

GEF MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT BRIEF

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM (GBF): PHASE II

PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT IDENTIFIERS	
1. <u>Project Name</u> : Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF); Broadening support for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity -- Phase II	2. <u>GEF Implementing Agency</u> : UNEP
3. <u>Country or countries in which the project is being implemented</u> : This is a global project and its implementation will involve all CBD Parties, through a series of global and regional sessions of the Forum	4. <u>Country eligibility</u> : Global project: applicable to all eligible CBD Parties.
5. <u>GEF focal area(s)</u> : Biodiversity.	6. <u>Operational program/Short-term measure</u> : This proposal falls under all four Operational Programs under the biodiversity focal area.
7. <u>Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs</u> : Based on the outcomes of the pilot phase of the GBF, which engaged over 1,550 individuals from more than 105 countries, the strategy for the second phase of the GBF is to more effectively focus GBF meetings and outcomes on the provisions of the CBD, especially on areas that have been identified by the CBD COP as particularly important in supporting national priorities, action plans and programs, including areas in which GEF support has been recommended by the COP. These include, for example: implementation of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity; main ecosystem topics; ecosystem approach; biodiversity indicators, assessment and monitoring; access to genetic resources; benefit-sharing; agro-biodiversity; indigenous and local communities; national biodiversity strategies and action plans; incorporating biodiversity into sectoral planning; financial resources; and incentive measures. In addition, some GBF sessions can be designed to contribute directly to work programs under the CBD intergovernmental process and to help build understanding of nationally-supported global processes.	
8. <u>GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement</u> : The project brief is being circulated to several national GEF operational focal points from governments that will be invited to serve on the GBF steering committee or to participate actively in some other capacity.	

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES**9. Project rationale and objectives:**

The overall goal of the GBF is to support ability of Parties and major stakeholders to effectively implement the CBD by providing an international and independent mechanism to engage all interested biodiversity stakeholder groups in ongoing dialogue processes (at the global and regional levels), which are designed to increase capacity and understanding, as well as catalyze new levels of cooperation and partnership, through sharing of experience and debate on the issues and options critical to the development and implementation of the CBD. Stakeholders from developing countries and those with economies in transition will be given particular attention.

Objectives:

1. Through the GBF to establish an informal mechanism where CBD Parties and major stakeholder groups can explore and strengthen analysis and debate the central issues around CBD implementation;
2. to expand the CBD constituency to foster broader involvement and commitment of independent, public and business sector partners in actively supporting and assessing CBD implementation;
3. to catalyze new cooperative partnerships and initiatives among CBD Parties, among different sectors, and stakeholder groups at global, regional and national levels;
4. to strengthen regional coordination, initiatives and input into the CBD implementation process;
5. to foster feedback between science and policy work, and between global, regional, national and local-level action.

Indicators:

- The effective establishment of a GBF Steering Committee and effective coordination of the process.
- Extent to which GBF meeting discussions, publications, and spin-off initiatives contribute constructively to formal decisions and recommendations taken at the CBD intergovernmental level, and to effective national and regional implementation efforts.
- The number and type of participation of such groups (e.g., economic ministries, finance and tourism industries, local communities and indigenous groups, scientific institutions).
- The number of new institutions and stakeholders brought into the CBD process through the GBF.
- Number of participants.
- Number of countries represented.
- Number and type of new cooperative partnerships catalyzed.
- The number of regional sessions of the GBF held prior to regional preparatory meetings of the CBD

<p>10. Project outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A fully operational, permanent, and coordinated institutional basis for the GBF. ➤ Broader and more active stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the CBD globally, regionally, nationally and locally. ➤ A mechanism for generating the technical and independent review of documents that will serve as practical tools for CBD implementation. ➤ Greater understanding of the CBD and biodiversity issues in other international and regional fora and processes. ➤ Formal CBD processes better informed about the issues and options on its agenda. ➤ Key priority areas for and gaps in CBD development and implementation identified. ➤ Institutionalized (ongoing) regional dialogue processes and dialogue processes involving all sectors, especially the private sector. ➤ New initiatives and partnerships catalyzed through the GBF process. ➤ National implementation measures more effectively contributing to inter-governmental negotiations and vice-versa. ➤ Extensive documentation on and dissemination of CBD implementation measures and experiences around the world. 	<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number, type and quality of products generated through GBF meetings or spin-off processes that are designed to help build capacity to implement the CBD, and feedback on the utility of such products. ➤ Extent to which the GBF helps to engage the business sector (e.g., number and type of new, ongoing dialogue mechanisms and public/private partnership initiatives catalyzed). ➤ Extent to which GBF meeting discussions, publications, and spin-off initiatives contribute constructively to formal decisions and recommendations taken at the CBD intergovernmental level, and to effective national and regional implementation efforts. ➤ Number and type of regional cooperation initiatives and measures catalyzed through regional dialogue processes. ➤ The number of national and sub-national case-studies presented at GBF workshops.
<p>11. Project activities to achieve outcomes (including costs in US\$ of each activity):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish and convene 2 meetings of the GBF Steering Committee (\$ 84,000). ➤ Establish a GBF coordination system responsible for coordinating all activities relating to the Forum (\$ 237,350). <p>Prepare, organize and convene 6-7 sessions</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GBF Steering Committee established, operationalized, and functioning effectively. ➤ 6-7 sessions of the GBF organized and convened. ➤ More than 20 developing countries participating in each session of GBF. ➤ GBF reports produced, translated and

