

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

A. DESCRIBE FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF ANY:

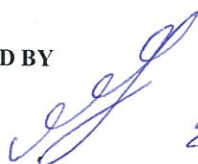
During the period between the preparation of the PIF and the development of the full project, a number of initiatives linked to protected area expansion in the marine and coastal zone of Azerbaijan have been recently concluded, including *inter alia*: (i) the revision and updating of the Ecoregion Conservation Plan for the Caucasus (2012), which includes the entire marine and coastal zone of Azerbaijan; (ii) the completion of a protected area gap analysis by the Michael Succow Foundation that identifies priority areas for expansion of the protected area system in Azerbaijan; (iii) the formal proclamation in 2012 of a new 11,772 ha marine and coastal National Park – Samur-Yalama National Park - in the north-eastern Khachmaz District of Azerbaijan, bordering Russia; (iv) the submission of a report by CASPECO titled, 'Towards a Kura River Delta Protected Area and its Management Plan (2012)' which suggests that, due to the complex land tenure and resource use patterns in the area, it is not likely that a protected area can be established in the Kura River Delta in the immediate future; and (v) a decision by the Government of Azerbaijan - through the MENR - not to pursue any further expansion of its protected area system for the immediate future, rather directing its limited resources and capacity to improving the management effectiveness of its existing network of protected areas.

Collectively, these developments demonstrated that the preparation and implementation of a 'systemic conservation system plan' (to guide the ongoing expansion of CMPAs) - as initially proposed in the PIF – is not considered an immediate priority intervention by the Government for the network of CMPAs in Azerbaijan, and was thus removed from the full project.

B. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

| PPG Grant Approved at PIF: US\$72,136 | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i> | <i>GEF Amount (US\$)</i> | | |
| | <i>Budgeted Amount</i> | <i>Amount Spent To Date</i> | <i>Amount Committed</i> |
| 1. Establish baseline project investments | 15,000 | 15,000 | 0 |
| 2. Site-level survey | 15,000 | 15,000 | 0 |
| 3. Other baseline assessments | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. Feasibility and risk analysis, strategy development and budget | 42,136 | 34,983 | 7,153 |
| Total | 72,136 | 64,983 | 7,153 |

PREPARED BY



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