



CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY



Memorandum of Cooperation

Between

The Secretariat of the
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY,

THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE
of the
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & CULTURAL ORGANISATION

and

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Implemented by the
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter “the CBD Secretariat”), the World Heritage Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter “the WHC”), and the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (hereinafter “the UNDP GEF-SGP”),

MINDFUL of the desire of the United Nations Secretary General to stimulate joint collaboration between different agencies of the United Nations system, and of the need to strengthen synergies among the multilateral biodiversity conventions,

NOTING the existing Memorandum of Cooperation between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, signed at Bratislava on May 11, 1998, which establishes a framework of cooperation between these two organizations,

RECALLING Decision VI/26 of the Conference of the Parties (hereinafter “COP”) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereafter termed CBD) on the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which aims to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth,

RECALLING ALSO Recommendation IX/13 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD, which notes the linkages between the 2010 biodiversity target and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular Goal 7 of ensuring environmental sustainability by 2015, and calls for collaboration, among others, between the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to find ways to more effectively communicate the importance of biodiversity in achieving the MDGs, and to identify and communicate the relationship between biodiversity and human development targets at all levels,

AFFIRMING the important connection between the lifestyles, practices and livelihoods of local and indigenous communities and the conservation and sustainable use of in situ biological diversity as recognized by the CBD,

RECOGNIZING that the World Heritage Centre of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, serves as the secretariat to the inter-governmental World Heritage Committee, and provides technical and fund-raising assistance to governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in and around existing and potential World Heritage sites,

AWARE that the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, is responsible for assisting NGOs and community-based organizations in participating countries to design and implement projects to conserve globally significant biological diversity.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1.

Objectives and Activities

1. The objectives of the present Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter "Memorandum") between the UNDP GEF-SGP, the CBD and WHC Secretariats are:

- (a) To contribute to the achievement of the CBD 2010 target to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss;
- (b) To encourage reciprocal learning by linking World Heritage sites and networks that each party supports in order to build national and community-based capacity to secure the long term sustainability of protected areas;

(c) To ensure that good practice generated at the World Heritage site level is captured to inform policy debate through documentation or collaborative work, in particular focusing on project benefits for local and indigenous communities, and replication nationally and internationally;

(d) To engage in resource mobilization with additional donors for projects linked to community livelihoods and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity around existing and proposed World Heritage sites;

(e) To increase the visibility of joint UNDP GEF-SGP-World Heritage related activities through dissemination of lessons learned amongst protected area professionals and other stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels.

2. In support of the objectives, UNDP GEF-SGP, the CBD and WHC Secretariats may undertake such activities as may be mutually agreed by the parties. The following is a list of indicative activities agreed upon by the parties but which does not preclude other activities as circumstances may arise:

(a) Pursue the co-development of joint or parallel financing between UNDP GEF-SGP grant-making and the distribution of international assistance by the World Heritage Fund in and around existing and proposed World Heritage sites;

(b) Extend invitations to participate in, focus efforts, and/or learn from each other's projects relating to protected areas and innovative landscape-level conservation;

(c) Expand the 'Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation' (COMPACT) programme funded on a pilot phase by the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and UNDP GEF-SGP into as many World Heritage sites as possible;

(d) Concentrate efforts to develop a common framework based on COMPACT to carry out baseline assessments, define indicators of success for working with communities that may inform the regular monitoring of all sites inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of their natural value;

(e) Share the above-mentioned monitoring methods for World Heritage sites with governments as an integral part of the reporting process for the World Heritage Convention and the CBD;

(f) Extend invitations to contribute to, and participate in, regional and global workshops and meetings in order to exchange information on good practices and lessons learned;

(g) Exchange information and, where appropriate, produce joint publications, or undertake other joint activities to influence policy development related to the role of protected areas in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(h) Inform periodically the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP), World Heritage Committee and the GEF Council on jointly implemented activities with communities in and around World Heritage sites of natural value.

Article 2.

Methodology

1. The UNDP GEF-SGP, the CBD and WHC Secretariats will each establish a Focal Point responsible for ensuring that the objectives of this Memorandum as defined in Article 1 are pursued effectively, and will notify the other parties accordingly.
2. An agreed annual work plan of activities will be prepared by the Focal Points. They may also review and evaluate operating conditions of activities conducted. The Focal Points may review and evaluate work plans and activities as appropriate during the course of the year.
3. The annual work plan will not impose any contractual obligation on any party.
4. Each party will be responsible for the costs associated with the implementation of its own activities identified in the annual work plan.

Article 3.

Reporting

The Focal Points established by the parties will prepare a joint annual or biennial report, as the case may be, of activities conducted under this Memorandum for the World Heritage Committee, GEF Council and CBD Conference of the Parties.

Article 4.

Contractual Obligations

The commitments made under this Memorandum shall be subject to the relevant rules and decisions of the governing bodies of each of the parties.

Article 5.

Termination

This Memorandum may be terminated by either party giving a six-months written notice.

Article 6.

Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between the parties arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum shall be settled by negotiation. If the parties are unable to reach agreement through such negotiation, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as at present in force. Any arbitral award rendered shall constitute the final adjudication of any controversy, claim or dispute between the parties and shall be binding on the parties.

Article 7.

Privileges and Immunities

Nothing contained in or relating to this Memorandum shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

Article 8.

Notifications

For the purpose of notifications under this Memorandum , the duly authorized representatives of the parties for the UNDP GEF-SGP, WHC and the CBD are as follows:

For the WHC Secretariat:

Name:	Natarajan Ishwaran
Address:	World Heritage Centre, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, 7 Place de Fontenoy 75732 Paris 07 SP, France
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For the UNDP GEF-SGP:

Name: Delfin Ganapin
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E-mail: delfin.ganapin@undp.org
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For the CBD Secretariat:

Name: Sarat Babu Gidda
Address: World Trade Centre, 393 St Jacques Street, Office 300,
Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 1N9
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Fax: 1-514-288-6588 Tel.: 1-514-288-2220

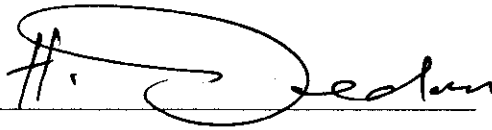
In witness whereof the parties sign the present Memorandum in six originals:

For and on behalf of the CBD Secretariat

Signed on

10 Feb. 2004

Signed: _____



Name: Hamdallah Zedan

Title: Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

For and on behalf of the UNDP/GEF

Signed: _____



Name: Frank Pinto

Title: Executive Coordinator of the UNDP Global Environment Facility

For and on behalf of the WHC Secretariat

Signed: _____



Name: Francesco Bandarin

Title: Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Date: