



**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**  
**PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT**  
**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Project Title:</b>	Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Area Management in Myanmar		
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Myanmar	<b>GEF Project ID:</b>	TBD
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	UNDP	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	5162
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry Wildlife Conservation Society	<b>Re-Submission Date:</b>	10 January 2013
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	Biodiversity	<b>Project Duration (months):</b>	60
<b>Name of parent Programme: For SFM/REDD+</b>	N/A	<b>Agency Fee (\$):</b>	572,603

**A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:**

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative grant amount (\$)	Indicative co-financing (\$)
BD-1	1.1 Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas 1.2 Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management.	1.1. New protected areas (7) and coverage (2,976,833) of unprotected ecosystems. 1.2. New protected areas (7) and coverage (2,976,833) of unprotected threatened species (100). 1.3. Sustainable financing plans (1).	GEFTF	4,800,000  947,397	16,056,300  1,000,000
Sub-total				5,747,397	17,056,300
Project management cost			GEFTF	280,000	840,000
<b>Total project cost</b>				<b>6,027,397</b>	<b>17,896,300</b>

**B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK:**

<b>Project Objective:</b> Strengthen the terrestrial system of national protected areas for biodiversity conservation through enhanced representation, management effectiveness, monitoring, enforcement and financing						
Project Component	Grant type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative co-financing (\$)
1. Systemic, Institutional and Financial Frameworks for PA Expansion and Management	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved institutional capacity of the MOECAAF for the PA system planning and management indicated by the minimum 30% increase in score of the Capacity Development Scorecard (Baseline will be established during the PPG)</li> <li>Core operation of the national PA system in Myanmar covering 3,788,697 ha strengthened, leading to reduction of threats from forest loss, encroachment and poaching, indicated by:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant policies relating to PA management and biodiversity conservation strengthened in consultation with government agencies and stakeholders. Specifically including, a) Enabling policy that ensures PAs have clear access to funds raised through sustainable financing mechanisms, and b) policies that integrate the valuation of ecosystem services with national level land-use planning.</li> <li>Capacity of the MOECAAF strengthened for effective management of the PA system, through: (i) establishment of PA management standards and PA and individual performance monitoring system</li> </ul>	GEFTF	2,247,397	13,056,300

	<p>- A minimum of 75% reduction in the rate of forest loss inside PAs compared to the baseline of 0.95% forest loss nationally per year.</p> <p>- Training for PA managers instituted with clear competency standards and individual performance monitoring system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The national PA system financing plan is developed and operationalised, articulating PA financing needs and providing for concrete steps for meeting the financing needs. The national development plan integrates the PA system financing plan.</li> </ul> <p>- 100% increase in budget allocated to the protected areas in real term compared to the baseline of US\$ 750,000<sup>1</sup> per year as indicated by the financial sustainability scorecard. Currently the only budget sources are the national government allocation and occasional NGO/donor funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased coverage of Myanmar's terrestrial and aquatic PA network managed by the Forest Department to 10% (6,765,530 ha) of the country's land-area from the current 5.6% (3,788,697 ha) with a minimum of 6% coverage of under-represented vegetation types and essential corridors. (targets will be confirmed during the PPG):</li> </ul> <p><u>Ecoregion-type representativeness in the PA system</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="289 1213 711 1686"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ecoregion</th> <th>Percent Protected</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chin Hills-Arakan Yoma montane forest</td> <td>3.60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eastern Himalayan alpine shrub and meadow</td> <td>96.46%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irrawaddy dry Forest</td> <td>2.43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irrawaddy fresh water swamp forest</td> <td>0.04%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irrawaddy moist deciduous forest</td> <td>2.48%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kayah-Karen montane rain forest</td> <td>0.60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mizoram-Manipur- Kachin Rain forest</td> <td>7.26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Myanmar Coast mangrove</td> <td>0.92%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Myanmar coastal rain forest</td> <td>0.69%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ecoregion	Percent Protected	Chin Hills-Arakan Yoma montane forest	3.60%	Eastern Himalayan alpine shrub and meadow	96.46%	Irrawaddy dry Forest	2.43%	Irrawaddy fresh water swamp forest	0.04%	Irrawaddy moist deciduous forest	2.48%	Kayah-Karen montane rain forest	0.60%	Mizoram-Manipur- Kachin Rain forest	7.26%	Myanmar Coast mangrove	0.92%	Myanmar coastal rain forest	0.69%	<p>for different categories of the PAs; (ii) institutionalisation of clear reporting structure and methods; (iii) establishment of law enforcement and habitat/biodiversity monitoring protocols; (iv) clear official guidelines for community engagement and co-management; (v) clear capacity development strategies and action plans for increasing management effectiveness of the PA system; (vi) incentive mechanisms for increasing motivation of field staff.; (vii) establishment and institutionalisation of PA data/information and knowledge management system enabling learning from and upscaling of pilot/individual project activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training Programmes targeting PA managers institutionalised with focus within the NWCD. Diploma-level PA management modules for Yezin University of Forestry and the certificate training level for Central Forestry Development Training Centers and incorporated into their regular curricula. At least 150 PA field staff trained and certified in SMART enforcement patrolling<sup>2</sup> and biological monitoring of key ecosystems and threatened species at Central Forestry Development Training Centers.</li> <li>▪ National PA System Financing Plan is developed for the expanded PA system. Economic case is made with a series of economic studies for increased investment in the PA system and financing sources are diversified including new sustainable financing systems such as: (i) tourism concession system establishment to enable the private sector and others to invest in PA management (informed by a proper market analysis) and (ii) promotion of NTFPs and other wildlife friendly products (target mechanisms to be defined during the PPG).</li> <li>▪ State/Region and local government units in Kachin State, Sagaing Region, Chin State and Rakhine State recognize the value of PAs (in terms of ecosystem services and other potential income sources for local communities), and are able to incorporate these values into regional and local development and land-use planning.</li> <li>▪ The National PA system expanded by 2,976,851 ha based on the national PA system gap analysis conducted for terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and review of</li> </ul>		
Ecoregion	Percent Protected																							
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<sup>1</sup> Based on the exchange rate of 800 kyat = 1 US\$.

<sup>2</sup> SMART patrol system developed by the WCS uses the tool called Management Information System (or MIST). MIST allows rangers on field patrol to use handheld GPS devices to record geospatial and metadata information about encounters with poachers, snares, and other types of disturbance and encroachment in the protected area. Rangers also collect information about sightings or signs of key species they encounter. The field data is subsequently downloaded from the GPS device to a central computer where it is aggregated as a local and/or national level dataset. This compiled data gives protected-area managers and other conservation stakeholders an unparalleled 'big picture' view of where resources are most needed and where they can most effectively be deployed.

