



# REQUEST FOR CEO APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Expanding the Protected Area System to Incorporate Important Aquatic Ecosystems			
Country(ies):	Bangladesh	GEF Project ID:	5099
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4620
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of Bangladesh	Submission Date:	September 3, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration(Months)	60
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):		Agency Fee (\$):	154,516
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>➤ For SGP <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>		

### A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>1</sup>

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Financing from GEF	Indicative Co Financing (\$)
<b>Objective 1:</b> Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	Output 1. New protected areas covering 100,930 ha (wildlife sanctuary -50,930 ha and buffer area – 50,000 ha) that cover unprotected ecosystems and improve management effectiveness of 1,070 ha of existing PAs		1,545,984	8,027,500
Project management cost			GEFTF	80,500	472,500
<b>Total project costs</b>					8,500,000

### B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

**Project Objective:** *To build capacity of government staff and local stakeholders for managing the existing protected areas established for dolphin conservation and expanding their operational coverage by creating new protected areas and buffer areas whilst still meeting the livelihood aspirations of local communities.*

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Financing (\$)	Co-Financing (\$)
1: Important aquatic ecosystems of the Sundarbans supporting the globally threatened species of cetaceans conserved	TA/INV	<p>Long-term conservation of the globally significant aquatic biodiversity (particularly that of the Cetaceans) of the Sundarbans secured through:</p> <p>a) operationalization of 3 new aquatic protected areas (1,070 ha); b) and expanding the coverage of aquatic PAs by identifying and notifying additional ‘dolphin hotspots’ (at least 50,930 ha) and buffer areas (at least 50,000 ha):</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">Average METT scores of at least 70 for the 3 PAs by project end (baseline 46 out of 300).</p>	<p>1.1 Effective knowledge management leading to informed decision making on aquatic ecosystem management and sustainable use of resources in the protected areas and buffer areas. Prioritized research outputs and other activities lead to:</p> <p>a. detailed information on the status and distribution of the cetaceans in the Sundarbans including additional ‘dolphin hotspots’ and high priority areas;</p> <p>b. knowledge dissemination for government staff and local communities through user-friendly modules;</p> <p>c. biodiversity-friendly sectoral guidelines prepared for integration of biodiversity considerations in key economic sectors (Fisheries, Tourism, Maritime traffic, Industrial Development and Aquaculture).</p>	900,700	6,500,000

		<p>Increased or stable populations of (451) Irrawaddy dolphins (<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>) and (225) Ganges Riverdolphins (<i>Platanista gangetica</i>)</p> <p>Biodiversity-friendly sectoral guidelines prepared and adopted leading to effective integration of biodiversity considerations into economic sector practices</p>	<p>1.2 New and additional ‘dolphin hotspots’ or priority habitats to be managed as protected areas (at least 50,930 ha) and buffer areas (at least 50,000 ha) identified and notified including boundary demarcation, provision for public consultation and CBNRM, determination of governance arrangements, zoning and community use rights for different zones. This is supplemented with capacity building programmes for conservation and economic sector staff on aquatic conservation issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) on ecosystem-based management including identifying, monitoring, mitigating and reporting on the impact of anthropogenic and natural threats;</li> <li>(ii) participatory management;</li> <li>(iii) facilitating income generating activities for local communities;</li> <li>(iv) law enforcement and conflict resolution;</li> <li>(v) surveillance and monitoring protocols;</li> <li>(vi); habitat improvement techniques with focus on aquatic biodiversity; and (viii) sustainable fisheries etc.</li> </ul> <p>1.3 Improved management effectiveness of the 3existing dolphin sanctuaries including through: (i) surveillance, enforcement and reporting systems; (ii) clarified roles, responsibilities and rights of local authorities, communities and the private sector in management; (iii) leveraging adequate financial resources to meet the costs of PA functions at the new sites (staff/ equipment, infrastructure and maintenance) from government budgets; (iv) visitor management etc.</p> <p>1.4 Monitoring and evaluation framework and replication strategy developed for effective aquatic ecosystem management through: (i)establishing a National Technical Group on Aquatic Conservation that brings together government, non-government and international NGOs and academia to advise the FD on aquatic ecosystem conservation and to develop a long- term National Aquatic Conservation Plan ; (ii) linking aquatic PA management with ecologically critical area management; and (iii) establishing a Regional Cross-Sectoral Stakeholder Committee for ensuring cross-sectoral dialogue and joint action with regard to sustainable resource use and conservation of biodiversity in the Sundarbans.</p>		
2. Community-based ecosystems management to support aquatic biodiversity conservation.	TA/INV	<p>Effective engagement of local communities (particularly the fishers) through the strategy of co-management and economic incentives results in reduced threats to aquatic biodiversity from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) over-fishing, use of harmful fishing gear and open access fishing (as evidenced by at least 30 % of fishers (Baseline:0; Target: 1000 fishers) following the mesh size norms set up by the project);</li> </ul>	<p>2.1 Community Based Resource Management Plan (CBRMP) prepared, capacity of communities developed and technical and financial support extended for adopting sustainable resource use practices and conservation of aquatic biodiversity.</p> <p>2.2 Community based organizations/ user-groups (eg. CMCs, Self Help Groups (SHGs)) supported for co-managing the PAs/ buffer areas through clear rules, roles and responsibilities as agreed between the Forest Department and local communities. CBRMP shall prescribe a sustainable resource management regime that include: a) spatial and temporal resource use limits; b) zones where harvesting can/ cannot take place; c) monitoring and</p>	645,284	1,527,500

	<p>b) accidental killings of dolphins by entanglements in the nets (based on media reports and other sources) etc.(Baseline: 90 reports in 2013: Target: 50% reduction by year project end).</p> <p>Improved economic opportunities enable communities to reduce their dependence on natural resources as evidenced by:</p> <p>a) increase in the amount of resources flowing to local communities annually from community based ecotourism (Baseline: 0 USD; Target 100,000 USD)</p> <p>b) number of people shifting to alternative income generating options that reduce pressure on biodiversity. (Baseline: 0; Target: At least 500 fishers by year 3 and 700 by project end)</p>	<p>enforcement mechanisms including community sanctions against defaulters; d) benefit sharing mechanisms; e) safeguards for financial, technical and business management support to avoid promoting practices with negative impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>2.3 Strategies for alternate income generation and livelihood diversification implemented leading to reduced dependence on diminishing natural resources.</p> <p>2.4 Local youth groups and school children are actively involved in aquatic biodiversity conservation and advocacy.</p>		
Sub-total			1,545,984	8,027,500
Project management cost			80,500	472,500
<b>Total project costs</b>			1,626,484	8,500,000

#### C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type	Amount (\$)
Project Government Contribution	Department of Forests, MoEF	Grant	3,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	5,500,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>8,500,000</b>

#### D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country	Grant Amount	Agency Fee	Total
UNDP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Bangladesh	1,626,484	154,516	1,781,000
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				1,626,484	154,516	1,781,000

<sup>1</sup> In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

<sup>2</sup> Indicate fees related to this project.

#### F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	35,000	0	35,000
National/Local Consultants	160,700	3,000,000	3,160,700

## G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No

### PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

#### **A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF<sup>2</sup>**

The project’s strategic results framework has been refined from the version that was presented in the PIF, in particular changes were made to the first output pertaining to gazettment of 3 PAs to focus on effective knowledge generation and management. The main purpose of making this changes was: a) to take cognizance of the progress that was made in the country between the submission of the PIF and CEO endorsement – the government has through a decree already declared the three identified wetland Protected Areas – to instead focus on increase management effectiveness of these PAs; and b) to support further identification of new and additional priority areas / habitats to be managed as protected areas (this is necessary as the 3 PAs alone will not be sufficient to secure the long term survival and integrity of the Dolphins and their habitats given the complex nature and scale of threats that are currently experienced.). Another notable change is the addition of an output focussed on improving economic opportunities that enable communities to reduce their dependence on natural resources. During the PPG process it became clear that success of the project would hinge heavily on the participation of and support from local communities especially the fishers. Local fishers require support to make a shift towards sustainable practices including diversifying their livelihood options. In order to help communities make this shift, a dedicated output has been included that will support identification and implementation of select alternate income generating and livelihoods diversification activities. This will help local communities meet part of their economic needs from supplementary sources and thereby reduce their excessive dependence on the fishery stock as their sole livelihood source.

In addition to ensure logical and operational continuity, the various outcomes under component 1 and component 2 has been prioritized and re-arranged. The focus of Component 1 is on improving the ecosystem health of the project landscape while the Component 2 focuses on livelihoods and community based ecosystem management. Due to this re-arrangement, some of the earlier mentioned project outcomes such as “Reduction of threat from unsustainable collection of aquatic biomass”; “management of river channels for connectivity; “maintenance of river vegetation and monitoring of agricultural pollution” that were under Component 2 have now been brought under Component 1. In addition, most of the above-mentioned work form part of the activities that require consideration under the implementation of Management Plans of the existing and new protected areas/ buffer areas and community based resource management plan. Given this and given the limited resources available for the project, majority of these activities are now expected to be carried out under the baseline project.

