United Nations Development Programme
Global Ecosystems & Biodiversity Programme
PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project Title:	UNDP-implemented: Support the 2014 World Parks Congress: Parks, People, Planet: Protected areas as inspiring solutions to global challenges

UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017) [Link] **Primary Outputs:** *1.3.* Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste; and *2.5.* Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation

Secondary Output: [From *UNDP's Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global Framework 2012-2020*:] Signature Programme #2: Unlocking the potential of protected areas (PAs), including indigenous and community conserved areas, to conserve biodiversity while contributing to sustainable development. [Link]

[Project Objective]: To strengthen the capacity for effective management and equitable governance of an ecologically representative global network of protected areas.

[Outcome 1] Knowledge uptake on PAs, facilitated by the 'strategic platform for development & learning' provided by the World Parks Congress 2014 and through training delivered through PA learning networks enhances and accelerates the implementation of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

[Outcome 2] Global learning and technical content development on key protected area issues are enhanced and contribute to practical and 'inspiring' solutions to current and emerging challenges worldwide.

[Outcome 3] Protected areas assume a more prominent role and position within the development policy, economic strategies and community well-being respective agendas.

Implementing Partner: United Nations Development Programme

Responsible Partners: UNDP-GEF Unit

Brief Description

This PRODOC pertains to the part of the activities and budget of the GEF Approved Medium-Size Project (MSP) that will be implemented by UNDP directly. Another, linked PRODOC will serve to operationalize the activities and budget managed by IUCN under the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) implementation modality.

Programme Period:	2014-2017	[A] + [B] Total resources required (total project funds)	$ 6,326,484
Atlas Award ID:	00079944	**[A] Total allocated resources (under this award)**	**$ 251,000**
Project ID:	00089819	Regular (UNDP TRAC)	$ 0
PIMS #	5320	GEF	$ 251,000
Start date:	PRODOC signature	[B] Other (GEF co-financing resources plus funds associated with other PRODOCs)	$ 6,075,484
End Date	+3 years	*IUCN co-financing commitment (partner managed)*	*$ 4,000,000*
		UNDP co-financing commitment (managed under other PRODOCs)	*$ 500,000*
Mgt Arrangements	DIM	*GEF resources allocated to associated IUCN-implemented PRODOC*	*$ 1,575,484*
PAC Meeting Date			

Cleared by:

Adriana Dinu   Date
UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i.

Approved by:

12 JUNE 2014

Magdy Martínez-Solimán   Date
Director, a.i., Bureau for Development Policy

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PRODOC Specific Acronyms

APR/PIR   Annual Project Review / Project Implementation Report
CDR   Combined Delivery Report
CO   Country Office (UNDP)
CSO   Civil Society Organisation
DIM   Direct Implementation
EBD   Ecosystems & Biodiversity (UNDP's programme)
GEF   Global Environment Facility
GPAP   IUCN's Global Protected Areas Programme
QOR   Quarterly Operational Reports
PRODOC   UNDP Project Document
TBW   Total Budget and Workplan

-- Refer to the Approved MSP for a more complete list of acronyms --

SECTION I: Elaboration of the Narrative

PART I: Situation Analysis

POINT OF DEPARTURE

1.   This Project Document (PRODOC) serves to operationalize at the level of UNDP a Medium-Size Project (MSP) approved by the CEO of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on 17 December 2013. With a global scope, the key focus of the project is on building countries' capacity for protected area (PA) management through knowledge management and innovation.

2.   ***Background.*** The current project was developed in close collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It will serve to strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders – in particular protected area professionals, planners and policy-makers – for the effective management and equitable governance of an ecologically representative global network of protected areas. The project will also help put in evidence the achievements of UNDP's PA portfolio, which is primarily financed by the GEF. More specifically, the project will use the next World's Parks Congress (WPC), to be held in Australia in November 2014, as *a 'strategic platform for development & learning'* – including the preparations to and the aftermath of the event – for achieving the project' capacity strengthening goals.

3.   The project's overveiw and description, the background analysis that justifies it, and the statement of issues that the project will address are thoroughly described in Part II, section A.1 of the MSP.