		Northern Indochina subtropical forest	0.90%	national PA network based on ecosystem and species representation, threats, system design and climate change adaptation. New Protected Areas in the critical areas gazetted.				
		Northern Triangle subtropical forest	35.56%					
		Nuijiang Langcang Gorge alpine conifer and mixed forest	0.00%					
		Tenasserim-south Thailand semi-evergreen rain forest	29.72%					
		Tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests	21.85%					
2. Strengthened management and threat reduction in the target PAs and buffer zones	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved management effectiveness of individual PAs covering 2,604,000 ha – Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (1,737,300 ha), Hkakaborazi National Park (381,200 ha), Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary (270,400 ha) and Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary (215,100), indicated by the % increase in the METT assessment.</li> <li>▪ Reduction of threats at the local level indicated by a reduction in the number of individuals stopped inside the PA for illegal activities as shown in SMART monthly patrolling reports.</li> <li>▪ Improved habitat conditions at local level indicated by stable forest cover and encroachment measured through remote sensing bi-annually.</li> </ul> <p>- Stable population of indicator species to be identified during PPG.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management plans for the 4 PAs developed and implemented through a stakeholder led process, endorsed by Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and operational. Plans include a PA based financing plan with developed management oriented budgets and plans for meeting the budget needs.</li> <li>▪ PA site operation is strengthened to address existing threats to biodiversity, through: (i) strengthening of enforcement (patrol, surveillance, interception of malfeasance and prosecution) targeting illegal harvesting, poaching, mining, and encroachment through operationalisation of the SMART patrolling and law enforcement monitoring system; (ii) development and operationalisation of habitat and biological monitoring systems for key ecosystems and threatened species; clear park boundary demarcation for decreasing encroachment; (iii) staff training tailored to improve knowledge and skills of PA staff and local partners to manage specific threats to the PAs; (vi) management infrastructure consolidation (signage, patrol camps, equipment etc).</li> <li>▪ Pilot systems developed and implemented for community participation in PA management at the 4 PA sites. These include community based adaptation strategies to safeguard access to natural resources and promote livelihood opportunities so decreasing vulnerability to climate change.</li> </ul>		GEF TF	3,500,000	4,000,000
Sub-total						5,747,397	17,056,300	
Project management cost						280,000	840,000	
<b>Total project costs</b>						<b>6,027,397</b>	<b>17,896,300</b>	

**C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE and BY NAME if available (\$)**

Sources of Co-financing for baseline project	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry	Grant	4,646,300
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	12,000,000
CSO	Wildlife Conservation Society	Grant	1,250,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>17,896,300</b>

**D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY FOCAL AREA(S), AGENCY (IES) SHARE AND COUNTRY(IES): N/A**

## **II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

### **A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:**

**A.1 the GEF focal area strategies:** The proposed project is consistent with the Goals of GEF Biodiversity Objective 1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems (BD1). Especially the project will contribute to Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas through increased capacity and standardized practice to improve management and planning especially linked to local community participation and financial planning, while at the national level increased overall coverage of the protected areas systems with the capacity to manage the PA system through strengthened technical capacity. It will also contribute to Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for the protected area system by identifying opportunities for sustaining financial support to the protected areas network and clear policy framework for funds to be used for PA management. The project will also contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) as submitted to the CBD secretariat in January 2012, in particular: Priority Action 1: Developing Management plans for PAs, Priority Action 2: Promoting community participatory PAs management; and Priority Action 3: Ensuring sustainable financial mechanisms for PAs management. The Project, furthermore, directly contributes to achievement of the Aichi Targets, in particular under the strategic goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. It contributes to Target 11 through increasing significantly the coverage and connectivity of the PA system in important regions with high biodiversity importance and significant ecosystem services, and by increasing management effectiveness of the PA system in a way that is integrated into the wider landscapes.

### **A.2 NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS:**

The project will directly support the 2012 Myanmar National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (MNBSAP). More specifically, it directly supports implementation of three Strategic Directions in the MNBSAP.

- *Direction 1: Strengthen conservation of Priority Sites* including four priorities for intervention: Intervention 1.1 Review and support the expansion of the national protected area system to address gaps in coverage of globally threatened species and Key Biodiversity Areas; Intervention 1.2 Strengthen protected area management at Priority Sites; Intervention 1.3 Pilot alternative approaches to formal protected area management at Priority Sites; and Intervention 1.4 Support strengthening of the legal framework for protected area management and species conservation.
- *Direction 2: Mainstream biodiversity into other policy sectors* including three priorities for intervention: Intervention 2.1 Integrate biodiversity into decision-making processes for land-use and development interventions in the Priority Corridors, Intervention 2.4 Forge partnerships between biodiversity conservation and rural development initiatives, maximize synergies and mitigate risks; and Intervention 2.5. Cooperate with other concerned departments to raise awareness of the trade-off between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development; and
- *Direction 4: Support local NGOs and academic institutions to engage in biodiversity conservation* including Intervention 4.3 Support the development of conservation curricula at local academic institutions.

In addition the project will support activities in two five-year action plans from the MNBSAP. In the *Five-year Action Plan toward sustainable nature conservation and wildlife management* the project will conduct activities that support the following actions in whole or in part:

- the increase to 10 percent of the total area of the country gazetted as PAs by addressing gaps in coverage of globally threatened species and Key Biodiversity Areas and ensuring that all notified protected areas are well managed and looked after (In-situ Conservation).
- Notify the proposed 7 protected areas as soon as possible.
- Establish wardens' offices at remaining notified protected areas.
- Conduct status surveys of priority species, studying their distribution and link results to conservation management.
- Strengthen conservation and management of biological diversity and promote sustainable use of biological resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and national policies.
- Promote local communities participation in biodiversity conservation.
- Support the development of conservation curricula at the basic education.
- Commission a systematic study for improving the legal system for effective environmental management and biodiversity conservation.

In the *Five-year Action Plan toward sustainable management of land resources* the project will conduct activities that support the following actions in whole or in part:

- Adopt a well-defined or clear-cut land use policy aiming at sustainable development and ensuring environmental sustainability.

- Formulate an integrated land use plan that takes into consideration national priorities and goals based on scientifically categorized different land uses.
- Review to strengthen policies concerning land resources management and to avoid conflicts due to jurisdictional overlapping.

