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United Nations Development Programme
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)



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GEF

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Biodiversity

Subject: Revised Biodiversity Enabling Activity proposal for Bolivia

Please find attached the revised **Biodiversity Enabling Activity proposal for Bolivia** in which we have addressed comments of Avani Vaish dated 27 April 1998.

Thank you.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Country:	Bolivia
Project Title:	<i>Formulation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for its Implementation</i>
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Convention Ratified on October 3, 1994
Total Project:	US\$ 265,752
GEF Financing:	US\$ 253,752
Government Contribution	US\$ 22,000 in kind contribution
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	Biodiversity Conservation Directorate (DNCB)/ Ministry for the Sustainable Development and Planning (MSDP)
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Secretariat of Public Investment
CBD Focal Point:	DNCB
CHM Focal Point:	Gabriel Baracatt, Biodiversity Director General/MSDP
Estimated Starting Date:	October 1998
Project Duration:	12 months

1. Background

Bolivia has a territory of 1,098,581 km² and is the fifth largest country in South America. The widely different altitudes and climatic conditions across the country provide a great diversity of landscapes from snow-capped peaks in the western and central ranges of the Andes, to fertile river valleys in the eastern Andean slopes (Yungas), and lowland forests in the Amazon region of the north-east. This variety of landscapes houses biodiversity of outstanding global and regional significance. Nine of the countries eleven ecoregions are classified as being of the highest regional priority for biodiversity conservation¹. These include:

- Three Puna ecoregions (Humid, Dry and Central) found from 3,700 to 4,200 meters altitude in the Altiplano between the Cordillera Occidental and the Cordillera Real in the west;
- Broadleaved Tropical Amazonian Rainforests in the north and north-east;
- Mountain and Lowland Broadleaved Dry Tropical Forests in the south east;
- Savannas of the Beni region, in the east, and the Cerrado and Chaco in the southeast.

Species diversity is equally rich with some 20,000 species of vascular plants, 319 mammals, 1,358 birds, 220 reptiles, 500 fish and 112 amphibians being recorded to date, of which 11 mammal, 17 bird, 16 reptile and 23 amphibian species are endemic.

The Bolivian economy, once very dependent on non-renewable natural resources, especially tin and silver is increasingly relying on the exploitation of renewable natural resources after the

¹ *A Conservation Assessment of the Terrestrial Ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean*: E. Dinerstein, D. Olson, D. Graham, A. Webster, S. Primm, M Bookbinder, G. Ledec; 1995; World Bank in Association with the World Wildlife Fund.

collapse in world prices of these metals in the eighties. Agriculture currently represents 16 % of the annual gross domestic product. Only 6 % of the land has been classified as apt for agriculture resulting in large tracts of land being cultivated that cannot maintain production on a sustainable basis. Soil erosion is extensive with approximately 38% of the country being affected. Agricultural and grazing activities combined with logging for fuel have almost completely denuded the highlands and 70% of the forests are subject to threats from deforestation. The country's outstanding biodiversity is coming under increasing pressure as critical habitat is lost, with some four hundred species listed as threatened and 36 endangered ².

In response to the increased reliance on renewable natural resources and to the high levels of poverty ³ and inflation registered in the country, the government initiated major transformations in the mid-eighties to stabilize the economy and implement social reforms. The present government continued this transformation and is actively pursuing a policy centered on sustainable development. A series of institutional and legal reforms have been carried out to strengthen the management and the protection of the resource base. These include the Environmental Law enacted in 1992; the establishment of the present Ministry for the Sustainable Development and Planning (MMAP) in 1993; the recognition of Decision 391 of the Cartagena Agreement on access to genetic resources, as national law in 1996; and the formulation of the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) that emphasizes the importance of maintenance and sustainable-use of natural processes and resources. Currently all nine departments have Agendas 21 for the 1996-2000 period, formulated through participatory processes, supported by a UNDP Capacity 21 project. By the end of 1997, around 134 of the 311 of the municipalities will have Municipal Development Plans.

