

Guidelines for working with UNEP-WCMC

August 12th 2010

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, based in Cambridge, UK, is part of the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) and UNEP's specialist Centre for biodiversity information and assessment. This UNEP office manages a legal collaboration¹ with a not-for-profit organisation known as 'WCMC UK'. This arrangement delivers the professional services of more than 80 scientists and technologists with a background in biodiversity and ecosystem science to support the UNEP Program of Work, together with the "biodiversity-related conventions and their constituent party-states, and other bodies in the non-governmental and private sectors"².

The Centre's Capabilities and Capacity

The Centre's scientific team is distributed between nine specialist programmes as follows:

- 1) Agriculture, Biomass and Food Security;
- 2) Biodiversity Scientific Support;
- 3) Biodiversity Informatics;
- 4) Business, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
- 5) Climate change, Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
- 6) Ecosystem Assessment;
- 7) Marine Assessment and Decision-support;
- 8) Protected Areas and Connectivity;
- 9) Species of Global Concern.

Additionally, the Centre works closely with a wide range of specialist consultants and shares data and other forms of information with 20+ specialist organizations around the world. These arrangements give the Centre the capability to address *almost any* aspect of science, assessment and analysis related to biodiversity in its broadest sense. At present it is particularly strong in the following areas:

- Mapping and quantifying carbon and freshwater in terrestrial and coastal ecosystems;
- Assessing the role of ecosystems in climate mitigation and adaptation;
- Assessing and monitoring biodiversity and other impacts of REDD+;
- Mapping, quantifying and valuing critical coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Defining and mapping critical areas for biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Developing biodiversity and ecosystem services indicators;
- National and sub-national level ecosystem assessments;
- Building the capacity and competencies of partners in the developing world;
- Assessing species in key MEAs such as CITES;
- Global biodiversity modelling and prioritisation;
- Assessing the impacts of agricultural development on biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Undertaking protected area gap analysis and management effectiveness;
- Producing tools for data integration and risk assessment;
- Assessing the impact of extractive industries on biodiversity and ecosystems.

¹ The legal 'Collaboration Agreement' between UNEP and the not-for-profit (WCMC UK) was drawn up with the assistance and approval of the UN Office of Legal Affairs. It was signed by the Executive Director and took effect on 1st July 2010.

² In decision GC.22/1/III (2003), the UNEP Governing Council gave UNEP-WCMC the mandate "to provide a range of biodiversity related services to UNEP, the biodiversity-related conventions and their constituent party-states, and other bodies in the non-governmental and private sectors".

The benefits of working with UNEP-WCMC

The four major strategic benefits are that UNEP-WCMC serves to:

- a) Secure for UNEP additional, consistent and high quality capacity and competencies at a much lower cost and with more flexibility than through hiring staff;
- b) Provide for UNEP a reliable long term repository of knowledge and custodianship of globally important UNEP-related databases and other biodiversity infrastructure;
- c) Provide for UNEP a reservoir of expertise experienced in working with UNEP and simplify contracting for expert services, owing to the status of its collaborator which is equivalent to that of a pre-qualified 'preferred contractor';
- d) Generate for UNEP significant co-financing for the Program of Work.

Unfortunately, at the level of individual project managers the incentive is to commission services *at the lowest possible cost* from any freestanding consultant capable of producing a particular piece of work. Nevertheless, there is a presumption in the Executive Office that staff will engage UNEP-WCMC in the implementation of any relevant work on biodiversity that they need undertaking. UNEP-WCMC is also an important resource for the development of activities related to biodiversity.

Guidance to working with UNEP-WCMC

The following provides important information and guidance to Divisional staff involved in programmes and projects centred on or involving biodiversity and ecosystem considerations:

1. UNEP-WCMC is a UNEP office accountable to DEWA. The office is managed by the Director of UNEP-WCMC and a Deputy who are both UNEP DEWA staff members;
2. UNEP-WCMC is the frontline manager of a Collaboration with the UK not-for-profit organization 'WCMC UK' which deploys its staff to support the work of UNEP;
3. UNEP-WCMC may generate and itself undertake activities included in the UNEP Program of Work, it may partner with Divisional staff that will benefit from support in projects, or it may organise and deliver outputs 'commissioned' by the Divisions;
4. Working arrangements that involve the Collaboration within UNEP-WCMC are structured around the concept of "Collaboration Projects" developed by UNEP and for which WCMC UK provides the technical expertise;
5. The name UNEP-WCMC and the UNEP logo will normally be used in association with Collaboration Projects and WCMC staff may be given permission to represent UNEP in a technical capacity accordance with guidelines and permissions established by UNEP;
6. The authority to grant permissions, agree contracts and so forth has been delegated by the Executive Office to the Director of UNEP-WCMC, in liaison with the Chief of the Office of Operations;
7. Staff will normally enter into an ICA with the UNEP-WCMC Director to have work undertaken within UNEP-WCMC. The Director will work with the DEWA Program Support Unit to arrange for WCMC UK to undertake the work using an SSFA or PCA;
8. After consultation with the Director of UNEP-WCMC, staff may elect to commission work directly with WCMC UK using SSFAs or PCAs as required by QAS guidelines;
9. If staff are unable to secure an agreeable rate for the work they require it may be possible for UNEP-WCMC to arrange co-financing from third party funding sources.

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