In addition, the high priority conservation corridor identified for the project overlaps with Myanmar's Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCL). Project activities will also address all components of the *Myanmar National Tiger Recovery Plan* as submitted to the Global Tiger Initiative in June 2010. These activities include:

- Landscapes with appropriate extensions and corridors legally protected;
- Improved management especially concerning law enforcement in source landscapes;
- Monitoring ongoing in source landscapes; and
- Improved national and trans-boundary cooperation

## **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

### **B. 1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:**

Myanmar is the largest country in mainland South-East Asia, with a land area of 676,553 km<sup>2</sup> and a coastline of 2,832 km. The country spans an elevational range of nearly 6,000 m, from the summit of Hkakaborazi, South-East Asia's highest mountain, at 5,881 m asl, to the shores of the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Between these two extremes, the country encompasses several mountain ranges, extensive lowland plains, and one of Asia's largest river deltas. The country also includes all or part of five major rivers: the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy), Thanlwin (Salween), Chindwin, Sittaung and Mekong. The major ecosystems in Myanmar can be grouped into forest, freshwater, coastal and marine. In the early 2000s, Myanmar had a forest cover of about 429,000 km<sup>2</sup> (equivalent to 66% of the country's land area), placing it among the countries with the largest remaining forest cover in mainland South-East Asia. The country includes all or part of fourteen Global Ecoregions defined by WWF: the Chin Hills-Arakan Yoma montane forest, Eastern Himalayan alpine shrub and meadow, Irrawaddy dry Forest, Irrawaddy fresh water swamp forest, Irrawaddy moist deciduous forest, Kayah-Karen montane rain forest, Mizoram-Manipur- Kachin Rain forest, Myanmar Coast mangrove, Myanmar coastal rain forest, Northern Indochina subtropical forest, Northern Triangle subtropical forest, Nujiang Langcang Gorge alpine conifer and mixed forest, Tenasserim-south Thailand semi-evergreen rain forest, and Tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests.

Because of the very wide variation in latitude, altitude and climate within the country, Myanmar supports a high diversity of habitats, and is extremely rich in plant species. The country is located at the convergence of four major floristic regions: the Indian, Malesian (Sundaic), Sino-Himalayan and Indochinese. The available information on species diversity and endemism indicates that Myanmar supports extraordinary plant and vertebrate diversity. However, detailed baseline data are still lacking for many taxonomic groups, and new species for science are still being regularly discovered in the country. These include Leaf Muntjac *Muntiacus putaoensis*, a species of deer discovered in the Northern Mountains Forest Complex in 1997, which is believed to be the smallest species of deer in the world. Myanmar supports at least 251 mammal species, although a number of these species have not been confirmed to occur in recent years, with seven mammal species thought to be endemic. The country supports at least 1,090 bird species, a greater diversity than any other country in mainland South-East Asia. Despite its high species richness, Myanmar's avifauna contains only six endemics. In addition, Myanmar supports numerous endemic subspecies, several of which may warrant full species status. Myanmar also supports at least 19 other restricted-range bird species (species with a global breeding range of less than 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>). The freshwater fish fauna of Myanmar is one of the least known in South-East Asia.

Myanmar has a population over 58.8 million people. The country is divided into seven States and seven Regions. States and Regions are further divided into districts and townships. The country is one of the most ethnically diverse in the world with 135 recognized ethnic groups that are broadly lumped into 8 major national ethnic races. According to the UNDP 2010, poverty afflicts 25% of the population with incidence being twice as high in rural than urban areas. Under the new constitution adopted in 2008 each state and region has a regional minister and a parliament to make policy decisions at the local level. This system is just now being implemented and is not yet fully formed and it is likely that further decentralized regional autonomy will occur as this process proceeds. The country has been largely isolated from the outside world for over 50 years and recently going through a process of democratization and opening up to the outside world. This has severely stagnated the economy making it one of the poorest countries in the region and Myanmar's Human Development Index is 0.483, which gives the country a rank of 149 out of 187 countries with comparable data in 2010. The economy is strongly based on agriculture accounting for 36% of the GDP and representing 19% of land use but also relies heavily on the mining of natural gas, gold and jade for much needed foreign currency, as well as the last legally harvested wild teak forests in the world. The country's recent dramatic political shifts have resulted in a rush of foreign investor interest as well as a tourist market that currently surpasses the countries capacity. Foreign arrivals have increased 300% since 2008 and are predicted to increase by 30% annually in the years to come.

Since the late 1990s, destruction and degradation of Myanmar's natural habitat has increased, primarily due to logging and agricultural conversion as the country increasingly engaged with the outside world for economic development. Following recent changes in Myanmar's political system the level of development is likely to increase dramatically as the country remains one of the largest untapped economies left in the region.

**Protected Area System in Myanmar:** In order to conserve the country's globally significant biodiversity, the government has established a network of 43 PAs. 36 of these have been officially gazetted under The Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Law, while 7 are in the process of approval and currently remain proposed. The 36 PAs cover 5.6% of the total land area of the country, and the addition of the 7 proposed protected areas will increase this to 6.7%. The first PA Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary was designated in 1918 by the colonial government for the protection of Sumatran rhinoceros. By 1948 when Myanmar became independent, the protected areas system comprised 11 bird and wildlife sanctuaries covering less than 0.3% of the total country area. In the 1980s, the Forest Department initiated, in collaboration with UNDP and FAO, the Nature Conservation and National Parks Project (1981-1984) for the expansion of the protected area system and the establishment of a new institution with specific competence on conservation and PA management.

Currently, the PAs are designated under the Protection of Wildlife and Wild Plants and Conservation of Natural Areas Law of 1994. Under this law, there are six categories of PAs, namely scientific nature reserves, national parks, marine national parks, nature reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, geo-physically significant reserves. The Ministry of Forestry can also designate other types of PAs as appropriate. The PAs range in size from 50 ha (Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary) to 1,737,300 ha (Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary) which covers approximately 45% of the total PAs.

Table: Classification of Myanmar's Protected Areas

Categories	No. of Designated PAs	No. of Proposed PAs	Total	IUCN Categories
1. Scientific Nature Reserve	0	0	0	I - Strict Nature Reserve
2. National Park	2	4	6	II - National Park
3. Marine National Park	1	0	1	II - National Park
4. Nature Reserve	1	1	2	VI - Protected Area with Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
5. Wildlife Sanctuary	26*	3	29	IV - Habitat/Species Management Area
6. Geo-physically Significant Reserve	0	0	0	V - Protected Landscape / Seascape
7. Other Nature Reserve Determined by the Minister	5**	0	5	N/A

\*Including 4 Bird Sanctuaries

\*\*Including 1 Wildlife Park, 1 Mountain Park, 1 Wildlife Reserve and 2 Protected Areas

The Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD) of the Forest Department, with a staff number of 577, currently supports PAs across the country with an annual budget of approximately US\$ 750,000. Most of these funds are used to support staff salaries with little left over for activities or supplies. Since 2010, the site governance of Hlawga Wildlife Park, a 624 ha park near Yangon, has been jointly managed between the government and private companies.

**Threats:** The country's PA system and the biodiversity it harbours are coming under increasingly severe pressure by a number of human-induced threats.

**Habitat conversion and degradation:** In the early 2000s Myanmar had approximately 66% forest cover, making it one of the most forested countries in South-East Asia. Since that time forest coverage has decreased to less than 48%. Much of this decrease has been driven by extensive land use changes driven by industrial agriculture for cassava, oil palm and sugar cane and logging – both legal and illegal. Individual landowners have also contributed to forest loss through increased shifting cultivation and some plantation development but this is not as widespread as in neighbouring countries. Infrastructure development has also had relatively little impact on habitats until recently, although this is likely to increase substantially in the years ahead as the country becomes less isolated and provides the much anticipated link between the growing economies of South-East Asia, China and India. There are several recent cases of long established PAs having land excised from them to allow development projects to proceed. Loss of habitat has a serious impact on biodiversity but is also incredibly important for the quality and quantities of ecosystem services such as water provision and regulation, soil conservation and carbon sequestration. Forest fires are also reported in some PAs, connected to traditional agricultural and hunting practices of local people.

**Overexploitation of biological resources:** Wildlife hunting both for international trade and local consumption is highly organized, widespread and increasing, especially due to Myanmar's long permeable border with China. TRAFFIC reports that the black markets along Myanmar, Thailand and China's shared borders play a crucial role facilitating illicit trade in tigers and other endangered species. Hundreds of tiger and leopard parts, representing over 400 individual animals, were also observed during nearly a decade of investigations in Myanmar and Thailand. Forest products are also over exploited particularly through

resource extraction quotas sold to local businesses that often overlap with PA boundaries and can be politically sensitive to enforce. Fishing rights are also sold using similar auction methods and often promote commercial over-harvesting while at the same time excluding the subsistence needs of local communities.

**Pollution:** Pollution and habitat destruction from mining (gold, jade, etc.) poses an increasing threat to biodiversity and ecosystem health, since most mines still use antiquated processing techniques that release mercury, cyanide and other pollutants into the soil and rivers around the mine as well as downstream. Since much of Northern Myanmar is peppered with mines most of the major rivers in the country have high levels of at least mercury contamination and possibly other toxic chemicals. This threatens aquatic biodiversity as well as the human population that relies on consuming fish across the country.

**Baseline:** In 2001, the Government approved a 30-year Forest Master Plan mandating the increase of the Permanent Forest Estate (constituted by reserved forests and public protected forests) to 30% and of PAs to 10% of the total country area as the first stage of the PA expansion. Furthermore, the Forest Master Plan encourages the registration of unclassified forests into community or private forests. The Government of Myanmar invests approximately US\$ 750,000 for PA management per year.

Since 1993 the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has supported the Myanmar Forest Department with field-based trainings as well as collaborative expeditions to some of the country's most remote areas. This collaboration has resulted in the establishment of four new protected areas including Hkakaborazi and Lampi Island National Parks and the Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, one of the largest protected areas in mainland tropical Asia. Since 2004 WCS has worked with NWCD to develop, field test and implement a series of protected area management systems that include law enforcement, key species monitoring and community based natural resource management focused primarily around two PAs: Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and Hkakaborazi National Park, where WCS has raised the primary funding for all field-related activities. The total amount of funding mobilized by WCS for these purposes over the last five years is approximately \$4,000,000. Several other INGOs have worked in Myanmar since the late 1990s, including the Smithsonian Institution, the California Academy of Sciences, BirdLife International, Institut Oikos, and most recently Fauna and Flora International, on projects that included species specific research as well as exploration, skills development and PA management. Other projects with an environmental focus have included work on sustainable management of forest resources especially community forestry and mangrove rehabilitation. The resources provided by these NGO partners to support conservation activities in Myanmar is estimated to average \$1,000,000 per year.

UNDP's baseline activities encompass a range of community sustainable natural resource management initiatives which are currently implemented as part of the Human Development Initiative (HDI) and which will be continued under the upcoming Country Programmes for 2013-2015 and 2016-2019. These initiatives include community-based reforestation and sustainable forest management, watershed management, development of community-based resource- and land-use planning systems, sustainable agricultural and livelihood development Programme and local conservation Programmes. These Programmes currently average approximately \$30 million per year nationwide, and will increase to \$50 million per year under the upcoming Country Programme. Of this total, approximately 8-10% will be undertaken in Kachin State, Sagaing Region and Chin State where the proposed project will operate. Similar Programmes are also being undertaken by partner initiative such as the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT). Taken together, these baseline livelihood and sustainable resource management Programmes will deliver at least \$25 million in support to project site areas over the duration of the proposed project. In addition, in November 2011, Myanmar became a UN-REDD Programme partner country and is working towards developing a national REDD+ readiness road map. A REDD readiness Programme is under development, for which bilateral support of approximately \$500,000 per year is being mobilized. Although the baseline activities are significant, the threats to the globally significant biodiversity of Myanmar are on the increase and biodiversity is on the decline.

Myanmar is a partner of the Global Tiger Initiative and was represented at the Global Tiger Summit in St Petersburg in September 2010 by the then Minister of Forestry. It submitted a National Tiger Recovery Plan (NTRP), as part of the Global Tiger Recovery Plan in June 2010. Myanmar is a CITES signatory and a CITES-MIKE Programme partner and has officially nominated two Asian Elephant PAs: Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park and the Rakhine Yoma Elephant Range to CITES as MIKE implementation sites.

In light of the weak capacity of the PA agency, fluid situation of the government in the transitional period and overwhelming economic interest in the country, the threats are intensifying rapidly, and even biodiversity within the PA system is not shielded from the afore-mentioned threats. There has been no attempt to improve the national PA system in the country as a whole by targeting barriers at different levels of PA administration – at national, state government and site levels.

## **B.2. INCREMENTAL COST REASONING AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY PROJECT:**

**Long-term vision and barriers to achieving it:** The long-term vision of the project is for Myanmar to have a robust, representative and effectively managed terrestrial protected area system, which is effectively integrated into broader landscape-level land use planning. To date the national protected area system has received relatively little support, aside from limited

amounts of funding to a small number of select protected areas. The Government wishes to take a modular approach in strengthening the PA system. Due to the level of threat to biodiversity across the country, this project proposes to address both the issue of PA management effectiveness at the level of individual PAs, and of the system's effectiveness through PA expansion, aiming at better ecosystem representation. In the first stage proposed by this project, it will establish a minimum level of systemic, institutional and individual capacity to adequately and sustainably manage the PA system. Site level work will be focused on the four PAs in the northern most part of the country. In addition, the expansion of the PA system and its ecosystem coverage is an important and necessary part of the first stage. The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage after this project will entail further PA system expansion beyond the 10% as well as focused site level strengthening of another priority PA landscapes. This project aims to secure important biodiversity areas to be included in the expanded PA system and to strengthen the overall system while at the same time raising the profile of protected areas within the national and state level development planning context. However, the country faces number of barriers for achieving this.