These plans include environmental concerns, however, they do not present an overall strategy or specific measures to orient the conservation and sustainable use of the country's biodiversity. Aware of this, the MDSMA Biodiversity Conservation Directorate (DNCB), in consultation with universities, NGOs and other governmental sectors, have recently characterized the scope and laid some preliminary foundations for a national Conservation Biodiversity Strategy (CBS) including the identification of the main actors related to biodiversity conservation and some guidance for priority actions. This strategy is to provide a coordinated long-term vision for biodiversity management at national, regional and local levels, within the context of the NSDP, and in line with the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Government of Bolivia (GoB) is seeking GEF Enabling Activity Funds to build on these foundations and prepare a Bolivian National Biodiversity Strategy.

2. Project Objectives and Brief Summary

The main objectives of this proposal are (i) to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy as the pivot of a permanent planning process for conserving biodiversity, increasing scientific and technical knowledge of this and promoting its sustainable use, thus contributing to economic

² *Threatened*: 100 mammal, 200 bird, 20 reptile, and more than 70 plant species; *Endangered*: 8 mammal, 13 bird and 3 reptile species.

³ 70% of the total population for 1994

growth and social equity of the country and ensuring the implementation of the CBD in Bolivia; (ii) to formulate an Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy that details sectoral actions, priority programmes, resource needs, funding mechanisms and designates responsibilities for specific programmes; (iii) to elaborate the first national report concerning the application of the CBD (article 6); (iv) to assist the GoB to effectively participate in the Clearing House Mechanism.

The project will consist of four main phases: 1) the inventory of existing information; 2) identification of options, 3) the preparation of the National Strategy and Action Plan and 4) the preparation of the first National Report.

In phase one, the first step will be to constitute a project team composed of six national experts in fauna, flora, sustainable use of natural resources, environmental economy, indigenous groups, and planning/promotion/participatory processes. The last expert will be designated as project coordinator and will work as a link between the project team, the DNCB and all the other institutions involved. The project team, under the overall guidance of the DNCB, will detail the design for strategy preparation building on the preliminary foundations that identified the need for a strategy that would feed into national development plans and not be limited to a static, one-off document. In this respect the strategy design will provide for a cyclical and participatory planning process that can be permanently updated, monitored and evaluated at future dates. This formulation-process will reflect the decentralization and public participation policies recently adopted in the country and the outstanding regional differences in habitat and species biodiversity that require distinct approaches and actions. It will also incorporate special considerations for consultation amongst the extraordinary range of cultural and ethnic groups present in the country. Another key issue will be the full incorporation of organizations from the civil society in order to ensure the implementation of this process despite the political changes that may occur in the country in the near future as a consequence of the general elections. To facilitate the detailing of this design project members and DNCB staff will take place in a biodiversity planning instruction session at the start up of the project.

Following the detailed design of the strategy-formulation process, stocktaking of existing information on biodiversity related issues will be undertaken. Information will be collated on a regional basis in a format suitable for a multi-source data base that can be easily and permanently up-dated as more information becomes available. This will be developed building on the existing DNCB database, and will be of free access to other national institutions once the strategy is designed and approved. Three recognized environmental organizations with working experience on biodiversity and with existing capacities will be hired to collate data on biological resources and institutional and human capacity, within defined regions and under the supervision of the project team⁴. A group of environmental lawyers will be hired for the analysis of the existing legal framework. Information gathering on technologies for conservation and sustainable use,

⁴ These 3 institutions, to cover the highlands, lowlands and valleys, will be selected at the beginning of the project according to specific technical and organizational criteria which will be defined by the DNCB and the project team.

existing measures and programmes, and preliminary statement of objectives will be under the responsibility of the project team.

The project team will also prepare a report on the stocktaking exercise and a preliminary analysis and evaluation of root causes of biodiversity loss and activities with adverse impact. This report will form the basis for the second stage of the project - identification of gaps in the existing knowledge and options that could be taken regionally for in-situ and ex-situ biodiversity conservation programmes or activities. This second stage will consist of three 2-days workshops to be held in La Paz, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz, cities that represent the main ecological regions of the country (highland, valleys and lowlands respectively). Each workshop will count on the participation of approximately 80 persons from the major stakeholder groups including government (central and regional units) and the civil society (NGOs, scientific institutions, ethnic groups and indigenous associations).

