

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Biodiversity Enabling Activity Project

Country:	Chile
Project Title:	National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan, Report to the CBD, CHM
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	CBD Ratification: September de 1994
GEF Financing:	US\$ 271,000
Government Contribution:	(In kind)
Estimated Total Budget:	US\$ 271,400
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	National Commission for the Environment
GEF Operational Focal Point:	National Commission for the Environment
CBD Operational Focal Point:	National Commission for the Environment
Estimated Starting Date:	March 2000
Project Duration:	12 months

1. BACKGROUND

The particular bio-geography of the Chilean territory is unique and has provided the conditions for the evolution and maintenance of a biota characterized by a high degree of endemism. As such, there exists relict taxas, both in terrestrial and marine environments and the presence of unique ecosystems such as the evergreen forest, and the Atacama Desert. In terms of biological distinctiveness, more than two-thirds of continental Chile has been classified as globally outstanding. However, from a biodiversity conservation point of view, one-third of the country has also been classified as endangered and the other two-thirds as vulnerable¹.

Threats

In **coastal and marine environments** the main threats are the over-exploitation of natural resources and the destruction of the habitats as a result of fishing activities. For example, Chile's benthic, demersal and pelagic fisheries are presently at a stage of maximum exploitation. This means that the species supporting the fisheries are vulnerable to extinction as "commercial resources". An example is the already collapsed fishery known as the "Lobo Fino" fishery from the Juan Fernandez archipelago. From a conservation point of view, this species has been classified as in danger of extinction.

In **terrestrial environments** the main threats include urban expansion, deforestation, over-exploitation of natural resources and, in some regions, introduction of exotic species. A case in point is the Chilean native forest, where the main causes of their loss is due to the clearing of land for farming and the substitution of native forest by fast growing tree species such as *Pinus radiata*.

In **freshwater environments** the main threats are the introduction of exotic species and the diffuse contamination of lakes, rivers, streams and other waterways as a result of conventional agriculture.

¹ Dinerstein et al. (1995). A Conservation Assessment of the Terrestrial Ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Scientific data indicate that of 44 species described in Chilean freshwaters, 18 are in danger of extinction and 23 are listed as vulnerable.

Main existing policies and rules

In 1990, the Chilean government found it necessary to establish the basis for modern and realistic environmental management. In 1994, the government promulgated the Environment Framework Law (N° 19.300) as the main instrument by which the government formulates and implements environment policy. The National Commission for the Environment (NCE) was created with several main objectives. These include proposing environmental policies to the government, maintaining a National Environmental Information System of public access, cooperating with relevant authorities during the preparation and approval of educational and awareness environmental programmes, and undertaking general coordination of environmental activities within the country.

Following the promulgation of the Framework Law, the Environmental Policy for Sustainable Development (EPSD) was passed through parliament and approved in 1998. The main objective of the EPSD is to promote the environmental sustainability of the development process with a view to improve the quality of life, guarantee an environment free of contamination, environmental protection and the conservation of environmental assets.

The General Fishing and Aquaculture Law (N° 18.982, modified in 1991 by Supreme Decree N° 430) is a key legal instrument with a major emphasis on the harmonization of development and conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity. This instrument provides the norms that will allow the implementation of actions to conserve fisheries resources within the framework of the sector's sustainable development.

Another legal instrument is the National Hunting Law, amended in 1996. This law regulates the hunting, capture and use of native fauna. It prohibits the hunting of fauna species in conservation categories within the national territory that are important to the integrity of natural ecosystems and beneficial for agricultural and forestry activities.

In the forestry sector, the Law Decree N° 701 from 1974 established the legal regime for forestry areas, and the Supreme Decree N° 259 from 1980 gives the regulations, including requirements and procedures to follow during the exploitation of land qualified as suitable for forestry activities. The main objective of these two decrees is to promote afforestation in lands without vegetation or lands qualified as suitable for afforestation.

Existing and planned conservation measures

A symposium was held in 1993 and identified -based on the opinion of an expert panel- priority sites for conservation of biological diversity in Chile. It was coordinated by the National Forestry Corporation with the cooperation of the National Commission for the Environment, the University of Chile, the National Museum of Natural History, CODEFF and the Lahuen Foundation. Four ecological criteria (ecosystem representation and uniqueness; habitat diversity; species diversity; and level of endemism and pristine conditions) and three practical criteria (value for research and monitoring, potential for education and recreation and susceptibility for degradation) were used.

