H. E. Sanoussi Touré  
Minister of Economy and Finance  
Ministry of Economy and Finance  
Bamako  
Republic of Mali

Re: Republic of Mali: Gourma Biodiversity Conservation Project  
GEF Grant No. TF054199  
Amendment to the Trust Fund Grant Agreement

Excellency:

We refer to the Letter Agreement (the “Agreement”) entered into between the Republic of Mali (the “Recipient”) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the “World Bank”) acting as an Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility (“GEF”) for the Gourma Biodiversity Conservation Project dated December 14, 2004, as amended on July 29, 2009. Please note that the capitalized terms used in this letter (Amendment Letter) and not defined herein have the meaning ascribed to them in the Agreement.

We are pleased to inform you that, pursuant to your letter dated September 27, 2010, the World Bank hereby agrees to amend the Agreement in order to: (a) modify certain components of the Project activities; (b) reallocate the Grant proceeds among the Categories; and (c) extend the Project’s Closing Date. Consequently, the Agreement is hereby amended as follows:

1. Paragraph (ee) of Section 1.02 of the Agreement is amended to read as follows:

   “Rules” means the rules designed with the participation of the local communities for management, access to and use of communal resources in the four Conservation Areas, and which form part of the Management Plans;

2. Section 2.03 of the Agreement is modified to read as follows:

   “Section 2.03  The Closing Date shall be December 31, 2012, or such later date as the Bank shall establish. The Bank shall promptly notify the Recipient of such later date.”

3. The table in Part A.1 of Schedule 1 of the Agreement is hereby amended and replaced to read in its entirety as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount of the GEF Grant Allocated (Expressed in U.S. Dollars)</th>
<th>% of Expenditures to be Financed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Goods</td>
<td>513,000</td>
<td>100% of foreign expenditures and 65% of local expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Works</td>
<td>98,000</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Consultants services and audits</td>
<td>2,546,000</td>
<td>80% of local expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Training, studies and workshops</td>
<td>752,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Subproject Grants for Part C of the Project</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>100% of amounts disbursed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Operating Costs</td>
<td>791,000</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Unallocated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,500,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>======</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Schedule 2 of the Agreement is amended to read as per the Annex 1 this letter agreement.

5. Schedule 5 of the Agreement is amended to read as follows:

   “1. Total surface area of the Gourma formally demarcated as Conservation Areas.

   2. Number of Local Organizations for Biodiversity Management mobilized to protect the created Conservation Areas.”

Please confirm your agreement with the foregoing amendments by signing and dating this Amendment Letter in the spaces provided below. Henceforth, all other provisions of the Agreement, except as amended through this Amendment Letter shall remain in full force and effect. This Amendment Letter shall be executed in two counterparts each of which shall be an original.
Upon confirmation, please return one fully executed original to us. The provisions set forth in this Amendment Letter shall become effective as of the date of countersignature upon receipt by the World Bank of the countersigned original of this Amendment Letter.

Sincerely,

By

//s// Mary Kathryn Hollifield
Acting Country Director for Mali
Africa Region

AGREED:

REPUBLIC OF MALI

By: //s// Sanoussi Toure
Authorized Representative

Name: __Sanoussi Toure________

Title: __Minister of Economy and Finance___

Date: ___March 21, 2011________
Annex 1

SCHEDULE 2

Description of the Project

The objective of the Project is to assist the Recipient in implementing environmental protection and biodiversity conservation activities in the Sahelian priority area of Gourma, through the improved sustainable management of natural resource use, improved returns for the local population.

The Project consists of the following Parts, subject to such modifications thereof as the Recipient and the Bank may agree upon from time to time to achieve such objectives:

Part A: Support to the Creation and Management of Inter-Communal Management of Conservation Areas

1. Carrying out of biodiversity assessments of each of the four Conservation Areas; through the provision of technical advisory services and the acquisition of equipment.

2. Carrying out of the delineation of the four Conservation Areas and negotiation of said delineation with the respective CCs and the local population concerned, through the provision of technical advisory services.

3. Causing the establishment of OGAC for each of the seven Conservation Areas as well as advising them concerning legal recognition and internal organization and strengthening their management and technical capacity, through the provision of technical advisory services and the acquisition of equipment.