In order to ensure that the report prepared by the project team as the basis of the discussion at these regional workshops has the support of a wider range of biodiversity experts, a national meeting will be held in La Paz prior to the regional workshops. This meeting will count with approximately 50 national experts on biodiversity and related subjects from public and private organizations and will review the report prepared by the project team making any necessary adjustments and validating it as the document on which the regional workshop discussion will be based.

A workshop facilitator will be hired to ensure that the three regional workshops use similar techniques and present conclusions in a common format appropriate for the preparation of the National Strategy. This facilitator will also have experience in multi-ethnic workshops and use techniques such as analysis of documents in small more homogenous groups and followed by larger plenary sessions to ensure that participants from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds can fully contribute to discussions.

The third phase of the project will be the actual drafting of the national strategy. A first draft will be prepared by the project team using the recommendations of the regional workshops and reflecting the regional differences and the participation processes. A further round of consultations will be held to review and validate this draft and provide information for the formulation of the Action Plan for its implementation. This round of consultations will count on the presence of a broader spectrum of stakeholders including decision-makers that can indicate and designate responsibility for implementation of actions outlined in the Strategy and Plan⁵. For this reason it will be organized according to administrative divisions in the country where decisions will be made for implementation responsibilities and where close coordination with Agenda 21 can be maintained. Nine 3-days workshops will be organized in total (one per department of the country).

⁵ The participants to these workshops will represent: central and regional governmental institutions, scientific organizations, NGOs, private sector and ethnic groups.

Recommendations and information from this round of consultations will be used to finalize the Strategy and prepare the Action Plan. The final documents of the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) and the Action Plan (AP) will be approved by the governmental unit responsible for biodiversity in the country (currently DNCB/MSDP). The printed documents of the NBS and AP will be officially distributed to all sectors to ensure its application.

The fourth phase will address the preparation of the first national report to the CoP/CBD concerning implementation of article 6 of the CBD in Bolivia. A first draft will be prepared by the project coordinator based on the results of the stocktaking exercise and the regional workshops for identification of options. For its presentation to the Conference of Parties, the document will need to be approved by the government and the National Sustainable Development Board.

In parallel with the NBSAP formulation, activities will be undertaken through this project to strengthen Bolivia's participation in the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM). The CHM will function through a service agreement with the Sustainable Development Network (SDN) that has been working in close collaboration with the Biodiversity Directorate. Assistance is required to strengthen the capacity of the SDN for participation in the Clearing House both in terms of instruction on the basic concepts of the CHM, and in its operational mechanisms (setting up database, storing of national CHM web site on server etc.). Recurrent costs of access to the internet service provider will also be required during the initial pilot phase of the CHM.

3. Operational Criteria

Coverage without Duplication: Several projects and/or programmes related to biodiversity conservation are being developed and implemented by different institutional sectors of the country, most of them financed by international agencies (see Appendix 1). Care will be taken to build on information provided by these projects and to avoid duplication of actions. The governmental initiatives include: the implementation of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) with funds allocated by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Swiss Government and the Dutch Government; the conservation and sustainable use of Genetic Resources financed by GEF, UNDP and in the near future by the Dutch Government; the sustainable management of forests with financial support of USAID; the sustainable management of river basins financed by the Swiss Government; territorial planning with financial support of the Dutch Government; and the sustainable management of indigenous territories through funds coming from the GTZ, the UNDP and, from 98 onwards, from Denmark. With regard to the civil society initiatives, several specific biodiversity conservation efforts are being implemented through a broad spectrum of projects with financial support from national and international funding agencies such as: FONAMA, PL-480 Programme, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, McArthur Foundation, and others.

