



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

AND

KARAKORAM INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MoU") is entered into by the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as "UNDP"), a subsidiary organ of the United Nations, an intergovernmental organization established by its Member States and the Karakoram International University (hereinafter referred to as "KIU"), a public-sector university of the Government of Gilgit Baltistan established under the charter from federal Government of Pakistan;

WHEREAS, UNDP serves in many respects as the operational arm of the United Nations at the country level and works with partners in numerous countries to promote among other things sustainable development, addressing climate change, conservation of biodiversity, eradication of poverty, empowerment of women, good governance and the rule of law;

WHEREAS, UNDP represented by UNDP Pakistan is interested in enhancing its development activities under its on-going and proposed projects, including the "Improvement of Central Karakoram National Park Management System as Model for Mountain Ecosystems in Northern Pakistan", "Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan", "Localization of Sustainable Development Goals" and "Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme";

WHEREAS, both the parties share similar missions and wish to cooperate in areas of mutual concern to enhance the effectiveness of their development efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, both the parties wish to express their intention to cooperate as follows:

Article I

Purpose and Scope

1.1 This MoU is aimed at providing a framework of cooperation and facilitating collaboration between the UNDP and the KIU, on a non-exclusive basis, in areas of common interest. It is a description of possible areas of collaboration and should not be seen as single-source procurement of services of KIU. The collaboration between the two parties will be guided by overall goal and other provisions provided in the Project Documents of each of the projects mentioned above. These may include research on topics related to biodiversity

conservation, mountain protected areas management, natural resource management for livelihood improvement, snow leopard conservation, climate change, glacial lake outburst floods, sustainable development goals as well as identification and implementation of innovative ideas and tools in these subjects. The geographical scope spans over the entire area of Gilgit-Baltistan region with focus on target areas of UNDP projects. Both the parties will also explore opportunities for collaboration with other government departments, private sector and civil society to foster research and development activities under the projects for common goals. Both the parties may also jointly explore the opportunities to mobilize external funding with regards to the objective of this MoU.

Article II

Areas of Cooperation

- 2.1 The UNDP and KIU agree to cooperate in the following areas of activity:
- Undertake action-based research in innovative interventions related to natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and mountain protected areas management. These activities should result in the development of tools that could contribute to the livelihood improvement of local people and habitat improvement for flora and fauna;
 - Conduct assessment and research studies in the mountain ecosystem to identify nature based and gender-responsive solutions for addressing the problem of ecosystem degradation and restoration of flow of goods and services. These activities will aim at developing tools for scaling up sustainable value chains of green commodities through active contribution of dependent communities;
 - Explore potential risk factors in mountain areas related to glacial outburst floods, identify magnitude of risk and identify ways and means for mitigation. The aim of these activities will be to develop innovative tools for risk reduction from GLOF and other hazards;
 - Engage students at graduate and post graduate level from the University in research activities for thesis or as internships to produce knowledge and build their professional capacities in the field of environment, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem conservation, risk management and other related disciplines. Female students will be encouraged to participate under this programme to support gender balance.
 - Explore un-conventional, efficient and economic ways and means for increasing citizen engagement in public policy and improving their access to basic services. This will be accomplished through assessment of current systems and study of best practices in other parts of the country and region;



- f) Establish a knowledge hub regarding Sustainable Development Goals to maintain and regularly update big and open data in all SDGs sectors. This should lead also to the provision of regular and timely input for decision making by policy makers, particularly at the time of annual development planning and policy formulation;
- g) Steer a process to identify innovative ideas for solutions to the environmental problems related to natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk management, ecotourism, and SDGs localization. The process will lead to promote innovations in the sustainable development and environmental sectors;
- h) Produce and widely disseminate material for mass awareness in the form of policy briefs, research findings summaries, video documentaries and key messages. These should aim at awareness raising on major developmental and environmental issues;
- i) Conduct capacity building and awareness raising events (e.g. workshops, seminars etc.) for public, and targeted audience on specific topics related to sustainable development, SDGs, GLOFs, protected area science, biodiversity conservation and other related disciplines;
- j) Identify activities related to natural resource management, environment and biodiversity conservation that could contribute to improved livelihoods through income generation for local communities and identify specific capacity needs at local level for that purpose.
- k) The research teams of the KIU, including its faculty and graduate students, will coordinate with the project implementation team, consultants hired from time to time to discuss methodology, findings, value of the knowledge created and need for further research. These should contribute to the capacity building of the staff and students themselves and increasing the utility of knowledge created.

Article III

Consultation and Exchange of Information

3.1 Both the parties shall, on a regular basis, keep each other informed of and consult on matters of common interest, which in their opinion are likely to lead to mutual collaboration.

