

**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
**Enabling Activity Proposal in Biodiversity**

Country:	Czech Republic
Project Title:	Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and National Report
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Ratified December 3, 1993
GEF Financing:	US\$ 101,000
Government Contribution:	In-kind
GEF Implementing Agency:	World Bank
National Executing Agency:	Ministry of Environment
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Ministry of Environment
CBD Focal Point:	Ministry of Environment
Estimating Starting Date:	January 1998
Project Duration:	12 months

**Background/Context**

The Czech Republic, a country of 78,864 km<sup>2</sup> and 10.3 million people, possesses relatively high biological and landscape diversity which correspond to its diverse geographical and climatic conditions. The Czech Republic is situated at the crossroads of Europe, and spans four biogeographical provinces. There are 380 species of vertebrates and approximately 2,760 vascular plant species. The flora represents approximately 25 % of the 11,000 European species, approximately 15.8 % of which is threatened or endangered. In total, 36 globally threatened animal species in the 1996 IUCN Red List occur in the Czech Republic. In addition to the wild flora and fauna, cultivated plants and domesticated animals in the Czech Republic also possess important biodiversity values, after centuries of cultivation, selection and breeding.

Despite its small size, the country's protected area network includes three National Parks, 24 Protected Landscape Areas, six Biosphere Reserves, nine Ramsar sites and 19 Important Bird Areas of European importance. Sumava National Park in western Czech Republic, with over 60,000 ha of forest, bog, and meadow/grassland communities, is one of the most important protected forests of Central Europe. Krkonose National Park in the northern border of the country contains significant forest biodiversity that is being severely impacted by air pollution and recreation. The Dyjer and Morava rivers along the country's border with Slovakia contain some of the most important floodplain forests remaining in Europe.

Czech biodiversity has been, and continues to be, strongly impacted by agriculture and industry. Previous land uses in the Czech Republic have produced some of the most polluted European landscapes (e.g., the Black Triangle in northern Bohemia). These conditions require the development and implementation of more effective conservation measures, which is the principle purpose for undertaking the BSAP.

In 1992, the Parliament passed the 'Gazette on the Protection of Nature and the Landscape', the most recent update to the Czech Republics laws on nature protection. This law and additional landscape management efforts being undertaken by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) are based on a national concept of the Territorial System of Ecological Stability (TSES) that would afford greater protection to agricultural and forest lands outside of the protected area network.

### **Project Objectives and Short Description**

The project objective is to assist with implementing Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the completion of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, so as to improve protection and sustainable use of Czech biodiversity. The first National Report to the CoP will also be prepared.

The BSAP will identify the objectives and mechanisms of cross sectoral coordination at the local, regional, and national levels, to be pursued by the MoE. The BSAP will focus and provide a vision for these on-going efforts based on a participatory approach that relies on existing information. The participatory approach will include consultations, meetings, and roundtables held by the working groups and two open workshops. The first workshop, held at project inception and attended by the steering committee, working groups, and NGOs, will present and discuss the goals, objectives, vision and outputs, and schedule for the BSAP. The second, a national workshop, will be held to discuss the draft BSAP. The public will be invited to attend this workshop, in addition to those invited to the first workshop. The draft BSAP will be disseminated two or more weeks prior to the National Workshop. The final BSAP will address the comments and suggestions raised in the National Workshop. Prior to and after the National Workshop, a public awareness campaign will use newspaper and television media to inform the public about the goals and objectives of the BSAP project, raise awareness of Czech biodiversity and value of conserving it, and report the results and conclusions of the BSAP.

The stocktaking activity will be based on published and unpublished literature, existing databases of the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, and reports from NGOs such as the Society for Sustainable Living, the Society for Ornithology and Society for Botany, Czech Bat Protection Trust, and various environmental education centers. Threats to Czech biodiversity will be reviewed, including those to genetic resources of cultivated and domestic stock. The available data on sensitive taxa, communities, and habitats will be summarized using IUCN criteria, taking into consideration trends in other countries. This stocktaking activity will pay special attention to endemic, keystone, flagship, rare or threatened and extinct species.

