

ANNEX B2: The GAMBIA - NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION FOR TESTING BEST AVAILABLE PRACTICES AND BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Demonstration project focus – Strengthening community-based eco-tourism and joint-venture partnerships within a revised coastal land use policy framework

Process used to reach revised Demonstration project document, logical framework and work plan:

At the end of the planning phase for the COAST project (mid 2006) each partner country had produced (with consultant support) a narrative project document describing in general terms the proposed demonstration project(s). There was no logical framework, no work plan, and only a total budget figure (see below) to guide stakeholders in beginning to implement the project. From January 2009 through to June 2009, based upon a one week visit by the Technical Coordinator to each partner country (during the Inception period of the COAST project) a revised narrative, new logical framework, first year work plan and indicative GEF support budget were developed and discussed. Subsequent to each country visit further support has been provided through email discussions. This demonstration project document now provides a more concise definition of the activities and outputs which are expected to be undertaken at the sites in the Gambia demonstration project. This short note highlights what are foreseen to be the main challenges in now starting to implement the work. This paper has been written as a subsidiary contribution to the general overview provided in the Inception Report.

The main issues which are outstanding are highlighted as follows:

a) Cost of Project and resourcing of specific activities:

The figures provided in the project documentation from the planning phase (PDF-B) indicate a high level of government/partner co-financing (the figures given were: **Total: US\$451,507 ; GEF: US\$283,829 ; Co-financing US\$167,678**)

Given the long delay between the planning phase of the project and now its implementation, these commitments will need to be reviewed and revised by all the concerned parties. In particular for the current government of Gambia budget cycle (Jan 2009/ Dec 2009) and for the next cycle (Jan 2010 /Dec 2010) it will be important to estimate what co-financing funds or resources will be made available to support the activities identified in the first year work plan.

Within the work plan and for each separate major task or activity, we now need to establish a budget estimate for undertaking each activity. This exercise will need to be carried out by the focal point persons, demo project coordinators and other relevant partners for each activity based upon the local needs. A generic GEF budget allocation broken down by UNEP financial expenditure headings has already been provided to each partner country to assist in this process.³

³ For example for The Gambia the following GEF budget allocations to cover the complete demo project period (over 3-4yrs) have been given as a guideline: Consultants and personnel \$113k, In-country travel \$12.5k, Demo site activities \$35k, Training and capacity building \$115k, Equipment at demo site \$0k, Monitoring and Evaluation \$15k, Awareness, media, dissemination \$30k.

Following the approach used by the GEF supported WIO-Lab project, we are proposing that the COAST project adopts a similar mechanisms for estimating partner country contributions to the project⁴.

b) Implementation arrangements for the demonstration project:

The Gambia government works through a decentralised mechanism (specialised agencies and local authorities) – Figure 1. It is proposed that the COAST project works through this mechanism, but with the introduction of a post of Demo Project Coordinator in order to ensure smooth flow of reporting and communication during the demonstration period. This position would be funded by GEF funds (up to a maximum of \$500/mn). The Demo project coordinator will report to both national project focal points (who will provide oversight on both environmental and tourism sector matters). A TOR for this position has been drafted and is attached at the end of this note.

At the level of the executing agency (NEA), there will need to be a Letter of Agreement or MOU drawn up between UNIDO and NEA which clearly states the responsibilities of each contracting party. Again there are examples from the WIO-Lab project which may be usefully drawn upon to design such an agreement. Funds will then be disbursed via the UNDP Gambia office based upon the activities prioritised in each year's work plan. Funds spent will require to be fully accounted and retired before a replacement tranche is disbursed.

c) Identification and gaining the commitment of On-the-ground Partners:

Further work will be required at the demo project site to obtain the full commitment of partners and stakeholders during the first year of implementation. This has been reflected in the work plan, and should be considered a priority networking activity for each Demonstration project coordinator as soon as he/she is in post. It will be especially important for the government designated Environment and Tourism officers to be active in supporting and promoting such engagement. Much work still remains at the community level to identify representative bodies to work through in undertaking the eco-tourism focused activities.

⁴ For more details on this please see attached documentation from WIO-Lab (Tracking government co-financing).

Annex B2: The Gambia Work Plan for year 1 (1st July 2009 - 30th June 2010): To be reviewed in Nov 09 and extended up to Dec 2010.

No	Activity/Task	Quarter One (Jul-Sept)	Quarter Two (Oct- Dec)	Quarter Three (Jan –March)	Quarter Four (April – June)	Lead Role	Budget estimate
1	Develop and agree an MoU between UNIDO and NEA	✓				This column needs to be completed by partners in The Gambia	This column needs to be completed by partners in The Gambia
2	Agree disbursement procedure for demo GEF funds	✓					
3	Identify and recruit Demo Coordinator	✓					
4	Prepare and implement initial demo project awareness raising activities (public event, brochure)	✓					
5	Identify and nominate key representatives from each stakeholder group as a local management committee (eco-tourism guidance & management)	✓					
6	Undertake a baseline survey to identify the key sources of local land-based contamination, erosion, and biodiversity /environment / social stress measurement		✓				

	at the demo project sites and report the results						
7	Undertake a local assessment of capacity gaps and report the results to check against proposed activities		✓				
8	Develop a partnership action plan/pathway for each and agree roles		✓				
9	Design and agree an information collection, analysis, use and dissemination action plan		✓				
10	Design and produce educational materials on HIV/AIDS, gender and environmental conservation and disseminate throughout the project period		✓	✓	✓		
11	Develop and test an enhanced monitoring mechanism for destination planning (draw upon UNWTO indicators)		✓	✓	✓		
14	Identify and establish an MoU with a locally based training and/or research institute			✓	✓		
15	Begin work with selected communities to market and demonstrate the added value of their eco-tourism ventures			✓	✓		