Sequencing of Activities: Project activities will follow the sequence shown below:

Stocktaking and Assessment, based on existing information												
Set-up team and detail strategy formulation methodology	X											
Data stocktaking		X	X	X	X							
Processing of data per ecoregion				X	X							
Identification of Options												
Biodiversity Planning Instruction Session for project team	X											
Preparation of report for basis of regional workshops				X	X							
Consultation on report for basis of regional workshops (1)					X							
Regional identification of options workshops (3)						X	X					
Preparation of Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan												
Prepare First draft of the document							X	X				
Departmental consultations to determine responsibilities (9)									X	X		
Prepare final versions of the Strategy and Action Plan											X	X
Distribute final version												X
First National Report												
Prepare first draft				X	X							
Approval of final version and submit to CoP						X						
Clearing House												
Clearing House Mechanism Instruction and Set-up			X	X								

Best Practice: The preparation of the strategy will build on the foundations established by the MSDP, NGOs and universities for developing a National Biodiversity Strategy (see page 2) and will follow the recommendations established in the document "National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Country Experiences around the World" prepared by WRI, IUCN and UNEP and will be centered firmly within national conservation policies and National Development Plans. A multi-sectoral advisory committee will be constituted for this project to ensure that the process counts with the participation of all sectors directly or indirectly involved in biodiversity actions⁶. This committee will also facilitate the integration of the strategy into sectoral plans such as agriculture, mining, territorial planning, ethnic matters and others, through their political and technical support. The regional focus is closely in line with decentralization policies of the Government. There will also be strong links with on-going participatory planning processes such as the Capacity 21 project that supports the preparation the National and Departmental Agendas 21, and on-going territorial planning for 20 municipalities financed by the Dutch government. This will ensure the integration of biodiversity concerns into the economic and social development of the country. In addition, the strategy will be undertaken using national NGO and academia expertise and consultants wherever possible. Limited input from international experts will be sought at the start-up for definition of methodologies and during

⁶ The Advisory Committee's composition is explained in chapter 4 "Institutional framework".

strategy preparation and writing of the first report. Special emphasis will be given to selecting the methodology to run national and regional workshops, since their success will depend upon the organizing teams' ability to guide the analysis and discussions. In this sense, an expert on workshops organization will be hired for some of the project considering the strong heterogeneity of groups involved in the process.

Deviations from Cost Norms: None.

4. Institutional Framework

The Environment and Natural Resources National Secretariat of the Ministry for the Sustainable Development and Planning is charged with global policies for the environment. The Biodiversity Conservation Directorate (DNCB) within this Secretariat is responsible for the management of protected areas, wildlife and genetic resources. The Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat of the Ministry of Economic Development (SNAG) is also related to biodiversity conservation being responsible for the agricultural, forestry and fishing development of the country.

The preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy will be promoted, coordinated and supervised by the DNCB and representatives from the SNAG assigned for this purpose. The DNCB will provide all the infrastructure necessary for the project team's work as well as the administrative support for funds management and workshops organization. Nevertheless, departmental workshops will be under the charge of each prefecture in order to strengthen regional capacities.

The project implementation will be executed by the **Project Team** composed of six experts (in fauna, flora, environmental economy, sustainable use of natural resources, indigenous groups and planning/communication/promotion) under the general supervision and co-ordination of the DNCB, as mentioned above. Other specific consultants such as lawyers and experts in workshop facilitation will be hired for more limited periods of time and specific tasks.

To secure that all interested sectors within the country are involved in the process, an **Advisory Committee** composed of no more than 10 experts selected from important public and private sectors, will be established with the main purpose of overseeing the strategy preparation. This committee will also provide continuity to the process considering the political instability that may occur due to general elections and which could negatively affect the preparation of the strategy. Periodic meetings between Advisory Committee members and the project coordinator will be held to evaluate advances, problems and failures. These supervision and advisory meetings will be valid only with the participation of a minimum number of seven of its members.

The composition of the advisory committee will be defined at the beginning of project by representatives from a scientific institution, the DNCB, NGOs, Funding Agencies, Indigenous and Peasant Organizations and the private sector. For the selection of the advisory committee the experts will consider the following governmental sectors: natural resources, planning, agriculture, mining, industry, tourism, ethnic matters, and non-governmental sectors: academia, indigenous organizations, NGOs, environmental funding organizations and private associations.