Please see Annex A for the revised strategic results framework, including the list of indicators and the means of verification. Further explanation of the indicators is provided in Part II of the Project Document.

#### **A.1. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc:**

N/A

#### **A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.**

N/A

#### **A.3. The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage.**

In addition to what was described in the PIF, UNDP has finalized its Biodiversity and Ecosystem Framework for 2012 and 2020 (“The Future We Want: Biodiversity and Ecosystems - Driving Sustainable Development”), which will be integrated in the UNDP Business plan and country programmes. Under the Framework, the second Programme is dedicated to unlocking the potential of protected areas, including indigenous and community conserved areas, to conserve biodiversity while contributing towards sustainable development.

#### **A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address.**

The attached Project Document at Part 1 provides a much more detailed baseline analysis than covered in the PIF; the only significant change in the project design has been the emphasis on: a) effective knowledge management to support

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<sup>2</sup> For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question

identification of new and additional priority Dolphin areas for protection; b) and to increase the management effectiveness of the 3 PAs that have been declared by the Government of Bangladesh to protect the Dolphins and their habitats.

A summary of the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address is as follows: The Sundarbans, situated in the southwest of Bangladesh and shared with India, is the world's largest tract of mangrove forests, and it is listed as one of WWF's Global 200 Eco-regions.<sup>3</sup> Around 62% of the Sundarbans are in Bangladesh and the rest in India. The total area of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh is 6,01,700 ha of which 411,230 ha<sup>4</sup> is covered by forests; the rest is under water (although this is variable according to seasonal discharge) in the form of rivers and creeks.<sup>5</sup> The Sundarbans Reserved Forests (SRF) is one of the two RAMSAR sites in the country. Each year about 2.4 billion tons of sediments are transported through the Sundarbans<sup>6</sup>, resulting in dynamic land accretion and erosion processes. This in turn creates a complex mosaic of geomorphic, bathymetric and hydraulic features, which support high levels of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. Recognizing the global biological significance of the area, in 1997, UNESCO declared the three Wildlife Sanctuaries in the far southern portion of the Sundarbans viz., Sundarbans West (715 km<sup>2</sup>), Sundarbans South (370 km<sup>2</sup>), and Sundarbans East (310 km<sup>2</sup>), covering 139,700 ha, as a 'World Heritage Site'. Together these sanctuaries encompass about 23% of the Reserved Forest.

According to various records, the Sundarbans supports around 49 species of mammals, 59 species of reptiles, eight species of amphibians, 400 species of fishes and 315 species of birds. As many as 20 globally threatened species inhabit the Sundarbans. Historical records suggest the loss in recent times of at least six large mammal species from the Sundarbans viz., Javanese rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), one horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), wild buffalo (*Bulbulus bulbulus*), gaur (*Bos gaurus*), swamp deer (*Cervus duvaucali*) and the hog deer (*Axis porcinus*).<sup>7</sup> Aquatic ecosystems of the Sundarbans also support a significant number of globally important species – including IUCN Red List globally Critically Endangered and Vulnerable species. Some of the Critically Endangered species found in the aquatic environs of the Sundarbans include the knifetooth sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidate*), imperial heron (*Ardea insignis*), River terrapin (*Batagur baska*), freshwater sawfish (*Pristis pristis*<sup>8</sup> – may be regionally extinct) and possibly the Ganges River shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*). Endangered species dependent on the aquatic ecosystems include the Asian masked finfoot (*Heliopais personatus*), Cantor's giant softshell turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*), Northern River Terrapin (*Batagur baska*), fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) and as noted above the Ganges River dolphin.<sup>9</sup>

As the largest forests in the country, and with extensive aquatic and marine components, the SRF represents a significant storehouse of floral biodiversity. Forests in the Sundarbans are highly variable in size and combinations, forming a mosaic pattern of vegetation; mangroves occur both in single-species patches and in a mix of a few species in various proportions.<sup>10</sup> An assessment made during late 1990s reported 245 genera and 334 species of plants.<sup>11</sup> The Sundarbans flora has an abundance of *Heritiera fomes*, *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Ceriops decandra*, *Sonneratia apetala* and *Nypa fruticans*. While most mangroves in other parts of the world are characterized by members of the Families Rhizophoraceae, Avicenniaceae or Lagunculariaceae, those of Bangladesh are dominated by Sterculiaceae and Euphorbiaceae.<sup>12</sup> A survey conducted by IUCN Bangladesh in 2003 listed 108 non-tree plant species including 17 orchids, 21 fern and fern allies, six algae and 16 lichens in the Sundarbans. Of the reported 66 species of "mangroves" in the SRF, 25 have been identified as 'true mangroves'<sup>13</sup>, while the others are considered as 'mangrove associates'.<sup>14</sup>

Some of the key ecosystem goods and service functions (both tangible and intangible) provisioned by the Sundarbans, which are highly relevant at local, regional and global scales, *inter alia* include: (1) entrapping sediment and land formation; (2) coastal protection against wave action and wind erosion; (3) protection of human lives and habitation from frequent & extreme storms and cyclones; (4) shelter and habitat for diverse life-forms; (5) nursery for fish and other aquatic life; (6) supplying oxygen; (7) nutrient cycling; (8) timber and small timber production; (9) supply of food, NTFPs and building materials; (10) carbon storage, sequestration and cycling; (11) opportunities for education, scientific

<sup>3</sup> [http://wwf.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/ecoregions/ecoregion\\_list/](http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/ecoregion_list/) Accessed on 8 May 2014

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bforest.gov.bd/index.php/forest-category/mangrove-forests>

<sup>5</sup> Various publications of GoB

<sup>6</sup> Poffenberger, M. (ed). 2000. Communities and forest management in South Asia. IUCN, DFID and Asia Forest Network, Indonesia. 35-46pp.

<sup>7</sup> MoEF, 2010: Integrated Resources Management Plan for the Sunderbans.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/43508905/0>

<sup>9</sup> From various sources

<sup>10</sup> MoEF, 2010: Integrated Resources Management Plan for the Sunderbans.

<sup>11</sup> IFMP. 1998. *Integrated Forest Management Plan*. Forest Department, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

<sup>12</sup> Hussain and Acharya 1994

<sup>13</sup> Out of 60 species of true mangrove globally

<sup>14</sup> Siddiqi, N.A. 2001. Mangrove forestry in Bangladesh. Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences (IFES), University of Chittagong, Chittagong. 201 p.

research, recreation and ecotourism; and (12) act as vital migration corridor for anadromous species such the highly valued *hilsa* shad.<sup>15</sup> The Sundarbans also represents the largest single carbon sink in the country.<sup>16</sup>

The waterways of the Sundarbans are the only place where both the Ganges River and the Irrawaddy dolphins, occur together. While these species are generally threatened with extinction across their range, both occur in the Sundarbans in populations large enough for early conservation interventions to be effective in ensuring their long-term survival. Based on an intensive monitoring programme carried out over three years by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), six 'five km channel segments that support especially high densities of these two dolphin species were selected as priority habitats or 'dolphin hotspots'.<sup>17</sup> In 2012, the Government of Bangladesh notified these 'dolphin hotspots' as three Wildlife Sanctuaries {viz., Chandpai (including three hotspots), Dhangmari (including two hotspots) and Dudhmukhi (including one hotspot)}. These sanctuaries intend to provide safe havens for freshwater dolphins in 31.4 linear km of channels with a total area of 10.7 km<sup>2</sup>.

Notwithstanding the biological uniqueness, the Sundarbans' ecosystems in general and the three protected areas (established for protecting the Ganges and the Irrawaddy dolphins) in particular are facing increasing threats. Like many other resource-rich regions of the world, the Sundarbans has been subjected to over-exploitation and a rapidly deteriorating resource-base. Livelihood and economic production activities taking place in and around these protected areas have adversely impacted the ecological richness of the area.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, serious alterations are occurring to the ecological attributes of the region due to sea-level rise and upstream water abstraction resulting in incursion of marine waters and increased sedimentation.<sup>19</sup> During the project preparation phase, a threat-scape evaluation was undertaken in consultation with stakeholders and experts. It corroborated the increasingly threatened status of the biodiversity of the Sundarbans and that of the Cetaceans in particular. It is evident that the unique aquatic habitats of the Ganges and the Irrawaddy dolphins in the Sundarbans are under increasing threat due to overharvesting of aquatic species (fish and other prey species of dolphins); adoption of highly destructive fishing practices (e.g. gill nets, poison fishing, mosquito nets etc.); reckless handling of incidental by-catch; entanglements of dolphins in the fishing gear; increasing maritime traffic (disrupting the biology of dolphins, wake action causing coastal erosion, sedimentation of pools preferred by dolphins, mortality due to collision with vessels, discharge of pollutants etc.); unplanned development in the upstream such as barrages, industrial establishments, flood diversion systems and roads (freshwater abstraction, diminished freshwater influx); commercial tourism operations (increased cruise through the water channels; exposing unused habitats etc.); habitat destruction and land-use change (conversion to agriculture, aquaculture, settlements etc.); pollution and spread of invasive alien species. Siltation and loss of river channels and small pools cause loss of connectivity between river channels, blocking migration paths of fish and dolphin species. Climate change compounds these problems. Detailed analysis of these threats is narrated in the project document under the Threats, Root Causes and Impacts section.

