Project Document

Government of The Gambia & United Nations Development Programme

Lead Implementing Partner: Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water Resources & Wildlife (MECCWW)

Further national counterparts: Office of the President; Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water Resources & Wildlife; Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture (NEMA Project); National Environment Agency; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

GEF Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme

UNDP Project ID PIMS 5000 / GEF Project ID PMIS 5529

Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project

Brief Description

Over a period of 4 years and for $1,324,310 from the GEF and a further $4,690,909in co-financing, the project will strengthen the national protected areas network and management effectiveness, focusing on a cluster of priority PAs namely, Jokadu National Park (JNP, 15,028 ha), Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR, 22,000 ha), and Kiang West National Park (KWNP, 11,526 ha) through a c. 5,000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP. Basic PA offices will be established, equipped and staffed in JNP and BBWR (KWNP already has adequate PA offices) – with institutional and technical capacities being built through targeted training. On-the-ground boundaries of JNP and BBWR – as well as of the newly added PA areas – will be demarcated using valuable and useful tree species that local communities respect and protect.

The project has a focus on the communities, primarily farmers and their households, totalling an estimated 70,000, that exert significant pressure on the integrity of these PAs. Working closely with and through the National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, the present project will introduce biodiversity-friendly sustainable land and natural resource management practices; it will establish nurseries and plant suitable fruit, forage, firewood and multi-purpose trees and vegetation; pilot the latest conservation tillage agriculture; establish inter-cropping regimes and nutrient-rich plants and hedges in degraded farmland; establish agro-forestry regimes and village woodlots and shelter belts; revisit fire and grazing practices; replant mangroves in degraded wetlands; pilot new salt-tolerant wet rice varieties to reduce land conversion for dry rice production; promote and distribute fuel efficient stoves; and increase bee farming and horticulture. Agreements will be entered into with local communities that will form the basis of these community-based interventions to be undertaken by the project.

The implementation of the proposed project will have an immediate global environmental benefit, through the increased integrity and management efficiency of Protected Areas and their surrounding buffer zones. This will lead to the restoration of natural productivity and conservation of the habitats of a number of plant and animal species and valuable ecosystems. As a result, globally significant biodiversity will be conserved and valuable ecosystem services will be safeguarded. In addition, important steps will be undertaken to restore ecosystem functions to the degraded agro-pastoral landscapes adjacent to the targeted PAs.

As a result of the significant effort that the project will make on PA institutional capacity building and the mainstreaming of a sustainability ethic into land use and agricultural practices, these benefits will be sustainable.

SIGNATURE PAGE Country: THE GAMBIA

Project Title: Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project

UN Development Assistance Framework Outcome(s)/Indicator(s):
Pillar 1, Outcome 3 – Environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction systems and services operationalized

Expected UNDP Country Programme Action Plan Outcome(s) & Output(s):
Outcome 2 – Sustainable livelihood security enhanced for the disadvantaged groups through the promotion of income diversification opportunities and better management of environmental resources
Output 2.3 – Sustainable use of environmental resources enhanced

UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity Strategy:
Signature Programme 2 - Unlocking the potential of protected areas (PAs), including indigenous and community conserved areas, to protect biodiversity while contributing to sustainable development.
Key Action Area: Strengthen PA systems and their ability to conserve biodiversity and maintain and enhance ecosystem services

Expected UNDP IIRF Outcome(s)/Output(s)/Indicator(s) to be monitored by UNDP including UNDP Country Office:
Outcome 1: Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded
Outcome Sub-indicator 1.5.A.1.1: Number of hectares of land managed under an in-situ conservation regime
Outcome Sub-indicator 1.5.A.2.1: Number of hectares of land managed under a sustainable use regime
Output 1.1: National and sub-national systems and institutions enabled to achieve structural transformation of productive capacities that are sustainable and employment - and livelihoods- intensive
Output Sub-indicator 1.1.3.A.1.1: Number of additional demonstration schemes which expand and diversify the productive base based on the use of sustainable production technologies
Output 1.3: Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste
Output sub-indicator 1.3.2.A.3.1: Total number of additional people benefitting from strengthened livelihoods through solutions for management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste
Output 2.5: Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation
Output sub-indicator 2.5.1.C.1.1: Extent to which institutional frameworks are in place for conservation, sustainable use, and/or access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems

Lead Implementing Partner: Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM)

Project duration	48 months
ATLAS Award ID:	TBD
ATLAS Project ID:	TBD
GEF PMIS #:	5529
UNDP PIMS #:	5000
Mgt Arrangement:	NIM
PAC Meeting Date:	TBD

Total Project Resources:	**$6,015,219**
Total Resources in TBW:	**$1,444,310**
GEF	$1,324,310
UNDP (TRAC)	$120,000
Others:	
Government of The Gambia	$4,570,909
Total Co-finance:	$4,690,909

Agreed by (Government): Date/Month/Year:

NAME: Signature

Agreed by (Implementing Partner): Date/Month/Year:

NAME: Signature

Agreed by UNDP: Date/Month/Year:

NAME: Signature

CONTENTS Update and paginate

Signature page **2**
Acronyms and Abbreviations **4**

1 SITUATION ANALYSIS **5**
1.1 Introduction **5**
1.2 The Gambia environment **6**
1.2.1 The physical environment 6
1.2.2 Ecosystems and biodiversity 7
1.2.3 The socio-economic environment 13
1.2.4 Policy and institutional context for biodiversity management 15
1.2.5 Ecosystem functions and services 19
1.3 Threats and impacts to the Gambia environment **19**
1.4 The Gambia's response – the Baseline Project **22**
1.5 Remaining challenges and outstanding gaps **24**

2 STRATEGY **27**
2.1 Project Rationale and policy conformity **27**
2.1.1 The GEF alternative and incremental reasoning 27
2.1.2 Project sites 28
2.1.3 Stakeholder analysis 34
2.1.4 Fit with GEF Focal Area Strategy and Objectives 37
2.1.5 Conformity with UNDP and UNDAF 38
2.2 Project Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities **38**
2.2.1 Project Objective and Components 38
2.2.2 Project Outcomes 39
2.2.3 Indicators 40
2.2.4 Project Outputs and Activities 40
2.3 Assumptions and risks **44**
2.4 Cost effectiveness **45**
2.5 Expected global, national and local benefits **45**
2.6 Gender strategy **46**
2.7 Project consistency with national priorities/strategies **47**
2.8 Coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives **48**
2.9 Sustainability of project results **49**
2.10 Environmental and social safeguards **50**

3 PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK **51**

4 TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN **56**

5 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS **60**

6 MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION **64**

7 LEGAL CONTEXT **67**

ANNEXES
1 Terms of Reference for key project personnel 68
2a Co-financing letter from UNDP 84
2b Co-financing letter from MECCWW 85
2c Co-financing letter from Ministry of Agriculture 87
2d Co-financing letter from Ministry of Fisheries 88
3 Letter of Agreement for Direct Project Services UNDP – Government of The Gambia 89
4 Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) XX
5 Tracking Tools XX

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	African Development Bank
ANRWG	Agriculture and Natural Resources Working Group
APR	Annual Progress Report
BBWR	Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resources Management
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CSRP	Sub-regional Fisheries Commission
DCD	Department of Community Development
DEC	District Extension Centre
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DPWM	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management
EDF	European Development Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FIBA	International Foundation for the Bank d'Arguin
FTS	Food Technology Services
GamPAN	Gambia National Protected Area Partnership and Network
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEAP	Gambia Environment Action Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LDC	Least Developed Country
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management (Project)
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JNP	Jokadu National Park
KWNP	Kiang West National Park
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MDI	Management Development Institute
MDFT	Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Team
MECCWW	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action (Climate Change)
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NAP	National Action Programme (to combat desertification)
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEA	National Environment Agency
NEMA	National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project
NEMC	National Environment Management Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NTA	National Training Authority
PAGE	Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment
PAs	Protected Areas
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PoWPA	Programme of Work for Protected Areas
PRCM	Regional marine and Coastal Conservation Programme for West Africa
RAMPAO	Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas
SESP	Social and Environmental Scoring Procedure
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SRF	Strategic Results Framework (previously known as LogFrame)
SWMS	Soil and Water Management Services
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UTG	University of The Gambia
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

1.1 Introduction

1. The Government of The Gambia has sought the support of UNDP to obtain GEF funds to address two major threats, namely the loss of natural habitats including forests and the loss of ecosystem functions, driven by domestic fuel and construction needs as well as by poor/unsustainable agricultural practices.

2. The Gambia is a small, narrow country enclosed by the Atlantic Ocean in the west and Senegal on the three remaining sides. Its surface area of 11,300 km^2 (10,000 km^2 land and 3,000 km^2 inland water) extends about 330 km from its eastern border to the coast and between 20 and 48 km along its north-south axis.

3. The country's terrain is flat, with the highest point at 53 m above sea level. The country can be divided into three major biological regions – the marine system and coastal zone on the Atlantic Ocean in the west, the east-to-west running River Gambia and related freshwater and estuarine ecosystems, and the terrestrial ecosystems in the remaining stretches of land behind the coast and to the north and south of the river. Despite its small size, the Gambia harbours biodiversity that is globally significant as well as biodiversity and natural resources of great significance at national and local level. In fact, the Gambia is dependent on its natural environment and ecosystem services for its quality of life and its economic viability. The natural environment, in all its forms, is a valuable economic asset as it provides food and other necessities for Gambians. According to the NBSAP[1] - "*The Gambia is endowed with a high diversity of plant and animal species. The components of biodiversity embrace the wild fauna and flora and associated ecosystems as well as the domestic species, including plant varieties and land races of domestic animals that have been bred and developed for thousands of years by farmers, as well as species that are dependent on the agricultural systems developed and maintained by humankind*". These valuable biodiversity and ecosystem services are not secure and in spite of the significant

[1] Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (1998) *The Gambia National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Banjul.

response by the government, the risk remains, hence the need for GEF incremental assistance to overcome the identified threats.

4. The resulting, present project will work to expand and better connect a cluster of three targeted PAs (Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, Jokadu National Park, and Kiang West National Park) and put in place effective management to provide a refuge for nationally and globally relevant biodiversity and natural ecosystems; and to introduce biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land management practices in communities around the three targeted PAs. The project will focus on the communities surrounding the three PAs (i.e. in buffer zones) that exert significant pressure on the integrity of these PAs. The targeted stakeholders are primarily farmers and their households, totalling an estimated 70,000 people. Working closely with and through the MoA's National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA), the project will introduce biodiversity-friendly sustainable land and natural resource management practices, to reduce the pressures (unsustainable wood/ mangrove extraction; land conversion for shifting cultivation; over exploitation of non-timber forest products for commercial purposes; incidence and severity of man-made fires) that these communities exert on the targeted PAs; and to begin restoring vital resources into the production landscape matrix, improving natural ecosystem integrity and connectivity.

5. The project will promote its sustainable natural resource utilisation practices by building on work initiated through a GEF-funded PA early action grant that led to the creation of the Gambia National Protected Area Partnership and Network (GamPAN).

6. The project contributes works towards GEF BD-1: *Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems*, to safeguard the most important areas and biodiversity by strengthening the management of and expanding a key subset of existing PAs in biodiversity-rich regions in the Gambia. It also to a minor degree addresses BD-2: *Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors*. It also advances a number of goals of the CBD PoWPA as well as a number of CBD Aichi Targets.

1.2 The Gambia environment

1.2.1 The physical environment

7. The Gambia lies between 13.79º and 16.82º West longitude and entirely within 13º North latitude. With a surface area of 11,300 km^2 (10,000 km^2 land and 3,000 km^2 inland water), the country is bound by Senegal to the North, South and East and by the Atlantic Ocean to the West. The Gambia is thus a narrow strip of land within Senegal, widest at its westerly end towards the ocean, narrowing to about half this width at its eastern end, 330 km inland. The country is bisected by the River Gambia, and Banjul is the administrative centre and capital situated on an island on the south bank at the mouth of the river.

8. The geology of the Gambia is relatively recent from the Tertiary and Quaternary periods. The country is generally low-lying with altitudes mostly below 60 m above sea level. The combination of low-lying topography, poorly drained soils and abundant water provide unique and diverse habitats.

9. The soils are primarily influenced by the hydrology. In the western third of the country, where the river water is salty or brackish, the soils are clay and alluvium and heavily impregnated with salt. The only vegetation that thrives in such conditions is mangrove forest. In the freshwater areas, the soils are often light alluvium and are more fertile and these have been used for rice production for centuries.

10. The Gambia climate is characterized by a long dry season from October to early June and a short rainy season from mid-June to early October. Average annual rainfall ranges from 850 mm to 1,200 mm and average temperatures range from 18 to 33 degrees C. Relative humidity is around 68% along the coast and 41% inland during the dry season and generally above 70% throughout the country during the wet season[2].

11. In the dry season, north easterly winds dominate, resulting in generally cloudless skies and the presence of dust particles in the air. During the wet season, south westerly monsoon winds, combined with heat on the continent, give rise to the formation of thundery activities, usually accompanied by strong winds, heavy rain and

[2] Department of Water Resources (2009) National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). Government of The Gambia

severe lightning. Climate hazards include torrential rainfall, storms (wind, thunder and dust), drought, cold spells, heat waves, intra-seasonal drought and unseasonal rains. Some of these hazards are projected to increase in frequency and intensity, and become more widespread[3]. Indeed, climate change is prone to becoming a significant barrier to future national development and poverty reduction, and to the achievement of sustainable development goals, because the productive base of the economy depends on climate-sensitive activities such as crop production, livestock rearing, fisheries, forestry (biodiversity), energy, and water resources.

12. The Gambia is blessed with abundant water resources which comprise seasonal rains, storage in ephemeral ponds and depressions, the River Gambia and two aquifer systems underlying the entire country. The country is further distinguished by its location in the central part of the coastal sedimentary basin known as the Mauritania-Senegal-Gambia-Guinea-Guinea Bissau Basin which add up to make The Gambia a focal point of extensive regional surface and groundwater systems. These water resources provide the basis for sustaining life and promoting socioeconomic development.

13. The River Gambia enters The Gambia around Koina, bisects the country into two narrow strips of land, which vary in width from 48 km at the Atlantic Coast, to 24 km in the eastern region, and continues down westwards to the Atlantic Ocean. Major tributaries include the Sandougou, Nianija, Sofaniama, Miniminiyang, Bao and Bintang bolongs. The estuary is fully mixed with no evidence of stratification. There is, however, a moving interface separating the saline/brackish water from the freshwater mass along the river. As a result of seasonal low flows, the interface can shift from a maximum penetration of 250 km upriver in the dry season to less than 100 km upriver in the rainy season. For agricultural purposes, points along the river with a salt concentration of 1ppt demarcate the salt water / freshwater interface, also referred to as the salt front, or the saline limit.

14. River ecology is divided into two different zones, estuarine and freshwater, which in turn largely determine the riparian vegetation pattern. The tidal estuary is fringed with important mangrove stands as well as barren saline flats, mudflats, river banks with brackish and fresh water zones, lagoons, marshes, swamps, and other wetland habitats. Mangroves dominate the riverside in the lower estuary, and extensive reed belts the in-between zone. In the fresh water zone, the banks are lined with gallery forest.

15. Groundwater resources are stored in the phreatic aquifer, and the semi-confined aquifer, which are both of pliocene age. The Shallow Sandstone Aquifer is estimated to hold 125 million m^3 of good quality water. The sandstone aquifer is estimated to hold reserves of good quality water in the order of 80,000 m^3. Recharge of the aquifers is mainly by infiltration from rainfall and from lateral flow from Senegal. Groundwater in The Gambia tends to be slightly acidic with pH values mostly ranging from 5.0 to 6.5.

16. In 2007, The Gambia reached the MDGs target with up to 85.2% of the population having access to safe sources of drinking water[4]. However, demand for water is expected to exceed the available recharge in the shallow aquifer by 2020.

1.2.2 Ecosystems and biodiversity

17. The topography of The Gambia, a major determinant of ecosystems, land cover and land use, reveals several distinct levels or zones: the river with its associated tributaries and river-border mangrove forests; the river's wetlands and floodplain; the extensive lowlands and colluvial slopes; the upland lower and upper plateaus that extend into Senegal. The patterns of land use in The Gambia, to a large extent, correspond to the vegetation zones across the country. The vegetation zones in turn are largely determined by the rainfall patterns of the different parts of The Gambia. In general, the wetter western half of the country including the western parts of the Lower River Region, originally had thicker land forest covers with bigger tree species. The drier hinterlands, especially the north bank of the River Gambia, receive scantier rainfall and are today covered mainly with shrubs and savannah grasses. About one-third of all Gambian land is made up of agricultural lands.

18. Despite its small size, The Gambia is therefore endowed with rich and varied ecological systems – closed and open woodlands, trees and shrub savannah, wetland ecosystems, grassland savannah, offshore islands, marine and coastal ecosystems and agricultural ecosystems. The present project is focused on

[3] Parry, et al (2007) Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
[4] Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2006) *MDG Status Report*. Government of The Gambia

ecosystems on either side of the River Gambia, inland from the coastal and estuarine zones but still under some tidal influence. The key ecosystems of interest are forests, wetlands and, to a lesser extent, grasslands.

Terrestrial ecosystems, forests and land use change

19. Aside from the gallery forests and mangroves that dominate the coastal, estuarine and river-border vegetation, the Gambia today contains a still rich yet impoverished combination of natural and man-made terrestrial ecosystems. These fall under two major biomes/ecoregions and four main agro-ecological zones:

- the relatively moist Guinean Savannah (Guinean Forest-Savannah Mosaic Ecoregion), approximately in the western third of the country, with the **Guinean woodlands** characterized by broadleaf trees (507 km^{2m});
- the drier Sudanian-Savannah (West Sudanian-Savannah Ecoregion; approximately in the eastern two-thirds of the country), with **Sudanian transitional woodlands** (2,070 km^2); **Sudano-Sahelian savannah woodlands**, covering 8,035 km^2 (about 75% of the total land area of the Gambia); and **Sahelian savannah** with open trees, shrubs and grasslands (70 km^2)

20. The status of both these terrestrial ecoregions is considered Critical/Endangered at the supra-national/regional level, and very few stretches remain in a natural state.

21. Table 1 shows the distribution of standing forest/woodland types from 1946 to 1998 (with now outdated estimates for 2005 and 2015). Overall, woodland cover in The Gambia progressively decreased from 81% in 1946 to 42% in 1998. The standing volume in open woodland was reduced and the closed woodland began to disappear. On the other hand, the tree and shrub savannah increased as a result of the extensive conversions and the degradation of the other classes.

Table 1. Changes in types of forest cover between 1946 and 2015[5] as a percentage of total forest cover

	1946	1968	1980	1993	1998	Est. h2005	Projected 2015
Closed woodland (%)	60.1	8.0	1.3	1.1	0.7	1.5	2.8
Open woodland (%)	13.3	17.6	10.7	7.8	6.2	12.0	12.2
Savannah (%)	7.8	31.7	24.8	31.8	34.6	31.5	25.0
Total forest cover (%)	81.2	57.3	36.8	40.7	41.5	45.0	40.0
Population density (persons per $km^{2)}$	25.0	35.0	57.0	91.0	108.0	132.0	225.0

22. A second assessment of land use change in the Gambia over recent decades provides the following insight[6]:

- Woodlands: closed and open woodland were reduced by over 3.1% per year due to forest degradation and conversion into agricultural land.
- Savannah: forested lands have increased due to a reversion of former agricultural land (mainly fallow land) into secondary tree and shrub savannah and the increased community participation in forest management.
- Mangroves: the mangroves have suffered serious die-back since the beginning of the 1970s reducing the total area by more than 10%. This is mainly due to the reduced flushing effect leading to hypersalinity and fungal infections.
- Fallow areas: the fallow areas have decreased by almost 4.4% due to conversion into tree and shrub savannah, agriculture with no trees or, to a lesser extent, into agriculture with trees.
- Agriculture with trees: the class remained relatively unchanged although a proportion was converted into agriculture with no trees and almost the same proportion was added from fallow areas and woodland.
- Agriculture with no trees: the class increased by about 1.3%.
- Others: the western parts of the country have the highest percentage of land classified 'others' with increasing tendency, whereas up-river this category decreases due to migration patterns both internal and external.

23. According to the (again slightly differing) 2010 National Forest Assessment (NFA)[7], 505,300 ha of forest area (44% of the country's surface area) remained in 1981/82, and 423,000 ha (37%) in 2009/2010. This implies

[5] Sillah, J. (1999) *Action Plan on Forest and Wildlife Management, NAD-Gambia : Forest Resources and Plantations*. FAO
[6] Sillah, J. (2014) Project Proposal Biodiversity Hotspots. WWF
[7] Department of Forests (2010) *National Forest Assessment*. Government of The Gambia and FAO

a forest cover loss of 82,300 ha (7%) between 1983 and 2010. One of the most significant losses (accounting for 73% of the overall forest loss) occurred in mangroves, from 67,000 ha to 35,700 ha – a loss of roughly 47%. This translates to 1,080 ha of mangroves lost each year, an alarming rate of decline.

24. Altogether, in spite of some methodological uncertainties, the available data clearly shows a process of continuing forest degradation from the 1950s to at least 2010. Under business-as-usual deforestation rates (estimated to 5-7% [8] [9]), more than half of the remaining forest/woodland cover in The Gambia would be lost in only another 10 years.

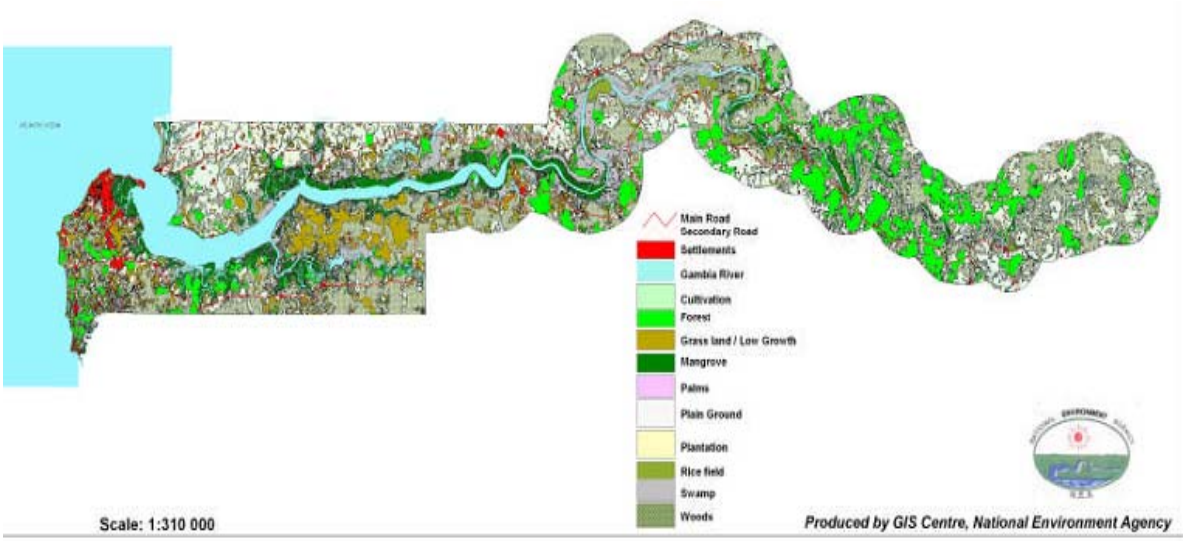

Figure 1. Land use / land cover of the Gambia

25. Compounding all the above rates of forest cover loss, the cover recorded today includes degraded open savannah woodlands of reduced value for biodiversity and exposed to regular disturbance by humans and livestock – while the less accessible closed and open woodlands account for not more than 10% of remaining forest.

26. In this context, the most striking yet somewhat hidden information in Table 1 is that in 1946 the country's original characteristic closed woodlands (presumably all Guinea woodlands) still covered 60% of The Gambia – and that this had been reduced to only 8% by 1968 and less than 1% by the late 1990s. Another estimate mentioned in the Gambia's 1st NBSAP in 1998 claims that closed forests and woodland savannah were reduced from 28% and 31% to 3% and 5%, respectively, between 1948 and 1968[10] (the two sets of figures match, yet not the habitat types). These original, widespread closed woodlands/forests were diverse and rich in wildlife, providing habitats for a variety of animals including large mammals that nowadays are rare or locally extinct. The Gambia's Guinea woodlands, which are an important biodiversity refuge for numerous species of flora and fauna, now only appear in small relic patches confined primarily to the south-western part of the country.

27. During the long dry season, bushfires are a common feature of the rural landscape and more than 70% of the country's forests and grasslands suffer through such bushfires. The Lower River Region has the highest incidence of bushfires while the Central River Region and the West Coast Region have a lower incidence probably as a positive result of community participation.[11] Besides wholesale habitat destruction, constant fires in forest/woodland ecosystems may lead to changes in tree species composition, to assemblages that are more fire tolerant; this change in tree species is changing the habitat and driving dependent wild animals almost to extinction.

[8] *Sillah,* J. (2007) *Ecology and Climate Change of the Mangrove Ecosystems of Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone*. *IUCN*
[9] Department of Forests (2010) *National Forest Assessment*. Government of The Gambia and FAO
[10] Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (1998) *The Gambia National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Banjul.
[11] Sillah, J. (2013) *Fire Management in The Gambia for the Fouta Djallon Watershed Management Project*. FAO

Wetland ecosystems

28. Wetlands in The Gambia are temporal or permanent water-logged areas covering an estimated 20% of the country's total land area. They include 6.4% of mangrove forests, 7.8% of uncultivated swamps, and 3.2% of cultivated swamps (NBSAP 1998). Wetlands are used for agriculture (rice & horticulture) and grazing areas, but are also unique habitat to various specialized wildlife, fish and plants. The most important specialized plants are the six mangrove species – *Rhizophora mangle, Rhizophora racemosa, Rhizophora harisonii, Avicenia africana, Laguncularia racemosa* and *Conocarpus erectus*. Wetlands remain the sites where most wildlife species such as Spotted Hyena, Warthog, Roan Antelope *Hippotragus equinus,* Leopard *Panthera pardus* (rare, NT) and migratory water-birds seek refuge. The Bao Bolong wetlands in the North Bank Region have been designated as the first Ramsar site in the country. The degradation of wetlands leads to the extinction of many wildlife species, the abandonment of potential rice growing zones, loss of habitats and biodiversity and serious mangrove dieback. The most devastating pressure on the wetlands of the Gambia is the construction of anti-salt dams and dykes which lead to salinization, acidification and mangrove dieback.

Rangelands and grasslands

29. Livestock rearing in The Gambia is on an extensive free-range system in open grasslands and in rangelands. Due to the high stocking density of free-ranging livestock, and the incidence of annual bushfires that consume forage plants, there is always a scarcity of animal feed during the dry months of the year. The convergence and concentration of livestock in and around isolated pockets of remaining grazing areas after bushfires lead to overgrazing and eventually soil erosion.

30. Degradation and depletion of rangeland resources threatens the proposed further growth of the livestock sub-sector and exacerbates degradation of the natural resource base. Rangelands occupy 400,000 ha (40%) of the country's total area, of which about 60% or 240,000 ha is used by pastoralists practicing transhumance[12]. Rangelands are often characterized by poor drainage, rocky topography and low soil fertility. While transhumance of livestock (particularly cattle) is practiced in order to increase access to pasture and water especially during the dry season, it also exposes livestock to increased incidence of disease. There is a high potential for improving rangeland resource management, as well as for improving production of feedstock through animal feedstock gardening, production of forage crops and utilization and preservation of crop residues.

Species diversity and threat status

31. Despite its small size, The Gambia harbours globally relevant biodiversity. The tidal estuary of The Gambia River extends to 150-200 km inland and is fringed with important mangrove stands as well as barren saline flats, mudflats, river banks with brackish and fresh water zones, lagoons, marshes, swamps, and other wetland habitats, which cover about 20% of The Gambia's total land area. The terrestrial vegetation consists of closed woodlands, open woodlands, gallery forests, and tree and shrub savannas, belonging to two major eco-regions: the relatively moist Guinean Savanna and the drier Sudanian Savanna. However, the status of both these terrestrial eco-regions is considered Critical/Endangered at the supra-national/regional level, and very few stretches remain in a natural state.

32. The national PA system integrates the principal habitats and ecosystems found in the country, including mangrove ecosystems, gallery forests, off-shore islands, littoral forests, tidal zones, as well as open and dense savannah woodlands. Three wetland PAs are designated under the RAMSAR Convention. Six PAs are recognised as Important Bird Areas. In addition, there are 66 gazetted and demarcated national forest parks covering 51,000 ha and managed by the Department of Forestry; another c. 150,000 ha of forest reserves exist of which 18,000 ha are under community management.

33. While this may not fully reflect the Gambia's original biodiversity, a total of 3,335 species have been recorded in The Gambia. These are listed in the grouped Table 2 below.

[12] Ministry of Agriculture (2010) *Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan (GNAIP).* Government of The Gambia

Table 2. Species recorded in The Gambia according to taxonomic group *(from NBSAP, op.cit.)*

TAXONOMIC GROUPS	SPECIES RECORDED
Plasmodium	1
Omycedes	4
Arachnids	7
Insects	784
Crustaceans	6
Molluscs	10
Echinoderms	1
Fishes	627
Amphibians	33
Reptiles	74
Mammals	125
Birds	566
Fungi	78
Ferns	12
Cycads	1
Conifers	1
Flowering plants	1,005
Total	**3,335**

34. Of the more than 1,000 plant species recorded, 124 are trees, and several are globally threatened or near-threatened taxa. These include the Dry Zone Mahogany *Khaya senegalensis* VU and Muninga *Pterocarpus erinaceus* NT.

35. In terms of animal species, 125 mammals, 576 birds, 74 reptiles, 33 amphibians, 627 fishes, 78 dragonflies and 173 butterflies have been recorded.

36. Of the bird species recorded in the Gambia, 10 are globally threatened (including six vulture species): Black Crowned-crane *Balearica pavonina* VU; Beaudouin's Snake-eagle *Circaetus beaudouini* VU; White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* EN; Rueppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppellii* EN; Marbled Teal Marmaronetta angustirostris VU; Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* EN; Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* EN; Secretary *Sagittarius serpentarius* VU; Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* VU; White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* VU. In addition, 13 Near-Threatened species : Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*; Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*; European Roller *Coracias garrulus*; Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*; Great Snipe *Gallinago media*; Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*; Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*; Denham's Bustard *Neotis denhami*; Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*; Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*; Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*; African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*; Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*.[13] Some 25% of Gambian bird species are Palaearctic migrants, with Gambia's wetlands being an important stepping stone of the East Atlantic Flyway and wintering ground.

37. Most resident large game animals have long been hunted to local extinction, such as the African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* in 1903, Lion *Panthera leo*, and even common species such as Buffon's Kob (*Kobus kob)* and Red River Hog (*Potamochoerus porcus).* 13 species of mammals had become locally extinct in recent times; and a similar number is considered to be threatened with local extinction. However, there are some significant differences between species. For example, while a negative trend has been noted for porcupines, Guinea fowls, bush bucks and antelopes, some of these trends have slowed recently[14] and a positive trend can be observed for monkeys, baboons, grass cutters, warthogs, bush fowls and hyenas.

38. A number of large mammals and other species of global significance do remain in small threatened populations; this includes Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* VU, Sitatunga *Taegelaphus spekei*, Leopard *Panthera pardus* NT (locally extinct or extremely rare and unlikely to breed in The Gambia), Red Colobus *Procolobus badius* EN (a keystone species in remnant gallery and riverine forest patches) and Guinea Baboon *Papio papio* NT. The Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes* EN was exterminated from The Gambia; however a rehabilitation programme exists for confiscated / orphaned chimps, which are placed in a special recovery facility

[13] http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country/gambia

[14] Sillah, J. (2007) *Ecology and Climate Change of the Mangrove Ecosystems of Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone*. IUCN

in River Gambia National Park for rehabilitation and eventual release. Some globally significant species such as the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin *Sousa teuszii* (VU, endemic to coastal and inshore waters of the eastern tropical Atlantic), African Dwarf Crocodile *Osteolaemus tetrapsis* VU and the African Manatee *Trichechus senegalensis* VU are dependent on the River Gambia and its associated mangrove wetlands. Mangrove and tidal influence areas serve as important spawning and nursery grounds for more than 114 species of fish. The Gambia is home to at least three species of marine turtles – Leatherback *Dermochelys coriacea* CR, Loggerhead *Caretta caretta* EN, and *Green Turtle* Chelonia mydas EN. Also the Monk Seal *Monachus monachus* CR has been recorded along the coast.

39. The Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* can be considered as a keystone species in fresh or temporary fresh water isolated areas. The Spotted Hyena can function as a keystone species on land almost everywhere except along the coastal fringe. Among the avifauna, the Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* can serve as a suitable flagship species for Palearctic migrants, and the Fin Foot *Podica senegalensis*, Pels Fishing Owl *Scotopelia pelii* and the Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambianus* are other suitable flagship species.

40. A few species such as Campbell's Monkey *Cercopithecus campbelli,* Roan Antelope, African Wild Dog and Lion do not have a resident population in The Gambia, but migrate seasonally from neighbouring countries.

Table 3. Status of some of Gambia's important wildlife

Scientific Name	Common Name	National Status	IUCN Global Status
Phacocherus aethiopicus	Warthog	Common	LC
Potamochoerus porcus	Red River Hog	Extinct	LC
Hippopotamus amphibius	Hippopotamus	Common	VU
Giraffa camelopardalisperalta	Giraffe	Extinct	LC at species level yet subspecies EN
Ourebia ourebi	Oribi	Rare	LC
Tragelaphus scriptus	Bushbuck	Common	LC
Tragelaphus spekii	Sitatunga	Rare	LC
Hippotragus equines	Roan Antelope	Rare vagrant	LC
Kobus ellipsiprymnus	Waterbuck	Rare (vagrant)	LC
Kobus kob	Kob	Extinct	LC
Canis adustus	Side stripe jackal	common	
Tragelaphus derbianus	Giant Eland	Extinct	LC at species level yet subspecies CR
Syncerus caffer	African Buffalo	Extinct	LC
Loxodonta africana	African Elephant	Extinct	VU
Trichechus senegalensis	African Manatee	Common	VU
Lycaon pictus	African Wild Dog	Extinct	EN
Aonyx capensis	African Clawless Otter	Rare	LC
Crocuta crocuta	Spotted Hyaena	Common	LC
Gazelle Rufifrons	Red fronted gazelle	Rare	
Panthera leo	Lion	Extinct	VU
Panthera pardus	Leopard	Rare	NT
Leptailurus serval	Serval	Common	LC
Caracal caracal	Caracal	Common	LC
Caracal aurata	African Golden Cat	Common	NT
Oryteropus afer	Aardvark	Common	VU
Gyps africanus	White-back vulture	Common	EN
Alcelaphus buselaphus	Hartebeest	Extinct	LC
Papio papio	Guinea Baboon	Locally Common	NT
Procolobus badius	Western Red Colobus	Common	EN
Galago senegalensis	Bush Baby	Common	LC
Erythrocebus patas	Patas Monkey	Common	LC
Chlorocebus sabaeus	Green Monkey	Common	LC
Osteolaimius tetrapsis	Africa Dwarf Crocodile	Endangered	EN
Philantomba maxwellii	Maxwell's Duiker	Rare	LC
Hystrix cristata	Crested Porcupine	Common	LC
Cricetomys gambianus	Northern Giant Pouched Rat	Common	LC
Caretta caretta	Loggerhead turtle	Endangered	EN
Dermochelys cariacea	Leatherback turtle	Endangered	EN

Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle	Endangered	EN
Monachus monachus	Monk seal	Rare	CR
Xerus erythropus	Striped Ground Squirrel	Common	LC
Heliosciurus gambianus	Gambian Sun Squirrel	Common	LC
Pan troglodytes	Chimpanzee	Extinct, being reintroduced	EN
Cercopithecus campbelli	Campbell's Monkey	Vagrant	LC

LC – Least Concern. NT – Near Threatened. VU – Vulnerable. EN – Endangered. CR - Critical.

1.2.3 The socio-economic environment

41. The Gambia gained independence on 18 February 1965 and attained republican status in April 1970. There are three arms of Government: the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature, headed by a President who, like the National Assembly members, is elected every five years. The Gambia is divided into eight Local Administrative Regions: Western Coast Region (headquarters in Brikama), Lower River Region (headquarters in Mansakonko), North Bank Region (headquarters in Kerewan), Central River Region South (headquarters in Janjangbureh), Central River Region North (headquarters in Kuntaur) and Upper River Region (headquarters in Basse). In addition there are two urban local government authorities (Banjul and Kanifing Municipality). For local level administrative purposes the country is further divided into 42 districts.

Demography

42. The population of The Gambia is 1.88 million[15]. At the last census in 2003 it was just over 1.36 million growing at 2.8% per annum. Between the 2003 and 2013 censuses the population grew at a rate of 3.33% as highlighted in Table 4 below. With this growth rate, the population is expected to double in 21 years. Given the small size of the country, The Gambia is one of the most densely populated countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with an average population density of 176 per km^2 in 2013. However, population density varies in different parts of the country ranging from a low of 51 per km^2 in the Lower River Region to 5058 per km^2 in the Kanifing area of Greater Banjul. In recent years high internal migration into Western Region and Greater Banjul has increased the uneven distribution of the population within the country. This is evidenced by the fact that while the population sex ratio is 50.5 female to 49.5 males for the country, there are more males in Banjul (54.2), Kanifing (50.3) and Brikama (50.2).

Table 4. Population growth in The Gambia[16]

Year	Total Population	Male	Female	Growth Rate (per annum)
1901	90,404	na	na	
1911	146,101	73,793	72,309	4.9
1921	210,611	111,020	99,591	3.7
1931	199,520	104,894	94,626	-0.5
1951	279,686	na	na	1.7
1963	315,486	160,849	154,637	1.0
1973	493,499	250,386	243,113	4.6
1983	687,817	342,134	345,683	3.4
1993	1,038,145	519,950	518,195	4.2
2003	1,360,681	670,841	689,840	2.8
2013	1,882,450	931,199	951,131	3.33

43. The population of The Gambia is made up of several ethnic groups. The largest of these are the Mandinka, who make up 33% of the total population, followed by the Fula (17%), Wolof (13%), Jola, Serahuli and Serere. The Gambia is predominantly Muslim, but there is a significant Christian community and indigenous beliefs are also practised.

44. The Gambia is one of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) ranking 172th out of 187 countries for 2013 according to the Human Development Index[17]. Poverty still remains a major challenge with nearly half of the

[15] Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2014) *The Gambia 2013 Population and Housing Census Preliminary Results*. Government of The Gambia
[16] Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2014) *Trends in Population Growth*. Government of The Gambia

population living on less than US$ 1.25 per day[18]. The Gambia, like many LDC, continues to face the difficult challenge of financing its development priorities without any exploitable natural resources except for the forestry, fishing and biodiversity sectors.

45. The Gambia has made significant strides in improving access to basic and secondary education through increasing the enrolment rate of pupils and addressing gender equality, with gender disparities eliminated in the early grades. Over 200 new schools have been built around the country over the past 10 years.

