



Republic of the Philippines  
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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04 November 2008

<b>UNDP MANILA</b>	
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NOV - 7 2008	
ACTION	INFO
<i>ADS</i>	<i>CD/mw</i>

**MR. RENAUD MEYER**

Country Director

**United Nations Development Programme**

30F Yunchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue  
 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

**SUBJECT: Endorsement for Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation  
 in the Philippines**

*cc: CD/mw*

Dear Mr. Meyer:

In my capacity as GEF Permanent Alternate Operational Focal Point for the Philippines, I confirm that the above request for funding is in accordance with the government's national priorities and the commitments made by the Philippines under Convention on Biodiversity, and has been discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the convention focal point, in accordance with GEF's policy on public involvement.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with the support of UNDP. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Further, I request the UNDP to provide a copy of the Project Document for work program inclusion before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat, for CEO endorsement.

I understand that the total GEF financing being requested for this project is \$4,950,000 inclusive of Agency Fee (10%) to UNDP for project cycle management services associated with this project.

I consent to the utilization of the following indicative allocation available to Philippines in GEF-4 under the GEF Resource Allocation Framework to cover the GEF project preparation and implementation as well as the associated Agency Fees for this project

Biodiversity: \$ 4.950 million.

Very truly yours,

*Analiza* *AW*

**ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH**

Assistant Secretary and

GEF Permanent Alternate Operational Focal Point

cc: Convention Focal Point, UNCBD  
 UNDP Regional Technical Advisor for Biodiversity Philippines



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE BUREAU**  
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NOV 04 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

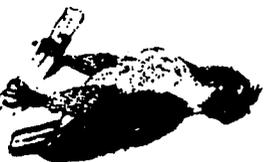
**FOR :** The Assistant Secretary for Foreign Assisted and Special Projects  
**FROM :** The Director  
**SUBJECT :** REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSED BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME TO THE GEF - RAF

Please find attached final draft of the proposed Biodiversity Partnership Programme with an estimated amount of USD5M proposed for funding under the GEF-RAF.

We will highly appreciate your endorsement of the said proposal to the GEF Council for approval.

For consideration.

**THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM**





**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**  
**PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project**  
**THE GEF TRUST FUND**

**GEF**

**Submission Date:** July 2008  
**Re-submission Date:**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**GEFSEC PROJECT ID:**  
**GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 2904**  
**COUNTRY:** Philippines  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Partnerships for Biodiversity Conservation in the Philippines  
**GEF AGENCY:** UNDP  
**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:** Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB)- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)  
**GEF FOCAL AREAS:** Biodiversity  
**GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM:** BD-SO2; SP4; The Coral Triangle Initiative  
**PROJECT Results Framework**

INDICATIVE CALENDAR	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	Jan 2009
CEO Endorsement/Approval	Dec 2009
GEF Agency Approval	Jan 2010
Implementation Start	Jan 2010
Mid-term Review	June 2012
Implementation Completion	Dec 2015

**Project Objective:** To enhance conservation of biodiversity in sectoral and local decision-making frameworks in critical ecosystems in the Philippines.

Project Components	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing	Indicative Co-financing*	Total US\$
				US\$	%	US\$
1. National Institutional Structures	TA	1. National Institutions have the necessary systemic capacity to ensure conservation of biodiversity in key production sectors, particularly agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Framework and indicators for monitoring biodiversity impacts, using Strategic Environmental Assessments or similar methodologies.</li> <li>1.2 National-level system for collating, synthesizing and disseminating information and lessons learned, using GBIIF or similar models.</li> <li>1.3 Strengthening systemic capacities for conservation in the agricultural sector, including certification schemes, sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and regulated trade in wild plants and animal resources.</li> </ul>	900,000		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Tools and capacities to implement landscape-level natural resource management in ecologically-significant wetlands and watersheds that cross local government boundaries.</li> <li>2.2 Development of toolkits and implementation capacity for the local-level application of SEAs and similar approaches under the Local Government Code.</li> <li>2.3 Regulatory structures and incentive systems to encourage the development of biodiversity-friendly businesses, including investor codes of conduct, fiscal incentives and positive local regulatory structures.</li> <li>2.4 Intra-I-GU knowledge-sharing and advocacy network to synthesize and project lessons learned into national policy- and decision-making.</li> </ul>	500,000		
2. Main-streaming into local governance	TA	2. Local Government Units have the tools and capacities to integrate sustainable management into decentralized government structures.				
3. Demonstrations in key ecosystems	TA	3. Biodiversity resources in key ecosystems buffered against threats from production activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Habitat loss and fragmentation in the Lowland Forests of the Western Visayas, Mindoro and Southern Luzon reduced through development of local conservation areas. (FFI)</li> <li>3.2 Degradation of critical landscapes and seascapes by marginalized local communities reduced through participatory natural resource management in Quezon and Surigao del Sur. (Haribon)</li> <li>3.3 Reducing poaching pressures on critically-endangered wildlife in Central Panay through community-based conservation and alternative</li> </ul>	2,750,000		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reversing the decline of aquatic resources in Malampaya Sound, Palawan through collaborative wetland management and sustainable use.</li> <li>• 3.5 Integrated landscape and seascape management in the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor to strengthen connectivity and reduce habitat fragmentation. (CI Philippines)</li> </ul>			
Programme Management			350,000		
<b>Total costs</b>					

NB: Components in *italics* will be largely or entirely co-financed

**INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)**

	Project Preparation	Project	Agency Fee	Total
GEF Grant		4,500,000	450,000	4,950,000
Co-financing		9,100,000		9,100,000
<b>Total</b>				

**INDICATIVE Co-financing FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE (M \$), IF AVAILABLE**

Co-financing Source	Cash	In-kind	Total
Government contribution	2,300,000	5,000,000	7,300,000
NGOs	400,000	1,600,000	2,000,000
<b>Total co-financing</b>	2,700,000	6,600,000	9,300,000

**PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

**A. THE ISSUE; HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO SOLVE IT, & EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:**

- 1 The Philippines is a mid-oceanic state comprised of more than 7,000 islands with a combined landmass of 300,780 km<sup>2</sup>. The varied geological histories of different parts of the archipelago, with diverse climates and topography, contribute to the exceptionally diverse biota in the country. The Philippines is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world, in terms of unique terrestrial and marine species per-unit-area, and is one of the hottest of the Hotspots, particularly when considering the combined threat and rate of loss for both terrestrial and marine species.
- 2 The Philippines is home to more than 20,000 endemic species of plants and animals, including 576+ bird species (34 % endemic), 258+ reptile species (66 % endemic), 204+ mammal species (54 % endemic) and 101+ amphibian species (78 % endemic). There are five major and at least five minor centers of endemism, ranging in size from Luzon, the largest island (103,000 km<sup>2</sup>), which, for example, has at least 31 endemic species of mammals, to tiny Camiguin Island (265 km<sup>2</sup>), a speck of land north of Mindanao, which has at least two species of endemic mammals. The Philippines has among the highest rates of discovery in the world with sixteen new species of mammals discovered in the last ten years.
- 3 Although a large network of Protected Areas has been established, much of this biodiversity exists within the broader production landscape, coexisting with agricultural activities, human settlement and other land-uses. The Philippines is home to 88.75 million people, with a population growth rate of 2.04% per annum. Gross domestic product grew by 7.3% in 2007, primarily driven by the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. Rapid population growth plus a heavy reliance on primary production sectors together represent the main over-arching threat to biodiversity.
- 4 More than 93% of the country's original forest cover has been lost in the last 500 years, and 491 species are listed as threatened. Although the logging of old-growth forests has been banned, illegal logging remains a problem, and conversion of secondary forests and forest clearing contributes to fragmentation of remaining habitat. Agricultural expansion has been a major cause of habitat loss, along with mining and other natural resource extraction activities. Over-harvesting of resources such as medicinal plants and animals (hunting) has contributed to habitat degradation. Overfishing and unsustainable fisheries practices have contributed to the loss of marine biodiversity and the destruction of coral habitat.

5 The result of all these threats has been a steady erosion of globally significant biodiversity and extinction of endemic species. The underlying causes of these threats are typical of many countries, and include the under-valuation of non-monetised natural resources, under-resourced governance structures, unclear and overlapping mandates (particularly between central government institutions and local government units) and inadequate appreciation of the long-term costs and benefits of unsustainable natural resource exploitation.

6 The responsibility for conserving and sustainably managing the biodiversity resources of the Philippines rests primarily with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with secondary mandates resting with central government agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, Dept. of Tourism, the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences, etc. In addition to these Government institutions, there is a strong network of conservation non-government organisations (NGOs) who play a major role in mobilising support, financial resources and technical capacity for biodiversity conservation. This NGO network works in close collaboration with DENR, and has played a major role in conservation activities, particularly at the site- and local community level.

7 Although the coalition of organisations working on biodiversity conservation in the Philippines is strong, active and committed, a number of barriers have limited their ability to ensure sustainable management of the country's natural resources:

a The primary barrier is that organisations outside the conservation sector do not adequately account for conservation and sustainable use in decisions affecting the natural resource base. This deficiency affects a range of actors to different degrees;

i. Local government units (LGUs) increasingly make decisions that affect natural resource management, whether in land-use planning and zonation, the issuance of mining permits or the promotion of sustainable vs. unsustainable development projects. However most LGUs do not have sufficient capacity to assess the costs and benefits of different development options. Furthermore, the primary mandate of LGUs is to maximise benefits for their local constituencies, and decisions that optimise benefits at the local level are often sub-optimal from a landscape, national or global perspective. Upstream vs. downstream watershed conflicts are a common example of such sub-optimal resource allocation, as is the over-harvesting of threatened species which may be locally abundant.

ii. Private sector actors also have little economic incentive to focus on sustainability, since sustainably-produced goods (e.g. certified agricultural products or environmentally-sensitive tourism services) do not command a significant price premium in the Philippines. While some progressive companies have taken steps to adopt sustainable practices, e.g. amongst dive and coastal tourism operators in premium destinations, these practices are not yet widespread.

iii. Central government agencies often recognise their responsibility to ensure sustainability but lack the technical capacities and incentive structures necessary to address this mandate. In the agricultural sector for instance, the Department of Agriculture recognises the importance of conserving traditional varieties of agricultural crops for which the Philippines is a centre of origin (e.g. taro and yam), while ensuring the conservation of other wild animals and plants in productive landscapes. However the Department does not have sufficient technical and scientific capacity to adequately address this aim while also delivering its core mandate of increasing agricultural output for food security and income generation.

b Inadequate capacities to incorporate conservation considerations is also a major barrier, at the systemic, institutional and individual technical levels. At the systems level, the mainstreaming of biodiversity is not often supported by adequate policy or incentive structures, despite legal mandates to ensure sustainability. At the institutional level most organisations (including LGUs) lack the resources or technical capacity to identify and address the potential biodiversity impacts of their development decisions. While at the individual level, technical specialists such as economists, land-use planners, engineers, etc. do not have adequate training in the identification or incorporation of biodiversity considerations in their decision-making processes.

8 Addressing these barriers requires focused efforts outside the traditional conservation constituencies, to ensure that decisions taken by other actors in the socio-economic structure of the Philippines also support the conservation and wise use of biodiversity and natural resources. Therefore the ultimate goal of the project is to ensure that decision-

making in the productive landscape maximizes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. By 'mainstreaming' biodiversity conservation into development processes beyond the immediate conservation constituency, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use will be made an integral part of the country's development paradigm, rather than a sectoral issue left to the efforts of a small minority of actors.

9 Within the overall developmental structure in the Philippines, the most effective entry-point for mainstreaming at present is through the decentralised governance system of Local Government Units (LGUs). Under the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act 7160), LGUs are responsible for a broad range of services including agriculture and public works, community-based forestry, reclassification of agricultural land and enforcement of fisheries and environmental laws. LGUs also have the power to impose local taxes, fees and charges, in addition to receiving 40 percent of tax revenue from the national government as well as 40 percent of revenues from the exploitation of mineral, timber and fisheries resources within their jurisdictions.

10 Experience from within the Philippines and elsewhere in the region has shown that strengthening the capacities and willingness of LGUs to promote conservation and environmental sustainability has been an extremely effective means of reducing the loss and degradation of natural resources. In Samar Island, for instance, the largest remaining tracts of old-growth forest in the Philippines has been protected from logging and mining activities due to an active and extensive campaign by local communities. The network of LGUs on the island have passed local- and municipal-level ordinances forbidding exploitation of forest resources in their respective jurisdictions, and this mosaic of interlocking local regulations has blanketed the Samar Island forests in an effective web of legal protection. Similarly in Indonesia, recent analysis by the World Bank has demonstrated that illegal logging and forest conversion has begun to decline across the country as local authorities (Kebupaten) have assumed greater stewardship over the natural resources within their domains.

11 Building on these experiences, the project proposes to demonstrate the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into local governance systems that affect critical conservation landscapes in the country. The immediate objective of this project is to demonstrate how mainstreaming conservation into local government decision-making frameworks enhances conservation outcomes. In order to achieve this objective, the project proposes to accomplish three key outcomes:

- a To ensure that national institutions have the necessary systemic capacity and policy frameworks to promote conservation of biodiversity in key production sectors, particularly agriculture.
- b To ensure that Local Government Units have the tools and capacities to integrate sustainable management into decentralized government structures.
- c To ensure that biodiversity resources in key ecosystems are buffered against threats from production activities, through enhanced local governance.

12 Component 1 of the project will ensure that national institutional systems are able to support the mainstreaming of conservation into local governance. This component will ensure that systems are in place for conservation planning at the landscape level through policy planning processes such as Strategic Environmental Assessments. It will also ensure that mechanisms are available for knowledge and information on the status, pressures and trends in biodiversity to be collated, synthesized and disseminated amongst central and local government actors, to facilitate informed decision-making and prioritization. In addition, this component will strengthen systemic capacities for conservation in the agricultural sector. Agriculture is one of the primary economic sectors in the country, accounting for almost 20% of GDP and almost 40% of employment. This component will identify and remove major barriers to the sustainable management of biodiversity in agriculture, by reducing the negative impact of agricultural practices as well as by using the agricultural supply chain to enhance the sustainable use of biodiversity resources.

13 Component 2 of the project addresses the decentralised local governance system. It will ensure that decision-making processes at the local government (LGU) level are supported by suitable tools and capacities for conservation and natural resource management. The component will ensure that the national-level systems and capacities created under Component 1 will be translated into guidelines, toolkits and decision-making frameworks which can be easily applied at the local level. In addition, this component will help establish a positive local fiscal and regulatory environment for biodiversity-friendly economic activities, as a means of demonstrating that conservation and environmental sustainability are compatible with local economic development.

14 Component 3 of the project will demonstrate how effective local governance systems can be used to address threats to biodiversity in critical ecosystems. In five identified sites, pressures on globally-significant biodiversity resources will be reduced by applying a range of local governance approaches. Each site-level initiative will be undertaken in

partnership with one or more conservation NGOs or other local partners. By combining the policy and institutional capacities of DENR with the resources, expertise and local knowledge of each NGO partner, these site-level investments will ensure that the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation is effectively demonstrated in locally-appropriate ways. The range of approaches that will be demonstrated will also provide a rich array of experiences from which lessons can be learned and systemic-level policy and institutional improvements developed.

#### **B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS**

- 1 The Project is consistent with country's priorities and policies on biodiversity conservation. It will specifically contribute to the Philippines' Medium Term Development Plan 2004-2010, wherein one of its thrusts is to strengthen the protection of vulnerable and ecologically fragile areas, especially watersheds and areas where biodiversity is highly threatened. The project also responds to the Philippine Agenda 21 (PA 21), which is the Philippines' road map to achieving sustainable development. It serves as both guidelines for pursuing development and standards against which all development programs and policies are evaluated for their consistency to bring about sustainable development for the country.
- 2 PA 21 sets two Action Agenda to move the Philippines toward sustainable development. The first is an Agenda Across Ecosystems. The second is an agenda for each major ecosystem in the country. The Action Agenda Across Ecosystems contain eighteen issues and concerns deemed relevant to achieving sustainable development in the Philippines. Of these, the project addresses the following: (1) Integrating sustainable development in governance; (2) Creating an enabling economic environment for sustainable development; (3) Employment, productivity, and income; (8) Land Use and (18) Biodiversity.

#### **C. CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND FIT WITH STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:**

- 1 The proposed project has been designed in consistency with Biodiversity Strategic Objective 2 on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into production systems and sectors. Within BD SO2, the project will respond to Strategic Program 4 on "*Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming biodiversity*". The project will strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks at both the local level, as well as within a key sector at the national level. Lessons learned from local-level demonstrations will also be used to improve policy and decision-making frameworks at the national level.
- 2 The project also contributes to the GEF's Coral Triangle Initiative. The project will strengthen biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management into critical coastal ecosystems such as Malampaya Sound and the seascapes surrounding the Sierra Madre, as well as important watersheds in Quezon, Surigao del Sur, Mindoro, Southern Luzon and the Western Visayas. In addition, the tools and lessons being developed will be applicable to many other coastal regions in the Philippines archipelago, helping to reduce the degradation of coastal and marine resources as well as reducing pollution and sedimentation pressures from unsustainable inland development.

#### **D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES**

- 1 The Project will establish collaboration and coordination with other GEF projects to assimilate lessons learned and to develop synergies and complementarities. These include the *Environment and Natural Resources Management Programme-Phase I* (WB-GEF), the *Strengthening Coordination for Effective Environmental Management (STREEM)* project to be implemented by UNDP, the project *Expanding and diversifying the national system of terrestrial Protected Areas* to be submitted to the GEF Council in November 2008 and the *Mindanao Rural Development Programme (Phase II – Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Conservation)*.
- 2 Just as importantly, the project will build upon on-going collaborations between DENR and key conservation NGOs (Conservation International, Haribon Foundation, Foundation for the Philippine Environment, PhilConserve, FFI, etc.) on identifying and conserving key biodiversity areas in the Philippines. The collaboration between DENR, other involved Government agencies and this network of NGOs is the foundation for this project, and ensures that the diverse resources, experiences and networks of influence of each partner is harnessed for the common goal.

#### **E. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING**

- 1 In the baseline scenario, the progress achieved through previous projects will not succeed in conserving globally significant biodiversity effectively due to gaps and inadequacies in the existing governance system. The site-level gains that have been achieved through the efforts of numerous conservation actors will not be sustained, as pressure from population growth and economic development erodes the commitment to conservation of scarce biodiversity resources.
- 2 At the systems level, the baseline scenario indicates some progress in institutionalizing biodiversity conservation into national policies and legislation, particularly through the efforts of DENR. However these efforts will not be comprehensive, and the pressure to 'free up' resources such as old-growth forests, minerals and fisheries will continually offset isolated gains that are made. At the local level some gains will be made where local communities and LGUs are particularly receptive to sustainable approaches, but these gains risk being lost if and when local conditions change or political forces are realigned.
- 3 The proposed alternative scenario will ensure that the numerous individual conservation efforts being made by the partners involved are integrated into a comprehensive strategy that addresses critical systemic barriers. By coordinating the efforts and resources of a coalition of partners and targeting these at specific systemic barriers, the alternative scenario ensures that the scarce resources available for biodiversity conservation are used most effectively. By removing barriers to sustainable use within the agricultural sector and demonstrating the integration of conservation and sustainable development on the ground, the alternative scenario unleashes the economic and political resources of key governance sectors (Agriculture, local government) in favour of conservation, thereby significantly increasing the impact of the GEF investment.

**F. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE (S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED. AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:**

Risk	Rate	Mitigation strategy
Pressure for natural resource extraction and land-use conversion continues	M	A common system-wide risk continues to be political pressure to allow mining, logging or other concessions within critical biodiversity areas, or for conversion of these areas for other land uses. During the proposed project, engagement with local communities will ensure that the link between local community development and sustainable management is maintained. At the national level, policy advice and advocacy will continue as part of the broader process of policy engagement for incorporating conservation considerations into resource extraction decision-making.
Sectoral agencies and institutions are unwilling or unable to adequately incorporate biodiversity considerations into their systems and processes	M	All major sectoral institutions in the Philippines have sustainable use of natural resources as a part of their mandate. The barrier preventing them from fully achieving this mandate has been a lack of capacity, and a lack of incentives to prioritise conservation. By demonstrating to these line agencies (through the agricultural sector) that mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into their policies and decision-making is both feasible and cost-effective, the project will help to ensure that all relevant line institutions better manage the impact of their activities on the natural resource base. The policy feedback mechanism included under component 4 will ensure that the lessons and successes achieved in critical landscapes on the ground are fed back to senior-level decision makers, thereby demonstrating that it is possible to account for biodiversity conservation in a diverse range of situations and contexts.
Long-term climate change leads to changes in the biodiversity composition and resource value of critical biodiversity areas, reducing the value of conservation vs. exploitation	L	By strengthening the capacities of sectoral and local governance systems to clearly understand and assess the trade-offs between conservation and resource extraction, the project will help ensure that any future evolution of the natural resource base is identified and accounted for in decision-making. Existing key biodiversity areas may eventually decline in conservation value and their use may have to be reconsidered. Equally, other areas may become critical to conservation, e.g. if they become final refugia for important ecosystem types. By strengthening assessment and decision-making capacities, the project will ensure that governance systems are able to adapt to such changes and continue to aim for optimal tradeoffs.

**G. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT**

- 1 The cost-effectiveness of this investment has been assessed against the alternative of attempting to achieve the same impact through existing conservation-mandated institutions and agencies (i.e. by 'not mainstreaming'). Ensuring comparable conservation outcomes across the range of landscapes covered by the project would require significant additional investment in monitoring and enforcement capacities, i.e. EIA systems and regulatory structures across a vast number of local government units and regions. To achieve comparable impact on issues such as the trade in

- and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and wild plants and animals, core conservation organisations would have to establish a parallel enforcement and surveillance structure, which would be both prohibitive in cost as well as unfeasible in practice.
- 2 Achieving comparable conservation impact through the expansion of protected area systems would require a significant enlargement of the terrestrial and marine PA estate in the country. Even if this were feasible, the long-term sustainability of such a vast PA estate in the face of significant population growth and demand for land would be highly questionable.

**H. JUSTIFY THE GEF AGENCY COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE (NOT REQUIRED)**

**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT & GEF AGENCY**

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

Ms. Annaliza Rebueta The Assistant Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and GEF Operational Focal Point	Date:
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**B. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.	
Yannick Glenarec GEF Agency Coordinator	Project Contact Person: Joseph D'Cruz, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok Tel: +66 2288 2726 Email: joseph.dacruz@undp.org
Date: (Month, Date, Year)	