



United Nations Development Programme
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY



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Subj: **CEO Approval of Biodiversity Enabling Activities for Zaire, Chad, and Equatorial Guinea**

Dear Avani:

I am writing to respond and follow up on your telephone conversation with Gandhali George on Friday, 20 September 1996 pertaining to the highlighted subject.

Please find attached the 3 corrected proposals for these countries following the remarks you provided concerning (a) the interim report to COP in 1997, (b) its inclusion in the activity matrix and (c) in the budget, as well as budget breakdown for Equatorial Guinea.

Please do not hesitate to call if you need further clarifications.

Best considerations.

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**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

Country:	Equatorial Guinea
Project Title:	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Country Report to the COP
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Acceded to Convention on Biological Diversity 6 December 1994
GEF Financing:	\$296,000
Government Contribution:	In kind
Estimated Total Budget:	\$296,000
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	National Environment Directorate, Ministry of Health and Environment
GEF Operational Focal Point:	National Environment Directorate, Ministry of Health and Environment
Convention on Biological Diversity Focal Point:	National Environment Directorate, Ministry of Health and Environment
Estimated Starting Date:	November 1, 1996
Duration of Project:	14 months

Background

1. *Biodiversity Overview and Global Importance:* The extent of, and trends in, biodiversity loss in Equatorial Guinea have been only superficially surveyed. However, existing knowledge suggests that the islands of Bioko and Annabon house a high number of endemic and/or rare plant and animal populations. Of the 1105 recorded plant species on Bioko 49 are endemic and many others have a very restricted distributions on the mainland. Green and hawksbill turtles (*Chelonia mydas* and *Eretmochelys imbricata* respectively) nest on Bioko's southern beaches. The island of Annabon features 17 endemic plant species of a total recorded number of 208 species (IUCN 1992). Within the

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continental region, Rio Muni, 28% of the 65 known mammals and 32% of the 144 resident birds are endemic subspecies (IUCN, 1993). The continental region also supports important mammal populations including elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), buffalo (*Syncerus cafer nanus*) and various forest duikers, as well as several important primates such as the red-capped mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*), mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*), black colobus (*Colobus satanus*), gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*), and chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*).

2. *Biodiversity Status*: The two principal known threats to biodiversity include large-scale commercial forestry on the continent and hunting of wildlife for consumption and market sale throughout the country. Of greater concern is commercial hunters using firearms (rather than trapping) to harvest bushmeat for sale in urban areas. Except for Monte Alen National Park none of the nine protected areas created by law in 1988 have been constituted on the ground.

3. *Social/Cultural/Economic/Political Issues*: Equatorial Guinea is considered one of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa. A country that in the 1920's was the world's largest cocoa producer today ranks 150th out of 174 countries according to the Human Development Index. Demographic information suggests that the country's population (currently about 358,000) is growing at 2.42% per annum. 1990 figures estimated that 42.3% of the population is under 15 years of age.

4. *Institutions/Regulations*: Institutional arrangements for environmental protection are poorly developed and responsibilities are fragmented across the ministries of Health and Environment, Tourism, and Agriculture. The Environment Directorate in the Ministry of Health and Environment, created in 1992) still has a limited ability to fulfill its mandate due to limited staff capacities and budgets. The legislation on forestry, hunting, and protected areas adopted in the late 1980's is also fragmented.

5. *Project Context*: The preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) is complementary to two other ongoing UNDP supported activities: support to the National Environment Management Programme (NEMP) [\$250,000]; and support to the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) [\$2 million]. It will also provide a context for two ongoing European Union funded projects: Forestry Information and Regulation (OCIPEF) [\$700,000]; and Central Africa Forest Conservation (ECOFAC) Monte Alen National Park [\$1 million]; and a Spanish Development project for the Bioko Sur protected area [\$300,000].

