



United Nations Development Programme
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

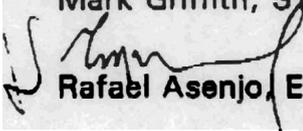


Facsimilie

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From:


Rafael Asenjo, Executive Coordinator UNDP/GEF

Date:

5th May 1997.

Pages:

8 in Total

Subject:

Project Proposal for UNDP/ GEF Secretariat Bilateral Consultation 19th May 1997.

I am pleased to attach for your review, UNDP's submission of one Biodiversity PDF B; **Support Programme for Biodiversity Enbling Activities** to be discussed at the above bilateral consultations.

We look forwards to receiving your views on the same.

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Global Environment Facility

Proposal for PDF Block B Grant

Country: Global *(John Hough, UNDP)*

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

Project Title: Support Programme for Biodiversity Enabling Activities

Funding Requested: \$334,800 *① exec. agency UNDP + UNDP steering committee from UNDP, UNDP, CBD, GEF*

Cofunding: To be determined *② budget on p. 6 - GEF money going to agencies, not as if grants giving money → what is counterpart?*

Requesting Agencies: UNDP, UNEP *③ p. 4. PDF activities*

Block: Block B *a) assessment methods? surveys?*

Block A Grant Awarded: No *b) pilot approach?*

Block B Grant Awarded: No *c) pilot workshops?*

Duration: May - October 1997

SUMMARY PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

Summary

The purpose of this PDF is to develop a proposal for a global project to support and strengthen the ability of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to prepare National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAP) and their first national reports, and thus meet their obligations in implementing Articles 6 and 26 of the CBD. The project will provide this support by providing countries with important BSAP related materials, conducting regional workshops to jump-start various components of the BSAP process, developing networks of experts to provide technical support, and providing a mechanism for learning and transferring lessons at both a regional and global scale.

Background

Decisions II/6 and II/7 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CBD request the GEF to facilitate urgent implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention by availing financial resources to Parties in a flexible and expedient manner. Decision II/17 of the COP specifically calls upon the GEF to assist developing country parties in the preparation of their national reports, required by article 26 and due by 1 January 1998, to the fourth COP meeting. Decision III/9 of the COP further reminds country's of some of the components of their national reports, urges them to submit these on time, and requests the GEF to facilitate this.

④ role of countries/focal pts CBD secretariat

⑤ define expectations from EA + EA process

one-time report planning & programming

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Decision II/7 of the COP also emphasized the importance of capacity building to assist Parties in implementing Articles 6 and 8 in a timely and effective manner. This request was further reiterated during an informal meeting between the Secretariats of the CBD and the GEF (July 2-4, 1996) in which the need for capacity building for developing national strategies and action plans was emphasized. Further, the April 1996 GEF Council recommended the development of inter-country training and best practice workshops at a regional or global level and methodological support for Enabling Activities.

The GEF has responded actively to these requests by developing a set of Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities in Biodiversity, which includes the preparation of BSAP's and National Reports, and by making available funding for their implementation. As of 1 May 1997 the GEF had released more than \$14 million to 68 countries, a further 14 requests for assistance were still being processed, and a further 60 eligible countries are expected to submit requests over the course of the next year.

This proposal to support the effective implementation of these Biodiversity Enabling Activities has been prepared by UNDP at the request of the GEF Secretariat on behalf of and in close collaboration with the other GEF Implementing Agencies (UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank) and has also involved consultation with the CBD Secretariat and IUCN.

Problems Experienced

UNDP, UNEP, and to a lesser extent the World Bank, have found that countries both starting to implement Biodiversity EA's, and those at more advanced stages, have experienced a need for assistance in "jump starting" the various stages of the process including:

- start-up (getting organized, establishing committees, determining roles, developing work plans, visualizing the outputs and the work process, understanding the WRI Guidelines, etc);
- converting biodiversity country study analyses to strategic inputs for planning processes;
- ensuring that the planning process reaches beyond traditional sectoral boundaries and is fully linked to a variety of other national planning processes.

getting the wide range of different stakeholders (including scientists, managers, policy makers and communities), at a wide variety of levels (from local to national), to work together;

- designing financing strategies;

converting action plans to real actions;

These problems have been verified by both IUCN and WRI who have also received specific requests for assistance in these areas.

While a need for such support was foreseen in the enabling activities, most include a provision for some form of international consultancy and all include a familiarization and training session for the national planning teams, there is both a shortage of suitably experienced consultants and trainers (Biodiversity Enabling Activities are a new concept), and there is no agreed standard way of approaching the activities. As one national coordinator commented "The WRI Guidelines provide us with several alternative planning methods but we have no basis for choosing between them." In order

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to choose we need to hear from others of their experiences and the advantages and disadvantages of the different alternatives.”