4. Establishment of rules and management plans for each of the four Conservation Areas and their adoption by the respective authorities, through the provision of technical advisory services.

5. Carrying out of activities pursuant to said management plans, such as: (i) surveillance activities; (ii) fire and habitat management, including deepening of existing water ponds; (iii); construction of trails; (iv) construction of watch towers; and (v) construction of delineation and border markers and sign posts; through the provision of technical advisory services, the acquisition of equipment and the carrying out of works.

Part B: Support to Community-based Biodiversity related Initiatives

1. Supporting CCs in addressing issues of biodiversity conservation and rangeland management and their integration into Commune development plans, through the provision of technical advisory services.
2. Supporting biodiversity related micro-projects or micro-services referred to in Part C of this Schedule 2, registered in Commune development plans, through: (i) the provision of technical advisory services; (ii) the acquisition of equipment; and (iii) the provision of funding.

3. Carrying out of workshops fostering information exchanges on improved community based natural resource management practices, through the provision of technical advisory services.

Part C: Provision of Subproject Grants

The provision of Subproject Grants for Subprojects supporting local biodiversity conservation activities, through, in particular, activities aimed at: (i) the protection of threatened or remarkable local biological resource; (ii) the improvement of natural pond, wetland, spring or watercourse management; (iii) the improvement of forest management; (iv) the improvement of pastoral land management; (v) the improvement of elephant protection and cohabitation with local people; (vi) the improvement of bushfire control mechanisms; (vii) supporting the conservation of cultural assets; and (vii) IEC activities aimed at the biodiversity education of the local population.

Part D: Capacity Building for Communal and Intercommunal Biological Resources Management

1. Supporting the CIO and CCs in intercommunal territorial planning and rules making for natural resources management in the Project Area, including the provision of technical advisory services and the acquisition of equipment.

2. Provision of support for the efficient operationalization of the AIG in a manner satisfactory to the Association.

3. The provision of training to selected CCs, OGACs, Beneficiaries and other partners in planning and the carrying out of the administration of micro-projects and the management of Conservation Areas.

4. Carrying out of conservation awareness campaigns in schools in the Project Area including: (i) radio, sketches and specific assignments; (ii) the provision of technical advisory services; and (iii) the acquisition of equipment.

Part E: Support to Operations in the Gourma

1. Supporting DRCN and SCN in organizing and carrying out surveillance activities in the Project Area, including the provision of technical advisory services and the acquisition of equipment.

2. The provision of training in protected area planning, administration and monitoring to selected staff in DRCN and SCN, including the provision of technical advisory services and the acquisition of equipment.

3. The organizing transborder cooperation with the Sahel Wildlife Conservation Unit in Burkina Faso including the provision of technical advisory services.
Part F: Support for National Supervision and Stocktaking

1. Supporting DNCN in organizing and carrying out supervision activities in the Project Area, through the provision of technical advisory services and the acquisition of equipment.

2. The provision of training in, *inter alia*, protected area planning, administration and monitoring to selected staff in DNCN, through the provision of technical advisory services and the acquisition of equipment.

3. Establishment of a documentation center at DNCN, through the provision of technical advisory services and the acquisition of equipment.

4. Carrying out of workshops on subjects such as: (a) the necessity of public reforms in the management of biodiversity and protected areas; (b) best practices in community based natural resource management and participatory action planning; and (c) the promotion of findings on regulatory and methodological reforms of biodiversity management, through the provision of technical advisory services.

Part G: Project Administration and Monitoring

Supporting UGP activities in:

   (a) contracting CMO and facilitating implementation of Parts A, B, C and D of the Project and supervising CMO;

   (b) implementing Parts E, F and G of the Project, consisting in, *inter alia*: (i) coordinating Project activities between: (1) DNCN, DRCN, SCN and CMO, CIO, AIG, OGAC & CC; (2) the Recipient’s administration not directly involved in the Project; and (3) other Projects funded by third parties in the Project Area;

   (c) the provision of funds and the respective accounting of their application;

   (d) the efforts of procurement of goods, works and services,

   (e) reporting on annual audits of accounts,

   (f) monitoring and assessing Project implementation performance, and

   (g) enabling Steering Committee meetings;

all through the provision of technical advisory services and the acquisition of equipment.