

*United Nations Development Program*

برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي



*Egypt*

EGYPTIAN-ITALIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION PROGRAM  
PHASE II

HAND-OVER CERTIFICATE

*Gabal Elba Protected Area*

*December 2010*



*Government of the  
Arab Republic of  
Egypt*



*Egyptian  
Environmental Affairs  
Agency*



*National Parks of  
Egypt*



*Italian Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs – Directorate  
General of Co-operation  
for Development*



*Embassy of Italy  
in Egypt*

## **THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS a Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”) for the implementation of the Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Program – Phase II (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”) was signed in Cairo on November 5, 2003, between the Government of Italy (GOI) - acting through the Embassy of Italy in Egypt - as the first Party, and the Government of Egypt (GOE) - acting through the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (MSEA)- as the second Party;

WHEREAS the Management Committee of the Italian-Egyptian Debt-for-Development Swap Program approved to co-finance the Program through a specific Project Implementing Agreement, which was signed on January 21, 2004, between the abovementioned Management Committee and the Egyptian Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs / Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA);

WHEREAS a Third-Party Cost Sharing Agreement was signed on February 18, 2004, between the Government of Italy - acting through the Embassy of Italy in Egypt - as the Donor - and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), for the provision of support services by the UNDP Egypt Country Office, in the execution and implementation of the Program within the framework of UNDP National Execution arrangement;

WHEREAS a cooperation program in the field of Environment between the GOE and the GOI has been already undertaken from 1998 to 2003 through the initiative “Institutional Support to the EEAA to improve planning capabilities for rehabilitation and protection of natural and cultural environmental resources and implementation of pilot projects within the framework of Egypt’s National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) activities”;

WHEREAS the GOE and the GOI – considering the need of strengthening the institutional capacity of the Nature Conservation sector (NCS) of the MSEA/EEAA for planning and implementing nature conservation activities on a sustainable basis in the Gabal Elba Protected Area, (declared by Prime Ministerial Decree 450 for 1986 and adjusted by Prime Ministerial Decree 1186 for 1986 and Prime Ministerial Decree 642 for 1995); considering that Gabal Elba Protected Area insures the maintenance of wildlife corridors for movement between Egypt and Sudan, a passage essential for the survival of viable populations of many wildlife species; taking into account i) that GEPA is also rich in other resources, including beautiful landscapes and many historic and pre-historic sites; ii) the importance of the cultural wealth of the region’s contemporary three major native tribes (the Bishari, Ababda and Rashayda); bearing in mind that the GEPA region

has been subject to a vast and rapid development impetus over the past decade, which is already showing several negative results;

WHEREAS the project “*Gabal Elba Protected Area*” (hereinafter referred to as “The Project”) has been implemented from *March 2004 to December 2007* in the framework of the abovementioned MoU, with the aim of enhancing the protection of GEPA’s natural and cultural resources, as well as promoting the sustainable management of Gabal Elba Protected Area, through the participation of local stakeholders, in order to contribute to the economic development of the region;

**NOW THEREFORE,  
UNDP DECLARES THAT**

The Project has been substantially completed in accordance with the MoU and with the Project Document originally approved by the Parties and later amended by the Project Executive Committee (PEC), as per Annex 1 “Declaration of Achievement of Expected Results”;

**APPROVES**

To transfer the ownership of the project to the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, which in turn definitely assign the ownership of all physical assets purchased, as well as intellectual assets delivered through the Project - as per Annex 2 “*Handing over/Inventory List*”, to EEAA/Gabal Elba Protected Area. Conditions and responsibilities of the recipient party are listed in the abovementioned Annex;

**REQUESTS**

The recipient party to guarantee scientific/technical and institutional sustainability and further development to the results achieved by the project as well as to enhance the dissemination and the use of the system among the main stakeholders as per Annex 3 “*Declaration of commitment towards sustainability of Achieved Results*”.

...