Project Objectives and Short Description

6. The principal objective of this enabling activity is to assist Equatorial Guinea to prepare a national strategy and action plan which defines the current status of, pressures on, options for, and priority actions to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of, its biological diversity in accordance with its own national development plan. This will also enable Equatorial Guinea to both meet its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (COB) by preparing its first national report to the Conference of the Parties of the COB, and to fully integrate biodiversity into its own NEMP and NFAP.

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7. Project activities will follow a multi-sectoral, integrated and participatory approach. A small Steering Committee, led by the Ministry of Health and Environment, will bring together government, private sector and community representatives. The Steering Committee will supervise the activities of a small inter-agency planning team which, in addition to conducting a broad range of detailed consultations with stakeholder representatives, will organize two national seminars and 6 provincial workshops. Consultations and national seminars will involve: government representatives from the ministries and departments of tourism, forestry and agriculture, health and environment, mines and energy, foreign affairs, planning, economy, and others; private sector representatives from the oil, timber and fisheries industries; and representatives of community groups and local civil service organizations.

8. Tribal and village groups will be included in the process through local discussions and consultations, the convening of 6 provincial workshops, and the identification of local focal points to participate in both further discussions and the national seminars.

9. In view of the limited experience of the National Environment Directorate in environmental planning and management, and the absence of any formal institutional structure for biodiversity planning, the project will need to undertake significant training activities. National Environment Directorate staff, local consultants, and other representatives of civil society will be instructed in biodiversity analysis and planning techniques, as well as consultative methods, stakeholder involvement, participatory planning, and public dissemination. Instruction will be provided through the use of national and regional consultant expertise, and through UNDP technical assistance currently being furnished to the NEMP project.

Time Plan and Sequencing

10. The project will follow the sequence of activities recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines (1992) with variations as appropriate based on lessons learned from early country experiences around the world (Miller and Lanou 1995).

11. Activities will start in November 1996 and will last for 14 months. During the first two months the Steering Committee and the inter-agency planning team will be established while local consultants locate and synthesize existing data. The results will be presented at a national seminar which will also launch the consultative and participatory analytic process. An interim report to the COP will be prepared in April 1997, and it will be made available in June 1997.

12. During the subsequent 7 month analytic phase a regional expert, together with national experts where possible, will first instruct the planning team and short term national consultants in biodiversity analysis and planning, and participatory methods. This will be followed by a consultative process to analyse problems and generate options, including a wide range of stakeholder consultations together with 6 provincial workshops.

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13. The subsequent three month planning phase will include instruction in planning methodologies for the inter-agency planning team, consultative meetings, production of a preliminary plan (BSAP), review of the plan at a second national seminar, and plan finalization.

14. The final 2 month phase will include preparation of the first national report, training in dissemination methods, and dissemination of the BSAP.

Activity / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Establishment of steering committee and planning team	x	x												
Stocktaking and inventory of information	x	x												
First national workshop			x											
Training of planning team			x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
Identification and analysis of options, regional consultations					x	x	x	x	x	x				
Second national workshop											x			
Preparation of biodiversity strategy, action plan, and dissemination												x	x	
Preparation of interim report and submission to COP						x								
Preparation of final report and submission to the COP								x					x	
														x

Activity Matrix

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Building		Public Participat.	Comments
		Inst. Strength	Training		
Commitment					
<i>Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</i>					
- biodiversity & biological resources	x				1
- cross-sectoral issues	x				
- policy and regulatory framework	x				
- 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 programmes	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
- strategies for sustainable use	x	x	x	x	3
- strategies for benefit sharing	x	x	x	x	
<i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i>					
- national strategy	x	x	x	x	4
- national action plan	x	x	x	x	
<i>Preparation of the first National Report</i>					
- interim report to COP	x	x			
- first national report	x		x	x	

Notes on the Activity Matrix

1. Current knowledge of biodiversity in Equatorial Guinea is based primarily on preliminary assessments conducted by the Spanish NGO Amigos de Donana. The EU Monte Alen National Park project (ECOFAC) has recently completed a fauna and flora inventory of this park, and a preliminary assessment of the state of all the protected areas has been completed under the NFAP project.