However, because of its important work and support to biodiversity conservation, representatives from the IUCN Bolivian Committee and LIDEMA (Environmental defense league) will be part of the advisory committee.

5. Budget (in US dollars)

	Product	Process	Total
I. Stocktaking and Inventory Existing Information	33,000		33,000
National Consultants (12MM)	20,000		
Environmental organizations stocktaking of biological resources	12,000		
Miscellaneous (communications, copying, post, etc.)	1,000		
Identification and Analysis of Options	44,900	47,500	92,400
Biodiversity planning instruction session (BPIS)		5,000	
International Consultant for BPIS (0.25 MM)		7,000	
Preparation of first draft report for basis of regional workshops (National consultants 20 MM)	32,700		
National meeting to review report		7,500	
Prepare final draft, print and disseminate report for basis of regional workshops discussions	3,600	4,900	
Facilitator for National Meeting and Workshop Regional Workshops (2 MM)		5,000	
Workshops for identification of gaps and option (three regional of 2 days each)		18,100	
Preparation of regional workshop reports(nat.cons.)	2,500		
Miscellaneous (including per diems & travel for project team and workshop facilitators)	6,100		
Preparation of a Strategy and Action Plan	47,000	46,900	93,900
Preparation of first draft NBS (national consultants)	28,000		
International Consultant for first draft (1MM)	4,500	4,500	
Printing and dissemination of first draft		3,400	
Departmental consultations (9) to review first draft NBS and prepare Action Plan		27,000	
Workshop facilitator (45 days)		8,000	
Preparation of Final version of NBS and Action Plan (Consultants, editing, printing, dissemination of NBSAP)	8,500	4,000	
Miscellaneous (including travel for inter.cons.)	6,000		
First National Report	8,600	1,500	10,100
Preparation of first draft (National consultant 2.0MM)	3,600		
Publication and translation	5,000		
Promotion/distribution		1,500	
Clearing House Mechanism		6,000	6,000
Coordination and Management	13,350	9,590	18,352
Total	146,850	105,490	253,752

*Budget for Option B (Service Agreement) for CHM component of proposal

Items	Estimated Cost Norm (US\$)	Actual Proposed (US\$)
Recurrent Access Costs to Service Provider and storage	0-5,000	3,000
Internet and E-mail training	0-3,800	3,000
Total	0-8,800	6,000

Annex 1:
Standard Activity Matrix

Commitment	Execution	Institutional strengthening	Training		
1.1. Establishing and Assessment based on Existing Information					
1.1 Biodiversity and biological resources	IUCN/X				1
1.2 Cross-sectoral issues	Various / X				2
1.3 Policy and Regulatory Framework	DNCB/X				3
1.4 Institutional and Human Capacity	IUCN/SNRG/X				4
1.5 Analysis and root causes of biodiversity loss	LIDEMA/X				5
1.6 Technologies Conservation and Sust use	Various/X				3
1.7 Activities with Adverse Impact	X				6
1.8 Existing Measures and Programmes	Various/X				3
1.9 Preliminary Statement of Objectives	BCL/DNCB/X				7
1.10 Identification Gaps	X				8
1.11 Assessment of Existing Needs	X				8
2.1. Evaluation and Analysis of options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD					
2.1 Strategies for Conservation in situ, ex situ	SNAP/X		X	X	9,10,11
2.2 Strategies for Sustainable Use	X		X	X	10,11
2.3 Strategies for Benefit Sharing	X		X	X	10,11
3.1. Development and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan					
3.1 National Strategy	X			X	12,13
3.2 National Action Plan	X		X	X	12,13
4.1. Submission of First National Report to CBD					
4.1 First National Report	X				14

X = Activity undertaken within enabling activity proposal

IUCN = International Union for the Conservation of Nature is preparing a proposal for a more complete inventory; CAPACITY 21 = Project funded by the UNDP to develop national and departmental agendas 21; SNRG = National System of Genetic Resources; LIDEMA = Environmental Defense League; BCL = Biodiversity Conservation Law; PAAB = Bolivian Environmental Action Plan; *Various* = National Planning Secretariat SNP; Environmental Quality Under-Secretariat SbCA; Biodiversity Conservation Directorate /DNCB ; SNAP = National System of Protected Areas

