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12 March 2013

Dear Mr. Nigam,

**Subject: Project Preparation Grant: Myanmar: Strengthening Sustainability
of Protected Area Management in Myanmar – PIMS No. 5162 -
ATLAS BU: MMR10 - Proposal No.: 00072733 - Project No.:00085783**

I am pleased to delegate to you the authority to sign the Initiation Plan for the above-mentioned Project Preparation Grant (PPG) / Programme Cooperation Budget (PCB) on behalf of UNDP, and to commence development of the main project. As per Rule 116.05 of the UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules (Executive Board Decision 2005/1), this document becomes effective when signed by the Resident Representative. The Initiation Plan, which amounts to a total of US\$100,457, has received its final approval in accordance with the established GEF procedures (CEO approval letter for the PPG/PCB attached for ease of reference).

I am also pleased to provide a summary of the next steps in the process and to outline, for your easy reference, the mandatory GEF-specific project financial and results management requirements. In addition, a number of Advisory Notes have been prepared to support the implementation of UNDP supported GEF funded projects, these and further clarification on the GEF project cycle and requirements, can be found in the UNDP GEF Programming Manual at <http://intra.undp.org/gef>.

Next steps and mandatory GEF-specific requirements:

1. ***Issuance of Authorized Spending Limit (ASL):*** To facilitate a quick start to the PPG/PCB, once the Initiation Plan is signed, please kindly ensure that the Atlas-generated *Annual Work Plan (AWP)* based on the *Total Budget and Annual Work Plan* in the attached document, along with a copy of the signed cover page, is sent to Ms. Midori Paxton, Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) in Bangkok.

Any proposed budget revisions should be forwarded to the UNDP RTA together with a clear explanation of the changes proposed as any significant changes require review and approval. In addition, please note that UNDP/GEF is not in a position to increase the project budget above the amount already approved by the GEF Council. Therefore, any over-expenditure on this project would have to be absorbed by other Country Office resources.

2. ***GEF-specific project management requirements:***

- Any changes contemplated with respect to the project objectives and outcomes will have to be discussed with and approved by the UNDP/GEF RTA, as they will have to be reported to the GEF.

Mr. Ashok Nigam
Resident Representative
UNDP Myanmar

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- The final FSP must be ready by April 2014 as recorded in the Initiation Plan. The Regional Technical Advisor will advise you of the expected timeline for submission of the final proposal for the purpose of internal UNDP clearance prior to submission to the GEF Secretariat.
- The final submission of the FSP that is prepared with this preparation grant must be accompanied by a “GEF PPG/PCB Status Report”. The template can be obtained from the UNDP GEF Programming Manual <http://intra.undp.org/gef>
- This preparatory phase must be operationally completed in Atlas once the main project is endorsed/approved by the GEF CEO. Financial closure should follow within 12 months, but preferably within the same calendar year.
- Annex 2 includes a number of key UNDP/GEF management performance indicators that aim to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in the oversight and supervision services provided. Performance against these indicators will be monitored on an annual basis.
- In order to accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing funding, full compliance is needed with the GEF’s Communication and Visibility Guidelines (the “GEF Guidelines”). The GEF Guidelines can be accessed at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08_Branding_the_GEF%20final_0.pdf. Full compliance is also required with UNDP’s branding guidelines. These can be accessed at <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>, and specific guidelines on UNDP logo use can be accessed at: <http://intra.undp.org/branding/useOfLogo.html>.

In concluding, I would like to assure you of UNDP/GEF’s and my personal commitment to a successful implementation of the project. The Regional Technical Advisors are at your disposal for advice and technical support. Should you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



UNDP/ GEF Officer-in-Charge

cc: Mr. Ajay Chhibber, Assistant Administrator and Bureau Director, RBAP
Ms. Midori Paxton, UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor, Bangkok, Thailand

Annexes

Annex 1 CEO approval letter for PPG/PCB



Naoko Ishii, PhD
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

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February 20, 2013

Mr. Yannick Glemarec
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
New York, NY

Dear Mr. Glemarec:

I am pleased to inform you that the following submission is cleared for inclusion in the work program with the PPG approved and will be funded by the GEF Trust Fund:

Approval Stage:	PIF Clearance and PPG Approval
GEFSEC ID:	5159
Agency ID:	5162
Agency:	UNDP
Project Type:	Full Size Project
Country:	Myanmar
Name of Project:	Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Area Management in Myanmar
Indicative GEF Grant:	\$6,027,397
Indicative Agency Fee:	\$572,603
PPG Grant:	\$100,457
PPG Agency Fee:	\$9,543

This PIF clearance and PPG approval are subject to the comments made by the GEF Secretariat in the attached 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.

It is our expectation that your Agency will submit a final project document in a timely manner, so that it is endorsed by the CEO no later than 18 months after council approval of the PIF. Kindly inform the Secretariat as soon as possible if this timeline cannot be met so the Secretariat can either revise milestones or cancel the project, in consultation with the beneficiary country and your agency.

