



REQUEST FOR BIODIVERSITY ENABLING ACTIVITY

PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

EA Title:	National Biodiversity Planning to Support the implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan in Azerbaijan		
Country(ies):	Azerbaijan	GEF Project ID:	t.b.d.
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4779
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Submission Date:	Oct 19 2011
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	36
Check if applicable:	NCSA <input type="checkbox"/> NAPA <input type="checkbox"/>	Agency Fee (\$):	\$21,000

A. EA FRAMEWORK

EA Objective: To integrate Azerbaijan's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a renewed and participative 'biodiversity planning' and strategizing process, in a manner that is in line with the global guidance contained in the CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011-2020.

EA Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Co-financing (\$)
1) Stocktaking and national target setting	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By end of 2012, a multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder working group is established and it completes the stock-taking exercise. - By 2012, national targets in response to the global Aichi Targets are developed. 	<p>1.1 Review and stocktaking of products and results from previous biodiversity planning processes at the national level are carried out in participative manner.</p> <p>1.2 In response to the global Aichi Targets, national biodiversity targets are developed in a manner that is attuned to Azerbaijan's reality.</p> <p>1.3 The achievement of national targets, developed in line with the global Aichi Targets, is duly monitored during the project duration and beyond, and this is reported upon to the CBD through national reports and other means.</p> <p>1.4 In an iterative manner, Azerbaijan taps into useful information on, and participates into, global networks and initiatives on biodiversity data and indicators (such as the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership¹, Global Biodiversity Information Facility² and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre³, the Global Environment Outlook portal⁴, among other relevant ones).</p>	33,000	40,000
2) NBSAP update	TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By early 2014, Azerbaijan's NBSAP is fully updated, it is in line with the guidance in the CBD Strategic Plan (2011-2020) and has been submitted to the 	<p>2.1 A National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for Azerbaijan, anchored into national development frameworks, is updated, in a manner that is participative, widely disseminated and fully integrates new aspects of the CBD strategic plan, such as: (i) mainstreaming; (ii) the valuing of ecosystem goods and services; and (iii) the incorporation of challenges and opportunities linked to ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience.</p>	94,400	120,000

¹ www.bipindicators.net

² www.gbif.org

³ www.unep-wcmc.org

⁴ geodata.rrcap.unep.org

EA Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Co-financing (\$)
		CBD COP	2.2 The updated and fully endorsed NBSAPs for Azerbaijan is submitted to the CBD preferably within the deadline set by the COP.		
3) National frameworks for NBSAP implementation, CBD reporting and exchange mechanisms		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By 2013, complete the updating and improvement of national clearinghouse mechanisms - By 2014, complete plan for implementing the NBSAP, including capacity, technology and finance needs assessment 	<p>3.1 National frameworks for NBSAP implementation is in place and includes: (i) institutional leadership for implementation is established and strategic partnerships forged (nationally and internationally); (ii) a costed and prioritized Action Plan is appended to the NBS; (iii) needs assessments on capacity, technology and finance are carried out; and (iv) a strategy for resource mobilization for the implementation of the NBSAP is produced and includes a baseline assessment of existing biodiversity finance.</p> <p>3.2 An effective, user-friendly and easily updatable country-driven CHM site is developed; it is linked up to the CBD's global CHM networks and to other information and knowledge exchange network on biodiversity.</p> <p>3.3. Immediate CBD reporting obligations are met by Azerbaijan in a timely manner: (1) By 2012 Azerbaijan has developed national targets to achieve the CBD Strategic Plan; and (2) The Fifth National Report to the CBD by 31 March 2014.</p>	70,000	85,000
Subtotal				197,400	245,000
EA Management Cost ⁵				12,600	31,000
Total EA Cost				210,000	276,000

^a List the \$ by EA components.

B. CO-FINANCING FOR THE EA BY SOURCE AND BY NAME

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	In-kind	243,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	33,000
Total Co-financing			276,000

C. GRANT RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	EA Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total (c)=(a)+(b)
UNDP	GEF TF	Biodiversity EA set aside allocation	Azerbaijan	210,000	21,000	231,000
Total Grant Resources				210,000	21,000	231,000

D. EA MANAGEMENT COST

Cost Items	[GEF only] Total Estimated Person Weeks**	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)	EA Total (\$)
Local consultants*	14	6,000	21,000	27,000
International consultants*	0	0	0	0

⁵ This is the cost associated with the unit executing the project on the ground and could be financed out of trust fund or co-financing sources.

Cost Items	[GEF only] Total Estimated Person Weeks**	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)	EA Total (\$)
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications*		6,600	5,000	11,600
Travel*		0	0	0
Other: In-kind staff time of Project Director and support staff at the MENR for Project Board meeting organization and participation; reporting; workplan approvals, signing CDR reports, RDPs, reviewing APRs and simplified PIRs.		0	5,000	5,000
Total		12,600	31,000	43,600

* Details to be provided in Annex A and D. ** Corresponds to the managerial tasks of the Nat. Enabling Activity Technical Manager.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TABLE D, IF APPLICABLE:

Most of expenses for the office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications will be borne by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Only one quarter of total expenses under this category will be requested from GEF financing, mainly for communication. One computer will be obtained for the Nat. Enabling Activity Technical Manager. Office facility costs covered by GEF will also include phone, fax and the internet expenses in the amount of not exceeding \$300 per month. UNDP will co-finance the costs if the Technical Manager, while government will avail own staff, including the National Project Director to be engaged in management activities in this project.

PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT (Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved):

The Republic of Azerbaijan is located between Europe and Asia and borders on Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, the Russian Federation, and Armenia. The country rests at a junction of several bio-geographical areas (the Eastern Palaearctic, Turan, the Mediterranean, Asia Minor, and the Middle East). This strategic geographic location has served as a biological crossroad for plant and animal evolution and dissemination over time.

Today, in Azerbaijan, European species, like the red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), and Asian species – such as the goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*) – coexist. The main physical features of the country include the Caucasus Mountains (to the north), the Talish Mountains (to the south), the largest inland water body in the world, the Caspian Sea (to the east), and extensive flatlands/lowlands, that characterize the centre of the country. The Greater and Lesser Caucasus along with the Talish Mountains cover approximately 40% of the country. Between these mountains rests the wide valley of the Kura and Araz rivers. All the rivers in Azerbaijan drain into the Caspian Sea. Due to the small size of rivers in Azerbaijan – only 24 of the 8350 rivers are greater than 100 kilometers in length – water is a relatively scarce resource. This shortage of water makes drought one of the most significant natural hazard in the country.

Although Azerbaijan is relatively small (86,600 km²), it includes 9 distinct climatic zones ranging from dry subtropical to alpine. Additionally, the diverse landscapes of Azerbaijan include marine, lowland plains, semi-desert, steppe, forest, alpine meadow, and subnival. The high variability with regard to landscapes and climatic zones as well as its geographical location allows for the country to support a high level of diversity in its fauna and flora. 4,500 species of higher plants, 89 species of fish, 10 species of amphibians, 52 species of reptiles, and 363 species of birds have been recorded in Azerbaijan. Of these species, 400 are endemic to Azerbaijan. Additionally, the Caspian Sea, due to its relative isolation from other bodies of water, supports an estimated 331 endemic species including many globally threatened fish and bird species such as the White Pelican (*Pelecanus pelican*) and the Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*). Overall, as a part of the Caucasus Ecoregion – an area noted as one of the 25 most endangered and diverse ecosystems on Earth – Azerbaijan's importance with respect to biodiversity is acknowledged internationally.

The Republic of Azerbaijan declared its independence from the Soviet Union in August 1991. After a few years of political instability, order was established by the end of 1993 and the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic became effective on November 27, 1995, dividing power is divided among three branches (executive, legislative, and judicial). Azerbaijan has a strong presidential system where the executive often dominates the legislative and judicial.

Primarily an urban country, 54% of the 9.1million Azerbaijanis live in cities. Of these, more than 2 million live in the capital Baku, the main port of the Caspian Sea. This rapid urbanization and economic growth mutually fuel each other. Within a year, Azerbaijan has moved from a lower-middle income country to an upper-middle income one. This growth is primarily a result of tapping into Azerbaijan's natural resources, namely oil reserves.

The increased demand for oil in the world market spurred foreign investment in the country. More than \$43.7 billion were invested

between 2006 and 2010. The completion of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline in 2005, allowed for the delivery of Caspian oil and gas to world markets. Development of the oil industry in Azerbaijan stimulated growth in other sectors including engineering, mining, construction, and light industries. Additionally, due to the wide variety of climatic zones, there is substantial agricultural potential. Azerbaijan currently produces cotton, tobacco, grain, rice, and a variety of fruits and vegetables.

The country has witnessed outstanding economic growth – reaching 9.3% real GDP growth in 2009. Although this rate declined in 2010, the growth pattern continues. This resulted in improved human development. Azerbaijan’s HDI rank was elevated from 98 in 2005 to 67 in 2010 (HDI =0.713). The Republic of Azerbaijan has been a member of the United Nations since March 1992 and is actively engaged with other international organizations. Azerbaijan has joined more than 30 environmentally-related international conventions and it is committed to their implementation. There is strong political will to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Azerbaijan has made important strides towards improving education and achieved MDG1 on universal primary education. Moreover, as of 2010, 93.8% of the country’s population had received at least secondary education and the adult literacy rate was recorded at 99.5%. Improvement of social welfare of the population, in particular helping eradicate poverty, is one of the key lines of social policy pursued in the country. Azerbaijan is very likely to achieve the UN’s MDG of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. According to the State Committee on Statistics, 49% of Azerbaijanis were living on less than a dollar in 2001. This number dropped to 9.8% in 2010.

In spite of important achievements in the political, economic and social arena, Azerbaijan’s natural endowment, in particular its biodiversity, is under threat from a variety of factors.

