

## **GEF ASSEMBLY – Side Event** **Parks in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Protected areas can contribute enormously to addressing the development challenges of the 21st Century. They have a role to play in the post-2015 framework discussions as government struggle with maintaining food and water security, ensuring jobs and sustainable livelihoods, maintaining the productivity of fisheries, forestry and agricultural sectors, and making key trade-offs with sectors such as mining, energy, and infrastructure development, all while trying to turn down the heat.

This side-event will showcase the changing face of protected areas, and how they are being newly designed, managed and financed to achieve both ambitious conservation goals and development targets.

### **AGENDA**

10 mins Overview of the role of parks in conservation and development

10 mins Parks in the GEF-6 Strategy

45 mins The changing face of parks:

- New financing models
- New areas under conservation
- New constituencies (public-private partnerships, using the *Mexico GEF Coastal Watershed Management in the Context of Climate Change Project* as an example)

*10 minute presentations that respond to the following three questions:*

- What is innovative about this operation?
- How was a constituency built to make the project happen?
- How does it respond to the broader development challenges in the country?

15 mins Dialogue: identifying the big questions that parks face going forward

10 mins Setting the agenda for parks for the next 10 years: the World Parks Congress (*Australia*)

### **EXPECTED OUTPUT**

An improved understanding of the potential role of parks in the post-2015 agenda.

A snapshot of recent innovations that could be scaled up to deliver conservation and development results.

### **ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:**

40 people

### **Contact persons:**

Valerie Hickey World Bank

Jamie Ervin UNDP