



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Sustainable Management Models for Local Government Organisations to Enhance Biodiversity Protection and Utilization in Selected Eco-regions of Thailand		
Country(ies):	Thailand	GEF Project ID:	TBD
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5271
Other Executing Partner(s):	Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office, Government of Thailand	Submission Date:	March 7, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	48 months
Name of parent program (if applicable):		Project Agency Fee (\$):	\$ 167,096
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> For SGP <input type="checkbox"/> For PPP <input type="checkbox"/> 			

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
BD-2	GEFTF	1,758,904	7,530,000
Total Project Cost		1,758,904	7,530,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into the performance management, development planning and budgeting systems of local government in Thailand

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
Enabling framework for LGOs to plan, monitor and adapt land management for BD conservation	TA	<p><i>Enabling policy framework in place for mainstreaming BD into development planning and budgeting</i></p> <p><i>Increased knowledge and skills of central, provincial and sub-district-level institutions to apply criteria to prevent/mitigate and offset impacts on biodiversity. UNDP capacity development Scorecard shows improvement in the indicators of 20% [Baseline and target to be determined in PPG stage]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGOs decisions on development projects and infrastructure placement incorporate the mitigation hierarchy if avoid-mitigate-offset impacts on biodiversity through (i) establishment of cooperation mechanism amongst tambon, provincial and national authorities for coordinating biodiversity mainstreaming into LGO's decision making; (ii) issuance of clear policy and guidance to LGOs on the integration of biodiversity concerns into Local development and land use plans; and (iii) capacity development of LGOs and national regulatory authorities on biodiversity mainstreaming into Local Land-Use and Development Plans Increased Management and Compliance Monitoring Capacity at LGO-level endured by (i) Biodiversity Health Indices of sites within two PAOs integrated into Performance Agreement with Department of Local Administration and efficacy of its use tested; (ii) guidance developed in incorporating biodiversity aspects into the Performance Agreement of Provincial Administrations with Department of Local Administration; and (iii) Capacity development of Department of Local 	GEFTF	600,000	3,000,000

			Administration and ONEP, as well as targeted LGOs, in monitoring and evaluation of Key Biodiversity criteria and its incorporation into Key Performance Indicators of LGOs			
Local government development programmes based on biodiversity mainstreaming principles are demonstrated in two pilot areas	TA	<p><i>Framework in place for landscape management to address threats to biodiversity that affect the integrity of targeted regions such as infrastructure development, agriculture, pollution and overfishing/harvesting</i></p> <p><i>Enhanced conservation security in the two target regions covering at least 89,000 ha as a result of mainstreaming biodiversity into land use and development planning for the following species¹:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asian Dowitcher (<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i> – Near Threatened²) Fairy Pitta (<i>Pitta nympha</i> – Vulnerable) Razor Clams (<i>Solen regularis</i> – economic value) <p><i>Local communities in two target areas capacitated to adjust their economic activities to meet the biodiversity standards</i></p> <p><i>Improvement in the biodiversity health of the Don Hoi Lot Ramsar Site and Bang Krachao indicated by the improvement of the Biodiversity Index³</i> [Baseline to be determined during the PPG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local development plans and strategies incorporate conservation values of Bang Krachao and Don Hoi Lot sites through: (i) development of a BD database for each of the sites to aid landscape modelling/planning and monitoring of impacts of BD and ecosystems; (ii) undertake Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)⁴ for the two sites to document causes or drivers of BD and ecosystem loss and provide recommendations to avoid such impacts; and (iii) development of Participatory Land/Coastal Management Plans for the areas and aligning the local development plans and action plans with these. LGOs' staff capacitated in compliance monitoring of PLCUMPs and in addressing non-compliance 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 Marketing, awareness raising and peer training programmes to encourage widespread adoption of biodiversity-based opportunities by other communities and entrepreneurs' in pilot sites Development of specific Biodiversity Health Indices for Bang Krachao and Don Hoi Lot sites and incorporating such as into Key Performance Indicators of their respective PAOs. 	GEFTF	999,004	3,845,455
Subtotal					1,599,004	6,845,455
Project Management Cost (PMC)				GEFTF	159,900	684,545
Total Project Costs					1,758,904	7,530,000

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

¹ These indicator species will be confirmed

² IUCN rated conservation status

³ Biodiversity health is reflected in the ability of a site to maintain its biodiversity values. These will vary significantly from site to site. The biodiversity index which is being developed for this project includes three components: (1) score of habitats suitability for important biodiversity; (2) status of important biodiversity (species welfare), and (3) socio-economical context (pressures on habitat and species from local communities, additional threats or stress from external developments, success of alternative livelihoods, etc.)

⁴ SEA is a systematic, on-going process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage of publicly accountable decision-making, the environmental quality, and consequence, of alternative visions and development intentions incorporated in policy, planning and programme initiatives, ensuring full integration of relevant biophysical, economic, social and political considerations (Partidario, 1999).

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office	Cash	3,500,000
Local Government	Local Government Organizations, Ministry of Interior	Cash	4,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash	30,000
Total Co-financing			7,530,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b) ²	Total (\$) c=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	Biodiversity	Thailand	1,758,904	167,096	1,926,000
Total Grant Resources				1,758,904	167,096	1,926,000

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

² Indicate fees related to this project.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

	<u>Amount</u> Requested (\$) _____	<u>Agency Fee</u> _____
	for PPG (\$) ⁶	
• No PPG required.	-- 0--	--0--
• (up to) \$50k for projects up to & including \$1 million	67,580	6,420
• (up to)\$100k for projects up to & including \$3 million	_____	_____
• (up to)\$150k for projects up to & including \$6 million	_____	_____
• (up to)\$200k for projects up to & including \$10 million	_____	_____
• (up to)\$300k for projects above \$10 million	_____	_____

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF PROJECT ONLY
N/A

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description.

Global environmental problems.

Thailand is a tropical country in South-East with a rich storehouse of globally-significant biodiversity. It is home of 12,000 vascular plant species, 302 species of mammals, and 982 species of birds. There are more than 2,100 marine and 720 freshwater fish species in the country, accounting for 10% of the estimated total fish species worldwide. The country is home to over 1,700 globally threatened species, including several Critically Endangered Species – including 13 mammal species, 43 bird species, 11 reptile species, 18 fish species, and 20 plant species. Thailand also has 7 endemic mammal species, 2 bird species, 47 reptile species, 7 amphibians, 72 fish species and 757 plant species. Nine per cent of all species known to science can be found in the country⁷. Significant portions of several WWF Ecoregions fall inside Thailand – including Northern Indochina Subtropical Moist Forests, Kayah-Karen/Tenasserim Moist Forests, Peninsular Malaysian Lowland and Mountain Forests, and Cardomom Mountains Moist Forests. The country has a network of Protected Areas encompassing a diverse selection of the country's biodiversity richness. However significant portions of the country's globally-significant biodiversity are inadequately represented within the PA network, and are found largely or entirely within production landscapes under the jurisdiction of local government organisations. This biodiversity exists within a mosaic of land uses, including agricultural production, human habitation, remnant forest and community areas, etc.

Threats:

Land development and inappropriate agricultural and forestry practices are the primary threats to the terrestrial biodiversity of production landscapes. Mangrove destruction, pollution and inappropriate fishing and shellfish harvesting practices are the

⁵ On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

⁷ Bugna, Sahlee and Giacomina Rambaldi, 2001. *A Review of the Protected Area System of Thailand*. Biodiversity. July – September 2001 pp 1-5.

corresponding threats in coastal waters. Over the decades, Thailand's economy has grown in terms of economic and urban development. Much of this growth has depended on rapid exploitation of its rich natural resource endowments, leading to substantial conversion of natural habitats and ecosystems. While this development (including building roads and transport infrastructure) plays a critical role in the attainment of higher living standards for many in Thailand, they can also fragment critical habitat, destroy natural assets and place critical natural resource systems in jeopardy by opening them up to illegal exploitation. Deforestation is a major consequence of this growth. In 1960 Thailand was almost 60% forested. By 2000, forest cover had dropped to below 30%. While there has been an increase in forest cover in recent years due to national reforestation initiatives, coverage is still below 40%. This forest loss was caused by increasing pressure on land, including infrastructure development, industrialization, and promotion of cash crops such as corn, sorghum, sugar cane and cassava. In the agricultural sector, the expansion of cash crops such as corn, sugar cane, pineapple and banana is associated with growing Chinese market as well as expansion of the domestic market for food products and animal food products. Rapid growth of industries such as pulp and paper production has also contributed to intensification of agriculture (e.g. eucalyptus plantations) in Thailand. Moreover, large-scale commercial agriculture including livestock development has placed significant constraints on water resources and watersheds. Use of agro-chemicals and their leakage into wetlands and marine environment are considered an important non-point pollution source in Thailand. The expansion and intensification of agriculture has placed enormous strain on ecosystem functioning and diminished the natural resource base and biodiversity. Marine overfishing/harvesting has significantly reduced numbers of targeted species and coastal aquaculture, particularly shrimp farms, has also brought mangrove forests under pressure.

The project will target two areas within important ecoregions:

Inner Gulf of Thailand Important Bird Area:

The IBA comprises a 195 km-long section of coastal zone of the Inner Gulf of Thailand. Four major rivers, the Mae Klong, Tha Chin, Chao Phraya and Bang Pakang discharge into the Gulf of Thailand along this stretch of coastline, creating extensive areas of intertidal habitats. The site includes an estimated 23,500 ha of intertidal mudflats, extending over 2 km from the shoreline at low tide in places. Previously, the Inner Gulf of Thailand supported a large area of mangroves. However this habitat has now been extensively converted to other land uses, and, currently, less than 1,600 hectares remain, much of which consists of regenerating *Avicennia*-dominated shrub. Areas that previously supported mangroves now support anthropogenic habitats, including at least 10,600 ha of saltpans and from 40,000 to 80,000 ha of shrimp ponds. Populations of the following IBA trigger species are present in the Inner Gulf of Thailand: Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*), Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*), Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultia*), Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), Common Redshank (*Tringa guttifer*), Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Spotted Redshank (*Tringa guttifer*), Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*), Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*) and Whiskered Tern (*Chidonias hybrida*). In 2001, an 87,500 ha section of the IBA around Don Hoi Lot in Samut Songkhram province was designated as a Ramsar Site⁸. **Don Hoi Lot** is a rare type of natural wetland for Thailand, comprising sandbars at the mouth of the Mae Klong river with a vast area of intertidal mudflats, an extremely productive location for the Hoi Lot (*Solen regularis*), an economically important mollusk unique to the area. It is characterised by dynamic coastal features of the Bight of Bangkok in the Gulf of Thailand, formed from river, and marine sediments, extending 8 km from the shore with a 1% slope. Mangroves are present along the shoreline on the east side. In addition to its 10 economically important molluscs species found here, the site is also important for tourism attracted to the natural environment, local identity, traditional fisheries and fishing technologies, seafoods and other fishery products. The site falls within 4 sub-districts, namely Laem Yai, Bang Jakreng, Bang Kaew and Klong Kone, all in Samut Songkhram Province. **Threats:** Development projects are perceived as a potential threat, and water pollution from upriver industries, urban and agricultural runoff present major problems as do encroachment of mangroves for aquaculture and tourist infrastructure. In addition to onshore activities, the mudflats are exploited for mollusks, and coastal waters support inshore fisheries for fishes, mollusks and crustacean, and plankton. The clams are of economic importance for the many seafood restaurants around the site. Due to a number of factors, including improper clam harvesting and changes in the environmental condition around the wetland, the local extinction of *Solen regularis* is feared without more effective management. Further, the extensive use of the mudflats during low tide for mollusks collection results in major disturbance to wading birds, among other the Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*) which overwinters in this region. Although no reclamations on any significant scale have taken place, mudflat reclamations have been proposed. A significant indirect threat is the high coastal erosion rates experienced in the Inner Gulf of Thailand. Responses to erosion include ad hoc mangrove plantings on mudflats (which may exacerbate the loss of stretches of shorebird feeding areas), and the construction of concrete sea-walls or boulder embankments on some stretches of shoreline, which may alter tidal flow patterns and worsen erosion on unprotected sections of coast, as well as have a negative effect on mudflat biodiversity.

Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests: Southeastern Asia: Thailand

This ecoregion consists of the freshwater swamp forests in the alluvial plains of the Chao Phraya River in Central Thailand. The Lower Central Plain extends inland from the Gulf of Thailand and encompasses the environs of Bangkok. The Lower Central Plain was formerly a vast area of natural and semi-natural swamps, well-watered throughout the year. However, the area was the focus of massive irrigation system developments in the early 20th Century, and current land-use is dominated by intensive rice cultivation, with only small remnant patches of wetland habitats and extensive agriculture, as well as the infrastructure development associated

⁸ <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=15111>

with Bangkok. Due to high human population density and levels of use, the area has been severely altered. Almost none of the original vegetation remains.

Bang Krachao is a wetland area, covering 6 sub-districts (tambons)⁹ with 11,819 rai (1,819 hectares) in Prapadaeng District, Samut Prakarn Province. It is considered the last of the remaining green belt of the Greater Bangkok Metropolitan Area and home to over 110 plant species, 40 bird species, 6 mammal species, 14 reptile species and 5 amphibian species. The area is surrounded by the Chao Phraya River as it flows in a 'u' shape. Due to tidal effects from nearby Gulf of Thailand, the banks of the 'island' consist mainly of mangrove and mangrove-associated species including *Sonneratia caseolaris*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *Thespesia populnea*, and *Acanthus ebacteatus*. The inner part of the island, with limited influence from seawater, is dominated by freshwater swamp forest. Dominant tree species of this type of forest are *Xanthophyllum lanceatum*, *Cretera magna*, *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, *Elaeocarpus hygrophilus*, *Minagyna diversifolia*, *Syzygium* spp., *Barringtonia aculargula* sp. *spicata*, *Erythrina variegata* and *Saraea indica*. The area is renowned for its birdlife and the following rare and endangered species are found: Pink-necked Green Pigeon (*Trenon vernans*), Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*), Greater Ratchet-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*), Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*), Laced Woodpecker (*Picus vittatus*), Malayan Night Heron (*Gorsachius melanophus*), Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*), Ruddy Kingfisher (*Halcyon coromanda*), Northern Boobook (*Ninox japonica*), Fairy Pitta (*Pitta nympha*), Yellow-rumped Flycatcher (*Ficedula zanthopygia*), Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*), Forest Wagtail (*Dendronathus indicus*) and Black Baza (*Aviceda leupholes*). The area has been spared rapid and uncontrolled development and industrialization synonymous with the larger Bangkok area. A local variety 'Nam Doc Mai'¹⁰ of mango (*Mangifera indica*) are grown in Bang Krachao commercially. The current land use of Bang Krachao is 30% natural forest, 45% agricultural farm land (mainly mango and coconut orchards), 15% residential area and the remaining reservoirs, grassland, cleared land and infrastructure. Bang Krachao was designated as a conserved green area in 1977 by Cabinet decision. Again, in 1991, the idea was initiated with Government's goal of acquiring 9,000 rai for conservation purposes. The government only manage to acquire 1,276 rai (10% of the area) of which 200 rai or 32 ha was used to establish the Sri Nakhon Kuenkhan Park. Currently the Royal Forestry Department is managing the park and other areas obtained for conservation purposes. A strict building code, which prohibits high-rise buildings and large factories, has contributed to the maintenance of Bang Krachao's "green" attributes. **Threats:** Rapid urbanisation and industrialization in surrounding area have resulted in labour migration into the area. This has resulted in the increase of area under residential area and other infrastructure from 7% in the 1967 to the present 25%. Creeping urbanization and land speculation have also greatly affected the area within the past couple of decades. There is also a gradual change towards more profitable and destructive agriculture (e.g. vegetables and flowers) which requires more intensive management and an increasing pesticide and herbicide load. Property prices have increased drastically the last few years with Bang Krachao becoming a popular tourist destination. Land speculation and tourism developments, especially on the river front, have become major threats to the conserving the integrity of biodiversity habitats in this area.

Institutions and policies:

Community involvement in Natural Resource Management (NRM) is enshrined in the 1997 Thai Constitution, which stipulates "the need for the participation of communities and local organizations in NRM as well as the right of indigenous people in management of NRs" (Article 46). Since the adoption of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand 1997, the state administration concentrated on the participatory administration and decentralization to the local administration. This was instituted in 1999 with the adoption of the Decentralization Act. This made the local administration the principle public service provider and ensured their participation in the development and problem solving in each locality. As a result of the decentralization process, local administration or local government organizations have been formed and are classified into 3 general forms: Provincial Administrative Organization (PAO – 75 units); Municipality (1,619 units) and the sub-district or Tambon Administration Organization (TAO – 6,157 units). Although the PAO is the higher tier of local government, it has limited authority over smaller local government units. The PAO's primary function is on supporting smaller local government over issues that cross the boundaries of these smaller local government units. The Provincial Administration is headed by a provincial governor and comprises provincial and district's officers of central government agencies, e.g. Finance, Industry, Commerce, Agriculture, Education, Health and Environment. Each local entity is governed by a local council and local chief executive; both of which are elected by local residents for a 4-year term. Further, the Decentralization Act stipulates that 35% of national revenue must be redistributed to local administration. At present local governments only receive approximately 25% of national revenues. TAOs and Municipalities receive this as a grant channeled through the Department of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior; however this funding is not enough for any meaningful development projects. PAOs access funds directly from the Bureau of Budget, and therefore TAOs and municipalities submit development project funding requests to the PAOs. The PAOs are thus the consolidator and implementer of the local government's development plans. In addition to the key role in planning public investment, the governor has delegated authority to approve and license many private investments, such as industry and agriculture with technical support from line ministries. The governor also controls the regulatory function of land use and physical development through the officials from the Public Works and Town and Country Planning. To request budget, provincial administrations must submit the provincial development plan and an annual performance plan to the Department of Local Administration (DOLA). In order to convince the DOLA, the development activities within the plan should take into consideration

⁹ Bang Kra Chao, Bang Gor Bua, Bang Yor, Bang Nam Pheung, Bang Krasorb and Zongkanong subdistricts

¹⁰ "Nam Doc Mai" is among the best dessert mangos of Thailand with an exceptional appearance and eating quality. The fruit are long, slender and sigmoid, weighing from 12 to 16 oz. The ripe fruit range from a greenish- to canary-yellow rarely with a reddish blush on the sun-exposed shoulder. The flesh is soft and juicy, with a sweet and aromatic flavor. 'Nam Doc Mai' has no fiber."