3.2 Consultation and exchange of information and documents under this MoU shall be without any prejudice to arrangements, which may be required to safeguard the confidential and restricted character of certain information and documents. Such arrangements will survive the termination of this MoU and of any agreements signed by the parties within the scope of this collaboration.

3.3 The parties shall, at such intervals as deemed appropriate, convene meetings to review the progress of activities being carried out under the present MoU and to plan future activities.





3.4 Both the parties may invite each other to send observers to meetings or conferences convened by them or under their auspices in which, in opinion of either party, the other may have an interest. Invitations shall be subject to the procedures applicable to such meetings or conferences.

Article IV

Implementation of the MoU

4.1 In order to realize the implementation of activities under this MoU, the parties shall conclude separate cost-sharing agreements in accordance with the parties' respective regulations, rules and procedures, which shall specify the activity costs and how they are to be borne by the parties. All the UNDP activities under various projects envisaged here will be subject to availability of funds. A reference to the relevant section of this MoU shall be made in the Cost-Sharing agreements with specification of project/programme where the activity relates.

4.2 It is understood that all activities will be carried out based on project documents agreed between the UNDP and KIU, and in accordance with applicable UNDP regulations, rules, procedures and policies.

4.3 Any type of procurement activity for goods or services, or sub-contracting and disbursement of funds therefore, should follow standard UNDP procurement rules.

4.4 The cost of public relations activities relating to the partnership, that are not otherwise addressed by a specific cost-sharing agreement concluded hereunder, will be the responsibility of KIU.

4.5 Neither party shall be an agent, representative or joint partner of other party. Neither party shall enter into any contract or commitment on behalf of the other party and shall be solely responsible for making all payments to and on behalf of its own account, as provided under this MoU and under cost-sharing agreements concluded hereunder.

4.6 Each party shall be responsible for its acts and omissions in connection with this MoU and its implementation.

Article V

Visibility

5.1 The parties recognize that the cooperative arrangements shall be publicized and therefore agree to acknowledge the role and contribution of each organization in all public information documents relating to instance of such cooperation and use each organization's


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name and emblem in documentation related to the cooperation in accordance with the current policies of each organization and subject to prior written agreement of each party.

Article VI

Term, Termination, Renewal and Amendment

6.1 The proposed cooperation under this MoU is non-conclusive and shall have an initial term of 4 years from the effective date, as defined in Article X, unless terminated earlier by either party upon 2 months' notice in writing to the other party. The parties may agree to extend this MoU in writing for subsequent periods of 1 year each depending upon the need for subsequent activities under the scope of this MoU.

6.2 In event of termination of this MoU, any cost sharing or project cooperation agreements, and any project documents concluded pursuant to this MoU, may also be terminated in accordance with terminal provision contained in such agreements. In such case, the parties shall take necessary steps to ensure that the activities carried out under this MoU, the cost-sharing agreements, and project documents are brought to a prompt and orderly conclusion.

6.3 This MoU may be amended only by mutual written agreement of both the parties.

Article VII

Notices and Addresses

7.1 Any notices or request required or permitted to be given or made under his MoU shall be in writing. Such notices or requests shall be deemed to have been duly given or made when it shall have been delivered by hand, certified mail, overnight courier, telex, or cable to the party to which it is required to be given or made at the address specified below or such other addresses as shall be hereafter notified by the parties.

For UNDP: Mr. Ignacio Artaza
Country Director, UNDP Pakistan Country Office
4th Floor, Serena Business Complex, Khayaban-e-Suharwardy,
Islamabad

For KIU: Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah
Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University
University Road, Gilgit



Article VIII

Miscellaneous

8.1 This MoU and any related cost-sharing agreements and project document comprise the complete understanding of the parties in respect of the subject matter in this MoU and supersedes all prior agreements relating to the same subject matter. Failure by either party to enforce a provision of this MoU shall not constitute a waiver of that or any other provision of this MoU. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this MoU shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of the MoU.

8.2 Nothing in this MoU shall be construed as creating a joint venture or any other form of legally binding commitment between the parties.

Article IX

Privileges and Immunities

9.1 Nothing in or relating to this MOU shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

Article X

Effectiveness

10.1 This MoU may be signed in 2 originals and shall enter into effect on the date in which it is duly signed by both the parties ("Effective Date").

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the parties affix their signatures below:

For KIU:

Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah
Vice Chancellor

Date: 27 Sep, 2018

For UNDP:

Neil Hans Buhne
UN Resident Coordinator /
UNDP Resident Representative

Date: 27.9.18