The Parties herewith agree to establish, within 15 days from the signature of the present Hand-Over Certificate, a Quadripartite Committee (*Program Follow-Up and Monitoring Committee*, **PFUMC**) composed by two Egyptian Members (nominated by EEAA and by UNDP) and two Italian members (nominated by Italian Embassy and DGCD-Rome) with the mandate of monitoring the results

achieved by the Project as well as the implementation of the strategy for their sustainability

PFUMC shall meet regularly for its ordinary tasks or ad-hoc meetings may be called, upon request of any of the Parties and shall issue decisions and resolutions by consensus.

**The following Annexes constitutes integral part of this document**

*Annex 1: Declaration of Achievement of Expected Results*

*Annex 2: Declaration on Handing over / Inventory List*

*Annex 3: Shared-strategy for the sustainability of Project results*

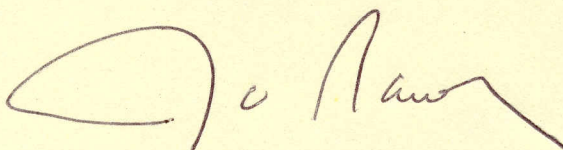
**In witness whereof, the parties hereto have agreed the present document in four originals in the English language.**

Cairo, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

(Place and date)

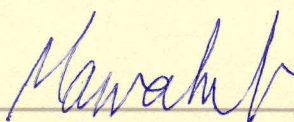
United Nations Development Program  
Resident Representative

**Dr. James W. Rawley**



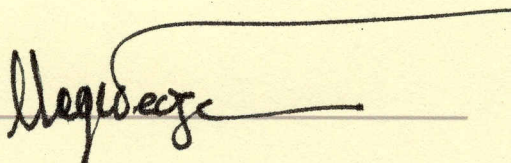
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency  
Chief Executive Officer

**Dr. Mawaheb Abdel Moneim  
Abou El-Azm**



The Minister of State for Environmental Affairs

**H.E. Maged George Elias**



*Annex 1*

*Declaration of Achievement of Expected Results*

As per Gabal Elba Protected Area (GEPA) project document, signed on 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2004, the Project's general and specific outcomes and expected outputs are outlined here below:

Development Outcome: To contribute to the protection of Egypt's natural and cultural resources.

Specific Outcome: GEPA is managed in a sustainable manner with the participation of local stakeholders, contributing to the economic development of region, and a funding plan is prepared.

Outputs:

1. A management plan is prepared and implemented by GEPA staff, in a participatory manner with local stakeholders.
2. A business plan, aimed at attracting development funding, is prepared and possible sources for financing are identified.
3. Training and learning programs are developed and implemented to build capacity of the PAMU to manage and conserve GEPA unique cultural and natural heritage.
4. A strategy for linking Gabal Elba with Wadi Allaqi is established with a view to holding discussions with Sudan on Trans-boundary conservation issues.

In line with the abovementioned expected outputs, the Project achieved the following main results:

**Output 1: Management plan is prepared and implemented for GEPA, in a participatory manner with local stakeholders.**

- Preparation and submission to EEAA/NCS of GEPA management plan
- Establishment of GEPA Visitor Center and of the administration building of the Protected Area in Shalateen.
- Enhancement of the Management Unit of the Protected Area, through the purchase of equipment for the different areas such as Shalateen, Abu Ramad and Halaieb.

- Five control outposts within GEPA zones have been established, equipped and are operational effectively.
- Three main tents of Bedouin tribes' style (Basharia, Ababda, Rashaida) around the visitor center have been established.
- Establishment of administrative office and rest room within the unit of Abo-Ramada office (120 Km from Shalateen).
- Support three administrative buildings in Halieb, Abo-Ramada and Al-Adaldeep with the necessary furniture and equipment needed.
- Construct rocky walkways to connect the different buildings: administration office, visitor center and workshops.
- Terrestrial and marine monitoring units of GEPA have been developed, through i) monitoring programs for the wild life, invasive species and marine life; ii) purchase of field scientific equipment, two 4WD cars and 2 marine patrolling boats.