Footnotes:

1. Considerable information has been produced on biodiversity (especially on genetic resources and species), however, most of it is scattered amongst individual publications, reports and in a few databases. For example, TROPICO (an environmental NGO) has a database which was developed by The Nature Conservancy, with approximately 3000 records (2000 in flora and 1000 in fauna). Although it needs to be updated, this database will be used in the assessment of the existing information on biological resources as well as that available in the national herbarium some of which is computerized. Despite these sources considerable effort will be required to collate existing data on a regional basis that corresponds to the three macro-ecoregions of the country (highlands, lowlands and valleys). This project will undertake the minimum necessary to

provide a sound basis on which the NBS can be prepared. As this will not be an exhaustive compilation further efforts will be required in the future (beyond the scope of this project) to further collate information for strategy reviews and monitoring of its implementation. This has been recognized by the Bolivian Committee of the IUCN which has prepared a proposal to make a more complete inventory of the conservation and sustainable use of flora and fauna. This proposal is currently being revised by different national organizations involved with the subject, after that funding will be sought. If available in the time frame of the project proposed herein, partial results from this study will be taken into account.

2. Several steps have been taken towards addressing cross-sectoral issues in the environmental field, however these do not relate specifically to biodiversity. These include: (i) the National Planning Secretariat of the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Planning was established to coordinate cross-sectoral issues but is not fully effective as it cannot influence sector policies and activities such as mining and industry; (ii) the Under-Secretariat of Environmental Quality evaluates environmental impacts caused by different activities but does not impact on policy making. (iii) a Governmental working group has been formed to address genetic resources and counts with the participation of several sectors but is still in the process of being institutionalized; (iv) the wildlife Consultative Group composed by representatives from the government and the civil society. Despite these important initiatives there is no complete analysis of cross-sectoral issues as related specifically to biodiversity. This project will review the progress and effectiveness of these existing structures in the light of the CBD, and provide information for a more effective coordination of cross-sectoral issues.

3. The approved Forestry Law and the Access to Genetic Resources Decision provide an important legal framework for biodiversity. Some other laws that affect biodiversity indirectly are also important: Land Reform Law, Popular Participation Law and the Mining Code. A proposal for the Biodiversity Conservation Law has been developed by the DNCB through a participatory process, which is now being reviewed by the Senate Environmental Commission. Additionally, the DNCB approved specific norms on wildlife and protected areas and access to genetic resources and biosafety. All the existing and proposed legislation will be fully reviewed in this project in the light of the CBD to determine duplications, gaps and overlaps, and to determine whether this legal framework is appropriate and enough for implementing a NBSAP.

4. The IUCN project, mentioned above, plans to produce an institutional and personal directory related to biodiversity conservation, but it is unlikely that this will be available during the time scale of this project. Additionally, a 4-year project designed for the development of a National System of Genetic Resources and funded by the Dutch Cooperation since 1998, will cover an evaluation of institutional and personal capacities concerning conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources. Complementary information will be gathered and systematized during this project by the 3 NGOs hired for stocktaking information.

5. No specific information has been produced on this topic, however, some general documents on environmental impacts and biodiversity were compiled by the Environmental Defense League (LIDEMA). This will be used as part of the analysis and identification of root causes of biodiversity loss to be included in the stocktaking report prepared by the project team for the

identification of options regional workshops. The information on this issue will be reviewed and complemented during a national meeting held to discuss the draft report and ensure that regional workshop discussions are based on a complete and validated document. This national meeting will be held in La Paz and will count with approximately 50 national experts on biodiversity and related subjects from public and private organizations.

6. Information related to activities with adverse impact will be collated by the project team in the same report mentioned above and will be reviewed and validated during the regional workshop for identification of options.