The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (ANCLP) will coordinate the participation and contributions of various stakeholders, including the Academy of Sciences (stocktaking and impacts), Ministry of Agriculture (agriculture and forestry), Ministry of Local Development (national land use planning issues), local authorities (developing partnerships in conservation programs), Ministry of Finance, and NGOs (monitoring and public education and awareness). The working groups will include government staff, NGOs, and representatives of the private sector.

The BSAP will be a comprehensive biodiversity program aimed at all aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, establishment of TSES as a basis for the European Ecological Network (EECONET), and as well as conservation outside of protected areas. For areas which have been severely degraded, proposals to restore them using modern restoration ecology principles will be developed. The National Biodiversity Strategy should also deal with the legislation, conservation administration and policy, environmental education and ecotourism. The Action Plan will identify priorities for immediate actions and effectively support and develop biodiversity conservation national policy for a 10 to 15 year period.

### **Coverage Without Duplication**

No efforts that duplicate the BSAP are being pursued in the Czech Republic. The BSAP will be based on existing capacity and make full use of existing information. The following documents provide foundation materials for one or more of the BSAP activities (stocktaking, strategy development, and action planning):

- i) The Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- ii) Annual reports on the Scientific Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation and Landscape Management, published by the Czech Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (1996);
- iii) Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection annual report on Biodiversity Protection (1996);
- iv) Czech GEF Biodiversity Protection Project results, including case studies on sustainable development strategies, carrying capacity and revenue mechanisms, and lessons learned;
- v) The MoE State Environmental Policy (1995) and Agricultural Policy (1996);
- vi) State of the Environment annual reports (1993-1997); and
- vii) National Nature Plan in the Czech Republic. A contribution to the National Biodiversity Strategy. IUCN Country Office, Prague.

### **Time Plan and Sequencing**

The National Biodiversity Strategy will be prepared over 12 months. The sequence, found in the table below, is comprised of four phases: *i*) stocktaking of Czech biodiversity and current biodiversity conservation programs; *ii*) identification of options to conserve biodiversity, including cross-sectoral studies; *iii*) preparation of the national strategy and action plan; and *iv*) preparation of the National Report.

### **Best Practice**

The Czech Republic BSAP is designed in accordance with the guidelines for National Biodiversity Planning prepared by WRI, UNEP, and IUCN. The project will comply with all best practices and will be based on lessons learned from the GEF Biodiversity Protection project in the Czech Republic and in other countries, and on IUCN strategies. The project will be carried out by Czech governmental and non-governmental organizations, consistent with national priorities and its cultural, historical and geographical setting.

The BSAP will incorporate and build upon the results and lessons learned under the Czech GEF biodiversity protection project, which will be completed on December 31, 1997. The activities undertaken through the GEF project range from applied ecological studies, habitat management and restoration, and development of sustainable development strategies for the three main project areas (Sumava National Park, Palava Protected Landscape Area, and Krkonose National Park). The BSAP will explore the full range of conservation options such as addressing institutional and legal adequacy and

efficiency, improvements to the protected area network and its management, and improving public participation in resource management issues.

### **Institutional Framework and Project Implementation**

The MoE is the main authority in biodiversity conservation in the Czech Republic, acting in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. Some specialized institutions under these ministries play a significant role in biodiversity study and management, and district and local authorities in implementation of biodiversity conservation measures. The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and universities are other important centers of basic and applied biodiversity research.

