

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

Country: Cameroon

Project Title: National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

Country Eligibility: Ratified the CBD on 19 October 1994

GEF Financing: US\$ 300,000 ✓

Government Contribution: In kind - Personnel, Office Infrastructure, Biological Resource Base

Estimated Total Budget: US\$ 300,000

GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP

National Executing Agency: Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MINEF)

GEF Operational Focal Point: MINEF

CBD Focal Point: MINEF

Estimated Starting Date: June 1996 *Letter ref to April 96*

Project Duration: 15 months |

I. Background/Context:

The Republic of Cameroon with an area of 475,000 sq.km and a population of 12.6 million people (1987), lies between latitude 2 degrees and 15 degrees North and 8 degrees and 16 degrees East. It has borders with Lake Chad in the North; Central African Republic and Chad in the East; Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Congo in the South; and Nigeria and the Gulf of Guinea in the West. The diversity of climate, topography and ecosystems has made Cameroon be designated as "Africa in Miniature". With rich dense forest in the south, the Sudan savannah in the middle-belt and the sub-sahel in the north, the varied vegetation favours the survival of a wide variety of plant and animal species.

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Cameroon whose annual rainfall averages about 6000mm, has been identified by the World Bank and WWF as one of the mega diversity countries in the world and ranks fourth in Africa in terms of biodiversity richness and second to Zaire in diversity of plant species, with many endemic fauna & flora.

Cameroon has 17.5 million ha of tropical forests containing:

- About 9000 plant species among which 156 are endemic and 74 threatened
- 297 mammal species, 10 endemic, 27 threatened
- 849 species of birds, 11 endemic and 17 threatened
- 373 species of reptiles, 19 endemic, 2 threatened

Deforestation is widespread throughout the country. The annual rate of forest loss was 10,000 ha in 1980, jumping to an incredible 200,000 ha in 1990. Much of the deforestation is due to timber export which is the second largest export commodity after petroleum. Many plant and animal species are endangered due to forest destruction.

Since 1987 the country has been passing through a period of economic recession characterised by increased unemployment, unfavourable balance of payments caused by poor prices of the major export commodities (cocoa, coffee, rubber, timber etc) and the devaluation of the currency by 50 %.

With an annual population increase of 3 %, much of the rural population has resorted to the exploitation of the biological resources as a means of survival. This has led to an increase in pressure on the forest resources and if this continues, many potentially useful plants and animals will become extinct. Apart from the Government's efforts in forest management which are hampered by inadequate financial resources, private initiatives are non-existent and the few NGOs working on forest conservation have a difficult task covering the whole country to sensitize the local populations towards conservation and sustained utilization of surrounding forests.

II Project Objectives and Short Description:

Dubbed "Africa in Miniature", Cameroon with its diversity in climate, topography and ecosystems is home to a rich diversity of plants and animals, some of them, like the Giant Eland, not found anywhere else on earth. Hence the principal objective of the project is to assist the Government of Cameroon (GoC) to conserve this rich biodiversity, and to further develop the national machinery for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the context of economic development. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) will provide an opportunity to put Cameroon's existing policy instruments and measures aimed at sustainable management of biological resources in a more comprehensive and committing framework with a broad stakeholder involvement, and to identify remaining gaps. The preparation of the first national report to the CBD will enable Cameroon to meet the obligations under Article 26 of the Convention as stipulated in Decision II/17 adopted by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 2).

III Operational Criteria:

i) Coverage without duplication:

The NBSAP will make use of existing capacity and information, specially from existing projects of national, regional and international organizations based in Cameroon. Where gaps in knowledge exist, the project will endeavour to collect new information as necessary.

ii) Appropriate overall sequencing of activities:

The project will be conducted over a period of 15 months as reflected in the schedule shown in the following table.

	Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Survey of Existing Information	x	x													
2	Preparation of Consultations Schedules		x													
3	Formation of Task Force		x													
4	Provincial Visits, Discussions, Seminars, Workshops, Data Collection			x	x	x	x									
5	Data Processing, Editing etc.							x								
6	Drafting of Report								x	x	x					
7	Circulation for Comments											x				
8	Finalization of Plan <i>Mat/Stat/RI</i>													x	x	
9	Printing and Publication of Plan															x
10	Preparation of first national report												x			

iii) Best practice:

The methodology for the implementation of this project will be based on "Guidelines for Biodiversity Planning "(WRI/UNEP/IUCN 1995). The lessons learned from UNEP/GEF projects in Cameroon and other countries on biodiversity country studies and biodiversity data management and networking will be fully utilized. The First National Report to the CBD will be based on the information available from other biodiversity projects and the progress achieved in preparing the NBSAP. This report will be done in the time frame stipulated in Decision II/17 of COP 2.

iv) Cost effectiveness and consistency of approach and procedures:

The cost effectiveness of this proposal is based on maximum reliance on existing information and capacity developed in the course of other already executed projects. This includes the elaboration of the National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) and other relevant work in the country, specially those of NGOs such as IUCN, WCS, Birdlife International, World Wide Fund for Nature WWF) and CARE International.