Establishment of three new protected areas in 2012 is a significant first step towards the conservation of dolphins in the Sundarbans. However, these protected areas alone cannot ensure the long-term survival of dolphins and their habitats given the complex nature and scale of threats mentioned above. In other words, the long-term solution to be pursued for the sustainable management of the globally significant aquatic biodiversity of Bangladesh would include consolidating the key habitats of aquatic biodiversity particularly that of the Cetaceans, while also taking into account development imperatives, need for sustaining livelihoods and also addressing retrogressive factors including the anticipated impacts of climate change with active support and involvement of government, local communities, NGOs and partners. The immediate objective of the project is to build capacity to effectively manage the existing protected areas established for dolphin conservation and also expand their operational coverage while still meeting the livelihood aspirations of local communities especially the fishers. There are, however, a several barriers to realizing this long-term solution.

### **Barrier 1: Limited government capacities to mitigate threats to globally important aquatic habitats and species**

Aquatic ecosystems and habitats of endangered species currently have sub-optimal representation in the national PA system. No doubt, designation of the three protected areas (in 2012) forms an important programmatic baseline for cetacean conservation in the region. However, these three new protected areas are not exhaustive in terms of comprehensively consolidating their key habitats. There are still areas in the Sundarbans where important 'dolphin hotspots' need to be identified, confirmed and brought under proper conservation framework.

<sup>15</sup> Biswas et al. 2007; Islam and Peterson 2008

<sup>16</sup> MoEF, 2010: Integrated Resources Management Plan for the Sunderbans.

<sup>17</sup> Smith, B.D., Diyan, M.A.A., Mansur, R.M., Fahrni-Mansur, E., Ahmed, B. 2009. Identification and channel characteristics of cetacean 'hotspots' in the waterways of the eastern Sundarbans mangrove forest, Bangladesh. *Oryx*.

<sup>18</sup> MoEF, 2010: Integrated Resources Management Plan for the Sundarbans.

<sup>19</sup> Smith et al. 2011 –Smith, B.D., Braulik, G., Strindberg, S., Mansur, R. Diyan, M.A.A. and Ahmed, B. 2009. Habitat selection of freshwater cetaceans and the potential effects of declining freshwater flows and sea-level rise in waterways of the Sundarbans mangrove forest, Bangladesh. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*. 19(2):209- 225.



Robust knowledge base (generation, synthesis and dissemination) is essential for shaping an effective conservation paradigm. While information on dolphins has been growing steadily over the years, there are still knowledge gaps such as the preferred habitats of dolphins, sustainable fisheries catch, impacts of upland development on the biodiversity of the Sundarbans, impacts of maritime traffic on conservations, and trajectory of tourism etc. Even when knowledge is available, stakeholders do not often have access to appropriate and user-friendly information, tools and other mechanisms for analyzing trade-offs at the time of decision making. It is also felt that the traditional knowledge available with local communities also needs to be codified, synthesized and disseminated.

The Forest Department is mandated for the management of protected areas and has considerable expertise in terrestrial forest management. However, the Department needs significant scale up in its capacity for managing aquatic ecosystems. It has only a few qualified staff with wetlands management training and experiences. Past capacity building efforts on aquatic conservation have been largely ad-hoc and opportunistic as opposed to strategic or long-term. The government has also not been able to effectively mobilize existing national capacities and knowledge (from the academia, NGOs and others) systematically to promote aquatic biodiversity conservation.

As described in detail in the project document, there are several threats to the globally significant biological diversity of the region. Some of these threats emanate from outside the premises of the protected areas. For instance, development planning in the upper catchments seldom considers their potential impacts on downstream biodiversity. Similarly, fishery activities rarely take into account the impacts of depletion of fishery resources on cetacean diversity. In short, as of now, sustainable resource use is not a common denominating factor except for the conservation sector. At present, the conservation sector (Forest Department) has limited or no institutional opportunities to engage with such developmental planning. Furthermore, these developmental sectors do not also have any inbuilt or externally stimulated mechanisms for internalizing the elements of biodiversity conservation into their developmental processes. In the absence of such opportunities/ mechanisms, the effectiveness of management of protected areas created for dolphins becomes ineffective/ even a non-starter.

## **Barrier 2: Local stakeholders, especially local communities have limited incentives and capacities to support aquatic biodiversity conservation**

Unsustainable resource use (overharvesting, destructive practices etc.) by local fishers is one of the key drivers of resource depletion in the project landscape. Given the high population pressure and prevailing socio-economic backwardness in the Sundarbans, conservation efforts are unlikely to succeed without strong support and endorsement from local community. At a fundamental level, the key barrier to effectively integrating conservation considerations into the economic and livelihood activities of local fishers is their apparent inability to move out of the vicious spiral of 'diminishing natural stock-prevailing poverty – deepening resource depletion'. During the project preparation phase, it was observed that most fishers are aware of the harmful nature of overharvesting of fishery stock. However, extreme economic backwardness, offer them no margins for economic sacrifices for the sake of conservation.

Other barriers on this account include inadequate technical know-how about alternate, less destructive fishing gear and fishing practices. At the same time, even when such knowhow is made available, in the baseline scenario, the fishers lack adequate economic incentives to shift away from the current destructive fishing gears (e.g. mosquito nets) and malign practices (poison fishing) to more benign and sustainable options. The fishers also have weak capacity to access new economic opportunities (both existing and emerging – eg. Tourism, value added fish products etc.) and develop alternative income generating opportunities over traditional sources of livelihood (fishing) that are rapidly becoming unviable as a result of resource degradation. While there are some interventions (both government and donor driven) to help economically disadvantaged communities, there is need to deepen this engagement through community driven resource management systems. However, such a resource governance system that promote options for sustainable fisheries; avoid destructive fishing practices; provide better market access; and promote alternate income generating activities is non-existent in the region. Dysfunctional nature of the existing community based resource use institutions in the project landscape is another key barrier.

Further, even though they are important actors and stakeholders in the region, the interests of the local communities are not well represented in the current planning and decision-making process related to the management of the three new dolphin sanctuaries. This is particularly evident from the lack of awareness among the fisher-folk about the existence of the protected areas itself; or even when aware, their apprehension that their economic or livelihood interests will be jeopardized (in the absence of other options) if the provisions of the sanctuary are implemented. This weakness emanates largely from the absence of an institutional mechanism for representing community interests.

The Government of Bangladesh is requesting GEF support to remove the above-mentioned barriers and put in place an enabling management framework for strengthening the biodiversity conservation prospects of the aquatic environment of the Sundarbans - particularly the key habitats of the Ganges and the Irrawaddy Dolphins. In order to improve the conservation prospects of the dolphin habitats in the Sundarbans, long-term solutions need to be anchored in several key areas such as: establishing a robust database about the preferred hotspots outside the present protected area network; improving the management effectiveness and informed decision making in the three new dolphin sanctuaries; intensive

capacity building of Forest Department staff; phasing out destructive fishing practices in the dolphin hotspots; promotion of alternate and viable livelihoods (value added fishery-based products, nature-based tourism, alternate income generating activities etc.) for local communities in order to wean them away from destructive resource use practices; and creating regional and national level institutional mechanisms for cross-sectoral dialogue and action that promotes integrated approaches for aquatic ecosystem management.

### **Baseline projects/ programmes:**

#### Investment from national government

The Government of Bangladesh invests around 120 million dollars annually through the Ministry of Environment and Forests for effective environmental management and biodiversity conservation in the country. Of this, Forest Department receives around 43 million dollars annually from the Ministry's national budget allocation. Almost half of the fund that the Department receives is spent on staff salaries, allowances and travel, whilst the rest is invested mostly on forestry programs including reforestation, afforestation, livelihood support to local communities and infrastructure development. Although the Forest Departments retains jurisdiction over aquatic resources, there is also a significant national budget investment from the government in the fisheries sector through the Ministry of Fishery and Animal Resources, which is allocated around 112 million dollars annually, of which some of these funds are spent on supporting fisheries production through aquaculture, which is one of the biggest economic sectors in Bangladesh. Ministry of Agriculture supports programmes such as a) Greater Khulna Division Agriculture Development Project-Phase 2, and b) Enhancing-Food Security Through Improved Crop Water Management Practices in the Southern Coastal Areas of Bangladesh that has a bearing on the project landscape.

