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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME****Project Outline**

1. **Project Title:** Global Forest Biodiversity Assessment
2. **Background and Context**

In the past three years, UNEP in collaboration with other institutions and scientists around the world undertook a Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA). The main aim was to provide for the first time, an independent peer reviewed scientific analysis of the current issues, theories and views regarding the main global aspects of biodiversity. The need for this assessment was prompted by two ad-hoc working groups of STAP in July 1992 on biodiversity and on Conventions and Research. UNEP prepared a project brief that was submitted to GEF for consideration which was subsequently endorsed by the Participants' Meeting (Abidjan, Dec. 1992). The principal output of the project was the publication in 1995 of a massive 1140 page book, the *Global Biodiversity Assessment* and a *Summary for Policy Makers* of 46 pages, both published for UNEP by Cambridge University Press in November 1995. The GBA report and Summary for Policy Makers were launched in November 1995 in Jakarta during the CBD/COP 2 meeting where copies were made available to delegations and widely distributed to governments.

- The GBA reviews all aspects of biodiversity -ecosystems, species and genes - and is essential material for achieving increased awareness of global environmental issues and improved environmental information to support informed decision-making and action by governments. As the GEF Operational Strategy (February 1996, pp. 2-3) notes, the collection and synthesis of usable information and its dissemination among decision makers, scientists and the general public are important components of the GEF Strategy.
- Although the GBA itself is by its nature global in scope and embraces all four Initial Operational Programs in Biodiversity recognized in the GEF Operational Strategy namely arid and semi-arid ecosystems; coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems (including wetlands); forest ecosystems; and mountain ecosystems, because of the special problems posed by particular biomes, such as forests, there is a case for reviewing this area in depth.
- The desirability of preparing thematic assessments in line with the major themes and specific needs of the Convention was underlined during the recently concluded SBSTTA meeting held in Montreal (September 1996). Forest ecosystems were widely recognized as being in urgent need of global assessment and high priority was accorded to the preparation of a thematic assessment of knowledge and status of biological diversity in these ecosystems.

- The ministerial statement on the implementation of the CBD issued by COP 2 noted '*the need for more information and knowledge regarding biological diversity at all levels*' and placed the issue on the agenda of COP 3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the COP of the CBD is to report to COP 3 on this and the issue of future assessments.
- The GBA is already cited widely by government officials, UN agencies, IGOs, NGOs, specialists, conservationists and others as a key source of biodiversity information and assessment. Further work in this area will enhance this reference base.
- The independent Review and Evaluation of UNEP/GEF Global Biodiversity Assessment Project (February 1996) recommended that: '*Theme specific assessments on biodiversity issues relevant for the CBD and CSD be carried out.*'

3. Project Objectives

People, policy-makers and politicians are especially concerned about the status of biodiversity at all levels in the world's forests and in need of authoritative technical assessments to support decision-making and strategy development. This need has become especially acute because of concerns over the potential of forests to reduce global warming, the fate of indigenous forest dwellers, intentional trade in forest products, etc. Further, tropical forests are believed to contain the highest proportion of the Earth's biodiversity. While the assessments presented in the GBA show that the variety of life in the infrastructure of forests is immense, fragile and still very poorly understood, enough is known to conclude that biodiversity at all levels is vital to forest health, and that forest management practices are vital to the maintenance of biodiversity.

The principal objective of the project is to produce an in-depth and considered scientific technical and technological assessment of the current state of knowledge of global biodiversity in Forest ecosystems, through accessing and drawing on the knowledge of experts of international renown.

The new thematic assessment in forest biodiversity will contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and should provide an important tool for obtaining objectively assessed information that can be used as a basis for guiding GEF interventions. The project will also contribute to the Global Forest Resources Assessment FRA 2000.

4. Project Description

The tasks which this assessment would be charged to undertake would be to:

- Ascertain the extent of existing information on the topic, including previous compilations, assessments, and reports, and note gaps meriting priority attention. The aspects to be covered would include:


- components of biodiversity most under threat, where appropriate on an ecoregional basis.

impact of alien species on native species and review the effectiveness of possible solutions to control further introductions and mitigate their effects, emphasizing appropriate technologies.

value of bioindicator technologies for the assessment of ecosystem processes and responses to perturbations from pollutants, physical disturbance, and other factors, particularly in relation to identifying unexploited opportunities for north-south technology transfer.

