



Global Environment Facility

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October 12, 2001

Dear Council Member:

I am writing to notify you that we have today posted in the GEF's website at www.gefweb.org, a medium-sized project proposal from World Bank entitled *Gambia: Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management*. The GEF will contribute \$960,104 towards a total cost of \$1,774,104.

The project will assist the Government of Gambia to promote active stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation and management inside and outside key protected areas.

The project proposal is being posted for your information. We would welcome any comments you may wish to provide by November 2, 2001, in accordance with the procedures approved by the Council.

If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of the World Bank or UNDP to download the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please confirm for us your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mohamed T. El-Ashry".

Mohamed T. El-Ashry
Chief Executive Officer
and Chairman

cc: Alternates, Implementing Agencies, STAP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2001

TO: Ken King, Assistant CEO, GEFSEC
Att.: GEF PROGRAM COORDINATION

FROM: Lars Vidaeus, GEF Executive Coordinator



EXTENSION: 3-4188

SUBJECT: **Gambia: Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management
GEF Medium Size Project (MSP) for CEO Endorsement – Resubmission**

1. Please find attached the electronic file for the revised MSP Brief for the above mentioned project which is ready for circulation from the GEF CEO to Council. It addresses concerns discussed in July about coordination between this MSP proposal and the UNEP Flyway proposal currently under preparation. The Incremental Cost has been updated and a matrix showing a comparative analysis by site has been added as Annex 5.
2. In accordance with the standard fee approved by Council for expedited MSPs, the World Bank's implementation fee for this project will be \$146,000.
3. Please send us a copy of your out-going letter to Council for our records. Many thanks.

Messrs./Mmes. Y. Prevost, A. Kiss, C. Crepin, (AFTES); G. Castro, R. Khanna, D. Aryal (ENV); C. Rees, M. Ramos (GEFSEC); ENVGC ISC; Relevant Regional Files

6 September, 2001

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PROJECT SUMMARY	
1. Project Name: Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management	2. GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank
3. Country or countries in which the project is being implemented: The Gambia	4. Country Eligibility: The Gambia signed the CBD on June 12, 1992, and ratified it on June 10, 1994.
5. GEF focal area(s): Biodiversity	6. Operational program: Coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems program (OP # 2)
7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs: The project is consistent with and in support of the biodiversity objectives of the National Mission Statement of Gambia -Vision 2020, as well as the coastal and marine objectives of the Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the 1999/2000 Draft National Biodiversity/Wildlife Policy. It is a key component of the strategic plan 2000-2005 of the Department of Wildlife Management, the biodiversity focal point for The Gambia.	
8. GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement: The National GEF Committee with its secretariat in the National Environment Agency (NEA) – Endorsed: March 3, 1999 and 1 March 2001.	
PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES	
<p>9. Project Rationale and Objectives</p> <p><i>Goal:</i> To conserve and sustainably manage globally significant biodiversity in coastal, marine and wetland ecosystems in The Gambia.</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> Strengthened coastal and marine protected area system and in-situ conservation of globally significant species and habitats in The Gambia.</p>	<p><i>Indicators:</i></p> <p>Total coastal and marine area under legal protection increased by 23% by end of project through addition of Tanbi Wetland Complex and Bolong Fenyo sites.</p> <p>Endangered and threatened species conservation action plans developed and under implementation with indicators of change for at least 2 key species.</p> <p>Participatory management plans prepared and under implementation in at least 2 pilot coastal and marine conservation areas, including one national protected area and one community conservation area.</p>

<p>10. Project outcomes:</p> <p><i>Strengthening of the National Conservation System/Network.</i> Increased proportion of highly vulnerable coastal and marine habitats and ecosystems brought under effective protection through strengthened legal status and enhanced physical capacity to manage them. Identification of “hotspots” and improved monitoring of critical ecosystems.</p> <p><i>Participatory Conservation Area management.</i> Replicable participatory models for biodiversity conservation and management developed and piloted both within and outside the protected area network.</p> <p><i>Capacity Building and Awareness Raising.</i> Increased capacity of government and community stakeholders for management of coastal, marine and wetland protected areas and endangered and threatened species.</p>	<p><i>Indicators:</i></p> <p>National Park status approved for Tanbi Wetland and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve.</p> <p>Physical management capacity put in place for at least two formally protected and one community coastal and marine conservation area.</p> <p>Baseline ecological, social and attitudinal data collected for critical habitats and monitoring system implemented, in collaboration with local communities.</p> <p>Action plans prepared to reduce the threats to turtles and manatees and under implementation.</p> <p>Linkages with regional conservation networks strengthened. Data shared with regional networks (e.g., West African Association for Marine Conservation, Mangroves Network, West African Bird Study Association (WABSA), WAFRINET, KUDU and implementation teams of sister projects in Guinea Bissau and Senegal.</p> <p>Vertical and horizontal institutional coordination mechanisms for integrated coastal and marine management developed and tested.</p> <p>Establishment and ongoing operation of at least 2 site Management Committees with active community participation in species and habitat management activities.</p> <p>At least 21 voluntary wardens involved in endangered species and conservation area management activities by end of Project.</p> <p>Mechanism for community revenue generation/benefit sharing developed and piloted.</p> <p>Non-participating communities visiting project sites, and expressing interest in adopting similar approaches.</p> <p>Greater public awareness amongst local communities and other key stakeholders of the importance of endangered species and their associated coastal, marine and wetland habitats.</p> <p>25 government staff trained in endangered species survey and monitoring techniques, particularly for turtles and manatees.</p> <p>At least 5 community members per village, in at least 21 villages, trained in habitat management, species monitoring techniques, guides, and guards.</p>
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<p>11. Project activities to achieve outcomes:</p> <p><i>Strengthening of the National Conservation System/Network.</i> Increase area under formal protection, and strengthen capacity to manage conservation areas, collect information needed for the management of pilot sites, prepare and implement national/local level action plans for conservation of turtles and manatees, and design and implement a coastal planning information system.</p> <p><i>Participatory Conservation Area management.</i> Develop and test replicable models for participatory biodiversity conservation and management through revising/preparing and implementing integrated conservation area and buffer zone management plans for at least 2 sites in cooperation with local communities and other stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Capacity Building and Awareness Raising.</i> Guide overall project implementation in the field, assist and advise project stakeholders, monitor project progress and impact, strengthen local organizations, train stakeholders, and produce communications.</p>	<p><i>Indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed transboundary protected area collaboration agreement for Saloum/Niumi and Bao Bolong. • Infrastructure construction (boundary demarcation, signage) completion reports. • Site management personnel in place in at least 2 areas. • Report examining financial sustainability options for biodiversity conservation in The Gambia. • Request from Gunjur for Community Wildlife Reserve status. • National Park creation notices for Tanbi and Bao Bolong. • Potential critical habitat for turtles and manatees mapped. • Ecological, social and attitudinal survey reports. • Monitoring Program materials and reports. • Endangered and threatened species action plans and implementation reports. • Endangered and threatened species database established. • Site Management Committee meeting minutes. • Updated management plans for at least two Ramsar sites (Tanbi and Bao Bolong or Niumi). • Management plan for Bolong Fenyo. • Integrated community development/conservation plans. • Monitoring program materials and reports. • Micro-project applications and project reports. • Project work plan. • Project monitoring and management reports. • Minutes from Project Steering Committee and project coordination meetings. • Regular financial and audit reports. • Training evaluation reports. • Twice yearly project newsletters. • Endangered/threatened species and habitat public awareness materials (brochures, radio and TV programs) targeting local resource users and decision-makers. • Start-up and end-project attitudinal survey reports.
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12. Estimated Project Budget (in US\$): <i>The Project duration is 3 years.</i>	
PDF A:	25,000 (approved 1 September, 1999)
GEF:	960,000
Government Co-financing	219,000 (in kind) Government of The Gambia
Donor/NGO Co-financing	570,000 Other donors and other NGOs
TOTAL:	1,774,000
13. Information on project proposer: Established by the Wildlife Act of 1977, the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) is charged with the conservation, management and development of The Gambia's wildlife resources. This mandate includes biodiversity and protected area management. It is the lead government institution for the purpose of implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and also the focal point for Ramsar, Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species (Bonn Convention), CITES, African Eurasian Migratory Water Birds, the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention), and is the National Delegate for Wetland International.	
14. Information on proposed executing agency (if different from above): DPWM is the lead executing agency. Implementation will be done in collaboration with key stakeholders, including, government staff from NEA, fisheries, agriculture, forestry and livestock as well as the communities and other local stakeholders.	
15. Date of initial submission of project concept: PDF A Concept paper submitted 08/10/99	
INFORMATION ON INSTITUTION SUBMITTING PROJECT BRIEF	
16. Project Identification number: GM-P064891	
17. Implementing Agency contact person: Christophe Crépin, World Bank	
18. Project linkage to Implementing Agency Program(s): The 1998 World Bank Country Assistance Strategy is designed to support attainment of <i>The Gambia Incorporated Vision 2020</i> goals and is focused on securing a sustainable reduction in the incidence of poverty. Bank support to this agenda is multi-faceted and includes complementary projects that address environmental concerns both directly and indirectly. Specifically, the proposed GEF project would complement the ongoing Bank program through its linkages with the poverty alleviation agenda in both rural and peri-urban environments and its promotion of sustainable use of natural resources. It is directly linked to the Gateway Project (in preparation by the World Bank) which will provide parallel financing for the Abuko Nature Reserve buffer and is tentatively expected to link directly to an IDA environment sector operation (to be identified in FY 02). Important indirect linkages include the ongoing Participatory Health, Population and Nutrition Project and proposed Population Policy LIL, both of which tackle the issue of population growth, one of the key underlying causes of environmental degradation and hence threats to biodiversity conservation in the coastal and marine zone.	