#### Investment from multi-lateral/ bilateral donors

The Government of Bangladesh also receives aid from -multi-lateral/ bilateral donors for natural resources management including ecosystems and protected area management – which currently averages an estimated USD 10 million per year, much of which is invested to support co-management of natural resources, livelihood development and conservation. Some of these programmes are listed below:

<b>Institution/Department/ NGO/ Donor</b>	<b>Project Name/Location</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Project Cost</b>	<b>Outputs/Outcomes</b>
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project	2013-19	US\$40.0 million	Improved livelihoods; higher incomes; food security; and enhanced climate resilience.
Government of the Netherlands	BLUE GOLD: Program for Integrated Sustainable Economic Development by improving the Water and Productive Sectors in selected Polders	2014-20	€49,851,000	Reduce poverty in the coastal areas by enhancing the livelihoods, efficient water resources management and increased productivity of crops, fishery and livestock
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)-GIZ	Sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in coastal protection forests	2011-15		Capacity building on livelihood strategies, such as honey collection and the sustainable production of mud crabs.
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity	2014-18	\$13,000,000	Protect and improve key tiger habitats.
LifeWeb, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria/ Wildlife Conservation Society	Establishing an Effective Protected Area Network for Threatened Freshwater Dolphins in Waterways of the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest, Bangladesh	2006-15	€324,629	This project aims to conserve Ganges River and Irrawaddy dolphins by establishing an effectively managed protected area network in waterways of the Sundarbans, Bangladesh.



There have been a few projects implemented in the Sundarbans in the past for the sustainable management of natural resources. These include Nishorgo Support Project (NSP), Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) for the co-management of protected areas, Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection (SRCWP) Project on natural resources and biodiversity conservation in various ecosystems, Sustainable effort to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation in southwest Bangladesh (SIMAVI); Sundarbans Environmental and Livelihood Security (SEALS) Project etc. These programmes form the baseline for the present GEF project.

The focus of the present GEF project is to improve the management effectiveness of these aquatic protected areas through a collaborative approach and expand their operational coverage by identifying other suitable areas needed to ensure the long-term survival of freshwater dolphins.

**A. 5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project.**

GEF support will mobilize action to consolidate some of the key habitats of the cetacean communities threatened with extinction across the globe. In the absence of this GEF project, the status of the cetaceans in the Sundarbans will remain weak and bleak in the wake of the prevailing and escalating threats. Baseline projects/ investments alone are unlikely to trigger the much needed alterations in the management approach to secure the long-term survival of the cetaceans. Broadly, the GEF investment aims at triggering a change in resource governance in the target project area and generate the following global, national and local benefits: a) establishing a robust database about the preferred dolphin hotspots outside the present protected area network; b) expanding the coverage of protected areas/ buffer areas for dolphin conservation (by around 100,000 ha); c) improving the management effectiveness and informed decision making in the new dolphin sanctuaries; d) intensive capacity building of Forest Department and other economic sector staff on aquatic ecosystem management; e) preparation of biodiversity-friendly sectoral guidelines for key development sectors; f) preparation of Community Based Resource Management Plan (CBRMP); g) phasing out destructive fishing practices in the dolphin hotspots; h) promotion of alternate and viable livelihoods (value added fishery-based products, nature-based tourism, alternate income generating activities etc.) for local communities in order to wean them away from destructive resource use practices; and i) creating national and regional level institutional mechanisms (National Technical Group on Aquatic Conservation and Regional Cross-Sectoral Stakeholder Committee) for cross-sectoral dialogue and action that promotes integrated approaches for aquatic ecosystem management.

The above-mentioned GEF alternative steered by this project is expected to lead to the sustainable management of the globally significant aquatic biodiversity of Bangladesh that would include consolidating the key habitats in the Sundarbans particularly that of the Cetaceans, while also taking into account development imperatives, need for sustaining livelihoods and also addressing retrogressive factors including the anticipated impacts of climate change with active support and involvement of government, local communities, NGOs and partners. The baseline projects in the project area comprise mostly of programmes of government, bilateral/ multi-lateral donors institutions relevant to biodiversity, poverty reduction and natural resource use. GEF funding will incrementally leverage new skills, practices and technologies through building capacities across identified stakeholders. GEF financing will provide additional assistance for cross-cutting capacity development and knowledge management that will fill a critical gap in the existing baseline project to enable the replication and scaling up of integrated approaches for biodiversity conservation. The IC matrix details the baseline expenditures, and the incremental cost of realizing each outcome, as well as how the incremental costs are to be shared by the GEF and different government departments. (Incremental Cost Matrix is in Annexure 8 of the project document).

More specifically, the most important direct global benefit the project will deliver include conservation of globally significant habitats (including new protected areas, buffer areas) totalling around 100,000 ha in the Sundarbans of Bangladesh, that houses globally threatened populations of the last two remaining freshwater dolphin species. Through this project, Bangladesh will ensure that it is a global safety net for preventing the extinction of the two threatened, iconic aquatic species as well as other globally threatened species. In addition to protection of breeding populations of the two globally threatened cetacean species, the project will also benefit other aquatic species including the Critically Endangered river terrapin (*Batagur baska*), Endangered masked finfoot (*Heliopais personatus*), Vulnerable small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*), and the estuarine crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*). The Sundarbans mangroves are also important bird areas (IBA), which host populations of *Pelecanus philippensis*, *Leptoptilos javanicus*, *Leptoptilos dubius*, *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*, *Heliopais personata*, *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, and *Rynchops albicollis*<sup>20</sup> and conservation of aquatic habitats, will also contribute directly to the conservation of several of such bird species

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<sup>20</sup><http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/IBAs/AsiaCntryPDFs/Bangladesh.pdf>

The project landscape also has considerable national and local significance as it provisions vital ecosystem services, sustains human livelihoods (primarily through fisheries) and supports economic activities (e.g. ecotourism). Notwithstanding such high ecological, economic and livelihood significance, there is clear evidence that the region's natural resources have been increasingly subjected to over-exploitation. In the classical case of "the tragedy of the commons", the poor and marginalized communities (primarily fishers) are compelled to deepen their dependence on diminishing natural stock and the degraded resources further impoverish their resilience. The threatened status of cetaceans is an indicator of this declining prospect of biological diversity in the Sundarbans. As an apex predator in the waterways of the Sundarbans, the conservation of cetaceans represents not only safeguarding them from the impending threats of extinction; but also restoring/ maintaining the ecological health of the aquatic environments of the Sundarbans. However, it is only through reviving the integrity of already degraded ecosystems and more importantly through the prudent use of natural resources that local communities will be able to reinstate their resilience and improve their social and economic welfare that will ultimately reflect in the improved conservation prospects of the cetaceans. However, these require significant changes in the current management approaches being pursued in the region.

**A.6. Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks.**

Risk	Level	Mitigation
Lack of community and stakeholder support (particularly fishers) due to apprehension that operationalizing the PAs will adversely affect their livelihoods.	Low to Medium	The project will have a strong focus on community co-management that will ensure participation of local people and stakeholders at all stages. The benefits to them in establishing protected areas will be explained (eg. More incentives from tourism, improved fishery stock etc.) and mitigation measures will be designed for any loss of livelihood opportunities brought about by the creation and functioning of protected areas.
Climate change impacts make the PAs unsuitable for conserving aquatic diversity.	Medium	The PA management plan in Component 1 will include a mechanism to periodically review to determine if the location, size and configuration of the PAs. In a dynamic manner, this Plan would suggest that the PA boundaries will be reviewed and if needed altered to protect representative aquatic diversity every ten years to ensure that the PAs are relevant for the objectives of aquatic conservation.
Inter-community conflicts may arise due to different interests of communities on use of aquatic biodiversity	Medium	Inter and intra-community conflicts may arise due to differential dependence and interests of stakeholders on the use/ conservation of aquatic biodiversity. The project will ensure that effective stakeholder analysis is undertaken and rights and interests of different stakeholder groups are effectively considered – and if any negative livelihood impacts are likely due to project actions, then adequate substitution or compensations are factored in by the government. Appropriate community level mediation mechanisms will also be promoted, with help and involvement of local government officials and NGOs working in the area.
Stakeholder institutions may not show adequate interest in the regional stakeholder committee and unwilling to share information that is required for the effective management of the area.	Medium	The proposed cross-sectoral regional level stakeholder committee will promote active dialogue with stakeholders to ensure full ownership and participation in the agreed final structure. Similarly, Component 2 of the project also envisages the preparation of Biodiversity friendly good practice guidelines for key sectors and extensive capacity building programmes for the staff of these sectors for implementing these guidelines. This is expected to generate considerable interest and buy-in from other sectors in project activities and conservation issues.
The livelihood activities supported under the project may not add significantly to income opportunities of local people so that the dependency on natural resources is reduced.	Medium	Livelihood options shall be finalized after extensive consultations during the course of project implementation as some of these activities that may seem attractive have to be critically examined for their feasibility among the villages and the market for the product. While identifying livelihood strategies, special care shall also be given to select those activities with substantial livelihood augmentation and income generation potential.

