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25 July 2014

Dear Mr. Stevens,

Subject: Thailand Project Preparation Grant: Sustainable Management Model for Local Government Organizations to Enhance Biodiversity Protection and Utilization in Selected Eco-regions of Thailand – PIMS 5271 – ATLAS BU: THA10 – Proposal No.: 00081692 – Project No.: 00090868

I am pleased to delegate to you as the UNDP Resident Representative 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. The Initiation Plan, which amounts to a total of US\$67,580, has received its final approval in accordance with the established GEF procedures (CEO approval letter 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 Initiation Plans and UNDP supported GEF funded projects. These 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 Mr. Johan Robinson, 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 UNDPGEF 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 with respect to the objectives of the initiation plan will have to be discussed with and approved by the RTA, as they will have to be reported to the GEF.

Mr. Luc Stevens
Resident Representative
UNDP Bangkok, Thailand

United Nations Development Programme

- The final project document and annexes must be ready by February 2015 as outlined in the Initiation Plan. The RTA will advise you of the expected timeline for submission of the final project document for the purpose of internal UNDP clearance prior to submission to the GEF Secretariat.
- All efforts should be made to completely commit the GEF PPG resources by the time the project document is submitted to the GEF for CEO endorsement. A report on the use of the PPG resources is included in Annex C of the GEF CEO Endorsement template.
- If the PPG activities and resources have not been fully completed/committed by CEO endorsement, the same reporting table must be submitted with the first project implementation report (APR/PIR) due one year after project document signature.
- This preparatory phase must be operationally completed in Atlas once the main project is endorsed by the GEF CEO. Financial closure should follow within 12 months, but preferably within the same calendar year.
- 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 Initiation Plan. The RTA is at your disposal for advice and technical support. Should you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Adriana Dinu
Executive Coordinator and Director a.i
UNDP - Global Environment Facility

cc: Mr. Haoliang Xu, Assistant Administrator and Bureau Director, RBAP
Mr. Johan Robinson, UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor, Bangkok, Thailand

Annexes

Annex 1 CEO approval letter for PIF and PPG



Naoko Ishii, PhD
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

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May 8, 2014

Ms. Adriana Dinu, GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
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:	5726
Agency:	UNDP
Agency ID:	5271 (UNDP)
Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Project Type:	Medium Size Project
Country:	Thailand
Name of Project:	Sustainable Management Models for Local Government Organisations to Enhance Biodiversity Protection and Utilization in Selected Eco-regions of Thailand
Indicative GEF Project Grant:	\$1,738,904
Indicative Agency Fee:	\$167,096
PPG Grant:	\$67,580
PPG Agency Fee:	\$6,420
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

Annex 2: Project Cycle Management Services

Stage	Country Office ¹	UNDP/GEF at regional and global level
Project Development	<i>Initiation Plan:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and financial oversight of Initiation Plan • Discuss management arrangements 	RTA and PA role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support, backstopping and troubleshooting. • Support discussions on management arrangements • Facilitate issuance of DOA
	<i>Project Document:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support project development, assist proponent to identify and negotiate with relevant partners, cofinanciers, etc. • Environmental and social screening of project before PAC. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTA role: 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.
<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 		

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