Summary of Direct Threats to Biodiversity	
Habitat / land use	<p>Land conversion: Due to the industrial development in the country, many natural habitats are being changed and destroyed. In the Absheron Peninsula, for example, construction has reduced the area of natural untouched habitats and therefore caused the level of biodiversity to decrease. Many wetlands are furthermore being drained and irrigation channels are being dug outside Baku to support the rapid construction and industrial growth in the capital spurred by an influx of people from all parts of the country.</p> <p>Land degradation: Poor quality irrigation and drainage systems have caused salinization and erosion of soil. Large-scale use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides has further damaged the land. This has been mainly caused by uncontrolled imports of these chemicals into the country as well as badly-informing farmers with respect to use of these chemicals.</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation: Rivers, forests, and grasslands are being altered resulting in habitat fragmentation. The construction of hydrological dams across rivers has negatively impacted the riverine habitats of many species. It has moreover reduced the breeding-ground space for many endangered species of sturgeons. Forests are being lost at an alarming rate as people in the village, who lack access to natural gas, resort to wood-cutting. Illegal harvesting of valuable timber species, including oak and nut, also causes the fragmentation of forests. Lastly, the conversion of grasslands into agricultural land is destroying the area of many natural steppes. This is especially a problem to bird species that rely on certain ecosystems for survival.</p>
Overexploitation of biological resources	<p>Overgrazing: There is substantial overgrazing by domestic animals such as sheep, cattle, and goats. Overgrazing by cattle and sheep has contributed to soil erosion, as numerous grasslands have been destroyed, and reduced the amount of plant matter available to a variety of herbivores. Thus, overgrazing poses a risk to threatened plant and animal species in the country. Furthermore, the grazing area for domestic animals in Azerbaijan oftentimes overlaps wild grazing land. Some endangered species that have been directly impacted by these land correspondences include the turs (<i>Capra spp.</i>) and the Bezoar goat (<i>Capra aegagru</i>).</p> <p>Over-fishing: Along the Caspian Sea and adjacent rivers, over-fishing is a major problem. It is well-known that globally threatened sturgeon species continue to be caught by most if not all Caspian states. Additionally, in the last few years, catches have dropped dramatically which demonstrates the declining biodiversity level of fish in the country.</p> <p>Poaching and illegal wildlife trade: Although hunting in Azerbaijan has limitations, violations of those rules are widespread. This noncompliance has adversely affected many species.</p>
Invasive alien species	<p>Exotic species: A jellyfish species (<i>Mnemiopsis leidyi</i>) has widely established itself in the Caspian Sea. These species has contributed to the demise of many plankton and fish in the water. There are furthermore invasive plant species prevalent in the country; the <i>Atraphaxis spinosus</i>, a thorny and inedible plant, is said to have taken over much of the semi-desert lands in Azerbaijan.</p>
Pollution	<p>Water pollution: A large portion of the industrial and agricultural wastes are dumped into rivers and ultimately go to the Caspian Sea. Rusting infrastructure including oil and gas pipelines further contribute towards water pollution in Azerbaijan. Neighboring countries have also played a significant role in polluting Azerbaijani waters with wastes from Georgia and Armenia flowing into the country. The proper monitoring of water flowing into the country from neighboring countries has to be established yet. Reluctance of Georgia and Armenia to join international Conventions on Transboundary Rivers further exacerbates the situation.</p> <p>Soil pollution: Petroleum derivatives and wastes have permeated much soil in Azerbaijan. This is linked to water pollution. Water and soil pollution pose a serious threat to biodiversity in the country.</p> <p>Atmospheric pollution: The oil and chemical industries have caused large-scale pollution in the country, particularly</p>

	<p>the cities of Baku and Sumgayit. In 2008, emissions from stationary sources totalled 281 tons. Moreover, with rapid urbanization, Azerbaijan has seen a rapid growth in emissions from mobile sources.</p> <p>Management of waste: Azerbaijan faces serious challenges with respect to management of both solid domestic wastes and hazardous wastes. A large part of the problems stems from noncompliance with rules on sorting, management, and disposal of wastes. There are over 125 illegal dump sites in the Absheron peninsula along with 5 solid waste landfills (that do not meet international ecological standards). Among these landfills, only one, the biggest in the country Balakhani landfill, is beginning to be managed by international standards. According to surveys conducted by UNDP, average per capita waste generation capacity is around 0.5 kg with food remnants, plastics and paper being major elements of it.</p>
Climate change	<p>Diminishing water resources: There is little recent data on rising temperatures in the country. However, temperature data from the National Hydrometeorology Department of MENR showed that the mean temperature rose by 0.41 degrees °C for 1991-2000 representing a number three times higher than that of the longer period (1961 – 1990). Air composition changes prompted by industrial growth in parallel with naturally-occurring climate change has thus caused rate of temperature increase to accelerate. The vulnerability of water resources to climate change is extremely high and consequently natural water resources are diminishing.</p>

Institutions responsible for managing biodiversity

The Government of Azerbaijan is responsible for managing biodiversity in the country with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources being specifically assigned to overlooking biodiversity. As a correlation has been shown between agricultural practices and loss of biodiversity, the Ministry of Agriculture has some input with respect to managing biodiversity. Very minimal power and management duties are given to the State Commission of Genetic Resources on Biodiversity and to the National Academy of Sciences. Lastly, national and international NGOs make some contributions to managing biodiversity.

Protected Area System

Coverage by protected areas in Azerbaijan has been expanded from 478,000 ha (5.5% of the land area) in 2000 to 880976 ha (10.18%) in 2010. At present there are 8 national parks, all of which being established after 2003, 11 state nature reserves and 24 State natural wildlife sanctuaries. Two state nature reserves in Nakhchivan autonomous republic were united in one enlarged Zangezur state nature reserve. Out of these, three protected areas are located on the coast and one of them, the Qizilağac Reserve, encompasses some of the adjacent shallow marine environment.

The national and local level public institutions responsible for biodiversity conservation and protected area management have only recently been created or date back to the Soviet era and are not compatible with modern biodiversity conservation practices. Most of the existing PAs have extremely limited staffing, funds and equipment, and insufficient technical support from the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), which itself is short of staff and equipment. PA staffs have very basic theoretical knowledge, limited practical experience and know-how for protected area management. There is an apparent lack of qualified staff to carry out PA planning and designation processes, and also insufficient funds and resources for this kind of work.

Azerbaijan has 800-km long shore line along the Caspian Sea. However, none of the existing national parks, state nature reserves or wildlife sanctuaries offer any real protection to marine fauna and flora, other than water birds (for which hunting is permitted in most, if not all areas). A number of sites on the Azerbaijan section of the Caspian shoreline were identified as being of high national and regional biodiversity importance in the Caspian Coastal Sites Inventory (CCSI) project that formed part of GEF/UNDP Project 'Towards a Convention and Action Programme for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Environment', and were also identified as being threatened by disturbance and in need of future protection. These included the Divichi Estuary and coastal and marine habitats adjacent to the Qizilağac Protected Area. These sites were surveyed in some detail as part of the national studies, but the extent to which the fauna, flora and habitats that occur in these areas are representative of the rest of the coastline is not known. The focus of the existing conservation planning initiatives in Azerbaijan has not fully embraced requirements of the marine environment.

The situation is exacerbated by the fact that international borders in the Caspian Sea remain in dispute amongst countries bordering this water body. There is also uncertainty regarding the legal framework governing ownership of the land beneath the Caspian Sea and no precedent exists for establishment of a marine protected area within Azerbaijan. These issues are all perceived as a significant obstacle to the development of a representative Protected Area network in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has not yet signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the CBD. Taking into account that Azerbaijan hosts many endemic species, joining the Nagoya Protocol may create a stronger legal basis and better opportunities for the country to protect its genetic resources from unauthorized use, develop the necessary legal framework and clear and transparent rules and procedures for prior informed consent and mutually agreed and beneficial terms. Establishing a respective National Focal Point on the Nagoya Protocol will enhance the competence of national authorities in dealing with issues of access and benefits sharing regarding genetic resources. In addition to establishing the

position of the National Focal Point, it will open a way for creation of ABS Clearing House to share information, for example, on domestic ABS requirements or information on the national focal points (NFPs) and competent national authorities (CNAs).

Barriers to implementing the CBD Strategic Plan

A large problem that Azerbaijan faces with respect to implementing the CBD Strategic Plan is the lack of good data. The ministry reported in 2009 that all activities in the NBSAP were completed but no external, publicly available report on implementation or assessment was available. The Red Data Book of Azerbaijan was published in 1989 and since then there has not been an update to this book (or a new version of the book). There is furthermore an overall lack of availability of current information on rare and endangered species. A lot of the problem goes back to the Soviet Era when very little data was collected.

Although Azerbaijan is a member of many environmental conventions, MENR is not able to fully participate in international and pan-European processes. While the MENR office is conveniently located, access to the building is relatively restricted. This poses a problem for those seeking to enter the Aarhus center, as it is located within the MENR building. There is an overall need for a more proactive approach to promoting biodiversity. The government of Azerbaijan's focus on economic development should work in conjunction with and complement sustainably using biodiversity and effectively maintaining ecosystems.

Most public awareness programs are conducted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR). The Ministry has a bilingual, Azerbaijani- and English-language web site, with the sections on environmental awareness raising and environmental protection. There are also respective sections with information on biodiversity and on marine biodiversity on the Ministry's web site. Additionally, there is a "hot line" where any information regarding PA is available for those interested. Also any threat to ecology, including to biodiversity could be reported over the phone, and appropriate administrative or protective measures are taken in response to that. A lot of the public awareness actions are targeted at youth of the country, including such steps as organizing study tours and excursions for children and youth, knowledge and art competitions. Also, the ministry works in collaboration with mass media to promote biodiversity awareness.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and in particular, the National Focal Point on Biodiversity, who at the same time is the head of the respective department within the Ministry, is the main entity responsible for biodiversity planning and implementation in the country. The planning and implementation up to the last year was conducted on the basis of NBSAP signed by the President in 2006. Currently the Ministry started preparation to the work on the next NBSAP. To that end the Working Group has been created, which in addition to several representatives of the MENR, - its Monitoring Department, Department on Biodiversity, on Ecological Policy, on the Caspian Sea, on Environmental Protection, - includes also representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Land Committee, Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and Tourism, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Finance.

However, a key barrier to a successful preparation of the new NBSAP and the incorporation of new guidance from the CBD's Strategic Plan into the NBSAP and in the country's biodiversity planning in general is limited government funding and fiscal restrictions, e.g. in terms of contracting specialised international consultants to support the country with mainstreaming aspects and ecosystem valuation.