<p>of the GBF: 2 global sessions (\$ 81,000) and about 5 regional sessions (\$ 202,500).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support the participation of developing country participants to the various regional & global sessions of the GBF (\$ 799,000). ➤ Produce and disseminate GBF reports (in English, French and Spanish) and assist with other publications (\$ 200,000). ➤ Develop a GBF Internet Site linked to the CBD's Clearing-house Mechanism (\$ 15,000). ➤ Undertake long-term GBF sustainability study (\$ 15,000). ➤ Fully develop and implement a plan to monitor, assess and evaluation the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the GBF (\$ 10,000). 	<p>distributed within 4 months of each session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GBF Internet site developed and number of hits monitored. ➤ Development of a monitoring and evaluation plan developed within 6 months of project implementation. ➤ Sustainability study undertaken. 								
<p>12. <u>Estimated budget</u> (in US\$)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">PDF:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GEF:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 745,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Co-financing:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 898,850</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,643,850</td> </tr> </table>		PDF:	\$ 0	GEF:	\$ 745,000	Co-financing:	\$ 898,850	TOTAL:	\$ 1,643,850
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<p>13. <u>Information on Project Proposer:</u> The proposer is IUCN - The World Conservation Union, a membership organization comprising 74 States, 107 Government Agencies, 623 National NGOs, and 56 International NGOs (see Annex I for descriptions).</p>									
<p>14. <u>Information on Executing Agencies:</u> The Executing Agencies are a consortium of institutions closely involved in the CBD process. This consortium, which will be expanded (giving consideration to more developing country partners, especially from Latin America and Asia) currently includes: IUCN - The World Conservation Union, World Resources Institute (WRI), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Biodiversity Action Network (BIONET), Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI), the Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Network (IPBN), and IUCN Regional Offices.</p>									
<p>15. <u>Date of Initial Submission of Project Concept:</u> 25 September 1997</p>									

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INFORMATION ON INSTITUTIONS SUBMITTING PROJECT BRIEF

16. Project Identification Number:

17. Implementing Agency Contact Person: Hamdallah Zedan

18. Project Linkage to Implementing Agency Programme(s): The GBF Pilot Phase involved a consortium of institutions of which UNEP was among the partners. UNEP participated as a member of the Steering Committee and was actively involved in the processes leading to the GBF and the fora held in the Pilot Phase. UNEP is an Executing Agency of the Global Support Programme for Biodiversity Enabling Activities and will therefore be in the most appropriate place to ensure that the discussions on NBSAPs will feed into this global support programme. In addition, UNEP will be the Implementing Agency for project activities being developed on other priority issues to be addressed by the GBF such as biodiversity indicators and incentive measures, among others, and will thus be in an ideal position to ensure that the appropriate linkages are formed between the GBF and these projects.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

A consortium of organizations instituted the concept of the Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) in response to calls by Agenda 21, CBD and its Conference of the Parties (COP) for mechanisms by which people involved or engaged in biodiversity issues, in industry, government sectors, non-governmental organizations, or at the community level can contribute to the fullest possible understanding of the values and uses of biodiversity, as well as to actions for conserving and sustainably using biological resources in an equitable manner.

The central thrust of this project will be to support the implementation of the CBD by fully operationalizing the GBF as an effective mechanism that provides for an independent, open process to foster analysis and dialogue to address the key ecological, economic, institutional and social issues related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing. Sessions of the Forum will be held in various parts of the world, hosted by local partner groups, and designed to examine issues of national and regional importance. The resulting perspectives will be promoted and carried into the periodic global-level Forum meetings that will coincide with major meetings of the CBD. Through the analysis, sharing of experience and debate on the issues and options critical to the development and implementation of the CBD, the Forum complements and supports national, regional and global governmental activities on the CBD.

With respect to national implementation of the CBD's legal provisions, past decisions and recommendations by the CBD COP and its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), as well as the GEF Operational Strategy, the GBF seeks to respond, in particular, to the emphasis placed on: needs of developing countries and those with transitional economies to implement effectively the CBD; engaging the broad participation of all sectors; and integrating biodiversity into national and sectoral planning and management. More specifically, the second phase of the GBF will focus on areas in which GEF support has been instructed by the COP. In addition, Phase II will aim to work more closely with the Secretariat to the CBD and engage even more actively the participation of all groups with an interest in and knowledge of biodiversity, such as people working in resource management, research, education, industry, government, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), along with community-based organizations and indigenous groups.

As is shown above, this global project is eligible for GEF financing under the GEF focal area for biodiversity, as well as all four Operational Programmes. The GBF will seek to realize the global benefits from biodiversity, particularly through assisting stakeholders from developing countries and those with economies in transition in ongoing CBD-focused open dialogue processes, which do not otherwise exist. Specifically, the project objectives are:

1. Through the GBF, to establish an informal mechanism where CBD Parties and major stakeholder groups can explore and debate in-depth the central issues around CBD implementation, particularly areas identified by the CBD COP as priorities, areas being

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COP process. Under the pilot phase of the GBF (1992-1997), efforts concentrated on testing the GBF as an effective way to engage a wider constituency in the biodiversity debate, in helping set priorities and providing technical input into CBD formal discussions, and in promoting a greater understanding of the CBD and its implementation activities. Given that most stakeholders from developing countries required financial assistance to participate in GBF or CBD activities, much effort was also put into securing financial assistance for their involvement.

Initially, sessions of the GBF were held only prior to meetings of the CBD's Conference of the Parties (COP). Later, the GBF was tested on a regional basis in both Eastern Africa and Latin America. Given that the GBF dealt primarily with policy-related biodiversity issues, it was decided to test its capacity to bridge science and policy by having meetings prior to the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and focus on technical and scientific aspects of biodiversity issues. The Forum was also tested as a bridge to other international processes, including CITES and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

It was demonstrated clearly that the Forum concept does indeed lend itself to fulfilling a number of important functions that supports CBD implementation but that the lack of an adequate, predictable and long-term funding base severely handicapped its potential relevance and impact.

The Pilot Phase of the GBF included 8 sessions – most with a set of 4 -5 parallel workshops on different topics. These 8 sessions have already engaged a total of 1,550 individuals from more than 105 countries, including participants from some 85 developing countries.

This Phase of the GBF had numerous tangible impacts and generated important concrete outputs. For example:

1. **Marine and coastal biodiversity.** Two meetings of the GBF (November 1994 and November 1995) helped lead to the COP decision to include marine and coastal biodiversity on its medium-term programme of work, and contributed significantly to the contents of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, and lead to the production of the 1996 publication *Biodiversity in the Seas: Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity in Marine and Coastal Habitats* (CIEL, IUCN, WWF)
2. **Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity.** The GBF5-Buenos Aires workshop (November 1996) on this topic led to the adoption of a number of its recommendations by COP3, including the establishment of an inter-sessional working group on Article 8j and an expert meeting on this topic.
3. **Forest biodiversity.** The Forest Biodiversity workshops at GBF3-Jakarta (November 1995) and GBF4-Montreal (September 1996) provided technical input into the COP draft programme of work.
4. **Agricultural biodiversity.** The GBF5-Buenos Aires workshop on Agricultural Biodiversity provided a number of recommendations that were subsequently adopted by COP3, including adopting a ecosystems approach and increasing emphasis on soil biodiversity.
5. **Biodiversity indicators.** The April 1997 GBF session on indicators directly catalyzed the establishment of a CBD liaison group on indicators by the CBD Executive Secretary, and contributed significantly to its work and the SBSTTA3 discussions (September 1997) on indicators. The report of this GBF meeting was distributed by the CBD Secretariat as an

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official "Information Document" for the SBSTTA participants and one substantive section of the report was explicitly highlighted in the SBSTTA recommendation, calling upon CBD Parties to draw upon this section in future work on indicators.

6. **Private sector partnerships in the marine and coastal environment.** GBF8-Montreal (September 1997) was the first to comprehensively address the role of the private sector, notably the World Travel and Tourism Council and Oil Industry, in the marine environment and to explore elements for partnerships with this sector.
7. **Inland Waters and Biodiversity.** Organized by the IUCN Commissions on Ecosystem Management and Species Survival, Wetlands International and the Ramsar Secretariat, this workshop (GBF8-SBSTTA3, September 1997) provided important input into the development of a programme of work on this theme at SBSTTA3.
8. **Other outputs include:**

Reports of all 8 sessions in English, French and Spanish (highlighting presentations case studies, technical information, recommendations for action, etc.) that covered topics such as: access to genetic resources, indigenous peoples and biodiversity, biodiversity indicators, forest biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, decentralization, financing and incentive measures, policy research capacity, inland water biodiversity, agro-biodiversity and biodiversity education and awareness.

- Krattiger, Anatole F. *et al.* 1994. **Widening Perspectives on Biodiversity** (proceedings of GBF1-Gland). IUCN and IAE, Switzerland.
- Mugabe, John, *et al.* 1997. **Access to Genetic Resources: Strategies for Sharing Benefits.** ACTS, WRI, and IUCN.
- IUCN-WRI publication on **Decentralization of Governance and Biodiversity.**

Even though the Pilot Phase was conducted with very limited human and financial resources, it has generally been perceived by participants and partners as relevant and effective, as demonstrated through significant positive feedback from participants and growing numbers of participants and organizing institutions. Furthermore, through a resolution of the IUCN General Assembly of 1994, which included a large number of CBD Parties and partners, IUCN was called on to create a Secretariat for the GBF. However, lack of predictable, longer-term funding has created obstacles to more coherent, long-term and strategic planning, to ensuring broader participation of developing country participants, and to optimising the input from individuals with broad-ranging experience and expertise.

EXPECTED PROJECT OUTCOMES WITH UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS AND CONTEXT

The project activities will be carried out over a 2 year period. At the end of the project, the following outputs are expected:

1. **A fully operational and coordinated institutional basis for the GBF.** A Steering Committee of approximately 15 members will have been established which will provide the vision and vehicle for ensuring that the GBF as a mechanism for supporting the effective

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implementation of the CBD is kept relevant, efficient and effective. A strategy, sustainability study, and monitoring and evaluation plan will have been developed to guide the GBF in its next phase.

2. **Broader and more active stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the CBD globally, regionally, nationally, and locally**, including on-the-ground implementation activities, national planning processes, work programmes under the CBD implementation process, corporate programs, public-private partnership initiatives, etc. By involving individuals and institutions from a wide range of sectors, this project will lead to increased understanding and involvement of actors at the global, regional and national level. This is critical because the implementation of the provisions of the CBD requires multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral partnerships at all levels. The effectiveness of the GBF in providing this outcome will be heavily dependent on adequate financial resources to involve developing country stakeholders and on political will to implement the CBD in a participatory manner.
3. **A mechanism for generating technical and independent input into practical tools (such as guidelines and best practice studies) for CBD implementation.** Through a longer term strategy, opportunities will be identified for either the generation of or contribution to tested and experience-based tools for CBD implementation. This will lead to the design of relevant themes in the GBF, provide a platform for multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral technical input into such products and will result in a mechanism that can be used by CBD Parties for synthesis, options and guidance on practical measures for implementation. Potential topics include: integrated marine and coastal area management; biodiversity indicators, assessment and monitoring; access to genetic resources; benefit-sharing; agro-biodiversity; indigenous and local communities; financial resources; economic incentives; implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and integrating biodiversity into sectoral planning.

While the GEF Global Support Programme for Biodiversity Enabling Activities will focus on the scientific and technical needs of governments in putting in place their national biodiversity strategies, action plans and/or reports (NBSAPs), the GBF will complement these activities by providing a forum that engages even broader stakeholder involvement in sharing of experience from and identifying any additional gaps in the formulation and implementation of the NBSAPs. Given the consequential relevance of NBSAPs to a given country's biodiversity, it is necessary to open the results of this process to an even broader consultative process to exchange information on provisions in the enabling activities to ensure the highest level of quality of a country's NBSAP. The results of sessions of the Forum will then feed into the Global Support Programme for Biodiversity Enabling Activities where they can be addressed or where further activities may need to be developed.

4. **Greater understanding of the CBD and biodiversity issues in other international and regional fora and processes.** More effective national implementation requires a coherent and comprehensive approach which builds on the understanding of the CBD and biodiversity issues, and effectively links into other areas of national, regional and international concern, such as climate change, desertification, agriculture, fisheries, water, and so on. The GBF will have further explored these issues and linkages, and promoted its findings and recommendations to other fora, either at the global or regional level.

