

EnCorr

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR GEFSEC

Incoming Correspondence Log

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Due Date: 08/30/99

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FOR ACTION: Walter J. Lusigi

Project Name: Integrated Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management

VPU/Dept/Div: GEF	Date Logged: 08/25/99 09:33:43 AM
Room : G 6-025	Logged By: Ramon Prudencio C. De Mesa (GEF)
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CORRESPONDENCE DESCRIPTION:

From: Lars Vidaeus
Organization: WB
Reference #:
To: Mr. Keneth King
Dated: 08/24/99
Type: OP2
Subject: PDF A: Gambia: Integrated Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management

ACTION INSTRUCTIONS:

Please review and/or technical comments

INFORMATION COPIES:

Colin P. Rees/Person/World Bank, Alfred M. Duda/Person/World Bank, Andrea Meria/Person/World Bank, Mario A. Ramos/Person/World Bank, Maria C. J. Cruz/Person/World Bank, Kanta Kumari/Person/World Bank, Herbert Acquay/Person/World Bank, Jocelyn M. Taylor/Person/World Bank

Note: If an electronic document is not attached, a hard copy of the document will be sent directly to your attention. Please return to this tracking sheet and attach your response with a copy to the Program Coordinator (gcoordination@worldbank.org) on or before the due date.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

99 AUG 23 PM 5: 54

GEF SECRETARIAT



DATE: August 23, 1999

TO: See Distribution

FROM: Lars Vidaeus, GEF Executive Coordinator

EXTENSION: 34188

SUBJECT: **PDF Block A Request - The Gambia : Integrated Marine & Coastal Biodiversity Management**

Please find attached a PDF Block A for the above-mentioned project. We would appreciate your comments by August 30, 1999.

Thank you.

Distribution:

R. Asenjo, UNDP (Fax: 1212-906-6998)

A. Djoghlaif, UNEP (Nairobi) (Fax: 254-2-520-825)

R. Khanna, UNEP (Washington) (Fax: 202-331-4225)

cc: Messrs./Mmes

K. King, GEF Program Coordination, GEF Secretariat (Fax: 23240)

M. Gadgil, STAP (Fax: 91-80-334-1683 or 91-80-331-5428)

Mackinnon, Bossard, Towsey, Maitre, Esumei (ENV); M. Crepin, J. Bojo, E.

Mekonnen (AFTE1); ENVGC ISC; AFTE1 Divisional File.

Block A PDF

PART I -ELIGIBILITY

1. <i>Project Name:</i> Integrated Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in The Gambia	2. <i>GEF Implementing Agency:</i> World Bank
3. <i>Country or countries in which the project is being implemented:</i> The Gambia	4. <i>Country eligibility:</i> The Gambia ratified the Biodiversity Convention on June 10, 1994
5. <i>GEF focal areas, and/or cross-cutting:</i> Biodiversity	6. <i>Operational programme:</i> The project falls within the coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems operational programme

7. Project linkages to national priorities, action plans and programmes:

In 1997, The Gambia carried out a biodiversity country study to gather and analyse biological and socio-economic data as the basis for preparing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 1999. The plan recognised a number of gaps and constraints associated with coastal and marine biodiversity in The Gambia. These can be summarised as a lack of integrated approach to the management of coastal and marine areas; lack of adequate knowledge about the habitats and species present in the coastal and marine areas including a number of globally threatened species; lack of marine and coastal protected areas; and limited initiatives in aquaculture. In 1997, in collaboration with IUCN the Gambia also produced a Legal and Institutional Profile of The Gambia Biodiversity. This study revealed a major number of gaps and conflicts in Gambian legislation that have hindered the government in providing sufficient support to enforce related laws. In addition it has also been recognised that areas such as Tanji Bird Reserve and the Bijol Islands, although having protected status are in fact open to abuse. This situation arises due to weaknesses that exist that make it difficult for government to implement plans and enforce regulations.

In response The Gambia is currently reviewing its Biodiversity and Wildlife Policy, funded by IDA under Capacity Building/Technical Assistance for Environment Management. This policy will particularly address protection of coastal habitats and will become the blue print for the management of biological diversity in the country. It will provide clarification on the legal issues, and strengthen the position of government within legislation in order that it can operate more effectively.

