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United Nations Development Programme 
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY **GEF SECRETARIAT**

September 10, 1996

Dear Mr. El-Ashry,

Enclosed herewith is the UNDP/GEF project document for BHU/96/g32/A/1G/99 - National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Action Plan and Report to the CBD.

As you are aware, this project was cleared by the GEFOP meeting of June 6, 1996. In the developing the full operational project document, we have carefully taken note of comments made during the taskforce meeting and have reflected them in the present document.

We are, therefore, forwarding the project document in accordance with the GEF Project Cycle document requesting CEO and Council member clearance prior to final approval by the Implementing Agency.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further clarification about the project document.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,


Rafael Asenjo
Executive Coordinator

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
 Project of the Royal Government of Bhutan

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project Title:	National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Action Plan and Report to the CBD	UNDP and cost sharing financing	
Project number	BHU/96/G32/A/1G/99		
Duration:	3.5 months	UNDP/GEF	US\$ 116,546
ACC/UNDP Sector and subsector	2000 Environment, Biodiversity	Government	-
Project site	Thimphu	Total	US\$ 116,546
Executing agency	Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan		
Implementing agency	Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan		
Government input	In-kind (staff and institutional resources)		
Starting date	October 1996		

Brief Description: The RGOB is committed to conserve its rich biodiversity and its pristine environment. By ratifying the Global Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 25 August 1995, the RGOB's commitment to conserve its biodiversity was further strengthened. In line with the obligations under the CBD, this project will enable the RGOB to develop a National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy with prioritized Action Plans, which will serve as an overall framework to consolidate, strengthen and improve its activities and programmes to conserve and sustainably utilize its rich biodiversity in Bhutan. In addition, this project will enable the RGOB to prepare its first National Report on biodiversity to the CBD Conference of the Parties (CoP) in 1997, thus fulfilling Bhutan's obligation to the CBD under Article 26. In the process of implementing this project, the RGOB will strengthen its capacity in the assessment of its biodiversity and in the formulation of strategic action plans to conserve and sustainably utilize it.

On behalf of	Signature	Date	Title
Government	_____	_____	_____
UNDP	_____	_____	_____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	CONTEXT.....	1
A.1.	Country Description.....	1
A.2.	Host Country Strategy and Biodiversity.....	1
	Related Activities	
A.3.	Prior or Ongoing Assistance Related to.....	3
	Biodiversity Activities	
A.4.	Institutional Framework for Biodiversity Related Activities.....	3
B.	PROJECT JUSTIFICATION.....	3
B.1.	Problem to be Addressed: the Present Situation.....	3
B.2.	Expected End of Project Situation.....	3
B.3.	Target Beneficiaries.....	4
B.4.	Project Strategy and Institutional Framework for Project Implementation.....	4
B.5.	Reasons for Assistance from UNDP/GEF.....	5
B.6.	Special Considerations.....	5
B.7.	Coordination Arrangements.....	5
B.8.	Counterpart Support Capacity.....	5
C.	DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES.....	6
D.	IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES.....	6
E.	INPUTS.....	8
F.	RISKS.....	8
G.	PRIOR OBLIGATIONS AND PRE-REQUISITES.....	8
H.	PROJECT REVIEW, MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	8
I.	LEGAL CONTEXT.....	9
J.	BUDGET.....	10

K:	WORKPLAN.....	11
K.1.	Brief Description of the WorkPlan.....	12
K.2.	Best Practices.....	12
Table 1: Activity Matrix.....		13
Footnote for Activity Matrix.....		14
Annex 1: Terms of Reference for Biodiversity Task Force Group.....		16
Annex 2: Terms of Reference for International Consultant.....		17
Annex 3: Terms of Reference for National Consultants.....		19

A. CONTEXT

A.1. Country Description

The mountain kingdom of Bhutan, wedged between China and India, is located entirely within one of the world's ten global biodiversity "hot spots" - the Eastern Himalaya. With over 70% forest cover, Bhutan is known to harbor approximately 7,000 species of vascular plants, 160 species of mammals and more than 770 species of birds. Bhutan's landscape rises from an altitude of 150 meters above sea level in the southern foothills to over 7,000 meters along its northern border. This dramatic elevation gradient accounts for its diverse flora and fauna, from elephants, tigers and the rare golden langur in the lowlands to the snow leopard, blue sheep and takin in the high Himalaya.