4.   The total GEF budget of the approved MSP includes inputs that will be managed by IUCN, amounting to more than 80% of it, and the remainder part that will be managed by UNDP. Both entities will serve as implementing partners (IP) for the project. According to UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), a UNDP PRODOC can only have one single IP. Therefore, two PRODOCs, linked to each other through the GEF MSP, were developed to operationalize the GEF project. **This PRODOC pertains to the UNDP-implemented part of the budget and activities.**

5.   Refer to the **IUCN-executed PRODOC** and to the *Approved GEF MSP* document, to which the GEF CEO Letter of Approval is appended

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS AND ENGAGEMENT

6.   The stakeholder matrix in the associated IUCN- PRODOC (Atlas Award and ID 00079966 / 00089840) provides details on the role of different entities and groups.

7.   Herein, we stress UNDP's role in the project as the IP for this PRODOC, vis-à-vis that of IUCN's as IP for the associated PRODOC.

8.   In order for UNDP to fulfil its IP role under this PRODOC, global and regional staff in the UNDP-GEF Ecosystems & Biodiversity (EBD) cluster will provide support to the project and implement a limited set of activities linked to UNDP's involvement in the World Parks Congress 2014. This will include preparation and follow-up activities and UNDP' involvement in the roll-out of at least two 'Streams' in the Congress (refer to the mirror PRODOC). The involvement of UNDP-GEF's EBD staff will also focus on harnessing examples from UNDP-GEF portfolio and feeding into selected knowledge products.

9.   Cost recovery (rather than contracting of external consultants) will be the preferred mechanism to ensure that UNDP has the funds to fulfil its role as IP in the project.

10.   UNDP will also be tasked with engaging the project evaluation.

11.   Other aspects of UNDP's role in the project are linked to its GEF Agency assurance and oversight function, which is separate from its role as IP, and which will be carried out by UNDP-GEF Directorate.

PART II: Strategy

PROJECT GOAL, OBJECTIVE, OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

12.   **The project's goal** is to enhance the policy impact of the World Parks Congress 2014 as a 'strategic platform for development & learning'.

13.   **The project objective** is to strengthen the capacity for effective management and equitable governance of an ecologically representative global network of protected areas.

14.   This will be done through technical support and cross-learning exchange to enhance implementation of CBD Aichi targets, especially Target 11, in the face of global challenges. The World's Parks Congress 2014 will be used as a 'strategic platform for development & learning'.

15.   In order to achieve the above objective, three '**Outcomes**' (corresponding to GEF components) are expected from the project:

- **Outcome 1** – Knowledge uptake on PAs, facilitated by the 'strategic platform for development & learning' provided by the World Parks Congress 2014 and through training delivered through PA learning networks enhances and accelerates the implementation of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

- **Outcome 2** – Global learning and technical content development on key protected area issues are enhanced and contribute to practical and 'inspiring' solutions to current and emerging challenges worldwide.

- **Outcome 3** – Protected areas assume a more prominent role and position within the development policy, economic strategies and community well-being respective agendas.

16.   Three project **Components** correspond each to the three Outcomes, as follows:

Component 1) Strengthening new and existing learning networks to foster communities of practice and provide technical support on key protected area issues

Component 2) Inspiring Solutions: Global learning and technical content development on key protected area issues

Component 3) Position protected areas within development policy, economic strategies and community well-being

17.   The Outcomes/Components of the project, as well as a **full description** of the expected outputs and activities, are thoroughly described in the *Approved MSP* (refer in particular to Part II, A1-3: *The proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of project components*).

18.

19.