This project proposal has a direct link to the Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP) which is the main policy framework for environmental management, adopted by the government in July 1992. This Action Plan which relates to all matters affecting the environment and identifies key environmental issues and strategies to control, prevent and /or mitigate all harmful effects on the environment. It is the key document for environmental planning at the national level, providing the framework for conservation and rational use of natural resources.

In addition there have also been a limited number of national studies and more local projects that have focused on particular areas and aspects of marine and coastal biodiversity – see attached. Some of these projects are currently ongoing and the database of information obtained can be utilised in this project.

8. *GEF national operational focal point and a date of country endorsement:*

The National GEF Committee whose secretariat is the National Environment Agency (NEA) on March 3rd, 1999.

9. *Project rationale and objectives:*

The coastal and marine zones are characterised by their great diversity in terms of their environmental and economic resources, administrative structure and legislative framework. In the Gambia these zones are represented not only by those that border the sea but also those that border the Gambia river, 200km inland. The diversity of this environment has stimulated a great variety of human activities and the Gambia's marine and coastal ecosystems have provided shelter and protection for human settlements since ancient times. Coastal and marine biodiversity is necessary for human survival and for food production, health and economic growth in particular. In the Gambian context, poverty abatement and economic growth both rely on an effective and sustainable use of natural resources and therefore have an implicit and direct relationship with biodiversity. This fact is particularly pertinent in the coastal and marine environments, since a growing proportion of the Gambian economy is derived from tourism, and the expected growth areas in the economy are thought also to be in this area (e.g. in the Greater Banjul area). However, The Gambian population is also expanding rapidly, putting increasing pressure on natural habitats, endangering biodiversity of global significance and also biodiversity that is important to associated human communities.

The Gambia has begun to develop a strategy for integrated coastal and marine management (ICAM). In 1996, it undertook a study of the coastal region south of the River Gambia. This study was funded by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and was carried out as part of the WACAF/II programme, when all major stakeholders participated in a capacity building as well as information gathering exercise. The study allowed threats to coastal and marine environments to be identified and key issues of a national plan to be discussed among the participants. Identified threats included habitat and ecosystem destruction and fragmentation, mangrove die-back, pollution and the introduction of alien species, development, coastal area development projects, sand mining, pollution and a lack of knowledge and awareness. It was also established that one of the key issues in the coastal area is the absence of an effective land-use planning and development control system. Both are needed to rationalise the development of land and to co-ordinate it with infrastructure provision, which is essential to ensure protection of any environmental resource. The NEA has led implementation of the ICAM in The Gambia. This organisation has also been instrumental in setting up a coastal and marine environment working group, which consists of personnel from key government departments, local area councils, NGOs, private sector and the Gambia Port Authority. The activities of this group have been dominated by coastal erosion and related problems, such as beach mining, but in the future it is hoped that it will move from reactive policies as a response to emergency situations to a comprehensive understanding of the coastal environment. Currently no overall coherent plan exists for the coastal and marine zones of The Gambia, which need to be put in an environmental and economic framework for the region.

Coverage of information about biodiversity in the marine and coastal zone is patchy. For example, the 1996 study identified nine ecologically rich sites, one of which has been gazetted as a protected area. The Gambia has also identified three sites for RAMSAR

ratification, with RAMSAR Bureau funding. It is currently preparing integrated management plans for these areas with the involvement of all stakeholders and takes into account ecological, socio-economic and community aspects. There has also been cross-border co-operation between the Gambia and Senegal in the Niimi National Park and Sine-Saloum National Park, which forms a large area of coastal wetland on either side of the Senegal-Gambian border. The two country authorities have agreed that there should be an integration and harmonisation of the management plans elaborated in the parks and that a framework for direct contact and partnership between the two administrations should be implemented.