A.2. Host Country Strategy and Biodiversity Related Activities

Wary of the impact of rapid development, the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGOB) has adopted a cautious development strategy. Environmental concerns are integrated into the government's Five Year Development Plans, and an extensive protected area system covers 26% of the total land area. Bhutan has committed itself to an environmentally sustainable development strategy at a time when the international community has acknowledged that development activities and environmental considerations are inseparable. In 1990, the Bhutanese Government issued the *Paro Resolution on Environment and Sustainable Development*. The resolution outlines strategies for sustainable practices in every sector of development. A growing population and changing lifestyles, however, are putting greater pressure on the country's natural resources. Having recognized this, the Royal Government of Bhutan ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 25 August 1996. The National Environment Commission (NEC) is the focal agency for CBD and the Ministry of Agriculture is the main focal agency for biodiversity related activities at the operational level. Although, there are numerous ongoing activities related to biodiversity conservation in Bhutan, the RGOB has felt the need to develop a consolidated strategic, multi-sectoral framework for the conservation of Bhutan's full complement of biodiversity as well as an action plan to actually carry it out and to meet the obligations of the CBD. This Enabling Activity proposes to do this.

A.3. Prior or Ongoing Assistance Related to Biodiversity Activities

The primary objective of this project is to assist the RGOB in developing a strategy and designating priority actions related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the context of economic development. Building upon the significant amount of work already conducted in Bhutan, it will devise a National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable distribution of its benefits; develop a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to implement the NBS; and prepare Bhutan's First National Report to the CBD Conference of the Parties (CoP) in 1997.

A good deal of work has already been done or is ongoing in Bhutan's biodiversity, environmental, and other related sectors. These existing reports and assessments - including gray literature - describing Bhutan's biogeographic regions and major ecosystems, rare and endangered species, commercially useful and domesticated species, sociological issues, and so on, will all be utilized as part of this effort. None of them provide the over-arching, National, strategic perspective on Bhutan's biodiversity conservation priorities - from forestry to agrobiodiversity. Many of them, however, do provide useful "pieces" to an overall, yet-to-be-developed, National Strategy and action Plan.

Bhutan's *National Environmental Strategy*, which is being prepared by the National Environment Commission (NEC), is a draft document that deals with broader issues of sustainable development including the brown sector, such as urban planning, pollution, and some green sector issues of renewable natural resources, including hydro electricity and tourism, and biodiversity conservation. The National Environmental Strategy provides broad guidelines for this EA to go into further details in identifying gaps and opportunities for specific biodiversity conservation interventions. This EA will use NES framework to further develop a long-term, comprehensive valuation of conservation to avoid focusing only on rare and threatened wildlife species. The BAP once developed will strengthen RGOB's commitment to conserving its natural resources and to comply with the international conventions it has signed. The Forestry Department has a *Forestry Master Plan* including a five year national conservation plan prepared in 1991. The Master Plan provides a general programme framework for management of national parks and protected areas, sustainable harvest of forests, community forestry programs and non-timber forest products. The five year national conservation plan recommended in the Forestry Master Plan is now outdated. As such, this EA will be very timely as it will provide the opportunity to assess the activities carried out in the last five years and redirect future biodiversity conservation programs consistently with the new developments taking place in the country. The proposed BAP will take a step further to see what is happening in biodiversity conservation in Bhutan and where the inputs would be most effective. A strategy for nature conservation, a five year action plan, was prepared in February 1995 to guide day to day implementation of protected areas and their management. The action plan is a working document of Nature Conservation Section (NCS) of Forestry Services Division dealing specifically on protected area management and human resources development for NCS and its field affiliates. This EA will build on NCS action plan to develop a broader and comprehensive strategy for conserving biodiversity beyond protected areas. The *Forest and Nature Conservation Act of 1995* provides a legal framework for the establishment and management of protected areas, social forestry and species conservation. The Act encourages community participation in forest management through social forestry and agro-forestry programs. The government's five year development plan outlines major economic and social development programs which are funded by bilateral and multi-lateral donor agencies. Some of the ongoing programs related to conservation, management, and utilization of natural biological resources include: Protected Area Planning in Bhutan funded by WWF; Biodiversity Conservation in the Kingdom of Bhutan funded by the Dutch Government; Forest Resource Management and Institutional Capacity Development funded by UNDP/Capacity 21; and the Third Forestry Development Project funded by the World Bank/Swiss Development Corporation. All of these efforts will be consulted and their activities taken into account. The Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BT FEC), established as a long-term funding mechanism, will provide self sustaining and

catalytic funds through its interest earnings to finance Bhutan's biodiversity conservation related programmes. The Trust Fund is currently being established in Bhutan through a Royal Charter. The Strategy and Action Plan proposed here would provide strategic guidance to the Fund as well as other donors involved in Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) sector.

A.4. Institutional Framework for Biodiversity Related Activities

The NEC is the highest cross-sectoral body established in 1989 to monitor and to regulate the environment sector in Bhutan and it is the focal point for the CBD. The Commission is chaired by the Planning Minister, and its members comprise of Home Minister, Trade and Industries Minister, Deputy Minister for Environment, Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, and Joint Secretary of Forestry Services Division.