The 4th National Report on the CBD (funded through UNEP), completed in 2010 serves currently as the main benchmark tool for the Ministry and the Working Group on biodiversity. The following are the main direction of the planning process for both the Ministry and the Working Group:

- Expansion and maintenance of the special protected zones and natural reserves;
- Ecosystems development, including that of Marine Ecosystems;
- Protective measures against invasive species;
- Transboundary and "green zones" creation along the country's borders;
- Agro-biodiversity;
- Maintaining biodiversity of mountain ecosystems;
- Ecosystems of transboundary rivers;
- Reproduction of endangered species.

1) National Reporting to CBD			
Reports	Date of Submission to CBD Secretariat	Current Status*	Comments
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	06/28/2008	Submitted	Currently Outdated
Revision of NBSAP		Not yet started.	Funding being applied for under this project.

1 st National Report	10/19/2004	Submitted	
2 nd National Report		Not completed.	No funding was requested from GEF for this.
3 rd National Report		Not completed	No funding was requested from GEF for this.
4 th National Report	03/24/2010	Submitted	Although completed, the report does not fully consider the Aichi Targets and new CBD guidance.
2) Capacity Needs Assessments carried out YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
Start Date (dd-Mmm-YY): 2003		End Date (dd-Mmm-YY): 2009	
List all of the CBD Programme of Work and cross-cutting themes that were addressed in the Biodiversity Enabling Activities Capacity Needs Assessments:			Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross-cutting capacity needs assessments for the implementation of the Rio Conventions See e.g. http://ncsa.undp.org/report_detail.cfm?Projectid=314 ▪ Under the Fourth National Report to the CBD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agricultural Biodiversity – Forest Biodiversity – Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing – Biodiversity for Development – Invasive Alien Species – Protected Areas – Sustainable Use of Biodiversity 			2003-2009
			2008-2010
3) Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) established?			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHM link(s):			
Is the CHM website maintained up to date?			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
How many people currently operate and maintain the national CHM?			N/A
How many people visited the national CHM website in the past 12 months?			N/A
<p><u>Note:</u> There is no CHM, however, there are several links on biodiversity, including information on the Protected Areas. Two staff members of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources are regularly updating the content of the http://www.eco.gov.az/en/b-general%20information.php. Given the need to have an iterative mechanism to tap into global information about biodiversity, climate change impacts, protected area best practices, and biodiversity valuation, among other topics; the need to collaborate with regional partners as well as with global partners, including the CBD Secretariat, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the Global Environmental Outlook portal, among others on sharing data and information, a clearinghouse mechanism will be essential.</p>			

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
<p>The Baseline Project: The Current NBSAP and the new CBD Strategic Plan</p> <p>The new CBD Strategic Plan, adopted at CoP-10 in 2010 in Nagoya, clearly addresses the need for updating NBSAPs, stating in Target 17 that “By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.” The strategic plan also covers a range of issues that will need to be incorporated into the revised NBSAPs, including guidance to countries to: a) fully realise the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and incorporate these values into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies (Targets 1 and 2); b) increase the global terrestrial protected area estate from 12% to 17% and the marine estate from 6% to 10% (Target 11); c) restore and safeguard key ecosystem services, especially for water, health and livelihoods (Target 14); and d) strengthen ecosystem resilience to climate change and promote ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation (Target 15).</p> <p>The most recent NBSAP for Azerbaijan was Decreed by the President on March 24 2006 and accepted by the Secretariat on June 28 2008. This version of the NBSAP does not include the following elements of the CBD Strategic Plan’s Aichi Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A plan for integrating the value of biodiversity into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems (Target 2). Although there is a plan to identify and assess ecosystems rich in biodiversity, there is no mention or specific plan of mentioning the need to assess the specific services derived from these ecosystems, nor of the need to incorporate these services into national accounting and reporting systems. Furthermore, although there is some mention of sustainable tourism, this is the only sector explicitly mentioned for local development and poverty reduction; there are many more opportunities

that can be explored.

- A plan for creating incentives and removing harmful subsidies (Target 3)
- A plan for developing landscapes that have sustainable production and consumption and ensure the use of natural resources falls well within safe ecological limits. (Target 4). Although the plan does mention the need for sustainable forest management, the emphasis is primarily on salinization, natural regeneration and afforestation, rather than on sustainable use and production. Furthermore, the current plan focuses on site-level management rather than landscape-level planning.
- A plan for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, including increased protection and landscape/seascape connectivity (Target 11). The existing NBSAP does identify some specific steps of the PoWPA (e.g., creating new protected areas and enhancing community involvement) but does not cover most of the actions required to fully implement the PoWPA.
- A plan for restoring and safeguarding ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being (Target 14).
- A plan for strengthening ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks, including the restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems (Target 16). For example, although there are provisions for creating migration corridors, these are limited to migratory birds and species of global and national status, and there is no mention of the design and management of these corridors for climate resilience and adaptation.
- A plan for the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources (Target 20). Existing plans in the NBSAP are limited to external funding, whereas a long-term, sustainable finance basis for implementing the Strategic Plan must be sought.

Proposed Response and Rationale: The new generation of BD EA. This project seeks to fully incorporate the above issues into the NBSAP. This ‘new generation’ of NBSAP will help set a regional standard of excellence by creating a national road map for achieving the Aichi Targets. Special emphasis will be placed on mainstreaming biodiversity into development plans, incorporating protected area networks and sustainable production systems into ecosystem-based climate adaptation and resilience plans, and creating sustainable finance for biodiversity conservation through the full valuation of key ecosystem services.

Alignment with Focal Area Outcome(s):

BD5 Objective: Integrate CBD Obligations into National Planning Processes through Enabling Activities (herein serving as the ‘Project Development Goal’):

Focal Area Outcome 5.1: Development and sectoral planning frameworks at country level integrate measurable biodiversity conservation and sustainable use targets.

The Project *Objective* is:

To integrate Azerbaijan’s obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a renewed and participative ‘biodiversity planning’ and strategizing process, in a manner that is in line with the global guidance contained in the CBD’s Strategic Plan for 2011-2020.

This will be achieved through the following *Outcomes* (corresponding to components described in detail below):

- Outcome 1 – A participative stocktaking exercise on biodiversity planning takes place and national biodiversity targets are developed in response to the global Aichi Targets
- Outcome 2 – The NBSAP is revised/updated and it fully integrates new aspects of the CBD strategic plan, such as mainstreaming and anchoring the implementation of the plan into national development frameworks, valuing ecosystem services and promoting ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience
- Outcome 3 – National frameworks for resource mobilization, Convention reporting and exchange mechanisms are established and strengthened

Refer to Part I, Table A and to the next section for more details.

How the project plans to build national capacity

Enabling Activities are considered foundation activities within the framework of the GEF.

The ultimate goal of Biodiversity Enabling Activities is to build national capacity across the board for biodiversity management. The effective achievement of global biodiversity benefits depend on the development of national capacity for managing biodiversity. The more robust this capacity is in a given country, the more effective the national implementation of the CBD will be.

The approach to building of national capacity in this proposal follows the guidance from the *GEF Strategic Approach to Enhance*

Capacity Building (2003)⁶ under the GEF’s cross-agency Capacity Development Initiative. Three levels of capacity were identified: individual, organizational and systemic. Quoting from a recent GEF publication on the theme of capacity (GEF 2010)⁷:

“At the individual level, capacity development refers to the process of changing attitudes and behaviors, most frequently through imparting knowledge and developing skills through training. However it also involves learning by doing, participation, ownership, and processes associated with increasing performance through changes in management, motivation, morale, and improving accountability and responsibility.

Capacity development at the organizational level focuses on overall performance and functioning capabilities, such as developing mandates, tools, guidelines and management information systems to facilitate and catalyze organizational change. At the organizational level, capacity development aims to develop a set of constituent individuals and groups, as well as to strengthen links with its environment.

At the systemic level, capacity development is concerned with the “enabling environment”, i.e., the overall policy, economic, regulatory, and accountability frameworks within which organizations and individuals operate. Relationships and processes between organizations, both formal and informal, as well as their mandates, are important.”

In this light, this project will build national capacity in Azerbaijan in the following manner:

Individual	Much of the work under this project will be carried out through working groups. This is an ideal forum for imparting knowledge among different individuals involved in biodiversity planning and in environmental matters in Azerbaijan in general. For many of the civil servants and NGO staff in Azerbaijan, the opportunity for working within a project like this is a form of training. Furthermore, consultation, participation and ownership are guiding principles of biodiversity planning processes. These are part and parcel of this proposal.
Organizational	<p>UNDP’s approach to Biodiversity Enabling activities in GEF5 goes beyond the mere production of national reports and strategies to the CBD and the development of a website for the CHM. Rather, it is concerned about the developing a permanent framework for reporting to the CBD and for maintaining the CHM interesting and up to date. This implies institutionalising the capacity for eventually achieving this with as little external assistance as possible. Given the ambitious targets of the CBD Strategic Plan (2011-2020), it is recognised that actions to engage external assistance and retain national are in the meanwhile needed. This will be availed through the project. In particular, the following activities are specially targeted at building organisational capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taking stock of the NBSAP and identifying barriers to its implementation ▪ Setting targets and priorities ▪ Developing implementation plans for the revised NBSAP ▪ Assessing and strengthening capacity needs ▪ Developing clearinghouse mechanisms ▪ Developing a permanent framework for reporting to the CBD
Systemic	<p>The approach that UNDP has developed for Biodiversity Enabling Activities in GEF5 is transformational with respect to systemic capacity elements (i.e. policy, economic, regulatory, and accountability frameworks within which organizations and individuals operate). The aim is to ensure that the objectives, targets and guidance from the CBD Strategic Plan (2011-2020) become fully anchored into national development frameworks. This will be achieved by the development of the following new aspects of the CBD strategic plan: (i) the valuing of ecosystem goods and services; (ii) mainstreaming; and (iii) the incorporation of challenges and opportunities linked to ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience. The knowledge developed through these activities will become part of Azerbaijan’s new NBSAP and will have a greater chance of influencing and even becoming policy. In particular, the following activities are specially targeted at building systemic capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessing and integrating ecosystem services through economic valuation ▪ Mainstreaming biodiversity into development policies, plans and practices and into sectoral plans and strategies ▪ Incorporating climate change issues into NBSAPs ▪ Integrating the NBSAP implementation plan with the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas implementation plan ▪ Securing sustainable finance for NBSAP implementation ▪ Monitoring and reporting on the status of biodiversity under climate change scenarios

⁶ GEF, 2003: “Strategic Approach to Enhance Capacity Building”. Global Environment Facility. See also: GEF Evaluation Office, 2006: “Evaluation of GEF Capacity Development Activities. Approach Paper”. GEF EO.