In addition there is a need for monitoring the implementation of enabling activities and drawing lessons from them, not only to assist other countries in earlier stages of the process, but also to enhance the overall understanding of, and improve, what is by nature an ongoing iterative process. As the various national NEAP and NEMP processes have shown, strategic environmental planning is an ongoing process and not a “one off” affair.

Project Objectives and Activities

The objective of the project to be developed under this PDF is to support and strengthen National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Planning processes, and the preparation of first national reports to the COP. The GEF contribution to the project is anticipated to be in the region of \$2 million, with additional inputs from related activities with which it will be tightly integrated, in particular the IUCN project funded by the Swiss government.

Five groups of activities are anticipated:

1. **Identify, exchange, translate, disseminate and, where necessary, develop materials related to the BSAP process.** Samples of existing products, practical materials and models such as the WRI and other guidelines for the preparation of BSAP's, and documented experiences of countries undertaking the BSAP process, will be identified, translated where necessary, and disseminated to countries through international and regional networks. New materials (e.g. case studies, guidelines and training modules) will be developed and disseminated if needed. While initially much of the identification and dissemination is likely to occur centrally this process should become gradually decentralized as networks develop and countries exchange between themselves. This information exchange process will contribute directly to the foundation of the CBD Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) and will largely be coordinated directly from the CBD Secretariat.
2. **Conduct regional workshops to exchange experiences, lessons learned, and materials, and to assist in “jump starting” specific components of the BSAP process.** Workshop sessions will assist the hands-on practitioners of the BSAP to visualize and implement the various components of the BSAP through the exchange of experiences, lessons, learned, and materials. Specific training modules may also be provided through these workshops. Inter-country contacts, exchange and networking will also be directly facilitated.
3. **Develop networks of experts based on regional and linguistic commonalities.** Develop networks of experts associated with the various technical skills, including BSAP management and coordination, that can be drawn on to advise and assist countries with the implementation of their BSAPs. These networks will assist in meeting countries' technical and information needs, will serve as an ongoing support system, and can be drawn upon to provide specific troubleshooting or training assistance through mechanisms such as “help desk” services, exchanges, and direct consultant support. These networks will be associated with, and maintained by, regional institutions and centres of excellence.
4. **Conduct a second round of regional workshops to gather and share lessons learned from countries implementing enabling activities.** A second round of regional workshops will foster inter-country and regional exchange of experiences, lessons learned, and best practices, associated

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with the BSAP process. Countries will be provided with the necessary information, tools and support to produce quality outputs within the expected time frame.

5. **Develop and disseminate materials (case studies, lessons learned, guidelines, etc.) to assist countries in converting strategies and action plans into real action.** Experience with National Environmental planning indicates that significant difficulties are often encountered at this critical stage. Materials will be developed on the basis of experience, lessons learned and case studies from related activities (national environmental planning), countries that have started implementation, and workshop outputs. The mechanism for development will be a learning system based on the networks developed in 3 above, and again these will be associated regional institutions.

In order to avoid duplication and ensure maximum synergy the project to be developed will be closely coordinated with other global and regional initiatives that are currently under development or are emerging, in particular the IUCN project "~~Supporting Global Action to Conserve Biodiversity and Sustainably Use Biological Resources: Phase II~~" which commenced in January 1997. This three year project has the broader aim of assisting countries to carry out activities in support of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, especially in the context of the CBD implementation, and including the preparation and implementation of national planning efforts.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PDF ACTIVITIES BY COMPONENT

1. **Assessment of Status, Needs, and Opportunities of Biodiversity Enabling Activities.** The global status of biodiversity EA's will be assessed through direct communication with country coordinators, technical experts and regional centres of expertise supporting EA's, implementing agency representatives, and the like. The status, needs, issues, experiences and lessons learned from each EA will be assessed and analysed to determine the precise support needs. A parallel analysis will identify and assess the capacity of existing regional networks and centres of excellence to address these needs. *assessment method*
2. **Pilot materials dissemination and expert network.** In response to the needs identified and materials gathered under 1 a limited pilot approach to organizing, targetting, and dissemination of materials and models, will be established and tested. Similarly one, or possibly more depending on opportunity, preliminary expert network will be established and tested.
3. **Two regional pilot workshops: West Africa, and the Caribbean (Small Island States).** The regional workshops will bring together members of national planning teams, in particular the national coordinators and lead national consultants, and experts in biodiversity EA's to evaluate and provide feedback on the results of the assessment and the developing proposal. The workshops will also provide a training venue and will assist the hands-on practitioners of the BSAP process at the country level with the day-to-day needs of launching, implementing and modifying their country's BSAP process through providing opportunities for participants in various stages of BSAP preparation to share their experiences. Regions have been selected on the basis of identified capacity gaps associated with clusters of GEF financed Biodiversity Enabling Activities, and in consultation with other agencies and institutions, particularly IUCN who are holding biodiversity workshops in East Africa, South America, and South and South East Asia.