46. Health care delivery in The Gambia is inhibited by a number of challenges comprising inadequacy of facilities and services at the tertiary level, against a background of severe human resource shortages and lack of essential drug supplies. These, coupled with budgetary constraints and high levels of poverty, result in major bottlenecks in the health sector management.

Agriculture and natural resources in the economy

47. The Gambian economy is predominantly agrarian with agriculture accounting for nearly 30% of GDP and providing direct employment for about 63% of the country's population, primarily through smallholder subsistence agriculture. Agriculture is the main source of income for about 72% of the extremely poor rural households[19]. However, agricultural production is highly seasonal and rain-fed. Rainfall in The Gambia is erratic and lasts for only three months. Although endowed with adequate surface and underground water, the percentage of arable land under irrigation has been estimated at only between 3% and 6%[20].

48. Agriculture is largely dependent on climate sensitive resources and activities such as crop and livestock production, fisheries, energy and water resources[21]. Domestic crop production provides only 50% of the country's annual cereal needs and the remainder, rice in particular, is provided through commercial imports[22]. Agricultural production and productivity is generally low and this is attributed to the rapidly declining soil fertility, poor environmental conditions and the lack of appropriate technologies especially for women. Deforestation, biodiversity and habitat loss, are exacerbated by climate change and when coupled with low investment in agriculture, compound the numerous constraints faced by farmers. Consequently, the food produced lasts no more than six months for most smallholder farmers, leaving them in a state of food insecurity for the remainder of the year. All these factors pose serious challenges to the attainment of sustainable agriculture in The Gambia.

49. The Agriculture and Natural Resources sector employs 75% of the population and contributes about 30% to the GDP. However, the productivity of the sector is not fully utilized and is occasioned by continuous depletion of the natural resource base due largely to human activities. Access and ownership of land especially by women are faced with key challenges. Furthermore the unclear and sometimes conflicting tenure systems and frameworks hinder women from investing in land for the future. The farming system remains largely conventional and based on rain-fed subsistence production with high reliance on external inputs thereby compromising the resilience capabilities of the population. Low levels of knowledge, poor technology used (labour and time saving technologies), poor incentives and limited public investment in the sector, hinder youth participation and engagement in the sector.

Local government

50. Rural administration of the country is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Local Administration, Traditional Rulers and Lands, which supervises Governors at the Regional Headquarters, Head Chiefs (Seyfolu) at the District Headquarters, and Village Heads (Alkalolu) at the Village level.

51. There are three types of authorities within the Local Government System - Banjul City Council, Kanifing Municipal Council, and six Area Councils, one for each Region.

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[17] United Nations Development Programme (2014) *Human Development Report 2014 - Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience*. UNDP, New York

[18] Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2011) *Integrated Household Survey - Income and Expenditure Assessment 2010.* Government of The Gambia

[19] Government of The Gambia (2010) *The Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan (GNAIP- 2011-2015)*. Banjul

[20] World Food Programme (2011) *Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)*. Banjul

[21] United Nations Development Programme (2011) *United Nations Development Assistance Framework* (UNDAF 2012-2016). United Nations System in The Gambia

[22] World Food Programme (2012) *Daa Nyeeno: Food Security and Market Information Bulletin for The Gambia.* Volume 2, Issue 4. Banjul

52. A Council is composed of a majority of elected Councillors together with traditional and nominated members. The Regional Governor is the Council Chairman. Administrative responsibility for running the Council rests with the Town Clerk for Banjul City and Kanifing Municipality, and with a Local Government Officer for the Regional Councils.

1.2.4 Policy and institutional context for biodiversity management

53. The Gambia is adequately supplied with policies, legislation and regulations for the management of natural resources. In general, these align well with national strategic frameworks including The Gambia Incorporated Vision 2020, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the Program for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE 2012-2015) and other national and donor strategic frameworks. In harmony with the overall orientation of its 2020 Vision, the Government's macro-economic policy objectives can be summarized as:

- To improve the overall productivity of the agricultural and natural resource sector;
- To ensure a totally manageable population that will contribute fully to an accelerated socio-economic development;
- To foster rational use of the environmental resources for the benefit of the present and future generations; and,
- To correct public sector institutional failures to deliver necessary infrastructural and social services for effective private sector functioning through improved cost-efficiency, improved service quality and increased institutional responses capacity of the civil service and parastatal organizations.

54. The foregoing macro-economic policy objectives of Vision 2020 of 1996 provided the basis for the elaboration of sub-sectoral policies and strategies in the agriculture and natural resources sector and other sectors of the economy in pursuit of the overall goal of the Vision. The PAGE objectives are to assist The Gambia in its efforts to achieve the MDGs and the goals in the Vision 2020. The long term goal is to eradicate poverty by significantly increasing national income through sustained economic growth and reducing income and non-income inequalities through specific poverty reduction priority interventions. The implementation of PAGE revolves around five set pillars; the productive sectors of SLM are accounted for under pillar (1) while pillar (5) includes the environmental and social aspects of SLM.

Specific policies and legislation

55. The Gambia Environmental Act and Action Plan (GEAP-II, 2009-2015) serves as the national umbrella environmental framework, and calls for "*the protection of existing forest and vegetative cover…* [and the] *conservation of coastal wetlands*". Another important strategic document is the Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy (2009-2015) which lists the "*sustainable and effective management of natural resources*" among its four strategic objectives and has led to the strengthening of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Working Group (ANRWG) at the National Environment Agency (NEA). Likewise, the National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification in The Gambia (2000) is a comprehensive and integrated framework for addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of desertification, land degradation and drought. The National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA, 2007) recognises the need to promote and strengthen integrated management of the coastal and terrestrial zones and to preserve biological diversity and ecological assets. The Gambia Biodiversity Policy 2003 and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 1998) seek to "*discourage uncontrolled extension of agricultural land into …virgin forests, wetlands, marginal areas and other environmentally sensitive areas*" and "*develop sound grazing management system*".

56. The ANR Sector Policy Framework (2009-2015) gives the sector vision as: "*a sharpened focus on transformation of the sector from a* traditional *low output, subsistence economy with centralized structures, to a modern, market led sector with efficient value chains, diversified production base and effective decentralized structures and sustainable effective management of the natural resource base of the sector*". While the devolution of power to local government authorities is the subject of a policy enacted by the Local Government Act (2002), and it establishes a new decentralized local government system with more opportunity for the participation of civil society in decision-making at local level. These decentralized structures will improve natural resources management efficiency and outputs by ensuring coordination among interventions at regional, district, ward and village levels.

57. Among other relevant policies is the Medium-Term Soil Fertility Policy, with objectives to intensify measures to address erosion and land degradation through community-based integrated watershed management and to develop a land tenure system which will make land more accessible to farmers particularly women.

58. The current Forest Policy (2006-16) envisages that 30% of the total land area should be covered by forests, and that 75% of this should be sustainably managed either by communities or the state. The Forest Act (1998) which is under review (the 2010 draft Forest Bill is still to be approved) considers the Gambian Forest Management Concept (GFMC) as the model management concept for the sustainable management of forest reserves. The model aims to provide a comprehensive framework for enhanced implementation of sustainable forest management through community forestry. Gambia's Community Forestry Policy, developed with support from FAO, won silver in the 2011 Future Policy Awards as one of the world's most inspiring and innovative forest policies. However, this has not halted or reversed the continuing loss of forest cover in the country.

59. The latest Wildlife Policy of 2003 aims at increasing the proportion of protected areas to 10% of national land territory in recognition that biodiversity resources are an integrated live-support system for many Gambians and the resources contribute significantly to living standards. The policy provides the vision for the sector for the next 20 years and is in conformity with the maintenance of environmental sustainability and socio-economic transformation as targeted by the Vision 2020.

60. The main objectives of the Fisheries Policy (2009-2013) include an increase in fish supplies of at least 30% over present levels to meet food security needs of the country particularly the vulnerable populations; providing artisanal fisheries with appropriate advice; providing data and information on a continuous basis to improve policy, planning and investment in productivity in the sector; and providing appropriate legislation, guidelines and practices with adequate monitoring.

Key institutions

61. A number of institutions with responsibilities for biodiversity management exist principally under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water Resources, Wildlife and Parks; the Ministry of Fisheries; the Ministry of Agriculture; the Department of Forestry in the Office of The President and the Ministry of Regional Administration, Lands and Traditional Rulers. Each of these institutions interacts independently with the local government administrative structures at the divisional, district and village levels. As a means of enhancing integration of the efforts of these different sectors and to minimize conflicts of interest and duplication in resource use, the government has sought to institutionalize coordination at the policy, sectoral and operational levels. Current institutional mechanisms for coordination are:

- the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC)
- the National Water Resource Council (NWRC)
- the Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP) process and the National Environment Agency (NEA) Sectoral Working Groups
- the Divisional Coordinating Committees (DCC)
- Local Government Authorities (District Authorities)

62. The lead biodiversity management institutions are described briefly below. They are then included again in Table 9 which lists all key stakeholders and identifies the role they will play in the project.

63. The **Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM)**, of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife (MECCWW), has a mandate to: (1) protect and conserve The Gambia's remaining wild fauna as well as their natural environment for the present and future; (2) create educational and leisure facilities for present and future populations through prudent use of wildlife resources; (3) preserve archetypal natural examples of Gambian flora and fauna with the aim of preserving genetic diversity; (4) accumulate and dispense revenue, which has built up from the use of our wildlife resources to the Government as well as to nearby rural communities; and (5) inform the public about the value of conserving wildlife and get their acceptance of the need for wildlife conservation as a viable alternative to the use of land.

64. The operation and management of the sector is guided by the National Wildlife Policy of the Gambia (MECCWW, February 2013) which also espouses the vision for the sector for the next 20 years in conformity

with the maintenance of environmental sustainability and socioeconomic transformation as outlined in The Gambia's long-term development framework – The Gambia Incorporated Vision 2020[23].

65. The Department currently has a staff complement of 170 staff, 115 of which are on its permanent pay roll. Staff capacity includes a mere eight professionals who have attained Diploma level and two with a Masters qualification. This is a concern.

66. The **National Environment Agency** (NEA) is responsible for the implementation of the Gambia Environment Action Plan (GEAP), the main national policy framework for the sustainable management of the country's natural resources and the environment. It also has a regulatory function being responsible for directly enforcing environmental legislation. The GEAP calls for: (i) the protection of existing forest and vegetative cover; (ii) conservation of coastal wetlands; and (iii) reduction of land degradation and soil erosion in upland areas. The GEAP aims at integrating environmental concerns into the country's overall social and economic development strategy. It addresses three main areas - *i.e.* natural resources, energy and environmental health. It was developed and adopted in 1992/1993 in a highly participatory manner. As part of the GEAP, an Environmental Information System Strategy was developed within the NEA as the focal point to coordinate its implementation. This strategy has identified the need for up-to-date and reliable environmental information for decision-making and sustainable development planning across various sectors. Furthermore, the NEA is developing a land cover map and a land use planning tool on a GIS platform for sustainable environmental management.

67. While NEA has an oversight mandate for the environment, institutional responsibility for efforts to conserve and manage the country's natural resources cuts across a number of departments.

68. The **Department of Fisheries** administers the Fisheries Act which aims to provide the management of fisheries and development of the fishing industry in The Gambia. The Fisheries Regulations Act, 1995 similarly provides supports to management of both the artisanal and industrial fisheries subsectors. The sector plays a significant role in providing vital cheap and quality protein, about 40% of the total animal protein consumed in the country. It is also a major source of raw fish material for fish processing establishments operating in the country. In 2008, 190 tonnes were imported with a total CIF Value of USD 23,500 while exports amounted to 2,182 tonnes with corresponding CIF value of USD 1,700,000. The sub-sector has witnessed a huge expansion in the number of fisheries economic units (FEU) operating in the coast and along the river banks and estuaries. The number of canoes operating in the country increased from 1,299 in 1983 to 1,969 canoes in 1997. By 2006, an estimated 86% of canoes were motorized. Demersal fish species are experiencing increased fishing pressure while the abundant pelagic resources are grossly under-exploited. Aquaculture and industrial production remain largely under-developed. The Department currently has a staff complement of 90 including five professionals.

69. The **Department of Forestry**, under the Office of The President has the mandate to: (1) maintain forest resources through mapping, classification and programmes to encourage the public to prevent bush fires, make multiple use of forest land, plant trees and establish private plantations; (2) bring the most promising forestland, including mangroves, under active management by applied research, developing guidelines for sustainable forest management and assisting communities in the establishment of their management structures; (3) rehabilitate forestland and establish fast growing plantations and woodlots. The Department's operational management has recently shifted to a more participatory and partnership resource management approaches. In this regard it has been building alliances with related sectors, setting in motion some of the changes that are needed to meet the re-aligned programme direction. These changes include decentralization in line with the on-going Local Government Reforms (LGR) to divisional offices, adoption of a more integrated intervention process (Community Based Forest Resource Management) and the introduction of the forest communication concept and monitoring and evaluation unit to improve the level of knowledge about development issues and activities within the organisation for an effective forest resource management. The programme of the department focuses on State Plantations, Joint Forest Park Management, Forest Management & Protection, Community Forestry, Ecotourism, national tree planting & Farm Border Planting.

70. The **Department of Agriculture (DoA)** is the largest department within the Ministry of Agriculture, and the main interface with farmers. It comprised eight service units: the Communication, Education and Extension Services, the Food Technology Services (FTS), the Agricultural Engineering Services (AGS), the Agribusiness Services (ABS), the Plant Protection Services (PPS), the Horticultural Technical Services (HTS), and the Soil

[23] Government of The Gambia (1996) *Vision 2020, The Gambia Incorporated*. Banjul

and Water Management Services (see below). There are six agricultural regions[24] in which there is a Regional Agriculture Directorate headed by a Regional Agricultural Director who is supported by subject matter specialists in soil conservation, crop production, pests and diseases, communication, and food and nutrition. Each of the six agricultural regions is divided into districts in which the focal point for extension work is the District Extension Centre (DEC), supervised by a District Extension Supervisor (DES). The DES is responsible for supervising the work of the Village Extension Workers (VEWs) who operate from Village Extension Centres (VECs). Originally, DES provided only crop extension services but in recent years this has been broadened towards the concept of multi-disciplinary extension activities covering both crops and livestock. Two key service units: Soil and Water Management Services and Planning Services play pivotal roles in biodiversity management.

71. The **Soil and Water Management Services (SWMS)** is a specialized unit of the DoA responsible for addressing soil and water management and conservation issues, and is involved in field investigations and surveys, design and planning, and executing specific civil works under on-going projects. The SWMS has specialised sections responsible for: (i) engineering; (ii) soil and land evaluation; (iii) agronomy; (iv) mechanical operations; (v) cartography; and (vi) monitoring and evaluation. These sections together form the basis for a multi-disciplinary approach to soil and water conservation. The unit operates from its main office at Yundum with outstations at Jenoi and Sapu. During execution of projects it establishes and maintains temporary field stations.

72. The SWMS through its long-time engagement in soil conservation and water management on all forms of terrain in the country has gathered a wealth of experience enabling it to handle conventional soil and water conservation works of any magnitude. It was the key partner in LADEP implementation, and was judged (by AfDB) to have performed very well on engineering and community participation, and satisfactorily on soils and agronomic follow-up. The unit has collaborated with NGOs and other donor organizations like EDF, UNDP, FAO, etc, involved in land management activities for sustainable agricultural use. Since its establishment in the late 1970s, the unit has also been involved in lowland development activities using funds from USAID and GTZ. It has likewise undertaken erosion control and gully stabilization activities in the uplands through funding from USAID, EDF, NGOs, and projects such as PIWAMP and NEMA.

73. The **Planning Services Unit (PSU)** of the MoA provides policy advice to the Ministry and helps in identifying and preparing agricultural investment programmes and projects. It collects extensive agricultural data and its national agricultural data centre conducts national agricultural sample surveys and publishes a statistical yearbook of Gambian agriculture. In addition, it monitors ongoing investment operations and conducts selected evaluation studies. It has four sections namely: Project Planning, Policy Formulation, National Agricultural Statistics, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

74. The **National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)** has 12 research programmes and a network of experimental sites undertaking research activities into cereal crops, roots and tubers and agro-forestry. It cooperates closely with other national and sub-regional projects including: International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics; International Institute for Tropical Agriculture; Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development; and Africa Rice Centre.

75. The objectives of the **Department of Community Development (DCD)** within the Ministry of Local Administration, Traditional Rulers and Lands, are to promote participatory community self-help in the identification, planning, implementation, evaluation and management of programmes and projects that will better enable communities to address their basic social welfare needs. In particular DCD aims to support community development activities that contribute to livelihood diversification through income generating activities such as handicrafts, vegetable gardening and cottage industries using appropriate technologies that add value to locally available products. DCD also assists with developing/strengthening village and community level institutions so as to better facilitate their participation in decision-making, and to give them the skills needed to plan, implement and evaluate multi-sectoral projects of particular benefit to their communities. DCD supports the design of action-oriented proposals based on identified community needs, and then takes a proactive role in attracting government, NGO, bilateral and multi-lateral funding for such proposals. DCD covers the whole country through a network of divisional Community Development Officers, supported by district level Community Development Assistants.

[24] These correspond to the five Administrative Regions except for the Central River Region, which is divided into two agricultural divisions Central River North and Central River South.

1.2.5 Ecosystem functions and services

76. As noted above, forests and wetlands are two predominant ecosystem types in the Gambia. Forests are considered as one of the Gambia's primary natural resources offering a range of functions and services often determined by the dominant tree species within the forest. Wetlands constitute an important feature of the Gambian environment and they provide a vast array of ecosystem services, primarily in the context of food production. The importance of forests and wetlands for biodiversity, carbon and nutrient storage, water quality and quantity, soil conservation, forage production, in addition to their recreational importance, cannot be underestimated.

77. According to TEEB,[25] ecosystem services are the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being supporting human survival and quality of life. Ecosystem services from the Gambian terrestrial, estuarine and coastal environment are summarized in the following Figure.

Figure 2. Ecosystem services in the Gambia

SUPPORTING

Nutrient cycling: Natural processes, especially water, serve as agents for nutrient cycling; plants capture and store nutrients temporarily
Soil formation: Ecosystem processes generate and preserve soils and renew their fertility
Primary production: Forests, wetlands and mangroves serve as the basis of the food chain

PROVISIONING

Food: Small-scale agricultural land, forests, wetlands and estuarine areas provide food directly or indirectly by providing forage for other species which in turn serve as food for humans; insects serve as honey producers
Fresh water: Water provides life support, habitat, transport system
Wood and fibre: Forests (including mangroves), carefully managed for sustainability, provide wood and other traditional materials
Medicine: Forests provide traditional medicinal herbs and remedies
Habitat: Forests, wetlands and estuaries provide habitat for mammals, birds, insects and reptile species
Biodiversity: natural ecosystems maintain the viability of gene-pools, and biological diversity; natural agents disperse seeds

REGULATING

Climate regulation: Forests and other vegetation sequester CO_2, moderate weather extremes and impacts, and contribute to climate stability
Flood regulation: Vegetative land cover soaks up rainwater and mitigates flood events and run-off
Water purification: Riparian vegetation filters nutrients and other impurities from run-off water, providing waste management and detoxification
Erosion control: Forests and other vegetation bind soil and prevent erosion
Pest control: Birds control insect pests; some plants inhibit plant pests; natural systems regulate disease-carrying organisms

CULTURAL

Aesthetic: Forests, the coastal fringe, wetlands and other natural ecosystems provide a pleasing and appealing environment
Spiritual: Natural landscapes are mystical and inspirational. Places sacred in the traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual or mythological sense
Educational: Natural ecosystems serve as outdoor teaching laboratories; they provide for intellectual development
Recreational and tourism: The forests and various land formations provide opportunities for swimming, hiking and other outdoor pursuits. The natural environment attracts visitors (tourists)

1.3 Threats and impacts to the Gambia environment

78. The Gambia faces a number of highly inter-related challenges and pressures on its ecological resources, land and ecosystem services. Since land and natural resources provide livelihood support for an estimated 75% of the population, pressures from a high population growth rate are expected to increase and when coupled with drought and poor agricultural practices, they constitute a serious threat to both environment and livelihoods.

79. Already evident is the rate of deforestation which has been estimated at 5-7% per year; and soil erosion (by water and wind) which is estimated at 12.5 t/ha/yr[26] and affecting land throughout the country. Furthermore,

[25] The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). See http://www.teebweb.org/resources/ecosystem-services/

previously fertile land on the edge of the flood plain has been transformed into barren mudflats due to saline encroachment, evaporation and the drying of potential acid-sulphate soils. According to the GEAP[27], land degradation and desertification are the leading cause of environmental degradation in The Gambia.

80. Over the past decades, biological resources have been the subject of misuse and over-exploitation by people. Recent population trends have accelerated and deepened the process of over-exploitation and consequently the degradation of natural resources in The Gambia. Further destruction of indigenous woody tree species such as *Khaya senegalensis, Pterocarpus erinaceus, Cordila africana, Prosopis africana, Terminalia macroptera, Diosphyrus mespiliformis* and *Danielia oliver* is taking place in many parts of The Gambia. And, deforestation is in turn having a severe impact on large mammal species which are also subjected to heavy hunting pressure. The spread of agricultural activity and in particular the devastating cumulative effect of forest fires has resulted in the degradation of the natural vegetation and a reduction in both animal food and habitat.

81. Ecosystems are being degraded and species and genetic diversity are being lost at an alarming rate due to the impact of a growing human population with its increasing demands on resources. Many species have now become rare or locally extinct and a once biologically diverse country has in the last decades become much less diverse in terms of species and ecosystems. Over the period, the country has lost 13 species of mammals and an unknown number of plant species. Human population density coupled with the overall decline in annual average rainfall of 25-30% and increasing poverty have been the main driving force for environmental and natural resource degradation and loss of biodiversity.

82. Deforestation is rampant throughout the country, resulting primarily from the domestic demand for fuel and timber (for housing and fencing). Forests in the Gambia provide 85% of domestic energy needs in the form of fuel wood – with over 90% of the population dependent on biomass as fuel. Each Gambian uses 0.6 kg of firewood per day and in urban areas the per capita consumption of charcoal is 0.09 kg per day. The national fuelwood demand is estimated at around 242,370 tonnes[28] annually and certain species like *Pterocarpus* sp. (Rosewood) and *Prosophis* sp. (iron wood) are preferred for fuelwood and charcoal because of their high calorific value[29]. The volume of fuelwood available in the country according to a study by the Energy Division[30] in 2004 was about 88,000 m^3 and 60% of the demand has to be met through importation.

83. The high demand for domestic energy has resulted in indiscriminate tree felling without regard to their slow replacement. Species like *Combretum* and *Terminalia* are particularly threatened by cutting, burning, poisoning or lopping for branch wood in order to ensure a regular fuelwood supply to households and urban markets. As the population increased, the total forest cover decreased, firstly at an accelerating rate between 1946 and 1980 and then at a more constant rate from 1980 to the present day.

84. Table 5 below provides a summary of fuelwood trends from 1983 to an outdated projection until 2013. As can be seen, the standing stock, which is the forest cover, and the annual increment, are both depleting at a fast rate due to high population growth and increased demand. The seriousness of the situation is evident with the deficit steadily growing because the increment is declining.

Table 5. Fuelwood trend 1983-2013[31] in m^3

Description	1983	1993	2003	2013
Standing stock	16,620.0	11,049.5	7,652.2	4,576.4
Increment	302.0	272.0	153.0	95.2
Consumption	430.0	485.1	696.4	999.8
Deficit	128.0	213.1	543.4	909.6
Population	687,800	1,026,800	1,461,400	1,800,000

85. Illegal harvesting of thatch grasses and the cutting down of tree branches to collect wild fruit is another common and unsustainable method of natural resource utilization often perpetuated by cross-border poachers,

[26] Sillah, J (in press) *Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS) for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in The Gambia*. UNCCD (draft under review)
[27] National Environment Agency (2010) *Gambia Environment Action Plan (GEAP) 2009 – 2010*. Government of The Gambia
[28] Energy Division (2004) *Energy Division Report*. Government of The Gambia
[29] Department of Forests (1999) *Study on Forest and Wildlife Management*. Government of The Gambia
[30] Energy Division, *op.cit.*
[31] Department of Forests, *op. cit.*

e.g. in Bao Bolong on the north bank[32]. Shifting cultivation and itinerant farming practices enable a sizeable population to establish ownership over every single strip of land and this leads to further fragmentation of wildlife habitats and the destruction of migratory corridors. Illegal logging of timber and fuelwood is rampant in particular with the present economic consideration in wood re-export. Unregulated charcoal production activities demonstrate the increased dependency on natural resources by the population for their livelihood. Land tenure rights and the demand for land outside traditional farming areas are also steadily leading to the massive cutting down of forests and mangroves.

86. Hunting is an important economic and social activity in rural areas as bush meat forms an important part of the diet of the local population. However, hunting, which in most cases fails to observe breeding seasons, has had a catastrophic impact on wildlife numbers. Coming on top of the extensive habitat loss such as through deforestation, hunting is leading to local extinction. A common hunting method, whereby a large strip of forest is set on fire and a large congregation of hunters awaits emerging wildlife which is killed indiscriminately, destroyed both the habitat and the wildlife and has now been banned by the Banjul Declaration[33].

87. Unsustainable agricultural practices are also undermining ecosystem functions. Key among these is land conversion – unsustainable shifting cultivation, resulting in significance loss of critical ecosystems. Other related threats include clearance for agriculture due to high population pressure, unsound exploitative policies, bushfires, and illegal exploitation. In the 1970s/80s, large areas were cleared for groundnut cultivation particularly in the North Bank Region and specifically in the Niumis, Baddibus and Fulladu districts in the Central River Region[34]. The State of The Environment Report for The Gambia (1997)[35] revealed that the cultivable land area had extended into forest areas from 274,000 ha in 1980 to 336,200 ha in 1988. Rice is the main crop grown, but there are also rainfed millet, maize and sorghum - all grown for subsistence. Peanuts are also grown for cash and there is some vegetable production. Agricultural practice includes: high-input deep tillage that leaves top-soils exposed in the dry season; shifting cultivation (slash-and-burn) regimes that require the conversion and use of large areas; and, the widespread use of fire for preparing ground in the planting season. In fact, at least 80% of the standing biomass is consumed by bushfires in any given year, and up to 91% of the forest area is exposed to fire at least once every 2 years. This kills off any regeneration, retards the growth of most tree species and transforms the tree composition from mixed species to fire tolerant species[36]. Moreover, the introduction (in pursuit of food self-sufficiency) of newly developed dryland NERICA rice has compounded the pressure on natural ecosystems by creating a new incentive for slash-and-burn land conversion.

88. Excessive populations of free-ranging livestock (cattle, sheep, and especially goats) are leading to significant overgrazing. These pressures are exacerbated by the prevailing poverty and food insecurity and the rapid growth (2.3%) of the country's human population, which is amplifying demand for land and natural resources and shortening fallow periods in shifting cultivation regimes. The loss of natural ecosystems is particularly severe on the northern side of the River Gambia (North Bank Region) where many areas are already devoid of vital natural resources such as livestock forage and firewood. Of great concern is the projected worsening situation on the south side of the river.

89. Conservation in The Gambia still faces many challenges in the face of an increasing demand for environmental goods and products such as food, water, housing materials and lan. In the absence of any significant improvement in the livelihood of many rural Gambians, their continued exploitation of the natural resource base is inevitable and unsustainable and points to a grim future for biodiversity and its dependent human populations.

90. As a result of this widespread degradation, the country's protected areas, which retain an important share of natural resources, are experiencing huge and increasing pressures from the local population. There are increasing demands for wood extraction, wildlife hunting, slash-and-burn farming (with accidental wild fires) and the loss of mangroves.

91. The long-term solution will be to (a) establish effective PA management in the cluster of three PAs (JNP, BBWR, KWNP), for these to serve as a cornerstone for biodiversity conservation and safeguarding ecosystem

[32] Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (2007) *Bao Bolong Management report 2007*. Government of The Gambia
[33] Wildlife Unit (1977) *The Banjul Declaration*. Government of The Gambia
[34] Sillah, J. (1999) Forest Resources and Plantations in The Gambia. FAO
[35] National Environment Agency (1997) *State of The Environment Report for the Gambia, 1997*. Government of The Gambia
[36] Sillah, J (2014) *Natural Resources Management with Relevance to Biodiversity Degradation in The Gambia*. WWF

services, integrity and resilience in the Gambia; and (b) in parallel, reduce the pressures by applying community-based sustainable land and natural resource management in communities adjacent to PAs.

1.4 The Gambia's response – the Baseline Project

92. The Government has taken a number of steps, on its own and with assistance, to address these threats, firstly through expansion of the PA system and strengthening of management processes, and secondly through the gradual integration of sustainable land management practice with agricultural and rural development initiatives. Nine protected areas including one community managed reserve have been legally established in the Gambia, which together cover 64,276 ha – 6% of the national territory / land area. These PAs are managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) under the MECCWW. The national PA system integrates the principal habitats and ecosystems found in the country, including mangrove ecosystems, gallery forests, off-shore islands, littoral forests, tidal zones, as well as open and dense savannah woodlands. Three of the Gambia's protected areas are designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the RAMSAR Convention: Tanbi Wetland National Park, Niumi National Park and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve. Six are recognised by the Birdlife International Partnership as Important Bird Areas: Tanji, Tanbi, Abuko, Niumi, Bao Bolong and Kiang West; Tanji regularly surpasses the "1 percent of global population" criterion for Royal and Caspian Terns. In addition, there are 66 gazetted and demarcated national forest parks covering 51,000 ha and managed by the Department of Forestry. A further 150,000 ha of forest reserve exist of which 18,000 ha are under community management. The national goal is to increase the PA area to 10% by 2020 and there are also plans to declare 131,000 ha in the country's north-west a UNESCO Man & Biosphere Reserve.

Protected areas of the Gambia

#	Name	International designation	Date of gazettement	Location (Region)	Area (ha)
1	Abuko Nature Reserve	IBA	1968	West Coast	134
2	River Gambia National Park		1976	Central River	589
3	Niumi National Park	Ramsar, IBA	1986	North Bank	7,758
4	Kiang West National Park	IBA	1987	Lower River	11,526
5	Tanji River Coastal Bird Reserve	IBA	1993	West Coast	612
6	Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve	Ramsar, IBA	1996	North Bank	22,000
7	Tanbi Wetlands Complex National Park	Ramsar, IBA	2001	West Coast	6,304
8	Bolong Fenyo Community Reserve		2008	North Bank	325
9	Jokadu National Park		Under preparation	North Bank	15,028
				TOTAL (ha)	**64,276**
				National territory land and sea (ha)	1,125,900
				%	5.7%
				Land area (ha)	1,000,000
				%	6.4%

93. Over the five years of the project period, the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management will invest USD 625,000 of national resources into PA management, research and development, environmental education and the promotion of ecotourism. WWF Gambia will invest USD 400,000 in improving the governance of marine and coastal resource management, and will continue to support capacity strengthening of DPWM and community livelihoods around selected PAs. The National Environment Agency (NEA) and its Agricultural and Natural Resources Working Group (ANRWG) will continue to coordinate cross-sectoral integration, with an estimated baseline investment of USD 100,000.

94. It must be recognized that a number of regional initiatives are also working towards enhancing the effectiveness of PA management in The Gambia. These include the Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM), which is a joint effort by IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International and the International Foundation for the Banc d'Arguin (FIBA, recently dissolved and integrated into its mother MAVA Foundation), in partnership with the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP). The PRCM is active in seven West African countries including Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone, and currently boasts a membership of more than 90 partner institutions including government departments, research centres, professional organisations, and NGOs. The PRCM provides a focused and

integrated regional dynamic for environmental governance including a broad spectrum of stakeholders from across the ecoregions.

95. PRCM, in partnership with the MAVA Foundation, supported Phase II of the Integrated Coastal and Marine Project (ICAM, 2009-2011), which supported oyster hunters in Tanbi Wetlands Complex and successfully implemented village banking and women's gardening in Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve. PRCM, in partnership with FIBA, also supported park committee meetings as well as marine surveillance and patrolling within Niumi National Park, Tanbi Wetlands National Park and Tanji Bird Reserve. The Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO) supports effective management of coastal and marine PAs in PRCM countries, providing guidance, support and resources for PA management planning, PA business planning, ecological gap analyses and eco-regional planning. RAMPAO, inter alia, facilitated the preparation of a report on Sacred Natural Sites and Biodiversity Conservation in the Gambia.

96. With regard to sustainable land management, the baseline domestic budget allocation over the 5-year project period is estimated at about USD 16-17 million. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) receive about 2.7% (about USD 5.6 million) and 0.1% (about USD 200,000), respectively, of the annual government budget, and it is estimated that some 5% of MoA and 20% of NARI budgets are linked to SLM.

97. More importantly in terms of scale are a plethora of donor-funded rural/agricultural/livestock development projects implemented through the MoA, which focus on productivity increases, agricultural technologies and processing, access roads to markets and rice fields, small livestock promotion, vegetable gardens, water management and irrigation. This includes, most notably, the *National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project,* known as NEMA, and worth USD 64.9 million. NEMA is financed mainly by IFAD and the Islamic Development Bank and executed through the MoA Soil and Water Management Services. The objective of NEMA is to increase rural incomes by improving the productivity of farming. This is to be achieved by purposeful investments in public economic infrastructure including water control structures, access roads and markets, developing vegetable gardens, adding new lowland rice production areas and facilitating controlled tidal irrigation, coupled with the capacity of farmers to manage productive assets within their watershed and achieve better agricultural commercialisation. An estimated 25% of NEMA's USD 64 million are earmarked for SLM and the present project will be working in close cooperation with NEMA in its efforts towards SLM.

98. The *Forest & Farm Facility* (FFF) Phase 2 Project was launched in 2012 with an estimated USD 700,000 for the Gambia. It is hosted by NEA/ANRWG and involves FAO, the World Bank, IUCN and IIED working on sustainable farm and forest management, mainly by supporting the Department of Forestry in the designation and setting up of additional community forests, wood lots and orchards. However, past rural/ agricultural/ livestock development projects, including those that had SLM as part of their objectives, have delivered only marginally on environmental sustainability aspects – and have to date largely ignored biodiversity and protected area considerations.

99. The following table provides a summary of the current baseline activities and investments in response to the threat of environmental degradation.

Table 6. Baseline activities and investments

BASELINE ACTIVITIES	COORDINATION / IMPLEMENTATION	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET (in USD)
PA management, research and development, environmental education and the promotion of ecotourism	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management	National budget	625,000
Improving governance of marine and coastal resource management; support capacity strengthening of DPWM and community livelihoods around selected PAs	WWF Gambia	INGO	400,000
Coordination and cross-sectoral integration	National Environment Agency (NEA)	National budget	100,000
Gambia Biodiversity Management and Institutional Strengthening Project	DPWM	World Bank/GEF	950,000
Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM)	IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International, International Foundation for the Banc d'Arguin	INGO	284,000

	(FIBA), Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP)		
Project supporting oyster gatherers in Tanbi Wetlands Complex; and providing village banking and women's gardening in Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve	PRCM with MAVA Foundation - Phase II of Integrated Coastal and Marine Project (ICAM, 2009-2011)	INGO	350,000
Supporting committee meetings, marine surveillance and patrolling within Niumi NP, Tanbi Wetlands NP and Tanji Bird Reserve	PRCM with FIBA	INGO	112,000
Supporting effective management of coastal and marine PAs, providing guidance, support and resources for PA management planning, business planning, ecological gap analyses and eco-regional planning; facilitate preparation of a report on Sacred Natural Sites and Biodiversity Conservation in the Gambia	Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO)	INGO	95,000
Aims to address interlinked problems of rural poverty, food insecurity and land degradation; improve livelihoods by promoting community-based watershed/landscape management approaches, enabling resource-poor communities to reverse declining land productivity and overcome the causes and negative impacts of land degradation on the structure and functional integrity of lowland and upland ecosystem resources. It supports farmer-centred conservation agriculture validation trials and demonstrations of tree planting, reafforestation, upland conservation, anti-salinity dykes, inter-village roads, anti-hippo dykes and the establishment of an SLM Investment Framework – GAMSIF – for strategic planning, prioritisation and implementation of targeted investments. The main outputs of the project include operational national and regional level Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Platforms comprising a multi-level partnership of stakeholder institutions promoting SLM;	Ministry of Agriculture	National budget	1,400,000
		GEF	4,400,000
20% of NARI core budget is estimated to be linked to research on Sustainable Land Management initiatives and food security issues. This initiative is more directed to soil enrichment trials such as agro-forestry and farm border plantings	National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)	National budget	40,000
National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA) - investments in water control structures, access roads and markets, developing vegetable gardens, adding new lowland rice production areas, facilitating controlled tidal irrigation, enhance farmers capacity to manage productive assets within their watershed and achieve better agricultural commercialisation	Ministry of Agriculture, Soil and Water Development Unit	IFAD, Islamic Dev Bank	16,000,000
Forest & Farm Facility (FFF) Phase 2 project - designation and setup of additional community forests, wood lots and orchards	NEA/ANRWG	FAO, World Bank, IUCN, IIED	700,000
Food and Agricultural Sector Development Project (FASDEP)- upland soil and water conservation, agro-forestry, livelihood improvement through support to horticulture, livestock and aquaculture enterprises	Ministry of Agriculture	GAFSP	28,000,000
West African Agricultural Productivity Project (WAAPP-1C) - strengthening research and extension through capacity building and infrastructure support, support to farmer organizations and livelihood improvement	Ministry of Agriculture	WB	12,000,000
MDG 1C - investment in water control infrastructure for rice and vegetables, provision of production inputs (fertilizers and seeds), improved access to extension services, investment in post-harvest machinery and enhanced market access	Ministry of Agriculture	EU FAO	7,000,000
Gambia Commercial Agriculture and Value chain management project (GCAV)-investment in livelihood improvement through enhanced value chain management in rice and vegetables, access roads	Ministry of Agriculture	WB	16,000,000
Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Areas and communities to climate change programme-reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities to flooding, erosion and climate change	National Environment Agency	GEF/UNDP	8,900,000

100. The total value of the above baseline is estimated to be **USD 97,356,000**. Of this, GEF provided USD 14,250,000.

1.5 Remaining challenges and outstanding gaps

101. In spite of the response by The Gambia to the threats and impacts on biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystem services, many challenges remain and help is required to overcome barriers which are impeding effective PA management and sustainable land and natural resource management in the targeted areas.