This resulted in the identification of 101 sites in different categories levels of priority. Twenty-one of these sites were classified as *urgent*, 30 as *important*, 31 as *interest* and 19 as *specific interest*.

In 1996-97, the NCE and the Museum of National History organized a workshop about the conservation status of Chilean flora and fauna. A specific objective was to update the information about the conservation status of the flora and fauna included in the “Red Books” published by the Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF) between 1989 and 1993. The workshop also aimed to increase the number of taxonomic groups to be considered for classification under the five conservation categories as set out in Law 19.300.

An Inventory and Evaluation of the Chilean Native Vegetation Resources was completed in 1997. This project was coordinated by the NCE and CONAF, and jointly developed in partnership with the Catholic University of Chile, Austral University of Chile and Temuco University of Chile. The main objective of this study was to obtain basic information needed for the formulation of conservation policies for Chilean native forest.

The NCE designed and implemented an Environmental Impact Assessment System. This system, operating since 1997, is aimed at evaluating the potential environmental impact that sectoral development projects proposed throughout the country might produce. The system proposes three measures to lessen the negative effects that a development project may have: mitigation, restoration and compensation.

In 1998 the NCE completed the GEF funded project Biodiversity Data Management (BDM). This project was part of a UNDP programme occurring simultaneously in ten countries around the world. Two main products from this project included the creation of a bibliographic database containing 2,500 references about biodiversity in Chile, and the creation of a Web Page with direct access to the database and links to main international biodiversity related web sites.

Also in 1998, the NCE sent to GEF a Concept Paper aimed at conserving the globally outstanding biodiversity of Salar del Huasco in the northern part of Chile. A PDF A request was approved and a medium-size project brief is under preparation.

At the end of 1998 three draft documents were presented for approval of the NCE Technical Committee. These were the Country Study on Biological Diversity (EPDB), the Basis for the formulation of a strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in Chile (BECUB) and the First National Report (PIP).

The EPDB was prepared between 1991 and 1993 and updated between 1995 and 1996. It describes and summarizes some of the available information about Chilean biodiversity and about national policies and initiatives. It begins with a general introduction about Chile’s geographic characteristics followed by a general description of the Chilean biodiversity at the ecosystem, species and genetic levels.

The BECUB was also prepared between 1991 and 1993 and updated between 1995 and 1996. It was a first step towards the formulation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan aimed at defining measures to address the issues emanating from the CBD and its COP guidance. Stocktaking and assessment of biodiversity related information to identify gaps and priorities through broad regional and national consultation was not carried out as part of the preparation

process. Although during the updating process a wider range of the community was considered, two main problems persisted. The first was the bias towards an unbalanced participation of people and institutions from the capital Santiago and the Bío Bío Region (Region X). The second was the poor and uneven regional representation of government departments, universities, private sector, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders.

The PIP includes a general overview of biodiversity in Chile and summarizes Chile's progress made towards the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The preparation of the PIP was based on the results of the EPDB and the BECUB.

The NCE and the Chilean Ministry for Foreign Affairs are coordinating the national and international work needed for the elaboration of the Chilean position to the Biosafety Protocol that is being negotiated at the moment in the context of the CBD.

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND SHORT DESCRIPTION

The objective of this project is to assist the Government of Chile to bridge the gap between current activities and the capable identification, conservation and management of Chile's biological diversity. Specifically, the project will **prepare a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)** for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Chile's Biodiversity and the equitable distribution of its benefits; **prepare the First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity**; and **establish a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)** under the COP guidelines. The preparation of the BSAP will be conducted considering three main topics and 14 specific themes (see Table 1).

Table 1. Main areas and specific themes to be considered during the elaboration of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)

Protection	Use	Study
1) Protected areas	6) Fisheries	12) Composition, distribution, structure and functioning
2) Outside protected areas	7) Forestry	13) Education and public awareness
3) Rehabilitation, restoration	8) Agriculture	14) Information Access
4) Invasive and Transgenic Species	9) Mining	
5) Ex situ conservation facilities and measures	10) Biosafety	
	11) Genetic Resources	

A two-stage approach will be adopted. The first stage will include the establishment of the CHM as a support for the preparation of the BSAP and the stocktaking exercise, biodiversity assessment and identification of priorities and actions at the regional and national levels. The second stage will include the integration of regional and national issues and priorities, the drafting of the national BSAP and the First National Report to the COP. Overall, the preparation of the BSAP will be through the active consultation of stakeholders at the regional and national levels.