In contrast however, there is few data on the distribution and relative abundance of globally endangered species found in the coastal and marine zones of The Gambia e.g. West African Manatee, Hippopotamus, Sharks, Sea Turtles, Brown-necked Parrot, Lesser Kestrel and Audouins Gull. In the same vein, although integrated management plans exist for certain areas which acknowledge community participation as a necessary prerequisite for the protection, management and conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity, there has been very little implementation of such management plans on the ground, due to lack of resources to initiate this activity. An example of such a project is that proposed by the Gunjur Environment Protection and Development Group (GEPADG). Gunjur is situated in the area of rural Kombo South District. This area is facing considerable threat of urbanisation as a result of the Kombo Coastal Road Construction. In response to this GEPADG have joined forces with eight leading village clans, developing community forests locally and also ideas to promote local eco-tourism for sustainable natural resource development. The group has developed a number of nature based tourism opportunities that would benefit the community by providing livelihood options to the local inhabitants. However it is in need of funds to make its strategies become actions on the ground.

A GEF medium-sized grant or higher level engagement from GEF can positively influence The Gambia's conversion away from a non-sustainable resource utilising culture to a nation-based one in which biodiversity protection plays a major role. A GEF project will pursue three inter-related objectives associated with integrated coastal and marine management.

Objective 1

Maximise conservation and protection of globally significant biodiversity

The Gambia's coastline of approx. 80km provides refuge for a number of species that are threatened both at the national and global level. These include the West African Manatee, Green, Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, Leatherback and Loggerhead Turtles and Hippopotamus. Baseline data for these species is sparse, and basic survey work is required to establish the distribution and relative abundance of these species. It would be beneficial to involve local communities at this stage of the project in order that they can be sensitised to the value and rareness of these species. Involvement in the survey work will help to develop an appreciation of changes in population sizes and their associated causes. The results of this work will also provide information about the threats and practical conservation needs of the species thus enabling effective strategies to be planned for their conservation.

Objective 2

To integrate biodiversity conservation in economic development of the coastal and marine zones in an overall national strategy

proposed Ramsar site ecological assessments, Ramsar site management plans and national waterfowl survey.

The ICAM for the southern region of The Gambia needs to be extended to incorporate all marine and coastal zones, including the 200km inland along the river and to place greater emphasis on maximising biodiversity through sustainable resource management and community based tourism activities.

Objective 3

To implement integrated management plans in two key coastal areas in The Gambia, as a test bed and subsequent showcase to provide a national lead and example for other areas

Based in Gunjur and Baobolon or Tanbi wetlands. All of these projects have detailed and integrated management plans, but lack resources to implement the management plans on the ground.

10. Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

Each objective under 9. requires a set of planned activities as listed below them.

Objective 1

The GEF funding would allow: a) identification of the highest priority sites for globally threatened species through survey work so that limited resources can be focused appropriately; b) educational, training and awareness material to be prepared to be used with local communities and therefore make conservation activity more effective.

Objective 2

The GEF funding would allow the coastal and marine environment working group to meet and liaise with other relevant key stakeholders in order that an integrated management plan for the Gambia can be prepared which has the ideal of maximising biodiversity. This process has started but needs additional funding and focus to enable it to come to a successful conclusion.

Objective 3

For each project the GEF project would: a) support the joint development and implementation of integrated management plan which maximised biodiversity and promoted sustainable eco-tourism; b) help the local communities develop and establish community projects by providing funding for pilot projects and training; c) provide promotional and educational material for the project; d) enable a monitoring process to be an integral part of the implementation process.

11. Stakeholders involved in the project: Government departments, Gambia Port Authority, Gambia Navy, local and provincial government, GEPADG and local coastal and marine communities. The co-ordinating agency will be the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management.

PART II - INFORMATION ON BLOCK A PDF ACTIVITIES

12. Activities to be financed by the PDF:

The PDF will finance a workshop, which will bring together key personnel and representatives of all concerned parties so that a working group may be formed to prepare the medium-sized proposal. A consensus of direction will be sought at the workshop for all three objectives and the detailed aims, strategies and monitoring procedures of the proposal (at all three levels) will be discussed. It is envisaged that the workshop will take place over three days, with one day allotted to each objective. All participants will be invited to all three days, so that there can be a cross-fertilisation of ideas at all levels and

an appreciation of the wider picture and where the different objectives fit together. The workshop will also seek to clarify sources of co-funding for the project.

The PDF will also finance the production of a draft proposal and the final medium-sized project brief.

14. *Expected outcomes and completion dates:*

The expected outcomes and completion dates would then be:

Workshop - one month after PDF is awarded.