102. Without additional help, PA management will remain absent or exceedingly weak in an important subset of the country's PA system, most notably on the northern side of the River Gambia, where pressures on terrestrial and wetland PA resources are becoming critical. This locality comprises the newly-designated Jokadu National Park (JNP) which will remain without surveyed demarcation, without park infrastructure and with no management planning. It also includes the Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR), which is demarcated but will remain with inadequate staffing, infrastructure, equipment and planning. The two PAs, which are separated by a 10 km gap, will become disconnected due to increasing habitat loss between them. In addition, further loss of terrestrial and wetland ecosystem services on the north shore will lead to an increase of cross-river exploitation pressures in Kiang West National Park (KWNP) on the opposite southern shore of the River Gambia. KWNP benefited from relevant investments in the past through a series of projects and is arguably the best managed PA in The Gambia. But it is also the only PA in The Gambia harbouring significant stretches of natural terrestrial habitats (including forests) and is therefore under mounting pressure from logging and conversion pressures that the current management capacity and infrastructure (39 ill-resourced local rangers) cannot wholly stem. Lastly, under the baseline scenario, the institutional capacity of the relevant ministerial departments will remain too limited to develop and implement viable alternatives to the continuing degradation of the natural resource base of The Gambia's PAs. This is in spite of the ongoing (but soon closing) DPWM/World Bank/GEF Gambia Biodiversity Management and Institutional Strengthening Project.

103. Under the baseline scenario, on the north side of the river, land conversion is expected to move down towards the river, to the BBWR's river-border woodlands, mangroves and wetlands; and to extend into the remaining natural ecosystems in JNP. On the southern shore, KWNP and the surrounding areas of semi-natural ecosystems will suffer increased exploitation and conversion pressures. The protected areas in place will not be able to stem these pressures and further habitat fragmentation and degradation can be expected. In parallel, large-scale agricultural/rural development initiatives – most notably NEMA – will continue to advance productivity without duly considering environmental sustainability, biodiversity and protected area aspects. While this may lead to short-term gains in community livelihoods and food security, it does not respond adequately to the severe and ongoing deterioration of the natural resource base, and will not help reduce the exploitation and development pressures that local communities exert on biodiversity and the integrity and connectivity of the protected area system.

104. In summary, the barriers that stand in the way of successful protection and management of biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystem services in The Gambia, are:

105. **Inadequate PA network planning**. The national PA network and prioritisation of investment are not based on adequate ecological information and ecological monitoring; also ecological conservation information is not kept in a rigorous manner. Moreover there is no adequate central business or financial planning for the PA system, which links to the next point.

106. **Insufficient financing for the national PA system**. The financial resources available for PA management in The Gambia, including in the targeted PAs, remains insufficient. This is in spite of the search into potential financing options and financial mechanisms carried out by the recently closed DPWM/World Bank/GEF *Gambia Biodiversity Management and Institutional Strengthening Project*.

107. **Inadequate PA operationalisation**. Although the DPWM conducted consultations and the PA has been welcomed by local communities, JNP is not yet fully gazetted, not demarcated, and not yet equipped with formally adopted management plans and management structures. BBWR has long been gazetted and a management plan has been developed, but the PA is not yet demarcated on the ground and provided with only very basic village-level PA headquarters and only 28 poorly trained and equipped local rangers. KWNP is arguably the best managed PA in the Gambia having received repeated project investments since its establishment in 1991, leading to full on-the-ground demarcation around its perimeter, the construction of PA headquarters and related facilities and housing, the development of a full management plan and business plan, and access points staffed with 39 local rangers; but as indicated above, this is still inadequate to stem increasing pressures.

108. **Small size of PAs, edge effects and risk of fragmentation**. The PAs in the Gambia are small, accessible from many sides and surrounded by numerous communities. Through the increasing degradation of ecosystems between PAs, these are also exposed to increasing habitat fragmentation. This calls for the inclusion of further PA areas and of corridors into the national PA network/system, including through an

assessment of gaps, risks and opportunities, e.g. related to the national forest parks and community-based forest reserves.

109. **High resource exploitation and land conversion pressures** from surrounding communities due to the perceived lack of alternatives, poor capacity and consequential poor land and natural resource management **practices**, which include the use of fire for land clearing and the traditional value of large livestock herds. These are key community-related barriers. Relations of DPWM with communities are excellent, however, and in PAs that are operational (such as KWNP), ecosystems are still in a much better condition than outside, reflecting the effectiveness of interventions even at prevailing relatively modest levels. It is important to note that poverty as such is not a key driver/barrier – in fact, biodiversity pressures are highest in those areas where rural **populations** have graduated to a more mechanised agriculture that provides them with better income, yet at the same time has led to severe resource depletion in the wider landscape with consequent pressures on PA resources.

110. **Limited integration of environmental sustainability** (especially biodiversity, protected areas, sustainable natural resource use – but even sustainable land management practices) into the majority of rural/agricultural development programmes/projects; this is reflected in the type of investments commonly undertaken and largely linked to (a) the productivity and mechanised-agriculture focused training and focus of responsible professionals; (b) limited contribution of credible SLM and biodiversity specialists in agricultural programmes/projects and related planning; and (c) ineffective cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms. This has already in the past led to a misalignment of agricultural development actions with PA management concerns (such as the promotion of rice terraces in critical wetlands in PA core zones; or the promotion of NERICA dryland rice leading to further forest degradation through slash and burn practices).

111. It is these barriers that the project will aim to address.

2 STRATEGY

2.1 Project rationale and policy conformity

2.1.1 The GEF alternative – incremental reasoning

112. As noted above (section 1.4) the Gambia's response to the identified threats and barriers has been a significant investment of over USD 97.5 million. However, the response has left some gaps which can be remedied through the increment provided by the GEF for the present project. This increment, from GEF Trust Fund resources, added to the co-financing baseline, constitutes the GEF Alternative. The table below summarizes the baseline, notes the gaps remaining, lists the project activities which will address the gaps and notes the global environmental benefits.

Table 7. Project activities addressing remaining challenges incremental to the baseline

CURRENT SITUATION - REMAINING GAPS	ALTERNATIVE PUT IN PLACE BY PROJECT	SELECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
Gambia PA system in place and slated for expansion, but subject to various constraints to effective management: - DPWM partly disconnected from relevant decision making in other biodiversity-relevant departments and projects such as on rural/ agricultural development and forestry; - PA management absent or exceedingly weak in an important subset of the country's PA system, including KWNP, BBWR and the newly-designated JNP, lacking capacity both for enforcement and for building community-based agreements; - PAs small, exposed to edge effects and fragmentation through further habitat loss in the wider landscape; - Insufficient PA financing; - High natural resource exploitation and land conversion pressures from surrounding communities, leading to: (i) rampant deforestation, in remaining forests/woodlands but also in river-border mangrove wetlands, to provide for domestic wood/ charcoal-based energy and housing/ fencing needs; (ii) slash-and-burn shifting cultivation, and the widespread use of fire; (iii) uncontrolled grazing by and forage collecting for livestock (cattle, sheep, and especially goats). Under the baseline scenario, PA management will remain exceedingly weak on the northern side of the River Gambia, where pressures on terrestrial and wetland PA resources are becoming critical. The newly-designated Jokadu NP will remain without demarcation on the ground, park infrastructure or management planning; and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve will remain without adequate staffing, infrastructure/ equipment or planning. The two PAs, separated by a 10 km gap, will become disconnected due to habitat loss. There will be an increase in cross-river pressures in	Strengthening management effectiveness in the three PAs to address existing and emerging threats to global and local ecosystem and biodiversity values. 10,000 ha expansion to the east and west of KWNP; 5,000 ha expansion of JNP that will connect it to BBWR. Basic PA offices, adequately equipped and staffed, in JNP and BBWR. Institutional and technical capacities - planning, administration, conflict resolution, monitoring, enforcement, etc.). Demarcation of on-the-ground boundaries of JNP and BBWR, as well as of the newly added PA areas. Following community consultations, multi-year PA management plans will be prepared or updated to provide: zonation and related regulations; sustainable use of natural resources by local communities; PA governance, including co-management and conflict resolution mechanisms; effective law enforcement governing natural resource exploitation and wildlife poaching; basic ecological monitoring systems. Revised PA Programme of Work and Action Plan will determine relevant ecological representation gaps, and assess the forest park estate to identify sites that merit biodiversity conservation; consider climate change scenarios and biodiversity adaptation measures. With a focus on the communities surrounding the three PAs (farmers and their households, totalling an estimated 70,000 people), working closely with MoA's NEMA Project, introduce biodiversity-friendly sustainable land and natural resource management practices, to reduce pressures such as unsustainable wood extraction, land conversion for shifting cultivation and the incidence and severity of fires, that these communities exert on the targeted PAs. Restore vital resources into production landscape matrix, improve natural ecosystem integrity and connectivity. Establish nurseries and plant suitable fruit, forage, firewood and multi-purpose trees and vegetation; pilot	- National PA system expanded from 64,276 ha to 79,276 ha (+23%). - Improved management effectiveness of the 3 targeted PAs (JNP, BBWR, KWNP), covering 63,554 ha after expansion. - Extent and quality of globally relevant natural habitats, especially closed forests as well as wetlands frequented by resident and migrant bird species, maintained or improved. - Population status of several globally significant species maintained or increased, e.g. Dry Zone Mahogany, Muninga, Red Colobus. - Improved land and natural resource management by local communities inside and in buffer of targeted PAs, resulting in a reduction of: unsustainable wood/ mangrove extraction; land conversion for shifting cultivation; and incidence and

Kiang West NP - mounting exploitation (logging) and conversion. Institutional capacity of relevant departments will remain too limited to develop and implement viable alternatives to the continuing degradation of the natural resource base of PAs. Land conversion on the north side of the river will move to the BBWR's woodlands, mangroves and wetlands and extend to the west into the remaining natural ecosystems in JNP. On the opposite southern shore, KWNP and surrounding areas will suffer increased exploitation and conversion pressures. There will be further habitat fragmentation and degradation. Large-scale agricultural developments (NEMA) will continue to advance productivity without due consideration of environmental sustainability, biodiversity and PA aspects. While this may lead to short-term gains in community livelihoods and food security, it does not respond adequately to the severe and ongoing deterioration of the natural resource base, nor will it help reduce exploitation and development pressures that local communities exert on biodiversity and the integrity and connectivity of the protected area system.	conservation tillage agriculture; establish inter-cropping regimes and nutrient-rich plants and hedges in degraded farmland; establish agro-forestry regimes and village woodlots and shelter belts; revisit fire and grazing practices; replant mangroves in degraded wetlands; pilot new salt-tolerant wet rice varieties to reduce land conversion for dry rice production; promote and distribute fuel efficient stoves; and increase bee farming and horticulture. Agreements with local communities will form the basis of these community-based interventions. Implementation plans to define: the rights and responsibilities of communities and the project, and areas where community interventions will be implemented; prescriptions for suitable biodiversity-friendly NRM and SLM practices; resource-sharing mechanisms; extension support; monitoring and compliance mechanisms. A monitoring system will provide relevant and science-based information on the state of natural resources of national and global significance and socio-economic conditions in the target areas. The project will catalyse the integration of biodiversity and PA aspects as well as of SLM and NRM into the large-scale agricultural and rural development NEMA project.	severity of wild and forest fires. - Protection and restoration of forest cover, habitat integrity and connectivity across the targeted PA cluster, and of ecosystem goods and services within PAs, including: wood, fish and oyster stocks, fish recruitment zones, biodiversity habitat, tourism attractions, soil protection, water provision (quality and quantity), carbon sequestration.

2.1.2 Project sites

113. This project will contribute to the national goal of increasing the PA area to 10% by adding some 15,000 ha to the protected estate, increasing the national total PA coverage to 7.4%. It will do this in a focus area comprising three nearly contiguous PAs (bisected by the River), namely Kiang West National Park (KWNP), Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR) and the newly-designated Jokadu National Park (JNP). This "hub" of protected areas experience similar problems relating to threats and pressures of degradation but they differ in frequency and magnitude. All suffer bushfires, illegal tree felling, agricultural encroachment, overgrazing, illegal hunting, salinization of riverine wetlands and mangrove die-back, and these problems are exacerbated by increasing population pressure and widespread poverty. These project sites will serve as a cornerstone for biodiversity conservation and for safeguarding ecosystem services, integrity and resilience in The Gambia. In parallel, they will also serve to demonstrate community-based sustainable land and natural resource management in localities adjacent to PAs.

2.1.2.1 Kiang West National Park

The park

114. Kiang West National Park (11,526 ha) was established in 1987 to provide for the protection, conservation and management of the ecological integrity, diverse wildlife, natural habitats and natural heritage resources and to offer opportunities for economic, recreation, education and scientific purposes. It lies on the southern bank of the River Gambia and comprises vast areas of semi-natural ecosystems and one of the most important remaining reservoirs of wildlife in The Gambia today. The park is on a low-lying plateau which supports a few areas of closed-canopy, yet otherwise largely degraded, dry deciduous Guinea woodlands, particularly around the western part; and a degraded savannah dominated by open *Combretum* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus* woodland with occasionally taller trees such as *Adamsonia digitata* and *Ceiba pentandra* and a layer of *Andropogon* grasses. The PA is a good representation of the Gambian ecosystems / ecoregions, with the upland ecosystems on the southern and western borders and wetlands and mangrove swamps on the north and east. Although the major part of the park is Guinea woodland and savannah, there are extensive stretches of mangrove creeks and tidal flats.

115. The River Gambia, the main source of surface water, is tidal and saline in this area throughout the year, consequently, the bolongs in the area, such as Jarin, Jali and Nganingkoi bolongs are also tidal and saline throughout the year. Towards the river, the plateau is cut by the tidal inlets of bolongs which are heavily vegetated with mangrove stands comprising *Rhizophora racemosa, Avicennia africana, Rhizophora mangle* and *Laguncularia racemosa*. Here there is a typical zonation from *Mitragyna inermis, Acacia seyal* woodland to saltmarsh. There are several small watering holes below the escarpment and beyond these are saltmarsh, mangrove and narrow tidal mudflats.

116. Kiang West National Park was the first protected area in the Gambia to have a formal management plan, prepared in 1992 and is considered to be the best managed PA in The Gambia. It now also has a business plan. The park infrastructure development was supported by an ANR USAID project, which was phased-out in 1994. However, it has been well demarcated and basic infrastructure such as headquarters and office complex with education centre do exist, as well as forest infrastructure and fire lines. The staff complement is the highest in the Gambia with about 37 in total, however, they are ill-equipped. Public cooperation has been achieved through the establishment of an active management committee formed from the surrounding communities together with the DPWM.

Conservation values

117. The park is one of the foremost wildlife reserves in the country and offers a significant natural habitat for species such as the Caracal, Serval, Bushbuck, and Common Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia*. Other recorded mammals include the African Clawless Otter, Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus*, Spotted Hyaena, Warthogs, and African Manatee. African Manatees and Bottlenose and Atlantic Humpback Dolphins are sometimes observed around the northern side of the park along the river. Roan Antelope are mainly periodical visitors from southern Senegal. The Park has the largest concentration of primates in the Gambia. These include Guinea Baboon, Green Monkeys, Red Patas, Red Colobus and Bush Baby. Leopards are also reported in the area.

118. Over 250 bird species have been recognized in KWNP, which is listed as an Important Bird Area. The park is a stronghold of Sudan–Guinea Savanna biome species such as *Myrmecocichla albifrons*, *Cisticola dorsti*, *C. rufus*, *Emberiza affinis* and *Plocepasser superciliosus*, all of which have restricted distributions in The Gambia. It is also probably important for species dependent on closed-canopy savanna woodland such as *Campephaga phoenicia* and *Coracina pectoralis*. The park is notable for its diversity of raptors including *Terathopius ecaudatus*. The mangrove forests hold an important population of *Poicephalus robustus*. There are generally low numbers of waterbirds on the bolons and riverbank. IBA trigger species are Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*, Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*, Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvine*, Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*, Yellow Penduline-tit *Anthoscopus parvulus*, Pied-winged Swallow *Hirundo leucosoma*, Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*, Dorst's Cisticola *Cisticola guinea*, Rufous Cisticola *Cisticola rufus*, Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*, Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardii*, Purple Glossy-starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*, Bronze-tailed Glossy-starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*, White-fronted Black-chat *Myrmecocichla albifrons*, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*, Bush Petronia *Petronia dentata*, Heuglin's Masked-weaver *Ploceus heuglini*, Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera*, Lavender Waxbill *Estrilda caerulescens*, Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*, Brown-rumped Bunting *Emberiza affinis*, Bearded Barbet *Pogonornis dubiu*. There are 21 species of birds of prey, including eagles, falcons, hawks and vultures. Keystone species include the Black-bellied Bustard (*Eupodotis melanogaster*), Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) and Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*). The park's reptile species include the Royal Python (*Python regius*), African Rock Python (*Python sebae*), Western Hinge-back Tortoise (*Kinixys belliana nogeuyi*), Nile Crocodile, Nile Monitor (*Varanus niloticus*), Puff Adder (*Bitis arietans*), Spitting Cobra (*Naja nigricollis*), Green Mamba, Olive Sand Snake, Bush Snake, Wolf Snake, Night Adder and Armitage Skink. West African (Mud) Terrapin also occurs in the flooded area adjacent to the bolongs.

Communities

119. Only five villages (total population just under 5,000) are located near the park boundary around its eastern, western and southern periphery. The village structure is more or less the same as in other Gambian settlements with all development issues taken care of by the Village Development Committee (VDC).

Table 8. Population distribution of the five villages (source: Gambia Bureau of Statistics)

Village	Population		Total Population
	Male	Female	
Batelling	189	214	403
Dumbutu	730	397	1,127
Bajana	444	242	686
Kuli Kunda	528	287	815
Jali	1137	642	1,779
Total			**4,810**

120. These communities comprise subsistence farmers and community-based fishermen. The main crops cultivated are rice, maize, sorghum and groundnuts. In recent years, water melon and beans were also intensively cultivated as additional cash crops together with firewood collection. The area is heavily populated with livestock, both cattle and small ruminants. Horticultural activities are practiced by women, mainly during the dry season, still employing traditional farming systems and tools such as animal traction and hoes. Another important activity is fishing and the fishermen living within villages around the park use a variety of small scale fishing gear. Catches are sold at the village market or used for home consumption.

121. All communities complained of low yield of all crop types with a reduction of up to 40% for most crops and up to 60% for rice in some areas compared to 10 years ago. The main reasons advanced were land degradation, low soil fertility, soil erosion, drought, limited labour availability due to rural-urban drift and destruction of crops by wild animals. Increasing agricultural production on a sustainable basis therefore is a buffer towards future encroachment into the park in search of farmland as a result of unsustainable and inadequate farming systems/resource management.

122. Tourism is well established in the area at the adjacent Tendaba Camp with natural and cultural attractions. The re-introduction of certain animal species may be possible and will create an added attraction for visitors.

Main threats

123. Fire is a major threat to the ecological resources as well as to the communities. As a result, there are strict laws and a high level of sensitization, awareness raising and cooperation to counter the threat of wildfires. In addition, an increased effort is required on the part of PA management to reduce the fire risk and raise public awareness further on both the effects of bush fires and the legal implications.

124. KWNP is the only PA in Gambia harbouring significant stretches of natural terrestrial habitats (including forests) and is therefore under mounting exploitation (from logging) and conversion pressure. The PA already serves as an important grazing area for livestock, rice cultivation and beekeeping with the periphery utilized for crop cultivation.

2.1.2.2 Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve

The reserve

125. Bao Bolong is a tidal wetland complex located on the north bank of the Gambia River, across the river from KWNP. It extends from the river to The Gambia's northern border with Senegal and offers the potential for bilateral cooperation on biodiversity. It consists of six major bolongs (tributaries) between Salikeni and Katchang villages. Together they form a wetland complex of approximately 22,000 ha.

126. The Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR) was declared in 1996. It is protected by the Wildlife Conservation Act and the Banjul Declaration, both of 1977 and it has been designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. However, it is not officially gazetted to date and awaits better definition of its proposed boundaries. It has no physical demarcation on the ground.

127. Until 1997 there were no DPWM staff assigned to the area, activities within the area were uncontrolled and there was evidence of degradation through unlicensed hunting, timber extraction and uncontrolled burning. The initial emphasis of the DPWM staff was on establishing co-operation with communities utilizing the wetland

for farming, grazing and fishing activities. This was a similar management structure to that successfully employed in Niumi National Park and Kiang West National Park whereby a management committee is formed from the peripheral communities in conjunction with the DPWM. Strict laws against bush fires were among the early measures put in place.

Conservation values

128. Bao Bolong is a freshwater tributary of the Gambia River that originates 50 km north of the international border and is a permanent watercourse in an otherwise semi-arid region of Senegal. Its ecological significance lies in the diversity of wetland and terrestrial ecosystems. The shallow valley of the bolon is bordered with extensive tall swamps of *Cyperus*, *Scirpus* and *Andropogon* species and a few square kilometres of *Phragmites karka*. Further from the channel are seasonal fresh/brackish marshes which, during the rains, are a mosaic of shallow pools and low-growing Gramineae and Cyperaceae. To the west of the Bolon are extensive, sparsely vegetated saline mudflats, shallow lakes and inlets of the Gambia River. On raised ground are islands of scrub and open woodland. Further south, within the river's tidal influence, are open *Avicennia africana* mangrove scrub interspersed with mudflats and, on slightly raised ground, meadows of *Sesuvium portulacastrum* saltmarsh. Within the daily tidal reach of the river is one of the most extensive and intact areas of tall mangrove forest (*Rhizophora racemosa*, *Rhizophora mangle*) in the country, cut by numerous inlets. Narrow mudflats border the inlets and the river, wich support *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Sporobolus spicatus*, *Paspalum vaginatum* and *Diplachne fasca*. The principal species of grasses in the grass savannah of intermittent flooding areas are *Phragmites karka*, *Echinocloa pyramidalis* and *Cyperus papyrus*. Riparian and fringing savannah-woodland and woodland species include *Daiella oliveri*, *Ptericarpus erinaceous*, *Terminalia albida*, *Parkia biglobosa*, and *Bombax costatum*. Shrubs and small trees mainly include *Ficus* spp, *Philostigma thonningii*, *Terminalia avicennoides*, *Anthostema senegalensis*, *Nauclea latifolia* and grass species of mainly *Andropogon tectorum*, *A. gayanus*, *Beckeropsis uniseta* and *Pennisetum subangustu*. The reserve also include a relatively undisturbed / only slightly degraded area of closed-canopy savanna woodland above a laterite escarpment.

129. The mangrove ecosystems are an important breeding site for many species of fish. In addition, the BBWR is frequented by many mammal species in particular Hippopotamus, African Manatee, African Clawless Otter (*Aonyx capensis*) and the Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii*). The Nile Crocodile and African Dwarf Crocodile are also present within the reserve.

130. The BBWR is rich in avifauna and over 268 species have been reliably observed at various locations and in various habitat types within the wetland complex. BBWR is listed as an Important Bird Area, and the trigger species are White-crested Tiger-heron *Tigriornis leucolopha*, Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Little Stint *Calidris minuta*, Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*, Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*, Mouse-brown Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus as well was waterbirds in general.* Further relevant species include the Spoonbill, *Egretta gularis*, *Poicephalus senegalus*, *Ciconia episcopus*, *Halcyon senegalensis*, *Scopus umbretta*, *Streptopelia decipiens*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Ardea goliath*, *Ceryle rudis*, *Egretta alba*, *Lepoptilos crumeniferus*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Merops hirundineus*, *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Bucorvus abyssinicus*, *Haliaetus vocifer*, *Ceryle maxima*, *Ibis ibis*, *Pelicanus rufescens*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Buteo auguralis*, *Milvus migrans*, *Terathopius ecaudatus*, *Threskiornis aethiopica*, *Alcedo cristata*, *Halcyon malimbica*, *Sarkidiornis melanota*, *Plectropterus gambensis*, *Dendrocygna viduata*, *Anas querquedula*, *Anas acute*, *Nettapus auritus*, *Anas clypeata*, *Apus affinis*, *Tringa hypoleucos*, *Lamprotornis candatus*, and *Anhinga rufa*.

131. Fish species present in the Bao Bolong area include *Ethmalosa fimbriota*, *Sphreana* sp., *Polydactylus quadrifilis*, *Arius* sp., *Fonticulus elongatus*, *Pomadasys peroteti*, *Pseudotolithus bracygnathus*, *Crassostrea gasar*. The area's mangrove ecosystem provides an important fish breeding ground and its tributaries are an important source of fish (e.g. African tilapia) for local communities. Also present are crabs *(Callinectes* sp.) and the area provides significant habitats for other aquatic animals. Other wildlife include the Spotted Hyena, the Bushbuck and the Duiker as well as a number of primates (Red Colobus, Patas Monkey and Green Monkey).

Communities

132. The Reserve is surrounded by 25 villages and a further village exists within the reserve boundaries with a combined population of 51,556 (GBOS, 2013 Population and Housing Census). The Village Development Committee serves as the entry point and partner for development initiatives. Due to its proximity to large towns

such as Farafenni and to neighbouring Senegal, diverse socioeconomic activities are undertaken by communities.

133. The adjacent population relies on the reserve for the supply of a number of domestic requirements. These include fertile land for the production of rice, millet and groundnuts, calm fishing sites, provision of timber, wood for cooking, fencing, roofing and other construction and the grazing areas. The main economic activities are rice cultivation, fishing, straw weaving, horticulture and ecotourism. The reserve is also home to secret shrines and sites of cultural importance. Communities also practice upland cultivation of maize, sorghum, water melon and groundnuts. The area is also famous for pumpkin production targeting Senegal and urban markets in the Gambia. They also grow lowland rice and carry out vegetable gardening, as sources of food, income and livelihood. Horticultural activities play an important role in income generation, particularly for women.

134. In this region, while the use of traditional farming systems and tools prevails in small holder agriculture, however the use of machinery, especially for ploughing, is common in many areas and sustainable land management practices need to be promoted to minimize soil degradation due to inappropriate tractor ploughing and uncontrolled use of fertilizers and herbicides. The main problem facing farmers in the area is the loss of soil fertility due mainly to erosion, tractor ploughing and herbicide applications. While some chemical products are forbidden in the Gambia these are easily imported from Senegal with limited controls. In addition, salt intrusion particularly into lowland rice fields located in the PA remains problematic.

135. Fishing is an important activity mainly for local consumption but also as a modest commercial activity with some marketing outside the immediate locality. The fishermen living within villages around the park use a variety of small scale fishing gear.

136. Under the traditional system of land tenure, local residents claim ownership of certain areas of the wetland complex; and the surrounding lands comprise communal farmlands, private agricultural land and residential areas. In order to maintain good public relations, certain resource exploitation practices by the communities (e.g. fishing for local use, harvesting of thatch grass and fencing materials and cultural practices) are allowed as long as they stay within sustainable limits.

137. Ecotourism potential comprises birdwatching, wildlife viewing, fishing and canoeing.

Main threats

138. The loss of natural ecosystems is really severe in the already heavily degraded North Bank Region, where many areas are already devoid of vital natural resources. A worsening of the situation is also the loss of mangroves resulting in a risk to freshwater and estuary species that depend on them. The PA is the only forest complex in the area and therefore it is under continues threats from domestic use of forest resources and free livestock grazing. The ecosystem fragmentation due to unavailability of suitable fertile sites outside the PA for other livelihood engagements is resulting in reduced ecosystem functions. The reserve is consequently under high resource exploitation and land conversion pressures from surrounding communities due to limited alternatives, poor capacity and consequential poor land and natural resource management practices, which include the use of fire for land clearing.

139. As a result of the increasing salinity over much of the area, there are no immediate perceived development threats to the reserve. However, the relatively high population leads to a lot of pressure on natural resources. For example, the intensive cropping and the farming techniques used in combination with the practice of encroachment result in continued degradation of the reserve. Another major concern is the destruction caused by wildlife on agricultural crops. This is a matter of great concern and often leads to serious conflicts between farmers and conservation officers.

140. There is a considerable level of hunting activity within the Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, both by local villagers and non-locals mainly from Senegal. The sustainability of these activities needs to be ascertained, but it is not compatible with the objectives of the conservation status of the area. Waterfowl seem to be the main group affected, including pelicans, although mammals and reptiles, including crocodiles and snakes are also under pressure.

141. The tidal flats have also been the subject of low cost communal dike building schemes for fresh water retention and rice production. Challenges to sustainable land management include low level of conservation

farming, inadequate access to quality production inputs including drought resistant and early maturing varieties, soil erosion and saline intrusion.

2.1.2.3 Jokadu National Park

The park

142. The Jokadu National Park (JNP) of 15,028 ha is a newly-designated protected area. It is the wetland system fringing the river from Jurunku village in Upper Niumi to Kinteh Kunda Jannehya in Lower Badibou, located on the northern bank of the river.

Conservation values

143. The PA is comprised of 90% of wetlands used mostly for fishing. The wetland ecosystems include creeks, swamps, vegetated islands, and one of the best mangrove areas in the Gambia. It also includes forested areas on the landward part near Tambana village, adjacent to Kumali Forest Park. The terrestrial and wetland habitat and species assemblage are overall similar to those in KWNP and BBWR.

144. Five species of mangroves are recorded namely *Rhizophora mangle, Rhizophora harisonii, Laguncularia racemosa, Conocarpus erectus* and *Avicennia nitida*. Other species of flora include *Schoenoplectus* spp*, Paspalum vaginatum, Sesuviu*m *portulacastrum, Typhae australis, Phragmites autralis, Pterocarpus erinaceus, Terminalia avicenoides, Terminalia macroptera, Nauclea latifolia, Combretum glutinosum, Combretum micrantum, Cassia siberiana, Detarium senegalensis, Strophantus samentosus, Lophira lancealata,* and *Schlerocaryabirrea* (also used to feed cattle).

145. Given the extensive mangrove areas and an upwelling of nutrient-rich water, there is a high diversity in fish. The availability of the upwelling water provides a year-round habitat for Manatees. Oysters and clams are abundant including the rare *Crassostrea rufa*. The largest ever count of flamingo (400 individuals) in The Gambia was recorded at one of the confluences in JNP. That alone qualifies the park as a Ramsar site, yet more than 40 other species of migratory birds frequent the park every winter.

Communities

146. The Park spans three administrative districts, with the population estimated at close to 30,000 who constitute direct resource owners and users. The village of Kemoto, located on the opposite side of the river is also participating in the Park. The communities, which are guided by the VDCs in the management of PA resources, comprise farmers who cultivate maize, millet, groundnuts, melons and beans as well as lowland rice and vegetables, and livestock rearing. They also fish and collect fuel-wood. All the above production systems are important sources of food and income and constitute the principal livelihood activities. The communities practice fairly intensive agriculture using animal traction. Fishing is an important economic activity with catches sold in villages and markets. The principal markets in the area are the Loumos (weekly markets) of Kerr Patteh and Ndungu kebbeh, Kerewan and Barra.

Main threats

147. This newly-designated national park (JNP) – separated by a 10 km gap from BBWR – remains without demarcation on the ground, no park infrastructure and no management plan.

148. There are 15 villages from three administrative districts and about 30,000 people associated with the park, who are resource owners and users. There is therefore an immediate threat of advancing habitat loss / fragmentation / degradation due to agricultural conversion and slash and burn practices and mangrove cutting, both inside the NP and in the connecting corridor and other adjacent areas. Land degradation characterized by increasing salinity and low soil fertility, are the key problems highlighted by communities with regard to their agricultural livelihood.

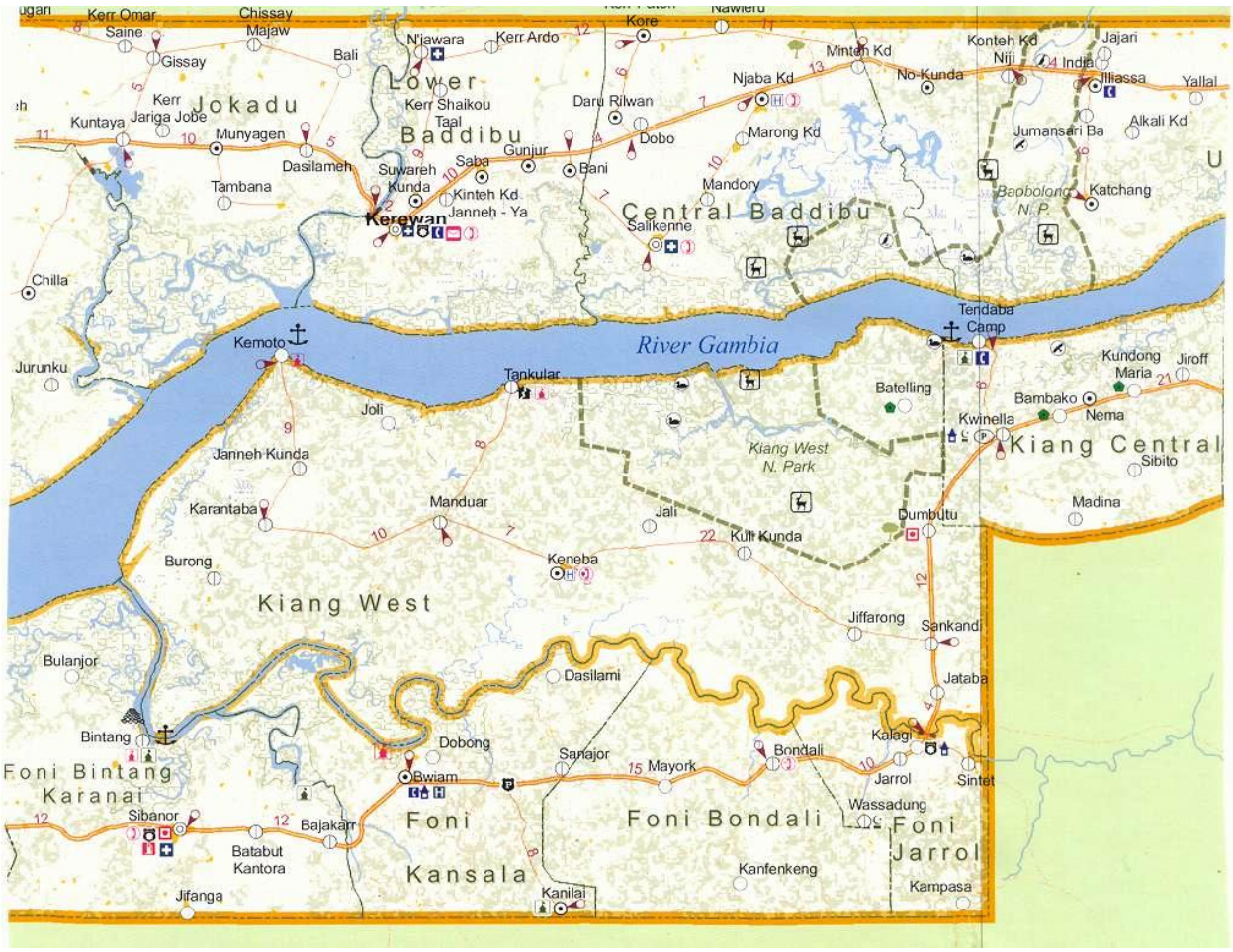


Figure 3. Map of the general area of the three PAs and surrounding towns, villages and countryside

2.1.3 Stakeholder analysis

149. Stakeholders have been involved in project formulation from the concept stages. Under the leadership of the DPWM, the Government and UNDP supported two national workshops during the early stages, where stakeholders were invited to contribute to the planning of the project and to the definition of its objectives. Participants included a wide range of representatives from government, local communities, NGOs, private sector and international organizations. In addition, preliminary social assessment activities were conducted and several local stakeholder meetings were held at each of the proposed sites. Local communities and regional authorities have expressed a strong interest in the project and they have been involved further in the formulation stages.

150. The following table lists the key stakeholders, summarizes their mandate and identifies their prospective role in project implementation.