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/livingcollections/tropicalfruitprogram/Fairchilds17thAnnualInternationalMangoFestival/internationalmangofestival/>

the central government's policies and the balanced coverage of all dimensions of development. Once the plan receives the final approval of the cabinet, the Budget Bureau will allocate the budget accordingly.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) was established in 2002, and is assigned institutional jurisdiction over (i) the assessment of biodiversity and natural resource status; (ii) resource protection and management; (iii) regulating access to biodiversity natural resources; and (iv) determining sustainable utilization measures through research and development. It makes policy recommendations to the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), which incorporates these recommendations into Thailand's 5-year National Economic and Social Development Plans (NESDP). MONRE hosts the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) and the Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office (BEDO). ONEP sets policies for conservation of natural resources and environment, and is responsible for the drafting and the implementation of the Environmental Quality Management Plan, as well as for the designation of Ramsar sites. The Environmental Quality Management Plan (2012 – 2016) addresses the environmental issues of the NESDP in more detail, as defined in the Enhancement and Conservation of National Environment Quality Act 1992 to provide the direction of natural resources and environmental management at a national level. In order to translate this plan into action at the sub-national levels, each province has to formulate the Provincial Environmental Quality Action Plan, which is a 4-year rolling plan. In accordance with the Decentralization Act 1999, the ONEP has transferred its responsibilities and the functional budget to LGOs to be implementers of the Action Plan. ONEP, through the Provincial Natural Resources and Environmental Office, only provides support and guidance in the planning process. The Royal Government of Thailand established the Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office (BEDO) in July 2007 to promote conservation of biodiversity and improve local community knowledge of best practices for biodiversity friendly and biodiversity based economic development. This is accomplished through 4 strategic goals: (1) Developing new commercial products to support the need in the market which provides high return on investment; (2) Improving, restoring and conserving biodiversity as well as protecting traditional knowledge; (3) Developing database and networking for biodiversity-based economy development; and (4) Transferring knowledge from the demonstrated community and expanding to other communities as well developing community-based enterprises with collaboration with private entities.). The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is responsible for the sustainable management of the country's marine and coastal resources. DMCR is mandated to formulate coastal and marine policies and strategies, conduct research and development, and oversee resource use. There are 6 Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation and 14 Mangroves Research and Development Stations across the country. These stations are responsible for developing mangrove management plans, with participation of other line agencies, CSOs, and Local Government Organizations. The Department of Local Administration (DOLA) operates under the Ministry of Interior and is responsible for developing policy related to the system and structure of local government organizations. They promote public participation in administration and assess the operation of local government organizations. Since 2004 each province has entered the Performance Management Scheme and developed a Performance Agreement (PA)¹¹ on a fiscal annual basis. There are 75 provinces participating in this scheme aimed at cascading each ministry's strategic plan and targets to its cluster-level and constituent departments. A PA allows a provincial administration to be evaluated in four perspectives: strategic effectiveness; quality of service; efficiency of work processes; and organizational development. Each perspective consists of many Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), either mandated by DOLA or ministries policies or based on a department's choice to reflect its own interpretation of priorities. DOLA monitors the KPIs and governs the functions of the PAO and the TAO, as well as channels the budget allocation from the Decentralization Committee to the local organizations.

Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

National: BEDO is implementing the 5-year *Biodiversity-based Economy Development Action Plan (2012-2016)*, which is in line with the National Economic and Social Development plan, for which an approximate US\$ 20 million is budgeted for the project period. The plan's objective to promote and enhance economic activities based on the sustainable use of biodiversity for the community security and green growth. The 4-year Action Plan of the Department of Local Administration (DOLA) – 2014 -2017 earmarks 200,000 USD per year (US\$ 0.8 million for the project period) to support the local government organizations in their local conservation and sustainable use, with the green growth theme as the priority.

Site Specific:

Bang Krachao: BEDO will be investing US\$600,000 over the project period (based on the 2014 budget of US\$ 170,000) in the promotion of biodiversity and ecotourism in the six sub-districts of Bang Krachao. These funds will be directed mainly to increasing the quality and quantity of 'Nam Dok Mai' mangoes (as per Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) with the ultimate goal to sustainably manage the 64 ha of agricultural land under this crop variety), encouraging the participation of the private sector in conservation schemes e.g. CSR schemes, promotion of eco-agriculture, establishing an organic farming group to reduce chemical fertilizer and pesticide use, increasing the use of innovative waste management and waste water treatment systems and promotion of ecotourism. The Royal Forestry Department (RFD) will support the conservation of the 200 ha under their tenure with an investment of US\$ 0.5 million over the project period. This will be complemented by US\$ 130,000 by the Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest

¹¹ Performance Agreement (PA) is the statement on what an organization has agreed to accomplish within a specific time period. An agreement is used as a cascading tool to hold organizations and managers accountable for results, align executive performance expectations with organizational goals, help translate organizational strategic goals into day-to-day operations linking employee performance to organizational results, and to reflect specific organizational priorities, structures and cultures (GAO, 2000).

Management and Rehabilitation channeled through the RFD for the promotion of eco-tourism. The six TAOs will invest US\$600,000 in environmental management including biodiversity management over the project period.