20.   **Table** 1 below provides an overview of UNDP's involvement in the project:

Table 1. Activities and main responsible units

Component, Output or Activity	Brief Description	Summary of UNDP's role
	Component 1.	
	Strengthening new and existing learning networks to foster communities of practice and provide technical support on key protected area issues.	
Output 1.1	Key lessons from across GEF's and GEF-partners' protected area portfolio summarized, synthesized, and made accessible via interactive learning portal	UNDP-GEF in collaboration with IUCN
1.1.1	Identify a core set of PA best practices	
1.1.2	Identify projects that best exemplify best practices	
1.1.3	Make best practices readily available	
Output 1.5	Recognition of improvements in PA system and sites through measurable and standard reporting, with an emphasis on improving assessment and reporting on protected area management effectiveness	IUCN will lead. UNDP will provide support in terms of liaising with GEF and other Agencies
1.5.1	Measurable and standard reporting	
1.5.2	Assessment and reporting of progress made through project implementation	
1.5.3	Compile project syntheses	
Output 1.6	Protected area professionals, planners and policy-makers identified, and engaged during the exchange and development of country-case studies and best-practice guidance	IUCN will lead. UNDP-GEF will support
1.6.1	Identify eligible participants	
1.6.2	Engage under-represented groups	
	Component 2.	
	Protected areas as solutions: Global learning and technical content development on key protected area issues	
Output 2.2	On-line tools and e-modules for technical support and training to improve the quality and effectiveness of protected area systems.	UNDP GEF with assistance from partners as needed
2.2.1	E-learning, training packages and virtual course rooms	
Output 2.3	Collaborative learning framework in place for IUCN, WCPA, GEF Implementing Agencies, CBD and partners to effectively share and promote best practices, tools and guidance related to priority protected area and area-based conservation themes, including climate change, food and water security and disaster-risk reduction.	IUCN will lead. UNDP will provide support in terms of liaising with GEF and other Agencies
2.3.1	Identification of key protected area networks	
2.3.2	Coordination across multiple networks	
	Component 3.	
	Position protected areas within development policy, economic strategies and human well-being	

Component, Output or Activity	Brief Description	Summary of UNDP's role
Output 3.1	*Recommendations on current and emerging protected area-related policy issues and integration of protected areas into development planning are developed from deliberations and commitments at IUCN World Parks Congress 2014*	IUCN will lead. UNDP-GEF will support
3.1.1	Deep engagement with World Parks Congress stream leaders developing program content	
3.1.2	Stream content and delivery	
3.1.3	Consolidate recommendations based on outcomes from streams	
Output 3.2	*Key recommendations on emerging issues relevant to mainstreaming PAs incorporated in national development plans and implementation of Aichi targets are promoted at CBD COPs and other international policy arenas*	IUCN will lead. UNDP-GEF will support
3.2.1	Distill recommendations from the IUCN World Parks Congress	
3.2.2	Reach out to strategic policy fora on biodiversity	
3.2.3	Incorporate relevant recommendations into implementation of current IUCN quadrennial program and the preparation of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020	
Output 3.4	*High-profile communication materials are developed that effectively showcase the contribution of protected areas to achieving national sustainable development goals*	IUCN with support from UNDP-GEF as needed
3.4.1	Produce high-impact, high-profile communication materials	

PROJECT RISKS

21.   The risks that apply this PRODOC are the same to those of the associated IUCN-implemented PRODOC. Therefore, only one Atlas Risk Log will be maintained in Atlas, namely for Award / ID 00079966 / 00089840.

PART III: Management Arrangements

22.   The project is part of the overall global programme of the Ecosystems and Biodiversity cluster of UNDP-GEF.

23.   The institutional and management arrangements for this project are generally described in the _Approved MSP_, (see Part II, Section A.7 - _Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation_). Herein more detail is added.

24.   In sum, the GEF project project will be implemented over a period of three years, primarly by IUCN, out of its Head Office in Gland. The IUCN-implemented part of the project is operationalised through a separate PRODOC associated to this one. A small number of project activities and a limited portion of the GEF budget will be managed directly by UNDP under the modality DIM. This PRODOC pertains to the set of activities that fall under UNDP's responsibility.

25.   A Project Steering Committee (PSC) is in the process of being officially formed on the basis of an advisory group to the project. This is described in the IUCN-implemented PRODOC.

26.   Besides the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders outlined in this PRODOC and in the approved MSP, the following project diagram represents the expected key relationships governing this PRODOC.