⁷ GEF Capacity Development Initiative, Global Support Programme for National Capacity Self-Assessment, 2010: “Monitoring Guidelines of Capacity Development in GEF Operations”.

C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A).

Detailed Description of Activities per Project Component / Outcome

The description that follows has been organized in five modules (I -V), following the GEF's guidance, but which for the sake of simplicity were grouped within the three already mentioned Components / Outcomes. The following are modules:

Component	Outline of modules for NBSAP Revision and Related Activities	Approximate cost per activity (GEF Grant only excl. mgt costs)
1	I. Preparation	22,000 (11%)
	II. Setting national targets, principles, & main priorities of the strategy	11,000 (5%)
2	III. Strategy and action plan development	94,400 (48%)
3	IV. Development of Implementation plans and related activities	35,000 (18%)
	V. Institutional, monitoring, reporting and exchange	35,000 (18%)

Component 1. Stocktaking and national target setting

Key Outputs expected under this component includes the following:

- 1.1 Review and stocktaking of products and results from previous biodiversity planning processes at the national level are carried out in a participative manner.
- 1.2 In response to the global Aichi Targets, national biodiversity targets are developed in a manner that is attuned to Azerbaijan's reality.
- 1.3 The achievement of national targets, developed in line with the global Aichi Targets, is duly monitored during the project duration and beyond, and this is reported upon to the CBD through the 5th national report, and through other means.
- 1.4 In an iterative manner, Azerbaijan taps into useful information on, and participates into, global networks and initiatives on biodiversity data and indicators (such as the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership , Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre , the Global Environment Outlook portal , among other relevant ones).

Key Outcomes:

- By early 2012, a multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder working group is established and it completes the stock-taking exercise.
- By October 2012, national targets in response to the global Aichi Targets are developed.

Key Products or publications resulting from activities:

- Brief Review of the Biodiversity Planning Process in Azerbaijan
- Biodiversity Targets for Azerbaijan: As part of national efforts to implement the CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011-2020

Key Activities (I-II):

I. Preparing for the NBSAP revision

- Taking stock of the NBSAP and identifying barriers to its implementation: This activity will focus on rapidly but accurately taking stock of existing plans, policies and practices, and of the root causes of biodiversity loss. Within country-specific contexts, the aim is not only to identify key threats, but to understand the drivers behind these threats, as well as the key aspects of the policy environment that are barriers and challenges to effective conservation/sustainable use. Based on existing studies and analyses, the emphasis of this activity will be on identifying key gaps in the existing NBSAP, understanding the primary drivers and root causes, and identifying the means of overcoming existing barriers and challenges. The main output of this exercise will be a stock-taking report.
- Stakeholder consultation and participation: This activity will focus on ensuring a robust consultative process that engages representatives from key sectors, administrative leaders, and traditionally under-represented groups. The aim is to develop and sustain a participatory process in order to increase the likelihood of successful implementation of the NBSAP. This is especially important relative to the goals of mainstreaming biodiversity into national development plans, and promoting resilient landscapes that include production sectors. There will be a particular emphasis on women stakeholders, as it will be further elaborated. (see more on stakeholder engagement further down).

II. Setting targets

- Setting targets and priorities: This activity focuses on setting specific, measurable, achievable and time-bound targets for the NBSAPs based on the global Aichi Targets, including targets on restoration of ecosystems, protected area coverage, overall

biodiversity loss, and other aspects of the Strategic Plan. This activity, which is linked to priority setting among different aspects within the NBSAP, will be completed by October, 2012 (by CoP-11).

Component 2. NBSAP Update

Key Outputs expected under this component includes the following:

- 2.1 A National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for Azerbaijan, anchored into national development frameworks, is updated, in a manner that is participative, widely disseminated and fully integrates new aspects of the CBD strategic plan, such as: (i) mainstreaming; (ii) the valuing of ecosystem goods and services; and (iii) the incorporation of challenges and opportunities linked to ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience.
- 2.2 The updated and fully endorsed NBSAPs for Azerbaijan is submitted to the CBD preferably within the deadline set by the COP.⁸

Key Outcomes:

- By early 2014, Azerbaijan's NBSAP is fully updated, it is in line with the guidance in the CBD Strategic Plan (2011-2020) and has been submitted to the CBD COP

Key Products or Publications resulting from activities

- Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Azerbaijan
- Sub-product 1: Study on Ecosystem Valuation in Azerbaijan
- Sub-product 2: Study on Advances in Sectoral Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in Azerbaijan
- Sub-product 3: Study on the Incorporation of Challenges and Opportunities linked to Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Resilience in Azerbaijan

In connection with the above outputs and deliverables, and as a result of the activities outlined below, Azerbaijan will strive to achieve the following outcomes vis-à-vis its CBD obligation and related processes:

- By end of 2012, a multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder working group is established and it completes the stock-taking exercise.
- By 2012, national targets in response to the global Aichi Targets are developed.

Key Activity (III)

III. Developing the NBSAP

This step will seek to achieve the following: (i) Developing the strategy and actions to implement the agreed targets through national consultations; (ii) Application of the NBSAP to sub-national entities through sub-national and local consultations; and (iii) Sectoral integration including mainstreaming into development, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations.

While the project will focus on updating all aspects of NBSAPs, it will place particular emphasis on those aspects that are both highlighted in the 2011-2020 CBD Strategic Plan, and that are absent from Azerbaijan's NBSAP. These include the following:

- Assessing and integrating ecosystem services through economic valuation: The study on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) has drawn attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services and to the growing costs of biodiversity loss and degradation. However, we have not yet linked the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services to our own national development goals, including poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods. Through this activity, we will be able to demonstrate the benefits and values of ecosystems and biodiversity at a national level, and better link ecosystems and priority sectors in national development plans, in order to guide allocation of resources. The aim is to strengthen the point that biodiversity not only underpins human well-being, but that biodiversity and associated ecosystem services can make a significant contribution to poverty reduction and economic development. By engaging national specialists and providing support from global specialists, hard economic data will be collected and processed at the country level to demonstrate the costs and benefits of investing in biodiversity management. Capacity to carry out the assessments and make important links to priority economic sectors will be simultaneously built within the country.

✓ Specific steps in this process include:

- a. Identify and assess the full range of values of key ecosystem services within the country, based on existing local, national, regional and global studies on the value of ecosystems and biodiversity, including: the valuation of protected areas, any other national ecosystem services studies that have been conducted (e.g., water, carbon), and existing global and regional maps and overlays of key ecosystem services
- b. Identify the implications of these services for different stakeholder groups within the country, including those who benefit from, and pay for, the maintenance of these ecosystem services, and those that degrade ecosystems through unsustainable use.
- c. Estimate and demonstrate the value of key ecosystem services (using methods appropriate to each service),

⁸ The actual submission of the NBSAP to the CBD Secretariat is the responsibility of the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, not UNDP.

including the value of the ecosystem service in contributing to climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation; reducing poverty, and sustaining livelihoods.

- d. Where appropriate, this activity will also identify potential means of capturing the value of targeted ecosystem services including through policies such as payments for ecosystem services and other positive incentives.

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into development policies, plans and practices and into sectoral plans and strategies: Mainstreaming has been defined as the internalization of biodiversity conservation goals into economic and development sectors, policies and programs, such that they become an integral part of their functioning of these sectors.⁹

- ✓ As part of this process, we will focus on the following sectors:

Agriculture
Extractive industries
Forestry
Livestock
Tourism, Trade, Travel and Transport
Fishery
Water

- ✓ The Project will also focus on the following development areas / topics:

Land-use management, including spatial and infrastructural development planning
Population & urban planning
Poverty alleviation
Rural development and livelihoods
Climate change mainstreaming

- ✓ Specific steps in this process will include:

- Forming partnerships between relevant stakeholders interested in biodiversity conservation issues and in development issues
- Explicitly identifying key stakeholders' interests, and desired outcomes
- Identifying potential conflicts and trade-offs, and work towards mutually acceptable solutions, including strategies that serve mutually beneficial interests and achieve mutually beneficial outcomes
- Embedding and institutionalizing these strategies in the institutions, policies, agreements, programs and mechanisms of each sector

- Incorporating climate change issues into NBSAPs: The previous NBSAP did not adequately address aspects of climate change. This activity will involve incorporating aspects of climate change into NBSAPs, including, for example:

- a) identifying, protecting and appropriately managing areas important for carbon sequestration;
- b) updating the country's ecological gap assessment to include predicted future distribution of biodiversity under climate change scenarios;
- c) assessing the impact of climate change on the functioning of ecosystem services, such as water;
- d) identifying areas important for improving nature's ability to adapt to climate change, such as altitudinal gradients and conservation corridors
- e) identifying areas of particular importance for restoration in order to improve climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation.

Component 3. National frameworks for NBSAP implementation, CDB reporting and exchange mechanisms

Key outputs expected under this component includes the following:

- 3.1 National frameworks for NBSAP implementation is in place and includes: (i) institutional leadership for implementation is established and strategic partnerships forged (nationally and internationally); (ii) a costed and prioritized Action Plan is appended to the NBS; (iii) needs assessments on capacity, technology and finance are carried out; and (iv) a strategy for resource mobilization for the implementation of the NBSAP is produced and includes a baseline assessment of existing biodiversity finance.
- 3.2 An effective, user-friendly and easily updatable country-driven CHM site is developed; it is linked up to the CBD's global CHM networks and to other information and knowledge exchange network on biodiversity.
- 3.3. Immediate CBD reporting obligations are met by Azerbaijan in a timely manner: (1) By 2012 Azerbaijan has developed national targets to achieve the CBD Strategic Plan; and (2) The Fifth National Report to the CBD by 31 March 2014.

Key Products or publications (maybe combined into one):

- Set of 'straight-forward' and feasible NBSAP implementation plans, which ensure the effective implementation of the Action Plan contained in the NBSAP

⁹ Petersen, C and B. Huntley. 2005. Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Productive Landscapes. Working Paper 20. Washington DC: GEF.