In its capacity as the lead agency for the project, the NCE will coordinate the appointment of a Biodiversity Strategy Steering Committee (BSSC), a National Project Director (NPD), a Technical Biodiversity Advisory Committee (TBAC), a National Programme Coordinator (NPC) and regional and national Inter-disciplinary Working Groups (IWG's).

The BSSC will provide high level oversight and will ensure that the BSAP is in harmony with the government plans and programmes, thereby maximizing the chances of the BSAP becoming formal government policy. The members of this Committee will be high-level representatives of government bodies and key stakeholders from outside of government. The government representatives will include staff of the NCE and cross-sectoral ministries. The non-government representatives will include representatives of resource user groups, research and academic institutions and NGOs. It is expected that the BSSC will persist as a mechanism beyond the life of the project to guide the BSAP implementation process to its completion.

The NPD will be a senior public servant in a non-technical role, and will be responsible for convening BSSC meetings and ensuring that a transparent and participatory approach is followed. The NPD will also take the steps necessary to ensure commitment and support for the formal political approval and subsequent implementation of the BSAP.

The NPC will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of this project, the administration of technical project inputs, and the execution of all project activities, including the organization of workshops and public consultations. The NPC will report to the NPD and the BSSC. The NPC will supervise the work of all project (national) consultants and interdisciplinary working groups.

The TBAC will be made up of the NPC and leading experts of the main topics to be considered. Their task will be to develop criteria and a common methodology for data collection and processing, and to synthesize the results obtained by the regional and national thematic working groups. The TBAC will also suggest what is possible in the way of conserving Chile's biological diversity, and how it can be done without adversely affecting other aspects of Chile's national interest.

The IWGs will be made up of representatives from government agencies, research institutions, universities, NGOs and the private sector, and will be supported (as necessary) by national consultants. Their objective will be to conduct the stocktaking and biodiversity assessment exercise and to propose priorities and actions needed to achieve biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits.

BSAP elaboration process

To initiate the process, the NCE will nominate a BSAP leading agency (LA) in each region of the country. Based on best practices and BSAP guidelines, the leading agencies will be relatively independent and respected bodies, without vested interests in the outcomes or conflicts of interest. Government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector will be involved in the process as key stakeholders. The nominated LAs will be invited to attend a two-day information and training workshop in Santiago. During the workshop the goals and objectives of the project will be presented, and criteria and common methodologies for data collection, assessing socio-economic and biological analysis, priority setting and participatory planning techniques will be explained.

After the workshop, each LA will be charged with coordinating the establishment of the necessary IWGs needed to comprehensively cover the BSAP themes in their regions. The regional analysis will cover the stocktaking, biodiversity assessment and identification of priorities and actions at the regional level. Peer review publications as well as the 'grey literature' will be considered and used when possible. From this exercise, twelve draft regional reports will be produced about existing

biodiversity, causes of biodiversity loss and threatening processes, and options to conserve, sustainable manage and share the benefits of biodiversity, including cross-sectoral issues and their linkage to national sustainable development.

To receive input and support from regional authorities and local public stakeholders, six regional workshops will be held. For each workshop, two neighboring regions will present their findings and identify common issues and priorities for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits. The final product will be a series of reports containing the biodiversity assessments and conservation priorities and actions identified at the regional level.

At the same time the regional workshops are underway, a number (to be determined at the onset of the project) of national IWG's will be established. These IWG's will identify issues that are not apparent or relevant at the regional level or which need to be addressed at the national level to support regional action. Among these issues are included legal and policy frameworks, options for financing biodiversity conservation, biosafety, intellectual property rights and trade agreements. In order to ensure complementarity and consistency between regional and national priorities, the national IWG's will integrate regional and national findings. Data and information will be aggregated and organized by eco-regions to determine species and ecosystems patterns. This will facilitate the development of trend analysis not possible or appropriate at the regional level.