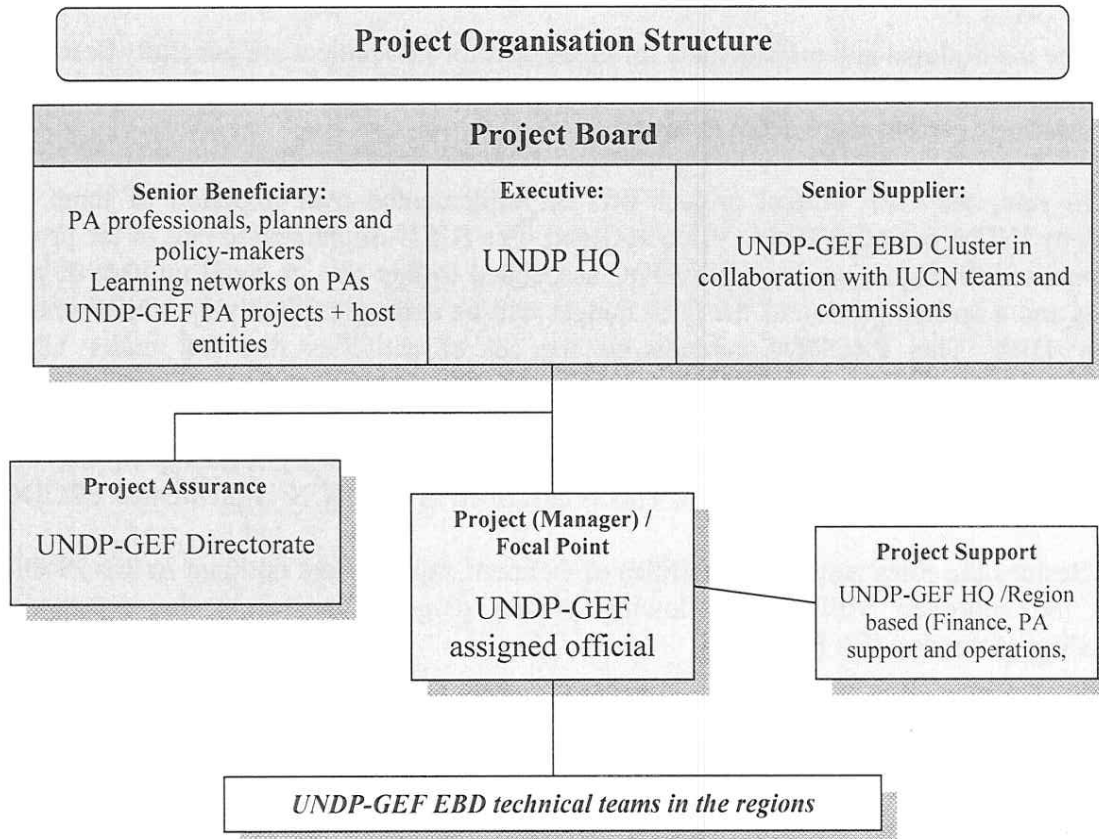Project Organization Structure for this PRODOC

To ensure accountability for programming activities and results and the use of resources, a project board will be established to oversee and direct the project, following the structure and roles identified below:

Executive: UNDP-GEF EBD Cluster

Senior Supplier: UNDP-GEF EBD Cluster in collaboration with IUCN teams and commissions

Senior Beneficiaries: PA professionals, planners and policy-makers, existing and new learning networks on PAs, selected UNDP-GEF PA projects and their host entities

Project Assurance: UNDP-GEF Directorate (Executive Coordinator, New York – may delegate the role to the UNDP-GEF Principal Technical Adviser for EBD)

Project Manager: UNDP-GEF assigned official.

Project Support: UNDP-GEF HQ (Finance, PA support, HR, etc.)