- opportunities for integrated management programmes which will limit the risks to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and also making allowances for the needs of indigenous peoples and economic considerations, paying particular attention to an assessment of appropriate technologies.

- adequacy of existing human and technological resources in both developed and developing countries, and the extent of technology transfer in these areas.

-  ways of increasing forest productivity by socially and ecologically acceptable ways while maintaining forest health and its biodiversity so as to reconcile conflicting views on sustainable conservation and development strategies.

- impact on biodiversity and carbon sequestration, both in spatial and temporal scales, of different forest harvesting and management practices, and further forest products trade, and paying particular attention to functionally valuable groups of organisms including invertebrates, fungi and other microorganisms.

effects of forest fragmentation and utilization on the long-term conservation of biodiversity, with an emphasis on the use of bioindicators of sustainability employing appropriate technologies to monitor effects of logging and other disturbances.

- possible approaches to determining the effectiveness of the current forest areas which are biodiversity reserves, and consider how to identify options so as to accelerate progress towards increasing their effectiveness, noting the target to set aside at least 10% of the major forest ecosystems as biodiversity reserves by year 2000.

- options by which private sector investment and managed utilization might contribute to biodiversity preservation.

- available evidence for the rates of species losses in tropical forests in relation to reductions in forest areas, and consider what types of data are needed to reach a robust conclusion on this controversial topic.

- effectiveness of current approaches to the conservation of forest genetic resources.

- existing approaches to valuing forests in economic terms, and consider the range of factors meriting attention in such valuations, including ecological services, existence values, and option values.
- Identify priority topics for critical assessment relevant to the needs of policy-makers.
- Identify sources for accessing information in scientific and technical reports related to the priority thematic topics which is not adequately collated. This should include information on human values of biodiversity and knowledge of indigenous peoples.

5. Rationale for GEF Financing

The GEF Operational Strategy states that in *'developing and managing the portfolio of activities, the GEF will seek the best available scientific and technological advice'* and it specifically notes that the collection and synthesis of usable information, and ensuring its dissemination among decision makers, scientists, and the general public are important parts of the GEF's operational strategy.

6. Participation

The various components of the project will be based on close collaboration between the international scientific community and relevant UN and other international organizations. A follow-up to the project will be planned in order to assess how the assessment has been received through regional workshops for policy makers. This assessment will involve a wide range of biological and social scientists from all regions of the world either as contributors to the text, as peer-reviewers or as workshop participants. The review workshops will act as a stimulus to the institutions in developing countries where they are held and will involve the participation of local scientists, traditional communities, and NGOs.

7. Outputs

The major output from this project will be a new peer-reviewed in-depth report on the state of knowledge of forest biodiversity.

A short version i.e. Summary for Policy-makers will also be prepared.

8. Budget & Timetable

Estimated total project costs:	US\$ 1,500,000
Requested GEF Financing:	US\$ 1,200,000
Co-financing:	US\$ 300,000
Estimated starting date:	May 1997
Project duration:	2 Years

PROJECT OUTLINE

- 1. Project Title:** Development of Guidelines for the integration of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into national sectoral and cross-sectoral planning.

2. Background and Context

The importance of Article 6 in achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was re-emphasized by the COP at both its first and second meetings. Decision II/7 of COP 2 urges Parties to exchange relevant information and share experience on measures for its implementation, and stresses the importance of regional and international cooperation.

The operational framework for supporting the implementation of Article 6 has been developed by the GEF as a response to Decision II/7 of COP 2 and is set out in the "Operational Criteria for Biodiversity Enabling Activities" (GEF, February 1996).

Development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans is underway in number of countries in accordance with paragraph (a) of Article 6. However, implementation of Article 6(b) is a complex undertaking and few countries have yet attempted it.

There are several approaches to prepare national biodiversity strategies and plans, ranging from one comprehensive approach to the sum of a series of sectoral/thematic or local level approaches. Considering that many countries have already developed or are in the process of developing multisectoral or sectoral plans such as forestry action plans, they may find it practical and appropriate to approach the implementation of Article 6 by integrating biodiversity concerns to other existing environmental or natural resource strategies, plans or policies. In addition, because the policies of other sectors particularly those of economic importance (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, health, tourism, trade, planning, transport) have an impact on biodiversity conservation and on sustainable use of biological resources, it is important to ensure that national plans, programmes and policies of such sectors take into consideration biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through an integrative approach.