Sincerely,


Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

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

Annex 2: Project Support Services

Stage	Country Office ¹	UNDP/GEF
Identification, Sourcing/Screening of Ideas, and Due Diligence	Identify project ideas as part of country programme/CPAP and UNDAF/CCA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical input to CCA/UNDAFs and CPAPs where appropriate. • Input on policy alignment between projects and programmes. • Provide information on substantive issues and specialized funding opportunities (SOFs). • Policy advisory services including identifying, accessing, combining and sequencing financing. • Verify potential eligibility of identified idea.
	Assist proponent to formulate project idea / prepare project idea paper (e.g. GEF PIF/PPG/PCB).	<i>Technical support:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and development. • Provide up-front guidance. • Sourcing of technical expertise. • Verification of technical reports and project conceptualization. • Guidance on SOF expectations and requirements. • Training and capacity building for Country Offices.
	<i>Appraisal:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and appraise project idea. • Undertake capacity assessments of implementing partner as per UNDP POPP. • Environmental screening of project as and when included in UNDP POPP. • Monitor project cycle milestones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide detailed screening against technical, financial, social and risk criteria. • Determine likely eligibility against identified SOF.
	<i>Partners:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist proponent to identify and negotiate with relevant partners, cofinanciers, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in identifying technical partners. • Validate partner technical abilities.
	<i>Obtain clearances:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government, UNDP, Executing Agency, LPAC, cofinanciers, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain SOF clearances.
Project Development	<i>Initiation Plan:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and financial oversight of Initiation Plan • Discuss management arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support, backstopping and troubleshooting. • Support discussions on management arrangements • Facilitate issuance of DOA

¹ As per UNDP POPP with additional SOF requirements where relevant.

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Stage	Country Office ¹	UNDP/GEF
	<p><i>Project Document:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support project development, assist proponent to identify and negotiate with relevant partners, cofinanciers, etc. • Review, appraise, finalize Project Document. • Negotiate and obtain clearances and signatures – Government, UNDP, Implementing Partner, LPAC, cofinanciers, etc. • Respond to information requests, arrange revisions etc. • Prepare operational and financial reports on development stage as needed. 	<p><i>Technical support:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sourcing of technical expertise. • Verification of technical reports and project conceptualization. • Guidance on SOF expectations and requirements. • Negotiate and obtain clearances by SOF • Respond to information requests, arrange revisions etc. • Quality assurance and due diligence. • Facilitate issuance of DOA
<p><i>Key UNDP/GEF management performance indicators/targets for Project Development:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Time between PIF approval to CEO endorsement for each project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for GEF trust fund project: FSP = 18 months or less, MSP 12 months or less. • Target for LDCF and SCCF: FSP/MSP = 12 months or less. 2. Time between CEO endorsement (or PAC for non GEF funded projects) to first disbursement for each project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target = 4 months or less 		
Project Oversight	<i>Management Oversight and support</i>	<i>Technical and SOF Oversight and support</i>
	<p><i>Project Launch/Inception Workshop</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and coordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support in preparing TOR and verifying expertise for technical positions. • Verification of technical validity / match with SOF expectations of inception report. • Participate in Inception Workshop
	<p><i>Management arrangements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate consolidation of the Project Management Unit, where relevant. • Facilitate and support Project Board meetings as outlined in project document and agreed with UNDP RTA. • Provide project assurance role if specified in project document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical input and support to TOR development. Troubleshooting support. • Support in sourcing of potentially suitable candidates and subsequent review of CVs/recruitment process.
	<p><i>Annual WorkPlan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuance of AWP. • Monitor implementation of the annual work plan and timetable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory services as required • Review AWP, and clear for ASL where relevant.
	<p><i>Financial management:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct budget revisions, verify expenditures, advance funds, issue combined delivery reports, ensure no over-expenditure of budget. • Ensure necessary audits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of ASLs, based on cleared AWP • Return of unspent funds to donor • Monitor projects to ensure activities funded by donor comply with agreements/ProDocs • Oversight and monitoring to ensure financial transparency and clear reporting to the donor

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Stage	Country Office ¹	UNDP/GEF
	<p><i>Results Management:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment: link project output to CPAP Outcome in project tree in Atlas, link CPAP outcome in project tree to UNDP Strategic Plan Environment and sustainable Development Key Result Area as outlined in project document during UNDP work planning in ERBM. • Gender: In ATLAS, rate each output on a scale of 0-3 for gender relevance. • Monitoring and reporting: Monitor project results, track result framework indicators, and co-financing where relevant. Monitor risks in Atlas and prepare annual APR/PIR report where required by donor and/or UNDP/GEF. • Annual site visits – at least one site visit per year, report to be circulated no later than 2 weeks after visit completion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory services as required. • Quality assurance. • Project visits – at least one technical support visit per year.
	<p><i>Evaluation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate project evaluations into CO evaluation plan. Identify synergies with country outcome evaluations. • Arrange mid-term, final, and other evaluations: prepare TOR, hire personnel, plan and facilitate mission / meetings / debriefing, circulate draft and final reports. • Participate as necessary in other evaluations. • Ensure tracking of committed and actual co financing as part of mid-term and final evaluations. • Prepare management response to project evaluations and post in UNDP ERC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support and analysis. • Quality assurance. • Compilation of lessons and consolidation of learning. • Dissemination of technical findings. • Participate as necessary in other SOF evaluations.
	<p><i>Project Closure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final budget revision and financial closure (within 12 months after operational completion). • Final reports as required by donor and/or UNDP/GEF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory services as required. • Technical input. • Quality assurance.

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Stage	Country Office¹	UNDP/GEF
<p><i>Key UNDP/GEF management performance indicators/targets for Project Oversight:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each project aligned with country outcomes and UNDP Strategic Plan Environment and Sustainable Development key results, and included in Country Office Integrated Work Plan in the ERBM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target = 100% 2. Quality rating of annual APR/PIRs: Once completed and submitted, the quality of each project APR/PIR is rated by an external reviewer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target = Rating of Satisfactory or above 3. Quality rating of Terminal Evaluations: Once completed, the quality of each terminal evaluation is rated by an external reviewer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target = Rating of Satisfactory or above 4. Quality of results achieved by project as noted in terminal evaluation: the independent evaluator assigns an overall rating to the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target = Satisfactory or above 		