Table 9. Stakeholder participation in project implementation

STAKEHOLDER / PARTNER	MANDATE AND ROLE IN PROJECT	SPECIFIC AREA OF INVOLVEMENT
Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water & Wildlife (MECCWW)	DPWM is entrusted with the conservation, management, monitoring and development of biodiversity and wildlife resources in the country, both in and outside of protected areas and in production landscapes. DPWM is the lead government agency for implementing the CBD and hosts the National Focal Points for the CBD and PoWPA/CHM/SBSTTA, as well as for CMS, AEWA, Biosafety, the African/Algiers Convention and RAMSAR. DPWM has five functional units: Directorate, Conservation Education and Extension Unit, Parks and Protected Area Management Unit, Research, Crop Damage Assessment and Control Unit, and Surveillance Unit. DPWM is a member of ANRWG (see below) and is pivotal for better integrating biodiversity conservation and PA management matters into land use planning in general and into agricultural and sustainable land management around PAs.	DPWM will be the leading executing partner. It will be responsible for project coordination and implementation in collaboration with other stakeholders to ensure the successful execution of all project components and outputs. DPWM will also second an officer to be part of the PMU.
Ministry of Agriculture (MOA): Soil and Water Management Services (SWMS) and Department of Agriculture (DOA)	The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for supporting and promoting the agricultural industry and for establishing a coherent legal, regulatory and enabling framework for agricultural development. The MoA and its agencies are therefore critically important for integrating biodiversity matters into agricultural development projects at all stages – in conjunction with the ANRWG. The DoA,is responsible for overall extension service delivery and is also relevant in the promotion of sustainable land and waterscape management and the adoption of value added initiatives to enhance market value of products. The MoA hosts and implement a variety of agricultural development projects most notably the National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA).	The MoA NEMA project is one of the project's co-financing partners. It will be involved particularly in the implementation of Outputs 3.1 and 3.2. Close coordination between the project and NEMA is foreseen and the project will be co-hosted at NEMA facilities.
Agriculture and Natural Resources Working Group (ANRWG) of the National Environment Agency (NEA)	The Agriculture and Natural Resources Working Group (ANRWG) hosted by NEA is the umbrella body for development initiatives related to agriculture and natural resources including PA-related matters. NEA is mandated to ensure that this initiative is implemented in a coordinated and complementary manner with existing and planned initiatives in the ANR sector	The ANRWG will provide the core of the project Technical Advisory Group (TAG), augmented as necessary to ensure full representativeness
Department of Fisheries (DOFI) of the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources	The Department of Fisheries plans, coordinates and executes actions in the sector, develops fisheries management plans and elaborates the necessary laws and regulatory mechanisms. Fisheries are extremely relevant in the localities of the project because of the importance of fisheries resources in terms of both utilisation and recruitment (oysters, fish, etc.). The fisheries sector is important as a key livelihood component for communities	DOFI will be involved through the TAG (ANRWG) in general; and more specifically in Output 3.2
Department of Forestry (DOF) at the Office of the President	DoF is responsible for marketing forest products, and for managing the forest resources in the country – in general as well as in national forest parks and reserves including those under joint or devolved forest management schemes. Partnership with the project will enhance community participation and increase the possibility of Forest Parks and Community Forests designations in PA networks	Member of TAG (ANRWG). DoF will also be involved in Outputs 1.1and 1.2 when forest parks and reserves are assessed for biodiversity conservation / PA designation potential
Municipalities and local authorities in the targeted PAs communities	The office of the Governor is the highest body of government in the region and is responsible for overseeing all development activities in the administrative area. Will be involved through local consultative committees such as the MDFTs and TACs at the regional/municipal levels. Will have a role in monitoring the implementation and facilitating smooth implementation of all regional/municipal development activities.	Members of TAG and Local Advisory Committees (LACs) for the three project localities. Particular interest in Outputs 1.2, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.1
NGOs, national and regional associations and local community groups	NGOs (national and regional), CBOs and similar bodies increasingly play an important role in environmental conservation in The Gambia. Locally relevant groups will serve as agents in facilitation, sensitization and capacity strengthening of communities in project aspects relevant to their areas of expertise. They will also participate in the design and implementation of the project's site-level	Involved in Local Advisory Committees and particular involvement in Outputs 2.1, 3.2, 3.3

	components, such as the establishment and/or strengthening of community-based natural resource management agreements and on PA co-management plans.	
Local communities, women and vulnerable groups	Communities are the key participants in the project as well as the main beneficiaries. They are central in decision-making, and will take the lead in PA management and protection. Gender and vulnerable groups, and related social issues, will be fully considered, and gender accountability is a cross-cutting issue that will be tracked as part of the M&E system. Special attention will be paid to gender issues in developing socioeconomic indicators, and in the capacity-building activities. General benefits resulting from enhanced natural resources management will directly benefit women in particular, who bear a significant share of the workload in rural households	Will be involved directly in the identification and implementation of project related livelihood interventions. More specifically, they will participate in Outputs 1.2, 2.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 4.1
Sahel Wetland Initiative	This is a new youth CBO based in Dumbutu. They are already working with 17 communities in Kiang West project locality, mainly in the area of tree nurseries, beekeeping and general environmental awareness-raising. They also have relationships with neighbouring cross-border communities.	Will be involved in raising awareness and mobilization of youths, particularly in Outputs 3.2, 3.3 and 4.1
Kiang West Dolla Kaffo	This local CBO is a congregation of 5 village-associations focusing on a wide range of rural development issues. They undertake mangrove and Gmelina planting and facilitation of seedling acquisition to member villages. The Kaffo (organization) has its own tree nursery and undertakes beekeeping (owns 50 hives). The Kaffo undertook also dyke construction against salt intrusion. It will serve as a good partner in the project's SLM initiatives such as agro-forestry.	Specific involvement in Outputs 1.2 and 3.2
Cashew Growers Association	The Association is charged with the promotion of cashew growers and other small businesses within the community and can become involved in the project's alternative income generation initiatives.	Participation in Output 1.2 and 3.2
Agency for the Development of Women and Children (ADWAC)	ADWAC is based in the community and it is active in capacity building, horticulture, small ruminants multiplication, community forestry scheme and agro-forestry. The association promotes governance and gender equity as well as the cause of the disabled.	Can partner the project's work under Outputs 1.2, 3.2 and 4.1
Njawara Agricultural Training Centre	The Centre works with communities on sustainable farming by capacity building, provision of early maturing and drought resistant crop varieties, woodlots and orchards. The Centre's main routine activities include vegetable gardening, water supply and salinity control. It also provides small grants for self-reliance activities.	Can partner the project under Output 3.2
West Africa Birds Study Association (WABSA)	Local NGO housed in the DPWM Headquarters. The NGO's mandate includes community empowerment in the preservation of the natural heritage of the country, be it wildlife, birds or habitats. The NGO concentrates more on in community sensitization, capacity building and the initiation of community protected area schemes. WABSA will be a key partner in facilitation, sensitization and capacity strengthening of communities	Will partner the project under Outputs 1.1, 2.1
National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)	National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)'s research programmes cover cereals and grains, horticulture, livestock, and agro forestry. Compared to the institute's Long Term Plan, the current research program places a relatively greater emphasis on diversification, yield and horticulture, whereas research on livestock, fisheries, and business channels, marketing and land tenure are neglected.	NARI will be contracted to lead research in particular in the area of SLM under Outputs 2.1, 3.2
University of The Gambia (UTG)	The University of The Gambia is the highest and the main professional capacity building institution for professionals in the country. The most important faculty for the project is the Agriculture Faculty which has an interest in SLM.	UTG may be approached to organize a special short-term tailored-made module for the DPWM under Output 2.1
Management Development Institute (MDI)	The MDI is a very versatile training institution dealing mainly with the technician cadre. Apart from public officers' managerial and administrative courses, the institute is very instrumental in the capacity of private sector and youth population. The main courses of relevance to the project include management and research.	MDI will collaborate with UTG and DPWM on short-term courses to be carried out under Output 2.1
National Training Authorities (NTA)	The NTA is a public office responsible for skills training and training quality in The Gambia. The authorities are also responsible to oversee training module contents and also certification. The NTA is also	Under Output 2.1, NTA will collaborate in finalizing training

	mandated with the evaluation of certificates.	modules and certification
Department of Community Development (DCD)	The objectives of DCD are to promote participatory community self-help in the identification, planning, implementation, evaluation and management of programmes and projects that will better enable communities to address their basic social welfare needs. In particular, DCD aims to support community development activities that contribute to livelihood diversification through income generating activities such as handicrafts, vegetable gardening and cottage industries using appropriate technologies that add value to locally available products. DCD also assists with developing/strengthening village/community level institutions so as to better facilitate their participation in decision-making, and to give them the skills needed to plan, implement and evaluate multi-sectoral projects of particular benefit to their communities. DCD covers the whole country through a network of regional Community Development Officers, supported by district level Community Development Assistants.	Will partner with the project in its work at community level - motivation, mobilization and raising awareness on project related livelihood interventions. More specifically, DCD will participate in Outputs 1.2, 3.2, 3.3, and 4.1

151. The agencies named above were all part of the stakeholder consultations and have indicated willingness/readiness to collaborate/partner with the project in their areas of comparative advantage to attain common objectives.

2.1.4 Fit with GEF Focal Area Strategy and Objectives

152. The project directly addresses BD-1: *Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems*, to safeguard the most important areas and biodiversity by strengthening the management of and expanding a key subset of existing PAs in biodiversity-rich regions in the Gambia. Also, to a lesser degree, it works towards BD-2: *Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors*.

153. The GEF defines a sustainable protected area system as one that: a) effectively protects ecologically viable representative samples of the country's ecosystems and provides adequate coverage of threatened species at a sufficient scale to ensure their long term persistence; b) has sufficient and predictable financial resources available, including external funding, to support protected area management costs; and c) retains adequate individual and institutional capacity to manage protected areas such that they achieve their conservation objectives. The project targets all three yet primarily the first and third of these objectives.

154. GEF promotes the participation and capacity building of indigenous and local communities in the design, implementation and management of protected area projects through established frameworks such as indigenous and community conserved areas. It also promotes protected area co-management between government and indigenous and local communities. The project follows this GEF approach fully. In a related manner and in pursuit of BD-2, project activities will target land use in areas adjacent to Protected Areas and work with land-owners, farmers and communities to bring in biodiversity conservation as a key consideration in the way land and natural resources are utilized and managed, aiming for sustainability.

155. The project responds to the significant and growing pressure on natural resources and the conversion of natural ecosystems in the Gambia, including in the country's protected areas, which is increasingly undermining the status of biodiversity and related ecosystem services. This will be combined with the adoption of more sustainable natural resource utilisation practices. The project will build programmatically on work initiated through a GEF-funded PA early action grant that led to the creation of the Gambia National Protected Area Partnership and Network (GamPAN).

156. Finally, the project will contribute towards the achievement of CBD Aichi Targets 5, 11 and 12, by increasing the coverage of the national PA system and further strengthening the management of existing PAs, and thereby reducing the loss, degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats and forests, and enhancing the conservation prospects of globally threatened species. It also contributes to Targets 7 and 14, by working towards more sustainable land management (agricultural and grazing/browsing practices), thereby safeguarding and restoring ecosystem services vital for local populations.

2.1.5 Conformity with UNDP and UNDAF

157. The UNDP Country Office in The Gambia is a key player in sustainable environmental management in the country. It has been working with the national government for the last 10 years to strengthen the technical and managerial capacities of environment-related institutions such as the National Environment Agency, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management. During the period 2007-2011, the CO supported the updating of the Gambia Environment Action Plan and the State of the Environment Report.

158. The project fits within the UNDP strategy for The Gambia. It is consistent with the 2012-2016 UNDAF Outcome 3.0 *Environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction systems and services operationalised* and Output 3.1 *National policies and laws available on low carbon emission and climate resilient development pathways* and *natural resources management developed and implemented*. The project equally falls under the 2012-2016 CPAP, particularly Outcome 2 *Sustainable livelihood security enhanced for disadvantaged groups through the promotion of income diversification opportunities and better management of environmental resources,* and Output 2.3 *Sustainable use of environmental resources enhanced.*

2.2 Project Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities

2.2.1 Project Objective and Components

159. The Project Objective is: ***To expand and strengthen the management of priority protected areas in The Gambia, including through enhanced community-based natural resource management.***

160. In order to achieve the project Objective, address the identified barriers, and strive for the targeted results, the project intervention comprises two components.

Component 1: Strengthen national PA network planning and PA management effectiveness in a cluster of priority PAs

161. The component targets the expansion of the PA system and the improved management of both existing and new PAs. The focus of this work will be around Jokadu National Park (JNP, 15,028 ha), Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR, 22,000 ha), and Kiang West National Park (KWNP, 11,526 ha). The expansion of the PA system will take place through a c. 5,000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP.

162. The project will strengthen the management effectiveness in the three PAs to address existing and emerging threats. To that aim, two new areas to be added to the national PA estate will be delineated and subsequently legally gazetted: a c. 10,000 ha expansion to the east and west of KWNP, and a c. 5,000 ha expansion of JNP that will connect it to BBWR through a band along the River Gambia. Basic PA offices will be established and adequately equipped and staffed in JNP and BBWR (KWNP already has adequate PA offices) – with institutional and technical capacities being built through targeted training on all relevant aspects of PA operations to ensure that DPWM and field staff meet necessary competencies (scientific/technical, planning, administration, conflict resolution, monitoring, enforcement, etc.). Moreover, the on-the-ground boundaries of JNP and BBWR – as well as of the newly added PA areas – will be demarcated using a ring of recognisable, valuable and useful tree species forming a clear boundary that local communities respect and protect.

163. Following in-depth community consultations, multi-year PA management plans will be prepared for BBWR and JNP and the KWNP management plan will be updated. The management plans will provide for: zonation and related regulations for strict protection and sustainable use of natural resources by local communities; PA governance, including co-management and conflict resolution mechanisms; effective law enforcement governing natural resource exploitation and wildlife poaching; and basic ecological monitoring systems for targeted habitats and species.

164. The project will also prepare a revised PA Programme of Work and Action Plan. The process will entail an ecosystem coverage assessment of the current national PA network, conducted under the project to determine relevant ecological representation gaps, and an assessment of the forest park estate to identify sites that merit inclusion in the PA system for biodiversity conservation purposes; it will in the process consider the

climate change scenarios and biodiversity adaptation measures proposed by the UNDP-WCMC/GEF PARCC project and any relevant ecological gap assessments conducted under RAMPAO.

Component 2: Improve land and natural resource management in and around the targeted cluster of priority PAs

165. The component has a focus on the communities surrounding the three above PAs (*i.e.* in the buffer zones) that exert significant pressure on the integrity of these PAs. The targeted stakeholders are primarily farmers and their households, totalling an estimated 70,000 people. Working closely with and through the MoA's National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA), the project will introduce biodiversity-friendly sustainable land and natural resource management practices, to reduce the pressures (such as unsustainable wood / mangrove extraction, land conversion for shifting cultivation, the incidence and severity of wild and forest fires) that these communities exert on the targeted PAs. This will begin restoring vital resources into the production landscape matrix, improving natural ecosystem integrity and connectivity. To achieve the latter, the project will establish nurseries and plant suitable fruit, forage, firewood and multi-purpose trees and vegetation; pilot the latest conservation tillage agriculture; establish inter-cropping regimes and nutrient-rich plants and hedges in degraded farmland; establish agro-forestry regimes and village woodlots and shelter belts; revisit fire and grazing practices; replant mangroves in degraded wetlands; pilot new salt-tolerant wet rice varieties to reduce land conversion for dry rice production; promote and distribute fuel efficient stoves; and increase bee farming and horticulture.

166. Agreements will be entered into with local communities that will form the basis of these community-based interventions to be undertaken by the project. Implementation plans will be developed that will define: the rights and responsibilities of communities and the project, and areas where community interventions will be implemented; prescriptions for suitable biodiversity-friendly NRM and SLM practices; resource-sharing mechanisms; extension support; and, monitoring and compliance mechanisms. Through NEMA the implementation of the above community-based interventions will be a critical thrust of the project. The project will devise a monitoring system to provide relevant and science-based information on the state of natural resources and socio-economic conditions in the target areas.

167. Lastly, the collaboration with NEMA will also catalyse the integration of biodiversity and PA aspects as well as of sustainable land and natural resource management into this large-scale agricultural/ rural development endeavour more widely. It is through the close integration of the project with NEMA that more sustainable and biodiversity-friendly strategies and SLM/NRM practices will be promoted and rolled out. As NEMA has substantial resources, including for SLM activities, the comparatively small GEF budget is meant to be catalytic to achieve this integration – through the co-location of the two projects, supported by targeted studies, concrete collaboration proposals and joint activities.

2.2.2 Project Outcomes

168. The two Project Components have given rise to the following four Outcomes:

169. **Outcome 1 - Gazettement of a c. 5000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP.** The Outcome seeks: formal confirmation of the expansion of the PA network. The estimated total cost of Outcome 1 is **USD 755,000.** Of this, USD 350,000 is from co-financing and USD 435,000 is from GEF.

170. **Outcome 2 - Enhanced management effectiveness in both existing and added PA areas**. The Outcome seeks: improvement in planning and management effectiveness. The estimated cost of Outcome 2 is **USD 796,545.** Of this, USD 422,000 is from co-financing and USD 424,000 is from GEF.

171. **Outcome 3 - Improved forest cover, habitat integrity and connectivity across the targeted PA cluster and surrounding landscapes (c. 60,000 ha)**. The Outcome seeks: improvement in ecosystem health and integrity. The estimated cost of Outcome 3 is **USD 3,739,364.** Of this, USD 3,486,364 is from co-financing and USD 289,310 is from GEF.

172. **Outcome 4 - Enhanced diversity, sustainability and reliability of community livelihoods**. The Outcome seeks: more secure sustainable livelihoods for communities. The estimated cost of Outcome 4 is **USD 374,000.** Of this, USD 350,000 is from the baseline (co-financing) and USD 55,000 is from GEF.

2.2.3 Indicators

173. Two types of indicators are proposed for consideration and confirmation by the Inception Workshop. Firstly, impact or result indicators which measure achievement and effectiveness and which will help determine whether the Objective and the Outcomes have been achieved. Secondly, process indicators which measure effort, efficiency and performance by the project implementers. Both types are recorded in the Strategic Results Framework (SRF) in Section 3.

174. The choice of impact indicators was based on three key criteria: (i) their pertinence to the assumption inherent in the SRF[37]; (ii) the feasibility of obtaining / producing and updating the data necessary to monitor and evaluate the project through those indicators; and, (iii) their direct relevance to the Objective and Outcomes, more so than for Outputs (which are self-evident).

175. As will be noted from the SRF, it has not always been possible to determine the baseline for each of the key indicators and information and survey work is required at the project Inception Phase so as to establish some baselines and set a departure point for some project activities. These surveys are planned under the appropriate Outputs.

176. Process indicators do not measure an end point but the progress towards an end point or a result. Although some of the proposed process indicators relate to progress towards the Objective and Outcomes, the majority are relevant to the management effort, application of resources, and methodology employed in implementing the project.

177. To the extent possible, quantitative indicators have been selected, however, where this was not possible, qualitative indicators have been selected instead. All indicators, both impact and process, are considered to satisfy the 'SMART'[38] criteria.

2.2.4 Project Outputs and Activities

Output 1.1 *Revised PA Programme of Work and Action Plan*

178. The Output will carry out an assessment of the current national PA System to record the existing situation in terms of strategic plans, capacity, and resourcing (including financing) and identify needs and priorities as well as barriers. It will also carry out an ecological survey to identify likely trends, determine relevant ecological/biodiversity gaps, level of representativeness, ecosystem health, status of key species, ecosystem services provided, etc. Similarly, it will also assess the forest park estate to identify sites that merit inclusion in the PA system for biodiversity conservation purposes. The work will be carried out by a small team of specialists led by the International Technical Advisor working under the coordination of the DPWM and comprising expertise in forest ecology, wetlands ecology, species at risk, ecosystem services and socio-economic aspects. Special attention will be paid to socio-economic dimensions including current land occupation, land use and likely sustainability and gender aspects, including livelihood provision. The initial results expected under this Output will include full report's recording the findings and proposing remedial, recovery and protective measures and initiatives on a prioritized basis. The proposed measures and initiatives on a prioritized basis will form the core of a draft PA Programme of Work and Action Plan which will be put out for discussion. Following this consultation period, the ultimate result from this Output, namely the new Gambia Protected Areas Programme of Work and Action Plan, will be published in hardcopy and digital formats and will provide the strategic context and

[37] The SRF is based on the general assumption that if (1) there is a meaningful extension of the protected estate; and (2) there is adequate capacity for the implementation of Protected Areas management plans; and (3) there is on-the-ground implementation of a Sustainable Land Management approach in the areas bordering the PAs, thus achieving an effective level of contiguous buffering on an ecologically viable scale; then the Gambia landscape will be much less vulnerable to loss of biodiversity and land degradation, with significant benefits to local communities.

[38] SMART = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound

foundation for the rest of the project work and work for the immediate future for the DPWM. It is therefore essential that work under this Output starts as early as possible in the project's timescale.

Output 1.2 ***Gazettement of the two PA expansions (JNP expansion to connect to BBWR and expansion of KWNP)***

179. Building on the survey and assessment work carried out under Output 1.1, work under this Output will focus on the targeted expansion of JNP to connect with BBWR (estimated to be 5,000 ha) and the expansion of KWNP to the west and east (estimated to be a total of 10,000 ha). The work will be led by DPWM with advice from the International Technical Advisor and will recruit a Working Group comprising local experts and community representatives. Negotiations will be carried out with current land owners and land occupiers/users identified in the surveys under Output 1.1. Criteria will be proposed, discussed and agreed for the final delineation of the new boundaries. The criteria will include: recognition and safeguarding of valuable ecosystems and ecosystem services, dependence on natural resources for livelihoods, natural and recognizable features to serve as boundaries, etc. The Output will carry out the cadastral survey of the agreed boundaries of the existing PAs together with the proposed extensions. The results of the survey will be demarcated on the ground through the physical planting and nurturing (by local community members under contract) of a boundary of recognisable, valuable and useful tree species that local communities will respect and protect. The tree specimens will be produced by the Output in special community nurseries under contract.

180. The Output will also build the justification case for Government to endorse the proposed expansion and provide the required expertise to draft the new decrees and develop any other legal instruments required for the formal gazettement of the modifications to the two PAs.

Output 2.1 ***Strengthened institutional and technical capacities in the target PAs to address existing and emerging threats***

181. This Output seeks to put in place the capacity, mechanisms and tools necessary for the effective co-management and sustainability of the three targeted PAs (including their expansions) and their benefits for biodiversity and local communities. The International Technical Advisor will provide oversight of this work which will be led by an expert in PA management recruited by the project to lead a Working Group comprising a number of specialists with the required skills, as well as representatives of key partners and stakeholders.

182. The work will be organized under three main thrusts as follows:

183. **A) Institutional strengthening at central level by increasing human capacity**

- Develop the professionalization of the staff of DPWM, creating a career structure with incentive schemes such as recognition of formal training, certification, skills and knowledge acquisition, etc
- Train DPWM central staff on all aspects of PA governance, planning, management and co-management, community liaison and negotiation in addition to compliance and performance monitoring and law enforcement; institutionalize the training programme
- Select and train central staff in research and monitoring of ecosystem health, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services provision

184. **B) Institutional and human capacity building at community level**

- Train and equip community leaders in relevant aspects of PA management to enable an equal partnership with DPWM for meaningful co-management
- Train and support selected CBOs and select individuals to effectively manage natural resources and PAs
- Develop and implement regulatory frameworks and procedural guidelines for co-management through CBNRM in selected protected areas
- Procure equipment for communities to implement CBNRM activities

185. **C) Technical and other capacity/facilities at the PA level**

- Establish and equip Park HQ and offices for each of JNP and BBWR
- Construct and equip information/education centres for each of the three PAs
- In collaboration with relevant communities, develop Management Plans for each of the three PAs comprising clear objectives, targets and bottom lines for land and resource use including zonation and

related regulations for co-management, protection and sustainable use of natural resources by local communities

- Recruit and train appropriate staff with the required technical and management capacity for planning, administration, monitoring, enforcement, community liaison, co-management, negotiation and conflict resolution
- Provide necessary equipment such as uniforms and protective clothing, mobility means (including vehicles and boats), communication equipment (hand held sets, base radios, mobiles, etc) and monitoring equipment to enable implementation of the Management Plan

Output 3.1 ***Biodiversity and PA aspects as well as sustainable land and natural resource management effectively mainstreamed into the large-scale National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA)***

186. The Output seeks the mainstreaming of biodiversity, SLM and NRM considerations into the MoA NEMA Project. It will do this by working from within MoA and NEMA by establishing a Working Group comprising leaders and other key people to be led by the International Technical Advisor. After identifying and recording the benefits to the country, government and communities of such mainstreaming particularly in terms of sustainable development and enhanced livelihoods, the WG will review existing policies, legislation and procedures and identify gaps and opportunities for instilling a natural resources, land, water and biodiversity sustainability ethic into the day-to-day operations of the Ministry and NEMA. The identified opportunities will be trialled and evaluated before being written up in a guidance handbook. The initiative will be "exported" beyond the immediate MoA and NEMA confines to their stakeholders and partners, particularly local authorities, public agencies, NGOs and CBOs. This will be done in a collaborative manner so as to achieve ownership of the approach. The operations and key decisions of NEMA will continue to be informed and assessed for mainstreaming performance by the project. It is intended to co-locate the project with NEMA so as to facilitate the necessary interaction for mainstreaming.

Output 3.2 ***Recommended NRM and SLM practices implemented by local communities under the community-based management agreements, with extension support provided***

187. The Community Liaison and SLM Expert engaged by the project will advise and assist Village Development Councils to make provision for natural resources protection and management as one of their core functions. The project will assist with the setting up of Village Environment Committees or similar groups as appropriate for participatory management of protected areas and buffer zones. These committees will be led and coordinated by an Environment Coordinator in each village or group of villages who will be provided with training on environmental protection and management principles and methodologies, SLM and NRM. Committees will be assisted by the project to implement protected areas management plans, monitoring (see Output 3.3 below), and other instruments so as to achieve the maximum benefits with the minimum of impacts.

188. In pursuit of SLM, the project will engage expert consultancy services such as from NARI who, with the oversight of the International Technical Advisor, will work with individual landowners and farmers to experiment with innovative approaches which enhance productivity and lower the impact on land and water. Among the approaches to be trialled will be conservation agriculture, organic farming, integrated crop management, recycling compost and other natural fertilizer, cover crops, soil enrichment, natural pest and predator controls, bio-intensive integrated pest management, climate smart agriculture and other techniques which will arise from participatory brainstorming with community members. The project will provide the necessary expertise and cover the costs of participatory workshops.

189. The project will also provide support for environment-friendly activities. These will be determined by the Local Advisory Committees and will reflect local needs and opportunities. They may be chosen from the following: woodlots, agro-forestry and farm-border plantings, homestays, guided hiking and other ecotourism activities, expansion of apiculture, possibly sericulture (silk), cultivation and processing of medicinal plants, access to early maturing and drought resistant crop varieties, tree nursery development, etc. This assistance will be targeted in particular to those required to change land use practices (with a resulting loss in income) so as to reduce land degradation as well as impacts on biodiversity and PAs.

190. In support of initiatives under this Output, the project will prepare and implement environmental education programmes in schools and throughout the communities using radio, television and other mass media.

Output 3.3 ***A monitoring system in place in the target areas***

191. The Output will develop, set up and initiate the implementation of an Environment Monitoring System (EMS) at the three project sites so as to record and keep up to date relevant and accurate information on the state of biodiversity, natural resources and socio-economic conditions and thereby provide a basis for adaptive management decisions on PA management, land use / rural development and biodiversity management and protection. The application of the EMS will extend into compliance monitoring and monitor the effectiveness of the law enforcement programme; it will monitor the upholding of the Agreements reached with particular communities (see Output 4.1 below); it will help identify trends and ensure that any changes in biodiversity-important areas remain within pre-determined, acceptable limits. Key indicator species (e.g. hippo) will be among the tools that will be used as appropriate, as will remote (satellite/ aerial/ balloon/ drone) sensing methods together with on-ground measurements and observations.

192. The EMS will be developed by a Working Group led by a local Natural Resources Monitoring Expert jointly with the International Technical Advisor. It will comprise representatives of the main providers as well as the main users of the ultimate information. The WG will start by conducting a review the existing PA M&E system and the indicator species used; it will also assess capacity for monitoring among DPWM staff and identify the required training. The approach and methodology to be used, the principles and objectives, and the capacity and know-how requirements will be developed. This will include modalities for involving senior school students and community members in the collection of samples and data such as through simple transects to monitor changes in vegetation physiognomy, and road strip count surveys to determine population status of large mammals. The students and community members, who will be given appropriate training, will be under the technical guidance of the DPWM to perform this important function. Working with the relevant authorities, the Working Group will test the EMS at selected pilot localities following training and capacity enhancements of local personnel. After implementing any necessary refinements and adjustments, the Monitoring System, will be handed over to the DPWM, after any further necessary training and capacity building.

193. Building on relevant international expertise, the project will also develop a handbook for ecological/biodiversity monitoring specific for the Gambia, print the handbook and distribute it in hard copy as well as DVD.

Output 4.1 ***Agreements with local communities secured for community-based sustainable land and natural resource management and related plans developed***

194. The project Community Liaison and SLM Expert will work with Village Development Councils, Village Environment Committees, Environment Coordinators (see above under Output 3.2) or equivalent at project sites, and through them with each community, so they can obtain the maximum benefit from their participation in the co-management of PAs and their adoption of sustainable land management approaches. The initiative will also ensure the sustainability of project benefits.

195. Working with community representatives, the Community Liaison Expert will draft a Heads of Agreement to serve as the basis for discussion with communities on the proposed covenant between Village Councils / Communities and the DPWM for CBNRM. The agreement will include clauses on (a) reciprocal rights and responsibilities of the communities and the project (later the DPWM), and areas where community interventions will be implemented; (b) prescriptions for suitable biodiversity-friendly NRM and SLM practices; (c) resource-sharing mechanisms; (d) extension support; and (e) monitoring and compliance mechanisms. The agreement will also keep in mind the need to provide income support for those negatively affected by the agreement, and this will be done by the project as described under Output 3.2 above. Other incentives and concessions will be built into the agreement to convey a strong message that PAs and natural resources conservation are of benefit to communities.

196. The above activities will be underpinned by a thorough media campaign focussing on the economic and social benefits accruing from biodiversity protection, SLM and NRM. Following an extensive public discussion and consultation process seeking a consensus on the above elements, the Heads of Agreement will be reviewed

and refined and enshrined into the legally-binding Covenant between Village Councils / Communities and DPWM, with the collaboration of the Department of Forestry and the MoA.

2.3 Assumptions and Risks

197. The following risks, identified in the PIF, have been confirmed together with their respective mitigation measures as potential threats to the project.

Table 11. Risks, ratings and mitigation measures

RISK	SEVERITY	LIKELI-HOOD	MITIGATION MEASURES PLANNED
The Government of The Gambia fails to mobilise and allocate sufficient political will and resources to maintain the protected area system and introduce effective sustainable land and natural resource management regimes	High	Medium	GOTG has expressed its commitment to the project; the project falls within a number of its priorities, especially with regard to the promotion of SLM. GOTG only recently announced investment of $100 million in agriculture by 2020 and a share of this will be directed to sustainable practices, which will reduce the pressures on natural resources and ecosystems and the PA system. Furthermore, PA system co-management will be driven by invested local people trained by this project. The project will also construct linkages between communities and government to encourage continued budget allocations and provide institutional mechanisms for direct participation by civil society in communication of needs and requests for sufficient support. Finally, the project will build on the results of the recently finished DPWM/World Bank/GEF Gambia Biodiversity Management and Institutional Strengthening Project on financing options and mechanisms to identify possible income sources
Institutional programming among key agencies, ministries and other stakeholders and partners is not properly aligned, thereby undermining the coherence of agricultural/community development projects in the target areas and protected area governance in particular	Low to moderate	Low	The project will be embedded in the MoA's large and well-resourced NEMA project, with and through which it will work in local communities on sustainable land and natural resource management. This is expected to facilitate a good coherence of this and similar large development initiatives with the project's biodiversity / PA objectives. Mechanisms for conflict resolution will be established from the outset; the monitoring and evaluation framework will be sufficiently sensitive to determine partnership functionality
Participation of all key stakeholders, particularly communities, is not achieved; meaningful and effective partnerships not achieved	Low	Low	Tentative target communities have already expressed their strong interest in the project. The monitoring and evaluation framework will be sufficiently sensitive to determine partnership functionality including that with local communities; strong and supportive framework for the project management team with a meaningful M&E framework that feeds back into annual work plans
Livelihood dependency of resource users may be detrimental to conservation and sustainable land management actions	Moderate to high	Medium	The community-based collaborative management approach will comprehensively address the issue by specific programmatic interventions that work to maintain or improve environmental services while simultaneously identifying socially acceptable and environmentally benign income opportunities for community members. The DPWM has valuable and positive on-the-ground experience to corroborate the viability of the approach
Absorptive capacities in the government, especially within the lead executing agency, may be limited and will delay or hinder implementation of project activities	Moderate to high	Medium	Critical training will be provided at the onset of the project to the lead agency on the UNDP-GEF procedures, results-based management and implementation. The project is moreover expected to be embedded in the larger and well-resourced NEMA project of the Ministry of Agriculture, assuring positive synergies and opportunities for professional exchange and synergies and economies of scale
The diverse impacts of climate change on natural and productive ecosystems and species-	Low	Low	This is an unavoidable risk, any impacts of which can only be mitigated, to the best degree possible, by integrating climate change in the planning and execution of project activities from the start. In doing so the project will build – inter alia – on the recommendations

level biodiversity may undermine the project objectives			emanating of the NEA/UNEP-WCMC/GEF project Evolution of Protected Area Systems with regard to Climate Change in the West Africa Region, considering most notably (at the PA system and/or individual PA levels): adaptive planning and management in a context of growing climate-induced ecosystem changes; increasing/restoring and diversifying available habitats in preparation for ecosystem change; adapting the notion of alien species; promoting/assisting target species dispersal such as by enhanced habitat permeability and connectivity; promoting maintenance of ecosystem functions; and reducing climate change impacts through direct management measures (such as preventive fire management or manipulation of microclimates by modifying vegetation structure). In the process, the climate change resilience areas identified by this regional project will be considered in the context of PA system planning and the related ecological coverage assessment. It must be highlighted though that no country-specific risk mitigation options have to date been formulated by the project for The Gambia and that important questions remain regarding national-scale impacts of climate change and the most appropriate biodiversity adaptation measures; any new results or recommendations in this context of the NEA/UNEP-WCMC/GEF project will be considered as they emerge. At the same time, 6 of the 9 PAs in The Gambia have already included some climate change aspects in their management plans.

198. Further consideration of risks will be carried out by the project during the Inception Phase. Furthermore, the UNDP ATLAS base for this project will set up a Risk analysis and assessment system which will be reflected in the relevant section of the annual PIRs for the project.

2.4 Cost effectiveness

199. The cost effectiveness of this project will be ensured by the following elements that have been included in project design.

200. The project will focus its interventions on the three localities selected because of identified values or threats of degradation. This will maximize the visible impacts and allow the beneficiary locations to act as models for the protection and management of biodiversity and natural resources nationwide. The project will implement on-the-ground interventions in cohesive and contained localities, rather than in geographically dispersed areas, and this will reduce operational costs significantly.

201. The project will place equal emphasis on assisting compliance as well as enforcement which will require less intense and less costly levels of monitoring and prosecution. This will allow the project to work effectively with local communities and stakeholders to share management responsibilities and costs, as well as to develop sustainable economic activities that can benefit these partners and generate revenue streams from wise use of natural resources. This is more cost effective than an exclusionary strategy which is likely to be unacceptable by the majority, costly to enforce and unlikely to be sustainable.

202. Close coordination with on-going projects. Some of these projects have only recently closed or are still under implementation and have accumulated practical experiences with aspects of natural resource use which are going to be invaluable for this project. While the focus on the three selected PAs is unique to this project, many of the experiences and models developed by these other projects are still relevant. In addition, the close integration of the project with NEMA will achieve further cost-savings through the co-location of the two projects, supported by targeted studies, concrete collaboration proposals, joint activities, and the implicit opportunities to upscale sustainability aspects and biodiversity into agricultural development.

2.5 Expected Global, National and Local Benefits

203. The project will bring a number of socio-economic benefits to **local communities** through the improved conservation and restoration of ecosystems services and functions in their environment, primarily through its SLM interventions. Benefits include food and water provision security, the retention of soils and arable land,

reduced erosion, improved rice paddy farming, opportunities for livelihood diversification through biodiversity-friendly activities, maintenance of terrestrial and river-border tidal ecosystems with their natural resources, such as mangroves which contribute to protecting the shoreline, oyster banks and nurseries for fish populations, and the opportunities to keep using natural resources in a sustainable way. Fishermen and oyster collectors will benefit from the protection of critical habitats, and tourism entrepreneurs will benefit from the protection of landscapes and natural resources, which depend on an effective and well maintained PA estate. The project will build upon and complement the efforts of the Government to conserve and sustain The Gambia's biodiversity and ecosystem services through collaboration with local communities thus improving their quality of life while protecting ecosystems and species of global significance.

204. Institutional strengthening and capacity building by the project will also be visible at the communities levels.

205. At the **national** level, indirect use benefits brought about by an improved conservation of ecosystems and species will include stabilisation of ecosystem services, mitigation of natural disasters including floods, carbon sequestration and soil nutrient retention. Beyond biodiversity values, the non-use benefits of a well-managed PA system will contribute to the preservation of community values, of unique landscapes and of associated cultural heritage. The project will leave a legacy of stronger institutions and enhanced capacities in the DPWM directly, and in the MoA and elsewhere within the government sector. It will enhance capacity and upskill many officials and decision-makers responsible for the management of natural resources and the provision of the public good.

206. An important national benefit of the project is the co-management approach which better reflects the situation on the ground and the impacts caused by the communities, mostly through necessity. The project will further strengthen the collaboration between the national government and local communities, as equal partners, for the protection and management of biodiversity and natural resources. This can be replicated throughout The Gambia.

207. The direct **global** environment benefits of the project will include the conservation of globally important ecosystems and species. At the ecosystem level, this includes remnants of near-natural habitats belonging to two globally endangered biomes (ecoregions) – the Guinean Savannah (Guinean Forest-Savannah Mosaic Ecoregion), and the Sudanian-Savannah (West Sudanian-Savannah Ecoregion).

208. The Gambia is also mentioned as a locality for the Guinean Mangroves Terrestrial Ecoregion which stretches from Senegal to west of the Dahomey Gap. BBWR is a RAMSAR wetland of global importance for migratory birds, and its river and mangrove and gallery forest sections – like those of KWNP and JNP – are key habitats for a range of globally threatened species and subspecies (as per the IUCN Red List). including African Manatee, Hippopotamus, African Dwarf Crocodile and Atlantic Humpback Dolphin. Key global terrestrial species include Red Colobus and Leopard. The project will also benefit the majority of the 23 globally threatened and near threatened birds that have been recorded in the Gambia. Additional information about species and habitats is provided in Section 1.2.2 Ecosystems and biodiversity.

2.6 Gender strategy

209. The project will adopt UNDP's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment not only as human rights, but also because they are a pathway to achieving the project's goal of protecting and managing biodiversity and natural resources on a sustainable basis.

210. Gender equality and women's empowerment will be mainstreamed into project activities, ensuring that women have a real voice in project governance as well as implementation. Women will participate equally with men in any dialogue or decision-making initiated by the project and will influence decisions that will determine the success of the project and ultimately the future of their families.

211. Further to the overall mainstreaming of gender equality measures into the general conduct of the project, the following table summarizes specific areas for women's participation.

Table 12. The involvement of women in project implementation

PROJECT ACTIVITY	INVOLVEMENT
Output 1.1 *Revised PA Programme of Work and Action Plan*	Women will serve on technical, management and advisory committees and working groups as appropriate
Output 1.2 *Gazettement of the two PA expansions*	Women will serve on technical, management and advisory committees and working groups as appropriate
Output 2.1 *Strengthened institutional and technical capacities in the target PAs*	Women will be among the PA personnel and community members to benefit from the project's efforts in capacity building
Output 3.1 *Biodiversity and PA aspects as well as sustainable land and natural resource management effectively mainstreamed*	Women will serve on technical, management and advisory committees and working groups as appropriate
Output 3.2 A*greements with local communities secured for community-based sustainable land and natural resource management*	The project will ensure that although its entry point to communities is the Village Development Committee, women and women's groups are also consulted, outside the VCD structure if necessary, so as not to lead to disadvantage.
Output 3.3 *A monitoring system in place*	Women, together with other community members, will be trained to take an active part in the monitoring system
Output 4.1 *Recommended NRM and SLM practices implemented by local communities*	Women will be encouraged in women's groups or as individuals, to benefit from the project and apply improved technologies and land management practices. They will also be specifically targeted by the project's Alternative Income Generation scheme

2.7 Project consistency with National Priorities/Strategies

212. The project will contribute to the implementation of key relevant international environmental agreements acceded to by The Gambia – most notably the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this connection, the project is consistent with the NBSAP[39] which calls for improved protected area management effectiveness and an increase in the total protected land area from 4.9% to 10% by 2020.

213. The project is also in line with other nationally formulated priorities and strategies. Foremost among these is the Gambia Vision 20/20**[40]** which sees "a well-balanced ecosystem" as fundamental to achieving the national goal of Middle Income Country status by 2020.

214. The Government has manifested its commitment to the realization of Vision 2020 and SLM through the promulgation of various national and sector policies and plans in tandem with the objectives of the MDGs. The majority of these consider SLM as the priority tool towards alleviating poverty and achieving food self-sufficiency. A Roadmap for the integration of SLM, including forestry and wildlife, into national strategic frameworks includes inter-alia the wholesale submission of the action plans and their investment plans as content elements of the Vision 2020. This is also reflected in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper first put out in 1994[41] which was succeeded by the Program for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE) for 2012-2015 which aims to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

215. Other national instruments that the project is in harmony with, include the following:

- The Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP-II, 2009-2015) which calls for "*the protection of existing forest and vegetative cover…* [and the]… *conservation of coastal wetlands*".
- The Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy (2009-2015) which, amongst its four strategic objectives, lists the "*Sustainable and effective management of natural resources*" and which is complemented by the Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan (GNAIP 2009-2015) whose sustainable land management and biodiversity related interventions are coordinated through ANRWG at NEA.
- The National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA, 2007) which recognises the need to promote and strengthen integrated management of the coastal and terrestrial zones and to preserve biological diversity and ecological assets.