The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (ANCLP), an expert advisory group within the MoE, will organize and direct the thematic working groups (agriculture, forests, environmental education, land use planning, species and habitat protection, etc.) drawn from the various governmental and non-governmental organizations. The steering committee will be comprised of the Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CCCBD), representatives of the ministries of environment, agriculture, foreign affairs, local development, education, industry and trade, and health), as well as the Academy of Sciences and one national NGO (e.g., Czech Union of Nature Conservationists). An international consultant will provide focused training to the steering committee and working groups, especially in regards to developing country-specific strategies for conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing.

Under the project, a Clearing House mechanism will be established in order to accelerate implementation of the CBD through appropriate hardware, software, and technical support.

### **Project Financing**

The proposed budget, summarized below relies to the maximum extent on existing data. The project will avoid duplication of actions, and will be coordinated with the current GEF Biodiversity Protection project. Assessment of existing information will be done by local experts and consultants, with a modest level of expenditure for international consultants.

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Establishment of steering committee and working groups	X											
Preparation of work plan		X										
Finalization of TOR		X										
Preparation of stocktaking chapters			X	X								
First workshop and analysis of conservation options				X								
Preparation of draft BSAP					X	X	X					
National workshop								X				
Review and revision of draft BSAP									X	X	X	
Public awareness campaign			X	X							X	X
Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism			X		X		X		X		X	X
Preparation of National Report to CoP											X	

	Product	Process	Total
<b>national consultants</b>	7,000		7,000
<b>documentation</b>	1,000		1,000
<b>national consultants</b>	6,000	10,000	16,000
<b>international consultant</b>	2,000	2,000	4,000
<b>1 workshop</b>		5,000	5,000
<b>travel, misc.</b>		3,000	3,000
<b>national consultants</b>	6,000	8,000	14,000
<b>international consultant</b>	1,000	2,000	3,000
<b>1 national workshop</b>	6,000		6,000
<b>publication and translation</b>	9,000		9,000
<b>dissemination and public awareness</b>		4,000	4,000
<b>preparation, translation, publication</b>	9,000		9,000
<b>Hardware</b>	4,000		4,000
<b>Software</b>	1,000		1,000
<b>Modem</b>	500		500
<b>Recurrent Costs</b>	3,000		3,000
<b>Set-up fees</b>	500		500
<b>Internet and email training</b>	3,000		3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>101,000</b>

**Annex: Activity Matrix, Czech Republic BSAP and National Report**

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments
		Institutional Strength	Training		
Commitment	Planning, Execution				
<i>Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</i>					
biodiversity and biological resources	X				1
cross-sectoral issues	X				
policy and regulatory framework	X				
institutional and human capacity	X				
analysis of root causes of biodiversity loss	X				
technologies for conservation and sustainable use	X				
activities with adverse impacts	X				
existing measures and programs	X				
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 CBD</i>					
strategies for conservation	X	X	X	X	2,3
strategies for sustainable use	X	X	X	X	2,3
strategies for benefit sharing	X	X	X	X	2,3
<i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i>					
national strategy	X	X	X	X	4
national action plan	X	X	X	X	4
<i>Clearing House mechanism</i>					
establishment of Clearing House mechanism	X	X	X		
<i>Planning and Preparation of first National Report</i>					
first national report	X				

**Activity Matrix Comments**

1. The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (ANCLP) will contract institutions and individuals from governmental and non-governmental sectors to prepare the stocktaking sections on biological and landscape diversity.
2. The external consultant and internal consultants will assist the departments and public in preparing the preliminary statement of objectives. The international consultant will assist the working groups in developing the strategies for conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing.
3. Preparation of the BSAP is important now because the MoE has started to prepare the National Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection Policy. Similarly, the sixth draft of the State Agricultural Policy, which addresses some environmental issues, has also been prepared.
4. NGOs and the public will have the opportunity to discuss all aspects of biodiversity conservation during the BSAP process. All appropriate NGOs which have been involved in various Czech conservation activities (e.g., Czech Union of Nature Conservationists, the Society for Sustainable Living, Green Circle, Children of Earth, Czech Society of Botany, etc.) will participate in preparing the BSAP.