

**Global Environment Facility****Enabling Activity Proposal Add-on Component**

<b>Country:</b>	<b>The Bahamas</b>
<b>Project title:</b>	Strengthening the National Clearing House Mechanism Focal Point for Participation in the Pilot Phase of the CHM of the CBD
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Country Eligibility:</b>	Ratified the CBD
<b>GEF Financing Requested:</b>	US\$ 14,000
<b>GEF Implementing Agency:</b>	UNEP
<b>National Implementing Agency:</b>	The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission (BEST)
<b>National CHM Focal Point Designated:</b>	Yes
<b>Project Duration:</b>	Up to end of the pilot phase of the CHM of the CBD (end of 1998)

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**Background/Context:**

In line with Decisions II/7 and II/17 of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission (BEST) of The Bahamas is implementing a GEF-funded project for the preparation of the NBSAP and first national report to the CBD.

Facilitating capacity-building in relation to the operation of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) of the CBD in developing country Parties is one of the enabling activity components stipulated in the GEF Operational Criteria for Biodiversity Enabling Activities pursuant to Decisions II/3 and III/4 of the COP.

This proposal, requested as an add-on component to the BSAP enabling activity, will permit The Bahamas to participate in the pilot phase of the CHM and to fulfill the requirements of Decisions I/3, II/3 and III/4 of the COP.

The requested budget for this activity is shown in the following table:

**Budget for the Clearing House Mechanism Add-on Component of  
Enabling Activity proposal:**

**The Bahamas\* (US\$)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>GEF Estimated Cost Norm (US\$)</b>	<b>Country Actual Proposed (US\$)</b>
- Hardware (PC of appropriate configuration)	0-4,000	4,000
- Software (Internet browsers and required software)	0-1,000	1,000
- Modem	0-500	500
- Recurrent Access Costs to Internet Service Provider (up to end of CHM Pilot Phase 1998)	0-3,800	3,800
- Technician Set-Up Fees	500-700	700
- Internet and E-mail Training for CHM Focal Point **	1,000-4,000	4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500-14,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>

\* Group I country, Option A:

The Bahamas has the required telecommunications infrastructure and Internet connectivity. It has designated a Focal Point for the CHM, The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission (BEST), who will be directly responsible for the operations of the CHM of the CBD.

BEST is also the national implementing agency for the "NBSAP and First National Report to the CBD" project endorsed by the GEF in September, 1996.

\*\* Training of the CHM focal point will be carried out under an agreement with the Internet Service Provider that will be selected by BEST.



THE BAHAMAS ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

OPM/BEST/NBS/1

Mr. Ahmed Djoghla  
Executive Coordinator  
United Nations Environment  
Programme  
P. O. Box 30552  
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Mr. Djoghla,

2 April 1998

U N E P	
GEF COOD. OFFICE	
RECEIVED	
ACTION NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REQUIRED YES <input type="checkbox"/>
- 9 APR 1998	
WHAT.....	
WHO..... CS	
WHEN COMPLETED.....	
CIRCULATE	NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/>
PROJECT CHM	

CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM TO THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN AND FIRST NATIONAL REPORT PROJECT

I am directed to refer to your letter dated 3 March 1998, concerning the addition of a Clearing House Mechanism to the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan and First National Report Project.

I regret that you did not receive a response to your letter of 30 June 1997 regarding this matter. I honestly cannot recall ever having received it. If I had, I most assuredly would have responded immediately.

I did however, confirm to the CBD Secretariat in my letter of 21 August 1997, Ref. OPM/BEST/CBD/1, in response to the Executive Director's letter dated 14 July 1997, that The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission would serve as the National Focal Point for the Clearing House Mechanism. The BEST Commission appeared on their list of National Focal Points, and we were only asked to reconfirm.

The Bahamas Government is pleased to note that it is eligible for this additional assistance. Towards that end and in response to your request, I am returning Annex A, duly completed.

Your assistance in processing this request will be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

*Catherine M. Benjamin*

Catherine M. Benjamin  
(for) Permanent Secretary

CMB/ts

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