[39] Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (1998) *The Gambia National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (GBSAP)*
[40] State House (1996) The Gambia Incorporated Vision 2020
[41] *See:* Republic of the Gambia (2006) Poverty Reduction Strategy 2007-2011. International Monetary Fund

- The Gambia Biodiversity Policy 2003 which arose from the NBSAP and which amongst its priorities asks to "*discourage uncontrolled extension of agricultural land into …virgin forests, wetlands, marginal areas and other environmentally sensitive areas*" and "*develop sound grazing management system*".

216. The project will equally contribute towards the achievement of CBD Aichi Targets 5, 11 and 12, by increasing the coverage of the national PA system and further strengthening the management of existing PAs, and thereby reducing the loss, degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats and forests, and enhancing the conservation prospects of globally threatened species; furthermore Targets 7 and 14 by working towards more sustainable land management (agricultural and grazing/browsing practices), thereby safeguarding and restoring ecosystem services vital for local populations.

2.8 Coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives

217. The project will build on and will use relevant lessons from the following four ongoing or planned other relevant projects.

Table 13. Coordination with other initiatives

PROJECT AND OBJECTIVES	COORDINATION AND RELATIONSHIP
Gambia Biodiversity Management and Institutional Strengthening Project of DPWM/World Bank/GEF (GEF # 3961, $945,000 GEF, 2010-2014), set to (i) strengthen field effectiveness of biodiversity and protected areas management, (ii) develop a long-term sustainable financing vision and (iii) develop capacity for management of PAs and biodiversity.	The DPWM/WB/GEF project has recently closed and the present new project will build on its achievements and bring the PA system consolidation to the next level. The new GEF project will strengthen PA management in three key PAs and integrate biodiversity and PA concerns into land management practices implemented through a key agricultural development project. In doing so, it will benefit particularly from the DPWM/WB/GEF project's work on institutional and individual capacity development and on financial mechanisms (with regard to project sustainability aspects) as well as from the presence of the management teams already established in Kiang West NP, which will be maintained by government.
Participatory Integrated Watershed Management Project (PIWAMP, $18.9m) and connected Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP, $4.4m), of MOA, GEF/IFAD and AfDB. Due to close in 2014. PIWAMP focuses on community-based watershed management, with elements on increasing land productivity and reducing soil erosion. The SLMP add-on grant was provided specifically for integrating the biodiversity and ecosystem function aspects into PIWAMP.	PIWAMP and SLMP have delivered primarily on the construction of access roads to markets and rice paddies; some local capacity development and institutional strengthening on SLM have taken place but the proposed national and regional level Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Platforms have not been established. No evidence was found for larger-scale results on conservation agriculture, improved ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation. Both NEMA and the here-proposed project will build on PIWAMP and SLMP, looking at lessons learned and successes/ failures. The here-proposed project's key added value will be that it will be directly linked to a reduction of threats on PAs and improved PA management effectiveness, by focusing on areas adjacent to existing and future PAs, creating a more explicit link with biodiversity.
Forest & Farm Facility (FFF, Phase 2 launched in 2012, an estimated $700,000 for the Gambia) and hosted by NEA/ANRWG and involving FAO, the World Bank, IUCN and IIED; it will work on sustainable farm and forest management, mainly by supporting the DOF in the designation and setup of further community forests, wood lots and orchards.	Information exchanges regarding community-based land and natural resource management interventions undertaken by FFF.
Evolution of Protected Area Systems with regard to Climate Change in the West Africa Region (short title: Protected Areas Resilient to Climate Change - PARCC) of GEF/UNEP-WCMC. This multi-partner regional project will invest c. $3 million for the Gambia to assess and integrate the impacts of climate change into protected area planning and management and build related capacity.	This project is hosted by the National Environment Agency and ANRWG. Due to close in late 2015, the PARCC project and its outcomes will be consulted on matters relating to climate change impacts on The Gambia's PA system, to mitigate the risk that climate change poses to the consecution of project objectives (see the Table in Section A.3. Risks). This applies especially to the management planning in the targeted cluster of PAs (JPN and expansion, BBWR and KWNP and expansion) and to the PA ecosystem coverage assessment under Component 1.

2.9 Sustainability of project results

218. The project has been designed to optimize the prospects for sustainability of its products and results and pave the way for replication and sustainability will be promoted through a mix of strategies, principally building on the development of a strong appreciation within government institutions of the importance of managing an appropriate PA network combined with long-term realisation of the economic and other benefits of PAs. The close integration of biodiversity / PA activities with the NEMA project will prepare the ground for integrating the challenges of biodiversity loss into agricultural development more widely. The development of the revised PA Programme of Work and Action Plan and of the financial mechanism under the recently closed DPWM/World Bank/GEF *Gambia Biodiversity Management and Institutional Strengthening Project* will provide a good basis for sustainability. This will be enhanced further by the participatory and consultative approach adopted in the design and implementation of the project's sustainable resource management outputs which are expected to foster ownership over project strategies and results especially from local communities.

219. **Environmental sustainability:** This project is about environmental protection (with a focus on protected areas), and the planned interventions will ensure that biodiversity loss is turned around and that impacts are reduced, mitigated and offset as necessary, thus reducing pressures on ecosystem services and valuable natural resources many of which are of global significance. The project will raise awareness of innovative ways of getting the most benefit from land with the minimum of impact on a sustainable long-term basis. This will change the way land is used – ensuring the compatibility of production practices with sustainable land management into the future. The sustainability of forests, wetlands, and arable lands will be assured through the mutual gains and benefits that are to be made.

220. **Institutional sustainability:** The project will influence the policies and operations of a number of government agencies responsible for biodiversity protection, primary production and land use management. The project will see tools and mechanisms developed and applied within the three target protected areas and their immediate surroundings. At the same time, capacity will be enhanced to secure the implementation and application of the **n**ew tools and methodologies. Since the new developments will be carried out with the full participation of local government, the private sector, communities, and the people who work the land, a deep sense of ownership will be generated.

221. The project strategy will anchor secondary work on the policy and regulatory improvements reform process in MECCWW, NEA, MoA, DoF, etc – which are responsible for various aspects of land use and natural resources planning and management. While specifically enhancing the capabilities of these key agencies to take sustainability into account in land use planning, management, licensing, etc, the project will also strengthen the capacity of local authorities which have been empowered with administrative responsibilities for land use planning and management, and which must also regulate land use. Such a two-pronged approach is critical to ensure effective implementation of the new paradigm of sustainable land management with no impact on the broad catchment level for the long term and enhance sustainability.

222. **Financial sustainability:** The project will be making the case for all stakeholders to start seeing sustainable land management as making economic as well as ecological sense. Recognition of the economic gains that will arise from the application of SLM tools and mechanisms together with the ownership that will be achieved in the project products will lead to a protective stance from land users, and this will augur well for the sustainability of the project products, services and benefits. The participating partners have confirmed their commitment to sustain the new management measures that will be put in place under the project and which render sustainable land management as the choice land use over the longer term. The project will also benefit from the significant level of co-funded baseline initiatives. It will demonstrate good practice which will then be emulated by these other initiatives.

223. **Replication:** Replication and upscaling are expected to spread the benefits of the project from the immediate localities to the rest of the country beyond. This will be achieved through the direct replication of successful project elements and practices and methods, as well as the scaling up of experiences. Each project output will include the documentation of lessons learnt from implementation of activities under the output, and a collation of the tools and templates (and any other materials) developed during implementation. The Project Manager will ensure the collation of all the project experiences, information, know-how, and lessons. These will

be made accessible the DPWM and the managers of other PAs to be emulated and replicated beyond the project “boundaries”.

2.10 Environmental and social safeguards

224. UNDP procedures require projects to provide environmental and social safeguards and associated policies and procedures so as to prevent and mitigate undue harm to people and their environment and strive to develop benefits in the development process. More specifically, safeguard policies and procedures are designed to avoid, mitigate, or minimize adverse environmental and social impacts of projects and strategies, and to implement projects and strategies that produce positive outcomes for people and the environment.

225. The project in its early stages was subjected to an Environmental and Social Safeguards Pre-Screen. It concluded that the project has many environmental and social benefits, and possibly some impacts and risks; however, while the benefits are long-term, the negative impacts are predominantly indirect and temporary and can be managed through adequate project implementation.

226. Protection and management scenarios for natural resources will be developed in both forest and wetland environments. They will be enshrined in management plans which will be produced in full partnership with Village Councils and communities. These plans (which will be founded on ecosystem and social surveys) are aimed to have long term benefits at the social and environmental levels and implementation of priority actions will be through empowerment of councils and communities. Long-term social and environmental benefits arising from project activities are expected to be positive and beneficial.

227. However, there could also be temporary “negative” impacts. Project design has incorporated full consideration of these, ensuring that any negative impacts are outweighed by the positive and long-term benefits. This concerns for example some land users who may be required to change land use practices so as to obtain sustainability, and some hunters and firewood gatherers who may be required to limit their extraction activity. The project will strive to mitigate these temporary negative impacts and project design incorporates a scheme which supports ecosystem-friendly activities and promotes ecotourism initiatives to mitigate any impacts arising.

228. A full Social and Environmental Screening (SESP) is being conducted and will be included in a final version in Annex 4.

3 STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK

UN Development Assistance Framework Outcome(s)/Indicator(s): Pillar 1, Outcome 3 – Environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction systems and services operationalized **Expected UNDP Country Programme Action Plan Outcome(s) & Output(s):** Outcome 2 – Sustainable livelihood security enhanced for the disadvantaged groups through the promotion of income diversification opportunities and better management of environmental resources Output 2.3 – Sustainable use of environmental resources enhanced					
UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity Strategy: Signature Programme 2 - Unlocking the potential of protected areas (PAs), including indigenous and community conserved areas, to protect biodiversity while contributing to sustainable development. Key Action Area: Strengthen PA systems and their ability to conserve biodiversity and maintain and enhance ecosystem services					
Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program: BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems; BD-2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors					
Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes: **Outcome 1.1:** Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas. **Outcome 2.1:** Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation.					
Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators: **Indicator 1.1:** Protected area management effectiveness score as recorded by Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. **Indicator 2.1:** Landscapes and seascapes certified by internationally or nationally recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations (e.g. FSC, MSC) measured in hectares and recorded by GEF tracking tool.					
	Indicator	**Baseline**	**Targets End of Project**	**Source of verification**	**Assumptions and Risks**
Project Objective[42] ***To expand and strengthen the management of priority protected areas in The Gambia, including through enhanced community-based natural resource management***	**Impact 0.1** Extent of protected estate	Current overall protected estate is 64,276 ha. At the project locality, KWNP is 11,526 ha, BBWR is 22,000 ha, and JNP is 15,028 ha	Extension of the protected estate by an additional 15,000 ha (5,000 in JNP and 10,000 ha in KWNP) making a total of some 74,276 ha protected	Formal notification of protected status	**Assumptions:** The Objective assumes that the expansion and strengthening of the protected estate can be carried out, and that this can be done through co-management with communities practicing sustainable land management. **Risks:** There is a risk that landowners will assert their traditional ownership rights and there could be a reluctance at community level to cooperate with the project if this is seen as an abrogation of ownership rights. The project will protect itself from this risk by gaining the confidence of communities and their Village Councils through its genuine recognition of ownership rights and its efforts to safeguard them.
	Impact 0.2 Number of people in target area who feel that they have a significant role in managing natural resources	Current level to be confirmed by survey at inception phase. Expected to be 0%	Relative increase by 20% by mid-term and 50% by end of project	Survey of a representative sample of community members at inception and repeated at MTR and TE	
UNDP IRRF Outcome and Outputs Indicators	**IRRF Sub-indicator 1.5.A.1.1** Number of hectares of land managed under an in-situ	To be defined at project start	To be defined at project start	Project reports	

[42] *Objective (Atlas output) monitored quarterly ERBM and annually in APR/PIR*

	conservation regime				
	IRRF Sub-indicator 1.5.A.2.1: Number of hectares of land managed under a sustainable use regime	To be defined at project start	To be defined at project start	Project reports	
	IRRF Sub-indicator 1.1.3.A.1.1: Number of additional demonstration schemes which expand and diversify the productive base based on the use of sustainable production technologies	To be defined at project start	To be defined at project start	Project reports	
	IRRF Sub-indicator 1.3.2.A.3.1: Total number of additional people benefitting from strengthened livelihoods through solutions for management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste	To be defined at project start	To be defined at project start	Project reports	
	IRRF Sub-indicator 2.5.1.C.1.1: Extent to which institutional frameworks are in place for conservation, sustainable use, and/or access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems	To be defined at project start	To be defined at project start	Project reports	
Process Indicators of effective implementation and mainstreaming of UNDP strategic goals	**Process Indicator 01** Participation at village level	Some opportunities for participation at village level do exist and these will be maximised.		Project reports	
	Process Indicator 02 Cost-effectiveness	Government co-finance will be utilized to keep costs to a minimum. Likewise, preference will be given to local expertise who will be engaged at a lower cost. These actions will be taken without placing the project's success in jeopardy.		Co-financing will be tracked and recorded and reported.	
	Process Indicator 03 Involvement of women and youth	Implementation of the Gender and Youth Strategy as in Section 2.6 with gender considerations mainstreamed and embedded in the project implementation process.		Measured by the ratio of women and youth participating according to AWPs and PIRs	

	Process Indicator 04 Human rights	Recognition and respect of customary rights, including the rights of traditional use		To be measured by survey of community representatives	
	Process Indicator 05 Governance	Institutional capacity strengthening at central government and local village level leading to enhanced governance of natural resources management		Covered by various capacity building activities under the mainstream Outputs and Activities	
Outcome 1[43] ***Gazettement of a c. 5000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP***	**Impact 1.1** Formal confirmation of protected status of existing PAs and declaration of extensions	Currently KWNP has surveyed and demarcated boundaries and it is formally declared; BBWR is formally declared but boundaries not well demarcated; JNP gazettement is under preparation and boundaries need to be surveyed and PA properly established. Proposed expansions are yet to be surveyed, demarcated and declared	By end of project, the three PAs together with the extensions, will have boundaries properly surveyed and demarcated and formally declared through gazettement	Formal notification of protected status	**Assumptions:** There is an expectation that there will be an appreciation of the intrinsic value to Gambia of the protected estate, hence the desire to extend the protective/managed status. Likewise there will be an acceptance that species at risk are valuable and that action needs to be taken to ensure their sustainability. **Risks:** The risk is that the project timescale is somewhat short for some of the project benefits to manifest themselves, resulting in a lack of appreciation. The project will mitigate against this by putting in place a robust information and participatory strategy whereby stakeholders will share the project challenges as well as its benefits. The selected Indicators will serve to record beneficial results from project activities or confirm whether a good enough foundation has been laid for such results.
	Outputs: **Output 1.1 –** *Revised PA Programme of Work and Action Plan* **Output 1.2 –** *Gazettement of the two PA expansions (JNP expansion to connect with BBWR and expansion of KWNP)*				
Outcome 2 ***Enhanced management effectiveness in both existing and added PA areas***	**Impact 2.1** Enhanced level of management effectiveness in established PAs, namely KWNP and BBWR	Latest METT scores are: KWNP - 57; BBWR - 47	Increase in METT scores by 20% for KWNP and BBWR	GEF BD Tracking Tools applied at MTR and TE	**Assumptions:** It is assumed that training and capacity building coupled with the provision of equipment and other support, will enhance management effectiveness. **Risks:** However, management effectiveness also requires the appropriate policy framework and political commitment and these are beyond the brief of the project.
	Impact 2.2 Effective management established in JNP	JNP only recently established and METT score is a nominal 5	By project end expected to reach around a score of 45	GEF BD Tracking Tools applied at MTR and TE	

[43] *All outcomes monitored annually in the APR/PIR.*

	Impact 2.3 Turn-around and/or maintenance of the conservation status of key indicator species; two animal and two plant indicator species will be selected in each of the three project sites at project start	The baseline will be established at project start – through dedicated surveys to be conducted at project start	Recovery or maintenance of the conservation status (as measured by viable populations) of selected key indicator species	Scientifically designed ecological survey recording population, sex ratios, age cohorts, recruitment rate, etc	**Assumptions:** The Outcome seeks the reversal of negative trends and assumes that this can be achieved by mainstreaming a conservation ethic into land use and by the embracing of SLM approaches by communities living in the vicinity of PAs. **Risks:** There is a risk that although SLM and conservation efforts will create benefits in the long term, in the short term some changes need to be made and these could be unpopular. The project will guard against this risk by proposing and supporting eco-friendly enterprises which provide benefits at community level while reducing the impacts on species and ecosystems.
	Outputs: **Output 2.1 –** *Strengthened institutional and technical capacities in the target PAs to address existing and emerging threats*				
Outcome 3 ***Improved forest cover, habitat integrity and connectivity across the targeted PA cluster and surrounding landscapes (c. 60,000 ha)***	**Impact 3.1** Seedlings/saplings of multi use species successfully established near target communities	0	1000 per community	Project reports, field assessments, TE	
	Impact 3.2 Number of farmers successfully using conservation tillage methods	0	5 per community	Project reports, field assessments, TE	
	Impact 3.3 Stretches of valuable tress planted on PA borders	0	At least along 30% of key PA borders exposed to fire and other pressures	Project reports, field assessments, TE	
	Impact 3.4 Amount of NEMA investment directed to activities supporting conservation in the PA and adjacent buffer zones (in addition to actual SLM investment/support)	0	1% of the NEMA budget	Project reports, NEMA financial reports, TE	
	Impact 3.5 Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Agriculture: Mainstreaming Scorecard	Baseline Scorecard, see Annex 5, limited implementation, enforcement and monitoring of policies and regulations for considering BD	Project-end scorecard, shows enhanced implementation, enforcement and monitoring	GEF TT	**Assumption:** TT captures the required change

	Outputs: **Output 3.1 –** *Biodiversity as well as PA Aspects as well as sustainable land and natural resources management effectively mainstreamed into the large-scale National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA)* **Output 3.2 –** *Recommended NRM and SLM practices implemented by local communities under the community-based management agreements, with extension support provided* **Output 3.3 –** *A monitoring system in place in the target areas*				
Outcome 4 ***Enhanced diversity, sustainability and reliability of community livelihoods***	**Impact 4.1** Number of producers organizations, women's groups, trade and farmers' associations and CBOs that apply improved technologies or management practices as a result of project assistance	The baseline will be established through survey work at the Inception Phase of the project. Expected to be low, in the region of 0-5%	An increase in the numbers using improved technologies and management practices leading to at least 50% uptake	Survey to be carried out at Inception, MTR and TE	**Assumptions:** The Outcome assumes that results at the community level can be attained through which livelihoods will be enhanced. **Risks:** The risk that SLM may not lead to the desired results is low and the likelihood is reduced further through the support for eco-friendly enterprises that will be provided by the project.
	Impact 4.2 Level of awareness, sensitivity and understanding of the value and vulnerability of natural resources	There is a certain level of awareness but it is not deep. The baseline will be established through survey at the Inception Phase	An improvement of 20-50% in awareness and understanding as measured by a repeat survey.	Survey to be carried out at Inception, MTR and TE	
	Outputs: **Output 4.1 –** *Agreements with local communities secured for community-based sustainable land and natural resources management, and related plans, developed*				

4 TOTAL BUDGET AND WORKPLAN

GEF Project ID (PIMS):	5529	**UNDP Project ID (PIMS):**	5000
Award ID		**Project ID**	
Award Title:			
Business Unit:	GMB10		
Project Title:	Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project		
Lead Implementing Partner	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM)		

GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budget Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Note
OUTCOME 1: ***Gazettement of a c. 5000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP***	**62000**	**GEF**	71300	Local Consultants	16,000	48,000	12,000	-	76,000	1
			71200	International Consultants	5,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	30,000	2
			71400	Contractual Services-Individuals	56,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	200,000	3
			71600	Travel	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	32,000	4
			72100	Contractual Services-Companies	10,000	10,000	40,000	10,000	70,000	5
			72200	Equipment and furniture	16,000	4,000	-	-	20,000	6
			74200	Audio Visual and Printing	2,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	18,000	7
			75700	Training, Workshops, consultation groups	2,000	5,000	-	-	7,000	8
				GEF and Grand Total Outcome 1	**115,000**	**138,000**	**123,000**	**77,000**	**453,000**	
OUTCOME 2: ***Enhanced management effectiveness in both existing and added PA areas***	**62000**	**GEF**	71300	Local Consultants	8,000	19,000	8,000	5,000	40,000	9
			71200	International Consultants	5,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	30,000	10
			71600	Travel	1,500	2,500	2,000	1,000	7,000	11
			72100	Contractual Services-Companies	20,000	100,000	24,000	24,000	168,000	12
			72200	Equipment and furniture	3,000	18,000	50,000	10,000	81,000	13
			72400	Communications, Audio-visual equip	-	12,000	12,000	-	24,000	14
			72500	Supplies and stationery	-	7,000	8,000	-	15,000	15
			74200	Audio Visual and Printing	15,000	8,000	5,000	-	28,000	16
			75700	Training, Workshops, Conferences	10,000	6,000	3,000	-	19,000	17
				GEF and Grand Total Outcome 2	**62,500**	**182,500**	**122,000**	**45,000**	**412,000**	
OUTCOME 3: ***Improved forest cover, habitat integrity and connectivity across the targeted PA cluster and surrounding landscapes (c. 60,000 ha)***	**62000**	**GEF**	71300	Local Consultants	8,000	8,000	12,000	4,000	32,000	18
			71200	International Consultants	5,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	30,000	19
			71400	Contractual Services-Individuals	7,310	22,000	22,000	17,000	68,310	20
			71600	Travel	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	6,000	21
			72200	Equipment and Furniture	9,000	4,000	-	-	13,000	22
			72500	Supplies and stationery	8,000	9,000	8,000	8,000	33,000	23
			72800	Information Technology Equipment	3,000	22,000	5,000	-	30,000	24
			74200	Audio Visual and Printing	5,000	15,000	10,000	5,000	35,000	25
			75700	Training, Workshops, Conferences	6,000	15,000	5,000	4,000	30,000	26

				GEF Total Outcome 3	**52,810**	**106,500**	**73,500**	**44,500**	**277,310**	
	04000	**UNDP**	71400	Contractual Services-Individuals	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	120,000	20
				UNDP Total Outcome 3	**30,000**	**30,000**	**30,000**	**30,000**	**120,000**	
				Grand Total Outcome 3	**82,810**	**136,500**	**103,500**	**74,500**	**397,310**	
OUTCOME 4 ***Enhanced diversity, sustainability and reliability of community livelihoods***	**62000**	**GEF**	71600	Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	27
			71200	International Consultants	5,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	30,000	28
			74200	Audio Visual and Printing	2,500	8,000	4,000	500	15,000	29
			75700	Training, Workshops, Conferences	1,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	6,000	30
				GEF and Grand Total Outcome 4	**9,500**	**21,000**	**17,000**	**7,500**	**55,000**	
Project Management Cost	**62000**	**GEF**	71200	International Consultants	-	-	-	25,000	25,000	31
			71400	Contractual Services-Individuals	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	52,000	32
			71600	Travel	1,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	6,000	33
			72200	Equipment and Furniture	9,000	-	-	-	9,000	34
			74100	M&E, Audit and legal costs	3,000	8,500	3,000	8,500	23,000	35
			74500	UNDP cost recovery for DPS	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,000	36
				GEF Total Project Management	**29,000**	**26,500**	**21,000**	**50,500**	**127,000**	
				PROJECT TOTAL GEF	**268,810**	**474,500**	**356,500**	**224,500**	**1,324,310**	
				PROJECT TOTAL UNDP	**30,000**	**30,000**	**30,000**	**30,000**	**120,000**	
				PROJECT GRAND TOTAL	**298,810**	**504,500**	**386,500**	**254,500**	**1,444,310**	

#	**NOTES ON BUDGET** (all figures in US Dollars)
1	Ecological Survey Team of 4 experts engaged for a period of 4 months @ 4,000/consultant/month under Output 1.1. Consultant for cadastral survey of PA boundaries for 2 months @ 4000/month. Legal Consultant to draft decrees and other legal instruments for gazettement, @ 4000/month.
2, 10, 19, 28	International Technical Advisor, ITA, (Expert in PA Planning and Management/SLM) to support the PMU in building technical capacity for PA Planning and SLM, developing Annual Workplans, support the PMU in recruitment of consultants (e.g. reviewing ToRs), assess/review technical outputs of consultants and provide overall technical advice to the Project Manager. He/she will also participate in Project Board meetings on request. The TA will be recruited as an IC, on a part-time basis/retainer contract for 40 weeks at ($3,000 per week) during the life of the project. Total cost is $120,000.
3	Project personnel – Protected Areas Expert Team Leader, full-time, leads Protected Areas Team for Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 3.3; Community Liaison and SLM Expert Team Leader, full-time, leads Community/SLM Team for Outputs 3.2 and 4.1. Each on an annual contract of 25,000 X 4 years.
4	Local travel between the PMU and the three project localities for the 2 Expert Team Leaders and the ITA
5	Although under Contractual Services – Companies, this budget is for contracts with communities at each of the 3 localities for setting up and running tree nurseries and for teams of workers to plant and look after trees along the boundaries of the PAs under Output 1.2.
6	Equipment and consumables for the Ecological Survey team (Output 1.1); and 2 workstations one each for the PA Expert Team Leader and the Community + SLM Expert Team Leader
7	These costs are for the printing and distribution of reports from the Ecological Survey Team and for printing (hard copy and DVD) and distribution of the revised PA Programme of Work and Action Plan under Output 1.1.

8	Includes the cost of discussion workshops under Output 1.1 for the Programme of Work and Action Plan; and similar discussion/negotiation gatherings by the Community Liaison and SLM Expert with communities to decide on boundaries setting under Output 1.2
9	The majority of this budget line (up to 36,000) is for a number of consultancies to carry out training and capacity building sessions at various levels under Outcome 2.1. There is also a one month consultancy for a Legal Expert to draft regulatory frameworks and procedural guidelines for co-management
11	Local travel associated with the training sessions – for the training experts to go from one venue to another, and to help participants with genuine travel costs (under Output 2.1).
12	This line comprises 2 major investments by the project. The first is 120,000 for the design and construction of Park HQs in JNP and BBWR. The second is 60,000 for the construction of an information/education centre in each of KWNP, JNP, BBWR. Both under Output 2.1.
13	Various equipment and materials under Output 2.1 to enable communities to implement CBNRM; to equip the new Park HQs; to equip the new information/education centres; and to equip PA staff with uniforms, mobility, communication and monitoring equipment.
14	This budget line, also under Output 2.1, complements the above but with a specific focus on communications and audio-visual equipment mainly for display, interactive information, and management.
15	Provides assistance to the newly established Park HQs in the form of stationery and other consumables during the life of the project.
16	There are many printing activities under Output 2.1. These include hard copies as well as DVD for discussion documents (e.g. for draft management plans, for training sessions) and for final publications such as PA Management Plans, and Guidelines for Co-Management.
17	This budget line provides for workshops and other training sessions as described under item 8 above.
18	This provides for a number of consultancies – 2 months for a Corporate Mainstreaming Consultant (within MoA and NEMA under Output 3.1); 4 months for a SLM and innovative conservation agriculture Expert under Output 3.2; also under Output 3.2, a one-month consultancy to support eco-friendly enterprises. Under Output 3.3, a Natural Resources Monitoring Consultant will be engaged for 2 months.
20	Various contracts to farmers and landowners in support of trials for innovative approaches to SLM under Output 3.2
21	To cover travel costs from one locality to another for the SLM Consultant (Output 3.2) and the Monitoring Consultant (Output 3.3)
22	The equipment covered by this budget line is for monitoring and includes consumables during the project life (Output 3.3)
23	Under Output 3.2, this line will provide some assistance to Village Development Committees to set up an Environment focus; it will also support farmers and landowners who are experimenting with innovative environmentally-friendly land use approaches. Under Output 3.3 it will provide for minor equipment and consumables for students and community members who wish to be involved in monitoring and need to be trained.
24	The costs of setting up and operating monitoring stations under Output 3.3.
25	A Mainstreaming Guidance Handbook will be printed and distributed under Output 3.1. The new curriculum together with guidance and methodologies will be printed under Output 3.2. And under Output 3.3, a Monitoring Handbook will be printed and distributed.
26	This budget line will cover participatory workshops under Output 3.1 to discuss mainstreaming biodiversity considerations in MoA and NEMA. It will provide for training of Village Environment Coordinators and subsequent community forums under Output 3.2. It will provide training for monitoring for local PA personnel as well as students and community members who are going to participate – all under Output 3.3.
27	Travel costs associated with a media campaign (e.g. lectures, etc) on economic and social benefits of biodiversity protection under Output 4.1
29	Printing and distributing of various public information, awareness and sensitization material under Output 4.1
30	A small budget for venues and similar expenses associated with negotiations with communities to agree on legally-binding covenants (Output 4.1).
31	Consultancy for carrying out the independent Terminal Evaluation – 25,000 allocated for International Consultant.
32	Project Admin & Finance Assistant (AFA), recruited by project, full-time @ 13,000/year for 4 years
33	A small travel budget to enable the Project Manager to travel in the region as necessary. Principal costs for the PM will be covered through Government co-financing and this complements that investment.
34	Setting up of 3 work stations – one for the Project Manager, one for the Project Admin and Finance Assistant and one for the International Technical Advisor.
35	M&E (excluding Terminal evaluation costs) allocated at 3,000/year plus approximate standard budgetary allocation for audit costs
36	Estimated UNDP Direct Project Service/Cost recovery charges as indicated in the Agreement in Annex 3 of the Project Document. The project is to be managed on the 100% Country Office Cost Recovery basis, upon request of the government implementing partner. The estimated cost includes: issuing and

	managing contracts, handling individual consultant contracts, organization of workshops and logistics, etc. In accordance with GEF Council requirements, the costs of these services will be part of the executing entity's Project Management Cost allocation identified in the project budget. DPS costs will be charged at the end of each year based on the UNDP Universal Pricelist (UPL) or the actual corresponding service cost. The amounts here are estimations based on the services preliminarily indicated, however as part of annual project operational planning the DPS to be requested during the calendar year would be defined and the amount included in the yearly project management budgets and would be charged based on actual services provided at the end of that year.

Summary of Funds (in US dollars): [44]

	Amount Year 1	Amount Year 2	Amount Year 3	Amount Year 4	Total
GEF	268,810	474,500	356,500	224,500	1,324,310
Donor 2 UNDP	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	120,000
Donor 3 Government	1,000,000	1,190,303	1,190,303	1,190,303	4,570,909
TOTAL	**1,298,810**	**1,694,803**	**1,576,803**	**1,444,803**	**6,015,219**

[44] *Summary table includes financing of all kinds: GEF financing, cofinancing, cash, in-kind, etc...*

5 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

UNDP Country Office

229. UNDP is the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the project which will be implemented over a period of four years and will have the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife (MECCWW) as the National Implementing Partner, through the Department of Parks & Wildlife Management (DPWM). Other government and non-government organizations will also play important roles in implementation. The project will be executed in the NIM modality in line with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between UN and the Government.

230. As GEF Implementing Agency, the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) is ultimately accountable and responsible for the delivery of results through the PEB. UNDP-CO with the UNDP/GEF Regional Service Centre (RSC) will provide oversight and quality control over project delivery and provide project cycle management services that will include the following:

- Providing technical assistance to the project on occasional basis
- Approving/clearing budgets and work plans and ensuring that activities, including procurement and financial services, are carried out in compliance with UNDP and GEF procedures, where applicable
- Overseeing financial expenditures against annual and multi-annual project budgets approved by PEB and UNDP
- Providing financial and audit services to the project
- Ensuring that the technical and financial reporting to GEF is undertaken in line with GEF and UNDP requirements and procedures, where applicable
- Facilitating project learning, exchange and outreach to the wider UNDP and GEF family
- Contracting the project terminal evaluation team and triggering additional reviews and/or evaluations as necessary and in consultation with the project counterparts.

Capacity micro-assessment - Request for Direct Payment Modality

231. A micro-assessment for capacity was done for UNDP's main Implementing Partners in The Gambia including the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change.Water & Wildlife (MoECCWW) in late 2014/early 2015. MoECCWW was found to have moderate risk and therefore not qualified for Direct Cash Transfer (DCT). All sub-IPs of the MoECCWW including DPWM will therefore use the Request for Direct Payment (RDP) modality for the implementation of (CPAP) activities.

National Project Director

232. The Director of DPWM will serve as the National Project Director (NPD). The NPD will ensure continued cohesion between the project and the mandate of the DPWM and provide additional linkages and interactions with high level policy components within the Government. In this way, the DPWM as the lead agency will be in a good position to assume responsibility on behalf of the government and follow up on, supervise and coordinate the contributions of the government. The NPD will not be paid from project funds, but will represent part of the government in-kind contribution to the project.

233. Among the duties and responsibilities of the NPD are the following[45]:

- Form part of the Project Executive Board
- Serve as a focal point for coordination of the project with implementing agencies, UNDP, Government and other partners
- Ensure that Government inputs for the project are available and that project activities are in line with national priorities
- Coordinate with the Project Manager and facilitate his/her work and that of all project staff
- Ensure that the required project work plan is prepared and updated and distributed to the relevant Government entities
- Represent the national Executing Agency at project meetings and annual reviews

[45] See UNDP Bureau of Management (2003) Country Office Support For Effective Project Management: Working Paper #3-National Project Directors Manual

- Lead efforts to build partnerships for the support of outcomes indicated in the project document
- Support resource mobilization efforts to increase resources in cases where additional outputs and outcomes are required

Project Executive Board

234. Project governance will be through the Project Executive Board (PEB) which will be convened by UNDP in consultation with the government and will serve as the project's governance and decision-making body. The PEB will comprise the NPD and representatives of MECCWW, UNDP, the NEMA Project and other entities, such as beneficiaries, as agreed between UNDP and the Government. The PM will also be in attendance at PEB meetings. It will meet as necessary, but not less than once every six months, to review project progress, review and approve project work plans (including budgets) and review and approve major project deliverables. The PEB is responsible for ensuring that the project remains on course to deliver products of the required quality to meet the outcomes defined in the project document. The PEB's role will include: (i) overseeing project implementation; (ii) reviewing and approving all project work plans and budgets, as put forward by the PM, for submission to the UNDP/GEF RSC in Addis Ababa and/or the UNDP/GEF HQ in New York; (iii) approving any major changes in project plans or programmes; (iv) providing technical input and advice; (v) approving major project deliverables; (vi) ensuring commitment of resources to support project implementation; (vii) arbitrating any conflicts within the project and/or negotiating solutions between the project and any parties beyond the scope of the project; and (viii) overall project evaluation.

235. As with other NIM projects, the project will be audited through the regular external (UN Board of Auditors) or internal audits (audits managed by UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations).

Technical Advisory Group

236. The PM will be supported by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which, for the purpose of this project will comprise the ANRWG as the core membership augmented as necessary to ensure input from key implementing partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries as well as some individuals and organizations selected in recognition of their particular expertise or interest in the project. The TAG will also include traditional rulers as representatives of relevant local adjacent communities. The TAG will provide advice and support on any technical aspects, in particular the reviewing and drafting of Terms of Reference and reviewing the outputs of consultants and other subcontractors. Expertise covered will range from institutional, legal, policy development, land use planning, ecosystem services, biodiversity values and vulnerability, community involvement, private sector involvement, capacity building, etc. The PM will also be in attendance at TAG meetings. The TAG will meet as required and will be based centrally. The TAG will regulate its own procedures but it is proposed that the Chair will be selected by consensus and will become an *ex officio* member of the PEB meetings (see above) to contribute technical advice. In addition to providing advice to the PM, the TAG will also advise the PEB and the key Implementing Partners – on request as well as on the TAG's own initiative. TAG members will not be paid from project funds but their contribution will be recognized as a contribution in-kind.

Project Management Unit

237. A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be set up to provide the day-to-day coordination and administration of the project.

238. A Project Manager (PM) will lead the PMU and report to the Project Executive Board (PEB). He/she will work in close collaboration with the NPD to ensure cost efficient, technical and administrative project operations. The PM is accountable to the PEB and UNDP/GEF for the overall quality, timeliness and effectiveness of the activities carried out, as well as for the use of funds. The PM will collate the input from the key Implementation Partners and produce Annual Work Plans and budgets to be approved by the PEB and UNDP-GEF at the beginning of each year. These plans will provide the basis for allocating resources to planned activities. The PM will further produce collated quarterly operational reports and Project Implementation Reports (PIR) for submission to the PEB and UNDP/GEF. These reports will summarize the progress made by the project against the expected results, explain any significant variances, detail the necessary adjustments and serve as the main reporting mechanism for monitoring project activities.

239. The PM will serve as the Monitoring and Evaluation focal point for the project. Using the PRODOC Strategic Results Framework as a key reference, the PM will assess and report on progress towards the various Outputs and Outcomes and the targeted results. Indicators will help the PM in his/her assessment, which will then be used to formulate proposals for adaptive management adjustments to the project strategy which will be discussed and approved by the PEB with input from the UNDP RSC.

240. The PM, with the support of the AFA, will assume the lead responsibility for the upstream activities and capacity elements of the project as well as provide oversight and coordination among the key Implementing Partners at the various project sites, namely, Kiang West, Bao Bolong and Jokadu. The PM will liaise and work closely with all partner institutions to link the project with complementary national programmes and initiatives.

241. The PM will be a seconded official from the DPWM who will be remunerated from the government co-financing contribution. Full ToRs for the PM and other PMU key positions are in Annex 1.

242. In addition to the PM, the PMU will comprise the Administration and Finance Assistant (AFA) and two Project Experts, one to lead the PA Team (Component 1) and one to lead the Community Liaison and SLM Team (Component 2). An International Technical Advisor (ITA) will also be recruited on a retainer basis, estimated to comprise some 30-40 work days per year during the lifetime of the project. He/she will provide regular technical advice and training for aspects of the project requiring international best practice, experience and expertise. The ITA will be selected jointly between UNDP and the Government.

243. Project staff will be recruited using standard UNDP recruitment procedures. While overall responsibility for project implementation will rest with the PMU, site-specific interventions will be supported by the relevant government technical agencies such as Ministry of Agriculture in the case of sustainable livelihood interventions, Department of Forestry in case of woodlots, habitat regeneration, tree/mangrove planting, Department of Community Development for community mobilization at project sites and Department of Fisheries for related wetlands and fisheries development matters. These technical agencies will all be represented in the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and/or the PEB.