Don Hoi Lot: The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and 4 Local Government Organisations in the area will be investing US\$ 2.4 million over the project period to (1) enhance local participation in sustainable harvesting of razor clams; (2) provide artificial reefs to rehabilitate spawning ground for marine species; (3) and support local and provincial regulations to enforce sustainable use. Each of the four local government organisations in the area (Laem Yai, Klong Kone, Bang Jakreng, Bangkaew) will allocate approximately 7,000 USD per year (total US\$ 112,000 over the project period) to promote eco-tourism and environmental rehabilitation in Doi Hoi Lot.

Root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

Despite the above-mentioned baseline projects, biodiversity continues to be lost across the production landscape. The **long term solution** is that local government organisations plan and manage economic activities and growth in ways that meet landscape-level biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives in important areas of ecoregions - so as to avoid, reduce and mitigate the pressures leading to biodiversity loss. There are two types of barriers to achieving this long-term solution: (i) absence of enabling framework and capacity in order for LGOs to integrate biodiversity into development decisions, and (ii) inadequate demonstrated experiences in participatory land-use planning and biodiversity-compatible sustainable land management models.

Barrier 1: Absence of enabling framework and capacity in order for LGOs to integrate biodiversity into development decisions:

An important barrier for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem values into local land use and development planning is the fact that there is no legal requirement for the LGOs that necessitate such integration. This has resulted in that developments and land use are allowed to continue without adequately incorporating the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Further, no standardized and formalized procedure is in existence on how TAO and PAO should go about in ensuring that environmental impact and sustainable use principles are incorporated into land use plans and LGO and provincial development planning. There is a lack of appreciation by national and local government units as well as the public in general, of the importance of biodiversity in generating/creating wealth/income. This is mainly due to the lack of data on biodiversity resources and its economic values and demonstrable examples on the use of knowledge of these values to generate income for LGOs. Stemming from the lack of knowledge and information on biodiversity resources per se, ecosystem services and their corresponding economic values are not reflected in local and national development planning and budgeting; thus biodiversity potential for use in economic development is not realized, or worse, biodiversity as an asset is squandered. Further, the current management performance system is not optimally utilized to create the necessary incentives for LGOs to conserve biodiversity, nor is biodiversity criteria integrated into the key performance indicators of the PA of the LGOs. There is a need for provinces that fall within ecoregions with globally and nationally important biodiversity to develop biodiversity indicators that are monitored by MONRE/BEDO and fully integrated into the performance review of the province. No guidance is also available on the development of biodiversity criteria and the use of biodiversity health indices has not been fully explored in its use in certain conditions. Although there is increasing recognition that the biodiversity of ecosystems will be conserved in the long term only if their management is integrated within management plans and practice, the understanding and practical experience for this is still low among government agencies, private sector and the community in Thailand. Further, biodiversity conservation as well as the integration of biodiversity concerns into seascape/landscape management is hampered by inadequate efforts on biodiversity assessment and monitoring.

Barrier 2: Absence of successfully demonstrated experiences of LGOs integrating conservation of biodiversity-rich areas into their development planning and budgeting:

A significant barrier to mainstreaming biodiversity is the fact that there are no replicable examples of LGOs with significant important biodiversity areas outside protected areas that have integrated the conservation of such areas fully into its development planning and budgeting processes. The LGOs (decision makers) also lack the critical and solid information needed on which to base decisions regarding land use allocation and management. In many cases the value of biodiversity is not clearly understood and development projects and development strategies are undertaken without fully considering the long-term impacts of these activities on biodiversity and ecosystem services they impact. Although some information is available regarding natural areas and the biodiversity, and some maps of these areas and occurrence of biodiversity are available, this information is not displayed or reference in the LGOs Local Development Action Plan or the Provincial Strategic Development Plans. At the provincial and lower levels, knowledge and understanding on biodiversity conservation issues are poor. There is therefore a need to establish a proper assessment and planning regime at the LGO-level for the conservation of biodiversity to assist in the evaluation and integration of threats to biodiversity into the decision-making process. The management of land/seascape 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 landscape conservation and no mechanisms exist to promote their participation in decision-making. Currently, local community involvement is limited in biodiversity conservation and no mechanisms exist to promote their participation in decision-making. Local landuse policies and their enforcement do not account for their impacts on biodiversity-important sites and local businesses and communities do not have incentives to change their land management to reduce impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. There are also significant barriers in collaboration between different stakeholder groups, such as government, private sector and local communities. Furthermore, no mechanism exists for the monitoring of the condition of these biodiversity-rich areas and of the performance of the LGOs in terms of maintaining the overall integrity of the sites and the biodiversity found within.

Proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing

The Government of Thailand is requesting GEF support through this project to remove, in an incremental manner, the existing barriers to **mainstream biodiversity priorities into the performance management, development planning and budgeting systems of local government organisations in Thailand**. Two components are planned:

Component 1: Enabling Framework and Capacity Emplaced for LGOs to Plan, Monitor and Adapt Land Management for BD Conservation: This component will establish a coordination mechanism that will bring together authorities tasked with natural resource and land use planning and allocation in order to advise LGOs on the mainstreaming of biodiversity into their development plans. Part of this process involves a thorough review of the existing system of preparing Local Development Action Plans and Provincial Development Plans. The process of project identification, screening and approval should be specifically verified and the gaps and opportunities in the current system identified and possible improvements suggested regarding possible impacts on biodiversity. The project will develop the relevant policy issuances at both local and national level for local government organizations to integrate biodiversity into their land-use and development planning and budgeting process. In line with these policy statements, the project will develop a specific *“Guidance for the Integration of Biodiversity Conservation into Local Planning Strategies and Schemes”*, which will explain the process to be followed in Thailand in incorporating the mitigation hierarchy to avoid-mitigate-offset impacts on biodiversity. The project will document best management practices on integrating biodiversity into development planning in Thailand and neighbouring countries through workshops, dialogues, field visits etc., and based on these, develop the guidelines. It is envisaged that these guidelines would be endorsed by DOLA and promoted for use by a range of stakeholders. In order to further ensure the uptake of biodiversity conservation by local government organisations, guidance will also be developed incorporating biodiversity aspects into the Performance Agreement of Provincial Administrations. The mechanism to further delegate the responsibility to TAOs will also be improved. In the development of these BD criteria the use of Biodiversity Health Indices will in particular be investigated. The use of the indices will be field-tested in the two target areas under Component 2, but a short manual dealing with its development and use will be developed under this component for wider application of the concept. These Biodiversity Health Indices will be incorporated into the two PAOs’ (Samut Prakarn and Samut Songkram Provinces) Performance Agreement, providing the critical incentives for the PAO staff to both manage the areas of high biodiversity found under their tenure and monitor compliance by land owners but also to advocate for the necessary budget to accomplish their tasks. Capacity will also be strengthened within the Department of Local Administration and ONEP regarding the monitoring and evaluation of Key Biodiversity criteria that was incorporated into Key Performance Indicators of the LGOs.

