STANDARD SECTOR INDICATOR CODE: ENV-023	**Natural Resource Management Practices:** Number of new or improved natural resource management practices that were implemented in protected areas with assistance by the Volunteer/partner. (ENV-023)	
ENVIRONMENT SECTOR	**Sector Schematic Alignment** • **Project Area:** Natural Resource Planning and Management • **Project Activity Area/Training Package:** Protected Area Management	
Type: Outcome	**Unit of Measure**: Natural Resource Management Practice	**Disaggregation:** None

Definitions:

Examples of natural resource management practices – practices designed to restore, maintain, conserve, and protect the natural and cultural resources in protected areas; include, but are not limited to:

-- Carrying out biological and natural resource inventories;
-- Producing maps of protected areas;
-- Developing natural resource management plans;
-- Protecting natural habitats;
-- Improving and restoring habitat improvement through the planting of trees and other plants;
-- Instituting policies and regulations protecting the area's resources.

What would "count" are comprehensive services, not individual items. For instance, if a map is produced for a protected area and then printed 100 times, the map would "count" as one service, not 100.

Partner/s—refers to the local counterpart who is co-facilitating new or improved natural resource management activities with the Volunteer.

Rationale: An increase in the number of new and improved natural resource management practices should lead to improved stewardship of protected area resources.

Measurement Notes:

1. **Sample Tools and/or Possible Methods (for Peace Corps staff use):** Volunteers should use data collection tools to measure progress against project indicators. A data collection tool to measure this indicator could be based on one of the following methods—survey, observation, or interview—though there may be other data collection methods that are appropriate as well. For more information on the suggested methods, please see **Appendix I in the MRE Toolkit.** Also be sure to check the intranet page as sample tools are regularly uploaded for post use. Once a tool has been developed, post staff should have a few Volunteers and their partners pilot it, and then distribute and train Volunteers on its use.

2. **General Data Collection for Volunteer Activities:** All Volunteer activities should be conducted with the intention of achieving outcomes – knowledge change (short-term), skills demonstration (intermediate-term), and behavioral changes (intermediate to long term) as defined by the progression of indicators within the objectives of a project framework. The progression of measurement for all Volunteer activities should begin with baseline data being conducted prior to the implementation of an activity (or set of activities), followed by documenting

any outputs of the activities and then later at the appropriate time, measurements of specific outcomes (see "Frequency of Measurement").

3. **Activity-Level Baseline Data Collection**: Activity-level baseline data should be collected by Volunteers/partners before or at the start of their activities with individuals implementing natural resource management practices. It provides a basis for planning and/or assessing subsequent progress or impact with these same people. Volunteers should take a baseline measurement regarding the outcome(s) defined in this indicator (i.e. determine whether or not improved natural resource management practices are being implemented in a protect area before working with the Volunteer) early in their work focused on implementing natural resource management practices. The information for the baseline measurement will be the same or very similar to the information that will be collected in the follow-on measurement (see "Frequency of Measurement") after the Volunteer has conducted his/her activities and it is usually collected using the same data collection tool to allow for easy management of the data over time.

   Because Volunteers are expected to implement relevant and focused activities that will promote specific changes within a target population (see the "unit of measure" above), taking a baseline measurement helps Volunteers to develop a more realistic snapshot of where natural resource management practices are being implemented within a protected area instead of assuming that they are starting at "0." It also sets up Volunteers to be able to see in concrete terms what influence their work is having on the individuals they work with during their service. Please note that data collection is a sensitive process and so Volunteers will not want to take a baseline measurement until they have been able to do some relationship and trust-building with the person/people the Volunteer is working with, and developed an understanding of cultural norms and gender dynamics.

4. **Frequency of Measurement**: For reporting accurately on this outcome indicator, Volunteers must take a minimum of two measurements with activities of the target area reached with their activities. After taking the baseline measurement (described above), Volunteers should take at least one follow-on measurement with the same protected areas, typically <u>after</u> completing one or more activities focused on achieving the outcome in this indicator and once they have determined that the timing is appropriate to expect that the outcome has been achieved. Please note that successful documentation of a behavior change or new practice may not be immediately apparent following the completion of activities and may need to be planned for at a later time. Once Volunteers have measured that at least one practice has been achieved for the indicator, they should report on it in their next VRF.

   Volunteers may determine to take more than one baseline and one follow-on measurement with in the same protected area(s) for the following valid reasons:
   a. Volunteers may want to measure whether or not any additional practices initially developed have now achieved the outcome in the indicator, particularly for any activities that are on-going in nature (no clear end date);
   b. Volunteers may want to enhance their own learning and the implementation of their activities by using the data collected as an effective monitoring tool and feedback mechanism for the need to improve or increase their activities;
   c. A Peace Corps project in a particular country may choose to increase the frequency of measurement of the indicator and Volunteers assigned to that project will be required to follow in-country guidance.

   In all cases, any additional data collection above the minimum expectation should be based on the time, resources, accessibility to the target population, and the value to be gained versus the burden of collecting the data. Following any additional measurements taken, Volunteers should report on any new practices achieved for

the outcome in their next VRF.

5. **Definition of Change**: The minimum change to report against this indicator is one new natural resource management practice being developed for a protected area, as compared to what was measured initially at baseline. In the case of this indicator, if the protected area staff the Volunteer/partner works with already produces maps of the protected area before beginning to work with the Volunteer/partner, then the Volunteer would not be able to count those practices for this activity because the Volunteer's work did not actually lead to the desired change. However, if as a result of working with the Volunteer/partner, new natural resource management practices were implemented, that would count because the Volunteer's work influenced the development of a new natural resource management practice.

6. **General Reporting in the VRF**: For this indicator, Volunteers will only report one number in the "total number" section of the VRF; the total number of natural resource management practices implemented.

7. **Reporting on Disaggregated Data in the VRF:** There are no disaggregation requirements for this indicator. The Volunteer must only count the total number of natural resource management practices now being implemented.

Data Quality Assessments (DQA): DQAs are needed for each indicator selected to align with the project objectives. DQAs review the validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness of each indicator. For more information, consult the Peace Corps MRE Toolkit.

Alignment with Summary Indicator: ENV. IMPROVED NAT. RES. MGMT PRACTICES