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5. **Formal CBD processes better informed about the issues and options on the COP agenda items.** Given that most GBF themes will focus on the agenda of the COP and SBSTTA4, delegates attending the GBF and other participants will be exposed to new information and perspectives on the issues and options for the given topic. As an independent source of technical information, it is expected that the GBF will become increasingly recognized as a technical partner and that it will be used by Parties in preparation for COPs. Holding regional sessions of the GBF will enable Parties to provide regional perspectives and better inform themselves on issues on hand.
6. **The identification of key priorities for and gaps in the development and implementation of the CBD.** All the CBD Articles require an assessment of the issues, an understanding of the effective options for implementation available, and the identification of a strategic process based on identified priorities. With the vastness of issues under the CBD, the GBF will help identify the elements and promote both strategic action in addressing priorities. Through the diversity of experience and perspectives of its participants, the GBF will also highlight critical elements that are not being addressed and for which capacity needs to be built based on actual experience.
7. **Institutionalized (ongoing) regional dialogue processes,** starting in: South America, Africa, East and Southeast Asia, Southern Asia and Eastern Europe. With sufficient financial support and regional interest, other regional processes could be initiated in Phase II. It is anticipated that this project will lead to facilitating increased regional coordination, partnership and input into the CBD process.
8. **New initiatives and partnerships catalyzed through the GBF process.** These could include a wide range of activities (e.g., public-private partnerships, joint research programs, technology transfer and development initiatives, efforts to strengthen and adopt national laws, efforts to develop new regional agreements, etc.). Phase II will explore both joint processes involving a number of industry sectors (e.g., biotechnology, agriculture, timber, fisheries and tourism), as well as processes engaging individual sectors.
9. **National implementation measures more effectively contributing to inter-governmental negotiations and vice-versa.** The GBF will increasingly be based on actual experience and lessons learned. Examples of implementation measures undertaken at the national level by a variety of stakeholders, including CBD Parties, will be sought and documented at GBF sessions.
10. **Extensive dissemination of and documentation on CBD implementation measures.** Information made available at the GBF will be widely distributed and made available through its Internet site, which will be linked to the CBD's Clearing-house Mechanism.

ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL INPUTS NEEDED TO ENABLE CHANGES

As mentioned above, the need for mechanisms to enable the exploration of new and contentious issues, to catalyze partnerships, and to effectively engage all sectors in the CBD process is a critical element of the effective implementation of the CBD. The GBF has demonstrated its capacity to provide such a mechanism. However, in order to maximize the strategic value of the GBF to CBD Parties and stakeholders, the following elements will be critical: long-term financial stability; an actively engaged Steering Committee; and a highly efficient coordination. These, and

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other elements, will help to ensure that Phase II of the GBF provides timely and effective inputs that respond to genuine needs of Parties and stakeholders.

In order to achieve project objectives, the following activities will be implemented:

1. Establish and convene two meetings of the GBF Steering Committee of approximately 15 members. In order to streamline and better coordinate forum planning, it is intended that activities will be guided by a Steering Committee (GBF-SC) that will include representatives of the six governments, the Convention Secretariat, and six NGO representatives, including the Executing Agencies, IUCN and UNEP. The list of criteria for the selection of representatives from government and NGOs will be developed by the executing agencies, and will include: active participation in CBD inter-governmental process and other biodiversity-related processes; commitment to participating actively in the GBF-SC process (attending meetings, responding to requests for input, and so on); and commitment to participating actively in developing and organizing regional meetings of the GBF. The GBF-SC will strategically plan and coordinate forum events, guide the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan and the sustainability study, support fund-raising for the global and regional Forum events, and promoting the results or perspectives from the forum events to the Convention and other appropriate processes. Members of the GBF-SC will be invited to serve by IUCN, will serve in their individual capacities on an honorary basis, and will report to the Director General of IUCN (\$ 84,000).
2. **Establish a coordination system.** To function effectively, the Forum will require effective coordination so as to provide support for different Forum meetings and activities, assure the continuity and consistency of the dialogue process, facilitate the communications among the GBF participants and partners, coordinate fund-raising efforts and carry out day-to-day administration. It is proposed that the coordination is undertaken using one full-time professional with experience in the CBD, and one part-time assistant (50%) either within IUCN or through another arrangement. The costs of coordination will be covered by the Forum project funds (\$215,000). More specifically, the tasks requiring coordination will be:
 - to promote the GBF process and provide a secretariat for the work of the Steering Committee;
 - to assure adequate liaison between organising partners, including IUCN offices, Steering Committee members, CBD Secretariat, and other GBF participants;
 - to facilitate the development of the agenda of the Fora;
 - to work with GBF partners in active networking and in the distribution of information, announcements and reports of regional and global Forum events, as well as in organizational matters, including invitations, travel arrangements, etc.;
 - to collaborate with GBF partners and the local organising groups to design, edit, produce, translate, and distribute publications resulting from Forum events and possibly spin-off processes;
 - to coordinate and carry out major fund-raising activities, and to assist local organising partners in raising funds for regional Forum events;

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intergovernmental organizations, and other activities, such as those spearheaded by individual governments, indigenous groups, the private sector and NGOs.

SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The following activities will be integrated into Phase II of the GBF to help ensure long-term sustainability of the GBF process:

1. **Governing structure.** Develop a governing structure (Steering Committee) that is broadly representative of existing major stakeholder groups, geographically balanced and composed of individuals/institutions fully committed to support the GBF and the CBD implementation process over the long-term, and well-placed to do so.
2. **Operating structure.** Develop an efficient coordination system and include an analysis of its evolution in the sustainability study (see below). Build strong communications infrastructure including such tools as: a comprehensive database of information about GBF participants and partners; an e-mail list server; fax networks; GBF Internet Site; and a periodic bulletin.
3. **Wide input.** Solicit very wide input (using the Internet and other means) from the global biodiversity "community" into the GBF process to help ensure that the "ownership" of the process is broad and decentralized (e.g., soliciting ideas for themes and strategic directions, workshop organizers, presentations, etc.).
4. **Linking to needs.** Link GBF themes to the specific needs of CBD Parties and stakeholder groups.
5. **Products.** Enable the generation of products (e.g., guidelines or best practices publications) that respond to specific needs of CBD Parties and stakeholder groups, including translations of all major documents into Spanish and French.
6. **Sustainability study.** Develop a study on the long-term feasibility of the GBF, including a financial sustainability plan, and regional resource mobilization strategies for each GBF regional process.
7. **Key contact points.** Work closely with the Secretariat to the CBD, official CBD government focal points and other key GBF contact points in each country, to help mobilize involvement of stakeholders in those countries.
8. **Coordinate with CBD process.** Coordinate the GBF process closely with the official CBD intergovernmental process and the Secretariat to the CBD to maximize synergies and support. In this respect, the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the SCBD and IUCN will contribute to enhancing this coordination.
9. **Facilitate institutionalizing regional spin-off processes.** Facilitate the establishment of independent GBF "spin-off" processes in the regions.

Some project risks include:

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1. **Diffusion.** Developing a GBF process that is too diffuse (i.e., covering too many issues, not addressing issues sufficiently in depth, etc.). The Steering Committee will be mandated to develop a highly disciplined and strategic approach to the GBF to avoid such diffusion, based on a wide process of consultation with Parties.
2. **Difficulties in coordinating with CBD intergovernmental process.** The CBD is vast in scope, with many work programs already underway under the CBD intergovernmental process. To avoid potential coordination difficulties, the GBF Secretariat will maintain very close communications with the CBD Secretariat, including frequent meetings. (Note M.O.C. IUCN-SCBD).
3. **Excluding key stakeholder groups.** A concerted effort will be made to involve all major stakeholder groups in the GBF process, through systematic outreach measures, inclusion on the Steering Committee, invitations to organize workshops and make presentations, etc.
4. **Responding to the most important needs.** A major part of the GBF planning process will be listening to the needs of CBD Parties and other stakeholder groups. Planning discussions will be well informed through systematic surveys and consultations of the biodiversity community's needs and syntheses of these surveys. This information will be shared with the CBD Secretariat and others.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

One of the central purposes of the GBF is to broaden stakeholder involvement in the CBD process. Broad stakeholder involvement (e.g., the nine major groups recognized in Agenda 21) will be a key objective in the following activities:

1. selecting members of the Steering Committee;
2. planning processes for future GBF meetings;
3. selecting workshop organizers and workshop presenters;
4. providing financial assistance to GBF participants;
5. preparing (e.g., peer review) documents;
6. all major outreach activities (e.g., dissemination of update bulletins, reports, etc.).

Please refer to the Public Involvement Plan below for more information.

INCREMENTAL COSTS ASSESSMENT

The Pilot Phase of the GBF has established its critical role in support of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in support of the global biodiversity agenda in the context of international agreements on climate change, wetlands, drylands, species, trade, and other aspects of sustainable development, as well in the context of regional groupings and initiatives.