The TBAC will then prepare a draft BSAP for Chilean eco-regions biodiversity conservation. At this point, the draft will be made widely available for public comment during a one-month period.

After the public comment period, a national Conference will be convened in order to present the draft BSAP to regional and national sectoral authorities, private sector, academic institutions and NGOs. The Conference will identify appropriate actors for priority actions and to suggest ways and means by which the necessary funding and other resources needed for his implementation might be found. Following the National Conference the TBAC will prepare the BSAP, taking into consideration comments and suggestions.

Finally, a second national conference aimed to present the BSAP prior to its submission for formal endorsement by the Government will be held.

To update the BSSC regarding the stage of development of the BSAP, and, as a way of monitoring project development and execution, general coordination meetings will be convened every three months.

An organogram is presented at the end of this proposal (Appendix I) to outline the relationship between the various bodies towards the implementation of this project.

ACTIVITY MATRIX

ENABLING ACTIVITY	Output	Capacity building		Public participation	Comments
Commitment		Inst. Strength	Training		
Stocktaking and Assessment (scientific and social), based on existing Information	X				1
. biodiversity and biological resources, including those under threat	X				2
. affected communities including indigenous and local communities	X				3
. cross-sectoral issues including agrobiodiversity	X				4
. policy and regulatory framework and incentives	X				
. institutional and human capacity existing and needed for biosafety; initial assessment/monitoring including taxonomy, agrobiodiversity, access to genetic resources and indigenous and local communities	X				5
. analysis of root causes of biodiversity loss	X				6
. technologies for conservation and sustainable use, including biosafety	X				7
. activities with adverse impacts	X				8
. measures for access to genetic resources	X				9
. existing programmes	X				10
. preliminary statement of objectives	X				11
. identification of gaps	X				12
. assessment of existing needs	X				13
Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD					
. strategies for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing	X	X		X	14
Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan					
. national strategy	X	X		X	
. national action plan	X	X		X	
Preparation of first National Report					
. first national report	X			X	15
Capacity building for participation in the Clearing-House Mechanism.	X	X	X	X	16

Footnotes

1. For the stocktaking and assessment, data will be solicited from universities, research institutions, government and non-government agencies, museums, botanical gardens and other relevant institutions. These institutions have taken stock of a certain amount and extent of biodiversity. This project will bring together the information that is presently dis-aggregated among various institutions.

2. Local and indigenous communities have been already affected by giving away their traditional knowledge without having adequate legislation to protect their property rights and to regulate access to these resources. An effort will be made to quantify the magnitude of the problem.
3. Cross-sectoral policies will be assessed to identify potential areas of conflict. The impact on biodiversity from development policies will be evaluated, with a view to integrate conservation and sustainable use objectives within sectoral development plans.
4. An assessment of the existing environmental legal and regulatory framework will be carried out.
5. An assessment of the existing national and regional institutional and human capacity in environmental information will be carried out. This assessment will include an analysis of capacity in NGOs, private sector, ministries, research institutions and other stakeholders.
6. Although general causes of biodiversity loss such as over-exploitation of terrestrial, coastal and marine natural resources and natural habitat destruction for agriculture and silviculture expansion can be identified at the national level, their effects are, in many cases, specific to a region or group of regions. Therefore, these issues need to be analyzed at the regional level where specific ecological and human threats to key ecosystems and species will be identified.
7. A comprehensive evaluation of the state-of-the-art technologies available for conservation and sustainable use will comprise the first step in the exchange of information regarding best practices. Information will be gathered on existing geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing facilities, management information systems, and telecommunications facilities useful for conservation.
8. A comprehensive identification of the full range of activities with a potential for having negative impacts on biodiversity has never been carried out in the country. The identification at the regional level would allow for integrating regional needs with national conservation efforts.
9. A study is presently been proposed in Chile to identify the policy elements for intellectual property rights and access to genetic resources. The results of this study could be integrated within the BSAP process.
10. There is a need to identify and list the existing conservation measures and programmes operating at national and regional levels. This identification should include at least projects and programmes of cross-sectoral ministries, NGOs and other activities undertaken by other relevant stakeholders.
11. A first identification of objectives for the conservation and sustainable use and equitable distribution of the benefits will be carried out.
12. Information gaps will be identified at the regional and national levels. At the national level the regional information will be aggregated to identify national gaps in information and national policies.
13. The results from the gap identification process will be used to define information and policy needs, and used as inputs during the identification of priorities and the development of the action plan.
14. There is a need to specify broad national level objectives and strategies, emerging from the regional assessment and analysis of the existing biodiversity information. Regional reports will be used as primary inputs to the elaboration of the draft BSAP. Six regional workshops will be conducted along the country to validate the draft BSAP. A final national workshop will bring together all relevant stakeholders to review the regionally validated draft BSAP, assess the priorities and proposed actions, and integrate them in a final BSAP in such a way that there is regional and national consensus. The BSAP will prioritize regional and national level actions, assign responsibilities, and identify potential funding requirements as well as potential sources.
15. The first national report will build upon the draft national report prepared earlier and will be done only after the BSAP is finished, so as to use all the relevant information obtained during the elaboration process.
16. The CHM will be established early on to facilitate the preparation of the BSAP. In this way, the CHM will be available to assist the transfer and exchange of information during the BSAP preparation.