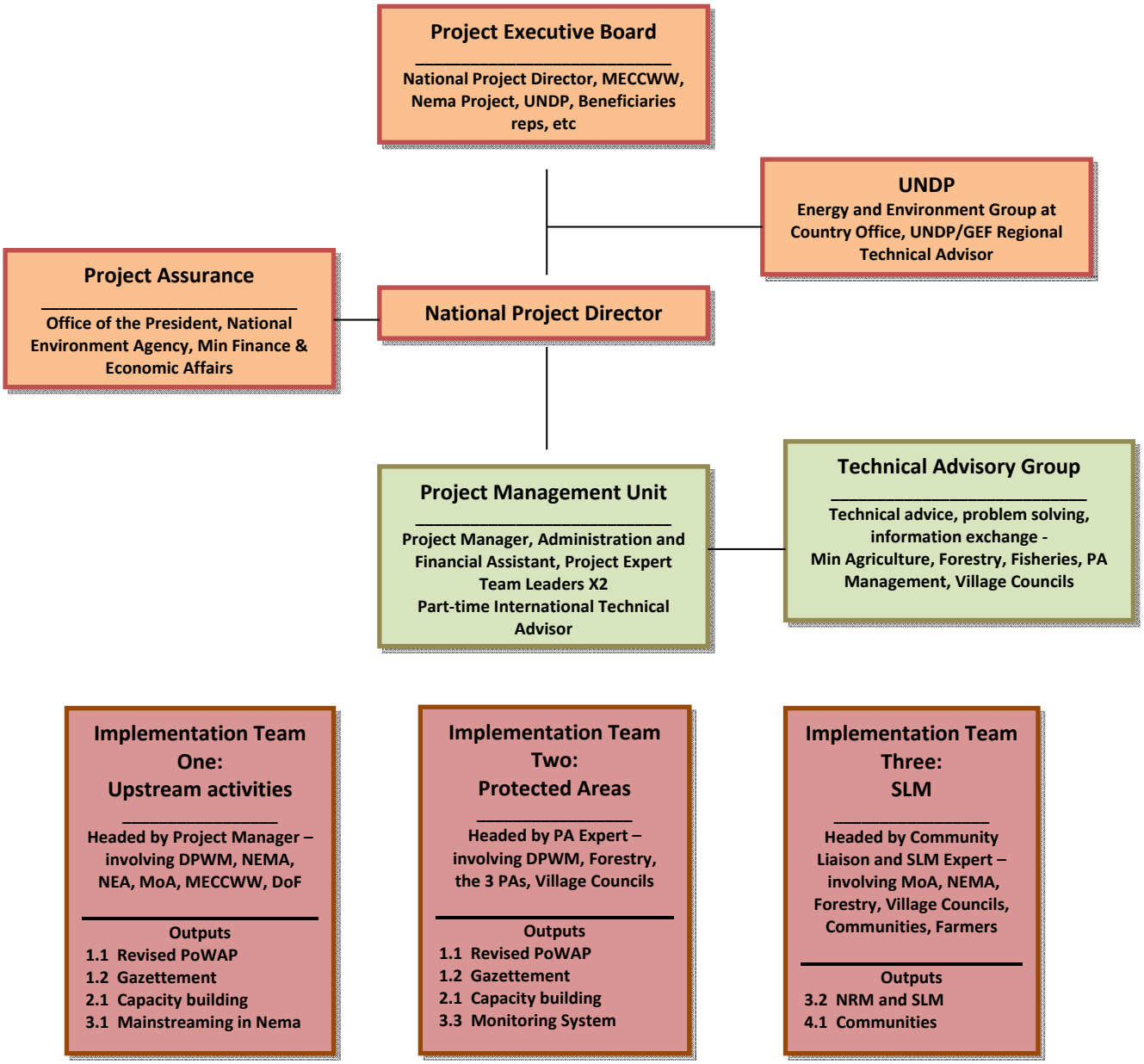
244. Many outputs will require technical know-how and expertise most of which will be obtained through consultancies and contracts with individuals and companies. Often, as described in Section 2.2.4 above, the expert will lead or coordinate a working group made up of representatives from the key stakeholders. A list of all the delivery contracts envisaged is in Annex 1. The list provides a brief job description for each consultancy and ToRs will need to be developed by the PMU for approval by the PEB.

Local Advisory Committees

245. A Local Advisory Committee (LAC) will be set up at each of Kiang West, Bao Bolong and Jokadu. The LACs will be set up by the PM, in consultation with key local stakeholders. Each will comprise representatives of Park management, the local Implementing Partners (Districts and Municipalities), relevant central government organizations the private sector, NGOs, communities and individuals known to possess valuable expertise. The LACs, which will be chaired by a nominee of the respective District, will perform a similar task to the central Technical Advisory Group (see above) and provide advice and support to the PM and others involved in project implementation.

246. The following diagram is a summary of the implementation framework and relationships:

Figure 4. Project implementation and management framework



6 MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION

247. The project will be monitored through the following M&E activities the budget for which is provided in the table below.

At Project start:

248. A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 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 will 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 relevant GEF Tracking Tool if appropriate, 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 Project Board meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organisation structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first Project Board meeting should be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.

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

Quarterly:

250. Progress made will be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.

251. Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log will 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).

252. Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Report (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.

253. 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:

254. Project Implementation Reports (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 PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements. The 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
- Portfolio level indicators (i.e. GEF focal area tracking tools) are used by most focal areas on an annual basis as well.

Periodic Monitoring through site visits:

255. UNDP CO and the UNDP RCU 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.

End of Project:

256. An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final Project Board meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance. The TE will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned. The TE 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.

257. The TE should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response which will be uploaded to PIMS and to the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

258. The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools will also be completed during the final evaluation.

259. During the last three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

Learning and knowledge sharing:

260. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums.

261. 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.

262. Finally, there will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

Communications and visibility requirements:

263. 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. The UNDP logo can be accessed at http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml.

264. 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. 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.

265. Where other agencies and project partners have provided support through co-financing, their branding policies and requirements should be similarly applied.

Table 14. M& E workplan and budget

Type of M&E activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Budget US$** *Excluding project team staff time*	**Time frame**
Inception Workshop and Report	▪ Project Manager ▪ UNDP CO, UNDP GEF	Indicative cost: 10,000	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results	▪ UNDP GEF RTA/Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on *output and implementation*	▪ Oversight by Project Manager ▪ Project team	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan preparation	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
APR/PIR	▪ Project manager and team ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RTA ▪ UNDP EEG	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	▪ Project manager and team	None	Quarterly
Mid-term Review	▪ N/A	N/A	N/A
Final Evaluation	▪ Project manager and team, ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	Indicative cost : 25,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Project Terminal Report	▪ Project manager and team ▪ UNDP CO ▪ local consultant	None	At least three months before the end of the project
Audit	▪ UNDP CO ▪ Project manager and team	Indicative cost per year: 2,750 = total about 11,000	Yearly
Visits to field sites	▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU (as appropriate) ▪ Government representatives	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and operational budget	Yearly
TOTAL indicative COST Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses		US$ 46,000	

7 LEGAL CONTEXT

266. This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Gambia and the United Nations Development Programme, signed by the parties on February 2nd, 1977. The host country implementing agency shall, for the purpose of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, refer to the government co-operating agency described in that Agreement. The project falls within the priorities established by the Country Programme Document of UNDP and the Government of The Gambia.

267. UNDP Gambia is playing a key role on overall donor – government coordination through its Aid Harmonization Coordination Unit and its lead role in the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG). At the national scale, UNDP draws its interventions from the UNDAF (UN Development Assistance Framework) and the UNDP Common Cooperation Framework (CCF). Both documents support and feed into the EDPRS, which is the guiding development strategy at country level. The CCF specifically includes environment as a cross-cutting issue.

268. The UNDP Gambia Resident Representative is authorized to effect in writing the following types of revision to this Project Document, 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.

269. The Implementing Partner (DPWM) 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.

270. 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.

271. The Implementing Partner (DPWM) 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 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.

8 ANNEXES

Annex 1 Terms of Reference for Key Project Personnel

A Project Manager (Location: Banjul)

1 Introduction

Over a period of 4 years and for a cash cost of close to USD1.5 million and a further estimated USD4 million in co-financing, the project on The Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihoods will set a goal of expanding and strengthening the PA system by enhancing community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). It will do this by strengthening the national PA network and management effectiveness in a cluster of priority PAs namely, Jokadu National Park (JNP, 15,028 ha), Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR, 22,000 ha), and Kiang West National Park (KWNP, 11,526 ha). Enhancement of the PA system will comprise a c. 5,000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP. Basic PA offices will be established and adequately equipped and staffed in JNP and BBWR (KWNP already has adequate PA offices) – with institutional and technical capacities being built through targeted training on all relevant aspects of PA operations to ensure that field staff meet necessary competencies (planning, administration, conflict resolution, monitoring, enforcement, etc.). Moreover, the on-the-ground boundaries of JNP and BBWR – as well as of the newly added PA areas – will be demarcated using a ring of recognisable, valuable and useful tree species forming a clear boundary that local communities respect and protect.

The project has a focus on the communities surrounding the three PAs (*i.e.* in the buffer zones) that exert significant pressure on the integrity of these PAs. The targeted stakeholders are primarily farmers and their households, totalling an estimated 70,000 people. Working closely with and through the MoA's National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (Nema), the project will introduce biodiversity-friendly sustainable land and natural resource management practices, to reduce the pressures that these communities exert on the targeted PAs. The project will establish nurseries and plant suitable fruit, forage, firewood and multi-purpose trees and vegetation; pilot the latest conservation tillage agriculture; establish inter-cropping regimes and nutrient-rich plants and hedges in degraded farmland; establish agro-forestry regimes and village woodlots and shelter belts; revisit fire and grazing practices; replant mangroves in degraded wetlands; pilot new salt-tolerant wet rice varieties to reduce land conversion for dry rice production; promote and distribute fuel efficient stoves; and increase bee farming and horticulture.

Agreements will be entered into with local communities that will form the basis of these community-based interventions to be undertaken by the project. The project will also devise a monitoring system to provide relevant and science-based information on the state of natural resources and socio-economic conditions in the target areas.

The implementation of the proposed project will have an immediate global environmental benefit, albeit on a small scale, through the increased integrity and management efficiency of Protected Areas and their surrounding buffer zones. This will lead to the restoration of natural productivity and conservation of the habitats of a number of plant and animal species and valuable ecosystems. As a result, globally significant biodiversity will be conserved and valuable ecosystem services will be safeguarded.

As a result of the significant effort that the project will make on institutional capacity building and the mainstreaming of a sustainability ethic into land use, these benefits will be sustainable.

More specifically, the **Project Objective** is: ***To expand and strengthen the management of priority protected areas in The Gambia, including through enhanced community-based natural resource management***

This Objective will be achieved through four inter-related Outcomes, viz. –

Outcome 1: Gazettement of a c. 5,000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP

Outcome 2: Enhanced management effectiveness in both existing and added PA areas

Outcome 3: Improved forest cover, habitat integrity and connectivity across the targeted PA cluster and surrounding landscapes (c. 60,000 ha)

Outcome 4: Enhanced diversity, sustainability and reliability of community livelihoods

The UNDP Gambia CO seeks to employ a full-time Project Manager (PM) to lead the Project Management Unit which will be based in the Nema Project Office in Banjul. The PM will work closely with the UNDP Environment Programme Analyst and report to the Project Executive Board (PEB).

2 Objective of the Project Manager position

The ultimate Objective of the Project Manager is to achieve the Project Objective and Outcomes through leadership of the Project Team across all implementing partners and effective use of project resources.

3 Key Results and Measurable Outputs Expected from the PM

Working under the overall supervision of the Project Executive Board to whom he/she will report, and in partnership with the UNDP Environment Programme Analyst who will channel overall policy and technical advice from the UNDP Country Office, the PM will have the responsibility for the delivery of the project outcomes and activities in accordance with the project document and agreed work plan. He/she will lead the Project Team in the day-to-day implementation of the Project, coordinate and supervise the implementation of the Project and manage Project resources[46] effectively and efficiently so as to achieve the Project Objective and Outcomes within the set timescale and available budget. More specifically, the PM will perform the following duties:

A) Project personnel management

A.1) Assume the ultimate responsibility for all project personnel (fulltime Staff, Consultants and Contractors) engaged through project funds directly, and for all other personnel indirectly (through the relevant Implementing Partners); this includes drafting of terms of reference, technical specifications and other documents as necessary; and the identification and advice on the recruitment of project consultants to be approved by the PEB, as well as coordination and quality control of consultants and suppliers

A.2) Endeavour to create a strong team spirit, cohesive and mutually supportive, across the various Implementing Partners; encourage collaboration between individuals, the sharing of experiences and the solving of problems as a group; organize regular (monthly) meetings for this purpose (via telecommunications if necessary)

A.3) Assist with the clarification of specific duties and tasks by specific individuals at each of the project localities according to their Terms of Reference; ensure their full understanding of what is expected through agreement on deliverables and timescales; and agree on the resources and support that will be provided by the Project

A.4) Undertake individual performance assessments on an annual basis (or other period for Consultants/Contractors), acknowledging achievements and providing analysis and advice on problem aspects

A.5) While giving all professional personnel the "space" to carry out their professional duties, ensure that guidance and support are available whenever needed

A.6) Ensure that Project personnel enjoy the conditions of employment as stipulated by UNDP, together with the responsibilities of their positions

[46] UNDP will serve as budget holder under the National Execution modality.

A.7) Require regular (as agreed), formal and informal reporting on progress with the achievement of assigned tasks

B) Financial resources management

B.1) Support the Project Admin/Finance Assistant in his/her role as financial manager but retain the ultimate responsibility for financial resources for accountability purposes

B.2) Ensure total accuracy and the highest level of transparency in the management of the Project financial resources in accordance with UNDP and national regulations and procedures

B.3) Work with the Project Admin/Finance Assistant to prepare all necessary financial reports to accompany Project quarterly and annual work plans and reports

C) Project outreach

C.1) Serve as the Project's ambassador and advocate within the broader Central and Local Government systems and with local communities

C.2) Create and foster a good working relationship with the media (print, radio and television)

C.3) Represent and promote the Project at national and international meetings

C.4) Contribute to the production and publication of public information material

C.5) Establish and maintain good working relationships and cooperation with peer project managers from other related projects within The Gambia and the region

C.6) Provide coordination of duty travel, seminars, public outreach activities and other project events

D) Project planning and implementation

D.1) Lead the process of quarterly and annual planning of project activities, with the participation of all Project personnel; retain the ultimate responsibility for the finished plans and submit them to the Project Board and UNDP for their concurrence

D.2) As noted under A.5 above, professional staff should be given the "space" to carry out their assigned tasks; but be alert to needs for support and advice; require progress reporting and accountability for resources used

D.3) In cooperation with relevant Project personnel build effective working relationships with the Project's key partners at the local level (Local Government, village leaders, communities, local NGOs, the private sector, etc)

D.4) Work closely with co-funding partners to ensure that their activities/programmes are integrated and complementary with those of the GEF project

D.5) Maintain effective working contacts with project partners at the central and local levels

E) Monitoring and adaptive management

E.1) Lead the implementation of the Project M&E Plan

E.2) Carry out monitoring visits to Project sites on a regular basis; survey (informally) the intended beneficiaries and other stakeholders

E.3) Collate the results of monitoring, analyze them, and formulate proposals for adaptive management measures for consideration by the PEB

E.4) Implement the decisions and advice of the PEB

F) Reporting and accountability

F.1) Provide a report to each PEB meeting noting progress and achievements, acknowledging difficulties and proposing possible solutions for consideration and guidance by the PEB

F.2) Assume the lead responsibility for the preparation and content of the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR), with the full participation of relevant Project and UNDP personnel

F.3) Delegate to the Project Admin/Finance Assistant the task of preparation of implementation reports for UNDP (such as Atlas reports) but retain a supportive role

F.4) Jointly with the Project Admin/Finance Assistant, prepare quarterly and annual project plans and reports and present them to the PEB

F.5) Respond to request for reports on Project management and performance from any key stakeholders, through the PEB

F.6) Report to the PEB and the UNDP on any aspect of Project management whenever required

4 Time-frame

The PM is a full time employee of the Project and the initial contract will be for a period of one year. The contract will be renewed, subject to a satisfactory performance assessment, for a further year with a maximum of four years or until project closure, whichever is the earliest.

5 Duty station and travel arrangements

The PM will be based in the Nema Project Office in the Ministry of Agriculture in Banjul. In addition, he/she is expected to travel as necessary to various parts of the country to stay in touch with the Implementing Partners and to where the Project is implementing Activities.

6 Qualifications and Experience

- **Education:** MSc in Environmental Policy, Environmental or Natural Resource Management, or Land Use Planning, or equivalent
- **Experience:** Minimum of ten years management experience in implementing development projects in the field of environment, preferably within the UN system or other development agencies. Experience in forestry, agriculture or PA co-management an advantage.
- **Language requirements:** Proficient in both written and oral English.
- **Computer skills** : Demonstrable skills in office computer use - word processing, spread sheets, etc

7 Skills and Competencies

- Good manager of people and resources to obtain best results and be accountable
- Strong managerial skills, results-orientation, team-building, motivational and leadership skills
- Demonstrable knowledge of the PA, forestry/agriculture sector in The Gambia; technical expertise to appreciate project aims; ability to speak the “language” with experts; dedicated and committed to Project aims
- Excellent communication, presentation, negotiation and facilitation skills
- Excellent inter-personal skills; good communicator at all levels from political decision-makers to grassroots communities

- Good analytical and planning skills (including financial); ability to set forecasts and refine/review them in the light of experience and further analysis
- Broad experience working at the central and local levels in The Gambia
- Decisiveness, independence, good judgement, ability to work under pressure
- Excellent networking and partnering competencies and negotiating skills
- Ability to use information technology as a tool and resource

B Project Administration/Finance Assistant (Location: Banjul)

1 Introduction

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Agreements will be entered into with local communities that will form the basis of these community-based interventions to be undertaken by the project. The project will also devise a monitoring system to provide relevant and science-based information on the state of natural resources and socio-economic conditions in the target areas.

The implementation of the proposed project will have an immediate global environmental benefit, albeit on a small scale, through the increased integrity and management efficiency of Protected Areas and their surrounding buffer zones. This will lead to the restoration of natural productivity and conservation of the habitats of a number of plant and animal species and valuable ecosystems. As a result, globally significant biodiversity will be conserved and valuable ecosystem services will be safeguarded.

As a result of the significant effort that the project will make on institutional capacity building and the mainstreaming of a sustainability ethic into land use, these benefits will be sustainable.

More specifically, the **Project Objective** is: ***To expand and strengthen the management of priority protected areas in The Gambia, including through enhanced community-based natural resource management***

This Objective will be achieved through four inter-related Outcomes, viz. –

Outcome 1: Gazettement of a c. 5,000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP

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Outcome 3: Improved forest cover, habitat integrity and connectivity across the targeted PA cluster and surrounding landscapes (c. 60,000 ha)

Outcome 4: Enhanced diversity, sustainability and reliability of community livelihoods

The UNDP Gambia CO seeks to employ a full-time Project Administration/Finance Assistant (PAFA) to support the Project Manager who will be based in the MoA's Nema project office in Banjul.

2 Objective of the Project Administration/Finance Assistant position

The ultimate Objective of the National Project Administration/Finance Assistant is to provide all necessary support (administrative, financial, and some technical) to the PM so that he/she can achieve the Project Objective and Outcomes.

3 Key task and responsibilities

Working under the supervision of the Project Manager to whom he/she will report, and the UNDP Environment Programme Analyst, the PAFA will be responsible for running the Project Office on a day-to-day basis and managing Project resources in partnership with the PM so as to achieve the Project Objective and Outcomes within the set timescale and available budget. More specifically, the PAFA will perform the following duties:

A) Administrative responsibilities (approx. 50% of time)

A.1) Assist in all administrative aspects of the project.

A.2) Schedule workshops and meetings, and arrange their logistics.

A.3) Draft and type minutes of meetings and correspondence in English.

A.4) Follow-up on correspondence with relevant stakeholders, Implementing Partners, the Project Board, UNDP and GEF, etc.

A.5) Assist the PM in maintaining continuous liaison with UNDP

A.6) Maintain up-to-date soft and hard filing systems.

A.7) Undertake secretarial duties such as maintaining contact information (tel., fax, e-mail) of all project stakeholders including work teams.

A.8) Support the PM in the Projects' tasks as the Secretariat for the Project Executive Board and the Technical Advisory Group (calling for meetings, preparing and distributing an agenda, keeping of minutes of meetings, follow-up on decisions, keep members informed on the progress, etc.).

A.9) Assist the PM to develop and submit progress and financial reports to UNDP in accordance with the reporting schedule.

B) Financial resources management (approx. 30% of time)

B.1) On delegation from the Project Manager, assume the first level of responsibility for management of Project financial resources including the preparation/updates of project work and budget plans, record keeping, accounting and reporting by the key Implementing Partners; share accountability.

B.2) Ensure total accuracy and the highest level of transparency in the management of the Project financial resources in accordance with UNDP and national regulations and procedures

B.3) Under the guidance of the Project Manager prepare all necessary financial reports to accompany Project quarterly and annual work plans and reports

C) Project planning and other technical tasks (approx. 20% of time)

C.1) Participate fully in the process of quarterly and annual planning of project activities, sharing with the Project Manager the responsibility for the finished plans

C.2) In cooperation with relevant Project personnel build effective working relationships with the Project's key partners at the local level (Local Government, village leaders, communities, locals NGOs, the private sector, etc)

C.3) Work closely with co-funding partners to ensure that their activities/programmes are integrated and complementary with those of the GEF project

C.4) In collaboration with the Project Manager, report to each PEB meeting noting particularly from the administrative perspective, the progress and achievements made, acknowledging difficulties and proposing possible solutions for consideration and guidance by the PEB

C.5) Participate fully in the preparation and content of the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR)

C.6) On delegation from the Project Manager, assume responsibility for the task of preparation of implementation reports for UNDP (such as Atlas reports)

C.7) Jointly with the Project Manager, prepare quarterly and annual project plans and reports and present them to the PEB

C.8) Respond to request for reports on Project administration and performance from any key stakeholders, through the Project Manager

4 Qualifications, Experience and Competencies

Education: University degree (B.A. or B.Sc) in environment, business administration, management information systems or related fields.
Experience: A minimum of 2-3 years experience in administration and financial responsibilities works. Experience in donor-funded projects is an asset.
Abilities: Proven ability to work with a variety of people including government officials, international and national NGOs, local stakeholders, experts and consultants; ability to manage budgets; Self-motivated with good interpersonal skills; Dedicated to work
Work ethic: Good organizational and planning skills; proven ability to adhere to deadlines; committed to deliver high quality work in a timely manner; Flexible and adaptive to challenging work conditions (deadlines, conflict, etc.).
Language: Excellent communication (oral and written) skills in English. Report writing in English with fluency is absolutely necessary
Computer skills: Excellent computer skills (Microsoft Office and internet essential)
Nationality: Gambian

5 Duration of Service

Duration of this contract is for one year renewable for a maximum of four years.

C1 Expert Team Leader Protected Areas (Location: Banjul)
C2 Expert Team Leader Community Liaison and SLM (Location: Banjul)

1 Introduction

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Agreements will be entered into with local communities that will form the basis of these community-based interventions to be undertaken by the project. The project will also devise a monitoring system to provide relevant and science-based information on the state of natural resources and socio-economic conditions in the target areas.

The implementation of the proposed project will have an immediate global environmental benefit, albeit on a small scale, through the increased integrity and management efficiency of Protected Areas and their surrounding buffer zones. This will lead to the restoration of natural productivity and conservation of the habitats of a number of plant and animal species and valuable ecosystems. As a result, globally significant biodiversity will be conserved and valuable ecosystem services will be safeguarded.

As a result of the significant effort that the project will make on institutional capacity building and the mainstreaming of a sustainability ethic into land use, these benefits will be sustainable.

More specifically, the **Project Objective** is: ***To expand and strengthen the management of priority protected areas in The Gambia, including through enhanced community-based natural resource management***

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Outcome 2: Enhanced management effectiveness in both existing and added PA areas

Outcome 3: Improved forest cover, habitat integrity and connectivity across the targeted PA cluster and surrounding landscapes (c. 60,000 ha)

Outcome 4: Enhanced diversity, sustainability and reliability of community livelihoods

The UNDP Gambia CO seeks to employ two full-time Expert Team Leaders (ETL), one to lead the Protected Areas Team and one to lead the Community Liaison and SLM Team. Both positions will be hosted by the Nema Project in the Ministry of Agriculture, but will also serve as extensions of the PMU in outlier positions. As a member of the PMU, each ETL will report to the Project Manager.

2 Objective of each of the Expert Team Leader (ETL) positions

The ultimate Objective of each Expert Team Leader is to coordinate and support the implementation of project activities in their respective thematic area and provide necessary technical input so as to achieve the Project Outputs and Outcomes.

3 Key task and responsibilities

Working under the day-to-day supervision of the Project Manager to whom he/she will report, each ETL will serve as the communication link with the PMU for the respective thematic area and facilitate the implementation of project Activities. Each ETL will also be responsible for collating various reports (technical, financial, progress, etc) and other required information and transmitting them to the PM and the PAFA to ensure the smooth running of the project. More specifically, each ETL will perform the following duties:

A) Project planning, monitoring and implementation (approx. 70% of time)

A.1) Participate fully in the process of quarterly and annual planning of project activities at the respective locality, accepting the responsibility for relaying the finished plans to the PM

A.2) Foster good working relationships with the Project's key partners at the local level (Local Government, village leaders, communities, local NGOs, the private sector, etc)

A.3) Provide technical guidance and advice to consultants and other project personnel working in the relevant thematic area

A.4) Work closely with co-funding partners to ensure that their activities/programmes are integrated and complementary with those of the GEF project

A.5) Provide the PM with regular reports in preparation for each PEB meeting noting particularly the progress and achievements made, acknowledging difficulties and proposing possible solutions for consideration and guidance by the PEB

A.6) Contribute the local content for the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR)

A.7) Prepare quarterly and annual project plans and reports and convey them to the PM

A.8) Respond to request for reports on Project administration and performance from any key stakeholders, through the PM

B) Administrative (including financial) responsibilities (approx. 30% of time)

B.1) Assist as required, at the local level, with administrative aspects of the project

B.2) In collaboration with the PAFA, help organize workshops and meetings at the respective locality

B.3) Prepare and submit progress and financial reports to UNDP in accordance with the reporting schedule

4 Qualifications, Experience and Competencies (for both positions)

Quality	Protected Areas Expert Team Leader	Community Liaison and SLM Expert Team Leader
Education	University degree (B.Sc, B.A. or equivalent) in protected areas management or environment, conservation or related fields	University degree (B.Sc, B.A. or equivalent) in forestry/agriculture/rangelands, sustainable land use, or related fields
Experience	A minimum of 5 years experience in implementing development projects in the field of protected areas planning and management, preferably within the UN system or other development agencies. Broad experience working at the central and local levels in The Gambia	A minimum of 5 years experience in implementing development projects in the field of land use, PA co-management, preferably within the UN system or other development agencies. Broad experience working at the central and local levels in The Gambia
Technical expertise	Good knowledge of protected area planning and management in the Gambia, ecological survey, environmental monitoring; adequate expertise to appreciate project aims; ability to speak the "language" with experts	Good knowledge of land use planning, forestry, agriculture, sustainable land management in the Gambia; adequate expertise to appreciate project aims; ability to speak the "language" with experts
Abilities	Proven ability to work with a variety of people including government officials, international and national NGOs, local stakeholders, experts and consultants; ability to manage budgets; Self-motivated, independent, good judgment, ability to work under pressure	
Interpersonal skills	Excellent inter-personal skills; good communicator at all levels from political decision-makers to grassroots communities; good presentation, networking and partnering competencies, negotiation and facilitation skills	Excellent inter-personal skills; excellent communicator at all levels but especially with grassroots communities; good presentation, networking and partnering competencies, negotiation and facilitation skills
Work ethic	Good organizational and planning skills; proven ability to adhere to deadlines; committed to deliver high quality work in a timely manner; flexible and adaptive to challenging work conditions (deadlines, conflict, etc.)	
Language	Excellent communication (oral and written) skills in English. Fluency in report writing in English	Excellent communication (oral and written) skills in English. Fluency in report writing in English. Knowledge of local languages will be an advantage
Computer skills	Excellent computer skills (Microsoft Office). Ability to use information technology as a tool and resource	
Nationality	Gambian	

5 Duration of Service

Duration of this contract is for one year renewable for a maximum of four years.

D International Technical Advisor (part-time, home-based with travel to Banjul and project localities)

1 Introduction

Over a period of 4 years and for a cash cost of close to USD1.5 million and a further estimated USD4 million in co-financing, the project on The Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihoods will set a goal of expanding and strengthening the PA system by enhancing community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). It will do this by strengthening the national PA network and management effectiveness in a cluster of priority PAs namely, Jokadu National Park (JNP, 15,028 ha), Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR, 22,000 ha), and Kiang West National Park (KWNP, 11,526 ha). Enhancement of the PA system will comprise a c. 5,000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP. Basic PA offices will be established and adequately equipped and staffed in JNP and BBWR (KWNP already has adequate PA offices) – with institutional and technical capacities being built through targeted training on all relevant aspects of PA operations to ensure that field staff meet necessary competencies (planning, administration, conflict resolution, monitoring, enforcement, etc.). Moreover, the on-the-ground boundaries of JNP and BBWR – as well as of the

newly added PA areas – will be demarcated using a ring of recognisable, valuable and useful tree species forming a clear boundary that local communities respect and protect.

The project has a focus on the communities surrounding the three PAs (*i.e.* in the buffer zones) that exert significant pressure on the integrity of these PAs. The targeted stakeholders are primarily farmers and their households, totalling an estimated 70,000 people. Working closely with and through the MoA's National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (Nema), the project will introduce biodiversity-friendly sustainable land and natural resource management practices, to reduce the pressures that these communities exert on the targeted PAs. The project will establish nurseries and plant suitable fruit, forage, firewood and multi-purpose trees and vegetation; pilot the latest conservation tillage agriculture; establish inter-cropping regimes and nutrient-rich plants and hedges in degraded farmland; establish agro-forestry regimes and village woodlots and shelter belts; revisit fire and grazing practices; replant mangroves in degraded wetlands; pilot new salt-tolerant wet rice varieties to reduce land conversion for dry rice production; promote and distribute fuel efficient stoves; and increase bee farming and horticulture.

Agreements will be entered into with local communities that will form the basis of these community-based interventions to be undertaken by the project. The project will also devise a monitoring system to provide relevant and science-based information on the state of natural resources and socio-economic conditions in the target areas.

The implementation of the proposed project will have an immediate global environmental benefit, albeit on a small scale, through the increased integrity and management efficiency of Protected Areas and their surrounding buffer zones. This will lead to the restoration of natural productivity and conservation of the habitats of a number of plant and animal species and valuable ecosystems. As a result, globally significant biodiversity will be conserved and valuable ecosystem services will be safeguarded.

As a result of the significant effort that the project will make on institutional capacity building and the mainstreaming of a sustainability ethic into land use, these benefits will be sustainable.

More specifically, the **Project Objective** is: ***To expand and strengthen the management of priority protected areas in The Gambia, including through enhanced community-based natural resource management***

This Objective will be achieved through four inter-related Outcomes, viz. –

Outcome 1: Gazettement of a c. 5,000 ha expansion of JNP to connect to BBWR, and of a c. 10,000 ha expansion of KWNP

Outcome 2: Enhanced management effectiveness in both existing and added PA areas

Outcome 3: Improved forest cover, habitat integrity and connectivity across the targeted PA cluster and surrounding landscapes (c. 60,000 ha)

Outcome 4: Enhanced diversity, sustainability and reliability of community livelihoods

The UNDP Gambia CO seeks to employ a part-time International Technical Advisor (ITA) to provide technical advice, guidance and support to the Project Management Unit which will be based in the Nema Project Office in Banjul. The ITA will work closely with the Project Manager and report to the PEB through UNDP.

2 Objective of the International Technical Advisor position

The ultimate Objective of the International Technical Advisor is to advise, guide and support the PMU, Project Manager and the entire Project Team including all implementing partners, so they can achieve the project Outputs, Outcomes and Objective successfully.

3 Key Results and Measurable Outputs Expected from the ITA

Working under the overall supervision of the Project Executive Board and UNDP Environment Programme Analyst to whom he/she will report, the ITA will work collaboratively with the PM for the delivery of the project

outcomes and activities in accordance with the project document and agreed work plan. He/she will travel to The Gambia and project localities, as and when required and agreed. He/she will also be available for consultation and advice electronically from homebase. The total engagement is expected to be between 30 and 40 working days per year. More specifically, the ITA will perform the following duties:

A) Advice and guidance for project implementation

A.1) Render technical advice and inputs to the Project Manager as well as the PA Expert Team Leader and the Community Liaison and SLM Expert Team Leader, and provide technical oversight at the local level to project personnel including national consultants to ensure a consistent approach at national and site levels

A.2) Provide assistance to the PM in setting up an overall programme co-ordination and implementation mechanism for the achievement of project objective and outcomes, including the proper planning of workflow and efficient utilisation of programme resources

A.3) Share knowledge, train and provide technical and management coaching to project personnel through the design, organisation and implementation of a training programme in project implementation, results-based management, adaptive management

A.4) Ensure that sound conservation principles are adhered to during project interventions and be responsible for monitoring that the intended biodiversity conservation outcomes of the project are attained

A.5) Ensure strategic and technical quality and consistency of the PA and SLM components of the Project, by providing overall technical oversight, advice/guidance and support for strategic implementation to achieve the project objective and outcomes

A.6) Ensure the technical quality of the project inception report, annual progress reports, Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs), and terminal evaluation self-assessment reports

A.7) Provide regular reports to the PM for presentation to PEB meeting noting progress and achievements, acknowledging difficulties and proposing possible solutions for consideration and guidance by the PEB

B) Project outreach

B.1) Serve as the Project's ambassador and advocate for the Project within the broader region and elsewhere

B.2) On request by the PM, help to foster a good working relationship with the media (print, radio and television)

B.3) Represent and promote the Project at international meetings as requested

B.4) Contribute to the production and publication of public information material

C) Monitoring and adaptive management

C.1) Assist the PM with the implementation of the Project M&E Plan

C.2) Participate in monitoring visits to Project sites

C.3) Help with the collation of the results of monitoring, their analysis, and the formulation of proposals for adaptive management measures for consideration by the PEB

C.4) Help the PM with the implementation of decisions and advice of the PEB

4 Time-frame

The ITA is a part-time employee (30-40 working days/year) of the Project and the initial contract will be for a period of one year. The contract will be renewed, subject to a satisfactory performance assessment, for a further year with a maximum of four years or until project closure, whichever is the earliest.

5 Duty station and travel arrangements

The ITA will be home-based with travel to The Gambia as required and as agreed. When in The Gambia, the ITA will be based with the PMU in the Nema Project Office in the Ministry of Agriculture in Banjul. In addition, he/she is expected to travel as necessary to various parts of the country to stay in touch with the Implementing Partners and to where the Project is implementing Activities.

6 Qualifications and Experience

- **Education:** Ph.D. or MSc in Environmental or Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity conservation, Land Use Planning, Sustainable Land Management or equivalent
- **Experience:** Minimum of ten years experience in implementing development projects in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, preferably within the UN system or other development agencies. Experience in forestry, agriculture or PA co-management an advantage.
- **Language requirements:** Proficient in both written and oral English.
- **Computer skills** : Demonstrable skills in office computer use - word processing, spread sheets, etc

7 Skills and Competencies

- Good team person, able to work cooperatively with project implementers and expert partners and contractors so as to obtain the best results; responsive to requests for help and advice
- Effective analytical approach to problems, able to see the causes and design solutions
- Demonstrable knowledge of the PA, forestry/agriculture sector in The Gambia or the region; technical expertise to appreciate project aims; ability to speak the "language" with experts; dedicated and committed to Project aims
- Excellent communication, presentation, negotiation and facilitation skills
- Excellent inter-personal skills; good communicator at all levels from political decision-makers to grassroots communities
- Good analytical and planning skills; ability to set forecasts and refine/review them in the light of experience and further analysis
- Decisiveness, independence, good judgement, ability to work under pressure
- Excellent networking and partnering competencies and negotiating skills
- Ability to use information technology as a tool and resource

E Other Consultants and Contractors (not including project personnel)

Position title	*Type of contract*	*Duration/ deploymnt*	*Cost (est.)*	*Relevant Output and tasks to be performed*
Ecological Survey, Baseline Survey and PA Assessment Experts (team of 4)	Consultancy	4 months	64,000	**Output 1.1** Ecological surveys and assessments of national PA network, to record the existing situation and likely trends, determine relevant ecological/biodiversity gaps, level of representativeness, ecosystem health, status of key species and baselines for project indicators, ecosystem services provided, etc, and assess the forest park estate to identify sites that merit inclusion in the PA system for biodiversity conservation purposes. Special attention will be paid to socio-economic dimensions including current land occupation, land use and likely sustainability and gender aspects, including livelihood provision.
Cadastral Boundary Surveyors (X2)	Consultancy	1 month	8,000	**Output 1.2** Carry out the cadastral survey of the agreed boundaries of the existing PAs together with the proposed extensions. The results of the survey will be demarcated on the ground.
Tree nurseries (X3) establishment and running –	Service contract	Long term	50,000	**Output 1.2** Establish the community nurseries, raising seedlings of selected trees of recognisable, valuable and useful species.