**A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives**

The project will develop effective coordination with ongoing projects to build synergies and to avoid duplication of work. Key relevant projects include the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Program, which aims to reduce poverty, develop sustainable livelihoods, and integrate coastal zone issues into national planning. This is a multi-sectoral and multi-ministerial initiative led by the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and the Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO). The project will also have strong collaboration with the USAID funded Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC) project that supports the FD to develop and implement a conservation strategy for ecologically and economically significant PAs, and develop a Sundarbans Reserved Forest (SRF) co-management plan. The project will coordinate with activities of the EU funded Sundarbans Environmental and Livelihoods Security Project (SEALS), which supports sustainable use of resources by local communities, forests restoration and cyclone-proofing projects, and the development of an Information Management System to guide forest protection and management in SRF. This project will also cooperate with the Sundarbans Tiger Project of the Bangladesh FD, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh and the Zoological Society of London to increase the effectiveness of educational, capacity building, and field research and monitoring activities conducted by both projects.

## **B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:**

### **B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.**

The preparatory phase of the project placed strong emphasis on stakeholder participation. The project has benefitted from the feedback and support from various stakeholders obtained through both formal and informal consultation. The PPG phase has opened up channels of communication with diverse stakeholders which is key to the successful implementation of the project. This same inclusive approach will be continued during project implementation. Stakeholder involvement is critical to the effective achievement of all three project Outcomes. The text below gives a description of major stakeholders and the nature of their involvement in the project. An extended summary of the institutional context is narrated in the Project Document.

Stakeholders	Relevant roles
Forest Department	The Forest Department will be the lead institution for this project. The office at Khulna Division will be the primary project implementation unit. The Forest Department will be involved in the overall project implementation, coordination and in ensuring cooperation / collaboration with other stakeholders. At the national level, the FD will ensure that lessons learnt from this project are fed into developing other aquatic protected areas and in integrating better management principles in aquatic ecosystem management as well.
Local communities	Local communities, particularly fishers, are the most important stakeholders of this project. The project will ensure a strong collaborative approach in spearheading the conservation and sustainable resource-use agenda. Component 2 of the project is focusing exclusively on communities. The primary focus of engagement with communities will be through the Co-Management Committees (CMCs)/ Village Forums and other user group based organizations.
Women's associations	Community level women's associations have been promoted in Bangladesh by the government and many NGOs as a means to empower them economically and politically. Such associations will be involved to create opportunities for women and to ensure gender-specific roles in PA management, buffer area management and activities envisaged under Component 2 of the project.
Nature tourism operators	Small scale tourism exists in the Sundarbans that is based on dolphin watching. Some boat captains have been involved in documenting locations where sightings of dolphins occur, in order to build a more comprehensive data on where the species are located at different times of the year. The project will strengthen capacities of local tourism operators, such as by promoting the existing boat captain's sighting network, providing guidance for dolphin-watching within tourism programmes, including input from tourism operators into PA management plans.
Local social service, conservation NGOs	Local NGOs will be involved, as appropriate, to provide information to communities on aquatic conservation, sustainable fisheries management, and strategies to cope with climate change and declining freshwater flows – local NGOs including Prodiapan, CARINAM, Rupantar, and Coastal Development Partnership. They may also be involved in community mobilization and awareness raising activities and in conflict mitigation. Since some of these NGOs are involved in promoting sustainable livelihoods, the project will partner with them to strengthen appropriate actions and to ensure that the NGO promoted activities are compatible with conservation actions being promoted by this project,
International conservation	Several international conservation organizations have been active partners in conservation actions in Bangladesh. For example, WCS has been providing support through capacity building, research and

organizations	monitoring, educational outreach, and the development of management plans for aquatic conservation. Other international conservation organizations active in Bangladesh include IUCN, WWF, and CARE International etc. Such organizations will have a strong role under Component 1, where a partnership has been envisioned to strengthen national and regional capacities to manage threatened aquatic species by exchanges of information, knowledge, expertise and experiences. Additionally, specific organizations may be used for implementing certain aspects of the project – such as to support PA management planning, capacity development etc. Some of the organizations will also provide co-finance to this project.
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**Project oversight and management**

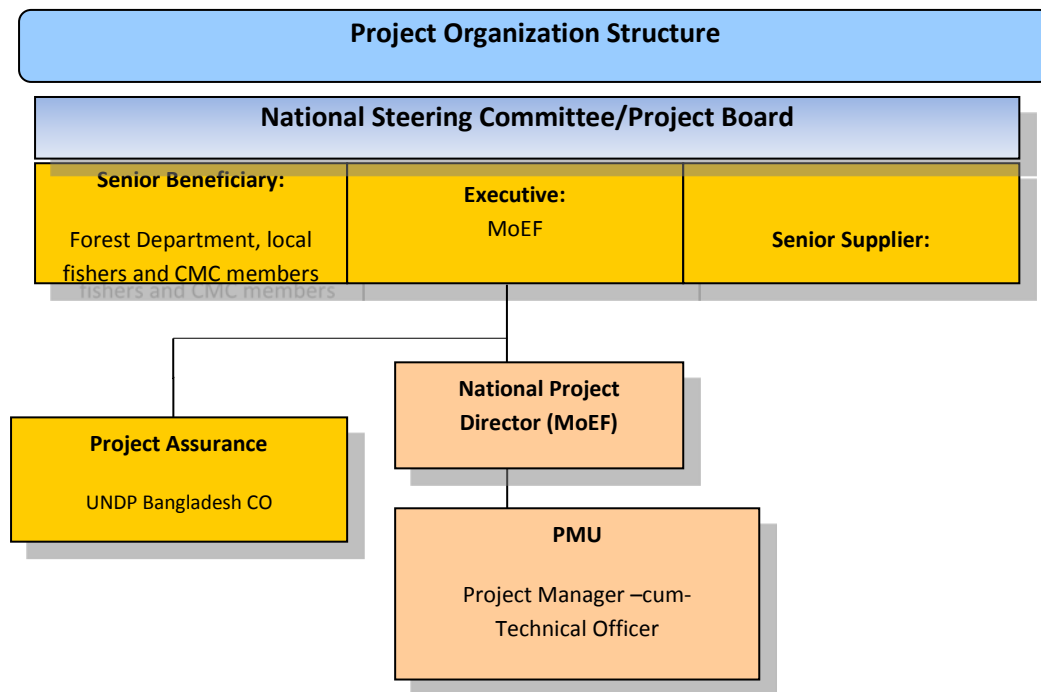
*Project executive and implementing partner (GoB):*

The project will be executed according to UNDP’s National Implementation Modality (NIM), as per the NIM project management implementation guidelines agreed by UNDP and the Government of Bangladesh.

*Implementing Partner (IP):*At the national level, the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), will act as the Implementing Partner (Project Executive) of the project. Based on the standard NIM procedures, the MoEF will be responsible for the overall project and reporting to UNDP Bangladesh Country Office. The MoEF will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) in Dhaka with a full time Project Manager –cum- Technical Officer and a Finance-cum-Admin Assistant. The Project Executive (MoEF) will appoint the Chief Conservator of the Forests as the National Project Director (NPD), given the strategic importance of the project. The NPD will be supported by the PMU.

**Responsible Party (RP).**The MoEF will designate the Department of Forest (DF), within the MoEF, as a responsible party to implement the project. The DF is best placed to carry out activities related to the project as they are the main focal agency for natural resources management in the region. As per the standard UNDP modality, the FD, as an RP, will be responsible for the delivery of the results towards achieving the project objectives and accountable to the National Project Director.

*Project Organogram, Management Structure*



*Project Board (PB)/ National Project Steering Committee (NPSC):*The PB/ NPSC is responsible for making management decisions for the project in particular when strategic guidance and decisions are required. The PB plays a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by assuring quality of the project’s processes and products, and using evaluations for performance improvement, accountability and learning. It ensures that required resources are committed and arbitrates on any conflicts within the project or negotiates a solution to any problems with external bodies. In addition, it approves the

appointment and responsibilities of the National Project Manager and any delegation of its Project Assurance responsibilities. Based on the approved Annual Work Plan, the Project Board/ NPSC can also consider and approve the quarterly plans (if applicable) and also approve any essential deviations from the original plans.

In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability for the project results, Project Board decisions will be made in accordance to standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the final decision shall rest with the UNDP Project Manager (i.e. UNDP Bangladesh CO). Potential members of the Project Board are reviewed and recommended for approval during the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting. The Project Board contains three distinct roles, including:

*An Executive:* Individual representing the project ownership to chair the group. This will be the National Project Director.