3. COVERAGE WITHOUT DUPLICATION

Country Study on Biological Diversity (EPDB)

The NCE prepared this document between 1991 and 1993, and it was updated by a group of scientists from the University of Concepción between 1995 and 1996. Although it contained valuable information that will be used during the preparation of the biodiversity strategy and action plan, the regional and national coverage is uneven and incomplete, and some of the information out of date. It seems unavoidable to complete the stocktaking and assessment in order to make a diagnostic aimed to indicate strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Stocktaking and assessment of biodiversity data and information is an onerous exercise since data is held by a large number of government departments, agencies, specialist and research institutions and NGOs. All these diverse sources of information need to be identified and the information gathered and aggregated into a national database. Reference maps containing key information, reports and studies need to be prepared and priorities ranked, to enable participatory decision-making through regional and sectoral consultative workshops.

Basis for the formulation of a strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in Chile (BECUB)

The BECUB outlines broad national level biodiversity programmes that can be used as a reference starting point. However, there was no gathering and integration of relevant biodiversity data and information into a national biodiversity database, and therefore the programmes proposed in the BECUB do not emanate from an in-depth data gathering process and relevant analysis. Instead, the BECUB proposals were developed on the basis of needs and issues apparent to a limited number of experts and decision-makers. Conservation priorities for biogeographical regions were not defined and many stakeholders were not consulted nor were their roles defined. The programmes proposed in the BECUB do not identify gaps and nor do they address specific threats to biodiversity conservation. Measures were not proposed to integrate the conservation, sustainable use and equitable distribution of biodiversity benefits into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and policies. This remains to be done and needs to be carried out in order to formulate a comprehensive National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits.

First National Report (PIP)

Chile has never submitted a national report to the Conference of the Parties of the CBD, and because the PIP is based on the EPDB and the BECUB, it inherited their limitations regarding stakeholder participation and regional coverage. At the same time, the PIP gives misleading information regarding the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy, and did not include information about problems and limitations found during the implementation of the Convention in the country, nor about identification of gaps in national capacity for policy research and analysis.

Enabling activities alternative

The National Commission for Science and Technology as well as a number of ministries, national and regional government agencies and NGOs had expressed their concerns regarding a lack of active participation during the preparation of the above mentioned documents.

This project will assure full participation at the national and regional levels of all relevant stakeholders during the elaboration of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Therefore, full ownership of the document will be recognized nationally and regionally, as well as at the policy and technical levels within the country.

4. TIME PLAN

Activities	Time (months)											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Establish and convene meetings of the BSSC and TBAC	x		x			x			x		x	
Establish the regional ITWGs	x											
Appoint NPD and NPC	x											
Establish the CHM	x	x	x									
Undertake regional stock-taking of existing literature on biodiversity		x	x									
Conduct regional biodiversity assessments				x								
Prepare Regional Working Documents					x							
Establish national ITWGs					x							
Conduct six regional workshops.						x						
Undertake national stock-taking and analysis						x						
Prepare a First Draft BSAP							x					
Public comment period on draft BSAP								x				
Conduct the First National Conference									x			
Prepare the Second Draft BSAP									x			
Conduct the Second National Conference										x		
Finalize the BSAP										x		
Present the BSAP to the Government											x	
Prepare First National Report											x	x