Although significant data on the forest sector has also been collected under the NFAP this has not been analyzed in the context of biodiversity and does not represent a duplication of coverage.

2. Early experiences from the Monte Alen and Bioko Sur protected areas projects will inform this process.
3. Pre-existing standards for sustainable use in the forestry and fisheries sectors will be integrated here.
4. Both the BSAP and the NFAP are components of the broader NEMP.

Best Practice

15. The methodology for the implementation of this project will be based on the "Guidelines for Preparation of Biodiversity Country Studies" prepared by UNEP, "National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Country Experiences" prepared by WRI/UNEP and IUCN, and the IUCN "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity".

16. The project will address all nine criteria for best practice. It will also break new ground in Equatorial Guinea by following a participatory approach using national seminars, provincial workshops, and local consultations, and by encouraging inputs from all sectors of society and a diverse range of other stakeholders, in working towards consensus. The project forms a part of a larger UNDP support programme which includes assistance to the development of a National Environment Management Plan and a National Forest Action Plan. The implementation of the project will depend almost entirely on national expertise and will employ direct consultations with provincial and local representatives through direct consultations and the provincial workshops.

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17. Project Financing (in US\$)

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Information</i>	9,200		9,200
- national consultants	4,200		4,200
- documentation, research	5,000		5,000
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i>	32,200	138,000	170,200
- national consultants	18,000	24,000	42,000
- international consultants	12,000	12,000	24,000
- training		12,000	12,000
- 1 st national workshop		24,000	24,000
- regional workshops		60,000	60,000
- travel, materials, misc.	2,200	6,000	8,200
<i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i>	27,600	55,200	82,800
- national consultants	15,600	15,600	31,200
- international consultants	11,000	11,000	22,000
- 2 nd national workshop		23,000	23,000
- travel, misc.	1,000	5,600	6,600
<i>First National Report</i>	5,520	4,600	10,120
- national consultant	1,520	1,300	2,820
- preparation of interim report	1,500		1,500
- publication of final report	2,500		2,500
- promotion and misc.		3,300	3,300
<i>Coordination and Management Costs (8%)</i>	6,480	17,200	23,680
Total	81,000	215,000	296,000

18. The project will achieve cost-effectiveness by employing national and regional experts, and by drawing on the international expert and by using some of the equipment and facilities from the related NEMP project. The project budget is within the cost norms established by GEF, though it is relatively high with respect to the size of the country because of the extensive need for instruction and capacity building to enable activities to be undertaken by a national team, and in view of the need for air travel between two islands and the mainland. Capacity building is also related to planning, and participatory methods. No precedents for such a participatory planning process yet exist in Equatorial Guinea. Without such emphasis on process activities (instruction and consultation) the biodiversity strategy and action plan is unlikely to obtain sufficient political and social support to enable its implementation.

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Deviations from Criteria and Norms

19. The project does not deviate from the established criteria and norms for GEF biodiversity enabling activities.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

20. The project will be implemented by the National Environment Directorate with support from UNDP. An inter-agency planning team will manage project activities with the assistance of two national consultants and under the guidance of the multi-sectoral Steering Committee, chaired by the Director General of Environment, and with support of the technical advisor to the UNDP's NEMP project. At its first meeting the Steering Committee will agree on methodologies and indicators for assessing progress and performance.

Preparation of the First National Report

21. The first national report will be prepared following the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties in November 1995. The report will be developed in consultation with diverse governmental and non-governmental agencies, including both the private sector and community representatives. Both it and the BSAP will be disseminated widely upon completion.

References Cited

IUCN. 1993. *Equatorial Guinea Environmental Synopsis*. Gland, Switzerland. IUCN.

IUCN 1992. *The Conservation Atlas of Tropical Forests: Africa*. Collins, N.M., C.H. Harcourt, and J.A. Sayer (Eds). London: MacMillan Press Ltd.

Miller, K.R. and S.M. Lanou 1995. *National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Experiences Around the World*. WRI, UNEP, IUCN. Washington, DC; Nairobi; Gland, Switzerland. 162pp.