**Output 2: Training/ learning programs developed and implemented to build up capacity of the PAMU to manage and conserve GEPA**

GEPA's local staff participated in several training programs addressing many fields of intervention, with the aim of building their capacities for the management of the Protected Area. The programs are herewith outlined:

- English language training courses addressed to 15 rangers were held during 2005, for 2 months in Shalateen.
- Training and consultancies requirements were prepared in partnership with NCSCB project in 2006.
- Two rangers attended the Results Based Management training course, organized by UNDP. This contributed to support the effectiveness of the Project Management Unit (PMU).
- Environmental public awareness programs were organized in schools, mountainous and rural areas.
- GEPA in partnership with RSPADA local NGO organized many awareness and learning events such as Sports competitions among 10 different teams, an education workshop with prizes and a solid waste collection campaign.
- Solid Waste Management Training was held in partnership with LIFE Red Sea Project.
- Workshop with the local community was organized during 2006 in collaboration with RSPADA NGO.

- Two on-the-job training courses (30 days) were organized to increase the skills of 30 women on handicrafts production. During the courses, raw materials were provided and support was provided by the project to market their products. The products were exhibited in the visitor center.
- During 2007, a workshop was organized for local fishermen on sustainable fishing and awareness on the protection of marine environment.
- An environmental public awareness workshop was organized for local communities in mountainous areas in 2007.
- A class school was established in Wadi Abu Safa Valley (120 km from the El-Shalateen city, in the desert) for 30 illiterate children aging from 6 to 11, through the purchase of literacy books, educational materials and tools, uniforms and clothes.

**Output 3: GEPA Management plan is implemented in a participatory manner with local stakeholders**

- Support to the local community, through the establishment of the first NGO inside GEPA: Red Sea Protected Areas Development Association (RSPADA).
- A significant result for the effective management of GEPA was the recruitment of additional staff (14 community guards and 6 rangers).
- Preparation and submission of a proposal for solid waste management inside GEPA for the Egyptian Environment Protection fund (EPF). The proposal has not been funded to date.
- Lappet-faced vulture field station was established by GEPA staff as part of the new initiated lappet-faced vulture Conservation Program. This program will support the direct conservation for the vultures as well as promote bird watch- eco-tourism in Shalateen city within GEPA.
- Two new workshops were established for the production of local handicrafts for the development of local small enterprises. Materials were provided by LIFE project, whereas workers were supported by GEPA project.
- A library was established within GEPA: building materials were provided by LIFE project, where as GEPA Project supported the workers and facilities.
- Through the support of GEPA project, the monitoring program to detect and eradicate the invasive species *prosopis juliflora* was carried out. Around 90% of the *prosopis juliflora* population was detected, mapped and monitored monthly with the full participation of the local community.
- Through the consultation of IUCN, a monitoring and conservation training was carried out for the endangered *Dorcas Gazelle* species in GEPA. Two



rangers from GEPA and Wadi Gimal National Park were trained on-the-job. The monitoring program achieved significant results and collected good indicators for the identification of the status of *Dorcas Gazelle* in GEPA.

- The project contributed in initiating and promoting the endangered *Dracaena ombet* tree MAP project, in collaboration with Bp conservation program. The initiative, which was carried out from 2007 to 2008, contributed towards the conservation of this very important and endangered tree in GEPA. The Action Plan for the conservation of this species was prepared in May 2008 and was included within GEPA management plan.

