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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

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| Country: | Republic of Chad |
| Project Title: | Chad: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Country Report to the COP |
| GEF Focal Area: | Biodiversity |
| Country Eligibility: | Convention ratified 7 June 1994 |
| GEF Financing: | US\$218,160 |
| Government Contribution: | In kind |
| GEF Implementing Agency: | UNDP |
| National Executing Agency: | Ministry of Environment & Tourism |
| GEF Operational Focal Point: | none designated |
| CBD Operational Focal Point: | none designated |
| Estimated Starting Date: | October 1996 |
| Project Duration: | 10 months |

Background

Chad, the fifth largest country in Africa, is one of the poorest nations in the world, with a per capita income estimated at \$260 in 1991. Chad's population of 6.3 million is growing at an annual rate of 2.6%. Although the mean population density is one of the world's lowest, at 4.9 persons/km², this varies from 0.3 persons/km² in the North to over 30 persons/km² in parts of the South. Containing desert, subdesert, semi-arid grassland, bushland and wooded grasslands, Chad's ecosystems support a high and varied biodiversity, including globally endangered species of desert and subdesert antelopes such as scimitar-horned oryx, addax and dama gazelle. In addition, African elephant, black rhinoceros, giant eland, and wild dogs inhabit the country's grasslands. The Tibesti and Ennedi mountains support a relict flora, once widespread in the region but now confined to these massifs. Lake Chad, the fourth largest lake in Africa, has undergone significant long-term decline but borders wetlands providing critical habitats for migratory birds from Europe. In the northern region, wadis and lakes support 16 endemic fish species (World Bank, 1994).

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Chad's ecosystems have been under severe pressure from a combination of drought and desertification, as well as habitat degradation resulting from agricultural conversion, increased livestock populations, bush fires, fuelwood collection and overfishing. Uncontrolled hunting occurred during the period of armed conflict that gripped the country from the 1970s until recently, which hampered the effectiveness of the wildlife protection agencies.

With the installation of a democratic transition government in 1993, increased security in the countryside, and the forthcoming elections, there are signs that the situation may be improving, although public sector capacity remains very weak. There are few resources to allocate to the environmental sector and except where supported by international projects, field agents have virtually no equipment and receive an irregular salary. Nonetheless, many protected areas do exist, including the vast 80,000 sq km Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve in Northern Chad called by the IUCN Species Survival Commission "the most important protected area in the Sahelian subdesert zone of Africa" (IUCN, 1990). Amongst other species, the reserve contains the last viable surviving population of the scimitar horned oryx in the world.

Amid this challenging context, the highest levels of the Government of Chad have demonstrated awareness and commitment to the need for sound environmental management and biodiversity conservation. Strategic environmental planning began with the 1989 National Desertification Control Plan which attempted to provide a framework for rational natural resources management. In 1994, an Environmental and Desertification Control Round Table was held, resulting in a five-volume document outlining a *National Environment and Desertification Strategy and Action Plan* (CTA, 1994). A recent study was also funded by UNEP to develop a unifying legislative framework for the environment. The GEF is funding a regional project for the development of a Strategic Action Plan for the Lake Chad Basin (PDF Block B). At a local level donors are supporting environmental activities in a number of areas including rehabilitation work at Zakouma (EU and CARE) and Manda (France and the African Rural Cooperation Association) national parks, and rural development activities in Mayo Kebab (GTZ) and the Lake Fitri Region (Catholic Relief Services). To take advantage of this momentum a biodiversity strategy and action plan (BSAP) is needed to provide both a strategic framework and context for these ongoing activities, as well as to identify priorities for and guide future activities. A biodiversity strategy and action plan will also encourage the integration of biodiversity concerns and options into Chad's broader national development strategies and activities, in particular the National Environment and Desertification Strategy.

This enabling activity proposal stems from a request by Chad's Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) to develop a GEF proposal for strengthening the capacity of institutions responsible for biodiversity in Chad. With the assistance of a GEF PDF Block A grant provided by UNDP, extensive consultations between the MET, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Center for Research Support (CNAR), NGOs, and several donors including the World Bank and FAO, led to the preparation in 1995 of a proposal which combined capacity building for biodiversity conservation with the preparation of a national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Following STAP technical review this proposal was reviewed by GEFOP in November 1995 but was deferred pending clear guidance on the form of biodiversity enabling activities. Following this guidance the project has been reformulated as an enabling activity with a strong capacity building component and it is anticipated that a full

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GEF project submission will emerge from the enabling activity work. The attached letter from the MET dated August 2, 1995 is the request for support for the original capacity building, protected areas, and biodiversity strategy and action plan proposal.