Barriers	Elaboration
<p>1. Weak systematic and institutional capacity to plan and manage the expanded national PA system</p>	<p>Despite the relatively large amount of land currently and proposed to be protected, the PA system receives insufficient support by the national government and is highly vulnerable to a range of economic interests and large scale development projects in particular infrastructure projects. For the PA network to provide the ecological services it is established for there is a need for it to be integrated within planning at the relevant levels of national and state governments. For this, the value of the PAs needs to be clearly demonstrated and integrated in the country's development and land use planning. At the same time, the government needs to develop a clear plan to sustainably finance the PA system in order to conserve the natural capital of the country as well as to ensure the maximum and long-lasting benefits from the PAs.</p> <p>MOECAAF has only recently seen its role expand beyond general management of forestlands. Therefore the MOECAAF's capacity for basic PA system planning and management is extremely weak, with only 577 personnel and an annual operational budget of US\$ 750,000 for the NWCD. PA management in Myanmar has been primarily project driven since the early 1990s. Of the 36-notified terrestrial PAs only 20 are staffed and most lack basic infrastructure and equipment unless it was previously provided by an international NGO supported project or was donated by visiting researchers.</p> <p>PA staff job description and staff structure are not well aligned with the PA objectives. Although some PAs have some kind of management plan, PA staff are underpaid and have insufficient capacity for strategic planning targeting threat reduction and enhancing management effectiveness. There is no established training system and staff have little incentive for improved performance. Information and data management is also weak, resulting in add-hoc decision making. The recent expansion of its mandate to include environmental conservation requires an increased role in planning and reviewing the impacts of infrastructure projects as well as the national PA system. Although it is a welcome move, these new demands will put increased stress on a relatively small number of dedicated professionals within the Ministry. This cadre is going to come under increasing pressure as the government engages with the outside world and numerous new donor agencies, initiatives and projects come to the country for the first time. This burst of new development is going to lead to an increased need for trained professionals that the government currently does not have. This is part of a larger problem across the government that can only be remedied through increased and sustained training and capacity development.</p> <p>The national PA system currently covers only 5.6% of the total land area of the country, however many ecoregions are heavily underrepresented. Particularly underrepresented ecoregions include Irrawaddy moist deciduous and fresh water swamp forests, Myanmar coastal rainforest, northern Indochina subtropical forest and the Chin Hills-Arakan Yoma montane forest. Under the MNBSAP, the government plans to expand the PA system to 10% of the land surface improving the ecoregion representation. There is also a serious financial barrier for effective PA system management. The budget MOECAAF receives for PA management is far from sufficient and only barely covers personnel costs of the heavily understaffed organisation. There is no link between budgeting and PA management needs.</p>
<p>2. Insufficient management capacity and motivation at the PA level to manage local threats and achieve conservation outcomes</p>	<p>At the PA site level, the management is extremely weak and ad-hoc, heavily relying on external support. Most of the PAs have no management plans and some PAs do not even have any field staff presence to conduct law enforcement. PA management is not a glamorous job and it does not provide the opportunities for income generation that other government or private-sector positions may hold. This makes it difficult to identify and keep dedicated staff to work, particularly at the field level. In terms of staff skills, in particular, law enforcement, habitat condition monitoring and park neighbour relations are lacking, resulting in very inadequate law enforcement. Conservation planning and management system is generally perfunctory. In addition, there is a clear disconnect between PAs and local-level development and land use planning, resulting in encroachment and illegal activities within the PAs. The role of these PA staff needs to be better recognized and supported to ensure they can achieve their goals. PA-neighbour cooperation is tenuous, and given the large number of PA neighbouring populations and the intensity of their activities, there is a need for rapidly developing successful models for community participation in management of PAs and their buffer zones.</p>



The **objective** of the proposed project is **to strengthen the terrestrial system of national protected areas for biodiversity conservation through enhanced representation, management effectiveness, monitoring, enforcement and financing**. This will be secured through two project components. Myanmar is experiencing a rapid boom in development after over 50 years of relative isolation. This unique period in history allows a tremendous opportunity to benefit the global environment by addressing local, national, and global environmental challenges and to promote sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in Myanmar. The project plans to strengthen PA management in three Priority Conservation Corridors identified by the MNBSAP, identify sustainable funding opportunities for four focal PAs in those corridors and integrate PA management and finance into broader state and national level development planning. Lessons from focal PAs will increase the overall effectiveness of the national PA system

**The incremental approach can be summarised as follows:** The Government of Myanmar has clearly identified biodiversity conservation as a priority and has contributed what limited resources it has to protecting a portion of the rich biodiversity it possesses. However, despite strong commitments from the government, actions are seldom taken to concretely remove the barriers to the establishment of a sustainable PA system. In addition, in many existing PAs, pressure for land and biological resources requires urgent action in order to prevent further degradation of critical ecosystems and loss of endangered species. The proposed intervention is particularly timely given that with the recent political changes and rapid economic boom the country is experiencing there is now a greater need than ever to strengthen the PA network, securing the critical biodiversity hotspots to be protected within the PA system and establishing the basic foundation for effective management at the site and landscape level. **In the baseline situation**, a lack of capacity and resources, insufficient political support and an inability to expand management systems will mean that threats to the PAs and their associated biodiversity and ecosystem services will continue to grow. Amidst the frenzy of fast economic development, substantial amounts of important biodiversity will be lost and degraded in coming decades. **In a scenario enabled by the GEF**, systemic and institutional barriers to improved PA management and sustainable financing in Myanmar will be removed at the national, state and site levels. The first stage of the PA expansion will be achieved with PAs expanded to at least 10% of the national terrestrial area, better representing the globally significant ecosystems within the country. Financing for the PA system will be improved using economic tools and by increasing the government investment as well as establishing new revenue streams. Capacity of the MOECAP will be strengthened through institutionalisation of training Programmes, habitat/biodiversity monitoring, SMART patrolling and law enforcement monitoring system. On the ground, PA management will be significantly improved at the 4 target PAs in 3 high priority conservation corridors. The lessons learnt from these PAs will be used to increase capacity nationwide by drawing on such successful practises and mainstreaming those into national training Programmes at the Yezin University of Forestry and the Central Forestry Department Training Centre (CFDTC) to train future Forest Department staff. Opportunities at the site level will determine pilots to sustainably finance their operations. These ground level activities will be used to raise the awareness of relevant decision makers concerning the PA network and ensure that all PAs in the country are integrated into national level land-use planning.

**Global Benefit:** The immediate global benefits are improved management of an expanded terrestrial PA network in Myanmar covering 6,765,500 ha, in the largest and most heavily forested country in South-East Asia with 14 WWF Global Ecoregions within the territory. A country, and PA network, that supports globally significant populations of a number of species of conservation concern, including Tiger, Asian Elephant, and primates, as well as over 80% of the birds found in South-East Asia and some of the most highly diverse plant communities in the world.