**Output 4: A strategy is established for linking Gabal Elba with Wadi Al-Alaqy PA with a view to holding discussions with Sudan on trans-boundary conservation efforts**

- The first coordination meeting between GEPA and Wadi Al-Alaqy staff was organized in October 2005, with the aim of establishing a coordination mechanism between the GEPA and WAPA. This meeting was held in Wadi Allaqi in Aswan.
- The second meeting was held in GEPA, in Abo Ramad in September 2007, with the participation of 10 rangers from Wadi Al-Alaqy, Wadi El-Gimal and GEPA. This meeting included GIS and project management Training courses.
- GEPA's provided Wadi Al-Alaqy staff with technical and logistics support. In addition, 2 small projects were jointly prepared for the conservation of the endangered *Medmia urgun* tree and crocodiles.
- GEPA project, in partnership with NCSCB project, prepared and developed a proposal to be submitted for GEF funding for the management of Elba and Al- Alaqy PAs. Unfortunately the proposal was rejected by GEF.
- Through the support of GEPA's project, the high committee of Egypt and Sudan agreed on the first executive program for the year 2006/2007 to study the declaration of trans-boundary protectorates and their management systems.

## Annex 2

### Declaration on Handing over

UNDP certifies that all physical assets purchased and used during project implementation, as well as all intellectual assets delivered through the above project - as per the Inventory List here below - have been delivered to the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency/Gabal Elba Protected Area Management Unit.

The recipient Party commits, at its own expense, to keep and maintain in good condition and repair the assets listed here below, as well as to make use of them for the same objectives, target area and target beneficiaries of the project and in accordance to the *Shared-strategy for the sustainability of Project results* (Annex 3).

### Inventory List

#### Physical assets:

<i>Assets description</i>	<i>Entity in charge</i>	<i>Location</i>
Toyota Pick Up 4x4 model 2004	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
3 SIM Cards for Satellite phone	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Toyota Pick Up 4x4 model 2005	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
2 Marine wooden boat 12 m.	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Boat engine Yamaha 40 HP	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Digital Camera Nikon + Optical Zoom Lense	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
3 Digital Camera Olympus	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Digital Camera Kodak	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
5 Desktop Computer	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Hp 3 in 1 (Printer, Fax, Scanner)	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
3 Charger with Batteries	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
2 Collman/ Small water tank 15 l.	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Ice Box	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
40 Sleeping Bag (Camping Equipment)	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
5 Ceiling Fan	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Office fan	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
10 Laser Man	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Computer Accessories	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Motor for Nissan vehile	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Ideal Fridge with one door	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office
Half - Automatic Washer	EEAA/GEPA	Shalateen Office

Infrastructures:

Assets description	Entity in charge	Location
GEPA Visitor Center and Administrative Building in Shalateen	EEAA/GEPA	GEPA
2 Workshops for the production of local handicraft for the development of local small enterprises	EEAA/GEPA	GEPA
5 Wildlife control outposts	EEAA/GEPA	GEPA
3 Bedouin tents according the style of the three tribes	EEAA/GEPA	GEPA
Administrative office and rest room in Abu Ramada	EEAA/GEPA	GEPA
Rocky walkways to connect the different buildings: administration office, visitor center and workshop	EEAA/GEPA	GEPA
Lappet-faced vulture station	EEAA/GEPA	GEPA
GEPA library building	EEAA/GEPA	GEPA

All abovementioned physical assets in good working conditions.

Intellectual Assets:

Assets description	Entity in charge
<b>Intellectual deliverables</b>	
<i>GEPA management plan</i>	EEAA/GEPA
<i>Monitoring program on prosopis juliflora</i>	EEAA/GEPA
<i>Monitoring program on Dorcas Gazelle</i>	EEAA/GEPA
<i>Action plan for the conservation of the Dracaena Ombet tree</i>	EEAA/GEPA
<i>Proposal for solid waste management inside GEPA for the Egyptian Environmental Protection Fund</i>	EEAA/GEPA
<i>Recruitment and training of additional staff (14 community guards, 6 rangers)</i>	EEAA/GEPA
<b>Capacity building</b>	
<i>English language of two months for 15 rangers</i>	EEAA/GEPA
<i>Results-based training course for two rangers</i>	EEAA/GEPA
<i>Solid waste management training in partnership with LIFE Red Sea Project</i>	EEAA/GEPA
<i>Two on-the-job training courses (30 days) for 30 women on handicraft production</i>	Local communities
<i>On-the-job training for 2 rangers on monitoring and conservation for Dorcas Gazelle</i>	EEAA/GEPA