Project Objectives and Short Description

The project will assist the MET and its development partners, including other government ministries and departments, NGOs, local communities and research institutions, to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). Drawing on existing knowledge and information, and through an open process of consultation and participatory planning, the BSAP will identify the current status of, pressures on, options for, and priority actions to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of, biological diversity. It will also introduce biodiversity concerns into other resource management sectors such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The BSAP will complement and support other national strategies and plans such as the National Environment and Desertification Strategy and Action Plan. The enabling activity project will enable Chad to meet its obligations under the Convention on Biodiversity by assisting it to prepare its first national report to the COP.

Under the supervision of the MET a steering committee will be established to oversee preparation of the BSAP. The steering committee will be comprised of representatives from government agencies and institutions, including the Directorate General of Forestry and Environmental Protection (DFPE), Water and Fisheries (DEP), National Parks and Faunal Reserves (DPNRF), the National Centre for Research Support (CNAR), as well as private sector and community representatives. NGO representatives will be included in the steering committee to utilize their expertise and first hand knowledge of local conditions and biodiversity in Chad.

Under the guidance of the steering committee, a national multi-sectoral planning team drawing upon available expertise from government agencies, the private sector and NGOs will undertake the work of the enabling activity. The planning team will be assisted by a lead national consultant experienced in data gathering and with knowledge of biodiversity in Chad. An international consultant, possibly from Cameroon where the BSAP process is more advanced, will be recruited for sixty five days to train the planning team and lead national consultant as well as provide overall guidance and support to the BSAP process.

Initially the planning team, assisted by the international and lead national consultant will review the WRI/TUCN/UNEP guidelines for the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. To help launch the project the international consultant will provide preliminary guidance and training in data gathering and interpretation techniques to the planning team and lead national consultant. The planning team and lead national consultant will then compile and summarize existing information on the status of, and threats to, the biodiversity of Chad. This, together with summaries of the results of the UNEP legislative study, the national environment and desertification strategy, and other relevant studies and documents, will be presented at the first national workshop.

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This first national workshop will draw together representatives from a wide range of national and local government agencies and institutions, the private sector, national NGOs, local organizations, and other participants selected to cover the full range of actors involved with biodiversity in Chad. The workshop will include representatives from local communities and international experts from neighboring countries who are familiar with ongoing BSAP processes as well as Chad's biodiversity. Drawing on the results of the stocktaking and assessment, the workshop will identify key issues and options as well as actors and priority geographical areas for review and comment during the following consultation process.

In association with this first national workshop, training for the planning team and lead national consultant will be carried out by the international consultant who will be assisted by international experts attending the workshop. Five local consultants, hired to carry out regional and local consultations will also receive training at the workshop. Training will include biodiversity analysis techniques, participatory methods, strategic planning techniques and public dissemination.

Following the first national workshop, a detailed analysis of the issues and options will be carried out by the planning team and lead national consultant. As part of this process local consultants will assist in conducting a wide range of consultations with local communities and institutions, private sector representatives and government agencies throughout the country.

With the assistance of the international consultant, the results of the analysis and consultations will be drawn together by the planning team, lead national consultant and local consultants and presented at a second national workshop. The second national workshop will invite comment on the initial analysis and presentation of options, identify and develop new options and alternatives, and establish a broad consensus prior to finalization of the details of the BSAP.

The final BSAP, after approval by the Steering Committee, will be disseminated widely within Chad and a national Country Report to the COP of the Biodiversity Convention will be prepared.

Coverage Without Duplication

The project will complement Chad's National Environment and Desertification Strategic Action Plan produced in 1994, the UNEP study on legislative frameworks, and the World Bank's Country Environment Strategy Paper, as well as the experience of and data collected through other donor-financed biodiversity initiatives in Chad. These include Rehabilitation of Zakouma National Park (sponsored by the EU and CARE), Rehabilitation of Manda National Park (sponsored by France and the African Rural Cooperation Association), Rural Development and Faunal Assessment in Mayo Kebab (sponsored by GTZ), Rural Development (sponsored by the Peace Corps) and Rural Development in the Lake Fitri Region (sponsored by Catholic Relief Services). The activity will also be informed by the ongoing GEF PDF Block B financed work towards the development of a Strategic Action Plan for the Lake Chad basin.

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Time Plan and Sequencing

Activities will start in October 1996 and will proceed for 10 months. An interim country report will be submitted to the COP by June 30, 1997. Activities will proceed as follows:

| Activity/Month | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Establishment of Steering Committee and Planning Team | x | | | | | | | | | |
| Stocktaking and inventory of information | x | x | | | | | | | | |
| Training of planning team | x | | x | | | | | | | |
| First national workshop. | | | x | | | | | | | |
| Identification & analysis of options, regional consultations. | | | | x | x | x | x | | | |
| Second national workshop. | | | | | | | | x | | |
| Preparation of biodiversity strategy and action plan, dissemination. | | | | | | | | x | x | |
| Preparation of interim report and submission to COP | | | | | | | x | | x | |
| Preparation of final report and submission to COP | | | | | | | | | x | x |

Best Practice

The project's methodology will be based on the "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994) and the "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (Miller and Lanou 1995; WRI/IUCN/UNEP). In addition, all nine criteria for best practice will be addressed. The project will also benefit from lessons learned in other Sahelian countries through ensuring the participation of experts from these countries, especially Niger, Cameroon and Nigeria, at the national workshop. This collaboration will enhance regional cooperation and promote joint efforts towards management and protection of natural resources, in accordance with the draft GEF Operational Program on Arid and Semi Arid Lands. The project will break new ground in Chad by incorporating input from all sectors of society and adopting a decentralized, participatory approach for workshops and consultations.