Project Management Team: UNDP EBD technical teams globally and in the regions

Project Organisation Structure

Project Board

Senior Beneficiary: PA professionals, planners and policy-makers Learning networks on PAs UNDP-GEF PA projects + host entities	Executive: UNDP HQ	Senior Supplier: UNDP-GEF EBD Cluster in collaboration with IUCN teams and commissions

Project Assurance
UNDP-GEF Directorate

Project (Manager) / Focal Point
UNDP-GEF assigned official

Project Support
UNDP-GEF HQ /Region based (Finance, PA support and operations,

UNDP-GEF EBD technical teams in the regions

27.   **Project Board** is responsible for making management decisions for a project in particular when guidance is required by the Project Manager. For this project, the PSC will serve as the project Project Board (ensuring that a member from UNDP GEF Directorate is also included in the Committee).. The board for this project is the same as that of the associated IUCN-implemented PRODOC, where its role is more thoroughly described.

28.   **Project Manager**: The Project Manager (PM) has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partner within the constraints laid down by the Board. In the case of this PRODOC, it will be a UNDP-GEF official, playing the role of focal point for the project, given the limited size of its budget.

29.   **Project Support**: To be provided by a UNDP-GEF EBD programme associate with a global role (for the project upstart, this will be done through a detail assignment). Other services such as procurement, HR management, financial management and legal advise will be provided by responsible officials within UNDP-GEF, but are expected to be limited, given the size of the project budget.

PART IV: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget

MONITORING AND REPORTING

30.   The monitoring and evaluation requirements for this PRODOC are similar to those of the associated IUCN-implemented PRODOC. UNDP-GEF will collaborate in the preparation of required reports to the GEF. There will be a single Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR) produced annually for both PRODOCs and a single Terminal Evaluation also for both.

AUDIT CLAUSE

31.   Audit will be conducted according to UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable Audit policies.

COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

32.   The communications and visibility requirements for this PRODOC are similar to those of the associated IUCN-implemented PRODOC. Given the nature of this project and its focus on knowledge products, UNDP-GEF and IUCN will discuss and collaborate branding issues pertaining to these products and reach agreement prior to their launching.

PART V: Legal Context

33.   UNDP as the Implementing Partner shall comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations safety and security management system.

34.   UNDP agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the GEF funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via the [Link]. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

SECTION II: Project Results Framework and GEF Increment

PART I: Indicator Framework and Project Outputs

35.   The Indicator Framework and Project Outputs for this PRODOC are the same as those of the associated IUCN-implemented PRODOC.

36.   The project's contribution to UNDP's Strategic Plan relate specifically to two Outputs and will be reporting against the following related indicators:

UNDP's Strategic Plan Outputs	Related Indicator
Output 1.3. Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste	1.3.1 Number of new partnership mechanisms with funding for sustainable management solutions of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste at national and/or sub-national level, disaggregated by partnership type
Output 2.5. Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation	2.5.4 Number of countries in which planning and budgeting mechanisms for conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems integrated gender equality and women's empowerment principles.

SECTION III: Total Budget and Workplan

Award / Project ID:	00079944 / 00089819		Business Unit:	UNDP1
			Project Title:	Parks, People, Planet: Protected areas as solutions to global challenges
Award Title:	PIMS 5320 MSP UNDP directly implemented Support to 2014 World Park Congress		Implementing Partner	UNDP

Outcome / Component*	Impl. Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	ATLAS Budget Code and Description	TOTAL	Amount 2014	Amount 2015	Amount 2016	Notes
	UNDP	62000	GEF	71200 International Consultants	30,000			30,000	a
	UNDP	62000	GEF	71200 International Consultants	90,000	45,000	45,000		b
UNDP's support to Global Project Parks, People, Planet in collaboration with IUCN	UNDP	62000	GEF	72100 Contractual Services-Companies	69,000	35,000	25,000	9,000	c
	UNDP	62000	GEF	71600 Travel	50,000	25,000	25,000		b
	UNDP	62000	GEF	74500 Miscellaneous Expenses	12,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	d
TOTAL					251,000	109,000	99,000	43,000	

Budget Notes

In order to simplify the UNDP budget under this project, which is limited, the break-down per component as per the approved MSP has been fused into a single block of budget lines.

a	Independent terminal evaluation managed by UNDP.
b	UNDP's participation in project activities, in particular in terms of harnessing examples from UNDP-GEF portfolio, before and during the WPC, engaging UNDP-GEF projects and feeding into knowledge products.

c	UNDP's budget for developing the knowledge product(s) described in Component 1.
d	Budgetary reserve for possible internal costs linked to recruitments, procurement, payments, bank charges and other miscellaneous costs.