The Forestry Services Division (FSD) within the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is the main agency responsible for the execution of biodiversity conservation programmes as overseeing enforcing measures to conserve and sustainably utilize the biodiversity resources in Bhutan. The actual day-to-day management and implementation of biodiversity conservation is carried out by the technical section within FSD, the Nature Conservation Section (NCS). FSD, a major division under the Ministry of Agriculture, alongwith agriculture and livestock, are denoted as the Renewable Natural Resources Sector (RNR). Crop and horticulture genetic resources fall under the Research Extension and Irrigation Division (REID), comprising of the Arable Agriculture Ecosystem. The livestock and partoral genetic resources including fishery fall under the Crop and Livestock Services Division (CLSD). However, the fishery resources in the fresh water river and lake systems (or the wetland ecosystem) are controlled by the FSD. The Office of the Land Record Division under the Ministry of Home Affairs maintains the land records including the grazing land in the forest.

B. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

B.1. Problem to be Addressed: the Present Situation

Although a good deal of work has already been done or is ongoing in Bhutan's biodiversity, environmental, and other related sectors, none of them provide the over-arching, national, strategic perspective on Bhutan's biodiversity conservation priorities - from forestry to agrobiodiversity. Moreover, under the CBD, the RGOB is obliged to prepare a NBS with BAP under Article 6, and to present a National Report to the CBD CoP under Article 26. Due to limited capability and manpower within the NEC Secretariat and the MOA with respect to the preparation of a comprehensive NBS with BAP, assistance is required to fulfill RGOB's obligations under the CBD. This project aims to enhance the capability within the NEC Secretariat and the MOA to fulfil this obligation under the CBD.

B. 2. Expected end of Project Situation

A National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy with Action Plan will be formulated and formally adopted to provide an overall multisectoral framework within which a full complement of Bhutan's priority biodiversity conservation activities/action programmes, including forestry, wetland/freshwater, agric/horticulture, and livestock/pastoral biodiversity will be worked out indicating cost estimates for each action plan. A Biodiversity Task Force formed at the national level as a forum for consultation, discussion, analysis and coordination for developing the the NBS with BAP will have established a formal coordination mechanism to enhance/generate intersectoral and intra-sectoral collaboration/coordination and greater community and political support for future biodiversity conservation programmes in Bhutan. The RGOB will have prepared its first National Report to the CBD CoP in 1997.

B.3. Target Beneficiaries

The target beneficiaries will include the NEC Secretariat and the RNR sectoral agencies especially, the Nature Conservation Section in the Forestry Services Division, the four RNR Regional Research Centres under the Research Irrigation and Extension Division (REID), and the Crop and Livestock Services Division (CLSD). Other beneficiaries will include the farmers and variety of plant and animal species co-existing in different ecosystems in Bhutan.

B.4. Project Strategy and Institutional Framework for Project Implementation

The Nature Conservation Section (NCS) in the Forestry Services Division within the Ministry of Agriculture will coordinate the development of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The Forestry Services Division is the main governmental agency responsible for the execution of biodiversity conservation programmes as well as overseeing and enforcing measures to conserve and sustainably utilize the biodiversity resources of Bhutan. The actual day-to-day management and implementation of biodiversity conservation is carried out by the technical section within FSD, the Nature Conservation Section (NCS).

A national-level Task Force will be formed under the head of Nature Conservation Section of FSD comprised of a representative from the National Environmental Commission (NEC), Research Extension and Irrigation Division, Crop and Livestock, Planning and Policy Division (PPD) of Ministry of Agriculture to represent RNR sector, Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN), World Wildlife Fund Bhutan Program (WWF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Sustainable Development Program of the Planning Commission.

The task force group, supported with national and international experts, will work with the four Regional RNR Research centers as well as training institutes such as the Natural Resources Training Institute, Forests research center, Plant Protection Center, Indigenous Medicinal Plants project, and other institutions related to RNR in developing the Strategy and Action Plan. The task force will act as a forum for consultation, discussion, analysis and coordination for the

development of the Strategy and Action Plan.

WWF Bhutan Program will provide requisite technical assistance as well as coordination services as determined by the Task Force. WWF will use its experience gained elsewhere with BAP preparation and build on the existing programmes in Bhutan such as the biodiversity database, protected area planning, and national conservation plan.

The first National Report to the CBD CoP will be prepared following the guidelines provided by the CoP of November 1995.

B.5. Reasons for Assistance from UNDP/GEF

The Himalayan ecosystem which includes Bhutan has diverse biodiversity values of national and global significance. One of the world's ten global biodiversity "hot spots" - the Eastern Himalaya is included in Bhutan. Over 85% of the Bhutanese population living in the rural communities depend for their sustainable livelihoods on the biological diversity. The forests provide fuelwood, fodder for livestock, leaf litter and mould to replenish soil fertility, food supplements, herbal medicines and construction materials which fulfil the basic needs of the subsistence communities in most parts of Bhutan. However, greater pressure is now being put to these natural biological resources from growing populations and changing lifestyles.