Component 2: Local Government Development Programmes based on Biodiversity Mainstreaming Principles are demonstrated in two Pilot Areas: This component will incorporate sustainable biodiversity management objectives and safeguards in the land use and development planning. Participatory Land/Coastal Use Management Plans (PLCUMPs) will be developed for the two areas ensuring optimal allocation of land/sea resources to generate development benefits and critical biodiversity benefits in tandem. In order to ensure these PLCUMPs are based on solid and up-to-date information, Strategic Environmental Analyses (SEAs) of the Bang Krachao and Don Hoi Lot areas focusing on documenting the causes or drivers of biodiversity and ecosystem loss will be undertaken. The SEAs will provide solid recommendations for avoiding and mitigating the BD impacts of the main sectors in the two areas. This support to sustainable management models will be strengthened by making key spatial data and information available through the development of a BD database in each area that would aid landscape modeling and planning, monitoring of impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems through community and government actions at different scales. This information will be critical in determining what developments can be allowed where and areas critical for biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation. The PLCUMPs will incorporate the information and define different zoning regimes. The primary onus of effective area management will be on local communities and the local government organisations. Therefore, the project will ensure that local development plans and policies are consistent with the PLCUMPs and biodiversity conservation is factored into them. This will require effective coordination mechanisms between LGOs, 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 (i.e. PAOs). Capacity needs (including capacity to monitor compliance and address non-compliance to the Management Plans) and incentives will be identified and implemented to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity in the targeted areas from livelihood activities from 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 biodiversity conservation and that strong gender concerns are built into project activities. The main livelihood actions that are impacting biodiversity in the targeted areas include over-fishing (with increased number of fishing boats, which also contribute additionally to pollution), overharvesting of mollusks, infrastructure development and intensifying 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 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 Thailand 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. Further, to build the business case for increasing resources flows, valuation will be undertaken of costs/ benefits of different production systems and the new BD-friendly practices

within the selected landscapes and their benefits to biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and livelihoods. This information will be used by selected local governments to broker public and private resources for increased funding towards BD Mainstreaming. This will coincide with a targeted marketing, awareness raising and peer training programme of stakeholders on biodiversity-based opportunities and its value to society. In order to monitor the overall conservation of the biodiversity of these two areas specific Biodiversity Health Indices will be developed and the mechanism developed on its integration into the Key Performance Indicators of the TAOs and PAOs to incentivize Government commitment and budgetary support.

Global environmental benefits

The immediate global biodiversity benefit is the stabilization of critical habitats outside protected areas in 10 subdistricts (covering approximately 89,000 hectares), ensuring stability of globally threatened species of Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*), Fairy Pitta (*Pitta nympha*) and Freshwater Sawfish (*Pristis microdon*), as well as other globally significant species namely Pink-necked Green Pigeon (*Trepon vernans*), Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*), Greater Ratchet-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*), Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*), Laced Woodpecker (*Picus vittatus*), Malayan Night Heron (*Gorsachius melanophus*), Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*), Ruddy Kingfisher (*Halcyon coromanda*), Northern Boobook (*Ninox japonica*), Fairy Pitta (*Pitta nympha*), Yellow-rumped Flycatcher (*Ficedula zanthopygia*), Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*), Forest Wagtail (*Dendronathus indicus*), Black Baza (*Aviceda leupholes*), Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnalis*), Lesser Sandplover (*Charadrius mongolus*), Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) and Brown-headed Gull (*Charus brunnicephalus*).

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The project is innovative in its approach of incorporating known and tried approaches like land use planning and management planning into the performance management system of local government organisations. The incorporation of specific biodiversity targets into such management agreements will create the necessary stimulus for local government organisations to create the necessary local incentives and disincentives for local communities and private sector to address biodiversity loss, but also, provided with the necessary information to argue for increased government budget to implement its biodiversity conservation programme.

Social sustainability of the project is ensured through accruing significant socioeconomic benefits at both national and local levels as a result of project interventions. Nationally, the project will secure biodiversity and ecosystem service vital to Thailand's economy. The project's target areas interventions focuses on the agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors – all important sectors for rural community livelihoods and income. The project will enhance the resilience of the resource base on which people depend. Rural communities in 10 districts of the project sites covering approximately 89,000 hectares of sea/land, will – through the coastal and land use plans – receive assurance that the resource base on which they depend in agriculture and fisheries will be more productive in the longer term. Further, many local level activities will be implemented by local stakeholders themselves. Following the UNDP and GEF gender policies and strategies, special attention will be placed on gender equity, and in particular ensure full participation of women in consultations on sustainable biodiversity use and coastal/land planning processes.

Further, the project is building on a strong baseline. A policy and institutional framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into local government organisations planning and budgeting already exists. There is strong commitment from Government to address biodiversity loss in the wider Thai landscape. The project is about environmental protection (with a focus on biodiversity), and the planned interventions will ensure that damaging production sector practices are avoided in the most biodiversity sensitive areas, and that impacts are reduced, mitigated and offset as necessary elsewhere, thus reducing pressures on biodiversity. The project will also be making the case for all stakeholders to start seeing biodiversity protection as making economic as well as ecological sense. Recognition of the economic value of biodiversity together with the ownership that will be achieved in the project products will lead to a protective stance from the relevant production sectors, and this will augur well for the sustainability of the project products, services and benefits. The project has financial sustainability written into it, through the review and realignment of public expenditure and the brokering of additional public and private funding towards BD Mainstreaming. The key gaps in the current process are capacity and incentives among the LGOs and local stakeholders to recognise the values of biodiversity and the ecosystem values it provides and the application of this recognition in the management models of such areas – which this project is designed to address.