SECTION IV: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PART I: Other agreements

ASSOCIATED IUNC-IMPLEMENTED PRODOC

Project Title:	IUCN-implemented: Support the 2014 World Parks Congress: Parks, People, Planet: Protected areas as inspiring solutions to global challenges	
Atlas Award ID: 00079944 Project ID: 00089819	Signed on: [date]	*[Add Link when approved]*

TOR OF SOME OF THE UNDP CONSULTANTS WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING TO IMPLEMENTATION

Consultant (IC contracting modality) - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Specialist
(Bangkok-based, reporting to the UNDP-GEF RTA responsible for the project)

Duties and responsibilities
Under the overall guidance of the Regional Technical Adviser for Biodiversity and Ecosystem and the Technical Specialist for Biodiversity and Ecosystems the consultant will support work on global protected areas, including supporting the World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia.

Depending on the competencies and interests of the consultant, and in consultation with supervisors, assignments will include:
* Provide technical backstopping support to UNDP/GEF projects, including research for development of new project concepts and other technical documents
* Contribute to content of knowledge management products, including websites, e-learning module development, and training materials;
* Support the development and coordination of a photo exhibit on protected areas, including the development of interpretive material;
* Conduct research and literature reviews, including concise literature summaries, on key topics related to protected areas, including resilience, restoration, communications and other topics as required;
* Assist with the development of a protected area portal, in collaboration with IUCN and other partners;

- Assist with the development of e-learning module and related guides on resilience, restoration and ecosystem services;
- Support communications related to the World Parks Congress, including to sub-stream leaders;
- Assist in the compilation of learning materials, best practices, guidelines and other materials related to Stream 5 of the World Parks Congress.

Deliverables:
- Parks for Development photo exhibit for CBD COP and World Parks Congress and associated promotional products
- Delivery of 15 sessions under the Stream 5 Reconciling development challenges at the World Parks Congress
- Launch of BD Results Publication and PA Concession Publication
- Climate resilience and PA concession e-learning module and associated webinar training
- Other learning materials, best practices guidelines as determined.

Competencies
- Demonstrated strategic technical and intellectual skills in the substantive area;
- Leadership, innovation, facilitation, advocacy and coordination skills;
- Entrepreneurial abilities and ability to work in an independent manner;
- Ability to work effectively in a team, with good relationship management skills ;
- Strong coordination skills, including ability to coordinate various organisations and professional individuals
- Demonstrated ability to maintain high standards despite pressing deadlines;
- Excellent communication (both oral and written) and partnership building skills with multi-dimension partners and people, skill for conflict resolution and negotiation;
- Excellent writing skills, especially in the preparation of official documents and reports;
- Ability and willingness to undertake additional program dimensions not outlined here;

Education/Experience/Language
- Graduate degree in natural/environmental sciences, public policy and management, development studies or related field;
- Minimum 5 years of experience in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem planning and management, protected area and human development ;
- Demonstrated experience with project coordination and management
- Experience with working with international organisations and civil society organizations;
- Excellent knowledge and understanding of global development issues, biodiversity mainstreaming, protected area management and ecosystem based adaptation
- Strong analytical skills and experience with research methods and tools;
- Strong computer skills;
- Strong written and oral communications skills in English (working knowledge of a second UN language French or Spanish an asset)

Project Annexes

Annex 1. Minutes of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) Meeting

[Link]

UNDP/GEF

Minutes of the Virtual Project Appraisal Committee Meeting

for

Medium-sized project: "Support the 2014 World Parks Congress: Parks, People, Planet: Protected areas as inspiring solutions to global challenges