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Rationale and objectives

The Gambia, although small in size, is extremely rich in biodiversity, harboring a wide range of terrestrial, coastal, marine and wetland habitats and species, including several species and habitats of global significance. Commitment to protection and management of the country's natural environment dates back to the Banjul Declaration and the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1977, which laid the basis for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, and has carried forward to the present. The National Mission Statement, *The Gambia Incorporated Vision 2020*, sees "a well balanced ecosystem" as fundamental to achieving the national goal of Middle Income Country status by 2020. The Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP, 1992), and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 1999), both emphasize biodiversity conservation as a critical element of achieving this goal.

NBSAP's identified priorities for biodiversity conservation include, *inter alia*:

- increasing national capacity to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use efforts (scientific and technical);
- increasing the representativity of protected area coverage, specifically coastal and marine habitats; and
- promoting a multi-sectoral integrated approach, which emphasizes the involvement of local communities in protection and management activities.

These priorities were taken into consideration during the preparation of the revised national biodiversity/wildlife policy objectives (as well as DPWM's strategic plan for 2000-2005). The Gambia now aims to:

- increase the total protected land area from 3.7% to 5%, including samples of all major habitats represented in the country, and
- actively involve communities in the management of wildlife and biodiversity and to promote sustainable use of their associated habitats and ecosystems (both within and outside protected areas).

The coastal and marine environment is defined in the Gambian context as not only those areas that border the Atlantic but also those with brackish water that border the River Gambia, extending 200 km inland. It is one of the areas identified as being of particular importance in the GEAP and NBSAP. It is an area rich in natural resource with particularly high biodiversity of national, regional and global environmental significance, housing important nursery grounds for regional coastal and marine fisheries as well as breeding, nesting, feeding and refuge habitats for endangered and threatened species such as migratory birds, dolphins, sharks, marine turtles, the West African manatee and others.

The Gambia's coast is also an area that is under increasing human pressure. It hosts approximately 40% of the population in 17.4% of the country's area, a figure that is rising as a result of both population growth and in-migration. Settlement along the coast is motivated by the geography of opportunities, exacerbated by disrupted rainfall patterns and land degradation in the hinterland. This translates into growing pressure on coastal and marine resources, which are exploited for both subsistence and economic purposes. Anthropogenic pressures arising from subsistence and small-scale economic exploitation include sand mining, fishing, clearing of forest and mangroves for oyster harvesting, fish-smoking, use as domestic fuel, arable crop production, and pastoralism. These pressures have had considerable impact on the ecological integrity of the coast. There is also evidence of significant pressure on species of global and regional concern such as nesting and migratory birds and marine turtles, the eggs of which are frequently collected;

sharks, harvested for their fins; and manatees, hunted for meat. The coast also is the primary tourism attraction of The Gambia, which alongside other economic development initiatives is increasing development pressure in this zone. In particular, the Gateway free trade project, currently under preparation by the World Bank, will stimulate the production of agriculture produce in the Banjul area for export to Europe. However, the Gateway Project incorporates environmental measures to ensure that it does not have a negative impact on the environment, including protection of the Abuko Reserve watershed, which is the main fresh water inflow into Tanbi Wetland.

Unfortunately, despite strong national commitment, achieving sound management of The Gambia's coastal and marine biodiversity has been severely constrained by weak sectoral coordination, lack of baseline data as well as information on anthropogenic-ecosystem linkages, limited management capacity (both technical and financial), inadequate development planning processes, and the fluid, transboundary nature of many of the coastal and marine species. Overcoming these concerns and achieving the integrated management of The Gambia's coastal zone resources and conservation of its biodiversity has been identified as a national priority.

The proposed project will provide critical support to the GOTG's efforts to strengthen the coastal and marine protected area system and conservation of globally significant species and habitats in The Gambia. This will be done in the context of ongoing efforts to tackle the national development agenda including those focused on institutional/sectoral coordination, development planning processes and poverty alleviation. It will focus on:

- deepening the national and regional understanding, and improving the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity, particularly that of global significance;
- increasing the area of highly vulnerable coastal and marine habitats with effective legal and physical (infrastructure, equipment, manpower) protection;
- developing and piloting replicable models for participatory conservation and management of biodiversity both within and outside of the protected area network; and
- increasing the human resource capacity of both government and non-government stakeholders for management of coastal, marine and wetland protected areas and endangered and threatened species.

The proposed project should be viewed as the first step of a longer-term process whereby biodiversity concerns, alongside broader environmental concerns, are fully incorporated into a truly integrated and sustainable socio-economic development planning process. It is anticipated that if successful, the approaches developed and lessons learned during the project will subsequently be adopted and replicated more broadly.

The project is consistent with GEF's coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems operational program (OP # 2), and responds to the first two objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), namely the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components. In particular it addresses: (i) Art 4, conservation of biological diversity within sovereign jurisdiction; (ii) Art 6, general measures of framework of action for biodiversity conservation (i.e. biodiversity strategies and action plans and cross sectoral integration of biodiversity issues); (iii) Art 7, which includes studies on endangered species, assessments and forecasts, distribution patterns; (iv) Art 8, in-situ conservation of biological diversity; (v) Art 12, includes human capacity building to train skilled personnel that can carry out research and apply research results to conservation; (vi) Art 13, public awareness and education; and (vii) Art 14, impact assessment and minimization of adverse effects of development activities (policies and projects on biodiversity).

CURRENT SITUATION / BASELINE SCENARIO

The Policy, Legislative and Institutional Setting

In recognition of the socio-economic importance and environmental sensitivity of the coastal and marine ecosystems vis-à-vis the increasing population and development pressure on them, conservation and sustainable use of The Gambia's coastal and marine resources is being promoted via a series of ongoing initiatives, including those focused directly on natural resource management as well as those focused on poverty alleviation. Of these ongoing reforms, four are of particular relevance: (i) the Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP); (ii) Agricultural and Natural Resource Management Sector Policy and Legislative reforms; (iii) Local Government Reform and Decentralization Program; and (iv) the Strategy for Poverty Alleviation (SPA).

These initiatives are in line with the broad national development goals and objectives set forth in Vision 2020. Together they create a policy, legislative and institutional framework for the promotion of long-term natural resource management and sustainable use, both within and outside the coastal zone.

1. Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP)

GOTG has been making concerted efforts to improve environmental management for over 25 years. Following the Banjul Declaration in favor of the protection of the country's biodiversity in 1977, the Government attempted to develop an institutional framework for addressing environmental issues. An environmental unit was created in 1983, the National Environment Management Act was enacted in 1987 (subsequently revised in 1994) and a Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment was established in 1981. Despite these institutional initiatives, environmental problems became more severe due to lack of adequate action on the ground. Within the context of The Gambia's structural adjustment program and against this background of intensifying environmental degradation, GOTG initiated the preparation of a National Environmental Action Plan. Preparation of the plan was highly participatory process, with high-level government support, and the resultant Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP) was finalized and approved by Cabinet in July 1992. On this basis, the GEAP was held up as a best practice model for other countries. It led to creation of a new National Environmental Agency (NEA) and paved the way to improving coordination, facilitation and promotion of environmental management in the country.

It was initially through the GEAP process, subsequently reinforced by the NBSAP, that the relative importance of The Gambia's coastal and marine environment and its biodiversity was highlighted. As part of the GEAP process, a national inter-sectoral taskforce was created - the Coastal and Marine Environment Working Group (CMEWG). This task force was charged with understanding the coastal and marine environment and development dynamic, and promoting the harmonization of sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, legislation and actions. Studies conducted under the oversight of this group, with support from various donors (see Annex 1), identified the national and regional importance of the coastal and marine environment as well as the key threats to its integrity (including *inter alia* habitat destruction and fragmentation; mangrove die-back; unsustainable resource exploitation; sand mining; lack of knowledge and awareness; coastal area development projects and lack of land-use planning). To date, actions promoted through this forum have been largely reactive in nature, such as emergency responses to urgent erosion and related sand-mining issues. The orientation of this task force, as evidenced by their support of DPWM and The Gambia's Biodiversity Conservation Program, is now shifting to a more proactive stance based on a comprehensive understanding of the coastal environment.

The CMEWG has no independent budget and thus promotes implementation of its initiatives

through the appropriate sectoral institution(s). An equivalent inter-sectoral institutional forum was not created at local levels during the GEAP process.

2. Agricultural and Natural Resource Management Policy and Legislative Reforms

In 1997, the GOTG developed and adopted Medium-Term Agricultural and Natural Resources Sector Policy Objectives and Strategies for the period 1998-2002. These included review and revision of the fisheries, forestry and wildlife sectors' policy and legislative frameworks (1995, 1998, and 1999, respectively). The revised policies and legislation strongly reflect Vision 2020's emphasis on the involvement of local communities and the private sector in the management of natural resources and the sharing of benefits thereof. Provision was made in the Forestry legislation for the creation of National Forestry Fund, and for allowing retention and revenue sharing of funds realized from community managed forests. Although in its early days, implementation experience to date has been successful, with participating communities retaining 60% of revenue realized from the sale of forest products, of which 20% is reinvested in the development of their forests and the rest in other community development activities. The remaining 40% of the revenue is paid into the National Forestry Fund from which Government allocates resources for both activities in Community Management Forests and broader national forestry development. Based on the experience gained in the forestry sector, the draft Wildlife and Biodiversity Policy and Legislation allows for the creation of a *National Biodiversity Trust Fund* as one mechanism for resolving the severe budgetary constraints on biodiversity management. Through this fund it is expected that DPWM will be able to retain a proportion of the revenues generated through its protected area network (e.g., from visitor fees, guided tours, taxes, extraction licenses, research fees) for reinvesting in the maintenance of its parks. As in the forestry policy and legislation, this policy also opens the way for communities and other local stakeholders participating in the management of the country's wildlife and biodiversity resources to share in the benefits accrued through management of these resources, thus providing an incentive as well as means for their sustained participation.

3. Local Government Reform and Decentralization Program

Consistent with the natural resource sector policy and legislative review, in 1996 GOTG commenced a Local Government Reform and Decentralization Program, leading to reform of the Local Government Legislative Framework (enacted by the National Assembly in 2000) and initiation of a decentralization process which seeks to move socio-economic development planning processes to the local level and empower local organizations and institutions to better respond to the needs of their members. The first phase of this decentralization program is being initiated in two of the seven administrative districts of the country: Western Division and North Bank Division, and includes the coastal areas proposed under this GEF project. With the assistance of a Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Team (MDFT) comprised of extension workers, communities are being encouraged to set up Village Development Committees (VDC) and to participate in the preparation and implementation of their own development plans. The Divisional Development Committee (DDC) (representation in which includes: heads of government departments, heads of Area Councils, NGO representatives and chiefs) is being revitalized and through its associated thematic sub-committees (institution building, environment, economic sector, and health and planning) will further develop and integrate these bottom-up plans at the divisional level. This process is putting in place both the institutional and legal frameworks necessary for the effective participation of local communities and extension agents in the planning and implementation of natural resource management, including coastal and marine biodiversity, and providing local-level counterparts to the CMEWG.

4. Strategy for Poverty Alleviation (SPA) Program

On a practical level, the implementation of these new approaches is being promoted through the recently launched second phase of the Strategic Poverty Alleviation program. This program includes a series of initiatives to provide technical and financial resources to the local level (e.g., the Rural Finance and Community Initiatives Project and the Social Development Fund). This is expected not only to directly improve local livelihoods, but in so doing to help stem the tide of population migration from the hinterland to coastal areas. Local communities and other stakeholders can access these resources to support implementation of projects within the framework of the relevant national sectoral programs. Within the context of the SPA, DPWM is thus charged with assisting communities in understanding the value of their biodiversity resources, facilitating the integration of these values into the local development planning process, and accessing funds to undertake such activities, e.g., community wildlife management schemes. Similarly the Department of Forestry and of Fisheries will promote development activities specific to their sector such as community woodlots or fish nursery conservation areas. Thus DPWM's role also includes promoting linkages between actions taken in related natural resource sectors and biodiversity conservation and management needs.

Within the above framework, DPWM, as the institution responsible for biodiversity conservation and management, is expected to take a lead role in promoting/ensuring application of these policies, legislation and to promote initiatives on the ground leading to the sustainable management and use of biodiversity resources.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM)

Unfortunately, DPWM's capacity to capitalize on the opportunities provided by this broader framework and to leverage resources (both human and financial) for the promotion of biodiversity friendly development is severely constrained by limited scientific and technical knowledge, implementation experience, and by insufficient funding.

1. Lack of scientific and technical knowledge

Although several ongoing/completed biodiversity studies exist (see Annex 1), with the exception of the bird ringing project, shark survey and to a certain extent the Ramsar management planning studies, these have largely focused on species identification as opposed to obtaining information on the status and threats to wildlife habitats and species found in The Gambia. Hence, the current information base is patchy and provides insufficient basis for active management. This is particularly true for marine turtles and manatees, and for other endangered and threatened species. This lack of information hampers DPWM's ability to identify, design and implement appropriate management interventions.

2. Lack of experience and skilled personnel

Availability of experienced and skilled personnel is limited, particularly with respect to implementation of participatory conservation approaches. DPWM recognizes that not all areas of biodiversity importance fall within the protected area network (current or proposed) and furthermore that command and control approaches are neither effective nor practicable. The Department is thus promoting a shift from top-down protected area management to a more participatory, multi-sectoral approach, the main thrust of which is involvement of the community and other local stakeholders (resource users and administrative authorities) in the promotion of biodiversity conservation. This approach was first to be tested in Kiang West National Park in early 1990s. Unfortunately, the 1994 military coup and the suspension of USAID's financial program thwarted these efforts. Since then participatory natural resource management experience has been gathered through the National Forestry Program. However, DPWM staff have little first

hand experience with how these approaches can be applied to the wildlife sector. This hampers DPWM's ability to play a leadership role in promoting the integration of biodiversity concerns into socio-economic development and to establishing the necessary sustainable participatory partnerships for biodiversity conservation and management both within and outside protected areas.

3. Limited financial resources

Limited financial resources translate into few qualified and experienced staff on the ground and few resources to implement conservation management activities. At present DPWM's annual budget provided from GOTG barely covers its recurrent costs. Thus, while the salaries and wages of departmental staff are supported, there are no resources with which to put in place basic protected area infrastructure such as boundary posts, signs, staff accommodation. Similarly, support for operational costs such as the purchase of fuel is severely constrained and further hampers the department's ability to fulfill its mandate. At best, DPWM is currently able to ensure a minimum staff presence in its existing parks (varying from one representative to the full necessary complement), erratic completion of basic management actions such as firebreak clearance (depending upon the availability of funds), and sporadic enforcement activities. Current funding levels are insufficient to maintain an ongoing dialogue with communities and other local stakeholders or to take the necessary steps towards putting in place the participatory management approaches needed to partner DPWM's efforts and move the conservation of biodiversity onto a sustainable path.

The Gambia's Biodiversity Conservation Program

Despite these limitations, over the past few years DPWM and its partners have managed to undertake a series of steps towards establishing a sound framework for biodiversity conservation and management.

At the policy and institutional level, as indicated above, DPWM has reviewed and revised the national Biodiversity/Wildlife policy and legislation. The revised version clearly lays out the national goals and objectives and provides the legal and institutional mechanism for achieving them. It was submitted to Cabinet for review in 1999 and approved in February 2001.

In line with the objectives of this policy and based on existing information and recently completed/ongoing studies (see Annex 1), DPWM is giving priority to expanding the protection and management efforts to adequately address the needs of the coastal and marine environment both within and outside protected areas.

Baseline Scenario

Most ongoing biodiversity conservation and management activities are focused on three protected area that do not include coastal ecosystems or habitats: Abuko Nature Reserve (105 ha), Kiang West National Park (11,526 ha) and River Gambia National Park (589 ha). Active management of coastal and marine biodiversity is limited to the Bijilo Forest Park (64 ha), the only protected coastal forest area, and to the Tanji Bird Reserve (612 ha), including Bijol Islands, which is designated as an Important Bird Area. In Tanji, conservation actions are principally focused on protection of resident and migrant bird populations, including the Audouin's Gull, with additional protection for sea turtles during the nesting season.

A recent Ramsar supported study identified three coastal and marine areas of international importance and helped draft participatory management plans for each. Two of these areas, Niimi National Park and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, are currently included in the national protected areas network. Nevertheless, lack of financial resources means that active management of these

sites is close to non-existent, limited to a minimum staff presence whose effectiveness is severely constrained by lack of infrastructure, equipment (e.g., vehicle) and operational resources. The third area, the Tanbi Wetland complex, currently has no protected area status despite being considered as the site in most urgent need of intervention. It also currently has no ongoing management activities. It should be noted that due to limited information on some of the key coastal and marine endangered and threatened species affiliated with these sites, particularly sea turtles and West African manatees, the above mentioned draft management plans do not adequately reflect the conservation and management needs of these species.

DPWM's influence outside of protected areas is seriously constrained by inadequate resources. The ongoing Gambian Bird Ringing project will continue to operate (see Annex 1 for details), as will a low key program of data collection for coastal and marine endangered and threatened species, consisting mainly of advice and limited technical assistance to the community of Gunjur, which has expressed a strong interest in establishing The Gambia's first community wildlife reserve at Bolong Fenyo, a known sea turtle nesting "hotspot". Again, despite very strong enthusiasm at the local level, progress in Gunjur has been slow to date, as financial resources have been lacking.

Finally, recognizing the transboundary and regional nature and value of the coastal and marine biodiversity present in The Gambia, DPWM is pursuing transboundary cooperation and collaboration agreements. Cabinet recently approved a transboundary agreement with Senegal for the coordinated management of the Niimi-Saloum and Bao Bolong Wetland complexes. However, once again, DPWM's ability to collaborate in the implementation of transboundary management initiatives on the ground is seriously curtailed by resource availability. DPWM is collaborating with Wetlands International on a proposal to use Niimi as a demonstration site for the conservation and management migratory birds. The proposal will be included in a multi-country initiative for "Enhancing conservation of the critical network of wetlands required by migratory waterbirds of the African/Eurasian flyways" that was approved for inclusion in GEF biodiversity work program on 22 March, 2000. The approach proposed for this demonstration site will focus exclusively on bird biodiversity as opposed to the broader issues of coastal and marine biodiversity management. The Gambia is also participating in the preparation of a regional international waters initiative for which GEF support has been sought "Preparation of a transboundary diagnostic assessment for protection of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem from land-based activities" (approved for inclusion in GEF work program on 1 February, 1998). DPWM will also continue to participate in regional meetings wherever possible.

Without GEF support, GOTG and its development partners will be able to pursue the country's decentralization and poverty alleviation agenda, including efforts to gradually develop participatory bottom-up planning approaches to local development, increase local institutional and human resource capacity, enhance the financial resources available at the local level (through both matching grant schemes and provision of micro-credit), and to increase small-holder productivity in a manner compatible with sustainable use of the country's natural resource base. However, despite the creation of a framework conducive to integrated, participatory biodiversity conservation and management, it is likely that biodiversity concerns, particularly those related to globally significant habitats and species and the ecosystems upon which they depend, will not be explicitly taken into account during this process. Despite high-level recognition of the long-term importance of biodiversity to The Gambia, local MDFT often lack information, understanding, skills and in many cases awareness to ensure that biodiversity-friendly approaches are promoted. It is therefore possible that the biodiversity values will be either not addressed or potentially be negatively affected by the local development initiatives that are pursued.

In the current environment of highly constrained/limited donor funding, DPWM efforts will continue to be somewhat limited, with any additional activities being driven by the agenda of the financing sources that the Department is able to tap. These actions, while of relevance to the overall biodiversity program, may not necessarily be in line with DPWM's hierarchy of priority activities, nor will they provide sufficient support to address global biodiversity needs. Existing resources will be stretched to simply maintain the biodiversity status quo vis-à-vis the network of protected areas. Thus, management activities will be concentrated on Tanji and Bijol Island Reserve and Abuko Nature Reserve. A minimum DPWM presence will be continued at Kiang West, Niimi and River Gambia National Parks and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve. Interventions in Tanbi Wetland Complex (once gazetted) will be limited to periodic visits. Gunjur community efforts to establish a community wildlife reserve at Bolong Fenyo will be severely constrained. Research and baseline data collection efforts will be limited to the ongoing bird ringing project and shark survey, with case by case records kept for manatee and turtle sightings.

ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO – WITH GEF

As illustrated in Annex 2, which details the base case and GEF alternative scenarios, GEF funding will play a critical catalytic role enabling DPWM to pull its biodiversity program into a coherent entity. It will allow DPWM to play a significantly greater role in biodiversity conservation and management, both through directly managing the formal protected area network and through promoting linkages with, including leveraging actions and finances of, partner institutions for biodiversity conservation outside the formal protected area network.

Under the GEF Alternative, resources will be available to enable DPWM to actively participate in the ongoing development, decentralization and poverty alleviation processes. The GEF project resources would support DPWM efforts to promote active stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation and management, be it within or outside formally protected areas. These efforts will build on and reinforce existing and evolving planning and administrative structures and processes. The model processes and mechanisms will initially be developed in two contrasting sites and their replicability tested in at least one further site during project implementation. It is intended that the lessons learned and models developed will subsequently be replicated elsewhere.

The GEF alternative will allow DPWM to strengthen the network of coastal and marine protected areas. Already in February 2001, in the context of preparation of this project, Cabinet approved Ramsar protected area status for the Tanbi Wetland. In addition, DPWM intends to secure National Park status for both Bao Bolong and the Tanbi Wetland within the next 3 years. GEF support will allow DPWM to upgrade and actively implement the draft management plans prepared with Ramsar support.

The GEF alternative is being explicitly designed to complement the activities envisaged within the “Enhancing conservation of the critical network of wetlands required by migratory waterbirds of the African/Eurasian flyways” proposal so as to maximize the synergies and avoid overlaps between the two projects. Given that the wetlands are key for waterbird migratory flyways, the increased conservation status provided by the project will assist in the implementation of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

GEF resources will also enable the collection and analysis of baseline scientific and technical data on coastal and marine ecosystems, especially those supporting globally significant ecosystems, habitats and species. Thus, it will significantly increase The Gambia's and the region's knowledge, understanding and capacity for in-situ management of regional populations of globally significant species. In addition, the project would also provide investment resources to

equip and physically develop key coastal and marine conservation areas, thus assisting DPWM fulfill its role in formally protected areas.

The design of the GEF Alternative places a strong emphasis on building lasting capacity and promoting skill transfer amongst the Gambian stakeholders. Activities include resources for training stakeholders and ensuring their active involvement in the preliminary and ongoing fieldwork and planning activities. Awareness raising activities will focus on DPWM, MDFT and other key stakeholders, thus helping reduce the barriers to incorporation of biodiversity values in the development planning and implementation process. This will be further enhanced through provision of support to test and develop innovative biodiversity-friendly alternatives to current income generating activities in Bolong Fenyo, such as techniques for oyster culture that would decrease mangrove root extraction and hence mangrove loss. The lessons learned would be of value not only to The Gambia but also to the neighboring countries in the region. Regional understanding of population status, threats and management approaches would similarly be enhanced.

Finally, the GEF Alternative would enable considerable human and financial resources to be leveraged from other, non-GEF sources. First and foremost, through facilitating inclusion of biodiversity values in the decentralization and poverty alleviation processes, the GEF Alternative is expected to redirect funding for biodiversity-neutral/detrimental local-level income generating projects to proactively biodiversity-friendly alternatives. In addition, other donors, including Ramsar, the Japanese, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), have indicated their willingness to provide complementary financing in the context of a GEF support program, including: support for identification and demarcation of boundaries of the three Ramsar sites, inclusion of habitat mapping in the topographical map project, complementary school-based biodiversity educational programs, and promotion of alternative fishing techniques.

The incremental cost assessment is summarized in the following table:

<i>Source of funds</i>	<i>GOTG</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>GEF</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Baseline Scenario</i>	113,000	220,000	-	333,000
<i>Alternative Scenario</i>	219,000	570,000 (a)	960,000 (+25,000 PDF A)	1,774,000

(a) Includes direct co-financing commitments (including US\$80,000 from the GEF UNEP Flyway project – See Annex 5 for comparative analysis by site and \$150,000 from the IDA supported Gateway Project and Abuko Corridor feasibility study) as well as anticipated co-financing to be “leveraged” from other sources e.g., Strategic Poverty Alleviation program initiatives.

EXPECTED PROJECT OUTCOMES

The proposed MSP is designed to build upon previous information and experience gained through the GEAP, Ramsar, NBSAP, and other planning processes, as well as to provide a vital complement to the ongoing and incipient program of activities directly and indirectly related to biodiversity conservation and management. It will provide critical support to the Government's efforts to strengthen the coastal and marine protected area system and conservation of globally significant species and habitats in The Gambia.

More specifically, the project will lead to:

- 1) Secure/legal protected status for key critical, unique and vulnerable coastal, marine and wetland ecosystems and habitats, including National Park status attributed to Tanbi Wetland Complex and Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (by end of project) and establishment of permanent or seasonal protection for areas such as key breeding, nursery, feeding grounds for globally significant species.
- 2) Reduction of humane pressure on coastal and marine ecosystems, habitats and endangered and threatened species.
- 3) Development of community-based integrated management system models, including creating/reinforcing local participatory structures; establishing procedures for the effective participation of local community members in the conservation and sustainable use of coastal, marine and wetland resources; and identifying mechanisms for community benefit sharing.
- 4) Identification and facilitation of conservation-friendly income generating activities.
- 5) Greater capacity of both government and communities to manage their coastal, marine and wetland resources, with emphasis on protection of critical nursery, breeding, feeding, and refuge habitats for endangered and threatened species, both through provision of infrastructure and equipment as well as through skill building and awareness raising.
- 6) Stronger linkages with regional conservation networks.
- 7) Improvement in the knowledge base and understanding of the current status and threats to globally significant coastal and marine ecosystems, habitats and the endangered and threatened species upon which they depend.
- 8) An operational national endangered and threatened species monitoring network and related database.

ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL INPUTS NEEDED TO ENABLE CHANGES

The activities required to achieve the project objectives will be carried out under the guidance of a multi-sectoral Project Steering Committee and through the concerted efforts of a Project Management Unit (PMU) together with DPWM staff, national- and local-level government partner agencies, specialist consultant support, NGOs, CBOs, and the local beneficiary communities.

The project activities will be carried out over a period of three years.

1. Strengthening of the National Conservation System/Network

Create/re-enforce coastal and marine conservation system, strengthen conservation area management capacity, promote financial sustainability of conservation area management measures, design and establish a monitoring system for tracking ecosystem and species trends over the long term; and prepare and implement action plans for priority species and locations ("hotspots"). In concert with Ramsar supported efforts to define and demarcate protected area

boundaries for Niimi National Park, Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve and the Tanbi/Abuko corridor complex, the project will strengthen DPWM's capacity to fulfil its mandate for biodiversity conservation and management at the proposed pilot sites through provision of: (i) basic infrastructure (such as ranger outstations, signs and notice boards, information centers and trails); (ii) equipment (office and field); (iii) additional protected area personnel (wardens, assistant wardens and rangers - initially to be supported by project funds, but to be transferred to government budget by end of the project), (iv) studies on options for securing long-term financial sustainability of protected areas, including the operationalization of the earlier mentioned National Biodiversity Trust Fund proposed in the draft Wildlife and Biodiversity Policy and Legislation; and (v) regional networking activities such as transboundary management planning, participation in regional meetings and staff exchanges. In addition, both boundary definition and physical demarcation for Bolong Fenyo will be supported through the project. These activities will be implemented by the protected areas unit of DPWM, in collaboration with key stakeholders, such as local communities and the Department of Land and Surveys.

The current patchy information on the status, threats and the impact of human activities on critical coastal and marine ecosystems impedes the design and implementation of appropriate management measures. Under the project, DPWM will increase the collection of ecological and social information (including traditional knowledge) to be conducted jointly with local communities. DPWM will help train local teams in survey and monitoring techniques. The information will allow the identification of priority locations ("hotspots" such as nesting, breeding, nursery, feeding and refuge zones) for marine turtles and West African manatees). Remote sensing and ground truthing techniques will also be used to help identify and map key habitat for selected species. This information serve to develop an implement a monitoring program and endangered/threatened species action plans for key species. DPWM will also design and establish a database, compatible with the national Environmental Information System (EIS) architecture, and serving as a first step towards the establishment of the National Biodiversity Information System foreseen in the NBSAP. This system would ultimately be linked to the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

DPWM will make this information available to local beneficiaries and national partners. It will also share data and lessons learned with regional and international partners, particularly those in Senegal and Guinea Bissau where complementary initiatives are in preparation.

2. Participatory Conservation Area Management

Design and pilot replicable peri-urban and rural models for participatory biodiversity conservation planning and management both within and outside of the formal protected area network, implement management activities and establish site specific monitoring systems. Building upon the endangered habitat and species findings, this set of activities will focus on updating or preparing participatory management plans for the selected pilot sites. The results of the analysis will provide the basis for the progressive revision of the existing management plans for the three Ramsar sites and development of the operational strategies for an integrated management system for each of the sites by the PMU, local communities and key government agencies. As the participatory approach to wildlife conservation being promoted under this project is relatively new to The Gambia, implementation will be phased to allow experimentation and skill development without overwhelming available capacity. Phase I will last 2 years and will focus on two pilot sites of known ecological significance: the Tanbi Wetland/Abuko corridor complex and Bolong Fenyo. The two sites were selected based on the following criteria: ecological value, global significance, degree of urgency, level of stakeholder interest and funding constraints (see Annex 3 and 4). They will allow contrasting models to be developed and tested, namely peri-urban vs. rural settings and protected area vs. community conservation area. Phase II

will be triggered in the third year, once DPWM has developed sufficient capacity and has successfully developed a participatory management methodology. DPWM will then expand participatory biodiversity conservation and management activities to at least one further site, building both on the experience gained with working stakeholders at the two initial sites, as well as on the information gathered during identification of the priority endangered species “hotspots”. Phase II is expected to include Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve and/or Niuni National Park (see Annex 3 for selection criteria).

The Project will support (i) stakeholder consultation and sensitization activities; (ii) ecological, social and physical data collection (particularly for Bolong Fenyo); (iii) participatory management plan revision (Tanbi Wetland Abuko corridor complex) or preparation (Bolong Fenyo); (iv) training for government and community stakeholders; (v) implementation of key habitat and species management activities (including, firebreaks, mangrove regeneration, turtle nesting protection, and monitoring); (vi) provision of equipment and personnel (voluntary wardens, monitors and labor); (vii) identification and promotion of alternative sustainable biodiversity-friendly income generating activities, such as oyster culture, ecotourism, beekeeping and woodlots through: (a) provision of direct support to test innovative approaches for income generating activities that actively conserve and/or reduce pressure on biodiversity and (b) facilitation of access to non-GEF micro-project funding sources; and (viii) networking and exchange visits (for example between communities or sites).

3. Capacity Building and Awareness Raising

Strengthening of DPWM, training and awareness raising activities targeting local resource users, local government partners, and to a lesser extent, the general public. Capacity building activities are integral to project implementation. DPWM will receive support to guide overall project implementation in the field, to assist and advise project stakeholders, and to monitor project progress and impact.

Training will be provided for DPWM staff and their government partners (particularly those at the local level, including extension agents), NGOs, CBOs and resource users in ecological and social field survey and participatory rural appraisal techniques. Extension workers will be enabled to assist local communities access funding from non-GEF micro-financing schemes and other funds promoted through the SPA. Local field monitors will be trained in data collection, species identification and record keeping. DPWM staff will be trained in biodiversity/endangered species database management. In addition, support for a range of alternative sustainable biodiversity-friendly income generating activities will be promoted by training extension workers on up-to-date information sources, processes and procedures for accessing non-GEF micro-financing opportunities, although project funds will specifically focus on community skill development for those activities that are directly related to biodiversity conservation or reducing pressure on important habitats and species by switching consumption to alternative products that provide roughly equivalent benefits to the affected people. The project will also support regional and local networking and study tours.

The project will finance the development of a public awareness strategy focused on endangered and threatened species and their associated habitats. Preparation and purchase of materials such as brochures, leaflets, newsletters and radio and TV broadcasts will be supported. The primary target audience will be local resource users (including park visitors), beneficiary communities, and schools. The secondary audience will be the public at large. The DPWM environmental education unit will lead these activities, in collaboration with the EEPA Working Group.

Project and management specific sensitization activities regarding the project and specific management plans will target both beneficiary communities and national-, divisional- and local-

level decision-makers (e.g., sector leaders, policy makers, DDC environment and natural resource sub-committees, and local community authorities).

SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The Project has been designed to promote and/or provide lessons for long-term sustainability of the biodiversity conservation and management activities both nationally and regionally. Design features to promote sustainability include:

- 1) Using the new Wildlife and Biodiversity Policy and Legislation as the project's framework.
- 2) Making use of existing national and local sectoral and inter-sectoral institutions as the basis for project management and implementation, thus enhancing the capacity of these institutions to fulfill their mandates, minimizing both short and long term incremental costs associated with biodiversity conservation and management; and promoting the linkages of project activities with other sectoral and cross-sectoral programs (e.g., NBSAP; GEAP II; national poverty alleviation efforts, agricultural, forestry, and decentralization programs).
- 3) Exploring mechanisms for protected area revenue retention and local benefit sharing at the pilot sites, as a means of augmenting the limited budget that the government can make available at the local level and promoting the financial sustainability of biodiversity conservation actions. The approaches to be explored will build upon previous Gambian experience in the forestry sector as well as regional and international experience such as in Uganda and Malawi, and will provide lessons for the operationalization of the National Biodiversity Trust Fund foreseen in the draft Biodiversity and Wildlife Policy.
- 4) Adopting a highly participatory approach, to the development and testing of replicable community-based biodiversity management pilots that provide direct financial, social and cultural benefits to local beneficiaries and thus promote strong stakeholder ownership and commitment;
- 5) Adopting an implementation approach that emphasizes skill transfer and capacity building, e.g., through targeted training in, *inter alia*, survey methods, mapping techniques, species identification, monitoring, biodiversity-friendly income generating activities; and through involvement of national and local stakeholders in the project's research and management activities.
- 6) Promoting broader adoption of the approach through support for inter-community exchanges; and awareness raising amongst MDFT, DDC and other local authorities; and
- 7) Promoting knowledge exchange as well as adoption of coordinated approaches with regional partners. This is particularly important given that the endangered and threatened species in question do not respect national boundaries.

Nevertheless, there are risks that may affect the sustainability of project activities and outcomes both in the short- and long-term. These include:

(i) Failure to leverage funds for implementation of biodiversity-friendly community micro-projects. Despite the numerous existing and planned sources of micro-financing for natural resource management activities, there is a risk that sectoral extension workers may not have sufficient information or experience to assist communities in accessing these funds. The project seeks to mitigate this risk by increasing awareness amongst sectoral extension agents regarding the importance of, and options for sustainable, biodiversity-friendly, income generating alternatives. Furthermore, it will provide the multi-disciplinary facilitation team with up to date

information on, and eligibility requirements for available micro-financing options. These extension workers will also receive training in techniques/methods to assist communities in accessing these funds, as well as be provided with limited resources to facilitate their adoption during Phase I of the project.

(ii) Inability to secure financial sustainability within project timeframe. Although the project aims to ultimately ensure the financial viability of biodiversity conservation actions, it is possible that this may not be achieved with the 3-year project timeframe. For example, establishing woodlots as a substitute for mangrove extraction will require a longer timeframe than the project. While the non-GEF funding sources take this into account, measuring full project impact vis-à-vis financial sustainability will not be appropriate given these circumstances. Nevertheless, the project will put in place monitoring and evaluation systems at the pilot sites, allowing DPWM to measure project impact over the medium- and long-term.

(iii) Weak synchronization with decentralization program. Although DPWM is a member of key sectoral and cross-sectoral working groups, there is a risk that the timing of project implementation may not be fully synchronized with that of related sectoral and cross-sectoral programs, in particular the decentralized social and economic development planning process into which it ultimately seeks to integrate. To mitigate this, DPWM will actively liaise with the decentralization team. In addition, and incremental resources have been provided within project budget to independently facilitate community-based, participatory biodiversity conservation planning at the pilot sites, with the aim of developing and testing mechanisms that can subsequently be integrated into these broader planning processes elsewhere.

(iv) External resource users will not respect management plans. Another key risk is that despite the adoption of a participatory approach, “outsiders” (e.g., foreign fishermen) may not respect the management plans developed. This risk will be minimized through generating a strong sense of ownership of these plans amongst the resident beneficiaries as well as provision of incentives for controlling access to these resources through benefit sharing.

(v) Loss of community interest. The time lag between project start-up and accruing anticipated benefits could result in loss of community interest. This risk is believed to be low, given the high level of community interest demonstrated during preparation (especially in Gunjur) and the intended involvement of communities in the planning process. Nevertheless, provision of more immediate employment opportunities, for example, for infrastructure installation and habitat management activities, is also expected to help mitigate potential community impatience.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

The proposed Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management Project has broad-based stakeholder support. The need for such a project has arisen out of both national-level highly participatory processes such as the GEAP and NBSAP, as well as site-specific participatory efforts such as the management plans for the three proposed Ramsar wetlands. Under DPWM leadership, a GEF PDF A grant of \$25,000 supported a 3-day national workshop in April 1, 2000, where stakeholders were invited to contribute to the planning of the project and the definition of its objectives. Participants included a wide range of representatives from government, local communities, NGO agencies, private sector and international organizations considered to be stakeholders.

In addition, preliminary social assessment activities were conducted and several local stakeholder meetings were held at each of the three proposed sites as well as at Bolong Fenyo in Gunjur.

Local communities have indicated a strong interest in participation in the project, particularly those in Gunjur where a local NGO, GEPADG, independently organized a series of local level meetings to create more awareness of the current status of natural resource degradation and their attempts to address the underlying causes for the restoration and protection of the fauna and flora. The community of Gunjur, including representatives of village clans/kabilos, VDC, NGOs and government agents, has been extremely proactive and looks forward to the implementation of the proposed plan for the conservation of biodiversity in Bolong Fenyo.

Under DPWM’s leadership, key stakeholders have been kept fully briefed and provided with opportunities to provide feedback throughout the project preparation process.

BUDGET

Estimated Breakdown on Costs by Budgetary Component (in US Dollar):

<i>Component</i>	<i>GEF</i>	<i>Government Co-Financing</i>	<i>Other Co-Financing</i>
Personnel ¹	159,817	130,000	
Sub-contracts for consultant and executing services ²	350,700		80,000
Training	67,292	20,000	40,000
Equipment/Infrastructure ³	210,950	39,000	390,000
Operational Travel	50,650	20,000	20,000
Miscellaneous ⁴	120,591	10,000	40,000
Total	960,000	219,000	570,000

¹ PMU, site-specific staff and MDFT and habitat mapping team

² Technical Advisor, specialists and implementation sub-contract with GEPADG for Bolong Fenyo. Other includes ecotourism specialist.

³ PMU and pilot site equipment and infrastructure, and micro-projects supported by both GEF and funds ‘leveraged’ from other existing/potential funding sources such as Strategic Poverty Alleviation program initiatives.

⁴ Incremental office supplies, maintenance costs, awareness materials and report printing.

Estimated Breakdown by Project Component (in US Dollar):

<i>Activity</i>	<i>GEF</i>	<i>GOTG</i>	<i>Other^a</i>
Strengthening of national conservation area system/network	245,579	50,000	150,000
Participatory conservation area management	370,800	144,000	340,000
Capacity building and awareness raising	343,621	125,000	80,000
Total	960,000	219,000	570,000

^a Includes direct project cofinancing commitments e.g., provision of ecotourism specialist by CFTC as well as anticipated co-financing to be “leveraged” from other sources.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The overall coordination and execution of the Project will be the responsibility of DPWM, as the focal point for biodiversity. DPWM will set up a Project Management Unit (PMU) comprised of a Project Coordinator (Government staff), Community Development Officer, Administrative Assistant, Accountant/Procurement Officer and Driver. The Project Coordinator will be supported by a part-time Project Technical Advisor and will work closely with the Unit Heads from the involved DPWM sections. Ecological and social specialists will be contracted to provide training and assist implementation.

Representatives from the Coastal and Marine Environment Working Group (CMEWG) will form a Project Steering Committee (PSC) with additional members drawn from community based NGOs, local communities and local government. Decisions regarding strategies and approaches for the design and implementation of project activities will be made by the steering committee.

The PMU together with the protected areas unit of DPWM will coordinate and oversee the implementation of management plans in pilot sites. Activities will be executed in collaboration with local government partners, NGOs, and beneficiaries, largely through existing institutional coordination forums including DDC, VDC, MDFT, CBOs and others.

At the individual project sites, the participating communities of each site will design their own project structure and decide on the composition of the membership of the site management committee. Consensus building among the communities will be facilitated through the work of the full-time Community Development Officer of the PMU assisted by the local Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Team (MDFT) extension staffs of participating government institutions and NGOs. At Bolong Fenyo a local NGO, GEPADG, will be sub-contracted to facilitate execution of project activities.

Implementation Plan

Activities	Project - Years		
	1	2	3
Completion of Project Activities			
1. Strengthening of the National Conservation System/Network			
Provision of personnel	XXX	XXX	XXXX
Provision of infrastructure	XXX	X	
Legal protection of sites	XX	XXX	XXXX
Design and start-up of monitoring system		X	
Baseline data collection	XXX	XXX	XXXX
Evaluation of data and preparation of action plans	XX	X	XX
Implementation of action plans			XXXX
	XXX	XXX	
		X	
	XXX	XXX	
		X	
	XX	XXX	
		X	
2. Participatory Conservation Area Management – Phase I			
Update of management plans	XX		
Implementation of management plans		XXX	XXXX
	XX	X	
Participatory Conservation Area Management – Phase II			
Update management plans		X	
Implementation of management plans			XXXX
		XXX	
3. Capacity building and Awareness Raising			
Project field monitoring	XXX	XXX	XXXX
Project team meetings	XXX	X	XXXX
Report production	X	XXX	XXXX
Auditing Production of awareness materials	XX	X	XXXX
Distribution of materials	XX	XXX	XXXX
Training of DPWM and other stakeholders		X	XXXX
	XX	XXX	
	XXX	X	
	X	XXX	
		X	
		XXX	
		X	

Public Involvement Plan

1. Stakeholder Identification

During the PDF A workshop, key project stakeholders were identified. These include: (i) the

local, divisional and national governments who have a stake in ensuring sustainable coastal and marine ecosystem management; (ii) project executing agencies, including local and national governments, local and international NGOs who have a special interest in the project's performance and impact; (iii) coastal and marine zone communities and other beneficiaries who will gain from engaging in sustainable livelihoods by preserving resources for future use while addressing current concerns; (iv) sub-groups of vulnerable populations, such as women, and poor households that are expected to benefit from special interventions affecting their access to and use of the land faunal and flora resources of project sites; and (v) regional resource users such as fishermen whose catch depends on healthy nursery grounds, (vi) international community from existence value of endangered and threatened species and ecological balance from system conservation.

Below is a proposed list of key participating stakeholders and their expected contributions to project implementation.

<i>Organization/Stakeholder</i>	<i>Functions</i>
Key Implementors	
DPWM/PMU	Coordination and facilitation of project implementation (Focal Point).
NEA and the CMEWG	Establish the Project Steering Committee, promote coordination and harmonization of approaches and activities at the national level; facilitate the establishment of village management committees.
MDFT in collaboration with local NGOs, CBOs, Kafos, etc.	Community mobilization and PRA execution; capacity building, skill development and awareness raising of local stakeholders; assist formation of Site Management Committees; facilitate identification and implementation of sustainable biodiversity-friendly income generating activities.
Site Management Committee and VDC	Oversee implementation of project activities and serve as link between communities, PMU and DCC.
Village Communities	Preparation and implementation of project plans/activities. (Participation in plan preparation, habitat management, enforcement, alternative income generation, etc).
Donors	Provide technical and financial assistance for achieving Project objectives.
Key government sectoral contributors	
NEA/DLS	Remote sensing interpretation, GIS/database maintenance, and possibly participate in field surveys.
DWR and NEA	Monitoring of coastal areas to detect and prevent pollution, and provide baseline data of coastal areas.
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture	Key natural resource management sectors and thus will play a particularly active role, including technical, facilitation and implementation support. For example, participation in planning efforts; technical implementation support, survey work (shark survey, mangrove survey, etc); species monitoring; enforcement (including: illegal logging, creation of reserves for critical nursery grounds, definition of fishing seasons and techniques, etc.).
DPPH/DLS	Re-demarcation of boundaries of project sites and production of maps for gazetting.
DSTC, DOTour. Hotel Industry, Tour operators	ECO tourism camp development and training of village tour guides.

2. Information Dissemination, Consultation and Collaboration

A national workshop supported by the PDF A was held with a multi-sectoral representation from government, NGOs and local groups as part of Project preparation. Additionally, site specific meetings were held with local stakeholders at the 3 Ramsar sites and Bolong Fenyo. All stakeholders were kept up to date as preparation evolved, and draft project proposals were circulated for comment. At the local level, the participation of the Gunjur community has been particularly active.

Information dissemination and consultation activities will be intensified during implementation. Annual workshops will be organized, bringing all key stakeholders together to disseminate findings and share experiences. At the local level, the frequency of meetings will be dependent upon the institutional mechanisms established. Nevertheless, the highly participatory nature of the project will promote regular and in-depth information sharing, consultation and active collaboration.

DPWM and NEA will ensure that information contained in the endangered and threatened species database and the national EIS, respectively, is available to the public as well as actively disseminated through incorporation in the public awareness materials and through exchanges with neighboring countries.

3. Social and Participation Issues

Key social issues that may be encountered include:

- Cultural and socio-economic uses of globally endangered species may be essential to livelihood systems.
- Conflicts between resource users (local and “outsiders”) and project objectives.
- Conflicts between sectoral policies and programs impeding the implementation of conservation strategies.
- Vulnerable groups such as the poor and women may be excluded from the process.

These issues have been addressed during Project design.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

The Project Coordinator together with the Project Technical Advisor and specialist consultants will develop a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan within 6 months of project start up. The plan will specify key indicators/data needs and sources and will measure both progress and impact indicators. Progress indicators will comprise key outputs to be expected during the Project Cycle such as:

- Establishment of steering committee
- Establishment of pilot site management committees
- Completion of ecological and social surveys
- Establishment of threatened species database
- Design and start-up of monitoring program
- Stakeholder meetings
- Completion of management plans
- Installation of protected area infrastructure
- Provision of equipment
- Selection of Phase II sites

Impact indicators, as well as the detailed monitoring plan, will be defined in detail by the technical specialists based on the findings of the ecological and social field surveys to be completed in the first 6 months of year 1.

It is expected that the Project Coordinator will visit the pilot areas every two months and the Project Steering Committee once a year. The Project Coordinator and specialist consultants respectively will be responsible for evaluating and consolidating the progress and technical monitoring data into semi-annual monitoring reports. A baseline and end-term beneficiary assessment/attitudinal survey will be conducted for each of the pilot areas.

The Project Steering Committee will review the consolidated semi-annual reports and provide guidance and feedback to the project team as necessary. In addition, findings of these reports will be shared with all stakeholders during an annual meeting that will bring key implementing stakeholders together to disseminate findings and share experiences.

ANNEX 1: PREVIOUS AND ON-GOING RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE GAMBIA

Coastal Protection Study (2001) undertaken by the Initial Lowland Agricultural Development Project (LADEP) (1998)	Environmental studies on the wildlife aspects of certain wetland habitats of The Gambia, including creeks, mangroves, salt marshes and herbaceous swamp which serve as habitat for the endangered West African Manatee (<i>Trichechus senegalensis</i>) and Sitatunga (<i>Tragelaphus spekei sclater</i>). Co-funded by African Development Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development.
African Bird Census for The Gambia (1998-present)	Undertaken during the period Jan-March 1998, 1999 and 2000 (2001 ongoing), with support from Wetlands International. Altogether 36 wetland sites (which includes coastal and marine ecosystems) have been surveyed. The data is currently being compiled, although initial analysis reveals that the most biodiverse areas are near the coast. Support provided by Wetlands International.
1996 Ramsar funded study on Niimi National Park, Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve and Stin-Corner/Tanbi Wetland Complex and Important Bird Areas (IBA) survey (1998)	Revealed Ramsar sites and some Important Bird Areas (IBA) have unique mangrove habitat and associated fauna, which deserve immediate protection. The Ramsar study also revealed significant degree of destruction of mangroves, coastal grass/scrubland, coastal dunes and island habitats which not only serve as habitat for marine and coastal resources, but equally as important roosting grounds for migratory avifauna and nursery grounds for fish. The beaches serve as important breeding areas for sea turtles.
Ramsar Cabinet Paper	Following the Ramsar and IBA studies, a draft of a Cabinet paper aimed at declaring the Stin-Corner and Tanbi wetland complex as Ramsar sites is under review. Initially submitted 1998, revised version submitted in 2000.
The Gambian Ringing Project (1995-present)	This project has been undertaken on an annual basis at Ginack Islands in the North Bank Division since 1995 with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). There is now a substantial database for the ringed birds at DPWM.
West African Cetacean Project (WAF CET)	Two years of data collection to identify the species that use Gambian waters through DPWM staff observation, casual and volunteer observers at fishing ports and boat trips by ground tour operators. Funded by UNEP/CMS.
Legal and Institutional Profile of The Gambia Wildlife and Biodiversity Policy for The Gambia	Produced in 1997 in collaboration with IUCN. Final draft produced and under review by Cabinet.

The African Development Bank	Preparation financed through World Bank's Capacity Building for Environmental Management Project.
FIBA (2000-2001)	Has made available \$1.5 million to conduct studies along the coastal areas of The Gambia (e.g. determine causes of coastal erosion, socio-economic conditions of coastal dwellers).
NBSAP (1999)	Provided training in shark identification and biology and conducted surveys at fishing centers. Preliminary data suggest Gambian waters are an important shark breeding ground. Most catches comprise predominantly pregnant females and juveniles. Final results expected to be published in March 2001. Reviewed and consolidated known information on The Gambia's biodiversity and prepared a strategy and action plan for "enhancement of effective conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in The Gambia for the benefit of her people and the environment." Identified coastal and marine environment as being the area of highest biodiversity concentration as well as a priority area for intervention.

ANNEX 2: BASELINE AND GEF ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Baseline w/o GEF</i>	<i>GEF Alternative</i>
<p>Strengthening of the National Conservation Area System/Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar status for Tanbi adopted. • Transboundary agreement for Saloum/Niumi and Bao Bolong signed. • National Park status attributed to Tanbi and Bao Bolong. • Bird Ringing Project • Shark survey • Topographical map produced for The Gambia • Ad hoc recording of endangered species sightings • Possible turtle conservation activities including school education programs survey (if funding secured from WWF) • Annual Waterfowl census 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niumi, Tanbi and Bao Bolong boundaries clearly identified and demarcated. • DPWM presence introduced in Tanbi and strengthened in Niumi and/or Bao Bolong. • Basic physical infrastructure and equipment in place for Tanbi, Bolong Fenyo and either Bao Bolong or Niumi. • Resources available for participation in regional meetings. • Tanbi and Bao Bolong given National Park status. • Critical habitats, including identification of potential “hotspots” mapped as additional outcome of topographic activity. • Baseline ecosystem/habitat/endangered and threatened species survey data collected and made available to national and regional stakeholders. • Endangered and threatened species database established. • Endangered and threatened species monitoring system ongoing. • National/local endangered species/habitat action plans preparation and under implementation.
<p>Participatory Conservation Area Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPWM management of Tanji and Bijol Islands Reserve and KWNP continued. • River Gambia National Park continues under private management • Skeleton staff maintained in Niumi and, Bao Bolong, but without resources. Thus, very limited and periodic interaction with communities, resulting in some sensitization and marginal surveillance and enforcement. • Broad-based decentralized community development planning and poverty alleviation efforts ongoing but without emphasis on adoption of biodiversity conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demarcation of terrestrial and marine boundaries of Bolong Fenyo, preparation and implementation of community management plan, leading to establishment of the first community wildlife reserve. • Participatory management plans for Tanbi, Niumi, Bao Bolong updated to incorporate globally significant concerns and under implementation (trails, firebreaks, hides, habitat management and restoration, research, monitoring). • Development and testing of replicable models for participatory conservation management, including participatory monitoring system under implementation; systematic participation in the

	compatible approaches.	<p>decentralization process allowing incorporation of biodiversity conservation concerns in decentralized community development efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPWM operational resources augmented thus allowing sustained community dialogue, as well as more consistent control and enforcement in at least two conservation areas of global significance. • Review and testing of financial sustainable options.
Capacity Building and Awareness Raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMEWG meetings • Institutional support for local organizations (DDC, VDC, CBOs, Kafos, etc) and socio-economic development activities through training, technical assistance (PRA, ecotourism, woodlots, agroforestry, livestock, etc) and micro-finance (grants/credits) opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSC meetings. • Site management committee meetings. • Monitoring and Evaluation. • Ensure sound management of GEF funds. • Targeted and on-the-job capacity building of key government and non-government stakeholders in ecological and social survey techniques, monitoring, guards, guides, etc. • Active promotion of socio-economic development activities that are biodiversity friendly. • Globally significant species public awareness materials produced – brochures, programs.

ANNEX 3: PROJECT SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

Table A: Relative significance of globally significant species by possible pilot site

<i>Species/habitat of significance</i>	<i>Niumi National Park</i>	<i>River Gambia National Park</i>	<i>Kiang West National Park</i>	<i>Abuko</i>	<i>Tanji/Bijol Island</i>	<i>Bao Bolong</i>	<i>Tanbi</i>	<i>Bolong Fenyó</i>	<i>Bijilo Forest Park</i>
Turtles	**				**			****	*
Manatee	*	*	*			*	*		
Brown Parrot			*			*			
Audouin's Gull					*				
Dolphins	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	
Hippos		*	*						
Mangroves	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	
Migratory birds	**	?	?	*	***	?	***	?	*
Sea grass	*				*		*		

Table B: Selection criteria for Phase I and II pilot sites

<i>Site Selection Criteria</i>	<i>Tanbi and Abuko corridor</i>	<i>Tanji/Bijol island</i>	<i>Niumi</i>	<i>Bao Bolong</i>	<i>Bolong Fenyo Including marine area</i>
Ecological. Value	High	High	High	High	High
Globally significant species present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vulnerability	High	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
Urgency	High	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
Stakeholder interest	Moderate - High	Moderate - High	High	Low-Moderate	High
Management Plan	Yes	Draft	Yes	Yes	Draft
Protected status	Proposed Ramsar	National Park 1993	National Park Joint Ramsar Biosphere reserve	Ramsar	Communal recognition
Alternative funding	No	Yes	Potentially	No	No

ANNEX 4: DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PILOT SITES

	<i>Phase I Sites</i>		<i>Potential Phase II Sites</i>	
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Tanbi Wetland Complex (TWC)</i> <i>-Urban/peri-urban-</i>	<i>Bolong Fenyo (BF)</i> <i>-Rural-</i>	<i>Niumi National Park (NNP)</i> <i>-Rural-</i>	<i>Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve (BBWR)</i> <i>Rural</i>
Size and Position	Occupies 6,000 ha on the southern portion of the River Gambia estuary, thereby being intimately connected to the Atlantic Ocean. The wetland is adjacent to The Gambia's capital, Banjul, bisected by the Banjul Highway and fringed by other urban areas. TWC lies adjacent to Abuko Nature Reserve and is connected to the Mandina wetland further south.	Occupies 320 ha on the South-West coast of rural Gambia in an area of high ecological value.	Occupies the coastal strip north of the river and is approx. 4940 ha. Contiguous with the Delta du Saloum National Park.	Located on the North bank of the River Gambia, approx. 100 km from the River mouth. Occupies 22,000 ha and extends from the river Gambia to the Senegalese border along the Bao Bolong tributary. Area intimately connected to the River Gambia and forms part of a wetland strip running along the north bank, and is opposite KWNP. It is also contiguous to a protected wetland area in Senegal.
Important and Unique Ecological Values	TWC consists of a diverse number of habitat types ranging from coastal lagoons and scrub through seasonal creeks to intertidal and gallery forest. The central area of mangrove covering approx. 4800 ha remains	Comprises coastal habitat, including coastal waters, sand dunes, coastal scrub mangroves and forest. Currently only known hotspot for nesting marine	Site primarily coastal in nature. Comprising 11 km of unspoiled coastline with almost pristine coastal scrub. Value lies in the variety of habitat	Site covers a mosaic of wetland types from high inland mangrove forest to seasonal freshwater

	<p>relatively intact and constitutes one of the largest areas of mangrove stands in the Gambia. It is also the only stand subject to strong tidal influences. Avifauna composed of both resident, as well as inter-African and Palearctic migrant species.</p>	<p>turtles (Green Turtles confirmed, other species pending detailed survey).</p>	<p>types found in close proximity that results in a rich array of ecotones. Avifauna composed of resident, inter-African and Palearctic species. Potential area for nesting marine turtles. Important resting, breeding and wintering site for migratory birds.</p>	<p>marsh. Although outskirts are being eroded, much of the area currently relatively undisturbed due to poor accessibility. Value lies in the variety of habitat types found in close proximity that results in a rich array of ecotones. Avifauna composed of resident, inter-African and Palearctic species.</p>
<p>Globally Significant Species</p>	<p>West African Manatee, Atlantic Hump-backed Dolphin. Sand shoreline between Banjul and Cape Point used possibly by nesting Green Turtles.</p>	<p>Coastal waters used by Atlantic Hump-backed Dolphin and Bottle nosed Dolphin. Nesting marine turtles.</p>	<p>West African Manatee and Atlantic Hump-backed Dolphin. Green Turtle and possibly other species of marine turtle.</p>	<p>West African Manatee, Bottle-nosed Dolphin and Atlantic Hump-backed Dolphin. Brown-necked Parrot.</p>
<p>Functions</p>	<p>Coastal stabilization, sewage sink for urban area, fish breeding and recreation, including ornithological tourism, fishing and boat rides; breeding and wintering site for waterfowl.</p>	<p>Special value as habitat at critical stage of biological life cycle. Currently used for ornithological tourism on a low scale.</p>	<p>Trans-border position, supports appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable and endangered species. Breeding and wintering site for waterfowl.</p>	<p>Trans-border position, supports appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable and endangered species. Good representative example of natural wetland, characteristic of biogeographic region.</p>

				Breeding and wintering site for waterfowl.
Vulnerability/ fragility	High	High	High	High
Threats	Diverse. On the northern and eastern peripheries where urban encroachment and uncontrolled dumping of rubbish, industrial development and increasing agricultural activities are occurring. Associated incidence of pollution, herbicides and pesticides. Oyster harvesting.	Proximity to fish processing plant and requirement of timber for smoking. Turtle egg harvesting.	Major threats are fire, uncontrolled hunting of protected area species, and effect of heavy grazing by cattle. Over exploitation of natural resources.	Major threats are fire, uncontrolled hunting of protected area species, and effect of heavy grazing by cattle. Over exploitation of natural resources e.g. mangrove harvesting by local communities and visitors from outside the area e.g. Senegal.
Urgency for intervention	High	High	Medium	High
Management Plan for the area	Yes (but endangered species not adequately addressed)	Draft plan	Yes (but endangered species not adequately addressed)	Yes (but endangered species not adequately addressed)
Stakeholder Interest	Moderate-High	High	High	Low to Moderate
Legal Status	Ramsar Status approved by Cabinet	Not officially gazetted to date, but recognized on a local level as a community project site.	National Park, Ramsar site and Biosphere Reserve	Ramsar site
Degree of Challenge	High. Although management plan produced in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders, there remain strong	Low-medium, due to the presence of a well established local NGO in the area, which will be instrumental in	Medium. Management plan produced for the area, in consultation with local communities	Medium. Management plan produced for the area, in consultation with local

	pressures due to the high value for development, easy accessibility to resources, low community empowerment and low general awareness about the value of wetlands.	implementing the project and who have already initiated public awareness education and obtained the confidence and support of the local communities.	and other stakeholders.	communities and other stakeholders.
Economic Values	Production of millet, rice, groundnuts, provision of timber and wood for cooking and construction purposes, grazing of livestock, oyster harvesting and fishing. High development potential.	Fishing, and fish processing, arable and crop production. Ornithological tourism on a small scale.	Resident and peripheral villages are dependent on the park for various activities including the production of rice, millet and groundnuts, fishing and oyster collection, provision of timber and wood for cooking and construction purposes, grazing of stock (cattle, sheep and goats) and the seasonal collection of salt.	Resident and peripheral villages are dependent on the park for various activities including the production of rice, millet and groundnuts, fishing, provision of timber and wood for cooking and construction purposes and the grazing of livestock.
Availability of Alternative Funding	No	No	Potential funding available for conservation of migratory birds (through the GEF transboundary demonstration site with the Eurasia Flyways project - anticipated start-up 2002/3)	No

ANNEX 5: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BY SITE

	<i>Migrative Waterbirds Project (UNEP/Wetlands International)</i>	<i>Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity(World Bank)</i>
<i>Tanbi Wetlands</i>	Not included	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Park designated 2. Park Boundary demarcated 3. Strengthening of DPWM presence 4. Basic physical infrastructure and equipment provided 5. Biodiversity hotspots identified 6. Baseline data collected (turtles, dolphins, manatees) 7. Participatory management plan updated
<i>Bolong Fenyo</i>	Not included	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Terrestrial and marine boundaries demarcated 2. Community management plan prepared and implemented 3. Basic physical infrastructure and equipment provided 4. Baseline data collected (turtles, dolphins, manatees) 5. First community wildlife reserve established in The Gambia
<i>Bao Bolong</i>	Not included	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Park Boundary demarcated If selected: (see phase II in the text) 2. DPWM presence strengthened 3. Basic physical infrastructure and equipment provided 4. Biodiversity hotspots identified 5. Baseline data collected (turtles, dolphins, manatees) 6. Participatory management plan updated and implemented
<i>Niumi National Park</i>	<p>The project sites includes the Saloum in Senegal (180,000 hectares) and Niumi National Park in The Gambia (5,000 hectares)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designation of international transboundary reserve by GOG 2. Designation of Niumi Park as a Ramsar site, 3. Trans-boundary training program for park personnel 4. Provide basic field equipment (binoculars, tents, radios) 5. Trans-boundary stakeholder workshops implemented. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Park Boundary identified and demarcated If selected: (see phase II in the text) 2. DPWM presence strengthened 3. Additional basic physical infrastructure and equipment provided where needed. 4. Biodiversity hotspots identified 5. Baseline data collected (turtles, dolphins, manatees) 6. Management plan updated and implemented with community participation

ACRONYMS

AATG	Action Aid, The Gambia
BBWR	Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
CFTC	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
CITES	Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species
CMEWG	Coastal and Marine Environment Working Group
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DAS	Department of Agricultural Services
DCC	Divisional Coordinating Committee
DCD	Department Community Development
DDC	Divisional Development Committee
DLS	department of Lands and Surveys
DOST&C	Department of State for Tourism and Culture
DOSTIE	Department of State for Trade, Industry and Employment
DPPH	Department of Physical planning and Housing
DPWM	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management
DWR	Dept. of Water Resources
EIS	Environment Information System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FIBA	Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin
GEAP	Gambia Environmental Action Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEPADG	Gunjur Environment Protection and Development Group
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GOTG	Government of The Gambia
IBA	Important Bird Areas
IDA	International Development Agency
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KUDU	
KWNP	Kiang West National Park
LADEP	Lowland Agricultural Development Project
MDFT	Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Team
MSP	Medium-Size project
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEA	National Environment Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNP	Niumi National Park
NRM	Natural Resources Management
OP	Operational Policy
PDF	Project Development Funds
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal

PSC	Project Steering Committee
RFCIP	Rural Finance and Community Initiatives Project
SPA	Strategy for Poverty Alleviation
SWMU	Soil and Water Management Unit
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWC	Tanbi Wetland Complex
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
VMC	Village Management Committee
WABSA	West African Bird Study Association
WAF CET	West African Cetacean Project
WAFRINET	
WI	Wetland International
WWF	World-Wide Fund for Nature

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C/o

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Department of State for Fisheries,
Natural Resources and The
Environment
State House, Banjul
The Gambia

Friday 2nd March 2001

FOR THE ATTENTION OF YVES PROVOLT

202-473-8185

SUBJECT: GEF PROPOSAL FROM THE GAMBIA

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NEA/ADM130/01/PART X/(49)

1st March 2001

LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT FOR THE PROPOSAL ON INTEGRATED COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT (GM-PO64891) SUBMITTED BY THE GAMBIAN DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT FOR GEF CONSIDERATION

Please refer to the proposal indicated above being requested by the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management of The Gambia for which GEF funding is being sought. The Gambia wishes to endorse this proposal as it is in line with the development objectives of the country as spelt out in the principal environmental policy document, Gambia Environment Action Plan (GEAP) adopted by the government in 1993.

The request is also in line with the development objectives of the sectoral departments within the Department of State for Natural Resources (Forestry, Fisheries, Parks and Wildlife Management, and Water Resources) and other stakeholders in the Department of State for Agriculture and Tourism, and the Dept of Lands and Surveys. On behalf of all these and other stakeholders in the country we further wish to indicate our willingness to participate in the implementation of the project to ensure its successful implementation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Momodou A. Cham
Executive Director and GEF National Focal Point