Replication will be achieved through the direct replication and scaling up of sustainable practices and methods demonstrated by the project. The project will issue local and national policy guidance for the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem values into local land use and development planning and budgeting which will apply nationally and therefore have enormous replication value. Further, guidance will be provided to all local government organisations to integrate biodiversity criteria into their performance management system. This will necessitate Local Government Organisations managing areas outside of protected areas with high biodiversity relevance and not part of the target areas to include such criteria in their performance agreement with the Department of Local Government and aspire to meet the agreed targets.

A.2. Stakeholders.

Stakeholders	Project Implementation Role
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Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office (BEDO)	BEDO will be a key Implementing Partner of this project. It is strategic positioned to work on this issue. Established in 2007, as a Public Organisation under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), it has the mandate to promote sustainable utilization and biodiversity-based economic development. It will play a leading role in coordinating and supporting the local government organisations in the selected sites, in close collaborations with the Department of Local Administration (DOLA).
MONRE- ONEP	ONEP will take the lead in the defining of Biodiversity Health Index criteria that will be integrated into the Key Performance Indicators as defined in the Performance Agreement of the Provincial Administrations in provinces with areas within important ecoregions for biodiversity conservation. ONEP will be involved in the development of a manual on the development of Biodiversity Health Index that will assist LGOs to define these measures, as well as the setting up of a monitoring system to ensure the continual evaluation of performance. ONEP will lead the process of the actual development of the Biodiversity Health Index for the Bang Krachao and Don Hoi Lot pilot sites.
Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior	Ministry of Interior's Department of Local Administration Office is for ensuring the implementation of local initiatives and therefore is an important partner for all the components of the project. It also has responsibility and authority to oversee the work of PAOs and TAOs nationwide. This department monitors the Key Performance Indicators and governs the functions of the PAO and the TAO, as well as channels the budget allocation from the Decentralization Committee to the local government organization.
The Royal Forest Department (RFD)	The Royal Forest Department is mandated to oversee government forestlands excluding protected areas. The Royal Forest Department manages approximately 200 ha of forest on Bang Krachao and will be involved in the development of land use plans for the six sub-districts.
The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR)	The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is responsible for the sustainable management of the country's marine and coastal resources. DMCR is mandated to formulate coastal and marine policies and strategies, conduct research and development, and oversee resource use. Its potential role is to collaborate in the project implementation at the site level, specifically at Don Hoi Lot site. It could also provide technical advice and logistical support for project implementation, as well as policy integration.
Local government organizations (TAOs and PAOs) and local communities which they represent	TAOs in the demonstration areas will be focal points for conservation activities at various interventions including planning, capacity building, local collaboration and partnership. The local government units (TAOs) are responsible for local sustainable development. They also coordinate actions of different agencies and facilitate the resolution of land-use conflicts; they will need to be involved in the process of land use planning; and oversee and allocate budgets that communities may access for funding livelihood projects and other development work. PAOs will oversee the work of the TAOs under their jurisdiction and monitor their work towards achieving the Key Performance Indicators as defined in the Performance Agreement.
Private Sector	The project will partner with local businesses, such as tourism entrepreneurs and farmers to ensure biodiversity friendly actions at the sites.
CBOs/local and international NGOs	The project will actively involve local NGOs such as the Bang Krachao Group and the Coastal Community Network along the Gulf of Thailand in local conservation planning and implementation.

A.3 Risk.

Risk	Rating	Management Strategy
Difficulty of coordinating with the broad range of partners involved, at the central and local levels	Moderate	The process of designing and developing this national initiative has been a partnership-building process. Consultations and collaboration will continue throughout the formulation phase to ensure that effective working-relationships are built for implementation. Activities will be designed and implemented in a win-win manner, beneficial to all, as far as possible. The sustainable development of the landscapes will be emphasised with arguments that are supported with long-term economic forecasts.
LGOs may change priorities and shift support from the project to other commercial approaches	Low	The project approach will emphasize the long-term benefits of the strategy, and the link to broad national philosophies such as the Sufficiency Economy philosophy. The project will also emphasise awareness-raising and capacity-building for LGO stakeholders and decision-makers to ensure continued support and involvement.
Climate change may undermine the project success	Low	The impacts of climate change in Thailand in the short term are unlikely to be significant during the project period. However, the project will build local capacities to access and utilize information on climate change so that local actions are appropriately adapted and are resilient to predicted impacts.
Economic development approaches under the program do not generate sufficient incomes to keep local stakeholders involved	Moderate	The sustainable livelihood approaches to be developed under the project will be carefully tested and refined through a 'learning by doing' approach, to ensure that they are viable, effective and market-compliant.

A.4. Coordination.

The project adds value to a number of related initiatives as set out below:

The UNDP/GEF project “*Integrated Community-based Forest and Catchment Management through an Ecosystem Service Approach (CBFCM)*” is creating an enabling policy and institutional environment for scaling-up integrated CBFCM practices in Thailand. This is being done through: (i) strengthening systemic capacities in sustainable forest and catchment management at the local, regional and national levels, and (ii) the expansion of CBFCM coverage throughout the country through pilot testing of defined PES and bio carbon financing mechanisms and up-scaling of best practices. This project is closely linked to Component 2 of the proposed project in regards to encourage local management and benefits from the natural resource management. The UNDP/GEF project “*Catalyzing*