Date: May 30, 2014

1.   Participants:

Magdy Martinez-Soliman (PAC Chairperson), Fumiko Fukuoka (RBAS), Ruby Sandhu-Rojon (RBA), Mourad Wahba (RBA), Olivier Adam (RBEC), Nicholas Rosellini (RBAP), Nergis Gulasan (BDP), Emmanuel Hatangimana (BDP), Emma Torres (RBLAC), BDP Practice Directors (BDP), BDP Practice Managers (BDP), Jessica Faieta (RBLAC), Seon-Mi Choi (RBA), Jason Pronyk (BDP), Karen Vardanyan (BDP), Nik Sekhran (BDP/EEG), Caroline Petersen (EEG/GEF), Adriana Dinu (EEG/GEF), Fabiana Issler (EEG/GEF), Jamison Ervin (EEG/GEF), Lucia Hagerova (EEG/GEF), Allan Gayanelo (BDP), Cathy Maize (EEG/GEF)

2.   Documentation analyzed:

Project document (IUCN implementation): 82 pages
Project document (DIM): 21 pages

3.   Background information on the project:

Total costs:	$6,326,484 – broken down as follows:
- GEF funding:	$1,826,484 (managed in a dedicated Atlas awards for the project)
- Co-financing to the GEF project:	$4,500,000 (partner managed or under other UNDP awards)

Planned project starting date & duration: May, 2014 – May, 2016

4.   Project description:

This project will use the next World's Parks Congress, to be held in Australia in November 2014, as a 'strategic platform for development & learning' – including the preparations to and the aftermath of the event – for achieving the goals of strengthening the capacity of key stakeholder for effective management and equitable governance of an ecologically representative global network of protected areas. At the heart of the proposed project are the CBD Aichi targets, especially Target 11 on Protected Areas (PAs). The project is in fact slated to be a key contribution at the global level for creating the enabling conditions for achieving the Target. This will be developed through technical support and cross-learning exchange to enhance the implementation of national, PA-system-wise and site-level actions that support the achievement of Target 11. By resorting to innovation, modern technology, public data and stakeholder engagement, the project will enhance the capacity of systems, institutions and individuals to strengthen protected area systems. It will co-support the strengthening of new and existing learning networks on PAs. It will also strive to position protected areas within development policy, economic strategies and community well-being. The project was developed in close collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Funding for this project has been approved by the GEF in December 2014. Given that there will be two Implementing Partners (IP) for the GEF medium-size project, two related PRODOCs were developed in order to operationalise the funding at UNDP's level. Both have been object of appraisal by the VPAC.

The first PRODOC pertains to the part of the activities and budget of the GEF Approved MSP that will be executed by IUCN as a Civil Society Organisation (CSO). The second PRODOC, which is linked to the first, will serve to operationalize the activities and budget managed directly by UNDP.

PRODOC 1	Title: IUCN-executed: Support the 2014 World Parks Congress: Parks, People, Planet: Protected areas as inspiring solutions to global challenges Atlas Award ID: 00079966 Project ID: 00089840
PRODOC 2	Title: UNDP-implemented: Support the 2014 World Parks Congress: Parks, People, Planet: Protected areas as inspiring solutions to global challenges Atlas Award ID: 00079944 Project ID: 00089819

Geographic Coverage: Global
Major counterparts of the project: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Project implementation modality: CSO implementation and UNDP Direct implementation (DIM)

5. General comments, questions and responses on the Project document

Fumiko Fukuoka, Partnership Development Advisor, Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP
Described the project as well designed, and there were no further comments from her side. Mrs. Fukuoka also pointed out that engagement of civil society in policy making is equally important as empowerment of CSOs, and transitional governance in Arab has proven this. Partnership development unit looks forward to seeing that the partnership with IUCN brings in additional capacities for PA network and outreach to engage CSOs effectively to mainstream PA system in development agenda and maximize services from PAs for peoples to support the PA system.

6. Concluding remarks:

There were no other comments on Programme Rationale, Programme Priorities and Partnership, Programme Management and Risks, Monitoring and Evaluation. All of the Bureaux provided their no objections to concluding the VPAC process. This can be verified in the following document:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/yhiq8xqtidcdjtu/0_Consolidated%20comments%20.pdf

We therefore propose that UNDP-GEF proceeds to project document signature.

Signature: _____

Date: 6 JUNE 2014

Approved by: Magdy Martínez-Solimán
Bureau for Development Policy

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