Position title	*Type of contract*	*Duration/ deploymnt*	*Cost (est.)*	*Relevant Output and tasks to be performed*
Community contracts (including materials and equipment)				
Tree planting Community contracts (X3) to delineate PAs boundaries	Service contract	3 teams	20,000	**Output 1.2** Planting and nurturing (by local community members under contract) of trees which have been produced in the community nursery to form a living boundary
Legal Expert Consultant (draft decrees)	Consultancy	1 month	4,000	**Output 1.2** Build the justification case for Government to endorse the proposed expansion and provide the required expertise to draft the new decrees and develop any other legal instruments required for the formal gazettement of the modifications to the two PAs
Capacity and Training (X3-4)	Consultancy	6 months	24,000	**Output 2.1** Enhance human capacity through training programmes for/in : - **DPWM central staff** on all aspects of PA governance, planning, management and co-management, community liaison and negotiation, compliance and performance monitoring and law enforcement, research and monitoring of ecosystem health, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services provision. - **Community leaders** in relevant aspects of PA management to enable an equal partnership with DPWM for meaningful co-management; CBOs and select individuals to effectively manage natural resources and PAs. - **At PA level**, recruit and train staff for required technical and management capacity for planning, administration, monitoring, enforcement, community liaison, co-management, negotiation and conflict resolution.
Legal Expert Consultant (regulatory frameworks)	Consultancy	1 month	4,000	**Output 2.1** Legal mechanisms and tools for effective co-management and sustainability of the three targeted PAs (including their expansions) and their benefits for biodiversity and local communities.
Design and build Park HQ (X2)	Service Contract	2 teams	120,000	**Output 2.1** Design and construct the Park HQ for JNP and BBWR
Construct + Equip Information / education Centres (X3)	Service Contract	3 teams	60,000	**Output 2.1** Design, build and equip and Information/Education room / centre in each of KWNP, JNP and BBWR
Identify + trial mainstreaming	Consultancy	2 months	8,000	**Output 3.1** Working from within MoA and Nema, identify and record the benefits to the country, government and communities of mainstreaming particularly in terms of sustainable development and enhanced livelihoods; review existing policies, legislation and procedures and identify gaps and opportunities for instilling a natural resources, land, water and biodiversity sustainability ethic into the day-to-day operations of the Ministry and Nema. The identified opportunities will be trialled and evaluated before being written up in a guidance handbook.
SLM Specialist	Consultancy	4 months	16,000	**Output 3.2** Working with landowners and farmers, experiment with innovative approaches which enhance productivity and lower the impact on land and water such as - conservation agriculture, organic farming, integrated crop management, recycling compost and other natural fertilizer, cover crops, soil enrichment, natural pest and predator controls, bio-intensive integrated pest management, climate smart agriculture and other techniques which will arise from participatory brainstorming with community members

Position title	*Type of contract*	*Duration/ deploymnt*	*Cost (est.)*	*Relevant Output and tasks to be performed*
Expert in Eco-Friendly Enterprises	Consultancy	1 month	4,000	**Output 3.2** Provide advice and support for environment-friendly activities such as woodlots, agro-forestry and farm-border plantings, homestays and guided hiking and other ecotourism activities (wildlife viewing, safari hunting, river rafting, sport fishing, bird watching, cultural heritage, corporate retreats, boating, etc.), expansion of apiculture, sericulture (silk), cultivation and processing of medicinal plants, access to early maturing and drought resistant crop varieties, tree nursery development, etc. This assistance will be targeted in particular to those required to change land use practices (with a resulting loss in income) so as to avoid land degradation
NR Monitoring Expert	Consultancy	2 months	8,000	**Output 3.3** Develop, set up and initiate the implementation of an Environment Monitoring System (EMS) at the three project sites so as to record and keep up to date relevant and accurate information on the state of natural resources and socio-economic conditions and provide a basis for adaptive management decisions on PA management, land use / rural development and biodiversity protection.
Evaluation expert for Terminal Evaluation	Consultancy	1 month plus expenses	25,000	The standard UNDP/GEF project evaluation ToRs will be used. This will include: forming part of the evaluation team; working with the project team and stakeholders in order to assess the project progress, achievement of results and impacts; delivering preliminary findings; developing draft Evaluation Report and putting it out for comments; producing the Final Evaluation Report taking into account the comments received.

Complete and more thorough ToRs for these positions will be developed by the Project Management Unit in a timely manner, for review and adoption by the PEB, as and when required.

In summary, 10 consultancies are envisaged, over 29 person/months costing 165,000; and 4 service contracts costing 250,000.

Annex 2a Co-financing letter from UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

2015/UNDP/GAM/PROG/015 18th March, 2015

Co-financing letter for the project "Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihoods"

Dear Dr. Ishii,

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Government of The Gambia through the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change, Water & Wildlife and the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management as the national implementing partner , are finalizing the preparation of the GEF Medium Sized Project (MSP) **"Gambia Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihoods"**. The project compromises the following two components:

1. Strengthen national PA network planning and PA management effectiveness in a cluster of priority PAs.

2. Improve land and natural resource management in and around the targeted cluster of priority PAs.

This letter is to confirm the commitment of the UNDP Country Office in the Gambia to provide US$ 30,000 per annum, totaling US$ 120,000 for the period 2015-2018, as co-financing to the above-described project.

In addition, the CO already contributed US$ 30,000 to the PPG phase in 2014-2015. These cash contributions will be in addition to parallel CPAP committed activities relevant to climate change and natural resources management (CPAP outputs 1.6 and 2.3) that amount to about US$ 1 million for 2015-2016 (which will not be counted as direct project co-financing).

We are very much looking forward to the commencement of project activities.

Yours sincerely,

Ade Mamonyane Lekoetje
UNDP Resident Representative

Dr. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer
Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street, NW
Washington DC 20433, USA

CC: Mr. Adriana Dinu, UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator, New York, USA

UNDP in the Republic of The Gambia
5 Kofi Annan Street, Cape Point, Bakau – P.O. Box 553 - Banjul
Tel: +(220) 4494760 - 4494769 • Fax: +(220) 4494758• E-mail: registry.gm@undp.org • www.gm.undp.org

Annex 2b Co-financing letter from MECCWW

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA
Ministry Of Environment, Climate Change, Water & Wildlife
(MoECCWW)
GIEPA House - 1st Floor
48 Kairaba Avenue
Kanifing Municipality

REF: PB 83/273/01/PART 1 (38)

23rd February, 2015

Dr Naoko Ishii
The Chief Executive Officer
Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

Dear Sir,

LETTER OF CO-FINANCING FOR "PROTECTED AREA NETWORK AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD PROJECT" OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA".

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change Water and Wildlife is currently investing in the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and National Protected Area Action Plan. The Government of The Gambia recognized the need to protect 10% of the national surface area and to ensure effective management of those protected areas. The overall objective is to expand and strengthen the management of priority protected areas in The Gambia, including through enhanced community base natural resources management. The proposed GEF Project is necessary and relevant as it will complement the existing productive capacity of farmers in the project pilot site, promote sustainable land management, enhance management of protected areas including national parks and community conservation areas as well as implement livelihood and bioright activities that are climate smart and conservation friendly.

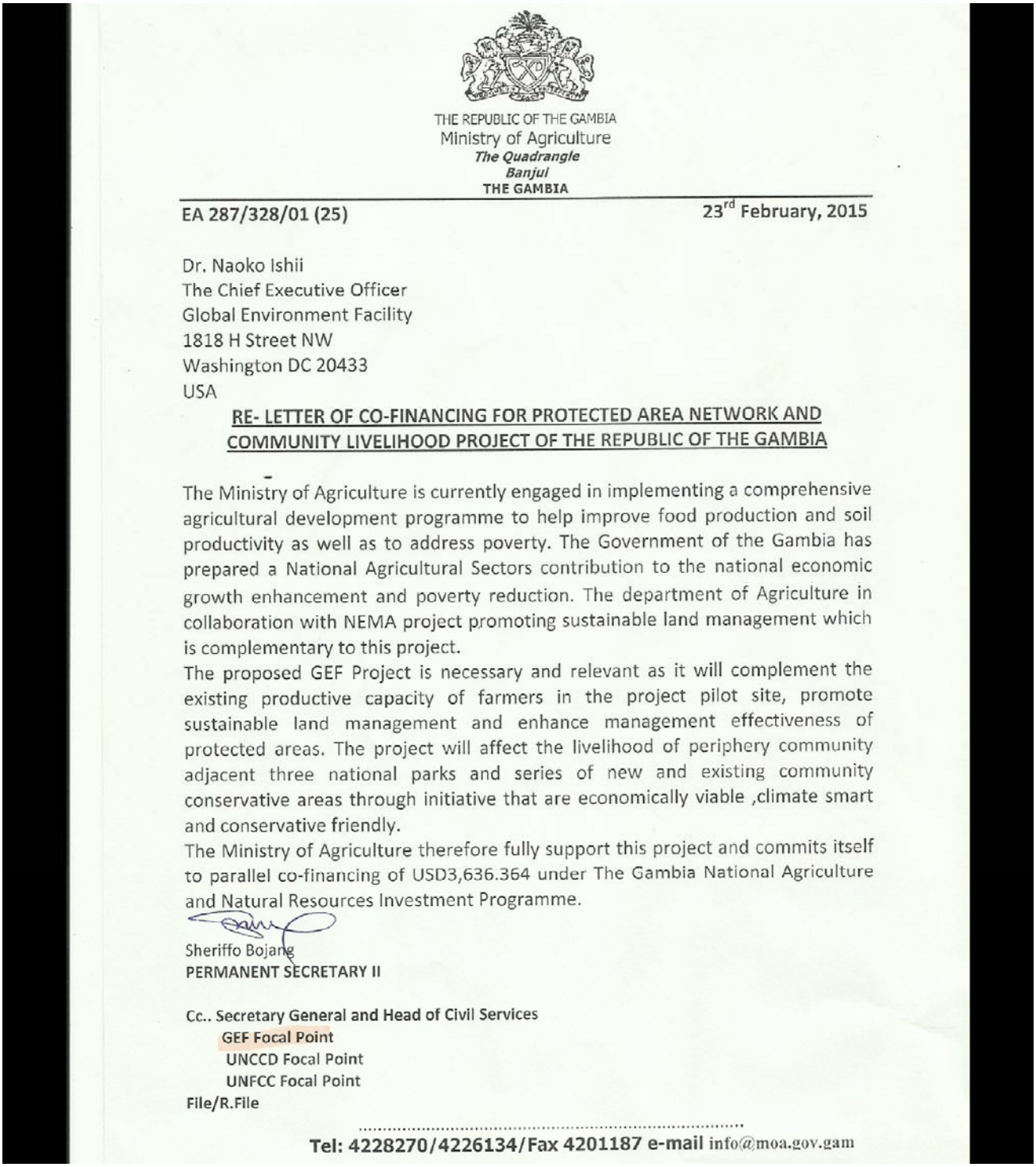
TEL: 4399447/ 4399446/ 4399504/ 4399503
E-mail: info@mofen.gov.gm
Website: www.mofen.gov.gm

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife therefore fully supports this project and commits itself to the parallel in kind co-financing of USD734, 545 under the National budget for protected area systems.

Alieu Samba Nyang
FOR: Permanent Secretary

TEL: 4399447/ 4399446/ 4399504/ 4399503
E-mail: info@mofen.gov.gm
Website: www.mofen.gov.gm

Annex 2c Co-financing letter from Ministry of Agriculture



THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA
Ministry of Agriculture
The Quadrangle
Banjul
THE GAMBIA

EA 287/328/01 (25) **23rd February, 2015**

Dr. Naoko Ishii
The Chief Executive Officer
Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

RE- LETTER OF CO-FINANCING FOR PROTECTED AREA NETWORK AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD PROJECT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

The Ministry of Agriculture is currently engaged in implementing a comprehensive agricultural development programme to help improve food production and soil productivity as well as to address poverty. The Government of the Gambia has prepared a National Agricultural Sectors contribution to the national economic growth enhancement and poverty reduction. The department of Agriculture in collaboration with NEMA project promoting sustainable land management which is complementary to this project.

The proposed GEF Project is necessary and relevant as it will complement the existing productive capacity of farmers in the project pilot site, promote sustainable land management and enhance management effectiveness of protected areas. The project will affect the livelihood of periphery community adjacent three national parks and series of new and existing community conservative areas through initiative that are economically viable ,climate smart and conservative friendly.

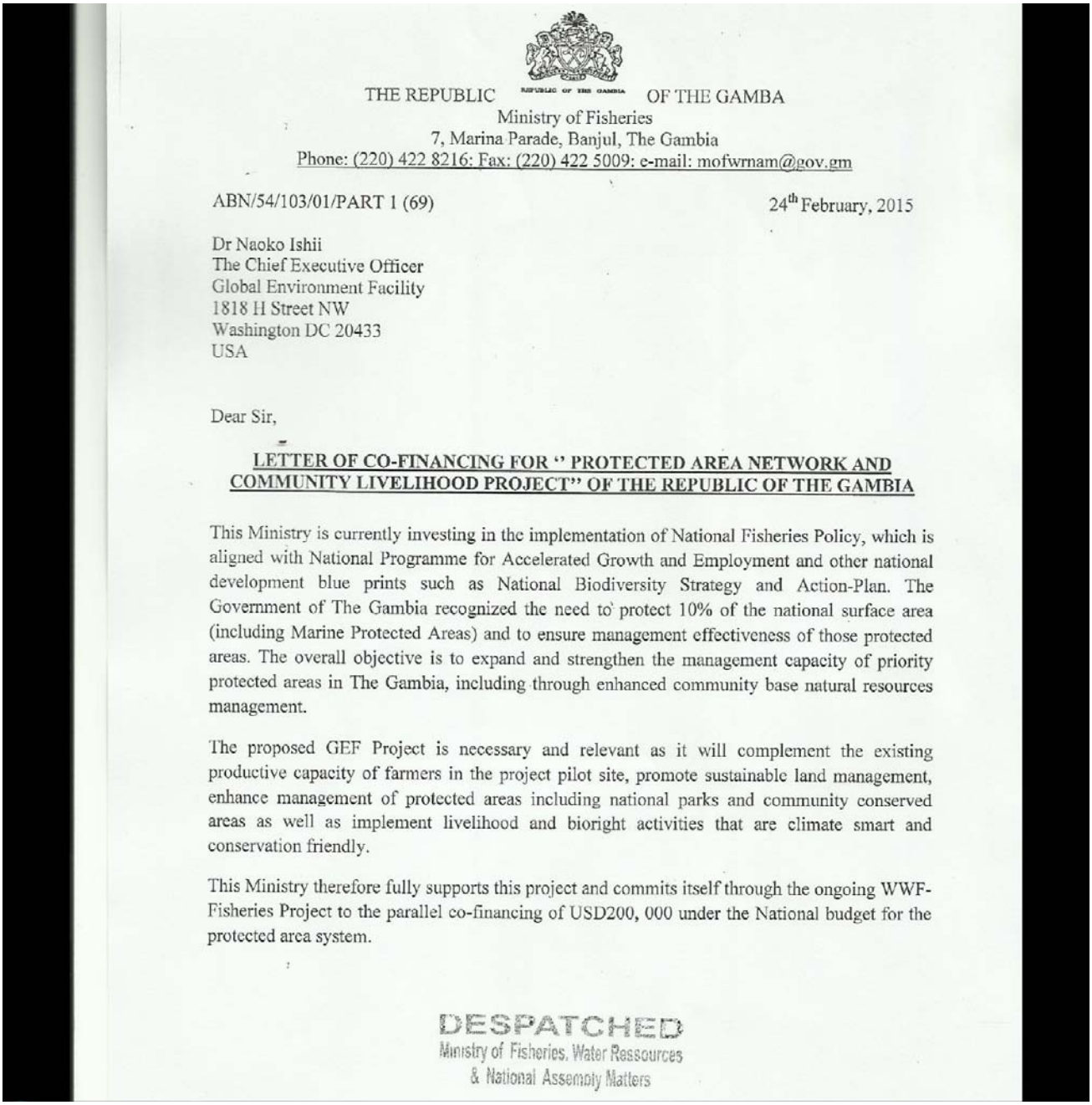
The Ministry of Agriculture therefore fully support this project and commits itself to parallel co-financing of USD3,636.364 under The Gambia National Agriculture and Natural Resources Investment Programme.

Sheriffo Bojang
PERMANENT SECRETARY II

Cc.. Secretary General and Head of Civil Services
GEF Focal Point
UNCCD Focal Point
UNFCC Focal Point
File/R.File

Tel: 4228270/4226134/Fax 4201187 e-mail info@moa.gov.gam

Annex 2d Co-financing letter from Ministry of Fisheries



THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA
Ministry of Fisheries
7, Marina Parade, Banjul, The Gambia
Phone: (220) 422 8216: Fax: (220) 422 5009: e-mail: mofwrnam@gov.gm

ABN/54/103/01/PART 1 (69) 24th February, 2015

Dr Naoko Ishii
The Chief Executive Officer
Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

Dear Sir,

LETTER OF CO-FINANCING FOR '' PROTECTED AREA NETWORK AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD PROJECT'' OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

This Ministry is currently investing in the implementation of National Fisheries Policy, which is aligned with National Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment and other national development blue prints such as National Biodiversity Strategy and Action-Plan. The Government of The Gambia recognized the need to protect 10% of the national surface area (including Marine Protected Areas) and to ensure management effectiveness of those protected areas. The overall objective is to expand and strengthen the management capacity of priority protected areas in The Gambia, including through enhanced community base natural resources management.

The proposed GEF Project is necessary and relevant as it will complement the existing productive capacity of farmers in the project pilot site, promote sustainable land management, enhance management of protected areas including national parks and community conserved areas as well as implement livelihood and bioright activities that are climate smart and conservation friendly.

This Ministry therefore fully supports this project and commits itself through the ongoing WWF-Fisheries Project to the parallel co-financing of USD200, 000 under the National budget for the protected area system.

DESPATCHED
Ministry of Fisheries, Water Ressources
& National Assembly Matters

Annex 3. Letter of Agreement for Direct Project Services UNDP – Government of The Gambia

United Nations Development Programme

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

STANDARD LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNDP AND THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Dear Permanent Secretary Ousman Sowe,

1. Reference is made to consultations between officials of the Government of The Gambia (hereinafter referred to as "the Government") and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects such as the project on " **Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihoods"**. UNDP and the Government hereby agree that the UNDP country office may provide such support services at the request of the Government through its institution designated in the relevant programme support document or project document, as described below.

2. The UNDP country office may provide support services for assistance with reporting requirements and direct payment. In providing such support services, the UNDP country office shall ensure that the capacity of the Government-designated institution is strengthened to enable it to carry out such activities directly. The costs incurred by the UNDP country office in providing such support services shall be recovered from the administrative budget of the office.

3. The UNDP country office may provide, at the request of the designated institution, the following support services for the activities of the project:
(a) Identification and/or recruitment of project and programme personnel;
(b) Identification and facilitation of training activities;
(c) Procurement of goods and services;

4. The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of project and programme personnel by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures. Support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be detailed in an annex to the programme support document or project document, in the form provided in the Attachment hereto. If the requirements for support services by the country office change during the life of a programme or project, the annex to the programme support document or project document is revised with the mutual agreement of the UNDP resident representative and the designated institution.

5. The relevant provisions of the CPAP and related documents, including the provisions on liability and privileges and immunities, shall apply to the provision of such support services. The Government shall retain overall responsibility for the nationally managed programme or project through its designated institution. The responsibility of the UNDP country office for the provision of the support services described herein shall be limited to the provision of such support services detailed in the annex to the programme support document or project document.

6. Any claim or dispute arising under or in connection with the provision of support services by the UNDP country office in accordance with this letter shall be handled pursuant to the relevant provisions of the CPAP.

7. The manner and method of cost-recovery by the UNDP country office in providing the support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be specified in the annex to the programme support document or project document.

8. The UNDP country office shall submit progress reports on the support services provided and shall report on the costs reimbursed in providing such services, as may be required.

9. Any modification of the present arrangements shall be effected by mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

10. If you are in agreement with the provisions set forth above, please sign and return to this office two signed copies of this letter. Upon your signature, this letter shall constitute an agreement between your Government and UNDP on the terms and conditions for the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects.

Yours sincerely,

Signed on behalf of UNDP

Ade Mamonyane Lekoetje
UNDP Resident Representative
Banjul, The Gambia

Date: 23/3/2015

For the Country

Ousman Sowe,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife
GIEPA House, 48 Kairaba Avenue-Serrekunda, Banjul, The Gambia

Date: 23/3/2015

DESCRIPTION OF UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Reference is made to consultations between the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, C/O Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife (MoECCWW), the institution designated by the Government of The Gambia and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the nationally managed project: Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood, number: UNDP PIMS: 5000, GEF PIMS: 5529.

2. In accordance with the provisions of the letter of agreement signed on 23rd March 2015, and the Project document" Protected Areas Network and Community Livelihood Project the UNDP country office shall provide support services for the *Project* as described below.

3. Support services to be provided:

Support services (insert description)	Schedule for the provision of the support services	Cost to UNDP of providing such support services (where appropriate)	Amount and method of reimbursement of UNDP (where appropriate)
1. Ecological Survey Team of 4 experts engaged for a period of 4 months @ 4,000/consultant/month under Output 1.1. Consultant for cadastral survey of PA boundaries for 2 months @ 4000/month. Legal Consultant to draft decrees and other legal instruments for gazettement, @ 4000/month.	Yr.1,2, and 3	Fee for service will be charged based the latest universal price list. $2,722.26	Will be deducted from the budget of the project
2.Project personnel – Protected Areas Expert Team Leader, full-time, leads Protected Areas Team for Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 3.3; Community Liaison and SLM Expert Team Leader, full-time, leads Community/SLM Team for Outputs 3.2 and 4.1. Each on an annual contract of 25,000 X 4 years	Year 1	Fee for service will be charged based the latest universal price list. 2 team leaders $2,619.56	Will be deducted from the budget of the project
3. Equipment and consumables for the Ecological Survey team (Output 1.1)		Fee for service will be charged based the latest universal price list $304.71	Will be deducted from the budget of the project
4. The majority of this budget line (up to 36,000) is for a number of consultancies to carry out training and capacity building sessions at various levels under Outcome 2.1. There is also a one month consultancy for a Legal Expert to draft regulatory frameworks and procedural guidelines for co-management		Fee for service will be charged based the latest universal price list $2,202.32	Will be deducted from the budget of the project
5. This line comprises 3 major investments by the project. The first is 120,000 for the design and construction of Park HQs in JNP and BBWR. The second is 60,000 for the construction of an information/education centre in each of KWNP, JNP, BBWR. All under Output 2.1.		Fee for service will be charged based the latest universal price list $ 609.42	Will be deducted from the budget of the project
6. This provides for a number of consultancies – 2 months for a Corporate Mainstreaming Consultant (within MoA and NEMA under Output 3.1); 4 months for a SLM and innovative conservation agriculture Expert under Output 3.2; also under Output 3.2, a one-month consultancy to support eco-friendly enterprises, and another one month		Fee for service will be charged based the latest universal price list $1,582.96	Will be deducted from the budget of the project

consultancy for Curriculum Development. Under Output 3.3, a Natural Resources Monitoring Consultant will be engaged for 2 months			
7. Consultancies for carrying out the independent Mid-Term Review and the Terminal Evaluation – 25,000 allocated for each under Project Management.		Fee for service will be charged based the latest universal price list $395.74	Will be deducted from the budget of the project
8. Project Admin & Finance Assistant (AFA), recruited by project, full-time @ 13,000/year for 4 years	Year 1	Fee for service will be charged based the latest universal price list. $1,309.78	Will be deducted from the budget of the project
TOTAL		**11,746.75**	

Description of functions and responsibilities of the parties involved:

4. Assistance may consist of any other form which may be agreed by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife (MoECCWW) and UNDP

5. Description of functions and responsibilities of the parties involved:
   - MoECCWW to determine the type of services to be provided by UNDP, in line with AWPs.
   - MoECCWW will be consulted by UNDP in the process of providing the support services.
   - UNDP will update Ministry of Environment and Forestry quarterly, on the costs of the provision of these services.

6. All decisions related to support services provided by UNDP shall be made upon agreement/approval by the MOECCWW

7. The following UNDP and Government of The Gambia Officials will be the main signatories for the implementation of this project:-

UNDP CO, The Gambia

1. Ade Mamonyane Lekoetje- UNDP Resident Representative, The Gambia
2. Izumi Morota –Alakija- UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, The Gambia

Government of The Gambia

1. Mr. Ousman Sowe- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife (MoECCWW)
2. Mr. Lamin F. Jawara- Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife (MoECCWW)

Annex 4. Social and Environmental Screening Template

To be inserted after completion

Annex 5. Tracking Tools

Tracking Tool for Biodiversity Projects in GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5

Objective 1: Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems
SECTION I

Objective: To measure progress in achieving the impacts and outcomes established at the portfolio level under the biodiversity focal area.
Rationale: Project data from the GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5 project cohort will be aggregated for analysis of directional trends and patterns at a portfolio-wide level to inform the development of future GEF strategies and to report to GEF Council on portfolio-level performance in the biodiversity focal area.
Structure of Tracking Tool: Each tracking tool requests background and coverage information on the project and specific information required to track portfolio level indicators in the GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5 strategy.
Guidance in Applying GEF Tracking Tools: GEF tracking tools are applied three times: at CEO endorsement, at project mid-term, and at project completion.
Submission: The finalized tracking tool will be cleared by the GEF Agencies as being correctly completed.

Important: Please read the Guidelines posted on the GEF website before entering your data

I. General Data	Please indicate your answer here	Notes
Project Title	GAMBIA PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS	
GEF Project ID	5529	
Agency Project ID	5000	
Implementing Agency	UNDP	
Project Type	MSP	FSP or MSP
Country	The Gambia	
Region	AFR	
Date of submission of the tracking tool	March 1, 2015	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of reviewers completing tracking tool and completion date	Kawsu Jammeh 29 Jan 2015, Jessie Mee & Yves de Soye 20 March 2015	Completion Date

Planned project duration	4	years
Actual project duration	4	years
Lead Project Executing Agency (ies)	DPWM	
Date of Council/CEO Approval	March 13, 2014	
GEF Grant (US$)	1,324,310	
Cofinancing expected (US$)	4,690,909	

II. Total Extent in hectares of protected areas targeted by the project by biome type	Please indicate your answer here	
Please use the following biomes provided below and place the coverage data within these biomes		
Terrestrial (insert total hectares for terrestrial coverage and then provide coverage for each of the terrestrial biomes below)		
Total hectares	36,554	ha. All this habitat data are estimates, there are no good analyses
Tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests (tropical and subtropical, humid)		ha
Tropical and subtropical dry broadleaf forests (tropical and subtropical, semi-humid)	10,000	ha
Tropical and subtropical coniferous forests (tropical and subtropical, semi-humid)		ha
Temperate broadleaf and mixed forests (temperate, humid)		ha
Temperate coniferous forests (temperate, humid to semi-humid)		ha
Boreal forests/taiga (subarctic, humid)		ha
Tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannas, and shrublands (tropical and subtropical, semi-arid)	14,554	ha
Temperate grasslands, savannas, and shrublands (temperate, semi-arid)		ha
Flooded grasslands and savannas (temperate to tropical, fresh or brackish water inundated)	2,000	ha
Mangroves	10,000	ha
Montane grasslands and shrublands (alpine or montane climate)		ha
Tundra (Arctic)		ha
Mediterranean forests, woodlands, and scrub or Sclerophyll forests (temperate warm, semi-humid to semi-arid with winter rainfall)		ha
Deserts and xeric shrublands (temperate to tropical, arid)		ha

Freshwater (insert total hectares for freshwater coverage and then provide coverage for each of the freshwater biomes below)		
Total hectares	10,000	ha
Large lakes		ha
Large river deltas		ha
Polar freshwaters		ha
Montane freshwaters		ha
Temperate coastal rivers		ha
Temperate floodplain rivers and wetlands		ha
Temperate upland rivers		ha
Tropical and subtropical coastal rivers		ha
Tropical and subtropical floodplain rivers and wetlands	10,000	ha
Tropical and subtropical upland rivers		ha
Xeric freshwaters and endorheic basins		ha
Oceanic islands		ha
Marine (insert total hectares for marine and then distinguish coverage between each of the following zones)		
Total hectares	2,000	ha
Coral reefs	-	ha
Estuaries	2,000	ha
Ocean (beyond EEZ)	-	ha

III. Please complete the table below for the protected areas that are the target of the GEF intervention and add new sections for each protected area if the project extends beyond four Pas. Use NA for not applicable.	Please indicate your answer here	
1. Protected Area		
Name of Protected Area	Kiang West National Park	
Is this a new protected area?	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Area in Hectares	11,526	ha, Please specify biome type
Global designation or priority lists	n/a	(E.g., Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage site, Ramsar site, WWF Global 2000, etc.)
Local Designation of Protected Area	n/a	(E.g, indigenous reserve, private reserve, etc.)

IUCN Category	2	**1:** Strict Nature Reserve/Wilderness Area: managed mainly for science or wilderness protection **2:** National Park: managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation **3:** Natural Monument: managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features **4:** Habitat/Species Management Area: managed mainly for conservation through management intervention **5:** Protected Landscape/Seascape: managed mainly for landscape/seascape protection and recreation **6:** Managed Resource Protected Area: managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

2. Protected Area		
Name of Protected Area	Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve	
Is this a new protected area?	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Area in Hectares	22,000	Please specify biome type
Global designation or priority lists	Ramsar	(E.g., Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage site, Ramsar site, WWF Global 2000, etc.)
Local Designation of Protected Area	n/a	(E.g, indigenous reserve, private reserve, etc.)

IUCN Category	6	**1:** Strict Nature Reserve/Wilderness Area: managed mainly for science or wilderness protection **2:** National Park: managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation **3:** Natural Monument: managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features **4:** Habitat/Species Management Area: managed mainly for conservation through management intervention **5:** Protected Landscape/Seascape: managed mainly for landscape/seascape protection and recreation **6:** Managed Resource Protected Area: managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

3. Protected Area		
Name of Protected Area	Jokadu National Park	
Is this a new protected area?	1	Yes = 1, No = 0 Not yet gazetted
Area in Hectares	15,028	Please specify biome type
Global designation or priority lists		(E.g., Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage site, Ramsar site, WWF Global 2000, etc.)
Local Designation of Protected Area		(E.g, indigenous reserve, private reserve, etc.)

IUCN Category	2	**1:** Strict Nature Reserve/Wilderness Area: managed mainly for science or wilderness protection **2:** National Park: managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation **3:** Natural Monument: managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features **4:** Habitat/Species Management Area: managed mainly for conservation through management intervention **5:** Protected Landscape/Seascape: managed mainly for landscape/seascape protection and recreation **6:** Managed Resource Protected Area: managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

Tracking Tool for Biodiversity Projects in GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5

Objective 1: Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems
SECTION II: Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool for Protected Areas

KIANG WEST NATIONAL PARK

Note: Please complete the management effectiveness tracking tool for **EACH** protected area that is the target of the GEF intervention and create a new worksheet for each.

Structure and content of the Tracking Tool - Objective 1. Section II:

The Tracking Tool has two main sections: datasheets and assessment form. Both sections should be completed.

1. Datasheets: the data sheet comprises of two separate sections:

ü Data sheet 1: records details of the assessment and some basic information about the site, such as name, size and location etc.

ü Data sheet 2: provides a generic list of threats which protected areas can face. On this data sheet the assessors are asked to identify threats and rank their impact on the protected area.

2. Assessment Form: the assessment is structured around 30 questions presented in table format which includes three columns for recording details of the assessment, all of which should be completed.

Important: Please read the Guidelines posted on the GEF website before entering your data

Data Sheet 1: Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites	Please indicate your answer here	Notes
Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)	Kawsu Jammeh	
Date assessment carried out	29/01/2015	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of protected area	KIANG WEST NATIONAL PARK	
WDPA site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)		
Designations (please choose 1-3) It really makes no sense to have this limited to an either/or scrolldown menu. As in old METT you should be able to list several	1	APPLICABLE: 1 1: National 2: IUCN Category 3: International (please complete lines 35-69 as necessary)

Country	The Gambia	
Location of protected area (province and if possible map reference)	Lower River Region	
Date of establishment	1987	
Ownership details (please choose 1-4)	1	1: State 2: Private 3: Community 4: Other
Management Authority	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management	
Size of protected area (ha)	11,526	
Number of Permanent staff	26	
Number of Temporary staff	11	
Annual budget (US$) for recurrent (operational) funds – excluding staff salary costs	2,000	
Annual budget (US$) for project or other supplementary funds – excluding staff salary costs	13,000	
What are the main values for which the area is designated	undisturbed forest and wetland	
List the two primary protected area management objectives in below:		
Management objective 1	conserve fauna and flora	
Management objective 2	improve community livelihood	
No. of people involved in completing assessment	7	
Including: (please choose 1-8) It really makes no sense to have this limited to an either/or scrolldown menu. As in old METT you should be able to list several		CONTRIBUTED: 2, 3 1: PA manager 2: PA staff 3: Other PA agency staff 4: Donors 5: NGOs 6: External experts 7: Local community 8: Other

Information on International Designations	Please indicate your answer here	
UNESCO World Heritage site (see: http://whc.unesco.org/en/list)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		(i.e. criteria i to x)
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value		
Ramsar site (see: http://ramsar.wetlands.org)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		
Geographical number		
Reason for Designation (see Ramsar Information Sheet)		
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		Total, Core, Buffe, and Transition
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		
Fulfilment of three functions of MAB		conservation, development and logistic support
Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below		
		Name

		Detail
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail

Data Sheet 2: Protected Areas Threats (please complete a Data Sheet of threats and assessment for each protected area of the project).		
Please choose all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Threats ranked as of high significance are those which are seriously degrading values; medium are those threats having some negative impact and those characterised as low are threats which are present but not seriously impacting values or N/A where the threat is not present or not applicable in the protected area.		
1. Residential and commercial development within a protected area		
Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint		
1.1 Housing and settlement	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a protected area		
Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture		
2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

2.1a Drug cultivation	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3. Energy production and mining within a protected area		
Threats from production of non-biological resources		
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.2 Mining and quarrying	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4. Transportation and service corridors within a protected area		
Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality		
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines,)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.4 Flight paths	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5. Biological resource use and harm within a protected area		
Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)		
5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.3 Logging and wood harvesting	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6. Human intrusions and disturbance within a protected area		
Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources		
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7. Natural system modifications		
Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions		
7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes		
Threats from terrestrial and aquatic non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following introduction, spread and/or increase		
8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium Neem tree is the main invasive 3: High
8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1b Pathogens (non-native or native but creating new/increased problems)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9. Pollution entering or generated within protected area		
Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and non-point sources		
9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels etc)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents and discharges (e.g. poor water quality discharge from dams, e.g. unnatural temperatures, de-oxygenated, other pollution)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.5 Air-borne pollutants	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10. Geological events		
Geological events may be part of natural disturbance regimes in many ecosystems. But they can be a threat if a species or habitat is damaged and has lost its resilience and is vulnerable to disturbance. Management capacity to respond to some of these changes may be limited.		
10.1 Volcanoes	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

10.3 Avalanches/ Landslides	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11. Climate change and severe weather		
Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation		
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.2 Droughts	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.3 Temperature extremes	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.4 Storms and flooding	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12. Specific cultural and social threats		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

Assessment Form		
1. Legal status: Does the protected area have legal status (or in the case of private reserves is covered by a covenant or similar)?	3	0: The protected area is not gazetted/covenanted 1: There is agreement that the protected area should be gazetted/covenanted but the process has not yet begun 2: The protected area is in the process of being gazetted/covenanted but the process is still incomplete (includes sites designated under international conventions, such as Ramsar, or local/traditional law such as community conserved areas, which do not yet have national legal status or covenant) 3: The protected area has been formally gazetted/covenanted
Comments and Next Steps		
2. Protected area regulations: Are appropriate regulations in place to control land use and activities (e.g. hunting)?	2	0: There are no regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area 1: Some regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but these are major weaknesses 2: Regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but there are some weaknesses or gaps 3: Regulations for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the protected area exist and provide an excellent basis for management
Comments and Next Steps		

3. Law Enforcement: Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce protected area rules well enough?	1	0: The staff have no effective capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations 1: There are major deficiencies in staff capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budget, lack of institutional support) 2: The staff have acceptable capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations but some deficiencies remain 3: The staff have excellent capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations
Comments and Next Steps		
4. Protected area objectives: Is management undertaken according to agreed objectives?	2	0: No firm objectives have been agreed for the protected area 1: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is not managed according to these objectives 2: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is only partially managed according to these objectives 3: The protected area has agreed objectives and is managed to meet these objectives
Comments and Next Steps		
5. Protected area design: Is the protected area the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key conservation concern?	3	0: Inadequacies in protected area design mean achieving the major objectives of the protected area is very difficult 1: Inadequacies in protected area design mean that achievement of major objectives is difficult but some mitigating actions are being taken (e.g. agreements with adjacent land owners for wildlife corridors or introduction of appropriate catchment management) 2: Protected area design is not significantly constraining achievement of objectives, but could be improved (e.g. with respect to larger scale ecological processes) 3: Protected area design helps achievement of objectives; it is appropriate for species and habitat conservation; and maintains ecological processes such as surface and groundwater flows at a catchment scale, natural disturbance patterns etc
Comments and Next Steps		

6. Protected area boundary demarcation: Is the boundary known and demarcated?	3	0: The boundary of the protected area is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users 1: The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land users 2: The boundary of the protected area is known by both the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users but is not appropriately demarcated 3: The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users and is appropriately demarcated
Comments and Next Steps		
7. Management plan: Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?	2	0: There is no management plan for the protected area 1: A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented 2: A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other problems 3: A management plan exists and is being implemented
Comments and Next Steps	the management existing are complicated with little or no data to use as baseline, therefore there is a need to collect appropriate data for atleast 12 month to help design a simple and usable management plan through a sound participatory approach.	
7.a Planning process: The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.b Planning process: There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.c Planning process: The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	A management plan is prepared but totally inadequate therefore not being used	
8. Regular work plan: Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented	1	0: No regular work plan exists 1: A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented 2: A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented

		3: A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented
Comments and Next Steps	protected area receive merge budget enough for wages and salaries	
9. Resource inventory: Do you have enough information to manage the area?	1	0: There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the protected area 1: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is not sufficient to support planning and decision making 2: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient for most key areas of planning and decision making 3: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient to support all areas of planning and decision making
Comments and Next Steps	incoorporated activity that enable park staff to collect period data on some species of wildlife such as birds. Facilitate first national wildlife inventory and established and monitor permanent sample plots in these PAs	
10. Protection systems: Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the protected area?	1	0: Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use 1: Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use 2: Protection systems are moderately effective in controlling access/resource use 3: Protection systems are largely or wholly effective in controlling access/ resource use
Comments and Next Steps	Equipped park staff with uniform, motorbikes and communication materials	

11. Research: Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work?	1	0: There is no survey or research work taking place in the protected area 1: There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 2: There is considerable survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 3:There is a comprehensive, integrated programme of survey and research work, which is relevant to management needs
Comments and Next Steps	Research work are mostly influenced by international organizations such as International Waterbird Census	
12. Resource management: Is active resource management being undertaken?	1	
Comments and Next Steps	Resource management is not effective, since there is a very limited budget for park operation	
13. Staff numbers: Are there enough people employed to manage the protected area?	1	0: There are no staff 1: Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities 2: Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities 3: Staff numbers are adequate for the management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps	We needed about a dozen new staff in addition	
14. Staff training: Are staff adequately trained to fulfill management objectives?	1	0: Staff lack the skills needed for protected area management 1: Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the protected area 2: Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of management 3: Staff training and skills are aligned with the management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps	Only 1% of the park staff are considered fairly trained	

15. Current budget: Is the current budget sufficient?	1	0: There is no budget for management of the protected area 1: The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage 2: The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully achieve effective management 3: The available budget is sufficient and meets the full management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps	There is a need to provide fuel and consumptives for smoothing functioning of the three Pas.	
16. Security of budget: Is the budget secure?	1	0: There is no secure budget for the protected area and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding 1: There is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding 2: There is a reasonably secure core budget for regular operation of the protected area but many innovations and initiatives are reliant on outside funding 3: There is a secure budget for the protected area and its management needs
Comments and Next Steps	Some sustainable financing implies to implementation of business plan, which envisage some ecotourism activities to regenerate shared income, which may in the long term provide secure budget for park use.	
17. Management of budget: Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs?	2	0: Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year) 1: Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness 2: Budget management is adequate but could be improved 3: Budget management is excellent and meets management needs
Comments and Next Steps		

18. Equipment: Is equipment sufficient for management needs?	1	0: There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs 1: There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs 2: There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management 3: There are adequate equipment and facilities
Comments and Next Steps	This park has one ten years old 4 @4 vehicle, no motorbike and no other equipment	
19. Maintenance of equipment: Is equipment adequately maintained?	2	0: There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities 1: There is some ad hoc maintenance of equipment and facilities 2: There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities 3: Equipment and facilities are well maintained
Comments and Next Steps	The park has one vehicle	
20. Education and awareness: Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and needs?	1	0: There is no education and awareness programme 1: There is a limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme 2: There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved 3: There is an appropriate and fully implemented education and awareness programme
Comments and Next Steps	Frequent maintenance is provided though but would be important to hire a motor and motor bike mechanic to take care of such.	
21. Planning for land and water use: Does land and water use planning recognise the protected area and aid the achievement of objectives?	2	0: Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the protected area and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area 1: Adjacent land and water use planning does not takes into account the long term needs of the protected area, but activities are not detrimental the area 2: Adjacent land and water use planning partially takes into account the long term needs of the protected area 3: Adjacent land and water use planning fully takes into account the long term needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps	Land and water management around the park consider the issues of PAs	

21a. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the protected area incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pollution levels etc) to sustain relevant habitats.	1	0: No 1: Yes
,	Though aware of the park, their actions are still very detrimental to the ecosystem particularly mangroves	
21b. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Management of corridors linking the protected area provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the protected area (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites and the sea, or to allow animal migration).	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	KWNP exist in peninsular with good forest stands and connectivity spreading across border to Southern Senegal. Rightnow there are six community protected areas being designated which will form a network to ensure effective management of the wide landscape and wetlands.	
21c. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: "Planning adresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species, fire management to maintain savannah habitats etc.)"	1	
Comments and Next Steps	Management of water in the park for conservation is considered but not much is done about it	
22. State and commercial neighbours:Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users?	1	0: There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users 1: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation 2: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, but only some co-operation 3: There is regular contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, and substantial co-operation on management
Comments and Next Steps	Local people are the adjacent land users who are central in the decision making process for the park	

23. Indigenous people: Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Indigenous and traditional peoples directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved 3: Indigenous and traditional peoples directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management
Comments and Next Steps	They are involve but they do not meet frequently for such decision making	
24. Local communities: Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Local communities directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved 3: Local communities directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management
Comments and Next Steps		
24 a. Impact on communities: There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and protected area managers	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	Even park staff are people of the same community	
24 b. Impact on communities: Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving protected area resources, are being implemented	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 c. Impact on communities: Local and/or indigenous people actively support the protected area	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		

25. Economic benefit: Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services?	2	0: The protected area does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities 1: Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed 2: There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities 3: There is a major flow of economic benefits to local communities from activities associated with the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		
26. Monitoring and evaluation: Are management activities monitored against performance?	1	0: There is no monitoring and evaluation in the protected area 1: There is some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results 2: There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but results do not feed back into management 3: A good monitoring and evaluation system exists, is well implemented and used in adaptive management
Comments and Next Steps	We use METT and RAPPAM to monitor management effectiveness of PAs	
27. Visitor facilities: Are visitor facilities adequate?	1	0: There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need 1: Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation 2: Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be improved 3: Visitor facilities and services are excellent for current levels of visitation
Comments and Next Steps		
28. Commercial tourism operators: Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management?	2	0: There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the protected area 1: There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters 2: There is limited co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences and maintain protected area values 3: There is good co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences, and maintain protected area values

Comments and Next Steps		
29. Fees: If fees (i.e. entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management?	1	0: Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected 1: Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the protected area or its environs 2: Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the protected area and its environs 3: Fees are collected and make a substantial contribution to the protected area and its environs
Comments and Next Steps		
30. Condition of values: What is the condition of the important values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated?	2	0: Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 1: Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 2: Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded but the most important values have not been significantly impacted 3: Biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are predominantly intact
Comments and Next Steps		
30a: Condition of values: The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30b: Condition of values Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30c: Condition of values: Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of park management	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
TOTAL SCORE	57	**Pls add up numbers from assessment form (questions 1 to 30)**

Tracking Tool for Biodiversity Projects in GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5

Objective 1: Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems
SECTION II: Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool for Protected Areas

BAO BOLONG WETLAND RESERVE

Note: Please complete the management effectiveness tracking tool for **EACH** protected area that is the target of the GEF intervention and create a new worksheet for each.