- Fully functional CHM for Azerbaijan, based on best international practice on the matter

In connection with the above outputs and deliverables, and as a result of the activities outlined below, Azerbaijan will strive to achieve the following *outcomes vis-à-vis* its CBD obligation and related processes:

- By 2013, complete the updating and improvement of national clearinghouse mechanisms
- By 2014, complete plan for implementing the NBSAP, including capacity, technology and finance needs assessment

Key Activities (IV-V):

IV. *Developing implementation plans*

This activity will focus on developing an overall plan for implementing the NBSAP. This implementation plan will include the following components:

- a) Developing an overall implementation plan: The primary output of this activity is an overall implementation plan that delineates major steps, responsible parties, costs for main activities, expected outcomes and a timeline
- b) Integrating the NBSAP implementation plan with the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas implementation plan: To date, Azerbaijan has made great strides in implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas. An ecological gap assessment is fully underway, more than a third of protected areas have concrete management plans, and the country has developed compensation mechanisms to improve benefits sharing, and has strengthened the legal system for establishing new protected areas. However, there are many areas that lag behind, including sustainable finance, transboundary areas and connectivity, effective management of existing areas, and the establishment of sufficient coverage and representativeness of protected areas. The updated NBSAP will include a specific plan for implementing the PoWPA, with specific milestones and targets, along with an assessment of how this implementation will help achieve the main objectives included in this proposal.
- c) Securing sustainable finance for NBSAP implementation: Article 20 of the Convention mentions the need for Parties “to provide, in accordance with its capabilities, financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Convention.” In the past few years, there has been a wide proliferation of innovative biodiversity finance mechanisms, such as payments for ecosystem services, conservation trust funds, biodiversity offsets and bio-carbon funding, among many others. We are still in the early stages of exploring these mechanisms. This activity will therefore focus on the following:
 - Identifying the existing financial gap for implementing the NBSAP
 - Identifying potential sources of revenue for filling these gaps
 - Assessing the feasibility for these revenue sources
 - Developing a detailed plan for operationalizing these revenue sources
- d) Assessing and strengthening capacity needs: One of the primary areas of enabling activities is the assessment of capacity needs. The decisions at CoP-10 place new and ambitious demands on countries, including requirements to protect and sustainably manage their lands and water, to develop comprehensive plans that integrate climate change into their land use, development and sectoral plans and strategies, and to develop appropriate biodiversity and climate policies, laws and incentives. This activity will ensure that we develop a road map for strengthening these specific capacities. Building on existing capacity needs assessment, and using existing guidance, we will identify capacity-building strategies to fill the following gaps:
 - Capacity to identify key biodiversity areas, including areas important for climate resilience and adaptation
 - Capacity to identify and implement mechanisms for sustainable finance
 - Capacity to assess the value of biodiversity, including of protected areas, and to mainstream those values into national accounting, sectoral plans and development plans
 - Capacity to identify key sectors for mainstreaming into biodiversity, and opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors
 - Capacity to develop and maintain data management systems, including for clearinghouse mechanisms and national reporting

We will focus on ensuring the transfer of skills from consultants to staff through close collaboration and partnerships between the implementation team, and all team members will be closely involved in each phase of the process.

V. *Institutionalizing, monitoring and reporting*

- Monitoring and reporting on the status of biodiversity under climate change scenarios: Monitoring and reporting on the status of biodiversity is a key aspect of several Programmes of Work within the CBD. To date, efforts to monitor and report on the

status of biodiversity have been sporadic and have typically not taken into full account the status and trends of biodiversity, the status of effective conservation, the contribution of ecosystem services (such as water and carbon), and the likely impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Through this project, we will ensure that future monitoring and reporting on the status of biodiversity and ecosystem services is comprehensive, and fully incorporates climate change issues.

- Developing clearinghouse mechanisms (CHM): Of the 90 countries that accessed funding under the Fourth National Report joint global project (UNDP-UNEP/GEF), only 44 had national CHM sites, and of those, 25 were kept up-to-date (data from 2010). At the same time that CHMs are largely out of date, reliance on digital information has increased exponentially. Azerbaijan is no exception. There is no CHM established in the country. Currently, there is limited information on the Ministry's website. There are positive moves in the field of environmental protection, including on biodiversity, however, since the lack of appropriate CHM these positive changes, - for example, on increase in the size of protective areas, on important Government decisions, - are not reflected and remain mainly unknown both internally and externally. This component of Enabling Activities will help the Ministry to develop an effective, user-friendly and easily-updatable CHM that will enable MENR to effectively share information nationally, regionally and globally. The Project will also work in collaboration with the CHM of the Secretariat of the CBD, to ensure that lessons and information are disseminated globally.
- Developing a permanent framework for reporting to the CBD: Parties to the CBD committed to submitting a fifth national report by 2014. In this project, Azerbaijan will submit a 5th National Report that fully covers the NBSAPs, key changes in the status and trends in biodiversity status, threats and conservation, and will develop a long-term reporting framework that will enable us to better track changes over time.

Project consistency with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments relevant for the CBD

The project is: aligned with the:

- Government of Azerbaijan's priorities and plans, as evidenced by the declaration of 2010 to be the Year of Ecology;
- the State Programme on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development (2008 – 2015) which identifies land degradation as a socio-economic and environmental problem that "is affecting the ability of rural population to use land to generate income" and places a high priority on sustainable land management, envisaging preparation of a national action plan to combat desertification and the development of an action plan to catalyze sustainable land management, protect and improve soil and prevent erosion, develop incentive mechanisms for sustainable use of natural resources such as pastures; improved overall management of montane ecosystems; improved land and pasture management, provision of extension services, and the development of farmers' unions;
- National Programme for Restoration and Expansion of Forests (2003) which aims to mitigate forest degradation through reforestation and afforestation measures and to support natural forest regeneration;
- Complex Action Plan on Improvement of Ecological Conditions for 2006-2010 includes reforestation as one of its main priorities; (v) three of five priority environmental problems identified in the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) of 1998 are linked to desertification: degradation of agricultural land, loss of forestry and biodiversity; and water quality;
- State Programme on Efficient Use of Summer-Winter Pastures, Hayfields and Prevention of Desertification in Azerbaijan and the National Programme on Soil Conservation.

The project will furthermore build on the capacity building achievements of previous biodiversity planning and CBD reporting efforts.

Project implementation arrangement:

The project will be implemented over a period of 3 years. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) is the government institution responsible for the implementation of the project and will act as the *Executing Agency*. UNDP is the *Implementing Agency* for the project and accountable to the GEF for the use of funds. The project is nationally executed (NEX), in line with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA, 2001) between the UNDP and the Government of Azerbaijan, and the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) for 2011-2015.

The overall responsibility for the project implementation by MENR implies the timely and verifiable attainment of project objectives and outcomes. MENR will provide support to, and inputs for, the implementation of all project activities. The MENR will nominate a high level official, the National Focal Point for the CBD, who at the same time is the Head of the Biodiversity Department at the MENR, and who will also serve as the National Project Director (NPD) for the project implementation. The NPD will chair the Project Steering Committee (PSC), and be responsible for providing government oversight and guidance to the project implementation. The NPD will not be paid from the project funds, but will represent a Government in kind contribution to the Project. The NPD will be technically supported by a national Nat. Enabling Activity Technical Manager, as well as UNDP's technical backstopping provided by the UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor responsible for the project and the UNDP Environment Focal Point at the Country Office. The necessary advice and involvement of the National Focal Points on Cartagena Protocol, on RAMSAR Convention, on CITES, on the PoWPA and on Clearing House Mechanism will be also ensured.

All consultants hired by the project will be recruited using standard NEX procedures and will report directly to the NPD.

Working closely with the MENR, the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) will be responsible for: (i) providing financial and audit services to the project; (ii) recruitment of project staff and contracting of consultants and service providers; (iii) overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets approved by PSC; (iv) appointment of independent financial auditors and evaluators; and (iv) ensuring that all activities including procurement and financial services are carried out in strict compliance with UNDP/GEF procedures. A UNDP staff member will be assigned with the responsibility for the day-to-day management and control over project finance.

A *National Project Steering Committee* (PSC) will be convened by the MENR, and will serve as the project's coordination and decision-making body (Project Board). The PSC will include representation of all the key project stakeholders. The PSC meetings will be chaired by the NPD. It will meet according to the necessity, but not less than once in 12 months, to review project progress, approve project work plans and approve major project deliverables. The PSC is responsible for ensuring that the project remains on course to deliver products of the required quality to meet the outcomes defined in the project document.

The day-to-day administration of the project will be carried out by a Project Manager (PM), who will be located within the MENR, offices. The project staff will be recruited using standard UNDP recruitment procedures. The PM will manage the implementation of all project activities. The Project Manager will liaise and work closely with all partner institutions to link the project with complementary national programs and initiatives. The PM is accountable to the MENR, and the PSC for the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of the activities carried out, as well as for the use of funds. The PM will also be technically supported by contracted national and international consultants and service providers. Recruitment of specialist services for the project will be done by the PM, in consultation with the UNDP and the MENR.

Comparative advantage of UNDP in Azerbaijan with respect to this project:

UNDP has historically been the largest GEF implementing agency in terms of assisting countries in undertaking biodiversity enabling activities, having assisted more than 100 countries with it through several projects. The GEF2 project Biodiversity Support Programme was jointly implemented with UNEP and has set the stage at the global level in the field of biodiversity planning among GEF eligible countries. Furthermore, UNDP assisted Azerbaijan in the preparation of its existing and its First National Report to the CBD.

The Government of Azerbaijan has requested UNDP assistance in designing and implementing this project, due to UNDP's track record in Europe and the CIS. UNDP currently supports the development and implementation of GEF projects in 63 PAs covering approximately 16 million hectares in 20 countries across Europe and the CIS. It has an established national office in Azerbaijan with well-developed working relationships with the key stakeholders of the project. Moreover, the project will benefit from the presence in Slovakia of the regional UNDP Bratislava Office. UNDP also has extensive experience in integrated policy development, human resources development, institutional strengthening, and non-governmental and community participation.

Project's alignment with UNDP's programme for Azerbaijan

In the preparation of UNDAF sustainable land management has been recognized as a priority area for UN support to the Government. The project fits the newly signed 2011-2015 UNDAF and contributes to the achievement of the Outcome 2.8 "National environmental protection and natural resource management improve." UNDP has provided support to the government to integrate global environmental concerns and commitments into national and regional planning. Biodiversity and land management represent one of the three sub-areas of environmental assistance that UNDP is providing to Azerbaijan within the UNDAF.

Stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the project:

The stakeholder involvement element is embedded in the description of several activities within this proposal which will have a consultative and participatory character. A full stakeholder involvement plan will be developed in connection with the preparation of the UNDP Project Document that will operationalise this proposal at the level of UNDP, allowing Azerbaijan to access the funding.

A thorough stakeholder involvement plan will list the key stakeholders that are expected to participate in the project and propose a role for them in line with what they have to offer and gain from the project. This list will include a number of line ministries and institutions responsible for sectors that are typically relevant for matters of biodiversity management (environment, agriculture, forestry, fisheries). It will include those sectors that impact biodiversity, e.g. oil and gas, mining, urban development and transport. The involvement of these sectors in the project is important for ensuring the strengthening of biodiversity mainstreaming into policies and practices of these sectors. Equally, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Development will be an important partners in the project due to the project's approach of anchoring the new NBSAP in national development.

The project will involve the technical and academic sector, in particular, the National Academy of Sciences, but also others.

The project will also put specific emphasis on CSO/NGO participation, including women's groups. A number of other NGOs are active in environmental education relating to biodiversity, and have an important role in raising public awareness. At the time when the First National Report to the CBD was prepared there were over 60 ecological NGOs and associations, of which 27 had specific focus on biodiversity. These are listed in an annex in the mentioned report. Among them, are scientific groups undertaking basic biodiversity research (such as the Society of Botanists, the Society of Zoologists, the Society of Geographers, the Society of Mammologists and the Azerbaijan Centre for the Protection of Birds, Azerbaijan Society of Zoologists, Azerbaijan Ornithological Society, Society for protection of Flora and Fauna, Azerbaijan Ecological Union. The NCSA document mentions a number of NGOs within the areas of environmental information, education & public awareness, water related NGOs, environmental law, biodiversity, environmental monitoring & assessment, and ecotourism.

NGOs and CSOs that participated in the preparation of the 1st and 4th national report and which remain relevant for biodiversity planning in Azerbaijan will be surveyed again to confirm their location and continued activities in the field, as well as to share information relevant for the preparation of the new NBSAP, the development of the CHM and the completion of the 5th national report.

Gender marking

Women are typically underrepresented in key decisions in Azerbaijan, and there are only 19 women in the 125-seat parliament. Therefore, the consultation will make a particular emphasis on including women from the beginning of the project, with an emphasis on women's NGOs (similar to the process of involving women's NGOs during the 44th session of the UN's CEDAW in July 2009.¹⁰

During the project inception the mandatory UNDP gender marker will be applied. This requires that each project in UNDP's ATLAS system be rated for gender relevance. This will for example include a brief analysis of how the project plans to achieve its environmental objective by addressing the differences in the roles and needs of women and men.

Furthermore, gender marking implies the production of the following data by the project's year 2 and by its end:

- Total number of full-time project staff that are women
- Total number of full-time project staff that are men
- Total number of Project Board members that are women
- Total number of project Board members that are men
- The number jobs created by the project that are held by women
- The number jobs created by the project that are held by men

D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

Azerbaijan is considered to be the country in Europe with the most biodiversity. The level of threat and opportunities for conservation within Europe are on the other hand significant.

The proposed GEF project will ensure that a national strategy and action plan guide all stakeholders and partners in the conservation of these precious resources. This is one way of making optimal use of biodiversity planning resources.

The project combines GEF funding with UNDP co-financing and a government investment in order to achieve the project objective without duplication to ensure the application of resources in the most critical areas. The government contribution to the project include the staff time of a Project Director and of support staff at the MENR a number of project activities, organization of and participation in Project Board meetings, plus other work related to reporting, workplan approvals, signing off on CDR reports, RDPs, reviewing APRs/PIRs. In addition, information and data will be collected and provided by the MENR, Academy of Science and other state agencies regularly over 3 years of project duration.

The cost-effectiveness of the proposed activities will further be ensured by combining government internal, national and international expertise in implementing similar projects. GEF funding of consultation costs will be kept to a minimum, as government can finance much of it from existing resources. The same applies to the national contribution to EA working groups.

The government of Azerbaijan wishes the work on the new NBSAP to be transformational from a biodiversity planning point of view, in particular with respect to the mainstreaming and ecosystem valuation aspects. This requires expertise that is not found in the country. Hence, the GEF's financing of specialised consultants and knowledge / capacity building within the framework of this project

¹⁰ "Gender Mainstreaming: The Role of Civil Society. Results of Monitoring the National Gender Mechanism" report by the Public Union for Gender Equality and Women's Initiatives, Baku, August 2010, paper copy

is essential to its success, to the extent that it finances the costs of going beyond what government would be able to do without foreign assistance. The GEF funding to the project will focus in overcoming this specific barrier. UNDP is well positioned to assist Azerbaijan source the necessary expertise for this EA project in a cost-effective manner.

Other options have been considered, e.g. sub-contracting an NGO to assist in NBSAP update as an intire ‘package’ of services to be rendered. High costs in fees from service providers would make such option less cost effective, coupled with the risk of biasing a document such as the NBSAP, which is supposed to reflect broad societal views on the national strategy for biodiversity.

The project adopts the least-cost means of achieving the project’s objectives and follows the activity norms and cost benchmarks defined by GEF guidelines. It will be built upon the strong foundation of the previous developed NBSAP, Capacity Assessments and National Reports.

E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ <i>Excluding project team staff time</i>	Time frame
Inception Meeting	Project Coordinator UNDP CO UNDP GEF	\$5,000	Within first two months of project start up
Inception Report	Project Team UNDP CO	None	Immediately following IW
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Purpose Indicators, Project Progress and Performance (measured on an annual basis)	Oversight by Project Manager Project team	To be finalized during the inception phase and determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
Simplified Biodiversity Enabling Activities Annual Project Review / Project Implementation Report (APR/PIR)	Project Team UNDP-CO UNDP-GEF	None	Annually
Quarterly progress reports	Project team	None	Quarterly
CDRs	Project Manager	None	Quarterly
Lessons Learned Log	Project Manager UNDP CO Programme Staff	None	Quarterly
Terminal Report	Project team UNDP-CO local consultant	\$1,000 for printing costs	At least one month before the end of the project
Lessons learned	Project team UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinating Unit (suggested formats for documenting best practices, etc.)	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Yearly
Audit	UNDP-CO Project team	\$2,000 in total To be included in the CO audit plan.	Yearly
TOTAL indicative COST <i>Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses</i>		US\$ 8,000	

Note: These costs are part and parcel of the project’s budget. They may be funded by either GEF or UNDP funds.

F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE):

-- n/a--

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (Month, day, year)
Hussein Bagirov	Minister, GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	October, 19 th 2011

B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION*

CONVENTION	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION (mm/dd/yy)	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT
UNCBD	Party since 08/03/2000	Mrs. Sadagat Mammadova
UNFCCC	The Republic of Azerbaijan signed the Convention in June 1992, ratified it in January 1995, and in May 1995 it became a Party to the UNFCCC	Mrs. Umayra Tagiyeva
UNCCD	Date of accession 08/10.1998, Entry into force 11/08/1998	Mr. Ogtay Jafarov
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	Adopted on 12/09/2003	Mr. Namig Zeynalov Advisor, State Examination Department MENR

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for Biodiversity Enabling Activity approval.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail Address
Yannick Glemarec, UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator		October 19, 2011	Maxim Vergeichik, Biodiversity and Ecosystem management specialist for Europe and CIS United Nations Development Programme, Bratislava, Slovak Republic - EBD	+ 421 259 337 152	maxim.vergeichik@undp.org

CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>Indicative \$ / Person Week*</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks</i>	<i>Tasks to be Performed</i>
For EA Management			
<i>Local</i>			
National Enabling Activity Technical Manager's managerial tasks (Estimated costs: \$6K financed by GEF and \$21K from UNDP. This table covers the GEF portion only)	428.57143	14	<p>To undertake the general administrative requirements of the project, including those related to project management and funding. The key tasks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that project Objective, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities are executed in a timely and appropriate manner. ▪ Develop annual work plans and budgets, and submit these to the Steering Committee and to the UNDP Country Office for approval. ▪ Develop TORs for Consultants for technical services, consultants, experts, and specifications of materials as required by the project, in communication with the Project Director/UNDP. ▪ Facilitate, guide and monitor the work of consultants, and approve their deliverables in association with the Project Committee. ▪ Organize and assist in project related activities, where required. These may include planning for meetings, local and national workshops, consultations, trips, and other project related activities. ▪ Establish and maintain linkages with national and international organizations and persons which/who can be of assistance to the objectives of the Project. ▪ Provide timely reporting of project status as required by the Project Committee and the UNDP. ▪ Maintain records of Project Committee meetings, decisions, actions etc. ▪ Coordinate with other initiatives and programs whose outcomes and outputs are relevant to this project's objectives. ▪ Any other duties assigned by the Project Committee that have direct relevance to the project. <p><i>Selection criteria:</i> should have a Bachelor's degree in management, administration, environmental management or related field with a minimum of 5 years management experience at a senior level, or an advanced degree with 3 years management experience. Knowledge and understanding of the relevant UN Convention, environmental issues in Azerbaijan, good leadership, coordination, communication, and facilitation skills are essential.</p>
For Technical Assistance			
<i>Local</i>			
National NBAP Review Consultant	1200	5	<p>To take stock of the success of the existing NBSAP and develop national targets in line with the global Aichi Targets. The key tasks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Take stock of existing plans, policies and practices in Azerbaijan that result in biodiversity conservation or loss. ▪ Identify the root causes of biodiversity loss in Azerbaijan by first identifying the threat and then the drivers behind the threats. ▪ Identify the key barriers and challenges in the policy environment to effective biodiversity conservation/sustainable use. ▪ Based on existing studies and analyses, identify key gaps in the existing NBSAP. ▪ Identify the means to overcome existing barriers and challenges. ▪ Develop a stakeholder consultation and participation plan that will ensure that the NBSAP development process is participatory, increasing the likelihood of successful implementation of the NBSAP. <p><i>Contribution to the following deliverables:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brief Review of the Biodiversity Planning Process in Azerbaijan ➤ Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Azerbaijan ➤ Sub-product 1: Study on Ecosystem Valuation in Azerbaijan ➤ Sub-product 2: Study on Advances in Sectoral Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in Azerbaijan ➤ Sub-product 3: Study on the Incorporation of Challenges and Opportunities linked to Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Resilience in Azerbaijan <p><i>Selection criteria:</i> should have an advanced university degree in environmental management or related field with a minimum of 5 years management experience at a senior level. Knowledge and understanding of the relevant UN Convention, the existing NBSAP and environmental issues in Azerbaijan are essential.</p>

Position Titles	Indicative \$ / Person Week*	Estimated Person Weeks	Tasks to be Performed
National Enabling Activity Technical Manager	430.10753	93	<p><i>Objective:</i> To lead the overall process of the stocktaking, stakeholder consultation, national target setting and the development of the NBSAP and be responsible for the timely drafting and finalization of the NBSAP. The key tasks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serve as team leader for other consultants involved in the NBSAP and be overall responsible for the timely drafting of the document for submission to the CBD Secretariat; strictly adhering to the deadlines agreed to; and ensuring quality control. ▪ Ensure that the inception meeting results in a clear roadmap on the scope of services and project tasks to be accomplished under the guidance of the NBSAP Principal Advisor, key national implementing partners and the UNDP technical staff. ▪ Submit draft and revised versions of all studies and reports of the NBSAP activities to NBSAP Principal Advisor, key national implementing partners and UNDP technical staff, per reporting timelines agreed on or before the inception meeting. ▪ Play a pivotal role in developing a work plan and coordinating the input and outputs of all consultants, as well as overseeing the technical quality of deliverables. ▪ Ensure that all Climate Change-related issues highlighted in the second National Communication to the UNFCCC that affect Biodiversity (Adaptation) or affected by Biodiversity (Mitigation) are integrated and addressed in the final NBSAP. ▪ Ensure that all lessons learnt in the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the production sectors (this includes measures against Invasive Alien Species) are incorporated into the NBSAP. ▪ Identify implementation partners for the undertaking of the various activities and develop an overall implementation plan. ▪ Submit a final draft to the NBSAP Principal Advisor, incorporating stakeholder inputs and guidance provided. <p><i>Contribution to the following deliverables:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brief Review of the Biodiversity Planning Process in Azerbaijan ➤ Biodiversity Targets for Azerbaijan: As part of national efforts to implement the CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 ➤ Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Azerbaijan ➤ Sub-product 1: Study on Ecosystem Valuation in Azerbaijan ➤ Sub-product 2: Study on Advances in Sectoral Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in Azerbaijan ➤ Sub-product 3: Study on the Incorporation of Challenges and Opportunities linked to Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Resilience in Azerbaijan ➤ Set of 'straight-forward' and feasible NBSAP implementation plans, which ensure the effective implementation of the Action Plan contained in the NBSAP <p><i>Qualificaitons and experience:</i> Should have an advanced degree (MSc) in environmental or natural sciences, preferably with exposure to biodiversity conservation. Proven track record of drafting relevant materials in the biodiversity/ecosystem based adaptation areas (publications, reports and related documentation). Proven ability to collect, verify and analyze information, and to finish and present work with a high degree of accuracy and technical quality. Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing, in order to communicate complex, technical information to both technical and general audiences. Knowledge and understanding of the relevant UN Convention, Previous experience in the development of NBSAPs.</p>
<i>International</i>			
International NBSAP Advisor	3000	10	<p><i>Objective:</i> To take stock of the success of the existing NBSAP and develop national targets in line with the global Aichi Targets. The key tasks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Take stock of existing plans, policies and practices in Azerbaijan that result in biodiversity conservation or loss. ▪ Identify the root causes of biodiversity loss in Azerbaijan by first identifying the threat and then the drivers behind the threats. ▪ Identify the key barriers and challenges in the policy environment to effective biodiversity conservation/sustainable use. ▪ Based on existing studies and analyses, identify key gaps in the existing NBSAP. ▪ Identify the means to overcome existing barriers and challenges. ▪ Develop a stakeholder consultation and participation plan that will ensure that the NBSAP development process is participatory, increasing the likelihood of successful implementation of the NBSAP. <p><i>Contribution to the following deliverables:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brief Review of the Biodiversity Planning Process in Azerbaijan ➤ Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Azerbaijan

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>Indicative \$ / Person Week*</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks</i>	<i>Tasks to be Performed</i>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sub-product 1: Study on Ecosystem Valuation in Azerbaijan ➤ Sub-product 2: Study on Advances in Sectoral Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in Azerbaijan ➤ Sub-product 3: Study on the Incorporation of Challenges and Opportunities linked to Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Resilience in Azerbaijan <p><i>Selection criteria:</i> should have an advanced university degree in environmental management or related field with a minimum of 5 years management experience at a senior level. Knowledge and understanding of the relevant UN Convention, the existing NBSAP and environmental issues in Azerbaijan are essential.</p>

* \$ per person weeks included with several digits for longer term assignments to avoid round-up errors.

Note: Weekly amounts for and split between local and international consultants is indicative and subject to procurement guidelines of agencies and governments. Consultants will be hired in line with national recruitment procedures. Also, in accordance with both UNDP and GEF policies, no GEF project resources will be used to pay any government, agency, or NGO staff personnel.

Annex B

Chronogram of activities

Comp	Modules	Guiding activities under each module	2011	2012				2013				2014			
			Q4	Q1	Q2	COP 11	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	COP 12	Q4
1) Stocktaking and national target setting	I. Preparation	1. Rapid stocktaking and review of relevant plans, policies and reports	x	x											
		2. Identification of stakeholders; consultations and awareness	x	x											
		3. Rapid assessment of the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss highlighting the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their contribution to human well-being		x	x										
	II Setting national targets, principles, & main priorities of the strategy	4. Setting national targets, principles, & main priorities of the strategy through national consultations		x	x	D									
2) NBSAP update	III. Strategy and action plan development	5. Developing the strategy and actions to implement the agreed targets through national consultations				x	x	x	x						
		6. Application of the NBSAP to sub-national entities through sub-national and local consultations						x	x	x					
		7. Sectoral integration including mainstreaming into development, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations						x	x	x	x	D			
3) National	IV. Development of	8. Development of a plan for capacity development for NBSAP implementation.								x	x	x	x		

Comp	Modules	Guiding activities under each module	2011	2012				2013				2014			
			Q4	Q1	Q2	COP 11	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	COP 12	Q4
frameworks for NBSAP implementation, CDB reporting and exchange mechanisms	Implementation plans and related activities	9. Technology needs assessment									X	X	X		
		10. Development of a communication and outreach strategy for the NBSAP.						X	X	X	X	X			
		11. Development of a plan for resource mobilization for NBSAP implementation							X	X	X	X	X		
	V. Institutional, monitoring, reporting and exchange	12. Establishment/ strengthening of national coordination structures			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		13. CHM development.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		14. Development of indicators and monitoring approach		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		15. Fifth national report (deadline Mar 2014)						X	X	X	X	X	D		

Annex C

OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE TO FOCAL AREA ENABLING ACTIVITIES

Biodiversity

- [GEF/C.7/Inf.11, June 30, 1997, Revised Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities](#)
- GEF/C.14/11, December 1999, *An Interim Assessment of Biodiversity Enabling Activities*
- [October 2000, Revised Guidelines for Additional Funding of Biodiversity Enabling Activities \(Expedited Procedures\)](#)
- GEF5 Focal Area Strategy ([download](#))

UNDP TOTAL BUDGET AND WORKPLAN

GEF Component (Outcome) /Atlas Activity	Impl. Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	ERP / ATLAS Budget Code	Atlas Budget Description	TOTAL Amount (USD)	Year 1 (USD)	Year 2 (USD)	Year 3 (USD)	Budget Notes	
Comp 1. Stocktaking and national target setting	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71200	International Consultants	10,000	10,000			a	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71300	Local Consultants	6,000	6,000			b	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	10,000	10,000			c	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	72800	Information Technology Equipmt	2,000	2,000			d	
	GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 1 (Comp 1)						28,000	28,000	0	0	
	NEX	04000	UNDP TRAC - 00012	71600	Travel Local	2,000	2,000			e	
	NEX	04000	UNDP TRAC - 00012	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	2,000	2,000			f	
	TRAC Subtotal Atlas Activity 1 (Comp 1)						4,000	4,000	0	0	
TOTAL ACTIVITY 1 (Comp 1)						32,000	32,000	0	0		
Comp 2. NBSAP update	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71200	International Consultants	10,000		10,000		a	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	20,000		20,000		c	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	57,400		57,400		g	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71600	Travel International	5,000	5,000			h	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	72800	Information Technology Equipmt	3,000	3,000			i	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs	4,000			4,000	j	
	GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 2 (Comp 2)						99,400	8,000	87,400	4,000	
	NEX	04000	UNDP TRAC - 00012	71600	Travel Local	2,000		2,000		e	
	NEX	04000	UNDP TRAC - 00012	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	2,000	0	2,000		f	
TRAC Subtotal Atlas Activity 2 (Comp 2)						4,000	0	4,000	0		
TOTAL ACTIVITY 2 (Comp 2)						103,400	8,000	91,400	4,000		
Comp 3. National frameworks for NBSAP implementation, CDB reporting and exchange mechanisms	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71200	International Consultants	10,000			10,000	a	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	10,000			10,000	c	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71600	Travel International	10,000	5,000	5,000		h	
	NEX	61998	GEF-10001	72098	Contractual Services-Companies	19,000			19,000	g	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	12,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	k	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	4,000			4,000	l	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	72200	Equipment and Furniture	5,000			5,000	m	
	GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 3 (Comp 3)						70,000	9,000	9,000	52,000	
	NEX	04000	UNDP TRAC - 00012	71600	Travel Local	2,000	0	0	2,000	e	
	NEX	04000	UNDP TRAC - 00012	74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	2,000	0		2,000	f	
TRAC Subtotal Atlas Activity 3 (Comp 3)						4,000	0	0	4,000		