<i>Assets description</i>	<i>Entity in charge</i>
<i>GIS and project management training courses for 10 rangers from Wadi el Allaqi, Wadi el Gimal and GEPA</i>	EEAA/GEPA-Wadi Allaqi-Wadi Gimal
<i>A class school established in Wadi Abu Safa for 30 illiterate children aging from 6 to 11</i>	Local communities
<b>Awareness raising</b>	
<i>Environmental public awareness program in mountainous and rural areas' schools</i>	Local communities
<i>Awareness and learning events (sport competitions, education workshop, solid waste collection campaign)</i>	Local communities
<i>Workshop with local communities in collaboration with RASPADA NGO</i>	Local communities

*Acknowledgements:*

<i>Description</i>
Through the support of GEPA project the High Committee of Egypt and Sudan agreed on the first executive program for the year 2006/2007 to study the declaration of trans-boundary protectorates and their management system.
Through the support of the project the first NGO inside GEPA (Red Sea Protected Areas Development Association, RASPADA) was established.

### Annex 3

#### A Shared Exit strategy for the sustainability of the Project results

With reference to the project achievements the following general considerations can be outlined:

- The PMU developed a high level of autonomy and worked closely with the local community, thus most management decisions were made in a highly participatory way.
- Although GEPA management and business plans were not finalized, the Management Unit has acquired sufficient capacity to exert more efforts for the accomplishment of the plans.
- The Protected Area Management unit and its staff is able to execute patrolling activities within the PA and enforce the law.
- A good working environment has been established.
- Good coordination with GEPA's sister projects within EIECP II was activated.

Nevertheless, some weaknesses can be outlined as follows:

- The Management Unit of GEPA did not develop a formal business plan, for long-term sustainable financing of the PA management.
- Given that GEPA is a "boundary disputed area" access to the area is still not easy and many difficulties are being met in obtaining official permits.
- GEPA is facing major problems related to encroachments by infrastructure and land reclamation projects, implemented by different governmental authorities, and Shalateen Trade Market activities.

To this regard, in order to guarantee sustainability and further development of the results achieved through the present project, MSEA/EEAA shall:

1. Oversee and approve the updating of the GEPA management plan and ensure its implementation.
2. Include GEPA as a separate pilot project within the framework of GEF initiative to develop and implement a formal business plan for long-term sustainable financing of GEPA management activities.
3. Prepare management effectiveness evaluation to the PA.

4. Keep an adequate human resources level in the PAs.
5. Ensure adequate update of training to PAMU staff
6. Promote exchange of experience and integration between GEPA, Wadi el Allaqi and Wadi el Gimal.
7. Make provisions in the annual budget for the ordinary and preventive maintenance of the infrastructure built by the projects.
8. Promote the establishment of a basic solid waste management system within the Park stemming from the SWM plan prepared by the project
9. Promote the adoption of minimal service standards in all facilities open to visitors (opening hours, toilets, shops and cafeteria) and devise ways for their monitoring.
10. Assure adequate visibility to the activities carried out by the Project through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/DGDC funding, by keeping the Italian Cooperation logo on all material originally produced by the Project such as signposts, interpretative panels, IEC materials even after the end of the project, as well as including it on the foreseen activities related to dissemination and divulgation.
11. Take into consideration the recommendation issued by EIECP Final Evaluation mission, which will be carried out upon conclusion of the project's activities. In particular the Final Evaluation Mission will also provide the main guidelines for the sustainable management of the Protected Areas, versus the environmental pressure and the anthropic carrying capacity.