*Senior Supplier:* Individual or group representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier's primary function within the Board is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. This will be a Representative from UNDP that is held accountable for fiduciary oversight of resources in this initiative.

*Senior Beneficiary:* Individual or group of individuals representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. This will be representatives from Forest Department, selected members of Co-Management Committees, local communities and NGOs.

### **Specific responsibilities of the PB/ NPSC**

#### Defining a project

- Review and approve the Initiation Plan (if such plan was required and submitted to the Local PAC).

#### Initiating a project

- Agree on Project Manager –cum-Technical Officer's responsibilities, as well as the responsibilities of the other members of the Project Management Unit;
- Delegate any Project Assurance function as appropriate;
- Review the Progress Report for the Initiation Stage (if an Initiation Plan was required);
- Review and approve detailed Project Plan and Annual Work Plans, including Atlas reports covering activity definition, quality criteria, issue log, updated risk log and the monitoring and communication plan.

#### Running a project

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
- Address project issues as raised by the Project Manager-cum-Technical Officer;
- Provide guidance and agree on possible countermeasures/management actions to address specific risks;
- Agree on Project Manager-cum-Technical Officer's tolerances in the Annual Work Plan and quarterly plans when required;
- Conduct regular meetings to review the Project Quarterly Progress Report and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans.
- Review Combined Delivery Reports (CDR) prior to certification by the Implementing Partner;
- Appraise the Project Annual Review Report, make recommendations for the next Annual WorkPlan, and inform the Outcome Board about the results of the review.
- Review and approve end project report, make recommendations for follow-on actions;
- Provide ad-hoc direction and advice for exception situations when project manager-cum-Technical Officer's tolerances are exceeded;
- Assess and decide on project changes through revisions;

#### Closing a project

- Assure that all Project deliverables have been produced satisfactorily;
- Review and approve the Final Project Review Report, including Lessons-learned;
- Make recommendations for follow-on actions to be submitted to the Outcome Board;
- Commission project evaluation (only when required by partnership agreement)

- Notify operational completion of the project to the Outcome Board

**Specific Responsibilities of Executive** (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board) will:

- Ensure that there is a coherent project organisation structure and logical set of plans
- Set tolerances in the Annual Work Plan and other plans as required for the Project Manager-cum-Technical Officer
- Monitor and control the progress of the project at a strategic level
- Ensure that risks are being tracked and mitigated as effectively as possible
- Brief Outcome Board and relevant stakeholders about project progress
- Organise and chair Project Board meetings
- The Executive is responsible for overall assurance of the project as described below. If the project warrants it, the Executive may delegate some responsibility for the project assurance functions.

**Specific Responsibilities of Senior Supplier** (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board)

- Make sure that progress towards the outputs remains consistent from the supplier perspective
- Promote and maintain focus on the expected project output(s) from the point of view of supplier management
- Ensure that the supplier resources required for the project are made available
- Contribute supplier opinions on Project Board decisions on whether to implement recommendations on proposed changes
- Arbitrate on, and ensure resolution of, any supplier priority or resource conflicts

The supplier assurance role responsibilities are to:

- Advise on the selection of strategy, design and methods to carry out project activities
- Ensure that any standards defined for the project are met and used to good effect
- Monitor potential changes and their impact on the quality of deliverables from a supplier perspective
- Monitor any risks in the implementation aspects of the project

**Specific Responsibilities of Senior Beneficiary** (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board)

- Ensure the expected output(s) and related activities of the project are well defined
- Make sure that progress towards the outputs required by the beneficiaries remains consistent from the beneficiary perspective
- Promote and maintain focus on the expected project output(s)
- Prioritise and contribute beneficiaries' opinions on Project Board decisions on whether to implement recommendations on proposed changes
- Resolve priority conflicts

The assurance responsibilities of the Senior Beneficiary are to check that:

- Specification of the Beneficiary's needs is accurate, complete and unambiguous
- Implementation of activities at all stages is monitored to ensure that they will meet the beneficiary's needs and are progressing towards that target
- Impact of potential changes is evaluated from the beneficiary point of view
- Risks to the beneficiaries are frequently monitored

**Project Management Unit (PMU):** The PMU will be based in Dhaka within the MoEF. It will consist of a Project Manager-cum-Technical Officer, and a Finance-cum-Admin assistant. The PMU will amongst other tasks, i) develop Standard Operating Procedures for project implementation, ii) develop Quarterly and Annual Work Plans and Budgets, iii) provide Technical, financial and administrative management support, iv) prepare Quarterly and Annual Financial and Technical Progress Reports to be submitted to the MoEF, v) ensure compliance with applicable UNDP/GEF/LDCF/Government rules and regulations, and vi) provide Quality Technical support to various project components and activities.

**Project Manager –cum-Technical Officer** 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. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. S/He shall also provide quality technical inputs for the successful

implementation of the project. Terms of References of key project staff and experts are provided in Annexure 9 of the project document.

### **Audit arrangements**

Audits will be conducted in accordance with the UNDP NIM Audit policies and procedures, and based on UN Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) policy framework. Annual audit of the financial statements relating to the status of UNDP (including GEF) funds will be undertaken according to the established procedures set out in the Programming and Finance manuals. The Audit will be conducted by a special and certified audit firm. UNDP will be responsible for making audit arrangements for the project in communication with the Project Implementing Partner. UNDP and the project Implementing Partner will provide audit management responses and the Project Manager-cum-Technical Officer and Project Management Unit (PMU) will address audit recommendations.

### **UNDP Country Office Support Services**

As per standard agreement between UNDP and the Government of Bangladesh, and upon request from the Implementing Partner (IP), UNDP Bangladesh CO may provide the following support services to the IP, and recover the actual direct and indirect costs incurred by the MCO in delivering such services:

- Payments, disbursements and other financial transactions
- Recruitment of staff, project personnel, and consultants
- Procurement of services and equipment, including disposals
- Organization of training activities, conferences, and workshops, including fellowships
- Travel authorization, Government clearances ticketing, and travel arrangements
- Shipment, custom clearance, and vehicle registration.

For more information, see Budget Note item 0I in Section 4. The estimate for UNDP Country Office Support Services presented in Budget Note item 0I will be validated and recorded in a Letter of Agreement annexed to the project document.

### *Intellectual property rights*

These will be retained by the employing organization of the personnel who develops intellectual products, either Government or UN/UNDP in accordance with respectively national and UN/UNDP policies and procedures.

### **B.2. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):**

As a design principle, the project seeks to promote sustainable livelihood options rather than excluding resource use. As such, the project will promote several socio-economic benefits. Firstly, the project's national and local benefits will emanate mainly from the restoration and maintenance of critical ecosystem goods and services delivered by the project landscape *viz.*, hydrological functions; fishery production function; subsistence and livelihood functions; climate control functions; biological diversity functions (including option value for future) etc. Safeguarding these ecosystem services provided by the Sundarbans offers a substantial opportunity costs and cost-savings for the government and local communities. Furthermore, these benefits shall be felt most immediately by the local communities who live in and/or proximate to the Sundarbans. As is the case elsewhere, women are more closely associated with natural resources in the Sundarbans and any degradation to these resources shall significantly impact them. This project will help to stabilize these valuable ecosystem services that will have significant positive bearings on socio-economic conditions.

Local communities living in the project landscape will directly benefit from the project through activities envisaged under the Outcome 2. Significant income augmentation of local communities is envisaged through: a) developing a Community Based Resource Management Plan (CBRMP) that will explicitly provide for community level resource management prescriptions (particularly that of fisheries); and b) providing limited implementation support (as demonstration units) for the CBRMP and other resource-based and alternate income generating activities. Further, community institutions will be developed/ revitalized (such as CMCs) for the effective implementation of the CBRMP. The project will promote a strong participatory and consultative approach to ensure that partnerships are strengthened amongst local communities, government agencies, NGO's and other projects working on sustainable development initiatives in the project landscape. Assistance of local/ regional research/ training institutions, NGOs (national and international) and Universities will be mobilized for the preparation of CBRMP, conducting capacity building programmes on its implementation and in identifying and implementing resource-based and alternate livelihood strategies.



An analysis in Bangladesh has noted that protecting fish breeding areas such as the protected areas are valuable management tools in floodplain river fisheries because they conserve fish stocks and may increase local catches; their high visibility makes illegal fishing easy to detect; they are conceptually simple with easily understood effects; and they are traditional approaches in many places with proven local acceptability<sup>21</sup> Additionally, insights on the ecological impacts of climate change will support the development of adaptive management responses and their incorporation into sustainable strategies for local fisheries and local adaptation measures. The involvement of women in all aspects of the project, including key roles in research and educational outreach and consideration of their needs in local communities, will ensure that gender differences in resource use and management, as well as the types of incentives needed for successful conservation, are fully incorporated into management plans and their implementation. Further, women shall comprise more than 50 percent of the target beneficiaries. The project will expend efforts in carrying out, wherever possible, gender analysis for the design and analysis of such interventions. *Quid pro quo* commitments shall be dovetailed into the plans regarding livelihood support provided under the project and improved biodiversity conservation practices to be followed by the communities. In addition, to ensure that businesses with negative impacts on biodiversity are not promoted inadvertently, the project will put in place safeguards for financial and business management support. The project will support adoption of innovative technology for bringing in use efficiency (improved fishing gear) and better value realization of products (e.g. fishery products etc.). It is anticipated that the catalytic investments from the project will provide economic and financial incentives to switch over from short-term resource exploitation to long-term stewardship. It is anticipated that such models will also serve as learning references for replication among other aquatic environment.

### **B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:**

The project preparation team has adopted a qualitative approach to identify the most cost-effective strategy for achieving the project objectives in line with the GEF Council's guidance on assessing project cost-effectiveness (Cost Effectiveness Analysis in GEF Projects, GEF/C.25/11, April 29, 2005). Various scenarios for the better long-term management of the project landscape have been considered, and these are described below.

One option would be to continue pursuing conservation objectives through the newly established dolphin sanctuaries. However, these protected areas currently do not encompass the whole of the key habitats of the cetaceans in the Sundarbans and in Bangladesh. Similarly, the management effectiveness of the newly constituted protected areas also requires significant scaling up that is quite unlikely in the business-as-usual scenario considering the inadequate capacities among the conservation sector on aquatic biodiversity management. Further, the biological diversity of the Sundarbans and more particularly that of the project area are under various threats-both intraneous (e.g. fishing) and extraneous (e.g. water abstraction, unplanned development etc.). Attempts to resolve these multiple threats through a single-sector approach, wherein the conservation sector focuses solely on the dolphin sanctuaries are considered less likely to succeed and critical biodiversity values in the region will continue to be under intense pressure. A second option could be to significantly expand the territorial extent of the protected areas, which would provide greater safeguards (at least theoretically), for biodiversity values. While this approach has some merit and definitely a strategy to pursue, this alone is, however, going to yield the desired conservation outcomes in the wake of the continuing and escalating nature of anthropogenic pressure on biological diversity. A critical consideration in this regard is the livelihood aspirations of the local fishers and the trajectory of development occurring in the region.

Therefore, the project focuses on a third option, which is a combination of the above and cross-sectoral in nature. This approach includes further consolidating the key habitats of cetaceans by identifying additional dolphin hotspots and bringing them under the protected area network and buffer areas; improving the management effectiveness of the existing and new protected areas; adopting biodiversity-friendly good practice guidelines for the key economic sectors operating in the region; constitution of national and regional level cross-sectoral committees to address inter-sectoral issues related to aquatic biodiversity management; strong outreach and advocacy; generation of knowledge and dissemination etc. Another important pillar of this strategy is in mobilizing local communities as effective vanguards of conservation through the preparation of a Community Based Resource Management Plan, imparting capacities (technical knowhow, skills) on sustainable fisheries and providing economic incentives through alternate and livelihood diversification (as demonstration units) so that their unsustainable dependence on natural resources are reduced significantly. This third option is considered to be the most cost-effective use of GEF resources. Furthermore, this approach is considered more likely to succeed in bringing multiple interests to the table for joint planning and action to safeguard the biodiversity values of the region.

### **C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:**

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<sup>21</sup>[http://www.fmsp.org.uk/Documents/r8486/r8486\\_7.pdf](http://www.fmsp.org.uk/Documents/r8486/r8486_7.pdf)

The project will be monitored through the following M&E activities. The M&E budget is provided in the table below. The M&E framework set out in the Project Results Framework in Part III of this project document is aligned with the AMAT and UNDP M&E frameworks.

#### *Project start and implementation*

A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 3 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, UNDP country office and where appropriate/feasible regional technical policy and programme advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan.

The **Inception Workshop** should address a number of key issues including:

- Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO and RCU staff vis-à-vis the project team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again as needed.
- Based on the project results framework and the LDCF related AMAT set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document, and finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
- Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
- Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- Plan and schedule PB meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first PB meeting should be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.

An **Inception Workshop report** is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

The project will submit the following quarterly and annual reports:

#### **Quarterly:**

- Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high. Note that for UNDP GEF projects, all financial risks associated with financial instruments such as revolving funds, microfinance schemes, or capitalization of ESCOs are automatically classified as critical on the basis of their innovative nature (high impact and uncertainty due to no previous experience justifies classification as critical).
- Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.
- Other ATLAS logs can be used to monitor issues, lessons learned etc.. The use of these functions is a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

#### **Annually:**

Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report is prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements. The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual).
- Lesson learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR

#### **Periodic Monitoring through site visits:**

UNDP CO and the UNDP GEF region based staff will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

#### *Mid-term of project cycle*

The project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Evaluation at the mid-point of project implementation expected to be in May 2015. The Mid-Term Review will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term review will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document.

The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term review will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The management response and the evaluation will be uploaded to UNDP corporate systems, in particular the [UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#).

#### *End of Project*

An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final PB meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP-GEF guidance. The terminal evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term review, if any such correction took place). The terminal evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response, which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the [UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#).

#### **Learning and knowledge sharing:**

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. There will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

#### **Communications and visibility requirements**

Full compliance is 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>. Amongst other things, these guidelines describe when and how the UNDP logo needs to be used, as well as how the logos of donors to UNDP projects needs to be used. For the avoidance of any doubt, when logo use is required, the UNDP logo needs to be used alongside the GEF logo. The GEF logo can be accessed at: [http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF\\_logo](http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_logo). The UNDP logo can be accessed at <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>.

Full compliance is also required 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](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08_Branding_the_GEF%20final_0.pdf). Amongst other things, the GEF Guidelines describe when and how the GEF logo needs to be used in project publications, vehicles, supplies and other project equipment. The GEF Guidelines also describe other GEF promotional requirements regarding press releases, press conferences, press visits, visits by Government officials, productions and other promotional items. Where other agencies and project partners have provided support through co-financing, their branding policies and requirements should be similarly applied.

#### ***M&E workplan and budget***

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ <i>Excluding project team staff time</i>	Time frame

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ <i>Excluding project team staff time</i>	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Manager-cum-Technical Officer</li> <li>▪ PMU</li> <li>▪ UNDP CO, UNDP GEF</li> </ul>	Indicative cost: \$5,000	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNDP GEF RTA/Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members</li> <li>▪ PMU</li> </ul>	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop.	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on <i>output and implementation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oversight by Project Manager - cum-Technical Officer</li> <li>▪ PMU</li> <li>▪ Implementation teams</li> </ul>	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
ARR/PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Manager- cum-Technical Officer</li> <li>▪ PMU</li> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP RTA</li> <li>▪ UNDP EEG</li> </ul>	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Manager- cum-Technical Officer</li> <li>▪ and team</li> </ul>	None	Quarterly
Mid-term Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Manager- cum-Technical Officer</li> <li>▪ PMU</li> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP RCU</li> <li>▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)</li> </ul>	Indicative cost: \$22,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Terminal Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Manager- cum-Technical Officer</li> <li>▪ PMU</li> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP RCU</li> <li>▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)</li> </ul>	Indicative cost : \$32,200	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Synthesis of major achievements & Lessons learned report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Team</li> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ FD</li> <li>▪ CMCs</li> <li>▪ UNDP-GEF RCU</li> </ul>	\$5,000	
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ Project Manager-cum-Technical Officer</li> <li>▪ PMU</li> </ul>	Indicative cost per year: \$3,000 (\$12,000 total)	Yearly
Visits to field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNDP CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP RCU (as appropriate)</li> <li>▪ Government representatives</li> </ul>	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and operational budget	Yearly for UNDP CO; as required by UNDP RCU
<b>TOTAL indicative COST</b>  Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses		US\$ 76,200  (+/- 5% of total budget)	

## **Legal Context**

The project document together with the CPAP signed by the Government and UNDP which is incorporated by reference constitute together a Project Document as referred to in the SBAA [or other appropriate governing agreement] and all CPAP provisions apply to this document. Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner. The implementing partner shall:

- put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

The implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP 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/GEF 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 <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

The UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh is authorized to effect in writing the following types of revision to this Project Document, provided that he/she has verified the agreement thereto by the UNDP Regional Coordination Unit and is assured that the other signatories to the Project Document have no objection to the proposed changes:

- Revision of, or addition to, any of the annexes to the Project Document;
- Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by the rearrangement of the inputs already agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation;
- Mandatory annual revisions which re-phase the delivery of agreed project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility; and

Inclusion of additional annexes and attachments only as set out here in this Project Document


**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):**  
 (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this form. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)
Mesbah UI Alam	Secretary / GEF Operation Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Forests	12/09/2012