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The global benefits from the GBF include guidance and insights to the Conference of the Parties and the other institutions of the Convention, as well as guidance and insights to governments agencies and other stakeholders – including non-governmental organisations, local communities, and the private sector – in support of their efforts to implement the Convention.

The Pilot Phase has also established that the GBF can be financed on an *ad hoc* basis by bilateral donor agencies and non-governmental organisations. Over US \$700,000 were provided by organizations such as UNEP, UNDP, NORAD, SIDA, CIDA, IDRC, WRI, Environment Canada's Biodiversity Convention Office, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, KEIDANREN, Government of Australia, WWF, and others. The amount of in-kind contributions is inestimable, and was provided for most of the organizational costs, both for the Forum or for its workshop.

However, in order to realise the full potential of its critical role in supporting and promoting the global biodiversity agenda, incremental financing is required. This financing will ensure that Phase II of the GBF is implemented at a high professional standard, that the involvement of the various stakeholder groups – especially from developing countries and countries with economies in transition – is comprehensive, and that the information generated is disseminated widely through modern and traditional communication channels.

Accordingly, this project proposal envisions a total budget of \$ 1,643,850 of which \$ 745,000 (45%) is sought from the GEF as incremental financing. The balance will come from other sources, including those which financed the Pilot Phase.

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PROJECT BUDGET

	GEF	Other sources	Project total
Steering Committee			
travel (15 x \$ 2,500 x 2)	50,000	25,000	75,000
per diem (15 x \$ 150/day x 2 x 2)	6,000	3,000	9,000
Publications/Communications			
reports (\$ 20,000 x 10)	54,000	146,000	200,000
announcements (\$ 500 x 7)	3,500		3,500
PDF	0		0
Coordination costs			
IUCN (staff costs)	175,000	40,000	215,000
UNEP	22,350		22,350
Sub-contracts	0		0
GBF Internet Site	5,000	10,000	15,000
Sustainability study	15,000		15,000
Training	0		0
Global sessions GBF			
travel (45 x \$ 2,500 x 2)	100,000	125,000	225,000
per diem (45 x \$ 150/day x 4 x 2)	24,000	30,000	54,000
organizing costs (\$ 40,000 x 2)	40,000	40,000	80,000
Regional sessions GBF			
travel (40 x \$ 2,000 x 5)	104,150	295,850	400,000
per diem (40 x \$ 150 /day x 5 x 4)	36,000	84,000	120,000
organizing costs (\$ 40,000 x 5)	100,000	100,000	200,000
Travel	0		0
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	10,000		10,000
Miscellaneous			
PROJECT TOTAL	745,000	898,850	1,643,850

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To reduce costs, Steering Committee (SC) meetings will be held in conjunction with intergovernmental meetings under the CBD, which some be attended by many of the SC members.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Duration of Project (24 months)				
ACTIVITIES	PROJECT- MONTHS			
Completion of project activities	6	12	18	24
1. Steering Committee (SC)				
a. Terms of reference/invitation	x			
b. Convene meetings of SC	x		x	
c. GBF strategy plan 1998-2000	x			
2. Establish GBF coordination system	x			
3. Convene 2 global sessions of GBF	x	x	x	x
4. Convene 5 regional sessions of GBF	x	x	x	x
5. Produce GBF reports		x	x	x
6. Develop GBF Internet site	x			
7. Undertake GBF Sustainability study		x	x	
8. Develop Monitoring/Evaluation Plan	x			
9. Project planning, management and reporting	x	x	x	x

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND PARTICIPATION

Executing Agents and Collaborators: will include IUCN-The World Conservation Union, World Resources Institute (WRI), UNEP, African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Biodiversity

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Action Network (BIONET), Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI), Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Network (IPBN), and the Secretariat to the CBD.

GBF Steering Committee: will include representatives from six selected governmental members of leading COP delegations, the Convention Secretariat, six NGO representatives (i.e., WRI, ACTS, BIONET, ELCI, IPBN, and one other to be determined), UNEP and IUCN. Selection would be mindful of the three objectives of the Convention by ensuring that within the regionally representative Committee there is technical and political capacity in conservation, sustainable use and equity issues. The Steering Committee may be expanded beyond this group if deemed necessary.

GBF Convenors: will consist of the institutions involved in the organization of each session of the GBF (globally and regionally), including the local host. In addition to the Executing Agents and Collaborators, other institutions will be sought for each GBF session.