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Project Financing (in US\$)

| | Product | Process | Total |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Information</i> | 7,000 | | 7,000 |
| - national consultants | 4,000 | | 4,000 |
| - documentation, research | 3,000 | | 3,000 |
| <i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i> | 28,400 | 95,100 | 123,500 |
| - national consultants | 16,000 | 18,000 | 34,000 |
| - international consultants | 10,000 | 9,000 | 19,000 |
| - training | | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| - 1 st national workshop | | 18,000 | 18,000 |
| - regional workshops (5) | | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| - travel, materials, misc. | 2,400 | 4,100 | 6,500 |
| <i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i> | 18,150 | 43,350 | 61,500 |
| - national consultants | 10,000 | 12,000 | 23,000 |
| - international consultants | 7,000 | 10,000 | 17,000 |
| - 2 nd national workshop | | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| - travel, misc. | 1,150 | 4,350 | 5,500 |
| <i>First National Report</i> | 5,000 | 5,000 | 10,000 |
| - national consultant | 1,000 | 1,500 | 2,500 |
| - preparation of interim report | 1,500 | | 1,500 |
| - publication of final report | 2,500 | | 2,500 |
| - promotion and misc. | | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| <i>Coordination and Management Costs</i> | 4,684 | 11,476 | 16,160 |
| Total | 63,234 | 154,926 | 218,160 |

Deviations from Criteria and Norms

The proposal does not deviate from the criteria and norms for enabling activities.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

The project will be guided by a specially established Steering Committee composed of both government and non-governmental institutions. The Steering Committee will act under, and be chaired by, the Minister for Environment and Tourism (MET). Planning work will be carried out by a multi-agency planning team working under the supervision of the Steering Committee and with the support of a lead national consultant. Additional input will be provided by an international consultant. Agencies represented on the Steering Committee will include the Directorate General of Forestry and Environmental Protection (DFPE), Water and Fisheries (DEP), National Parks and Faunal Reserves (DPNRF) and the National Centre for Research Support (CNAR), as well as private sector, NGO and community representatives. Representatives will be drawn from a diverse cross sectoral milieu to ensure a BSAP which emphasizes participatory, decentralized approaches to conserve biological diversity.

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Activity Matrix

| Enabling Activity Commitment | Output | Capacity Building | | Public Participation | Comments |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| | Planning, Execution | Institutional Strength. | Training | | |
| <i>Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</i> | | | | | |
| - biodiversity and biological resources | x | | | | 1 |
| - cross-sectoral issues | x | | | | 2 |
| - policy and regulatory framework | | | | | |
| - institutional and human capacity | x | | | | |
| - analysis of root causes of BD loss | x | | | | |
| - technologies for conservation and sustainable use | x | | | | |
| - activities with adverse impacts | x | | | | |
| - existing measures and programs | x | | | | 3 |
| - preliminary statement of objectives | x | | | | |
| - identification of gaps | x | | | | |
| - assessment of existing needs | x | | | | |
| <i>Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD³</i> | | | | | |
| - strategies for conservation | x | x | x | x | 4 |
| - strategies for sustainable use | x | x | x | x | 4 |
| - strategies for benefit sharing | x | x | x | x | 4 |
| <i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i> | | | | | |
| - national strategy | x | x | x | x | |
| - national action plan | x | x | x | x | |
| <i>Preparation of first National Report</i> | | | | | |
| - interim report to COP | x | x | | | |
| - first national report | x | | | x | |

Footnotes to the Activity Matrix

1. As a result of various donor supported projects dealing with biological diversity in the southern parts of the country this is reasonably well known. What is currently unknown is the status of biodiversity in the northern areas as virtually no field work has been conducted in these areas since the war. Although it would be desirable to undertake such studies prior to the completion of the BSAP the costs of undertaking these in such a remote and difficult area are high. Consequently the BSAP will assess the need for such action in light of national biodiversity priorities and this may be the subject of a follow-up GEF submission.

2. The UNEP study on legislative frameworks for the environment.

3. The BSAP will build on, and complement, the existing national environment and desertification strategy and action plan.

4. The BSAP will build on, and complement, general strategies prepared under the national environment and desertification strategy and action plan.

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References Cited

CTA. *Consultation sectorielle sur l'environnement et la lutte contre la desertification.* N'Djamena. May 1994.

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World Bank. *Chad Country Environmental Strategy Paper.* Washington, D.C. June 1994.