In accordance with CBD Article 6 the RGOB is obliged to prepare a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. According to the CBD Article 26, Bhutan is to prepare National Reports to the CBD CoP and as per decision II/17 of the second meeting of CoP of the CBD the first National Report is to be submitted to the fourth meeting of the CoP in 1997. Bhutan is a developing country, with environmentally vulnerable and mountainous areas. As provided under Article 20 of the CBD, the RGOB, therefore, needs to be supported with full cost from GEF to implement the proposed Enabling Activity without which the RGOB is not in a position to fulfil its obligations to the CBD as a contracting party.

B.6. Special Considerations

Over 85% of the population in Bhutan depend for their sustainable livelihoods on diverse biological diversity which is now under increasing threat from the increasing population and change in the lifestyles. While preparing the action plans, special considerations should be given to alternate income generating activities, utilizing biological resources on sustainable basis, involving especially the women in the rural communities and livestock herders. In this context, the NBS/BAP will consider an holistic approach, wherein, besides the Forest Biodiversity, the conservation and sustainable utilization of the biodiversity in other ecosystems, especially, the Wetland/Freshwater, Arable Agriculture/Horticulture, and Livestock/Pastoral will be considered in totality. Cross-sectoral issues of socio-economic, cultural, political, legal, institutional, and technological (including indigenous knowledge) nature, which are important for people to take proper decisions to conserve and sustainably utilize biodiversity, will be fully considered in

preparing the NBS and the BAP.

B.7. Co-ordination Arrangements

As described under B.4.

B.8. Counterpart Support Capacity

The RGOB has always demonstrated its commitment to biodiversity conservation which is further re-inforced since it ratified the CBD on 25 August 1995. The Ministry of Agriculture as the implementing agency of this Enabling Activity has a firm and committed institutional base which will be essential to achieve the objectives of this project. Use of the Biodiversity Task Force will further strengthen the Agriculture Ministry's capability to complete the project and produce the desired outputs.

C. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this Enabling Activity is to promote the conservation of the major ecosystems and their diverse biological diversities and devise action plans/programmes to sustainably utilize these diversities to improve people's livelihoods, which is in line with the overall RNR sector development objective of the Eight Five Year Plan.

D. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Immediate Objective 1: To prepare a National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan in accordance with the CBD and the GEF Operational Criteria for Enabling Activity for Biodiversity (Table 1: Activity Matrix), taking due account of the existing initiatives and information.

Output 1: A National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan which asses Bhutan's status of biodiversity (including the biodiversity in Forestry, Wetland/Freshwater, Arable Agriculture/Horticulture, and Livestock/Pastoral ecosystems) in terms of the present status/threats and the current conservation strategies, together with a prioritized action plans/programmes to conserve and the sustainably utilize Bhutan's biological diversity.

Success Criteria

Completion of a National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and its endorsement by the RGOB for its implementation.

Activities

Pre-startup: Bhutanese Government representative undergoes short-term training (1 month) in participatory planning.

- 1.1.1. Convene a one-day National Workshop in Thimphu to discuss the approach to be adopted in the preparation of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.
- 1.1.2. Immediately follow-up with a Biodiversity Task Force Meeting to devise a detail course of action and drawup work programmes for the Task Force and the consultants.
- 1.1.3. Identify and review existing reports and plans that should be included in or can contribute to the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan to fulfil any of the requirements for the plan while avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.
- 1.1.4. Devise an outline of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan by identifying the relevant matters/issues in line with the CBD and the GEF Operational Criteria for Enabling Activity for Biodiversity as outlined in Table 1 of the Activity Matrix and also in line with the RNR sector 8th Five Year Plan policy objectives with respect to biodiversity conservation.
- 1.1.5. Devise an outline for stock taking and assessment of the existing biodiversity information (based on the Activity Matrix of Table 1) at the regional levels involving the staff from the four RNR Regional Research Centres, field RNR staff and the farmers by the national consultants.
- 1.1.6. Devise an outline for identification and analysis of options and strategies for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing of the biological diversity at the regional levels by the national consultants.
- 1.1.7. Conduct four Regional Workshops to implement activities described under 1.5 and 1.6.
- 1.1.8. Convene a Task Force Group meeting to discuss and review the regional reports and subsequently devise/plan to drawup the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action plan.
- 1.1.9. Prepare the draft National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.
- 1.1.10. Convene a Task Force Group meeting to present/discuss the draft National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.

- 1.1.11. Convene a National Workshop to present/discuss the draft National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.
- 1.1.12. Endorsement of the national Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan by the RGOB.

Immediate Objective 2: To prepare the first National Report to be submitted to the fourth meeting of the CBD CoP in 1997.

