PLAN
FOR A GEF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)**

Country: The Gambia

Project Title: "Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project"

Initiation Plan Start Date: 17 October 2014

Initiation Plan End Date: 13 Mar 2015

CPAP Programme Component:

ATLAS Project Award: pls. **00081339**

ATLAS Project ID: pls. **00090646**

UNDP Project ID (PIMS): 5000

GEF Project ID: 5529

Duration: 5 Months (PPG), 48 months (MSP)

Management Arrangement: DIM/DEX

PPG total budget: USD

60,000

- GEF USD 30,000
- UNDP TRAC USD 30,000

AGREED BY UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE / UNDP DIRECTOR:

Name: Ade Mamonyane Lekoetje, UNDP Resident Representative

Signature:

Date:

17-10-2014

SECTION 1: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND PPG/INITIATION PLAN

The Government of The Gambia has sought UNDP support to implement the project preparation grant for the UNDP-GEF medium-sized project *“Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project”*. The project seeks to expand and strengthen the management of priority protected areas in The Gambia, including through enhanced community-based natural resource management – and by integrating environmental sustainability and biodiversity considerations into agricultural projects and activities. The project has two components: 1) Strengthen national PA network planning and PA management effectiveness in a cluster of priority PAs, and 2) Improve land and natural resource management in and around the targeted cluster of priority PAs. The expected outcomes of this MSP are, in the targeted cluster of priority PAs – Jokadou National Park (JNP, 15,028 ha), Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR, 22,000 ha), Kiang West National Park (KWNP, 11,526 ha): 1.1 Gazettement of a c. 5,000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP; 1.2 Enhanced management effectiveness in both existing and added PA areas; (a) increase in METT scores and (b) quantitative and qualitative reduction of threats (incidence of wood extraction, charcoal making, harvesting of mangroves, land conversion, wild fires, and wildlife poaching); 2.1 Improved forest cover, habitat integrity and connectivity across the targeted PA cluster and surrounding landscapes (c. 60,000 ha), through: (a) a reduction of unsustainable wood/ mangrove extraction; (b) a reduction of incidence and severity of wild and forest fires; (c) a reduction in the conversion of natural ecosystems for shifting cultivation; and establishment of sustainable land and natural resource management regimes in the targeted landscape; 2.2. Enhanced diversity, sustainability and reliability of community livelihoods.

In March 2014, the GEF CEO approved the project concept (the Project Information Form – for its approval see Annex 2). Project development now will include a preparatory phase in the form of a **Project Preparatory Grant (PPG)**, co-financed by GEF. The present **Initiation Plan (IP)** operationalises the implementation of the PPG. **During the PPG/IP**, a team of national and international consultants together with the UNDP Country Office in the Gambia and the responsible UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor (based in Istanbul) – and working in close collaboration with key government officials, donors, NGOs, CBOs, and the private sector – will undertake a number of literature reviews, studies, stakeholder consultations and field visits, with the view to further develop the approved PIF into a fully formulated project ready to start full-fledged implementation. The international consultant will function as Team Leader and coordinate the activities of two national consultants.

The UNDP Country Office in The Gambia will lead the PPG/IP under the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), to facilitate rapid implementation of this phase. With input from government partners and UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor, the UNDP Country Office will be responsible for the recruitment, supervision and payment of the necessary PPG consultants (international and national), for arranging travels and meetings, and for facilitating project disbursements and regular financial reporting. The **Key Expected Outputs of the PPG/IP** will be a technically robust **UNDP Project Document (PRODOC)** and a **Request for GEF-CEO Endorsement package ready for submission to the GEF Secretariat**. The preparatory phase will moreover include the identification of the lead implementing partner and of further responsible parties (as mentioned in the PIF) as well as the negotiation and definition of implementation arrangements. The PPG budget and work plan are presented in Section 3. The Terms of Reference for the team of consultants are included in Annexes 1a-c.

