



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: THE GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Conservation of critical wetland PAs and linked landscapes		
Country (ies):	Viet Nam	GEF Project ID:	4760
GEF Agency (ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4537
Other Executing Partner(s):	MONRE	Submission Date:	30 November 2011
		Resubmission Date:	20 December 2011
		Resubmission Date:	5 January 2012
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration:	48 months
Name of parent program	N/A	Agency Fee:	318,029

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Indicative Financing from GEF	Indicative Co Financing (\$)
BD1: Improve Sustainability of PA Systems	1.1 Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	1. Two new protected areas and coverage at least 31,000 ha of unprotected ecosystems.	1,527,634	6,500,000
	1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management.	3. Sustainable financing plans for two protected areas and two landscapes linked with the new PAs	500,000	3,390,000
BD2: Objective 2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors	2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation.	2. National and sub-national land-use plans (number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation.	1,000,000	4,000,000
Project management cost			152,653	735,000
Total project costs			3,180,287	14,625,000

PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To establish new wetland protected areas and to create capacities for their effective management to mitigate existing and emerging threats from connected landscapes					
Project Component	TA/ INV	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative Financing from GEF (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing (\$)
1. Establishment of new wetland PAs and relevant systemic capacities for their effective management	INV	1. At least 2 new wetland PAs in different landscapes established, bringing at least 31,000ha under effective protection to address bio-geographic gaps in the national PA system ¹ to include currently under-represented wetland ecosystems - at Tam Giang- Cau Hai lagoon in Hue Province (22,000ha) and tentatively another one at Pa Khoang Lake area with (9,000 ha). Strengthened PA functions: planning, patrolling and enforcement, monitoring, community relations and conflict management to deliver (i) increased PA management effectiveness, as measured by	1.1 <u>Policy and regulatory framework tailored for PA wetlands</u> , that includes (1) an updated national wetland strategy and action plan presenting the status of wetlands, their representation in PA network and a strategy to fill gaps in protection (2) updated Decree on Conservation and Sustainable Development of Wetlands that clarifies (i) wetland PAs categorization according to types, level of protection and management objectives (ii) monitoring standards, roles and process (iii) management responsibilities from national to	500,000	4,800,000

¹ Vietnam Environment Monitor, 2005

		<p>METT scorecards</p> <p>(ii) reduction in direct threats to wetland PA sites measured by no net loss of wetlands within PAs, and a reduction of overharvesting of wild resources such as fish, reeds and trees iii) PA's ecological integrity maintained through mitigation of threats from linked landscapes (through actions in Component 2 of this project that will promote effective linked landscape management)</p> <p>2. Increased biodiversity status at sites as shown by increases in key indicator species including endemic fish species - <i>Cyprinus centralis</i> at Tam Giang- Cau Hai lagoon and of endemic plant species <i>Crotalaria annamensis</i> at Pa Khoang Lake area.</p> <p>3. Enhanced capacities of MONRE to effectively support wetland PAs (tracked by increases in UNDP Capacity Scorecards)</p>	<p>local levels, including community based natural resource management(iv) financing mechanisms</p> <p>1.2 <u>Strengthened Wetland PA System's administration capacity</u>; MONRE staff development for national wetland PA system administration nationally (monitoring; planning and enforcement oversight on wetlands)</p>		
			<p>1.3 <u>Government gazetting of at least 2 new wetland PA</u>– including boundary demarcation, provision for public consultation and CBNRM; determination of governance arrangements, zoning and community use rights for different zones</p> <p>1.4 <u>Emplacement of PA functions</u> at two sites to address threats, including: (i) PA management plans and business plans; biodiversity monitoring systems and enforcement (iii) clarified roles, responsibilities and rights of provincial and local authorities, communities (including CBNRM) and the private sector in management (iv) Brokerage of annual budgetary appropriations to underwrite the costs of PA functions at the new sites (staff/ equipment, infrastructure and maintenance) from government budgets and other sources</p>	1,527,634	5,090,000
2 Integrity of wetland PAs are secured within the wider wetland connected landscapes	INV	<p>1. Framework in place for landscape management to address indirect threats to PA emerging from outside the PA, that affect the integrity of the wetland PA such as water use for agriculture, pollution and overfishing (outside the core PA) so as to maintain ecological integrity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 200,000 ha (additional to new PA) of multiple land-use area in Tam Giang- Cau Hai Lagoon and Pa Khoang Lake area (linked to new PA established as noted in Component 1) effectively managed to reduce threats from over-fishing at both sites as well as from inappropriate land/infrastructure development in the area 	<p>1.1 <u>Land use governance and planning framework</u> Local government's land use and development plans for areas around PA adjusted to include specific standards and practices i) e.g. through vegetation cover maintenance and pollution control;(ii) formal coordination mechanism and agreements established with relevant provincial government agencies to ensure the implementation of plans (iii) critical habitats in landscape outside the PA important for biodiversity inside PA (such as fish spawning grounds, bird nest colonies etc.) identified, and threats and pressures to them – such as hunting, egg collection,</p>	1,000,000	4,000,000

			and overfishing mitigated through CBNRM 1.2 Sustainable livelihood activities supported (modification or alternatives) to enhance conservation friendly livelihoods (i) incentives/ disincentives in place to practice sustainable agriculture and fisheries management (ii) community capacity programmes for planning, implementation and monitoring of landscape health –including mitigation of pollution and tourism impacts		
Project management cost ²				152,653	735000
Total project costs				3,180,287	14,625,000

B. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	MONRE (ISPONRE, VEA)	Grant	5,000,000
National Government	MONRE (ISPONRE, VEA)	In kind	3,000,000
NGOs		Grant	625,000
Universities/Research Institute		In-kind	500,000
Local Government		Grant	4,500,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	1,000,000
			14,625,000

C. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA (S) AND COUNTRY (IES) 1

GEF AGENCY	TYPE OF TRUST FUND	FOCAL AREA	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF	Biodiversity	Viet Nam	3,180,287	318,029	3,498,317
Total				3,180,287	318,029	3,498,317

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1 THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:

1. Vietnam has established an extensive national system of protected areas to conserve its biodiversity assets. This project will strengthen the national PA system by addressing specific bio-geographic gaps in wetlands coverage and will overcome deficiencies in wetlands PA management. It will strengthen the PA system by tailoring policy and regulatory frameworks for the specific characteristics of wetlands and by putting in place a sub-system administration for wetland PAs. A diverse array of wetland types comprise 30% of its national territory: at least 39 of 42 defined by the Ramsar Convention are found here. These are extraordinarily biodiversity rich ecosystems also provide essential services for local livelihoods and for national development. This project has been designed to engineer a paradigm shift to manage wetland PA sites and activities in the immediate landscapes to address both direct threats to biodiversity at the wetland sites, and those emanating from the landscape. This is because, wetland PAs, compared to other terrestrial PAs, are more likely to be impacted from activities outside their borders (such as through water abstraction and pollution), which can undermine ecosystem functions vital to the PAs. It will also establish two new protected areas covering globally important wetland sites and ensure their management is effectively embedded into sustainable management of linked landscapes. In doing so the project is consistent with Biodiversity Focal Area Objective 1

² Same as footnote #3

“Improve Sustainability of PA Systems” and Outcome 1.1: “Improved management effectiveness of (existing and) new protected areas”. The project will also institute mechanisms for sustainable financing of these protected areas, thereby directly contributing to Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management and Output 3: Sustainable financing plans. The project’s work on Component 2 also fits BD2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors as the project is supporting the integration of biodiversity considerations into land use management in critical landscapes linked to wetland protected areas through Component 2– which fits with BD Outcome 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation and Output 2: National and sub-national land-use plans (number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation.

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

2. The Government of Viet Nam has identified conservation of wetlands a priority in its National Portfolio Formulation Exercise for the use of GEF5 STAR resources. Wetland conservation has also been noted as a priority due to the immeasurable social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits to the country – including water storage and replenishment, and for the sustenance of economically important inland fisheries. The importance of wetlands is recognised in the Biodiversity Law of 2009 that has explicitly called for the creation of wetland protected areas, and their management through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The project is clearly aligned with this Law and will pioneer the application of the associated Decree No. 65/2010/ND-CP on Guiding Implementation of the Biodiversity Law and Decree No. 109/2003/ND-CP on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Wetland Areas. **The Viet Nam NBSAP of 1994 has identified the need for wetland conservation and Tam Giang Hai as a priority wetland area for conservation. An additional new protected area sites are indicative and will be confirmed during full project preparation based on global importance.** Additionally, the project is also aligned with priorities identified in Viet Nam’s “National Action Plan on Biodiversity by 2010 and orientations towards 2020” – specifically “Increase the total area of wetlands and marine reserves of national and international importance” and “Develop, adopt and implement master plans on wetland and conservation plans for each wetland PA”. The project will also contribute significantly to the implementation of the Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Wetlands that is part of the National Strategy for Management of PAs System. This Action Plan calls for the development and updating of policy and legal framework and the conservation of wetlands of international importance. An evaluation of this plan’s implementation recommended the development of specific guidelines for local conservation planning and sustainable development of wetland areas. The project will contribute to this by focusing on tailoring the PA system framework for the specific challenges of wetlands management and by demonstrating wetlands PA operations that combine site specific and landscapes management to effectively mitigate threats to wetland biodiversity.

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

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

3. Viet Nam has total land area of 331,688 km² and it has marine territorial area along the 3,260 km coastline. Viet Nam is among the world’s ten most biologically diverse countries, holding some 10% of the world’s known species while covering less than 1% of global land area. This remarkable biodiversity is an expression of high variation in biogeography, climate, soils and topography. Viet Nam hosts six of WWF’s Ecoregion 200 – the Annamite Range Moist Forests; Indochina Dry Forests; Mekong River; Northern Indochina Subtropical Moist Forests; Southeast China-Hainan Moist Forests; and Xi Jiang Rivers and Streams. Wetlands comprise 30% of the total land area of Viet Nam - covering some 10 million hectares, which includes both natural and converted wetlands such as rice fields. Although the biodiversity of the wetlands in each region is very different, depending on their form and location, however in general Viet Nam’s wetlands can be broadly classed as *inland wetlands, coastal wetlands and estuarine wetlands*.

- (i) Inland wetlands include a diverse range of wetlands – such as rice fields, aquaculture ponds, rivers and streams, freshwater and saltwater lakes, peat land, swamps, mountain wetlands, geothermal wetlands, marshes, underground rivers and lakes in karst caves. More than 3,500 small reservoirs and 650 medium and large-size reservoirs exist in Vietnam. Rivers flowing to the sea have created a number of estuarial systems - one of the most important wetland types in Vietnam.
- (ii) Estuarine Wetlands have a variety of specialized species and migratory species and are significant sites for mangroves, salt marshes, sea grasses and algal beds. Of a total of 2,500 rivers in the country, 2,360 rivers have a length of more than 10 km. The Mekong River system has the largest discharge volume into the country, accounting for 61.4% of the total national runoff volume. The Mekong Delta and Red River Delta comprise about 41% of Vietnam’s wetlands. The Mekong Delta alone has a total area of approximately 3.9 million hectares, occupying about 12% of the country’s total area. It has up to 386 species of birds, as well as several

species of plankton, benthic fauna and fish. Red River Delta covers 229,762 ha, of which freshwater wetlands cover 103,373 ha; 125,389ha are saltwater wetlands; 22,487 ha of coastal wetlands and 102,482 ha of estuarine waters. They provide habitats for many migratory bird species such as the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*) and black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*).

- (iii) Coastal wetlands include tidal flats, lagoons, and marine areas with a depth not exceeding six metres at low tide. Mangrove forests and mudflats are concentrated mainly in deltas, estuaries and tidal areas. Lagoons are present mainly along the coastline of central Viet Nam, from Hue to Ninh Thuan. Coral reefs and sea grass beds are distributed in the coastal area of south-central Viet Nam. The total area of these lagoons is about 447.7 km². The biggest lagoon is the Tam Giang-Cau Hai system which is more than 67 km in length with an area of approximate 216 km².

4. This wide range of wetlands supports a wealth of species of high global significance of birds, and many endemic species. For example, the *Đồng Thấp Mườì* area (or “Plain of Reeds”) has 138 bird species belonging to 49 families are found here, accounting for 25% of the number of bird species in the whole country, including 16 globally threatened species. Of the 79 species of carp fish (Cyprinidae) found in the country, there is one endemic sub-family comprising 40 species and sub-species. Wetlands also host 39 endemic Crustacean species (particularly shrimps and crabs) and 4 endemic mollusc species. This impressive biodiversity wealth is being lost due to a number of threats such as:

- (iv) Conversion of wetlands to other land uses: particularly into agriculture, aquaculture, and forest plantations. For example, Viet Nam has lost at least 220,000 ha of mangrove forests since 1943 due to deforestation and aquaculture development. In southwestern Ca Mau, for example, after one year of conversion of mangrove forests into shrimp ponds, approximately 20 zoobenthos species were lost while bird species from Bac Lieu and Dam Doi have migrated to other areas. The IUCN Red List notes that globally Endangered white duck *Cairina scutulata* and Endangered *Lutra sumatrana* are both affected by wetland conversion.
- (v) Inappropriate infrastructure development: Several coastal wetlands, such as floodplains and lagoons, have been impacted by dyke building for flood prevention. Irrigational infrastructure, such as the Thao Long Barrage and the dike system in Phong Dien District, have impacted circulation of water and sediments, prevented aquatic species migration and has led to habitat loss and fragmentation. For example, some of the key threats to the endemic and critically endangered *Sewellia albisuera* include siltation caused by gold mining activities and dam construction. Increased lagoon privatisation with net enclosure for aquaculture have substantially obstructed water flow and is seen as a cause of declining fish catch in some of the wetlands – such as in Tam Giam-Cau Hai lagoon.
- (vi) Overharvesting of natural resources -including, over-fishing, hunting and collection of wetland plants. This has led to impacts on some globally threatened species. For example, globally threatened otters are hunted for illegal wildlife trade, and also for meat and medical use. Key threats to Southeast Asian Softshell Turtle *Amyda cartilaginea* and the endemic mollusc *Protunio messengeri* (globally endangered) also include their overexploitation.
- (vii) Pollution from agrochemicals, industrial and urban wastes is also a major issue for wetlands. A World Bank study³ on pollution in Viet Nam’s rivers found that industrial production, wastewater from mining and mineral sectors, even craft village, urban runoff and domestic wastewater contributed to pollution of rivers. Some globally important species affected by wetland pollution in Viet Nam include the critically endangered and endemic fish species *Schistura spiloptera* and the endemic globally endangered mollusc *Cristaria truncate*.
- (viii) Invasive alien species: spread of species such as *Mimosa Pigra* into the core zone of Tram Chim protected area, for example, is considered the most significant threat to the park’s biodiversity because it replaces the grassland vegetation which is habitat for the endangered Eastern Sarus crane *Grus antigone sharpie*—as well as the critically endangered Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*).
- (ix) Climate change impacts are expected to affect wetlands dramatically. Vietnam’s second national communication to the UNFCCC⁴ has noted that climate change scenarios for Viet Nam in the 21st century include projections of temperature rises, changes in rainfall patterns and amounts and sea-level rise. Given the overall changes in rainfall patterns in the river basin, annual flows of rivers in the North and Northern area are set to increase, but decrease in the rivers of the southern area. With rising sea level, the Mekong River Delta

³ [http://www-](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/07/26/000310607_20070726124200/Rendered/PDF/404180VN0Env0M19190001PUBLIC1optmzd.pdf)

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/07/26/000310607_20070726124200/Rendered/PDF/404180VN0Env0M19190001PUBLIC1optmzd.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/07/26/000310607_20070726124200/Rendered/PDF/404180VN0Env0M19190001PUBLIC1optmzd.pdf)

⁴ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/vnmnc02.pdf>

would be most impacted, with loss of much of the area. Sea-level rise may also lead to higher risks of saltwater intrusion of rivers and underground water resources, causing serious social and economic losses. Climate change is expected to have serious impacts on coastal ecosystems such as mangrove forests. By the year 2100, climate change is expected to lead to submersion of 168 km² of wetland area (aquaculture area).

5. In order to mitigate threats to nationally and globally important biodiversity, protected areas establishment has been a key mechanism in Viet Nam's to conserve biodiversity. Its PA System now covers 2.2 million hectares or around 7% of the terrestrial area, most of which are designated as "Special-use Forests". PAs are legally demarcated with agreed management structure, budget appropriation and staff, and they represent a key land-use governance structure to further biodiversity conservation in the country. The "Law on Biodiversity of 2009" has classified four types of PAs - National Park; Nature Reserves; Wildlife Reserves/Species Management Areas and Landscape Conservation Areas, which apply to all ecosystems. Currently 30 National Parks, 57 Nature Reserves, 39 landscape sites exist. All types of PA have the following functional zones: a strictly protected section; an ecological restoration section; a service-administrative section and buffer zones (that are generally recognised to be "*contiguous to but outside of*" the PA). A major gap in biodiversity conservation has been the poor representation of wetlands under the national PA system.

6. The current PA system is not insufficient to address loss of biodiversity in wetlands for two main reasons. Even though wetlands are included in several SUFs, given their focus on forest sites, representativeness of wetlands was not considered, and there are significant gaps in wetlands' representation in the national PA system. For example, only 18 of 64 identified nationally important wetlands are included in such PAs (SUFs). The second reason is that wetlands ecosystems are very dynamic with seasonal changes in water levels and species movements making management more complex. As wetland areas are often located in the lower reaches of river basins, upstream activities such as water abstraction for irrigation and agricultural fertilizer use also have impacts on them despite being at many miles away. Finally, many wetlands in Vietnam are characterised by high concentrations of people in the vicinity precisely because they provide such wealth of ecosystems services such as fisheries, on-timber forest products and water provision. Their activities such as fishing, hunting, and agriculture all pose risks to wetlands. There is thus an unmet need to expand the PA system to cover more wetlands and to ensure that the management framework addresses these specific wetland characteristics. Evaluation of the effectiveness of PAs in addressing threats to globally important biodiversity in Viet Nam has shown that they are relatively more effective than other land governance systems. However, past lessons from PAs show that their management arrangements are needed to address externalities –especially for wetlands conservation. This has been identified as an overarching gap in the country. The long term solution, therefore, is to include representative wetlands of global importance under Viet Nam's national system of protected areas and to effectively manage direct and indirect threats to them from the wider land use.

Baseline project:

7. Annually, the Central government of Viet Nam allocates 1% state budget for environmental management including wetland conservation. The total investment in protected areas in Viet Nam from the Central government is more than 21,000,000 US\$ per annum. Some of the major government investment related to wetlands currently includes a project on mangrove rehabilitation and development (2008-2015) amounting to 120 million USD in 29 coastal provinces and cities covering at least 320,000 ha. The government has also been undertaking river basin management at river basins of Cau River, Nhue-Day Rivers and Sai Gon - Dong Nai River, with budget up to 200 MUSD for each basin for the period 2010-2015. Additionally, several provincial governments are also investing in wetland conservation, such as at Xuan Thuy National Park, Tram Chim National Park, Lang Sen Nature Reserve, Nam Cat Tien National Park, and Ba Be National Park. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), through its work on protected areas conservation, also undertakes some wetland management work. Major conservation projects relevant to PA management are a partnership with GIZ and AuSAID on Climate Change and Coastal Ecosystems Programme in the Mekong Delta amounting to 37 MUSD. The project aims to address the environmental hazards faced by coastal ecosystems, and to develop provincial climate change adaptation plans to rehabilitate mangrove and coastal forests. Investments in wetland conservation, however, are considerably lower than development investments that impact on them. For example, overall investment in dam construction on rivers and hydropower development in Viet Nam estimated to 25-30 Billion USD. Additionally, average investment of irrigation schemes and drinking water supplies per year are estimated to be at least a hundred million USD.

Barriers to effective wetlands conservation in Vietnam

8. Baseline projects fall short of achieving the long-term solution. Despite the ongoing baseline of work on wetland conservation and sustainable use, several barriers still exist in their effective conservation:

Barrier 1: Critical wetland sites across the country remain outside legal protection and are under rapidly growing threat from other economic sectors that compete for land and water resources

9. Most of Vietnam's critical wetlands fall outside legal protection. In 1999, a rapid assessment nationally identified 68 wetlands as being of national and global importance. Of these, only 18 are included within Special Use Forests, which are considered protected areas in Viet Nam. Even for wetlands within SUFs, a major criticism has been that they are primarily managed for their forests and wetland management does not receive requisite inputs or attention. Additionally, the government has identified 16 critical wetlands under a plan entitled "Inland wetland Conservation system by 2020", following the decision No. 1479/QĐ-TTg dated October 12, 2008 signed by the Prime Minister, to fill the gaps in wetland representation under the national PA system. However, wetland PAs have not yet been gazetted. With rapidly developing economy and population, there is an urgency to create new PA sub-system on wetlands before they are heavily degraded or are converted to other landuse. Though several national policies, strategies and decrees exist for the creation and management for wetland PAs, they have not been adequate in setting management norms and standards to protect them. For example the Prime Ministerial Decree on Conservation and Sustainable Development of Wetlands (109/2003/NĐ – CP) signed on 23 September 2003 is only provides general guidance on the function of state management, without clarity of roles and responsibilities of all relevant sectors.

10. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) is the national designated lead agency for biodiversity conservation and, specifically, on wetland conservation. Its roles include - to identify globally important wetlands for nomination as Ramsar sites, to develop action plan for wetland conservation and sustainable use, to establish national wetlands' database; to develop criteria and monitoring mechanisms and to develop demonstrations on sustainable wetlands management. The Ministry's roles also include updating of policy/decrees on conservation and sustainable wetlands use. As MONRE was created in 2003, it is a relatively new Ministry, and its role as primary wetland agency was only clarified through the Biodiversity Law in 2009. Its capacities and institutional arrangements are slowly being built to support nationwide outreach to conserve wetlands. The current institutional and staff capacities within the Ministry are low relative to what is required: for example, there are few qualified staff with wetlands management experiences at the Ministry. In particular, MONRE needs to establish systems level wetland PA management functions (budgeting, financial administration; compliance monitoring of management norms and standards; and the like), which is currently lacking. It also has little practical experience of establishing new wetland PA.

11. Additional skill sets are required to develop strategic linkages at sub-national institutions (local governments, civil society and research organizations for example) to enable it to influence their actions. The Provincial and District "arms" of MONRE (PONRE and DONRE) have not essentially taken on the responsibilities to promote wetland conservation. There is a severe lack of direction and capacity at local levels on wetland conservation. Whilst at the national level the Ministry prepares policies, legislation and reporting to the National Assembly, local government at the Province and sub-provincial level (district) are expected to follow the directives from the Central government. However, the primarily local planning and budget allocation is decided by the local bodies, which do not prioritize conservation. Institutional capacities of designated national, provincial and local authorities for managing PAs are currently too low to promote or support effective wetland conservation. Moreover, mechanisms or incentives do not exist for encouraging local government and other non-governmental stakeholders (including research organisations, universities, NGOs and INGOs) to participate in issues related to wetland conservation.

Barrier 2: There are limited government and stakeholder capacities to ensure that site level conservation of critical wetlands are supported through wider landscape management for biodiversity

12. At the provincial and lower levels, knowledge and understanding on wetland conservation issues is poor, especially on national obligations towards international conventions. The management of landscape will include combination of community based natural resource management approach, as well as integrating biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors – led by the Provincial and District environmental units. Currently, local community involvement is limited in wetland conservation and no mechanisms exist to promote their participation in decision-making. Though all ecosystems are impacted from surrounding landuse and economic activities, wetlands are particularly susceptible to impacts from immediate surrounding landuse and from economic activities far upstream and downstream. Upstream pollution or overfishing in a river system, for example, can have significant impacts on wetland protected areas

downstream, as well as water extraction upstream and demands downstream can also have significant impacts. Therefore, most protected wetland systems need to be managed as a part of linked landscape and not just at site level. However, currently, legal arrangements do not fully account for such wetland specificities in wetland PA creation and management. As most wetland species migrate across the landscape for spawning and several globally important species also migrate across nations (birds), it will be necessary to also protect specific sites that may not be included in the protected areas– on a seasonal and more permanent basis. However, currently mechanisms are not in place to identify or to promote their management outside PAs across production landscapes. Local landuse policies and their enforcement do not account for their impacts on wetland sites and local businesses and communities do not have incentives to change their land management to reduce impacts on wetlands. For example, much of agro-chemicals get washed into wetlands, thereby increasing the nutrient loads in wetlands. Exotic fish that are farmed near globally important wetlands can escape into the wild and replace local species, causing irreparable damages.

B. 2. INCREMENTAL /ADDITIONAL COST REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL (GEF TRUST FUND) ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FOR GEF FINANCING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

13. Under the existing baseline scenario, globally important biodiversity within Viet Nam’s wetlands will become increasingly fragmented, degraded and threatened due to changes in land use, unsustainable levels of exploitation and pollution. Ecosystems will continue to be under-represented in Viet Nam’s wetland PAs system, while those currently protected under the existing terrestrial PAs system will not be given adequate management attention. Systemic weaknesses in capacity to establish and manage wetlands will mean that intervention by different agencies within government will continue to be uncoordinated and ineffective at both national and provincial levels. This project will support actions to overcome such barriers so that effective policies, capacities and practical experiences exist in Vietnam for the establishment and management of wetland protected areas. The GEF-funded alternative will precipitate a reverse in the decline of wetland ecosystems by planning a comprehensive system of wetland PAs that is representative of their biodiversity and are supported by appropriate legal/policy enabling environment. The project will build knowledge and capacity in wetland management, and demonstrate how wetlands can be effectively managed and sustainably resourced through community-based and effective partnership. The following two components will be implemented to overcome key barriers identified.

14. Under Component 1, the major thrust of the project support will be to strengthen MONRE’s capacities to lead the establishment and institutionalization of wetland protected areas management functions (planning, patrolling and enforcement, monitoring, community relations and conflict management) and sustainable financing of PAs at local and national levels. This will be complemented by updating of the most relevant wetland related national strategy and legal decree as well as testing of wetland PA establishment and management support to ensure that the Ministry has “hands on” experience to build its future institutional support structures oriented towards its nation-wide support. The project will help MONRE to establish at least two wetland PAs –one representing a lagoon system (Tam Giang- Cau Hai Lagoon in Hue Province) another one representing a lake system (tentatively Pa Khoang Lake and Muong Phang Landscape Protection area in Dien Bien Province) and a. These sites have been selected to reflect two different ecosystem types of wetlands in Viet Nam that are currently under-represented in national PA system and for their global environmental and for their ecosystem services, their global biodiversity values and local government receptivity for such PA creation. These proposed new protected area sites (particularly the Pa Khoang Lake) are indicative and will be confirmed during full project preparation, taking into account GEB, social feasibility and other parameters. The criteria for site selection are: biogeographic representation; global environmental significance; socio-economic feasibility, and socio-cultural diversity (sites selected in different socio cultural landscapes, to build experience working in different areas. Such establishment of new PA will not only require technical work on zonation, habitat management etc. at site level, but will also require partnership building with local governments, local communities, and the private sector. Both these sites are globally important areas for biodiversity and also for local livelihoods. The project will support the development of PA management plans and sustainable financing plans for these, with close participation of local communities (community based natural resources management), local governments, the private sector and academic institutions. The plans will fully account for predicted climate change impact on wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services. Threats from wider landscape beyond PAs will also be addressed, so that effective actions can be planned and implemented to mitigate their negative impacts. PA staff and stakeholder capacity building programme will also be launched. This work will form the basis on which the Ministry can expand its role in wetland conservation to other sites nationally.

15. Under Component 2, the project will work at two landscapes (linked to the wetlands, at the same locations the two wetland PA sites) to support plans, capacities and implementation arrangements for their management. Here the

“landscape” will be the areas that have direct physical or functional links with the wetland PAs. The project will support land use planning and emplacement of governance framework to address indirect threats to PAs emanating from the landscape, affecting the integrity of the wetland PA (such as addressing water abstraction for agriculture, pollution and overfishing etc.). Effectively, this landscape can be considered to be “buffer zone” for the wetland protected area. Within such landscape there may be a need to protect some critical habitats seasonally or for permanently (such as fish or bird migration or breeding areas). Such areas will be identified and actions put in place to effectively conserve them through CBNRM. The primary onus of effective landscape management will be on local communities and the local governments. Therefore, the project will ensure that local development plans and policies are consistent with wetland PA management plans and biodiversity conservation is factored into them. This will require effective coordination mechanisms between PA management authorities, local communities and other stakeholders and the project will help develop practical agreements, indicators and measures to monitor environmental status for this area through concerned provincial government agencies (DPI, GDLA and DONRE). Capacity needs and incentives will be identified and implemented to reduce negative impacts on wetlands from livelihood activities from wetland impacting communities and businesses, whilst not compromising community livelihoods. The project will ensure that there is increased awareness and engagement of local communities and the private sector in landscape conservation and that strong gender concerns are built into project activities. The main livelihood actions that are impacting biodiversity in the proposed wetland PAs include over-fishing (with increased number of fishing boats, which also contribute additionally to pollution) and intensive rice farming (which contributes to chemicals into the wetlands). The project will ensure that livelihoods enhancement and or modification are targeted and promoted at existing and emerging livelihoods that have direct negative impacts on the biodiversity values of the sites so as to ensure the direct linkages between project supported actions and biodiversity impacts. The project proposes to promote sustainable use of wetlands and of the wider landscape that will include establishing sustainable harvesting level, appropriate methods and management measures, institutionalization of community and government mechanisms to enforce such arrangements (set aside/ rotational fishing etc, use of appropriate net sizes) as well as ensuring effective monitoring mechanisms, safeguards and adaptive management based on the results of monitoring. Any additional livelihoods to compensate for income or benefits forgone as a result of sustainable resource management initiatives will be assessed with community involvement and using alternative income generation approaches such as eco tourism promotion etc. based on past experiences in Viet Nam and globally. The economic and social feasibility of such approaches will be further verified through participatory approaches during full project design phase. An economic assessment of sustainable use opportunities will be undertaken during the PPG phase.

16. The proposed approach of establishing a new PA sub-system on wetlands in Viet Nam is considered more effective, particularly cost-wise, and more sustainable than the alternatives considered. The alternatives included

- (x) *Primarily focusing on mainstreaming wetland values into local development:* As discussed earlier in the PIF, PA establishment is considered more effective for wetland conservation as it affords stronger legal protection against encroachment and/or conversion of wetlands. This mainstreaming only option was discarded because it needs more intensive conservation management to sustain wetland values, which can be more costly. However, the project does realize that it is necessary and cost effective to address threats at source outside the PA boundary—hence the project takes a combined approach linking management of the target sites and the landscape. Without addressing threats at the landscape level, biodiversity at the PAs would continue to be degraded or lost.
- (xi) *Primarily focus on strengthening PAs (SUFs) that already contain wetlands:* Whilst this is an important issue to be addressed, this approach would not address the concerns of current gaps in conservation of important wetlands. The overall PA strengthening is also being supported through another UNDP-GEF project and this would have duplicated the ongoing efforts.

17. The proposed choice is considered more sustainable than the two approaches described above. The project has been designed to ensure strong institutional, financial and socio-economic sustainability. Institutionally, the project will build on existing practice in Viet Nam of constituting PA Management Board at PA site level. Most local governments are familiar with such arrangement for SUFs and will be able to institute and operate such a mechanism for wetland PAs with minimal additional effort. For financial sustainability, this project will be strategically nested within GEF4 UNDP-GEF project which developing the national framework for PA financing and this in it—to ensure sustainability and to build programmatic synergies. Building on global best practices, the project will strengthen capacities of local governments, protected area management boards and other stakeholders to generate and effectively utilize resources for conservation efforts at wetland PAs though such business planning. Socioeconomic sustainability is a priority for

this project as most proposed wetland PAs has significant population dependent on wetland resources. Therefore, the project has built in strong participatory approach and local empowerment – as noted in Component 2 of the project.

18. The global biodiversity benefits of the project will arise from the establishment and effective management of two new wetland protected areas covering at least 31,000 ha and an additional improved management of multiple land-use landscapes (linked to wetland PAs) of at least 200,000 ha. The Tam Giang- Cau Hai Lagoon has at least 73 species of migratory and resident bird species, with congregations of over 20,000 migratory waterfowl during the winter months. Wetland habitats at the Tam Giang-Cau Hai lagoon complex can be classified into four groups: vegetated wetlands, which mainly comprise marshes; non-vegetated wetlands, which comprise mudflats and sand flats; permanently submerged wetlands, some of which support seagrass; and man-made wetlands, comprising aquaculture ponds. To date, 223 species of fish have been recorded in the lagoons, including one endemic species, *Cyprinus centrali*. Pa Khoang Lake and Muong Phang Landscape Protection area in Dien Bien Province, area is also known for his high biodiversity. The Pa Khoang and Muong Phang landscape also includes evergreen primary sub tropical forest, evergreen secondary sub tropical forest, grassland and shrubs, plantation and agricultural field. This has high diversity of species – such as 911 species of Magnoliophyta, 79 species of Polypodiophyta, 13 species of Pinophyta, 9 species of Lycopodiophyta. There are 4 endemic species of plants: *Crotalaria annamensis*, *Placolobium hoanense*, *Bauhinia ornata* and *Ligularia petelotii*. The area is also home to globally endangered *Manis pentadactyla* and several globally Vulnerable species including *Capricornis sumatraensis*, *Nycticebus pygmaeus* and *Ophiophagus hannah*. In terms of other global benefits-- the area is a rich repository of medicinal plants—with over 500 species of plants having known medicinal properties. Of the current proposed sites, both sites fall within the Indo-Burma hotspot as identified by Conservation International. The Pa Khoang Lake and Muong Phang landscape falls within the WWF’s Northern Indochina subtropical forests (IM0137) ecoregion. The northwest Viet Nam, where Pa Khoang is located, is also noted for its gymnosperm diversity. The Vietnam Environmental Monitor 2005 has noted the importance of the northwest of Viet Nam for mammal species diversity. It has also noted that the northwest mountains of Vietnam are especially rich in biodiversity of native landraces and their wild relatives for important crop groups such as rice, taro, tea, litchi-longan, citrus, and ride bean.

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

19. Wetland conservation will have direct socioeconomic benefits locally through enhanced provision of services such as conserving breeding grounds of economically important fish species, provision of water and other wetland products. Additional socioeconomic benefits will also be realized through the project’s work under Output 3.2 “Sustainable alternative livelihood activities supported” especially to reduce impacts of current livelihoods to move towards wetland friendly livelihoods. Social and economic feasibility of modifying existing and promoting alternative livelihoods and their likely impacts on achieving global biodiversity conservation will be assessed during project preparation and presented in full project document. Much of this will be enshrined through the establishment of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) initiatives, whereby management of resources is delegated by government to local community groups. Local livelihoods will also benefit from the introduction of novel income-generating activities, with skills training and other necessary support that may also alleviate pressures on existing natural resources. The socioeconomic benefits of the project will be fully quantified during the PPG implementation phase. The project will ensure that strong gender concerns are built into its actions, and a proper gender analysis will be undertaken during project preparation as well as in its review. The project will also ensure that there is strong involvement of indigenous communities and their traditional knowledge and beliefs are incorporated into management plans of protected areas and wider landscapes.

B.4 INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND PROPOSE MEASURES THAT ADDRESS THESE RISKS:

Risk	Level	Mitigation
Institutionalization of landscape level management will be hindered by complexity of institutional roles, and interests	Medium ➔ high	As many government, community and private sector institutions will be operating at the landscape level, their cooperation and coordination will be difficult especially when the project is focusing at first at a site level conservation effort (at a PA). Unless proper legal and institutional mechanisms are in place and incentives, this may not become sustainable in the long run. The project will ensure that there the coordination mechanism is built on current processes and that there are strong local incentives to work at landscape level.

Risk	Level	Mitigation
Local communities will not participate in wetland conservation because they fear this will lead to reduced access to use of natural resources.	Medium ➔ Low	The design, transparency and accountability through participatory management planning process will provide a means of addressing prejudices and genuine obstacles to protecting and sustainably managing natural resources. Wetland PAs will be zoned to provide for a variety of uses ranging from strict protection of biodiversity to its sustainable use based on conservation principles. Additionally, the project will develop strategies with local communities to address any benefits forgone as a result of PA creation.
Climate change impacts will impact wetland ecosystems significantly	Low (project period) ➔ Medium (longer term)	Wetlands are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts of rising temperature and changing patterns in the seasonal distribution of rainfall but these will not change significantly during the life of the project. Over the longer term, river water flows are expected to change significantly at different times of the year, particularly in dry seasons where water abstraction upstream (within Vietnam and also across international borders with neighbouring countries) is likely to impact on wetlands significantly. In general, knowledge gained and sustainable management practices introduced by the project are likely to prove more rather less adaptive with respect to climate change impacts.

B.5. IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES, AS APPLICABLE:

Stakeholder	Relevant roles You describe the stakeholders—but you don't describe their relevant roles. You need to.
Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment	MONRE is responsible for establishment and management of wetland PAs. Its operational arm is the Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA), established to 2008 to implement the Biodiversity Law. Its Institute of Natural Resources & Environment (ISPONRE) undertakes research and develops policy. It is due to develop a PES policy in 2011. MONRE is the lead executing agency for this project. Two of its constituent agencies will be leading this project implementation – ISPONRE and the Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA).
Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development	MARD is responsible for the establishment and management of terrestrial PAs, many of which encompass wetlands, and more recently marine PAs. Since at least 18 important wetland sites fall within Special Use Forests that are the responsibilities of this Ministry, their involvement in the project will be critical to ensure that new wetland sites build on past knowledge and experiences. MARD will be invited on the Project Board, and the project will work with relevant sub-national institutions linked to MARD at site level for effective landscape management.
Universities/Research Institutions	A number of universities/institutes have strong wetland research units, such as National University of Hanoi including its Centre for Natural Resources and environmental Studies (CRES), and University of Natural Science which is under Vietnam National University of Ho Chi Minh City, etc. Their roles will be important to provide past research information from project sites to ensure that management planning is based on local experience and scientific research. Relevant work may be contracted to such agencies.
Provincial authorities	Management of many national parks and other PAs is delegated to provincial agencies by MARD and MONRE. The two provinces that are proposed to work in this project directly will be Hue and Dien Bien Provinces. They will be lead agencies to implement Component 2 of this project.
Communes and local communities	Local communities will be participants and beneficiaries of the project through community based resource management agreements (CBNRM). Their involvement will be sought in both the management of new wetland PAs and wider landscape management. Appropriate sustainable harvesting zones will be identified to ensure that communities are not completely stopped from traditional use practices from wetlands. If such practices are not biodiversity friendly, alternatives will be identified with their full participation and agreements. The project will ensure that gender considerations and considerations on the traditional practices of any indigenous communities are also respected and are incorporated into management planning of protected areas and wider landscapes. The Pa Khoang area is particularly ethnically diverse – with mix of Tai Dam and other ethnic groups. As necessary such groups will be involved in project actions for both PA management and in landscape level conservation actions, including the use of traditional/ indigenous knowledge.

NGOs/ CSOs	At the local level in Tam Giang Hai lagoon, a number of local Fishery Associations exist, which had been active in several aspects of wetland management and conflict resolution. They will be actively involved in the project. Viet Nam also has social organisations such as Farmer Union, Woman Union, Youth Union, and Veteran Union at community level and their involvement will be sought for appropriate activities at both sites. If required, the project will also facilitate the establishment of relevant community groups to support conservation and sustainable livelihoods actions and ensure their participation in protected area management boards. The project will also build on good work being done in Vietnam by local and international NGOs on wetland conservation – such as by IUCN, Birdlife International and WWF on protected areas management and wetland conservation.
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B.6. OUTLINE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

20. The project has been designed to complement a number on ongoing national initiatives and to avoid duplication of activities. The project will directly complement the UNDP GEF project on “Removing Barriers Hindering PA Management Effectiveness in Vietnam”, which is working to strengthen management effectiveness and financing of existing protected areas. This new project, by expanding PAs – will in effect be a sister project of the ongoing project. Opportunities for sharing offices, staff and some capacity building actions will be identified and implemented. The value added of this project is the focus on strengthening the current state designated agencies for conservation of wetlands to establish a new system of wetland protection as well as new model of wetland management with strong community participation. This project will coordinate with ongoing biodiversity conservation initiatives. These include (ii) UNREDD programme in Vietnam; (iii) UNEP GEF project on Wildlife Consumption “Reforming Policies and Practices to Strengthen Biodiversity Conservation”; (iv) Finland project on “Mekong Water Dialogue Programme”; (v) GIZ projects on “Conserving biodiversity in forest ecosystems in Viet Nam”, “Conservation and Development of the Kien Giang Biosphere, “Management of Natural Resources in the Coastal Zone of Soc Trang Province”, and “Sustainable Management of Coastal Forest Ecosystems in Bac Lieu Province”. Coordination with the GIZ projects will be mainly implemented in the direction of strengthening institutional competences and capacities for protecting and conserving biodiversity in mangrove ecosystems and preparation and testing of different technique in more robust local and grassroots community involvement in sustainable management and wise use of mangroves, biosphere including wetlands. Whereas, coordination with UNEP will be mainly in the area of policy reformulation in which wildlife consumption could be an aspect of wetland related policies. With the Finland supported project, the coordination will focus on exchange information of wetland management in the context of regional management of watershed. Main efforts in the coordination with Japanese project will focus on preparation and reformulation of the biodiversity data base system of PAs including Wetland PAs.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

21. In Vietnam, UNDP has been one of the leading government partners in biodiversity conservation and PA management. UNDP has an acknowledged comparative advantage for capacity building and technical assistance in the field of environmental management. UNDP has done considerable work to integrate effective PA management agenda into the development agenda. In line with UNDP’s mandate as chair of the UNDG, it plays a key role in leveraging of resources from a range of funding sources for Viet Nam. The project has been designed on experience and lessons from past UNDP PAs/wetland related projects, notably, UNDP-GEF Mekong River Basin Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Program (2004 - 2009); Vietnam PARC - Creating PAs for Resources Conservation (PARC) in Vietnam Using a Landscape Ecology Approach (1999 - 2004); and UNDP-GEF Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Marine Resources at Con Dao National Park (2006 - 2010). UNDP has teamed with various organizations to promote biodiversity and wetlands conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem preservation and environmental education in Viet Nam. UNDP’s comparative advantage lies in its capacity to broker funds from national and international sources to assist countries meeting their environmental finance needs. UNDP is also a global leader in promoting protected area establishment through its signature work on PA establishment, management and financing support and fully complies with the comparative advantages matrix approved by the GEF Council.

C.1 INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT THE GEF AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT

22. UNDP will provide cash contribution of US\$ 1,000,000 from as co-finance for this project. Additional UNDP support will also be provided through its relevant broader programmes on disaster risk management, poverty and governance portfolio. Additionally, UNDP expects to broker an additional 3 million US\$ dollars from different donors for this project –which will be confirmed during the project preparation phase.

C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO THE GEF AGENCY’S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:


23. The project fits to UNDAF Outcome 1 “Government Economic support growth that is more equitable, inclusive and sustainable” and UN One Plan outcome 3 “Vietnam has adequate policies and capacities for environmental protection and the rational management of natural resources and cultural heritage for poverty reduction, economic growth and improving the quality of life”. It contributes to the achievement of the UN OP output 3.2 “Environmental strategies, policies, plans and regulations developed with broad participation of local people and stakeholders and in line with international environmental conventions” and UN Output 3.6: “Local initiatives supported to promote the sustainable use of natural resources”. More specifically the project directly contributes to achievement of the following results: OPI 3.2.1 (UNDP 3.2.3) - Strengthened formulation of strategies priorities, policies and regulatory instruments that encourage environmental protection and sustainable natural resource management, specifically to deal with biodiversity, desertification, and clean technologies. (national and local levels)”; OPI 3.4.1 (UNDP 3.3.4) - Technical capacities improved in prioritized topical areas to support sustainable management of natural resources (national and local levels); and [OPI 3.4.3] (UNDP 3.5.2) - PA management, including in World Heritage sites and Biosphere reserves, strengthened and building local capacities (local level). Regarding staff capacity, the Vietnam UNDP Country Office under the Sustainable Development Cluster Unit (SDC) presently has 7 National Professional staff, 3 Programme Associates and 5 International technical advisors directly responsible for the overall management and supervision of environment related projects. From the programme side the project will be under the overall supervision of the Deputy Country Director and Head of the Sustainable Development Cluster. All Professional staff have at least a Masters Degree in Environmental management, sustainable development or in related areas and have experience in project management not only with UNDP but with various international donors or NGOs. Implementation support on Human Resources, Procurement and Finance will be provided by respective units under the UNDP Country Office. UNDP Regional Office and Headquarter will provide technical support.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	MM/DD/YYYY
Dr. Nguyen Van Tai	GEF Operational Focal Point Director General, ISPONRE	Ministry Of Natural Resource and Environment	11/30/2011

B. GEF AGENCY (IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/DD/YY)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Yannick Glemarec, UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator		5 January 2012	Sameer Karki. EBD	+662 304 9100 Ext. 2729	Sameer.karki@undp.org