Terms of reference for the proposal and production of draft project brief one month after workshop.

Production of a medium-sized project brief three months after the workshop.

15. *Other contributors/donors and amounts:*

The RAMSAR Bureau has made \$13,400 available to produce management plans for Baobolon, Niimi and Tanbi wetlands.

The BTO ringing project will continue throughout the project (equivalent of 14 man hours x 6) per annum).

Wetlands International through its annual water bird surveys - \$4,500.

16. *Total budget and information on how costs will be met (including the Block A grant):*

- a) Field trips, meetings so far (Government of the Gambia) 30 person days = \$5,000
- b) Workshop, including travel and informational material = \$15,000
- c) Preparation of medium-sized project brief = \$5,000
- d) BTO co-financing of ringing project = \$1,500
- e) Ramsar Bureau financed production of management plans = \$13,000

Total amount comes to \$39,500, of which \$25,000 is requested from GEF.

PART III – INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT INSTITUTION

17. *Name:*

Department of Parks and Wildlife Management is the applicant for the PDF. This department is in charge of the management and conservation of protected areas in the Gambia.

18. *Date of establishment, membership, and leadership:*

Upgraded to a government department in 1977. Director Dr. Camara.

19. *Mandate/terms of reference:*

National focal point for Biodiversity Convention and responsible for co-ordination of national biodiversity activities.

20. *Sources of revenue:*

Government and multi-lateral and bi-lateral sources.

21. *Recent Activities:*

Co-ordination of the production of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan,

Table 1 Previous and On-Going Assessments of Biodiversity in the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems of The Gambia.

Initial Lowland Agricultural Development Project (LADEP)

Environmental studies on the wildlife aspects of certain wetland ecologies of The Gambia, including creeks, mangroves, salt marshes and herbaceous swamp which serve as habitat for the endangered West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) and Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekei sclater*).

African Bird Census for The Gambia

Undertaken during the period Jan-March 1998, with support from Wetlands International. Altogether 36 wetland sites (which includes coastal and marine ecosystems) have been surveyed. The data is currently being compiled, although initial analysis reveals that the most biodiverse areas are near the coast.

1996 Ramsar funded study on Niimi National Park, Boabolon Wetland Reserve and Stin-Corner/Tanbi Wetland Complex and Important Bird Areas (IBA) survey (1998)

Revealed Ramsar sites and some IBA have unique mangrove habitat and associated fauna, which deserve immediate protection. The Ramsar study also revealed significant degree of destruction of mangroves, coastal grass/scrubland, coastal dunes and island habitats which not only serve as habitat for marine and coastal resources, but equally as important roosting grounds for migratory avifauna and nursery grounds for fish. The beaches serve as important breeding areas for sea turtles.

Ramsar Cabinet Paper

Following the RAMSAR and IBA studies, a draft of a Cabinet paper aimed at declaring the Stin-Corner and Tanbi wetland complex as Ramsar sites is under review.

The Gambian Ringing Project

This project has been undertaken on an annual basis at Ginack Islands in the North Bank Division since 1995 with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). There is now a substantial database for the ringed birds at DPWM.

Legal and Institutional Profile of The Gambia

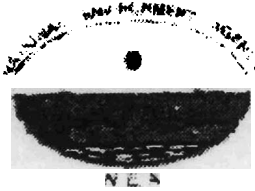
Produced in 1997 in collaboration with IUCN.

Wildlife and Biodiversity Policy for The Gambia

Currently being prepared with first draft produced and under review.

The African Development Bank

Has made available \$1.5 million to conduct studies along the coastal areas of The Gambia (e.g. determine causes of coastal erosion, socio-economic conditions of coastal dwellers).



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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1.

NEA/ISN/14/01 Part X111/ (10)

Date: 27 May, 1999

Yves Prevost
Environmental Specialist
World Bank
New York, NY

Dear Sir,

Proposal for PDF A Grant for Integrated Coastal and Marine Management

The National GEF Committee has reviewed the proposal from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (text already sent to you today). The committee has given it approval and duly endorsed. It is being forwarded to you for your perusal and onward transmission to World Bank/GEF for its consideration for possible funding.

Thank You

Sainey B. Suso
For: Executive Director
(chair National GEF Committee)