Both the COP and the GEF have encouraged Parties to use the "Guidelines for National Biodiversity Planning based on early country experiences around the world" (WRI, UNEP and IUCN, 1995) in implementing Article 6. Building on this useful document, the tool box of methodologies could be further expanded focussing specifically on Article 6(b) of the CBD.

3. Summary of Project Objectives

The main global environmental objective is to support the implementation of Article 6(b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the development of Guidelines for integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into national sectoral and

cross-sectoral plans, programmes and/or policies. This activity would support in-country enabling activities by providing a tool to assist countries to implement Article 6 of the CBD in its entirety. It would also help setting the stage for Article 10(a) which requires the integration of the consideration of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making. The most important anticipated global environmental benefits would be the enhanced capacity of CBD Parties to integrate biodiversity considerations into the mainstream of economic activities, helping address economic externalities and policy failures. This would allow a better informed decision-making process, preventing to some extent additional biodiversity loss or degradation and may help increase domestic sources of funding for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

The project would also facilitate the exchange of information and experience at the regional and international levels as called for by decision II/7 of COP 2. The Guidelines could be made available to parties through the Clearing-House mechanism of CBD.

4. Short Project Description

The methodology and process to be used in the development of the above guidelines will be a two-tiered approach, involving *inter alia*:

- (i) Broad consultation with GEF partners, governments and relevant international/regional/sub-regional organizations in order to:
 - Gather information and review recent and on-going efforts to integrate biodiversity considerations into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans.
 - Solicit case studies including *inter alia* information on existing methodologies for sectoral and cross-sectoral planning to illustrate in country and other experience (in particular WB and other multilateral organizations).
 - Define sectors to be addressed by the project.
 - Review a wide range of sectoral plans and strategies to determine the extent to which conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are incorporated and to identify gaps and additional issues that should be addressed.
- (ii) In depth assessment in a limited number of countries with the sector's relevant ministries in order to develop specific methodologies for inclusion in the Guidelines.
- (iii) Preparation of a draft Guidelines document and distribution for comments.
- (iv) Workshops including broad-based country representation to peer review and agree on the content of the proposed Guidelines.

- (v) Publication of the Guidelines.
- (vi) Translation into the official UN languages.
- (vii) Dissemination of the documents.

5. Rationale for GEF financing:

The GEF Operational Strategy puts high emphasis on support for biodiversity enabling activities perceived as a basic building block in GEF's assistance to countries either as a means of providing a basic and essential level of information to enable policy and strategic decisions to be made, or assist planning that identifies priority activities within a country, or for fulfilling essential communication requirements to the Convention.

The Operational Strategy also notes that the collection and synthesis of usable information, its dissemination among decision makers, scientists and the general public are important parts in developing and managing the GEF portfolio of activities.

In its decision II/7, the Conference of the Parties requested the financial mechanism of the Convention to avail adequate financial resources to developing country Parties to implement Article 6 of the CBD.

6. Participation:

Preparation of the sectoral Guidelines will involve broad consultation with and participation of the GEF IAs, governments and relevant international/regional/sub-regional organizations in order to draw on country experiences.

7. Outputs:

The project outputs will be a set of [sectoral] guidelines based on in country experiences around the world, presented in an attractive and easy-to-use manner for decision-makers. While there is a need to undertake a consultation with GEF partners, other relevant organizations and a broad spectrum of countries in order to decide which sectors and cross-sectoral areas should be included in the project, the following are likely to be particularly relevant to most countries:

- Macroeconomic policies (national accounting systems, taxation, subsidies, incentives, etc.)
- Agriculture
- Infrastructure development (transport and/or energy)
- Forestry
- Mining
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Tourism

8. Budget and Timetable:

Estimated total project costs:	US\$ 500,000
Requested GEF financing:	US\$ 350,000
Co-financing:	US\$ 150,000
Estimated starting date:	January 1997
Project duration:	2 years