Output 2: The first National Report to the CBD CoP is prepared.

Success Criteria

Completion of the first National Report to the CBD CoP and its endorsement by the RGOB/1997 CBD CoP.

Activities

- 2.2.1. Convene a Task Force Group meeting to devise the outline on the preparation of the first National Report to the CBD of the CoP in 1997.
- 2.2.2. Prepare the draft National Report to the CBD.
- 2.2.3. Finalize the first National Report to the CBD and endorse it by the RGOB.
- 2.2.4. Submit the first National Report to CBD CoP 1997 through UNDP/GEF.

Project Coverage

Although there exists numerous reports and ongoing projects/programmes on biodiversity related areas none of them provide the over-arching, national, strategic perspective on Bhutan's biodiversity conservation priorities - from forestry to agro-biodiversity. Many of them will, however, provide useful information in preparing the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, enabling the RGOB to fulfil all its obligations under the CBD. The activities to be covered in the Enabling Project described above are summarized in the Matrix Activity in Table 1.

E. INPUTS

Government

The Government contribution will be in kind in terms of staff, office space and infrastructure facilities.

UNDP/GEF

The GEF contribution is estimated at US \$ 107,000 which consists of:

International consultant (2.5 mm)	=	US \$ 33,750
National consultant (6.5mm)	=	US \$ 9,750
Duty travel/mission costs	=	US \$ 15,000
Workshop/group training	=	US \$ 36,000
Misc.	=	US \$ 12,500

F. RISKS

The project is located in the right line ministry of the Government (i.e. MOA) and the involvement of all the stakeholders through the Task Force to assist/guide the consultants in producing the outputs will ascertain to achieve the project objectives.

G. PRIOR OBLIGATIONS AND PRE-REQUISITES

The RGOB ratified the CBD on 25 August 1995 which is a pre-requisite to be eligible to access GEF funding for the Enabling Activity.

H. PROJECT REVIEW, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Not applicable. Inbuilt in the process itself. Project to be completed in 3.5 months.

I. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1, para 1, of the Standard basic Assistance Agreement between the RGOB and the UNDP, signed by the parties on 14 May 1978.

J. BUDGET

<u>Budget code</u>	<u>Project Component</u>	<u>Implementing Agency</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>
11.00	International Personnel		MM US \$
11.01	International consultant (incl. travel, DSA, and fees)	RGOB	2.5 33,750
11.99	Sub-total	RGOB	2.5 33,750
15.00	Duty travel	RGOB	4,000
16.00	Mission cost	RGOB	11,000
17.00	National Personnel		
17.01	National coordinator/consultant (Forest Genetic Resources)	RGOB	3.5 5,250
17.02	National consultant (Freshwater Genetic Resources)	RGOB	1 1,500
17.03	National consultant (Arable-Agri/Horti Genetic Resources)	RGOB	1 1,500
17.04	National consultant (Livestock/Pastoral Genetic Resources)	RGOB	1 1,500
17.99	Sub-total		6.5 9,750
19.00	COMPONENT TOTAL		9 58,500
30.00	Training		
32.00	Group training/workshop		
39.00	Sub-total	RGOB	45,000
50.00	Misc.cost		45,000
52.00	Reporting costs		
53.00	Sundry	RGOB	4,000
54.00	Project Support Services	RGOB	3,836
59.00	Sub-total	UNDP	5,210
99.99	PROJECT TOTAL		12,500
			116,546

K. WORKPLAN

Week	Month 1				Month 2				Month 3				Month 4				Responsibilities
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Activity 1.1	x																TF/C
Activity 1.2	x																TF/C
Activity 1.3	x																TF/C
Activity 1.4		x	x														TF/C
Activity 1.5			x														TF/C
Activity 1.6				x													TF/C
Activity 1.7			x		x	x	x	x									C
Activity 1.8									x								TF/C
Activity 1.9										x	x	x					C
Activity 1.10									x			x					TF/C
Activity 1.11												x					TF/C
Activity 1.12														x			NEC/MOA
Activity 2.1														x			TF/C
Activity 2.2												x		x			C
Activity 2.3												x			x		TF/C/NEC/MOA
Activity 2.4														x	x	x	NEC/MOA/UNDP
														x			

Note: Task Force (TF)
 Consultant (C)

K.1. Brief Description of the Workplan

The project will follow the sequence recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines. Planning activities will begin in the 1st week of 1st month. Initially, a meeting will be held in Thimphu with concerned RGOB and non-RGOB parties to form a Task Force (see section B.4) and devise a course of action for the succeeding 3.5 months. This will be followed by a core group meeting of the Task Force to devise course of strategic programme for the team of consultants and the Task Force. Stocktaking and assessment of existing information, and the elaboration of different technical sectoral documents will take place over the first eight weeks. The national and international consultants will review existing documents and work with the Task Force following the course of action devised in the first meeting, accommodating adjustments if necessary. The preparation and implementation of field workshops and consultations will take place in months 1-2. This will be the most crucial period where the national consultants with the help of Task Force will conduct a regional workshop at each of the four RNR Research Centers. The regional workshops will seek active participation of local farmers, extension staff, researchers and natural resource managers. Baseline data on biological diversity and their various uses, management and institutions; and issues on legal, policy, socio-economic, and cultural aspects in relation to biodiversity conservation and resource use will be discussed. Regional perspective on biodiversity and strategic plan for sustainable development will be discussed in these workshops. Each regional strategic plan will be analyzed for its practicality and a report from each RNR Research centers will be prepared jointly by the National Consultants under the overall coordination of the Project Coordinator cum National Consultant for Forestry Biodiversity, who will be hired for the entire 3.5 months of the project period. These regional reports will be combined to provide a basis for drafting a National Biodiversity Action Plan by the International Consultant.

The international consultant will assist the national team in finalization of the plan - final national level meetings, clarification, translation, and so on, will be concluded by the end of third month. The First National Report to the CBD will be written in the final two-week period.

K.2. Best Practices

The methodology for the implementation of the project is based on the "Guidelines for Country Study on Biological Diversity" (UNEP, 1993), the "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994), and the Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (SRI-IUCN-UNEP). The RGOB will follow the best practice criteria as contained in the "Enabling Activity Operational Criteria" document.

Table 1. ACTIVITY MATRIX :

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Inst Strc	Building Training	Public Partic	Cmnts (Page 5)
Stocktaking and Assessment - biodiversity & biological resources - cross sectoral issues - policy and regulatory framework - institutional and human capacity - analysis of <u>root causes</u> of BD loss - technologies for conservation and Sustainable use - activities with adverse impacts - <u>existing measures</u> and programmes - preliminary statement of objectives - identification of <u>gaps</u> - assessment of <u>existing needs</u>	x			x	1
	x			x	2
	x			x	3
	x			x	4
	x			x	5
	x			x	6
	x			x	7
	x			x	8
	x			x	9
Identification/Analysis of Options to meet the Objectives of the CBD - strategies for <u>conservation</u> - strategies for <u>sustainable use</u> - strategies for <u>benefit sharing</u>	x	x		x	10
	x	x		x	11
	x	x		x	12
Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan - national strategy - national action plan	x	x	x	x	13
	x	x	x	x	14
Preparation of first National Report - first national report	x		x	x	15

Footnotes (for table 1)

1. The assessments referred to on p.2 provide general information on sectoral conservation action plans and a national conservation plan. Utilizing these resources and complementing them with targeted, information gathering missions to gather information on existing biodiversity conservation will be collected. Field data on biodiversity status, landuse practices, institutional arrangements, data on different levels of diversity such as genetic, species and ecosystem will be collected. Stocktaking and assessment of biodiversity at the regional level will allow for more indepth and accurate secondary data review and concurrently inculcate involvement and responsibility of the Regional RNR staff in the exercise right from the beginning.
2. The national conservation plan and national environmental strategy recognize biodiversity conservation and sectoral issues. Neither provide the necessary strategic framework and action points, however. This EA will build on the broad guidelines already prepared to prepare realistic and specific actions for an integrated and coordinated plan incorporating the issues and concepts reflected in the national conservation plan and the national environmental strategy.
3. The draft national environmental strategy being developed by NEC recognizes the need for environmental legislation. However, there is not yet an overall assessment of legal/policy framework.
4. An overall human resources development plan exists for Bhutan. The Capacity 21 programme will strengthen institutions and manpower involved in general environment management. This enabling activity will assess institutional and human capacity in the areas of biodiversity conservation in Bhutan. This will be an important step for clarifying institutional responsibility for environmental management in Bhutan.
5. While general information exists at the national level (National Conservation Plan for Bhutan, Annex 1, Forestry Masterplan; Paro Resolution on Environment and Sustainable Development, NEC 1993) and at specific local sites (Biodiversity Assessment of Manas National Park and Black Mountains Nature Reserve, RGOB, 1993; A Conservation Biology Assessment of Existing and Potential Forest Management Units in Eastern Bhutan, RGOB, 1995), more work needs to be done in both traditional and non-traditional areas of biodiversity conservation.
6. Conservation and sustainable use technologies are only generally documented (Bhutan towards a Sustainable Development in a Unique Environment NEC, '92.); regional assessments of knowledge in this area would provide much-needed detail and be the first step in exchanging information on best practices.
7. Some information exists on threats to large mammals and birds, and includes genetic diversity of crop and livestock (Biodiversity and Socio-Economic Surveys of Manas, Black Mountain, Jigme Dorji 1993-1995; by FSD, WWF). However, a comprehensive assessment of major threats to biodiversity at national/district levels is needed.