5. BEST PRACTICE

The design of this project builds upon the lessons learned as outlined in the UNDP reference guide “Guide for Countries Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans” (1998) and the project will use the guide as a tool for its implementation. Examples of best practice already been incorporated are: 1) the BASP will be elaborated based on regional and national priorities and in accordance and consistent with the country particular conditions, 2) the elaboration process will be conducted in a participatory manner, involving a broad range of stakeholders such as relevant government organizations, NGO’s and affected communities, 3) it will address social issues of affected populations at the same time that biodiversity conservation requirements are met, and 4) it will build cooperation at the regional, national and international level and make use of the facilities

provided by the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention. The participation of the National Commission for the Environment will catalyze the involvement of the Government during the process, assuring the long-term support for the implementation of the BSAP.

6. PROJECT FINANCING (US\$)

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Information</i>	<i>29,000</i>		<i>29,000</i>
- national consultants	24,000		<i>24,000</i>
- documentation, travel and misc.	5,000		<i>5,000</i>
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i>	<i>29,200</i>	<i>109,500</i>	<i>138,700</i>
- national Project Coordinator	14,500	14,500	<i>29,000</i>
- national consultants	14,700	20,000	<i>34,700</i>
- first national workshop		20,000	<i>20,000</i>
- training (familiarization)		10,000	<i>10,000</i>
- regional workshops (6)		40,000	<i>40,000</i>
- travel and miscellaneous		5,000	<i>5,000</i>
<i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i>	<i>21,850</i>	<i>55,350</i>	<i>77,200</i>
- national consultants	19,500	27,000	<i>46,500</i>
- second national workshop		20,000	<i>20,000</i>
- travel and miscellaneous		5,000	<i>5,000</i>
- publication and dissemination	2,350	3,350	<i>5,700</i>
- <i>First National Report</i>	<i>6,500</i>	<i>6,000</i>	<i>12,500</i>
- preparation of interim report	1,500		<i>1,500</i>
- preparation of first country report	1,500	2,000	<i>3,500</i>
- publication of first country report	3,500		<i>3,500</i>
- dissemination and miscellaneous		4,000	<i>4,000</i>
- <i>Clearing House Mechanism</i>	<i>14,000</i>		<i>14,000</i>
- Hardware	4,000		<i>4,000</i>
- Software	1,000		<i>1,000</i>
- Modem	500		<i>500</i>
- Recurrent costs	3,800		<i>3,800</i>
- Technician Fee	700		<i>700</i>
- Internet and e-mail training	4,000		<i>4,000</i>
Total For Enabling Activity	100,550	170,850	271,400

7. DEVIATIONS FROM CRITERIA AND NORMS

There are no deviations from the established criteria and norms.

8. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The NCE will be responsible for the general coordination and implementation of the project. At the regional level, the NCE will coordinate the appointment of leading regional agencies as well as the establishment of different working groups. However, regional activities such as regional workshops and documents preparation will be coordinated by the regional leading agency and executed by thematic working groups composed by representatives of all relevant stakeholders. At the national level, the NCE will coordinate the establishment of the BSSC and TBAC and the appointment of the NPD and NPC. TBAC will coordinate the national conferences as well as the preparation of the draft and final BSAP, including the integration of regional and national priorities and objectives. Finally, the BSSC will endorse the BSAP and present it to the government as a national policy document.

9. PREPARATION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL REPORT

The first National Report will be prepared according to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties of November 1995, the recommendations of the CBD Secretariat, and the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of May 1998. To optimize the use of the data and information collated during the development of the BSAP, the National Report will be prepared between the 11th and the 12th month of the project.

10. CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM (CHM)

The funds available for the CHM will be used to implement a BSAP data center aimed to facilitate and enhance the exchange of data and information during the BSAP elaboration process. The CHM will also be used to facilitate implementation of the BSAP, the CBD and its COP guidance over the long-term. To assure regional and national coverage this data center will be connected to the World Wide Web.

At the moment, the country does not have national biodiversity data center and most of the data and information needed is scattered among different universities, research institutions and public services, and their access is restricted.

Appendix I. Organogram