### **Component 1: Systemic, Institutional and Financial Frameworks for PA Expansion and Management**

Under this component, the project will focus on improving the basic systemic and institutional capacity for sustainable PA system management in the country. Given the long isolation period of the country, the project will look at the foundational issues the PA system management hinges on, such as instalment of the PA agency's fundamental competency including securing minimum required staffing structure, clear standards for management and streamlined work process, as well as staff capacity development and systems for continued staff skills enhancement. The first stage of the PA expansion plan of the government will be supported, achieving gazettal of up to 7 new PAs before the end of the project. Although operationalisation of such PAs needs to be supported within future projects, this project aims to, at minimum, legally secure the most important biodiversity hotspots and corridors in the country.

To improve Myanmar's policy framework for PA management and biodiversity conservation, the strengthening of relevant policies relating to PA management and biodiversity conservation will be supported. This will include conducting a gap analysis of existing policies to identify gaps and weaknesses to be addressed. This process will be informed through a review of international best practise as well as lessons learnt from the field level. Relevant polices relating to PA management and biodiversity conservation will be revised or drafted and submitted to relevant authorities for review and adoption. Policies to be addressed will include, a) Enabling legislation that ensures PAs have clear access to funds raised through sustainable financing mechanisms, and b) Policies that integrate the valuation of ecosystem services with national level land-use planning.

In order to increase systemic and institutional management capacity, basic capacity will be installed within the MOECAAF for effective management of the PA system. This will be done through: (i) establishment of PA management standards and PA and individual performance monitoring system for different categories of the PAs; (ii) institutionalisation of clear reporting structure and methods; (iii) establishment of law enforcement and habitat/biodiversity monitoring protocols; (iv) clear official guidelines for community engagement and co-management; (v) clear capacity development strategies and action plans for increasing management effectiveness of the PA system; (vi) incentive mechanisms for increasing motivation of field staff.; (vii) establishment and institutionalisation of PA data/information and knowledge management system enabling learning from and upscaling of pilot/individual project activities. Furthermore, a government led training Programme on PA management will be implemented for senior PA staff. The Programme will mainstream international best practices in conservation and PA management into the teaching Programmes of Yezin University of Forestry and both branches of the Central Forestry Department Training Centre (CFDTC). Training will be modelled on diploma-level course developed at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). In addition, at least 150 PA field staff will be trained in SMART enforcement patrolling and biological monitoring of key ecosystems and threatened species at Central Forestry Development Training Centres. Overall improvements in capacity will be tracked using a capacity scorecard. Capacity dimensions required to manage PAs effectively will be defined with a capacity baseline level assessed and a target set during project formulation. Improvement will be tracked by re-applying the scorecard periodically through the project.

In order to increase the financial sustainability of the expanded PA system, a national PA system financing plan will be developed, projecting the financial needs for PA management and expansion over the next 10 years and outlining the strategies for meeting these needs from both cost and revenue points of view. The plan will make full use of an environmental economic case made for increased investment in the PA system by quantifying the value of the national PAs in terms of use as well as non-use values, including the economic rate of return on investment in the PA system, and comparative cost-benefit analysis with other types of land uses including forestry and agriculture/ plantation. This will be based on the management needs-based park business plans developed for the 4 target PAs, identifying PA management costs and defining non-state appropriated revenue options and mobilising market opportunities. Implementation of the site level financing plans will be supported under component 2. To demonstrate potential sustainable financing approaches, revenue generation opportunities will be identified, assessed and where feasible implemented in at least four PAs. These could include REDD+, ecotourism, wildlife friendly products, NTFPs or other income generation opportunities based on the local context. Each PA will develop a sustainable finance plan based on technical and financial feasibility. These plans will be incorporated into the PA management planning process to ensure operationalisation. Furthermore, the project will support enhancement of awareness and knowledge on the part of State, Region and local government units in Kachin State, Sagaing Region, Chin State and Rakhine State on the value of PAs in terms of ecosystem services and other potential income sources for local communities. This support aims to catalyse local government support for the PA system so that they will be able to incorporate these values into regional and local development and fiscal planning.

The project will further support expansion of the PA system to secure the minimum necessary areas for biodiversity conservation land use, and establish an enabling basic framework for increasing sustainability of the PA system. The project will identify opportunities to increase the coverage of Myanmar's terrestrial PA network managed by the Forest Department to 10% of the country's land-area as highlighted in the MNBSAP. To build a more comprehensive and representative protected area system, this process will include a gap analysis for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and a review of the national PA network based on ecosystem and species representation, threats, system design and climate change adaptation. Once gaps have been identified biological and social ground-truthing surveys in potential new PAs will be conducted. Once additional PAs have been identified, boundaries will be developed in cooperation with local stakeholders, declared by the Forest Department and gazetted by the national Government.

## **Component 2: Strengthened management and threat reduction in the target PAs and buffer zones**

This component will focus on strengthening PA management effectiveness on the ground. These interventions will cover three of the Priority Conservation Corridors as identified in the MNBSAP and updated by the Myanmar Biodiversity Conservation Investment Vision (MBCIV) multi-stakeholder process in January 2012. These Conservation Corridors include one of Myanmar's two Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCLs) as identified in the Global and National Tiger Recovery Plans (NTRP). Activities will be implemented across four priority PAs, reflecting the Key Biodiversity Areas identified by the MNBSAP and updated and prioritised through the MBCIV process in January 2012 and priority PAs as identified in the NTRP. Sustainably Managed Landscapes (SMLs) will then be defined by the political, ecological and opportunity context around the selected PAs.

The project would develop a range of activities targeting local threats across the priority PAs identified within the Conservation Corridors and detailed below and shown in map in Appendix 1. Management plans for the 4 PAs will be developed and implemented through a stakeholder led process, endorsed by MOECAAF. Plans include a PA based financing plan with developed management oriented budgets and plans for meeting the budget needs. PA site operation will be strengthened to address existing threats to biodiversity, through: (i) strengthening of enforcement (patrol, surveillance, interception of

malfeasance and prosecution) targeting illegal harvesting, poaching, mining, and encroachment through operationalisation of the SMART patrolling and law enforcement monitoring system; (ii) development and operationalisation of habitat and biological monitoring systems for key ecosystems and threatened species; clear park boundary demarcation for decreasing encroachment; (iii) staff training tailored to improve knowledge and skills of PA staff and local partners to manage specific threats to the PAs; (vi) management infrastructure consolidation (signage, patrol camps, equipment etc). In addition, pilot systems for community participation will be developed and implemented at the 4 PA sites. These include community based adaptation strategies to safeguard access to natural resources and promote livelihood opportunities so decreasing vulnerability to climate change.