8. Information on ongoing general development programmes is available from the seventh five year plan document. However, information on crop diversity and landuse, as well as species diversity and their various uses is still lacking. There is need for further work to assess various programs being planned and carried out and compile overall information on environmental programmes in Bhutan.
9. An overall gap analysis of biodiversity conservation will be required. This project will build on the existing landuse maps and latest information to identify the protected area gaps and existing needs. This information will be used to identify priority actions for the biodiversity strategy plan. This EA can utilize the "Review of Protected Areas in Bhutan (1993)" document to assess representation of various ecosystems of the country for conservation.
10. The task force with the help of national consultants will compile information through a series of workshops at Regional RNR Research centers. The RNR Centers will provide a forum for participation for local farmers, researchers, extensionists, and resource managers. Since the EA will be a process driven activity, the Regional RNR Centers will be strengthened for their capacity to develop strategic plans as outputs of the regional level biodiversity action planning workshops. Similarly, the BAP development process will develop capability of four nationals employed on the job. National level workshops will follow to apprise central decision makers on priority issues and opportunities. Feedback received from these various workshops will be incorporated in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
11. As in No. 10.
12. Various research and training institutions, NGOs and farmers will participate in the discussion on developing strategies for benefit sharing.
13. Consultants will work with the task force and the in-country experts and institutions in refining the plan. The process of consensus building and information gathering as discussed above (10) will be the main input for preparing the strategy and action plan. The Task Force and consultants will collate regional reports to draft the national Biodiversity Action Plan. A final national level workshop will be held to bring together concerned RGOB officials, line ministries and departments, NGO's, research and training institutions and interested donors, to review the BAP, assess the main priorities and proposed actions and integrate them into a final national biodiversity action plan. The BAP will describe biodiversity conservation situation in the country, discuss issues, prioritize national level actions, define implementation frameworks, and identify funding requirements as well as potential sources. Technical assistance in strategy formulation will be provided at the first orientation workshop and the final formulation workshop in which the strategy and action plan will be produced.
14. Same as No. 13.
15. In consultation with the task force, the consultants will develop the first national report which will be reviewed and endorsed by the National Environmental Commission. Final documents will be submitted by NEC to UNDP/GEF-CoP.

Annex 1 Terms of Reference for Biodiversity Task Force Group

A Biodiversity Task Force Group (BTFG) will be formed, headed by the Nature Conservation Section (NCS) Head of the Forest Services Division (FSD), to assist/guide the international and the national consultants in preparing the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Bhutan and its first National Report to the CBD Conference of the Parties (CoP) in 1997. Members of the Task Force will comprise of a representative from the National Environmental Commission (NEC), Research Irrigation and Extension Division (REID), Crop and Livestock Services Division (CLSD), Planning and Policy Division (PPD) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to represent the Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) sector, Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN), World Wildlife Fund Bhutan Programme (WWF), the Sustainable Development Programme of the Planning Commission, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Task Force, supported with national and international consultants, will work with the four RNR Regional Research Centres, as well as training institutes such as the Natural Resources Training Institute, Forest Research Centre, Plant Protection Centre, Indigenous Medicinal Plants project, and other institutions related to RNR in developing the Strategy and Action Plan. The Task Force will act as a forum for consultation, discussion, review, analysis and coordination for the development of the Strategy and Action Plan and the first National Report to CBD CoP in 1997 according to the activities outlined in section D of this project document.

Annex 2: Terms of Reference for International Consultant

An international consultant will be hired for a period of 2.5 months in two split missions (1 month at the beginning and 1.5 months for the second mission). In collaboration with the Biodiversity Task Force Group and the National Consultants, he or she will assist the RGOB in preparing the national Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and its first National Report to CBD CoP in 1997 based on the "Guidelines for Country Study on Biological Diversity" (UNEP, 1993) the "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994), and the "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (SRI-IUCN-UNEP). The international consultant will be responsible for ensuring that the final strategy and report meet international standards. In particular, he/she will:

1st Mission:

1. Assist the Task Force to convene a one-day National Workshop to sensitize the high level Government staff on biodiversity and its importance and use this forum to discuss the approach to be adopted while developing the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan;
2. Devise a detail course of action and drawup work programmes in collaboration with the Task Force and the National Consultants and provide guidance to the national consultants in planning methods and processes;
3. In collaboration with the Task Force and the National Consultants, identify and review existing reports and plans that should be included in or can contribute to the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan to fulfil any of the requirements for the plan while avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort. This should be done following the guidelines to national biodiversity planning entitled "National Biodiversity Planning: guidelines based on early experiences around the world." ;
4. In consultation with the Task Force and the National Consultants, devise an outline of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan by identifying the relevant/priority matters/issues, in line with the CBD and the GEF Operational Criteria for Enabling Activity for Biodiversity, as outlined in Table 1 of the Activity matrix and also keeping in line with the overall 8th Five Year Plan policy objectives of the RNR sector with biodiversity conservation and utilization;
5. Devise an outline for stock taking and assessment of the existing biodiversity information (at ecosystem, species and genetic level) and also an outline for identification and analysis of options and strategies for conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing of the biological diversity at the four regional levels by the National Consultants covering the complete biodiversity of Bhutan: (Forest/Grassland/Mountain, Wetland/Freshwater, Arable-Agriculture/Horticulture, and Livestock/Pastoral);

6. Discuss and finalize item No.5 with the four National Consultants who will then gather information at the regional level by holding four workshops at the four RNR Regional Research Centres;

2nd Mission:

7. Discuss/review the regional reports produced by the four National Consultants and prepare a draft National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan;

8. Present the draft report (output no.7) in a National Workshop to discuss/review and finalize;

9. In consultation with the Task Force, prepare the 1st National Report to the CBD of the CoP in 1997 and finalize it before his/her departure from Bhutan.

Experience and Qualifications Required.

He/she will have long professional experience with necessary qualifications in the conservation and sustainable management and utilization of diverse range of biological diversity (including forest to agro-biological genetic resources) preferably in mountain eco-systems. Ideally, he/she will have a considerable past experience in the formulation of Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans; familiar with the "Guidelines for Country Study on Biological Diversity" (UNEP, 1993), the "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994), the "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (SRI-IUCN-UNEP), CBD, and GEF Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities for Biodiversity; considerable experience in project identification/design/formulation of UNDP/GEF assisted projects/programmes in the biodiversity related fields especially through participatory approach; and expert in computer usage.

Duty Station : Thimphu
Starting Date : August
Duration : 2.5 months
Language : English

Annex 3: Terms of Reference for National Consultants

Four National Consultants will assist the International Consultant and the Task Force in developing the Biodiversity Strategy and the Action Plan.

1. National Consultant cum Coordinator (Forest/Grasslands/Mountain Biodiversity)

He/She will be hired for 3.5 months and will be responsible for the overall coordination in the process of developing the Biodiversity Strategy and the Action Plan. He/She will have long professional experience with the necessary qualifications in the Forest/Grassland/Mountain biodiversity conservation and management of its resources in Bhutan and will have good writing skills using computer and with experience in participatory approach methodologies in assessing resource utilization and in resolving conflicts. He/she will work closely with RGoB and UNDP offices and will ensure that the proper stakeholder participation is built-in to the planning process.

Specifically, the National Coordinator will:

1. be responsible for coordinating the overall effort to produce the biodiversity strategy and action plan. This coordination will include: providing substantive input into the planning process; insuring that the input from the international consultant is maximized; ensuring the quality and timeliness of the other national consultants' contributions; and ensuring that the planned consultations are well run and yield as much participation and information as possible;
2. be responsible for producing the final drafts (in collaboration with the international consultant) of the strategy and action plan.
3. familiarize him or herself with the guidelines to national biodiversity planning entitled "National Biodiversity Planning: guidelines based on early experiences around the world" and apply the approach suggested therein to the planning effort in Bhutan.
4. provide advice and technical inputs for the overall effort, while producing 5 background reports on the Forest/Grassland/Mountain Biodiversity (1 from the stocktaking and assessments, and four regional reports be prepared after each of the regional consultations
5. work in close collaboration with the international consultant in preparing for the planning process and again at the end of the effort in preparing the final draft action plan and strategy.

2. National Consultants(for Wetland/Freshwater Ecosystem/Arable-Agriculture/Horticulture Ecosystem and Livestock/Pastoral Ecosystem)

Three additional National Consultants for one month each will be hired to assist the Project Coordinator cum Forest Ecosystem National Consultant/International Consultant/Task Force in the process of preparing the Biodiversity Strategy and the Action Plan. In particular, each consultant will provide advice and technical inputs covering their respective subject matters while preparing the four Regional Reports, in collaboration with the Project Coordinator.

He/She will have long professional experiences with the necessary qualifications in their respective subject matters. Good writing skills with computer knowledge and experiences in participatory approach methods will be of added advantage.

More specifically, each of the consultants will:

- 1) be responsible for providing the substantive input on their respective topics to the overall planning process. This will require them to conduct consultations and research as necessary.
- 2) assist with preparing for and conducting the 4 regional consultations as part of the process of developing the biodiversity strategy and action plan
- 3) produce 5 reports to be fed into the overall drafting of the strategy and action plan (1 from the stocktaking and assessments and 1 from each of the four regional consultations;
- 3) assist the coordinator and the international consultant in drafting the final action plan and strategy.