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4. **Coordination and Preparation of Full Proposal.** Activities will be coordinated by a full-time consultant who will also conduct the assessment, organize the workshops, liaise closely with the GEF Implementing Agencies, other partners, and the CBD Secretariat, and prepare the final proposal.

ELIGIBILITY

The project being prepared under this PDF will serve the immediate and longer term needs of all GEF eligible countries that have requested enabling activities as they prepare to meet their obligations to the CBD.

The project's sequence of activities will ensure that appropriate support is given to countries at the most appropriate time. Initial project activities will focus on meeting the information and practical training needs of countries as they launch and move through their EA process, through the distribution and development of materials and associated training through workshops. Later project activities will focus on developing ways to sustain technical support through expertise networks and to share experiences through workshops. By holding regional workshops and developing regional networks this project will serve to foster consistency of approach and procedures in meeting CBD obligations.

This project will incorporate best practices by:

- taking a participatory approach to training and information exchange;
- facilitating the use of regional and international technical expertise;
- building cooperation in BSAP implementation at the subregional, regional and international level;
- making use of the facilities provided by the clearing house mechanism of the Convention; and
- facilitating access to other international and national scientific and technical cooperation.

The project is being developed jointly by UNDP and UNEP, in close consultation with the World Bank, the CBD and GEF Secretariats, as well as with IUCN, and is considered to be an important project to ensure that countries meet their CBD obligations and prepare high quality outputs. UNDP and UNEP will work together to plan and execute the PDF activities and prepare the project proposal.

JUSTIFICATION

The GEF, as both the interim funding mechanism for the CBD and the main financier for many of these BSAPs has an interest in both ensuring that such technical expertise is made available and that the resultant BSAPs and country reports are prepared to a high standard. This project is consistent with the CBD provisions to assist its participant countries in meeting their obligations to the CBD, as well as the decisions of COP II and COP III. The activities of this proposal will enable the development of a full proposal detailing the most appropriate way to provide this assistance based on input from countries throughout the world in different stages of the BSAP process.

OUTPUTS

The outputs of this PDF Block B grant will be:

1. A global assessment of the status, needs, issues, and lessons learned so far regarding biodiversity enabling activities.

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2. Pilot testing of a materials organization, targetting and distribution system and at least one preliminary expert network.
3. Two regional workshops to both serve as pilots for the kinds of exchange and learning to take place under the main project, and to verify the results of the global assessment; exchange experience, lessons learned and materials; and to develop the full proposal in a participatory fashion.
4. A full GEF proposal for a global support programme for biodiversity enabling activities, based on the information and analysis of the global assessment and on consultation and discussion with BSAP participants and other partners.

ITEMS TO BE FINANCED

Budget Item	UNEP (US\$)	UNDP (US\$)	Total (US\$)
Assessment of status, needs and opportunities and piloting of materials and expert networks - consultant, 3 person months.	45,000		45,000
2 x Regional Workshops - organization 10,000 - translation & Materials 5,000 - participant Travel & DSA (30 partics) <u>80,000</u> Total per workshop 95,000		190,000	190,000
Coordination and proposal preparation Consultant - 3 person months	45,000		45,000
Consultant travel, communications, translation, copying, pilot materials distribution, etc.	25,000	5,000	30,000
Agency Support Costs (8%)	9,200	15,600	24,800
TOTAL	124,200	210,600	\$334,800

*no countries***EXECUTING AGENCY COLLABORATION**

The PDF Block B will be jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP. UNEP will house the consultant, possibly in the CBD Secretariat, and deal with materials handling. UNDP will deal with the logistics of the workshops and through its network of country offices participate as necessary in materials dissemination and the expert networks. A Steering Committee involving both partners will meet periodically by telephone conference. Representatives of the CBD and GEF Secretariats and the World Bank will be invited to participate.

EXPECTED DATE OF PREPARATION COMPLETION

Block B project development funded activities will commence in May 1997 and must be completed by September 1997 to ensure that the full GEF proposal can be considered at the GEF Council meeting in October 1997. The provisional schedule of events is as follows:

May: Recruitment of consultant