Protected Area	Size Ha Year of Gazettal	Current Situation	Biodiversity Features	Local Threats	Opportunities
Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (Kachin State)	1,737,300  Original 2004  Extension 2010	WCS support since 2004  Number of staff: 18  Annual Budget: US\$ 14,532	Asian Elephant (EN), Dhole (EN), Hog Deer (EN), Shortridge's Langur (EN), Tiger (EN), Western Hoolock Gibbon (EN), Burmese Narrow-headed Softshell Turtle (CR), Burmese Peacock Softshell Turtle (EN), Keeled Box Turtle (EN), White-bellied Heron (CR), Green Peafowl (EN), Masked Finfoot (EN), White-winged Duck (EN)	Gold mining, Mineral extraction, conversion of forest to plantations, commercial over-exploitation of NTFPs and wildlife, wildlife trade, human encroachment, commercial over-fishing, logging, conversion of wetland habitats	Hukaung Valley WS is the most advanced model of protected area management in the country. Its large size and global importance have made it a focal area for the government and WCS since formal declaration in 2004. Examples from this site will be used to inform management activities at PAs across the Union as well as examples for further capacity building at the Yezin University of Forestry and Central Forestry Development Training Centres. Future activities in relation to the sanctuary will focus on improving community participation mechanisms, testing incentive based systems for law-enforcement and PA management as well as informing the larger development issues in the Upper Chindwin Catchment and Upper Ayeyarwady Catchment Corridors.
Hkakaborazi National Park (Kachin State)	381,200  1996	WCS support since 1999  Number of staff: 18  Annual Budget: US\$ 12,153	Black Musk Deer (EN), Shortridge's Langur (EN), White-bellied Heron (CR), <i>Paphiopedilum wardii</i> (Endemic), Rhododendron spp. (Endemic), <i>Euonymus burimanicus</i> (Endemic), <i>Euonymus kachinensis</i> (Endemic)	Commercial over-exploitation of animals and NTFPs, subsistence over-exploitation of animals, wildlife trade, shifting cultivation	Hkakaborazi NP supports SE Asia's highest mountain and extensive high mountain ecosystems that feed the Ayeyarwady River through rain and snow melt. A cascading system of hydropower projects is planned for the M'Hka River just downstream from the National Park. This provides a unique opportunity for the development of PES as well as linking ecosystems services into development planning in the Upper Ayeyarwady Catchment Corridor and the rest of the country. The area also has great potential for linking communities to ecotourism benefits although this is likely to follow models developed in Hponkanrazi WS.
Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary (Sagaing Region)	270,400  2003	FD Staff, private tourism sector investment Number of staff: 0  Annual Budget: 0	Chinese Pangolin (EN), Dhole (EN), Shortridge's Langur (EN), Keeled Box Turtle (EN), White-bellied Heron (CR), Orchids ( <i>Paphiopedilum tigrinum</i> , <i>Paphiopedilum villosum</i> ), Rhododendron spp. (Endemic)	Commercial over-exploitation of animals and NTFPs, subsistence over-exploitation of animals, wildlife trade, agricultural expansion, commercial over fishing, human encroachment, shifting cultivation	Hponkanrazi WS is more accessible than Hkakaborazi NP and therefore has experienced a greater number of tourists and more tourism development. The area is also seeing increased private investment in the sector and holds the potential for improved benefit sharing with local communities.

Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary (Sagaing Region)	215,100 1974	Number of staff: 23  Annual Budget: US\$ 21,874	Asian Elephant (EN), Tiger (EN), Burmese Narrow Headed Softshell Turtle (CR), Burmese Peacock Softshell Turtle (EN), Burmese Roofed Turtle (EN), Yellow Tortoises (EN), White-rumped Vulture (CR), White-winged Duck (EN), Green Peafowl (EN), Masked Finfoot (EN), <i>Dipterocarpus baudii</i> (CR), <i>Dipterocarpus turbinatus</i> (CR), <i>Hopea helferi</i> (CR), <i>Dalbergia oliveri</i> (EN), <i>Dipterocarpus alatus</i> (EN), <i>Dipterocarpus costatus</i> (EN), <i>Shorea roxburghii</i> (EN)	Pollution, human encroachment, gold mining, commercial over-exploitation of animals and NTFPS, wildlife trade, subsistence over-fishing, shifting cultivation, conversion of wetland habitats	Htamanthi WS is another important lowland forest site in the Chindwin Watershed. The area still holds tigers and elephants but is yet to develop an effective management system. Proposed hydropower in the area may present an opportunity for sustainable finance through PES.
<b>Total Hectares</b>	<b>2,604,000</b>				

Existing models described in the above table will be expanded from advanced PAs to those with few to no current activities within the target landscape. New models will also be built based on the existing activities at more advanced PAs to increase capacity and inform policy and land use decisions. To promote sustainability and the expansion of best practices pilot management activities will be incorporated into central level learning networks and gradually expanded to PAs nationwide and sustained.

**B.3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS, AND HOW THESE WILL SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS**

Strengthening the PA system in Myanmar will have significant socioeconomic benefits at both national and local levels. Nationally, it means safeguarding the highly unique natural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations and ensuring continued supply of ecosystem services for the people of Myanmar. It will also help prevent the enormous cost, both in terms of asset loss and human lives, of natural disasters including floods and landslides. Locally, the project will bring in socioeconomic benefits to approximately 50,000 people in and around the 4 PAs. Communities will continue to be able to benefit from access to an improved forest resource base, including NTFP and tourism resources. Safeguards will be put in place for continued access, through full participation of community members in the PA management operation, with legally agreed sustainable use regimes and monitoring mechanisms. In order to ensure socioeconomic benefits and their sustainability, local level activities will be carried out with the participation of local stakeholders, with full consideration given to gender dimensions. Local stakeholders themselves will implement many local level activities. There are already a number of successful livelihood support activities in place in some PAs, which have been supported by NWCD and WCS. These include community nurseries for important forest products and cash crops to support local livelihoods, and the recruitment of community conservation volunteers in focal communities to aid in law enforcement and monitoring activities. Establishment of new financing mechanisms will not only generate necessary revenues for the government and communities for conservation actions, but also provide a model for low carbon, climate resilient development. In addition, by protecting the globally significant ecosystems and biodiversity, Myanmar's attraction as an ecotourism destination will continue to increase, with a real potential for substantially increasing tourism revenue and employment creation. Following UN and GEF gender policies and strategies, special attention will be placed on gender equity, and in particular ensure full participation of women in consultations on integrated natural resource management and land-use planning processes. Similar attention will also be placed on equity regarding ethnicity in all relevant project processes. Following the UNDP and GEF gender policies and strategies special attention will be placed on gender equity, and in particular ensure full participation of women in consultations on integrated natural resource management and land-use planning processes.