Structure and content of the Tracking Tool - Objective 1. Section II:

The Tracking Tool has two main sections: datasheets and assessment form. Both sections should be completed.

1. Datasheets: the data sheet comprises of two separate sections:

ü Data sheet 1: records details of the assessment and some basic information about the site, such as name, size and location etc.

ü Data sheet 2: provides a generic list of threats which protected areas can face. On this data sheet the assessors are asked to identify threats and rank their impact on the protected area.

2. Assessment Form: the assessment is structured around 30 questions presented in table format which includes three columns for recording details of the assessment, all of which should be completed.

Important: Please read the Guidelines posted on the GEF website before entering your data

Data Sheet 1: Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites	Please indicate your answer here	Notes
Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)	Kawsu Jammeh	
Date assessment carried out	29/01/2015	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of protected area	BAO BOLONG WETLAND RESERVE	
WDPA site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)		

Designations (please choose 1-3) It really makes no sense to have this limited to an either/or scrolldown menu. As in old METT you should be able to list several		APPLICABLE: 1, 2 (IUCN Category VI: Managed Resource Protected Area), 3 (RAMSAR) 1: National 2: IUCN Category 3: International (please complete lines 35-69 as necessary)
Country	The Gambia	
Location of protected area (province and if possible map reference)	North Bank Region	
Date of establishment	1996	
Ownership details (please choose 1-4)	1	1: State 2: Private 3: Community 4: Other
Management Authority	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management	
Size of protected area (ha)	22,000	
Number of Permanent staff	7	
Number of Temporary staff	12	
Annual budget (US$) for recurrent (operational) funds - excluding staff salary costs	2,000	
Annual budget (US$) for project or other supplementary funds - excluding staff salary costs	10,000	
What are the main values for which the area is designated	wetlands, wildlife and mangrove	
List the two primary protected area management objectives in below:		
Management objective 1	conserve fauna and flora	
Management objective 2	improve the livelihood of protected area dependent communities	
No. of people involved in completing assessment	7	

Including: (please choose 1-8) It really makes no sense to have this limited to an either/or scrolldown menu. As in old METT you should be able to list several	2	CONTRIBUTED: 2, 3 1: PA manager 2: PA staff 3: Other PA agency staff 4: Donors 5: NGOs 6: External experts 7: Local community 8: Other

Information on International Designations	Please indicate your answer here	
UNESCO World Heritage site (see: http://whc.unesco.org/en/list)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		(i.e. criteria i to x)
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value		
Ramsar site (see: http://ramsar.wetlands.org)		
Date Listed	16-Sep-96	
Site name	BBWR	
Site area	22,000	
Geographical number		
Reason for Designation (see Ramsar Information Sheet)	Importance for Migratory Water Birds	

UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		Total, Core, Buffe, and Transition
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		
Fulfilment of three functions of MAB		conservation, development and logistic support
Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below		
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail

Data Sheet 2: Protected Areas Threats (please complete a Data Sheet of threats and assessment for each protected area of the project).		
Please choose all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Threats ranked as of high significance are those which are seriously degrading values; medium are those threats having some negative impact and those characterised as low are threats which are present but not seriously impacting values or N/A where the threat is not present or not applicable in the protected area.		
1. Residential and commercial development within a protected area		
Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint		
1.1 Housing and settlement	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a protected area		
Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture		
2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.1a Drug cultivation	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3. Energy production and mining within a protected area		
Threats from production of non-biological resources		
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

3.2 Mining and quarrying	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4. Transportation and service corridors within a protected area		
Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality		
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines,)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.4 Flight paths	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5. Biological resource use and harm within a protected area		
Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)		
5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.3 Logging and wood harvesting	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6. Human intrusions and disturbance within a protected area		
Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources		
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7. Natural system modifications		
Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions		

7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc)	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes		
Threats from terrestrial and aquatic non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following introduction, spread and/or increase		
8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

8.1b Pathogens (non-native or native but creating new/increased problems)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9. Pollution entering or generated within protected area		
Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and non-point sources		
9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels etc)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents and discharges (e.g. poor water quality discharge from dams, e.g. unnatural temperatures, de-oxygenated, other pollution)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.5 Air-borne pollutants	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10. Geological events		
Geological events may be part of natural disturbance regimes in many ecosystems. But they can be a threat if a species or habitat is damaged and has lost its resilience and is vulnerable to disturbance. Management capacity to respond to some of these changes may be limited.		
10.1 Volcanoes	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.3 Avalanches/ Landslides	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11. Climate change and severe weather		
Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation		
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.2 Droughts	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

11.3 Temperature extremes	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.4 Storms and flooding	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12. Specific cultural and social threats		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

Assessment Form		
1. Legal status: Does the protected area have legal status (or in the case of private reserves is covered by a covenant or similar)?	3	0: The protected area is not gazetted/covenanted 1: There is agreement that the protected area should be gazetted/covenanted but the process has not yet begun 2: The protected area is in the process of being gazetted/covenanted but the process is still incomplete (includes sites designated under international conventions, such as Ramsar, or local/traditional law such as community conserved areas, which do not yet have national legal status or covenant) 3: The protected area has been formally gazetted/covenanted
Comments and Next Steps	garzette in 1986	

2. Protected area regulations: Are appropriate regulations in place to control land use and activities (e.g. hunting)?	2	0: There are no regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area 1: Some regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but these are major weaknesses 2: Regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but there are some weaknesses or gaps 3: Regulations for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the protected area exist and provide an excellent basis for management
Comments and Next Steps	principal objectives are designed but not enough management activities are implemented	
3. Law Enforcement: Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce protected area rules well enough?	1	0: The staff have no effective capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations 1: There are major deficiencies in staff capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budget, lack of institutional support) 2: The staff have acceptable capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations but some deficiencies remain 3: The staff have excellent capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations
Comments and Next Steps	95% of staff here are illiterate therefore most of them will be replaced by young trainable generation	
4. Protected area objectives: Is management undertaken according to agreed objectives?	2	0: No firm objectives have been agreed for the protected area 1: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is not managed according to these objectives 2: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is only partially managed according to these objectives 3: The protected area has agreed objectives and is managed to meet these objectives
Comments and Next Steps		

5. Protected area design: Is the protected area the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key conservation concern?	2	0: Inadequacies in protected area design mean achieving the major objectives of the protected area is very difficult 1: Inadequacies in protected area design mean that achievement of major objectives is difficult but some mitigating actions are being taken (e.g. agreements with adjacent land owners for wildlife corridors or introduction of appropriate catchment management) 2: Protected area design is not significantly constraining achievement of objectives, but could be improved (e.g. with respect to larger scale ecological processes) 3: Protected area design helps achievement of objectives; it is appropriate for species and habitat conservation; and maintains ecological processes such as surface and groundwater flows at a catchment scale, natural disturbance patterns etc
Comments and Next Steps	there is a need to designate the corridor between BBWR and JNP and manage it effectively.	
6. Protected area boundary demarcation: Is the boundary known and demarcated?	1	0: The boundary of the protected area is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users 1: The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land users 2: The boundary of the protected area is known by both the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users but is not appropriately demarcated 3: The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users and is appropriately demarcated
Comments and Next Steps	there is a demarcated boundary on the map but never being physically delineated with pillars on the perimeters	
7. Management plan: Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?	1	0: There is no management plan for the protected area 1: A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented 2: A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other problems 3: A management plan exists and is being implemented
Comments and Next Steps	a draft management plan is in place but some revision and implementaion	
7.a Planning process: The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	1	0: No 1: Yes

Comments and Next Steps		
7.b Planning process: There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.c Planning process: The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
8. Regular work plan: Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented	0	0: No regular work plan exists 1: A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented 2: A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented 3: A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented
Comments and Next Steps	no park budget therefore park activities centered on patrolling and monitoring and supporting community projects secured from projects	
9. Resource inventory: Do you have enough information to manage the area?	1	0: There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the protected area 1: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is not sufficient to support planning and decision making 2: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient for most key areas of planning and decision making 3: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient to support all areas of planning and decision making
Comments and Next Steps	not much is known about such a unique wetlands with over two dozen deltas	
10. Protection systems: Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the protected area?	1	0: Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use 1: Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use 2: Protection systems are moderately effective in controlling access/resource use 3: Protection systems are largely or wholly effective in controlling access/ resource use

Comments and Next Steps		
11. Research: Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work?	1	0: There is no survey or research work taking place in the protected area 1: There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 2: There is considerable survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 3:There is a comprehensive, integrated programme of survey and research work, which is relevant to management needs
Comments and Next Steps		
12. Resource management: Is active resource management being undertaken?	1	0: Active resource management is not being undertaken 1: Very few of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values are being implemented 2: Many of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being implemented but some key issues are not being addressed 3: Requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being substantially or fully implemented
Comments and Next Steps		
13. Staff numbers: Are there enough people employed to manage the protected area?	1	0: There are no staff 1: Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities 2: Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities 3: Staff numbers are adequate for the management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		
14. Staff training: Are staff adequately trained to fulfill management objectives?	1	0: Staff lack the skills needed for protected area management 1: Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the protected area 2: Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of management 3: Staff training and skills are aligned with the

		management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps	only few are trained	
15. Current budget: Is the current budget sufficient?	1	0: There is no budget for management of the protected area 1: The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage 2: The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully achieve effective management 3: The available budget is sufficient and meets the full management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps	the park receive limited fuel supply each month for the only motorbike	
16. Security of budget: Is the budget secure?	1	0: There is no secure budget for the protected area and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding 1: There is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding 2: There is a reasonably secure core budget for regular operation of the protected area but many innovations and initiatives are reliant on outside funding 3: There is a secure budget for the protected area and its management needs
Comments and Next Steps	no budget	
17. Management of budget: Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs?	2	0: Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year) 1: Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness 2: Budget management is adequate but could be improved 3: Budget management is excellent and meets management needs
Comments and Next Steps		

18. Equipment: Is equipment sufficient for management needs?	1	0: There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs 1: There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs 2: There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management 3: There are adequate equipment and facilities
Comments and Next Steps		
19. Maintenance of equipment: Is equipment adequately maintained?	1	0: There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities 1: There is some ad hoc maintenance of equipment and facilities 2: There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities 3: Equipment and facilities are well maintained
Comments and Next Steps		
20. Education and awareness: Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and needs?	1	0: There is no education and awareness programme 1: There is a limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme 2: There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved 3: There is an appropriate and fully implemented education and awareness programme
Comments and Next Steps		
21. Planning for land and water use: Does land and water use planning recognise the protected area and aid the achievement of objectives?	1	0: Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the protected area and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area 1: Adjacent land and water use planning does not takes into account the long term needs of the protected area, but activities are not detrimental the area 2: Adjacent land and water use planning partially takes into account the long term needs of the protected area 3: Adjacent land and water use planning fully takes into account the long term needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		

21a. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the protected area incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pollution levels etc) to sustain relevant habitats.	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21b. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Management of corridors linking the protected area provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the protected area (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites and the sea, or to allow animal migration).	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
21c. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: "Planning adresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species, fire management to maintain savannah habitats etc.)"	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
22. State and commercial neighbours:Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users?	1	0: There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users 1: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation 2: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, but only some co-operation 3: There is regular contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, and substantial co-operation on management
Comments and Next Steps	only local communities are the users but services such as development anti-salt dams are provided to boost agricultural production.	

23. Indigenous people: Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Indigenous and traditional peoples directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved 3: Indigenous and traditional peoples directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management
Comments and Next Steps	park committees are in place and do not meet too often as required	
24. Local communities: Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?	2	0: Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Local communities directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved 3: Local communities directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management
Comments and Next Steps		
24 a. Impact on communities: There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and protected area managers	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 b. Impact on communities: Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving protected area resources, are being implemented	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	village banking, horticulture and bee keeping are ongoing income generation activities	
24 c. Impact on communities: Local and/or indigenous people actively support the protected area	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		

25. Economic benefit: Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services?	2	0: The protected area does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities 1: Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed 2: There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities 3: There is a major flow of economic benefits to local communities from activities associated with the protected area
Comments and Next Steps	village banking, horticulture and bee keeping are ongoing income generation activities	
26. Monitoring and evaluation: Are management activities monitored against performance?	1	0: There is no monitoring and evaluation in the protected area 1: There is some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results 2: There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but results do not feed back into management 3: A good monitoring and evaluation system exists, is well implemented and used in adaptive management
Comments and Next Steps		
27. Visitor facilities: Are visitor facilities adequate?	0	0: There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need 1: Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation 2: Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be improved 3: Visitor facilities and services are excellent for current levels of visitation
Comments and Next Steps	no visitor facility available	
28. Commercial tourism operators: Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management?	0	0: There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the protected area 1: There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters 2: There is limited co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences and maintain protected area values 3: There is good co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences, and maintain protected area values

Comments and Next Steps	tourist visiting BBWR comes from Kiang West	
29. Fees: If fees (i.e. entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management?	1	0: Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected 1: Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the protected area or its environs 2: Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the protected area and its environs 3: Fees are collected and make a substantial contribution to the protected area and its environs
Comments and Next Steps	the fees paid are taken direct to Government Coffer	
30. Condition of values: What is the condition of the important values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated?	2	0: Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 1: Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 2: Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded but the most important values have not been significantly impacted 3: Biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are predominantly intact
Comments and Next Steps		
30a: Condition of values: The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	Ramsar study, water bird census, flamingo survey are some of the survey and monitoring activities	
30b: Condition of values Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	problems are identified but not address	
30c: Condition of values: Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of park management	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	patrol on foot are routine	
TOTAL SCORE	47	**Pls add up numbers from assessment form (questions 1 to 30)**

Tracking Tool for Biodiversity Projects in GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5

Objective 1: Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems
SECTION II: Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool for Protected Areas

JOKADU NATIONAL PARK

Note: Please complete the management effectiveness tracking tool for **EACH** protected area that is the target of the GEF intervention and create a new worksheet for each.

Structure and content of the Tracking Tool - Objective 1. Section II:

The Tracking Tool has two main sections: datasheets and assessment form. Both sections should be completed.

1. Datasheets: the data sheet comprises of two separate sections:

ü Data sheet 1: records details of the assessment and some basic information about the site, such as name, size and location etc.

ü Data sheet 2: provides a generic list of threats which protected areas can face. On this data sheet the assessors are asked to identify threats and rank their impact on the protected area.

2. Assessment Form: the assessment is structured around 30 questions presented in table format which includes three columns for recording details of the assessment, all of which should be completed.

Important: Please read the Guidelines posted on the GEF website before entering your data

Data Sheet 1: Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites	Please indicate your answer here	Notes
Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)	Kawsu Jammeh, Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, Abuko Nature Reserve, Serrekunda, Kanifing Municipal Council, The Gambia, Email; kjammehsopee@yahoo.com	
Date assessment carried out	29/01/2015	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of protected area	JOKADU NATIONAL PARK	
WDPA site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)		

Designations (please choose 1-3) It really makes no sense to have this limited to an either/or scrolldown menu. As in old METT you should be able to list several		APPLICABLE: 1, 2 (IUCN Category VI: Managed Resource Protected Area) 1: National 2: IUCN Category 3: International (please complete lines 35-69 as necessary)
Country	The Gambia	
Location of protected area (province and if possible map reference)	North Bank Region	
Date of establishment	yet to be gazetted	
Ownership details (please choose 1-4)	1	1: State 2: Private 3: Community 4: Other
Management Authority	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management	
Size of protected area (ha)	15,028	
Number of Permanent staff	-	
Number of Temporary staff	-	
Annual budget (US$) for recurrent (operational) funds - excluding staff salary costs	-	
Annual budget (US$) for project or other supplementary funds - excluding staff salary costs	-	
What are the main values for which the area is designated	-	
List the two primary protected area management objectives in below:	-	
Management objective 1	to conserve fauna and flora	
Management objective 2	to improve community livelihood	
No. of people involved in completing assessment	7	

Including: (please choose 1-8) It really makes no sense to have this limited to an either/or scrolldown menu. As in old METT you should be able to list several		CONTRIBUTED: 2, 3 1: PA manager 2: PA staff 3: Other PA agency staff 4: Donors 5: NGOs 6: External experts 7: Local community 8: Other

Information on International Designations	Please indicate your answer here	
UNESCO World Heritage site (see: http://whc.unesco.org/en/list)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		(i.e. criteria i to x)
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value		
Ramsar site (see: http://ramsar.wetlands.org)		
Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		
Geographical number		
Reason for Designation (see Ramsar Information Sheet)		
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/		

Date Listed		
Site name		
Site area		Total, Core, Buffe, and Transition
Geographical co-ordinates		
Criteria for designation		
Fulfilment of three functions of MAB		conservation, development and logistic support
Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below		
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail
		Name
		Detail

Data Sheet 2: Protected Areas Threats (please complete a Data Sheet of threats and assessment for each protected area of the project).		
Please choose all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Threats ranked as of high significance are those which are seriously degrading values; medium are those threats having some negative impact and those characterised as low are threats which are present but not seriously impacting values or N/A where the threat is not present or not applicable in the protected area.		
1. Residential and commercial development within a protected area		
Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint		
1.1 Housing and settlement	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a protected area		
Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture		
2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.1a Drug cultivation	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3. Energy production and mining within a protected area		
Threats from production of non-biological resources		
3.1 Oil and gas drilling	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
3.2 Mining and quarrying	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4. Transportation and service corridors within a protected area		
Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality		
4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines,)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
4.4 Flight paths	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5. Biological resource use and harm within a protected area		
Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)		
5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

5.3 Logging and wood harvesting	3	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6. Human intrusions and disturbance within a protected area		
Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources		
6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7. Natural system modifications		
Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions		
7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes		
Threats from terrestrial and aquatic non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following introduction, spread and/or increase		
8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
8.1b Pathogens (non-native or native but creating new/increased problems)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9. Pollution entering or generated within protected area		
Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and non-point sources		
9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels etc)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents and discharges (e.g. poor water quality discharge from dams, e.g. unnatural temperatures, de-oxygenated, other pollution)	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.5 Air-borne pollutants	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc)	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10. Geological events		
Geological events may be part of natural disturbance regimes in many ecosystems. But they can be a threat if a species or habitat is damaged and has lost its resilience and is vulnerable to disturbance. Management capacity to respond to some of these changes may be limited.		

10.1 Volcanoes	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.3 Avalanches/ Landslides	0	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11. Climate change and severe weather		
Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation		
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.2 Droughts	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
11.3 Temperature extremes	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

11.4 Storms and flooding	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12. Specific cultural and social threats		
12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	1	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High
12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc	2	0: N/A 1: Low 2: Medium 3: High

Assessment Form		
1. Legal status: Does the protected area have legal status (or in the case of private reserves is covered by a covenant or similar)?	-	0: The protected area is not gazetted/covenanted 1: There is agreement that the protected area should be gazetted/covenanted but the process has not yet begun 2: The protected area is in the process of being gazetted/covenanted but the process is still incomplete (includes sites designated under international conventions, such as Ramsar, or local/traditional law such as community conserved areas, which do not yet have national legal status or covenant) 3: The protected area has been formally gazetted/covenanted
Comments and Next Steps	gazzettement will be pronounced during the inception workshop	

2. Protected area regulations: Are appropriate regulations in place to control land use and activities (e.g. hunting)?	-	0: There are no regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area 1: Some regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but these are major weaknesses 2: Regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but there are some weaknesses or gaps 3: Regulations for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the protected area exist and provide an excellent basis for management
Comments and Next Steps	Biodiversity/Wildlife Act 2003 provide regulation to control land use but park specific cases are normally highlighted in the management plan	
3. Law Enforcement: Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce protected area rules well enough?	1	0: The staff have no effective capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations 1: There are major deficiencies in staff capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budget, lack of institutional support) 2: The staff have acceptable capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations but some deficiencies remain 3: The staff have excellent capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations
Comments and Next Steps	no staff yet, there is a park committee established and few volunteers managing the park	
4. Protected area objectives: Is management undertaken according to agreed objectives?	-	0: No firm objectives have been agreed for the protected area 1: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is not managed according to these objectives 2: The protected area has agreed objectives, but is only partially managed according to these objectives 3: The protected area has agreed objectives and is managed to meet these objectives
Comments and Next Steps		

5. Protected area design: Is the protected area the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key conservation concern?	2	0: Inadequacies in protected area design mean achieving the major objectives of the protected area is very difficult 1: Inadequacies in protected area design mean that achievement of major objectives is difficult but some mitigating actions are being taken (e.g. agreements with adjacent land owners for wildlife corridors or introduction of appropriate catchment management) 2: Protected area design is not significantly constraining achievement of objectives, but could be improved (e.g. with respect to larger scale ecological processes) 3: Protected area design helps achievement of objectives; it is appropriate for species and habitat conservation; and maintains ecological processes such as surface and groundwater flows at a catchment scale, natural disturbance patterns etc
Comments and Next Steps		
6. Protected area boundary demarcation: Is the boundary known and demarcated?	-	0: The boundary of the protected area is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users 1: The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land users 2: The boundary of the protected area is known by both the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users but is not appropriately demarcated 3: The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users and is appropriately demarcated
Comments and Next Steps	park management boundary is not demarcated but the area was determine through gap analysis using GIS	
7. Management plan: Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?	-	0: There is no management plan for the protected area 1: A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented 2: A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other problems 3: A management plan exists and is being implemented
Comments and Next Steps	there is no management plan yet	
7.a Planning process: The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	-	0: No 1: Yes

Comments and Next Steps	management planning does not start yet	
7.b Planning process: There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
7.c Planning process: The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
8. Regular work plan: Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented	0	0: No regular work plan exists 1: A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented 2: A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented 3: A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented
Comments and Next Steps	no workplan yet	
9. Resource inventory: Do you have enough information to manage the area?	-	0: There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the protected area 1: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is not sufficient to support planning and decision making 2: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient for most key areas of planning and decision making 3: Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient to support all areas of planning and decision making
Comments and Next Steps		
10. Protection systems: Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the protected area?	0	0: Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use 1: Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use 2: Protection systems are moderately effective in controlling access/resource use 3: Protection systems are largely or wholly effective in controlling access/ resource use
Comments and Next Steps		

11. Research: Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work?	1	0: There is no survey or research work taking place in the protected area 1: There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 2: There is considerable survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management 3:There is a comprehensive, integrated programme of survey and research work, which is relevant to management needs
Comments and Next Steps	flamingo survey	
12. Resource management: Is active resource management being undertaken?	-	0: Active resource management is not being undertaken 1: Very few of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values are being implemented 2: Many of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being implemented but some key issues are not being addressed 3: Requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being substantially or fully implemented
Comments and Next Steps		
13. Staff numbers: Are there enough people employed to manage the protected area?	-	0: There are no staff 1: Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities 2: Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities 3: Staff numbers are adequate for the management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps	recruit atleast twenty young ranger to protect the paeks	
14. Staff training: Are staff adequately trained to fulfill management objectives?	-	0: Staff lack the skills needed for protected area management 1: Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the protected area 2: Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of management 3: Staff training and skills are aligned with the management needs of the protected area

Comments and Next Steps		
15. Current budget: Is the current budget sufficient?	0	0: There is no budget for management of the protected area 1: The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage 2: The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully achieve effective management 3: The available budget is sufficient and meets the full management needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		
16. Security of budget: Is the budget secure?	0	0: There is no secure budget for the protected area and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding 1: There is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding 2: There is a reasonably secure core budget for regular operation of the protected area but many innovations and initiatives are reliant on outside funding 3: There is a secure budget for the protected area and its management needs
Comments and Next Steps		
17. Management of budget: Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs?	0	0: Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year) 1: Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness 2: Budget management is adequate but could be improved 3: Budget management is excellent and meets management needs
Comments and Next Steps		
18. Equipment: Is equipment sufficient for management needs?	0	0: There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs 1: There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs 2: There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management 3: There are adequate equipment and facilities

Comments and Next Steps		
19. Maintenance of equipment: Is equipment adequately maintained?	0	0: There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities 1: There is some ad hoc maintenance of equipment and facilities 2: There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities 3: Equipment and facilities are well maintained
Comments and Next Steps		
20. Education and awareness: Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and needs?	-	0: There is no education and awareness programme 1: There is a limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme 2: There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved 3: There is an appropriate and fully implemented education and awareness programme
Comments and Next Steps	Environmental Education Unit need to be strengthened	
21. Planning for land and water use: Does land and water use planning recognise the protected area and aid the achievement of objectives?	0	0: Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the protected area and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area 1: Adjacent land and water use planning does not takes into account the long term needs of the protected area, but activities are not detrimental the area 2: Adjacent land and water use planning partially takes into account the long term needs of the protected area 3: Adjacent land and water use planning fully takes into account the long term needs of the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		
21a. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the protected area incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pollution levels etc) to sustain relevant habitats.	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	most stakeholders do not know the boundary	
21b. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: Management of corridors linking the protected area provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the protected area (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites and the sea, or to allow animal migration).	0	0: No 1: Yes

Comments and Next Steps		
21c. Land and water planning for habitat conservation: "Planning adresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species, fire management to maintain savannah habitats etc.)"	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
22. State and commercial neighbours:Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users?	0	0: There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users 1: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation 2: There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, but only some co-operation 3: There is regular contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, and substantial co-operation on management
Comments and Next Steps		
23. Indigenous people: Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the protected area have input to management decisions?	-	0: Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Indigenous and traditional peoples directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved 3: Indigenous and traditional peoples directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management
Comments and Next Steps		
24. Local communities: Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?	-	0: Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area 1: Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management 2: Local communities directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved 3: Local communities directly participate in all relevant

		decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management
Comments and Next Steps	however, they were fully engage during the campaign process	
24 a. Impact on communities: There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and protected area managers	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	no management structure in place yet	
24 b. Impact on communities: Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving protected area resources, are being implemented	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
24 c. Impact on communities: Local and/or indigenous people actively support the protected area	1	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps	village base consultation organized and community consensus secured	
25. Economic benefit: Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services?	-	0: The protected area does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities 1: Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed 2: There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities 3: There is a major flow of economic benefits to local communities from activities associated with the protected area
Comments and Next Steps		
26. Monitoring and evaluation: Are management activities monitored against performance?	-	0: There is no monitoring and evaluation in the protected area 1: There is some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results 2: There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but results do not feed back into management 3: A good monitoring and evaluation system exists, is well implemented and used in adaptive management

Comments and Next Steps		
27. Visitor facilities: Are visitor facilities adequate?	0	0: There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need 1: Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation 2: Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be improved 3: Visitor facilities and services are excellent for current levels of visitation
Comments and Next Steps		
28. Commercial tourism operators: Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management?	0	0: There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the protected area 1: There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters 2: There is limited co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences and maintain protected area values 3: There is good co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences, and maintain protected area values
Comments and Next Steps		
29. Fees: If fees (i.e. entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management?	0	0: Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected 1: Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the protected area or its environs 2: Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the protected area and its environs 3: Fees are collected and make a substantial contribution to the protected area and its environs
Comments and Next Steps		

30. Condition of values: What is the condition of the important values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated?	-	0: Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 1: Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded 2: Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded but the most important values have not been significantly impacted 3: Biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are predominantly intact
Comments and Next Steps	the ecosystem and species composition is relatively the same	
30a: Condition of values: The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	-	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30b: Condition of values Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
30c: Condition of values: Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of park management	0	0: No 1: Yes
Comments and Next Steps		
TOTAL SCORE	5	**Pls add up numbers from assessment form (questions 1 to 30)**

Tracking Tool for Biodiversity Projects in GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5

Objective 2:
Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors

Objective: To measure progress in achieving the impacts and outcomes established at the portfolio level under the biodiversity focal area.
Rationale: Project data from the GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5 project cohort will be aggregated for analysis of directional trends and patterns at a portfolio-wide level to inform the development of future GEF strategies and to report to GEF Council on portfolio-level performance in the biodiversity focal area.
Structure of Tracking Tool: Each tracking tool requests background and coverage information on the project and specific information required to track portfolio level indicators in the GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5 strategy.
Guidance in Applying GEF Tracking Tools: GEF tracking tools are applied three times: at CEO endorsement, at project mid-term, and at project completion.
Submission: The finalized tracking tool will be cleared by the GEF Agencies as being correctly completed.

Important: Please read the Guidelines posted on the GEF website before entering your data

I. General Data	Please indicate your answer here	Notes
Project Title	GAMBIA PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS	
GEF Project ID	5529	
Agency Project ID	5000	
Implementing Agency	UNDP	
Project Type	MSP	FSP or MSP
Country	The Gambia	
Region	AFR	

Date of submission of the tracking tool	March 1, 2015	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of reviewers completing tracking tool and completion date	Kawsu Jammeh 29 Jan 2015	Completion Date
Planned project duration	4	years
Actual project duration		years
Lead Project Executing Agency (ies)	DPWM	
Date of Council/CEO Approval	March 13, 2014	Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
GEF Grant (US$)	1,324,310	
Cofinancing expected (US$)	4,690,909	
Please identify production sectors and/or ecosystem services directly targeted by project:		
Agriculture	1	1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Fisheries		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Forestry		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Tourism		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Mining		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project

Oil		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Transportation		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Other (please specify)		

**Not applicable (n/a) for OIL **

II. Project Landscape/Seascape Coverage

1. What is the extent (in hectares) of the landscape or seascape where the project will directly or indirectly contribute to biodiversity conservation or sustainable use of its components? An example is provided in the table below.		
Foreseen at project start (to be completed at CEO approval or endorsement)		
Landscape/seascape[1] area directly[2] covered by the project (ha)	123,554	This is the area of the expanded 3 PAs (63,554) + the surrounding landscapes directly targeted by the project for both the PA and SLM/CBNRM activities
Landscape/seascape area indirectly[3] covered by the project (ha)	250,000	
Explanation for indirect coverage numbers:	Benefit to the rest of the national PA estate (c 12,000 ha) + estimated reach of NEMA agriculture project	Please indicate reasons
Actual at mid-term		

Landscape/seascape[1] area directly[2] covered by the project (ha)		
Landscape/seascape area indirectly[3] covered by the project (ha)		
Explanation for indirect coverage numbers:		Please indicate reasons
Actual at project closure		
Landscape/seascape[1] area directly[2] covered by the project (ha)		
Landscape/seascape area indirectly[3] covered by the project (ha)		
Explanation for indirect coverage numbers:		Please indicate reasons

[1] For projects working in seascapes (large marine ecosystems, fisheries etc.) please provide coverage figures and include explanatory text as necessary if reporting in hectares is not applicable or feasible.
[2] Direct coverage refers to the area that is targeted by the project's site intervention. For example, a project may be mainstreaming biodiversity into floodplain management in a pilot area of 1,000 hectares that is part of a much larger floodplain of 10,000 hectares.
[3] Using the example in footnote 2 above, the same project may, for example, "indirectly" cover or influence the remaining 9,000 hectares of the floodplain through promoting learning exchanges and training at the project site as part of an awareness raising and capacity building strategy for the rest of the floodplain. Please explain the basis for extrapolation of indirect coverage when completing this part of the table.

2. Are there Protected Areas within the landscape/seascape covered by the project? If so, names these PAs, their IUCN or national PA category, and their extent in hectares		
Name of Protected Areas	IUCN Category	Extent in hectares of PA
1. Kiang West National Park	II	11,526 ha
2 Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve	VI	22,000 ha
3 Jokadu National Park	II	15,028 ha

3. Within the landscape/seascape covered by the project, is the project implementing payment for environmental service schemes? If so, please complete the table below. Example is provided.		
Foreseen at project start (to be completed at CEO approval or endorsement)	N/A	Please Indicate Environmental Service

	N/A	Extent in hectares
	N/A	Payments generated (US$)/ha/yr
Actual at mid-term		Please Indicate Environmental Service
		Extent in hectares
		Payments generated (US$)/ha/yr
Actual at project closure		Please Indicate Environmental Service
		Extent in hectares
		Payments generated (US$)/ha/yr

Part III. Management Practices Applied

4. Within the scope and objectives of the project, please identify in the table below the management practices employed by project beneficiaries that integrate biodiversity considerations and the area of coverage of these management practices. Please also note if a certification system is being applied and identify the certification system being used. Note: this could range from farmers applying organic agricultural practices, forest management agencies managing forests per Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines or other forest certification schemes, artisanal fisherfolk practicing sustainable fisheries management, or industries satisfying other similar agreed international standards, etc.

Foreseen at project start (to be completed at CEO approval or endorsement)	Agricultural and grazing practices to be modified: free range grazing in PAs, slash and burn including for dryland rice, water dams in wetlands, use of fire use in agriculture that affect also woodlands, deep tilling, to be improved by testing salt resistant rice, planting trees around forests valued by communities, conservation tillage, reforestation with multiple use trees, controlled grazing zones. More widely also agriculturtal and land use planning and projects must start integrating PA and BD concerns, which for now are largely ignored in the sector.	Please indicate specific management practices that integrate BD
	N/A	Name of certification system being used (insert NA if no certification system is being applied)
	60,000	Area of coverage
Actual at mid-term		Please indicate specific management practices that integrate BD
		Name of certification system being used (insert NA if no certification system is being applied)
		Area of coverage
Actual at project closure		Please indicate specific management practices that integrate BD

		Name of certification system being used (insert NA if no certification system is being applied)
		Area of coverage

Part IV. Market Transformation

5. For those projects that have identified market transformation as a project objective, please describe the project's ability to integrate biodiversity considerations into the mainstream economy by measuring the market changes to which the project contributed. The sectors and subsectors and measures of impact in the table below are illustrative examples, only. Please complete per the objectives and specifics of the project.

Foreseen at project start		
		Unit of measure of market impact
Name of the market that the project seeks to affect (sector and sub-sector)	*E.g., Sustainable agriculture (Fruit production: apples)*	*E.g., US$ of sales of certified apple products / year*
	E.g., Sustainable forestry (timber processing)	*E.g., cubic meters of sustainably produced wood processed per year*
Name of the market that the project seeks to affect (sector and sub-sector)	N/A	Unit of measure of market impact
Actual at mid-term		
Name of the market that the project seeks to affect (sector and sub-sector)		Unit of measure of market impact
Actual at project closure		

Name of the market that the project seeks to affect (sector and sub-sector)		Unit of measure of market impact

Part V. Policy and Regulatory frameworks

6. For those projects that have identified addressing policy, legislation, regulations, and their implementation as project objectives, Please complete these tables for each sector that is a primary or a secondary focus of the project. Please answer (1 for YES or 0 for NO) to each statement under the sectors that are a focus of the project.

Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy		
Agriculture	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy through specific legislation		
Agriculture	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
Regulations are in place to implement the legislation		
Agriculture	1	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
The regulations are under implementation		
Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0

Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
The implementation of regulations is enforced		
Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
Enforcement of regulations is monitored		
Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0

REMOVED IAS Section hereunder as not relevant to avoid confusion