TOTAL ACTIVITY 3 (Comp 3)						74,000	9,000	9,000	56,000		
Project Mgt	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	6,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	n	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	72400	Communic & Audio Visual Equip	3,600	1,200	1,200	1,200	o	
	NEX	62000	GEF-10003	72500	Supplies	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	p	
	GEF Subtotal Atlas Activity 4 (Comp 3)						12,600	4,200	4,200	4,200	
	NEX	04000	UNDP TRAC - 00010	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	21,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	q	
	TRAC Subtotal Atlas Activity 3 (Comp 3)						21,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	
TOTAL ACTIVITY 4 (Project Management)						33,600	11,200	11,200	11,200		
	SUB-TOTAL GEF					210,000	49,200	100,600	60,200		
	SUB-TOTAL UNDP TRAC					33,000	11,000	11,000	11,000		
	GRAND TOTAL (in cash)					243,000	60,200	111,600	71,200		

Budget Notes	
a	Int. NBSAP Consultant fee (lumpsum \$30K / or approx. 10 weeks) - budget divided equally among the three components
b	Nat. NBSAP Review Consultant fees (lumpsum \$6K / or approx. 4-5 weeks)
c	Nat. Enabling Activity Technical Manager, responsible also for organizing 6 National Coordination Workshops (lumpsum \$40K / or approx. 93 divided among the three components)
d	Two laptops for local consultants, for NBSAP Review Consultant and for the Technical Advisor
e	A budget of \$2000 per year, \$6K in total from UNDP is included for local travel expenses for each component
f	Miscellaneous expenses not envisaged at the planning stage, bank charges, insurance etc.
g	Technical Assistance Service Provision package (refer to Annex E for details): Knowledge and Capacity Building Services for integrating new global biodiversity guidance into Azerbaijan's sectoral planning frameworks, climate change response and biodiversity planning and management practices (Total budget \$76,400).
h	Lead Consultant international travel
i	Purchase of a laptop computer, printer and photocopier.
j	Printing of final NBSAP
k	Contract with IT company for CHM, \$12k equally divided between three years
l	Stakeholder meetings, consultations and working groups
m	Equipment for CHM
n	Managerial tasks of the Nat. Enabling Activity Technical Manager.
o	Costs of communication, including telephone costs and internet service provision.
p	Stationary and other supplies for the office.
q	Managerial tasks of the Nat. Enabling Activity Technical Manager.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE PROVISION: TOR FOR LAUNCHING A REQUEST FOR QUOTES

Knowledge and Capacity Building Services for integrating new global biodiversity guidance into Azerbaijan's sectoral planning frameworks, climate change response and biodiversity planning and management practices

(1) Summary

Azerbaijan is in the process of implementing a GEF biodiversity planning project whose objective is to integrate the country's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a renewed and participative 'biodiversity planning' and strategizing process, in a manner that is in line with the global guidance contained in the CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011-2020.

The following key outcomes are sought as part of the project:

- 1) A participative stocktaking exercise on biodiversity planning takes place and national biodiversity targets are developed in response to the global Aichi Targets
- 2) Azerbaijan's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is revised/updated and it fully integrates new aspects of the CBD strategic plan, such as mainstreaming and anchoring the implementation of the plan into national development frameworks, valuing ecosystem services and promoting ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience
- 3) National frameworks for resource mobilization, Convention reporting and exchange mechanisms, including the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) of the CBD, are established and strengthened

The ultimate goal of the project is to build national capacity within the topic of biodiversity planning. This implies procuring knowledge and capacity building services that are usually not available in the country, due to the specificity of the topics at hand and the technical requirements.

Hence, an international Request for Quote is being launched in view of having services rendered by a group of specialised consultants within the following areas of expertise:

- (A) The interface between biodiversity & climate change
- (B) Environmental economics, finance and biodiversity mainstreaming
- (C) Assessment of needs for developing national capacity within the topic of biodiversity planning and management

Services may combine national and international expertise and quotes for qualified companies should be presented as a package of services, including honoraries, travel expenses and admin costs.

(2) Background

- To be added when composing the final documentation for the Request for Quotes -

(3) Objective

Provide knowledge and capacity building services to the government of Azerbaijan, as well as to other key stakeholder involved in the process of defining biodiversity targets and updating the country's NBSAP, as well as developing implementation plans to it, and in developing / upgrading the country driven CHM, with the following specific sub-objectives:

- (A) To identify opportunities for incorporating ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience into existing biodiversity plans, including for new and existing protected areas, as well as for other key areas of biodiversity and for sustainable use areas.
- (B) Identify and assess the full value of biodiversity and ecosystem services within Azerbaijan, and promote the incorporation of economic valuation of biodiversity into various sectors, including development plans and sectoral plans.
- (C) To objectively outline and analyse Azerbaijan' capacity to effectively implement the obligations deriving from the ratification and accession of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

(3) Scope of Work

Block of Services (A) The interface between biodiversity & climate change

Specific Tasks will include:

- identifying, protecting and appropriately managing areas important for carbon sequestration;
- assessing the extent to which the country's ecological gap assessment include predicted future distribution of biodiversity under climate change scenarios and making specific recommendations for protected area and corridor expansion;
- assessing the impact of climate change on the functioning of ecosystem services, such as water;
- identifying areas important for improving nature's ability to adapt to climate change, such as altitudinal gradients and conservation corridors;
- identifying areas of particular importance for restoration in order to improve climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation

Block of Services (B) Environmental economics, finance and biodiversity mainstreaming

- Identify and assess the full range of values of key ecosystem services within the country, based on existing local, national, regional and global studies on the value of ecosystems and biodiversity, including: the valuation of protected areas, any other national ecosystem services studies that have been conducted (e.g., water, carbon), and existing global and regional maps and overlays of key ecosystem services. This may also include comparing valuation studies from ecosystems in neighbouring countries.
- Identify the implications of these services for different stakeholder groups within the country, including those who benefit from, and pay for, the maintenance of these ecosystem services, and those that degrade ecosystems through unsustainable use.
- Estimate and demonstrate the value of key ecosystem services (using methods appropriate to each service), including the value of the ecosystem service in contributing to climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation; reducing poverty, and sustaining livelihoods.
- Identify mechanisms for incorporating these values into national accounting practices.
- Where appropriate, this activity will also identify potential means of capturing the value of targeted ecosystem services, including through policies such as payments for ecosystem services and other positive incentives.
- Develop a written report that summarizes all findings.

Block of Services (C) To objectively outline and analyse Azerbaijan' capacity to effectively implement the obligations deriving from the ratification and accession of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity

- Assess extent of role clarity and/or CBD implementation at the national level as it relates across all primary and secondary stakeholders in central government.
- Determine the level of willingness to take responsibility and provide leadership in ensuring relevant CBD obligations and activities are fulfilled.
- Assess whether the identified primary and secondary duty bearers have the necessary human resources to meet the specific obligations.
- Assess the pattern and efficacy of participation at regional technical committees and COP meetings.
- Based on international best practice, recommend the most suitable institutional and/or accountability structure for the effective implementation and coordination of the CBD.
- Identify and prioritise the capacity development needs required to effectively implement CBD obligations at all levels within central government.
- Generate recommendations for capacity enhancement at all levels.
- Generate recommendations to enable rationalisation of capacity and efficient resource allocation during implementation with other MEAs.
- Develop a comprehensive Capacity Development Programme and Training Action Plan for effective implementation and coordination of CBD at the district and central government levels.

The above services comprise a minimum of 18 persons-week in total.

Service providers will work together with the team of national consultants for the project in Azerbaijan, in particular the National Enabling Activity Technical Manager, who will play a coordinating role vis-a-vis project activities, as well as the International NBSAP Consultant.

(4) Expected Results

Contribution to the following deliverables:

- Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Azerbaijan
- Brief Review of the Biodiversity Planning Process in Azerbaijan
- Set of 'straight-forward' and feasible NBSAP implementation plans, which ensure the effective implementation of the Action Plan contained in the NBSAP

Leading role in the preparation of the following deliverables

- Study on Ecosystem Valuation in Azerbaijan
- Study on Advances in Sectoral Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in Azerbaijan
- Study on the Incorporation of Challenges and Opportunities linked to Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Resilience in Azerbaijan

– Number of minimum mission days and schedule of payment to be completed when composing the final documentation for the Request for Quotes –

(5) Duty station:

- Baku, Azerbaijan, for the mission part*
- Home based, for the completion of certain reports

*Note: all travel expenses should be included into the breakdown of contract total amount by submission of financial proposal.

(6) Requirements to the documents

- Draft and final documents should be submitted in English or Russian in MS Word (2007 and later). Used font: Arial, size: 12; Presentational documents should be prepared in Power Point.

– May be complemented when composing the final documentation for the Request for Quotes –

(7) Responsibility

- Agrees the above results with the National Enabling Activity Technical Manager, under the guidance from the International NBSAP Consultant;
- Ensures timely and quality execution of the Terms of Reference;
- Ensures unconditional implementation of requirements of the contract

(8) Qualification requirements

- As minimum 5 years of work experience (preferably more, given the complexity of the services in question) in the relevant field for the

three blocks of services: (a) environmental or natural science, with a specialization in ecosystem based climate change adaptation and/or mitigation; (b) national biodiversity valuation studies, payment for ecosystem services, sectoral mainstreaming of biodiversity, policy development, national accounting practices and methods; (c) human resource management or public administration, skills assessment, capacity development and training.

- Valid certificates and licenses for consulting services in the field of biodiversity.
- Available qualified personnel with university degrees in the field of biodiversity management, economics, human resource / public administration.
- Outline of proposed approach for the three blocks of services
- List of rendered consulting services for the past 3 years.
- Ability to submit the 2 reference letters confirming the successfully rendered services for the last 2 years.
- Ability to hold the trainings in Russian is a plus (else translation services may be required)

(9) Available information:

Complete Project Document for the UNDP/GEF PIMS 4779 “National Biodiversity Planning to Support the implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan in Azerbaijan”

– *Relevant hyperlink to the project document to be added when composing the final documentation for the Request for Quotes* –

(10) Selection Process

The selection of the company will follow an open competitive process in line with UNDP procurement standards. The successful company would be required to enter into a standard UNDP Institutional Contract. The contract will be awarded according to the cumulative analysis scheme: proposal with the overall highest score after adding the score of the technical proposal and the financial proposal will be chosen.