Given the rich biodiversity found in Cameroon, and the increasing threat from increasing human populations, the urgent need to conserve this vital wealth for mankind is clear. Hence the proposed budget of US\$ 300,000 is justifiable. The breakdown for this budget is found in Section V.

IV Institutional Framework:

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry will coordinate the execution of the proposal. MINEF was created shortly before the Rio Summit in 1992. This creation was an indication of the Government's seriousness in adopting all possible measures for effective care of its biodiversity. The Ministry is comprised of the departments of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. The National Agency for the Development of Forests (ONADEF) and external services of the Ministry are responsible for the implementation of the Ministry's assignment. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the various research institutes are expected to coordinate the management of biological resources.

V Budget**Cameroon NBSAP Project Budget (US\$)**

Activity	Product*	Process	Total
1. Assessment of Existing Information	30,000	55,000	85,000
2. Identification and analysis of options	20,000	80,000	100,000
3. Preparation of NBSAP	40,000	50,000	90,000
4. Preparation of First National Report	20,000	5,000	25,000
Total	110,000	190,000	300,000

*workshop
with 10 people
for 2 weeks of work*

185

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* Cameroon is a bilingual country (French & English); thus each product would have to be produced in both languages.

VI Deviations from norms and criteria: None

TABLE A: Dimensions of Enabling Activities (Standard Activity Matrix), Cameroon NBSAP

Enabling Activity	Out-put	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments (To see footnotes)
		Institutional Strengthening	Training		
Stocktaking of existing information					1
- biodiversity and biological resources	x	x		x	
- cross-sectoral issues	x	x		x	
- policy and regulatory framework	x	x		x	
- institutional and human capacity	x	x		x	
- analysis of root causes of BD loss	x	x		x	
- technologies for conservation and sustainable use	x	x		x	
- activities with adverse impact	x	x		x	
- existing measures and programmes	x	x		x	
- preliminary statement of objectives	x	x		x	
- identification of gaps	x	x		x	
- assessment of existing needs	x	x		x	
Identification and Analysis of Options to meet the objectives of the CBD					
- strategies for conservation	x	x		x	
- strategies for sustainable use	x	x		x	
- strategies for benefit sharing	x	x		x	
Planning and Preparation of NBSAP					
- national strategy	x	x	x	x	
- national action plan	x	x	x	x	
Preparation of the First National Report					
- First National Report	x		x	x	

¹ There are several ongoing and completed biodiversity projects in Cameroon, many of them initiated by International Organizations. This project will endeavour to coordinate them and build on past achievements. Through this project, MINEF will become a focal point and data center for all biodiversity data in Cameroon and in the Sub-region.

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MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DES FORETS
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS

REGIONAL OFFICE
FOR AFRICA
ACTION

1 *mdh*
2 *EWH*
3 *ed*

18 MAR 1996

Action completed

File

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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
République du Cameroun

COORD. OFFICE
07 MARS 1996

Yaoundé, le

REQUIRED
YES

N° WNA
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FAX (237) 22 94 89

Le Ministre de l'Environnement et des Forêts
The Minister of Environment and Forests

Ref: _____

Objet: Application for funding
Subject: CBD Activities in Cameroon.

à M THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR
to UNEP
NAIROBI - KENYA

I acknowledge your fax message n° 1711 of 14 February 1996 informing me of the availability of US \$ 300.000 and requesting me to apply formally for the funds to enable Cameroon implement important decisions on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

I am hereby conveying to you and to all concerned the gratitude of the Government of Cameroon for this generous initiative of good-will and cooperation which exists between our Governments and Organisations in the endeavour to achieve common goals and objectives.

I have the honour to forward herewith a formal application for the amount of US \$ 300.000 for the uses outlined in the project document attached. The project document which is layed out in the UNDP format, outlines the major activities and the budget for the grant has been approved by the Cameroon's Government authorities, our UNDP Resident Representative and myself.

when not attached

Following the purpose of this grant and looking at the calender of activities in the Project Document, operations should effectively begin in April 1996 to enable us accomplish certain programmes and report before June 1996. I will appreciate your consideration in enabling the funds reach me at your earliest convenience.

before 1997

While conveying the greetings of the Government and people of Cameroon, it is our forwent desire that the world's communities benefit from Cameroon's policies and efforts in the management of her biological resources.

- Regional Director, UNEP, Nairobi
- Resident Rep, UNEP, Cameroon
- Focal Point CBD-Cameroon
- Min. of Econ. & Finance (Dept. of Cooperation)

Le Ministre de l'Environnement
et des Forêts

Dr. RAVA DJINGOER

AKNKN DJOGLAF
Executive Coordinator
P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi
KENYA