Sustainability of Thailand's Protected Area System” aims to overcome barriers to sustainability of Thailand's PA system through: (i) improving the governance in order to support an enabling environment for long-term PA system sustainability; (ii) enhancing institutional and individual capacities; (iii) assessing and testing revenue generation mechanisms and management approaches at 5 demonstration sites leading to increased funding levels of the PA system; and (iv) emplacing new models of PA management that support effective management of the System. The project focuses on Protected Area Management where the proposed project will focus on mainstreaming biodiversity in productive and development sectors outside PAs, thereby complementing each other in the overall conservation of biodiversity in Thailand. The UNDP/GEF “*Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in Thailand's Production Landscapes*” project's objective is designed to strengthen national and local capacity for mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of ecologically important production landscapes by transforming the supply and market chain of biodiversity-based products. The project will be building national capacity for support of Biodiversity Business through: (i) Improved institutional capacity and staff competences of BEDO (Biodiversity-based Economy development Office) as Thailand's Biodiversity Business Facility for facilitation and support of community-based social enterprises; and (ii) Improved national cooperation and coordination, among partners with competencies related to biodiversity business. The proposed project will focus on land-use planning and the implementation of restrictions (communities compensated in the event that subsistence livelihoods are negatively influenced) adding an important component to the range of mainstreaming tools available in Thailand. The project will be implemented in parallel and in complementarity with the other two UNDP/ GEF 5 projects under the Biodiversity Focal Area. The first is “*Maximising Carbon Sink Capacity and Conserving Biodiversity through Sustainable Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Peat-swamp Ecosystems*”, which aims to conserve and restore peat-lands to increase their capacities to act as carbon sinks, as habitats for globally important species, and as sources of ecosystem services for improved livelihoods. The second is “*Conserving Habitats for Globally Important Flora and Fauna in Production Landscapes*”, of which the objective is to mainstream globally important biodiversity species conservation into production sectors through improved management of critical habitats. These three projects share the same theme of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and utilization in sectoral activities, using the different entry points: i.e. landscape focus (peat swamp ecosystems), flagship species focus (critical flora and fauna), and development actors focus (local government organisations as a key driver of area-based development planning and actions). They are expected to provide solid evidence-based pilot cases to inform policy direction; and practical tools to translate policies into actions on the biodiversity conservation and utilization, especially in the next cycle of the National Economics and Social Development Plan (2017-2021). A Technical Working Group will be established that brings together technical experts on biodiversity conservation: all the above related projects will be represented on this group. Regular meetings will be held between the said projects to leverage synergies.

B DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions.

The project will support the implementation of Thailand's 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan 2012 -2017. The plan has the overarching theme of moving Thailand towards a green growth development pathway on the next 5 years. The plan highlights the management of natural resources and environment towards sustainability (Strategy 6), especially enhancing good governance in natural resource management as one of the key priorities. The plan places emphasis on the role of local government organisations (LGOs) as key players in translating the policy framework into action. It recognises that ‘organisations have to be restructured in order to encourage involvement in the local administration as well as roles of government agencies have to be reformed as a development facilitator’.¹² The project is fully aligned with Thailand's “National Policies, Measures and Plans on the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Biodiversity (2008 – 2012)” which is the country's NBSAP. The project is in full compliance with key strategies laid out in this document – especially “Build capacity of the people and local administrative organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity over at least 40% of the country's total area”; “build capacity and expertise of institutions and their staff on the biodiversity conservation”; “Strengthen capacity in conservation, restoration and protection of natural habitats, within and outside the protected areas”. The Don Hoi Lot site has been identified as a pilot site and is identified as a wetland and recognised as such by the Government of Thailand though declaring it a Ramsar site. This project will also support the implementation of Thailand's Action Plan (2009 – 2014) to achieve the strategy on wetland conservation which has five goals – including conservation of wetlands with significant international importance; international cooperation; and institutional performance and efficiency. The project is also in line with a Cabinet Resolution from a meeting on November 3, 2009, which approved several measures for wetland conservation. These include issues such as the declaration of public wetland areas prohibiting any further utilization and conserving areas as water sources and water retention; the monitoring and maintenance of the wetland areas including containing the accessibility and land encroachment that will affect the public wetland areas; the increase of public wetland areas; the increase of public awareness and the participation in the planning and management process of nationally- and internationally-significant wetlands; boundary demarcation to prevent land encroachment; the declaration of nationally- and internationally-significant wetlands as sanctuary and environment protected areas; and the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded wetland areas to allow ecological and hydrological systems to function naturally.

¹² Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board. Draft 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan, English Version, Executive Summary, p. 18.

B.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:

The project conforms closely to the GEF's Operational Strategy, the objectives and the eligible activities under the Biodiversity Focal Area (FA) Strategy; supporting directly to Strategic Objective 2: "*Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sector*". It will specifically contribute to Outcome 2.1: *Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation*, and Outcome 2.2 "*Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks*". The project will contribute to the GEF objective and outcomes through strengthening institutional environment and capacity for integrating biodiversity conservation into local government administrations' land use and development planning and budgeting, catalyzing improved management of threatened areas of important ecoregions in Thailand. In addition, the project will contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets, in particular under the strategic goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use, Target 5: the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced; Target 7: areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity; Target 8: reduction of pollution to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem functions and biodiversity; and Target 12: preventing extinction of known threatened species.

B.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project:


UNDP has a long-standing environmental programme with the Government of Thailand, which has strengthened capacity in national policy development with regards to multi-lateral environmental agreements. The interventions proposed under this project are in line with the current UNDP's Country Programme Document (CPD) 2012 – 2017, under the "Effective Response to Climate Change Programme". This programme has as one of its three components to support the Thai government's capacity development, especially at the sub-national levels, in applying innovative approach and economic incentives for conservation to enhance sustainable livelihoods and environmental security. Mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into land use and development planning and land-use practices approached by this project will contribute to achievement of this outcome and will increment the effort for improved governance at the local and provincial levels through interventions intended to demonstrate development benefits concurrently with biodiversity benefits. The UNDP Country Office will assign two staff members to be responsible for the overall management and supervision of the project. These key staff members are a Programme Analyst and a Programme Associate. Implementation support on financial, procurement and human resources will be provided by the office's operations staff members. Furthermore, the project will be backstopped by a Regional Technical Advisor based in UNDP's Asia Pacific Regional Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

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

. 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. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr. Chote Trachu	GEF Political and Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	18 April 2013

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adrian Dinu, UNDP - GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i		March 7, 2014	Johan Robinson, Regional Technical Advisor for Biodiversity, UNDP	+421 259337299	johan.robinson@undp.org