**B4; RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND RISK MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:**

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
Exploitation fuelled by the existence of significant trade in wildlife and forest products to China may decimate ecosystems and wildlife populations	M-H	Given the high level of this risk, one of the pillars of the Project design is to increase the MOECAAF's capacity for law enforcement in Myanmar, to fully implement relevant PA and biodiversity laws. It will also strengthen the country capacity for effective participation in regional and global networks to protect at

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
		wildlife at its source (e.g. CITES-MIKE, ASEAN-WEN).
Political tension between ethnic minority groups and the central government may limit ability to implement project activities effectively.	M	The project will develop relationships with local ethnic leaders to increase awareness, build trust and encourage participation in project activities to ensure that tension is limited. The access to Hukaung Valley WS has been limited by political tension between ethnic minority groups and the central government. The project is designed so that project outputs and outcomes can be achieved even if the security situation in the Hukaung area seriously deteriorated, by having four target PAs that include relatively secure PAs - Hkakaborazi NP, Hponkanrazi WS, Htamanthi WS. In case of the security issue, the project could also support alternative PAs within the upper tiger conservation landscape such as Natmataung NP and Rakhine Yoma Elephant Range.
Relevant Government agencies may be reluctant to promote conservation-oriented land-use for a fear of losing other development revenues from the overwhelmingly large business and investment interests by off-shore companies	M	Working closely with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Finance, the project aims to influence the national development and fiscal development planning process, through mainstreaming biodiversity and PA system objectives. Participatory land use planning at state, region and local levels through this project will serve as a platform to develop development plans that integrate conservation priorities. It will also be critical to capture the potential of ecosystem markets in support of the PA system management.
Climate change may undermine the conservation objectives of the project	L	The project will work to address the anticipated negative impacts of climate change by increasing resilience through improving PA management and landscape linkages and the expansion and rationalisation of the PA system. Through this, the project will contribute to the maintenance of ecosystem resilience under differing climate change conditions, so as to secure a continued sustainable flow of ecosystem services.

#### B. 5. KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES:

Stakeholder	Relevant roles in the project
Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry	It is responsible for biodiversity conservation, protected area and wildlife management, as well as forest management. It is the national executing agency of the project, through its Forestry Department, at national level and at local level through its subsidiary agencies.
Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development	National government agency responsible for national economic and development planning, as well as development of strategies and policies in determining financial allocations for the various sectors of the national economy. Therefore it is an important stakeholder in the project, particularly in the financing and mainstreaming component.
Ministry of Finance	An important stakeholder in particular for the financing component of the project.
Forest Research Institute	The institute provides technical information on all aspects of forestry and forest-based activities to increase the contribution of the forest sector to the well-being of the nation. It provides information and data to the Forestry Department and other stakeholders.
State and Region Governments	In the long-term decentralization process, State and Region Governments will play important roles in development planning, land use planning and resource management planning in their respective State and Region. Therefore it is important to increase awareness on the value of PAs and their buy-in to support the PA system.
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	WCS has been supporting the Myanmar Forest Department with field-based training and pioneering new models of protected area management since 1993, as well as conducting collaborative expeditions to some of the country's most remote area. It will be the key co-implementer of the project activities at the field level, as well as providing support at the systemic and institutional capacity building.
Police	Important stakeholder for trade surveillance and law enforcement at the site level.
Local communities	Key users and beneficiaries of the forest biodiversity. They are the affected parties of human-wildlife conflict, and play a major role in local habitat conservation, controlling of poaching, and natural resource management. Critical participants of the project at the local level.
CBOs	CBOs will be a primary stakeholder at the local level interventions of the project. They are potential implementers of site level activities that focuses on community based activities and participation.
Private businesses	Logging and plantation concessionaires, tourism concessionaires, private business owners will be key stakeholders for the project work; given the pressure their activities pose on PAs and biodiversity.

B6. Coordination with other related initiatives: UNDP will ensure close collaboration and synergetic impact with a number of UNDP-led initiatives in the country. The project will be fully integrated in the UNDP's Country Programme in particular with the environment Programme and the community development and livelihood Programme, to make sure that the project

and Programmes are mutually supportive. The project will work closely with UN-REDD Programme and its partners in strengthening the links between the national PA network, sustainable landscape management and REDD+ community-based activities, and will also explore increasing sustainable financing opportunities through the REDD+ mechanism. Furthermore, the project will be complementary to the recently submitted GEF/FAO Sustainable cropland and forest management in priority agro-ecosystems of Myanmar project. Improved institutional, policy and regulatory framework for SFM and improved cropland management, as well as improved practice on the ground to be established by the GEF/FAO supported project will have direct positive impact on this project. Implementation of the two projects in the same time frame would allow an integrated approach for land-use based climate change mitigation and adaptation. The project activities will be jointly planned and implemented with the WCS supported project for PA support at the target sites. The project will support the implementation of the MIKE Programme and the timely submission of standardised relevant law enforcement data to CITES, as well as working with the WCS project for PA management support. Furthermore, the Project will coordinate with the Global Tiger Initiative, through directly contributing to the National Tiger Action Plan. The project will promote the objectives and recommendations of the NTRP and will work in both of Myanmar's designated Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCLs).

**C: DESCRIBE GEF AGENCIES' COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:**

**C.1 INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT THE GEF AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT:** UNDP will provide a total of US\$12 million in co-financing to this initiative, drawn from Programme resources under the 2013-2015 and 2016-2019 County Programmes.

**C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO THE GEF AGENCY'S PROGRAMME (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** The agency has a large portfolio of PA projects globally and across Asia and is equipped with a wealth of accumulated knowledge and experience from projects around the world in promoting PA system objectives in development and sectoral planning. Under the new UNDP Biodiversity Framework, the 2nd Signature Programme is dedicated to unleashing the potential of formal Protected Areas, including indigenous and community conserved areas, so they are effectively managed, are sustainably financed, and contribute towards sustainable development. The proposed project has been designed as part of the Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Disaster Reduction Pillar (CCEEDR) of UNDP's new Country Programme, which is due to be implemented from 2013-2015. This initiative will also continue as part of the subsequent Country Programme, envisaged for 2016-2019. The CCEEDR Pillar of the Country Programme has an indicative resource envelope of \$48 million over the initial three-year period (within an overall Country Programme of \$150 million). Within the Pillar, this project forms part of the portfolio of activities targeted towards enhancing environmental governance and sustainable natural resource management. These initiatives will be implemented within the context of UNDP's broader support to rural development, livelihoods and strengthening local governance, which also forms part of the baseline project on which this initiative is built. UNDP's Programme in Myanmar has significant staff capacities, including a core Environment Programme unit as part of the Country Office in Yangon supplemented by an extensive network of township and local community staff totalling more than 800 personnel. This local staff structure is the primary vehicle through which UNDP's project implementation and oversight responsibilities are discharged. Additional specialist technical capacities will be put in place under the new Country Programme where needed, based on a Country Office capacity review to be undertaken prior to the inception of the new 2013-2015 Country Programme.


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

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):**

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Mr. Hla Maung Thein	Director, Planning and Statistic Department	Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry	September 7, 2012

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

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Yannick Glemarec, GEF Executive Coordinator, UNDP		January 10, 2013	Midori Paxton Regional Technical Advisor – EBD UNDP	+66-81- 8787510	midori.paxton @undp.org

**Appendix 1: Map of Project Area**