**B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu Executive Coordinator and Director a.i UNDP - Global Environment Facility		September 4, 2014	Doley Tshering Regional Technical Advisor, EBD	+66-2-304-9100 Est. 2600	doley.tshering@undp.org

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Targets <sup>22</sup>	Means of verification	Risks and Assumptions
The long-term goal to which the project will contribute is the sustainable management of the globally significant aquatic biodiversity of Bangladesh by consolidating the key habitats of the Sundarbans particularly that of Cetaceans, while also taking into account development imperatives, need for sustaining livelihoods and also addressing retrogressive factors including the anticipated impacts of climate change with active support and involvement of government, local communities, NGOs and partners.					
Immediate Objective: To build capacity to manage the existing protected areas established for dolphin conservation and also expand their operational coverage (new protected areas and buffer areas) while still meeting the livelihood aspirations of local communities especially the fishers.	Extent of aquatic environment of the Sundarbans brought under effective conservation planning and management framework	0 ha	102,000 ha	Mid-term and Final Technical Evaluation	The population dynamics of flora and fauna may depend on various extraneous factors over which project may have little control.
	Population status of the following critical species remain stable or increases: Ganges freshwater dolphin Irrawaddy dolphin	225 451	Remain stable or increase by project end	Monitoring reports, Population estimation reports, Publications of Forest Department Research and Monitoring Reports	
Outcome 1: Important aquatic ecosystems of the Sundarbans supporting the globally threatened species of cetaceans conserved	Improved management effectiveness PAs as measured and recorded by Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)	46 out of 300	Increase in METT scores by 30 percent (around 70 out of 300) by year 5	METT scorecard prepared annually. Independent mid-term and final evaluations	Government agencies may not show adequate interest required for bringing in the necessary transformative change in the conservation prospects of the project landscape.  Stakeholder institutions may not show adequate interest in the regional stakeholder
	Biodiversity-friendly Sectoral Guidelines prepared and implemented leading to effective integration of biodiversity considerations into economic sector practices	0	At least five Sectoral Guidelines (Fisheries, Tourism, Maritime traffic, industrial development and Aquaculture prepared and adopted.	Approved documents Mid-term and Final Evaluations	
	Effective and functioning cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder institutions (including conservation, livelihood and production) established at regional and national level.	0	2	Government Orders or Notifications, meeting records Mid-term and Final Evaluations	

<sup>22</sup> The time frame for realizing project targets is project end (2019), unless otherwise specified.



Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Targets <sup>22</sup>	Means of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Number of representatives from the key government sectors trained in effective management of aquatic biodiversity	0	Conservation Sector -100 Economic Sector - 100	Training records; training evaluations	committee and unwilling to share information that is required for the effective management of the area.  Sectoral institutions are unwilling to commit the expected number of personnel for training and capacity building and Trained staff may not continue in
	Reported mortality of dolphins by entanglement in nets and vessel hit.	90 reports in 2013	50% reduction by year project end	Documents of Forest Departments  Research Reports  Mid-term and Final Evaluations	

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Targets <sup>22</sup>		Means of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Improvement in Systemic Level Indicators of <u>Capacity Development Scorecard</u> (Annex 19)	SYSTEMIC LEVEL	B/L	Tgt.	Mid-term and Final Evaluation	current roles
		1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies, programme	20%	30%		
		2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	25%	30%		
		3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	15%	25%		
		4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge	20%	30%		
		5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels.	10%	20%		
Outcome 2: Community-based ecosystems management systems in place to support aquatic biodiversity conservation.	Number of fishers in the project area using sustainable fishing gear as evidenced by mesh size	0	30% of fishers follow the mesh size norms set up by the project by project end		Documents of Forest Departments Research Reports Mid-term and Final Evaluations	The livelihood activities supported under the project may not add significantly to income opportunities of local people so that the dependency on natural resources is reduced.
	Amount of resources flowing to local communities annually from community based ecotourism activities	0	USD 0.1 million by year 5 (target value to be re-confirmed during the 1st year of the project)		Records of Forest Departments, CMCs administrative records, etc Mid-term and Final Evaluations	Inter-community conflicts may arise due to different interests of communities on

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Targets <sup>22</sup>	Means of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Number of people shifting to alternative income generating options that reduce pressure on biodiversity	0	At least 500 fishers by year 3 and 700 by project end	Records of CMCs, administrative records, etc  Mid-term and Final Evaluations	use of aquatic biodiversity.  Lack of community and stakeholder support (particularly fishers) due to apprehension that operationalizing the PAs will adversely affect their livelihoods.
	Number of people sensitized on aquatic biodiversity conservation particularly that of cetaceans	0	3000 by year 3 and 5000 by project end	Records of CMCs, administrative records, etc Mid-term and Final Evaluations	
Project Outputs					
Output 1.1	Knowledge generation and dissemination system improves decision making related to the management of aquatic habitats and sustainable use of resources in the protected areas and buffer zones				
Output 1.2	New and additional areas to be managed as Protected Areas and buffer areas identified, notified and capacities developed among conservation and economic sector staff for strengthening the management effectiveness of biodiversity conservation efforts.				
Output 1.3	Support to the implementation of Management Plans of new PAs and buffer areas to address existing and emerging threats to aquatic biodiversity particularly the cetaceans				
Output 1.4	Monitoring and evaluation framework and replication strategy developed for effective aquatic PA management specifically for the Sundarbans and other aquatic ecosystems across country				
Output 2.1	Community based fishery management plan prepared, capacities developed and financial support extended for operationalizing sustainable fishing practices and conservation of aquatic biodiversity				
Output 2.2	Strategies for alternate income generation and livelihood diversification developed and implemented leading to reduced dependence on natural resources.				

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS** (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

**A) Comments from GEF Secretariat at the time of PIF approval and response therein:**

Review Questions	Secretariat comment at PIF (PFD)/ Work Programme inclusion	Response
<p>16. Is there a clear description of: a) the socio-economic benefits, including gender dimensions, to be delivered by the project, and b) how will the delivery of such benefits support the achievement of incremental/ additional benefits?</p>	<p>Yes. Sufficient at PIF stage, more details will be provided at CEO endorsement stage.</p>	<p>Detailed socio-economic benefits including gender dimensions to be delivered by the project have been worked out in detail during the PPG phase which is narrated in Section B.2 of the CEO endorsement document.</p> <p>The project design ‘factors in’ gender considerations and great emphasis is given to improve the resilience of such groups through various Outputs under Outcomes. The project’s national and local benefits will emanate mainly from the restoration and maintenance of critical ecosystem goods and services delivered by the project landscape viz., hydrological functions; fishery production function; subsistence and livelihood functions; climate control functions; biological diversity functions (including option value for future) etc. Safeguarding these ecosystem services provided by the Sundarbans offers a substantial opportunity costs and cost-savings for the government and local communities. Furthermore, these benefits shall be felt most immediately by the local communities who live in and/or proximate to the Sundarbans.</p> <p>Local communities living in the project landscape will directly benefit from the project through activities envisaged under the Outcome 2. Significant income augmentation of local communities is envisaged through: a) developing a Community Based Resource Management Plan (CBRMP) that will explicitly provide for community level resource management prescriptions (particularly that of fisheries); and b) providing limited implementation support (as demonstration units) for the CBRMP and other resource-based and alternate income generating activities.</p> <p>The involvement of women in all aspects of the project, including key roles in research and educational outreach and consideration of their needs in local communities, will ensure that gender differences in resource use and management, as well as the types of incentives needed for successful conservation, are fully incorporated into management plans and their implementation. Further, women shall comprise more than 50 percent of the target beneficiaries. The project will expend efforts in carrying out, wherever possible, gender analysis for the design and analysis of such interventions. It is envisioned that cumulatively these will benefit and incentivize women and other marginalized groups to be the vanguards of conservation and sustainable use.</p>
<p>17. Is public participation, including CSOs and indigenous people, taken into consideration, their role identified and addressed properly?</p>	<p>Yes. Sufficient at PIF stage, more details will be provided at CEO endorsement stage.</p>	<p>Yes. Project design is based on the information collected from extensive interaction with various stakeholders including the CSOs and local communities. The project strategy also has dovetailed the involvement of CSOs and other NGOs extensively. While CSOs have a major role in Outcome 2 of the project, NGOs have vital role in Outcome 1. Further, the primary point of engagement for Outcome 1 is the user-groups comprising predominantly of the local communities.</p>

**ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS<sup>23</sup>**

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

None

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
International Consultant	45,000	20,000	25,000
Local Consultant	16,300	15,164	1,136
Travel	18,000	139	17,861
Miscellaneous	1,110	-	1,110
<u>Workshop</u>	10,000	233	9,767
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,410</b>	<b>15,536</b>	<b>74,874</b>

Notes:

+ To be paid for work performed/completed (payments to be made no later than 31 September 2014)

**ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used):**

N/A

<sup>23</sup>If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.