The PPG and MSP were approved by the GEF CEO on 13 March 2014. **The GEF CEO Endorsement Request package and PRODOC must therefore be endorsed by the GEF CEO by 13 March 2015**, in respect of the 12 months milestone. To meet this critical milestone, key project preparation activities should be completed by mid December 2014 – by this date, the complete PRODOC, CEO Endorsement Request and co-financing letters will be submitted in a final draft version for internal clearances to UNDP. Subsequent revisions addressing UNDP-GEF or GEF Secretariat queries may be required and are part of the PPG/IP. The final submissions to the GEF will require prior government validation and clearance. Submission to the GEF will only be effected after all due clearances have been obtained. Consultation with stakeholders relevant for

the project activities, which includes among others, the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management and the Department of Agriculture will put emphasis on building the partnerships required for realizing the project's objectives and the mobilization of co-financing. The national consultation process will also include the local communities that are expected to benefit from the Project.

SECTION 2: PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

The activities to be conducted under the PPG/IP include:

Component A: Technical review and Stakeholder Consultations

- Regular exchanges between the UNDP Country Office, UNDP-GEF RTA, Government Partners and further stakeholders on the development and finalization of the PRODOC and CEO Endorsement Request package;
- PPG inception workshop and preparation of PPG inception report;
- Conducting a stakeholder analysis and developing a plan for stakeholder engagement;
- Sensitising stakeholders about the project and securing their input to its design;
- Negotiating partnerships with on-going projects to align their activities and to build synergies.;
- Addressing any opportunities/risks identified during the environmental and social screening of the project proposal;
- Validating and further elaborating on the problem, baseline investment and barrier analyses in the PIF, helping determine the project's system boundaries and scope;
- Assessing and defining the technical feasibility, additionality, incrementality and cost-effectiveness of the project's interventions;
- Further integrating the project with relevant national development plans, policies, budgets and complementary projects;
- Desktop studies, field-based research and stakeholder consultations, for further developing the conservation and sustainable development situation analysis, focusing primarily but not exclusively on the targeted landscapes with its existing and proposed PAs and the related communities and their livelihoods. This will include *inter alia*: (i) status in the targeted landscape of productive ecosystems, natural habitats and species, with a focus on globally threatened species mentioned in the PIF; (ii) PA ecological gap analysis considering the spatial distribution, and conservation status of permanent reserved forests and PAs more widely in the country and related biodiversity conservation opportunities; (iii) an analysis of threats to biodiversity in the targeted landscape; (iv) analysis of policy, social, regulatory, socio economic, institutional, technical and knowledge barriers to effective landscape management; (v) review of suitability and viability of tentatively proposed new PA areas/boundaries/corridors; (vi) review of existing PA financing flows, PA staffing and capacity, PA infrastructures, decision-making and management structures, institutional frameworks, management plans; (vii) development context (key business sectors, socio-economic development, political environment, economic development plans/projects/programmes) and its current and future impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the landscapes; (viii) SWOT of livelihood (especially agricultural) activities;
- Developing a plan and activities for stakeholder participation/ engagement during the actual MSP: (i) identify community stakeholders and their responsibilities pertaining to land, forest and natural resource management in target PAs and surrounding landscapes; (ii) assess socioeconomic situations surrounding the target PAs; (iii) take stock of past and ongoing community-based natural resources and PA co-management activities and compile lessons learned for use in project development; (iv) compile information on the target communities under the project and identify opportunities for livelihood project intervention; (v) assess communities' roles in the project implementation and their capacity needs for fulfilling the roles through extensive consultation process; (vi) identify opportunities for alternative livelihood/livelihood enhancement interventions in target landscapes and develop a concrete plan for project support; (vii) ensure local communities' understanding and consent to the project and their full participation in project development and implementation; (viii) conduct a gender

assessment reviewing the role of both females and males in the project development and implementation and the potential impacts of the project on each gender group.

- Researching and elaborating appropriate project interventions, building on the PIF, such as on: (i) PA management measures for the project, such as on designation, demarcation, management planning and zoning, partnerships, capacity building, ecosystem restoration and financing, considering new institutional models for demonstration in the target PAs; (ii) improvements at the PA network level and strengthening and rationalising institutional arrangements; (iii) appropriate and potentially innovative INRM/SLM measures and activities (alongside sustainable livelihood initiatives), to be piloted/adopted by the communities surrounding the targeted PAs, and to be integrated into agricultural development planning and endeavours in the Gambia more widely;
- Identifying specific sites for intervention;
- Further developing the project strategic/results framework, including suitable objective-level and outcome-level quantitative and qualitative SMART indicators and the related baselines and end-of-project targets, including socio-economic and sex disaggregated indicators.
- Developing a detailed monitoring and evaluation (M&E) work plan, to include clear identification of responsibilities and accountabilities, as well as an appropriate M&E budget. The plan will be based on the standard template provided in the UNDP-GEF project document template that reflects the mandatory requirements of the GEF M&E Policy.
- Completing/updating the GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools (METT) for each of the targeted PAs in close consultation with the executing agencies and stakeholders;
- Developing a sustainability plan, outlining the principles and guidelines for ensuring the long-term sustainability of project achievements; it will also outline an exit strategy, seeking the continuation of key activities/achievements without the need of long-term international financing.
- Addressing the opportunities/risks identified in the GEF STAP Review;