GBF Workshop Organizers: will consist of the institutions involved in the organization of specific workshops within each GBF session. There will be usually around 3-4 highly relevant institutions that are involved in the organization of each thematic workshop, only 1-2 of which will also be Forum convenors.

GBF Participants: Participation at all sessions of the GBF will be open. A call for abstracts will be made in advance of each session of the GBF. The GBF workshop organizers will select key abstracts and invite the author to formally present during the GBF sessions. Since more than 50% of each workshop will be devoted to discussion, opportunities will be provided to all participants to participate and present diverse experiences and perspectives. The key stakeholders who will be involved in providing the substance to GBF discussions will be: local communities; governments, including a range of government sectors; the business sector; indigenous groups; NGOs; academia; scientists; women; intergovernmental institutions; and farmers.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND CONSULTATION

Each GBF session will be preceded by extensive efforts to solicit input from a broad range of stakeholders. For example, notices of upcoming GBF sessions, with Calls for Papers, will be widely circulated (including postings on GBF and other key Internet sites). In a more directed effort, over 50 GBF partners will be regularly solicited for their input into future themes, workshops, etc. Also, at the end of each GBF session, meetings open to all participants will be held to solicit ideas on themes, overall GBF strategy and related issues for future sessions. The project structure and activities will ensure that continuous and effective consultation with a broad range of stakeholders will be conducted.

SOCIAL AND PARTICIPATION ISSUES

Anticipated social issues are: (i) the overall need to ensure that social concerns/perspectives are integrated into GBF meetings; (ii) the need to find constructive ways to address concerns that have been raised at previous sessions, such as: needs of indigenous and local communities; equity; integrating conservation and development; gender concerns; and property rights. In this project, the vulnerable groups consist of those who are locally based (have little or no national or supra national sphere of action); who require financial assistance to participate in GBF sessions; and who exist outside of the circle of information distribution (mail and Internet). By including a

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number of networks in the project design, planning, management and implementation, it is anticipated that project's outreach will expand significantly and that the views of relevant vulnerable groups will be represented albeit indirectly. The availability of financial assistance packages will depend on the extent of financial resources successfully mobilized for each session in addition to the project's budget. The criteria for selecting participants who will receive these packages will be based on ensuring that the widest possible range of experiences and views are represented. The current mailing distribution list and Internet distribution list will continue to be expanded through the inclusion of participants to the Forum and CBD meetings and network constituents.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

The development of a monitoring and evaluation plan based on this proposal will be one of these first activities undertaken by the Coordination Secretariat for this project. The development and implementation of the Monitoring and evaluation plan (M&E) will be guided by the Steering Committee, which will review and approve the plan at its first full meeting. The plan will be based on indicators that will cost-effectively measure the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of project activities. At each session of the GBF, participants, organisers and convenors will be surveyed (orally and through the use of questionnaires); the impact of forum discussions on the CBD meetings will be determined to a realistic level and the income generated and actual expenditures will be analyzed. These results will be compiled for analysis by the Steering Committee to determine the adjustment needed for subsequent activities accordingly. Other specific assessment activities to be undertaken will be determined in the M&E plan. The results of these analyses will also feed into the interim, annual and final reports of this project. The evaluation reports will include analyses of stakeholder participation and an action plan to improve the GBF process, based upon the findings.

TECHNICAL REVIEW

Since the GEF financing requested is below \$750,000, a technical review of STAP is not required.

PROJECT CHECKLIST

Project Activity Categories: all project activities under the heading Biodiversity are included in this project. Other categories span the full range of CBD Articles and related biodiversity issues.

Technical Categories:

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- Institution building
- Policy advices
- Technical/Management Advice
- Awareness/Information/Training

ANNEX 1

Founded in 1948, The World Conservation Union brings together States, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership: over 800 members in all, spread across some 137 countries.

As a Union, IUCN seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. A central secretariat coordinates the IUCN Programme and serves the Union membership, representing their views on the world stage and providing them with the strategies, services, scientific knowledge and technical support they need to achieve their goals. Through its six Commissions, IUCN draws together over 6000 expert volunteers in project teams and action groups, focusing in particular on species and biodiversity conservation and the management of habitats and natural resources. The Union has helped many countries to prepare National Conservation Strategies, and demonstrates the application of its knowledge through the field projects it supervises. Operations are increasingly decentralized and are carried forward by an expanding network of regional and country offices, located principally in developing countries.

The World Conservation Union builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels.

(ccm/proposal/GEFGBF5r2/11Dec 97)

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