7. General objectives for biodiversity conservation have been established in the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Law under review by the Senate Environmental Commission, in the general plan for economic and social development (PGDES), and in the Bolivian Environmental Action Plan (PAAB) produced by the previous government. These documents will be reviewed by the project team in the light of the CBD and taking into consideration the new processes ongoing in the country. As complementary information, national plans such as the National Plan for Indigenous Development and the Plan for Agriculture will be checked as well.

8. Identification of gaps, based on the stocktaking report, will cover the following levels: ecoregional level, species level, genetic resources level, institutional and human capacity, policy and legal framework. The identification of existing needs will be done by the project team, as well as a rough estimation of costs and benefits for filling these gaps.

9. The National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) currently consists of 21 protected areas which represent 16% (185.700 Km²) of the Bolivian territory. Fifteen of these, covering around 10% (113.700 km²) of the national territory, are fully functional with management plans currently being implemented through support from the GEF funded "Implementation of the National System of Protected Areas Project". These 15 protected areas and management plans form the backbone of a national strategy for conservation *in situ* and will be taken into full account during the BSAP process, however, they do not represent a complete and fully comprehensive strategy. This project will review existing information, identify what further study is required for the remaining 6 protected areas and develop a more complete conservation *in situ* strategy that will incorporate actions for the full 21 SNAP protected areas as well as any other existing or required conservation *in situ* actions that fall outside the present system. Whilst a major step towards conservation *in situ* has been made through the existing GEF project, this does not include actions specifically related to an *ex situ* conservation strategy. The project presented herein will collate information on existing initiatives and capacity for *ex situ* conservation and define a clear strategy for this area. Care will be taken to closely co-ordinate with the National System of Genetic Resources initiative that is expected to contribute substantially in this area.

10. All the information produced in the stocktaking will be compiled in a report by the project team and validated through a national meeting (see note 5). The final report will form the basis for a round of regional consultations, where preliminary aspects of the strategy will be outlined. Three 2-days workshops, each one with approximately 80 participants from public and private

sectors will be held in the main ecoregions of the country (lowlands, valleys and highlands). Reports from each workshop will be produced and feed into the preparation of the first draft NBSAP.

11. Institutional strengthening will occur at two levels. *Directly*, through a biodiversity instruction session: the project coordinator, the experts on sustainable use of natural resources, indigenous groups and environmental economy, two representatives from the DNCB, four representatives from the Advisory Committee, and a representative from the civil society will take part in a biodiversity-planning instruction workshop that will be run by an international expert at the start up of the project. This will allow a more comprehensive understanding of the guidelines prepared by WRI, IUCN and UNEP for biodiversity planning, and the detailing of the strategy formation process ensuring the utilization of a uniform methodology for data gathering, consultation process, setting schedules, evaluating and monitoring. *Indirectly*, a variety of stakeholders will have strengthened capacities in biodiversity evaluation and planning through participation in the national meeting, regional workshops and departmental consultations.

12. A first draft National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) will be developed by the project team, considering all suggestions and comments made during the regional workshops to identify options. This draft will identify main issues, define goals and objectives, characterize stakeholders, prioritize and suggest actions to close the existing gaps, estimate costs and investments and propose an implementation schedule. This draft will be submitted to a third round of consultations in each one of the country's departments where the draft NBS will be reviewed and priority actions, needs and responsibilities defined for the involved sectors. Nine consultations with approximately 50 participants from public and private sectors including DNCB, prefectures, forestry, agriculture, popular participation, land reform, tourism, mining, NGOs, indigenous groups and private sector will be held in departmental capitals. These consultations will be run by a facilitator trained in multi-cultural and ethnic working groups and will use special techniques to allow full participation and to produce uniform reports that can feed into the preparation of the final National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

13. A final version of the NBSAP, with regional priorities integrated into a national perspective, and well defined implementation strategy will be prepared by the project team and submitted for approval to the governmental institution responsible for biodiversity conservation. Once approved, the NBSAP will be distributed to all the organizations that participated in the workshops for their implementation.

14. An interim report has been presented already, upon completion of this project the first national report will be prepared by a national consultant based on the progress attained by then in the preparation of the NBSAP. Before presentation to the Conference of Parties, the Report will be submitted to the DNCB and to the National Sustainable Development Board.