Component B: Institutional arrangements, co-financing investments and financial planning

- Explore multilateral and bilateral co-financing opportunities: Undertake series of consultations with partners to ensure a coherent and sustainable financing package for the project including post- GEF grant phase.
- Ensure completion of required official endorsement letters: An official endorsement letter will be prepared by the GEF Operational Focal Point of the Government. A co-financing guarantee will be collected from participating government institutions, bilateral development partners, multilateral development partners and NGOs who wish and/or committed to provide cash or in kind contributions to the project.
- Preparing a detailed multi-year budget and work plan for the project (following the standard template provided in the UNDP-GEF project document template), indicating the inputs needed (consultants, contractual services, travel, etc.) in the applicable format;
- Defining institutional, implementation and management arrangements - the organisational structure governing the project will be decided. This will include identification of the project board.
- Stakeholder consultations during Component B: Involve key agencies in the development of the project strategy to ensure a strong national ownership. In close collaboration with key government representatives and other stakeholders ensure full participation in the development of the project results framework and ensure agreement on the project objectives and outcomes. Undertake consultations to secure agreement(s) on project implementation arrangements, including roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities of lead and partner agencies. Document these consultations.

Component C: Finalisation and Validation of Key Outputs

- Building on the above, consolidate and complete the PRODOC and Request for CEO Endorsement Package

- A validation workshop will gather representatives from all relevant stakeholders to present, discuss and validate the final draft project document

SECTION 3: TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

Award ID:	00081339					
Award Title:	Gambia Protected Areas Network & Comm. Livelihood					
Business Unit:	GMB 10					
Project Title:	Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project					
UNDP Project ID:	5000					
GEF Project ID:	5529					
Executing Agency	UNDP (DIM)					
GEF Outcome/ Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/ Implementin g Agency	Fund ID	ATLAS Budget Code	Donor Name	Budget Description	Total US\$
PPG to prepare the UNDP-GEF PRODOC and GEF CEO Endorsement Request package for the "Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project"	UNDP	62000	71200	GEF Trustee	International Consultant: Specialist for Biodiversity/Protected Areas and Sustainable Land Management	30,000
		04000	71600	UNDP TRAC	International Travel	3,000
			71600		DSA Banjul	1,744
			71600		DSA Field	750
			71300		National Consultant: Specialist for Biodiversity & Protected Areas	10,000
			71300		National Consultant: Specialist for Agriculture, SLM & Livelihood	10,000
			72700		Workshops for inception, stakeholder consultations and validation	1,500
			71600		Local travel (cost per person day)	3,006
						TOTAL

Summary of funds by source:

Total GEF	USD 30,000
UNDP	USD 30,000
TOTAL PPG	USD 60,000



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March 13, 2014

Ms. Adriana Dinu
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
304 East 45th St.
FF Bldg., 10th floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Dinu:

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the medium-sized project concept detailed below. I have also approved your request for project preparation grant.

Decision Sought:	Project Identification Form (PIF) and Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Approval
GEFSEC ID:	5529
Agency(ies):	UNDP
Agency ID:	5000 (UNDP)
Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Project Type:	Medium Size Project
Country(ies):	Gambia
Name of Project:	Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project
Indicative GEF Project Grant:	\$1,324,310
Indicative Agency Fee:	\$125,809
PPG Grant:	\$30,000
PPG Agency Fee:	\$2,850
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund

This PIF and PPG approval is subject to the comments made by the GEF Secretariat in the attached project review document. It is also based on the understanding that the project is in conformity with GEF focal areas strategies and in line with GEF policies and procedures.

Please submit your final medium-sized project document for my approval no later than 12 months after PIF approval.

Sincerely,

Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachment: GEFSEC Project Review Document
Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee