

**INITIATION PLAN
FOR A GEF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)**

Country Venezuela

UNDAF Outcome(s)/Indicator(s): Management of the environmental quality of the ecosystems and

Expected Outcome(s)/Indicator (s): Conservation of biodiversity – management systems of

Expected Output(s)/Indicator(s): Financial and Operational sustainability in protected areas

Programme Period: 2008-2009
 Programme Component: Environment and Sustainable Development
 PPG Title: Strengthening the marine and coastal protected areas system in Venezuela
 ATLAS Project ID: 69817
 PIMS Project ID: 4191
 Duration: 13 months
 Management Arrangement: DEX

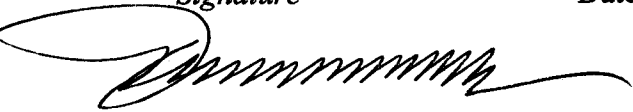
Total budget:	\$ 100.000
Allocated resources:	
GEF	\$ 100.000
In kind contributions	\$ 200.000
UNDP	\$ 100.000
Government:	\$ 100.000

AGREED BY UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE / UNDP DIRECTOR:

Signature

Date: 12 / 02 /09

David McLachlan-Karr



Brief Description of Initiation Plan

The purpose of this project preparatory grant (PPG) is to prepare a full sized project, entitled “Strengthening the marine and coastal protected areas system in Venezuela”. The PPG objective is to design and start initial implementation of an efficient operational and financial framework to ensure long term sustainability of key protected areas (PAs) across the country. This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

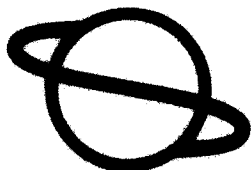
1. Enhanced institutional framework and operational capacities developed to efficiently manage Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPA),
2. Increased coverage of priority ecosystems by MCPAs.
3. The SMPA is supported by a sustainable financial system and increased revenues.

The PPG will start in May 2009 and last until the end of June 2010. The major output of the PPG will be the development of a full-size project document, which will be attained through implementing the three activities defined above.

The work under the PPG will be conducted by a team of national and international consultants (a Biodiversity Expert in Marine Biology, one expert in Legal and Institutional Policy , one specialist in protected areas, one socio economist Analysis expert, a consultant for Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement, and a consultant in Biodiversity specialized for environmental M&E) hired and supervised by UNDP Venezuela and funded by GEF.

During the first month of the PPG, UNDP – Ven Programme Analyst and the MINAMB- POA Coordinator will develop detailed terms of reference for the team consultants, based on the PPG request document. Afterwards, an advertisement and recruitment process will be conducted and the work will be undertaken by the selected experts in accordance with the agreed time schedule. In addition, MINAMB – POA and UNDP will provide in –kind contributions to the PPG in the form of ensuring access to necessary expertise, documents and facilities. MINAMB –POA will provide a team of local employees to assist the elaboration of the PPG. At the end of the PPG, UNDP together with the MINAMB-POA will work on the compilation of all materials, drafting of full sized project proposal and submission of the project document to GEF

GEF PPG approved grant document and TBWP



GEF

**REQUEST FOR PROJECT PREPARATION
GRANT**

**PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZE PROJECT
THE GEF TRUST FUND**

Submission date: December 23, 2008

Re-submission date:

GEFSEC PROJECT ID:

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 4191

COUNTRY: Venezuela

PROJECT TITLE: Strengthening the marine and coastal protected areas system in Venezuela

GEF AGENCY: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Popular Power Ministry for the Environment

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM: SO1, SP2

NAME OF PARENT/PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: NA

A. PROJECT PREPARATION TIMEFRAME

Start date	May 2009
Completion date	June 2010

B. PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES (\$)

The PPG process will include the implementation of the following activities:

1. Baseline data collection, information gap analysis and definition of conservation targets :

The PPG will finance preliminary analyses that will identify major root causes of threats to biodiversity, the extent of ecosystem coverage by Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs), and other biophysical and socio-economic data in Venezuela. In particular, the following information will be collected:

- Detailed assessment of existing threats to marine and coastal biodiversity, and their underlying root causes.
- Details on ecosystem coverage by existing and proposed MCPAs (differentiating between “theoretical” coverage in MCPAs that are not currently operational and “actual” coverage in MCPAs that are operational).
- Analysis of the effectiveness of existing protective and monitoring measures by MCPAs.
- The state of ecosystems and biological resources in the region; an inventory of existing information sources and biophysical and socio-economic data compilation (including satellite imagery and technical data analysis) used to develop bio-physical indicators for the project.
- Priority gaps in marine and coastal ecosystem coverage and Biodiversity (BD) protection identified, based on a vulnerability analysis (risks, exposure, and resilience)
- Development of maps of the location/distribution of selected species and threats using GIS
- Proposal for improved conservation targets including the quantification of biological and population variables (abundance, distribution and habitat requirements) and elaboration of a proposal for how the project should address the expansion of actual MCPA coverage
- Analysis of local, national, and global environmental benefits.

- Key site-specific project indicators.
- Strategy for monitoring BD benefits and efficiency of ecosystem preservation.
- Evaluation of how partner institutions account for biodiversity impacts and benefits in respective decision-making and project implementation.

2. Institutional and operational capacity assessment for effective management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs)

The PPG will finance activities to collect and analyze information on the existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and capacities for MCPA management in Venezuela, including the following elements:

- Assessment of the existing institutional framework, including cooperation and management arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and drafting of enhancement proposals.
- Identification and analysis of the engagement of various national and regional stakeholders (government institutions, fishing and tourism industries, civil society institutions, academic institutions) in project scoping and design.
- Analysis of existing programs to strengthen the technical and operational management capacities of involved actors.
- Assessment and customization of stakeholder capacities for participating in MCPA management;
- Development of proposal for capacity building and awareness raising measures, yielding
 - stakeholder matrix;
 - stakeholder involvement plan; and
 - stakeholder capacity building plan to address identified gaps and needs.
- Establishment of a framework of measurable indicators for Venezuela's MCPAs, including BD and ecosystem monitoring, based on key information from the UNDP-GEF Capacity Development Scorecard, the UNDP Financial Sustainability Scorecard, and GEF SO1 Tracking Tools for selected MCPAs.
- Analysis of successful institutional models and best practices from past and on-going PA projects.
- Drafting of proposed institutional arrangements for an effective replication strategy

3. Enabling conditions for a sustainable financial system

The following activities will be conducted:

- Diagnosis of MCPA's current financial situation and drafting of proposal to improve its sustainability. Specific issues to be addressed include current and projected management costs and financial sources; anticipated financial gaps, existing revenue allocation mechanisms and evaluation of current business plans. This information will constitute the baseline for defining the possible financial strategies to be promoted by the project.
- Analysis of cost effectiveness to identify the most effective project alternatives. This will include an analysis of the current legislation related to different payment/revenue generating schemes; an estimation of the cost-effectiveness of different proposed revenue generating schemes as well as the identification of the possible strategies for the allocation of the proposed financial to the MCPAs.
- Development of socio-economic indicators for the project, utilizing information from an evaluation of social and economic development trends in the region, particularly with regards to the projected growth of coastal tourism.
- Costing of project outcomes, outputs, and activities, and comparative costing of alternatives.
- Analysis of social, institutional, economic and financial sustainability of proposed project activities;

4. Monitoring and evaluation strategy

The PPG will evaluate the robustness and effectiveness of current monitoring and evaluation systems (both government and non-government) as the basis for proactive adaptive management strategies to track project impacts and measure BD conservation trends over the long-term. In particular activities will include:

- Evaluation of current M&E systems used by Ministry of Environment, Instituto Oceanografico; PDVSA; NGOs and others' to measure impacts on BD in MCPA; ii) Development of key site-specific project indicators and monitoring strategy of BD benefits;
- Evaluation of how partner institutions account for biodiversity impacts and benefits in decision-making and project implementation;
- Validation of the set of outcomes, outputs and activities based on a logical framework analysis, and the analysis of the thematic studies including indicators and quantified targets;
- Formulation of project M&E plan, including baseline analysis; indicators; methodologies and targets to track project progress and effectiveness
- Development of a cost-effectiveness analysis protocol to identify optimal interventions and assess lessons learned;
- Establishment of a learning and replication strategy.

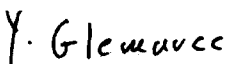
List project preparation activities	GEF Grant	Co-financing	Total
Baseline data collection and information gap analysis	30,000	35,000	65,000
Capacity assessment for management of MCPA	20,000	30,000	50,000
Financial assessment for management of MCPA	25,000	15,000	40,000
Monitoring and evaluation strategy	25,000	20,000	45,000
Total project preparation financing	100,000	100,000	200,000

C. PPG BUDGET REQUESTING FINANCE BY GEF

Cost Items	Total Estimated Person Weeks (PW)	GEF (\$)	Co-financing (\$)	Total (\$)
Local consultants*	44	41,600	30,000	71,600
International consultants*	12	36,000	0	36,000
Activity coordination		0	40,000	40,000
Miscellaneous		10,000	20,000	30,000
Travel		12,400	10,000	22,400
Total PPG Budget		100,000	100,000	200,000

* Additional information regarding consultants is provided in Annex A.

D. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.	
 Yannick Glemarec GEF Executive Coordinator, UNDP	Lyes Ferroukhi Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP/GEF
Date: December 23, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Telephone: +507-302-4576 ▪ E-mail: lyes.ferroukhi@undp.org

Annex A

Consultants Financed by the Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Position Titles	\$/ Person Week	Estimated PWs	Tasks to be performed
Local			
Biodiversity Expert/Marine biologist	1000	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analyze information on the state of coastal and marine biodiversity (using existing information sources); ▪ Compile information on the existing protected areas and their coverage of globally significant biodiversity in the region; ▪ Identify priority areas for MCPA extension, and priority BD to protect; ▪ Propose a system to monitor and assess the impact of MCPA on global important BD and ecosystem; ; ▪ Provide recommendations for FSP activities; ▪ Propose a set of BD impact indicators for selected key species that can be monitored during project implementation ▪ Define baseline values and targets for selected species ▪ Evaluate cost, cost effectiveness and sustainability of proposed activities. ▪ Develop location/distribution maps; threats maps and databases for key coastal and marine species in new MCPA proposed
Policy, Legal and Institutional Expert	800	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collect and analyze information on existing policy, legal and regulatory framework for MCPA management in Cuba; ▪ Identify deficiencies in the policy and legal framework and their application; ▪ Describe and assess existing institutional framework; ▪ Identify institutional capacity gaps and needs for MCPA management and expansion; ▪ Assess coordination mechanism and involvement of actors and propose a coordination system; ▪ Provide recommendations on institutional capacity building for effective implementation of MCPA management; ▪ Provide recommendations for FSP activities; ▪ Propose a set of institutional, legal and capacity indicators for the FSP; ▪ Evaluate cost, cost effectiveness and sustainability of proposed activities.
PA finance expert/economist	1000	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estimate economic value of protected BD in selected areas ▪ Assess MCPAs' financial status. ▪ Determine implementation costs, financial needs, and revenue allocation mechanisms and limitations for the MCPAs' management plans based on conservation goals. ▪ Identify new potential income sources for the management of MCPAs and estimate the cost-effectiveness of different proposed revenue generating schemes. Particular attention will be put on tapping into productive sectors such as tourism ▪ Analyze the current legislation related to different payment/revenue generating schemes; ▪ Identify potential socio –economic indicators for the project ▪ Propose the structure for the financial strategy of the project

Socio-economic Analysis Expert	1000	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess baseline information on social and economic development activities in and around MCPAs; ▪ Provide sectoral analysis of MCPA-related industries; ▪ Collect information on local livelihoods; ▪ Provide recommendations for MCPA financial sustainability; ▪ Propose a set of socio-economic indicators to be followed; ▪ Evaluate cost, cost effectiveness and sustainability of proposed activities.
Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Consultant	700	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct stakeholder analysis for MCPA management, in coordination with national PA system; ▪ Identify capacity barriers and capacity building needs (for all the stakeholders involved); ▪ Identify opportunities for public-private partnerships, and opportunities and ways to involve civil society in MCPA management; ▪ Develop stakeholder participation and engagement plans for the FSP; ▪ Evaluate cost, cost effectiveness and sustainability of proposed activities.
International			
Environmental M&E specialist on Biodiversity	3,000	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on the baseline information collected by local experts, identify specific opportunities and constraints for implementing efficient management procedures and ensuring financial sustainability of MCPAs; ▪ Integrate international best practices into FSP design; ▪ Assess technical feasibility of recommended activities; ▪ Assess cost-effectiveness and incremental steps of proposed FSP activities; ▪ Assess sustainability of proposed FSP activities and provide recommendations for ensuring sustainability of project outcomes; ▪ Provide recommendations for capacity building and stakeholder engagement activities planned for the FSP; ▪ Define full project logical framework and a set of logframe indicators. ▪ Provide overall orientation to PPG team in relation to GEF logic and information requirements ▪ Develop incremental cost matrices ▪ Develop an M&E plan including baseline analysis, project indicators, methodologies and protocols for the collection and systematization of the information