

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

Country:	Republic of Guinea-Bissau
Project Title:	Guinea-Bissau's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Country Report to the COP
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Convention ratified
GEF Financing:	US \$195,480
Government Contribution:	In kind
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	Ministry of the Environment, Tourism and Craftsmanship Industry (Artisanat)
GEF Operational Focal Point:	None designated
CBD Operational Focal Point:	Directorate General of the Environment
Estimated Starting Date:	March 1997
Project Duration:	12 months

Background

Guinea-Bissau is situated along the Atlantic ocean in west Africa, between Senegal to the north and the Republic of Guinea to the east and south-east. Guinea-Bissau comprises a mainland and the Bijagos Archipelago. The country has a land area of 36,125 km², and it is mainly a coastal plain at sea level, which rises eastward into a plateau at 262 m above sea level. Sixty-five percent of the population inhabit the coastal regions. Guinea-Bissau's population is slightly above 1,000,000 with an annual growth rate of 1.9%. With a per capita income of \$184, Guinea-Bissau is among the poorest countries in the world. Biological resources are the basis of the economy of the country. As an example, charcoal burning is the main source of fuel, and offshore fisheries constitute one of the largest industries of the country.

Biogeographically, Guinea-Bissau falls in the transition zone between the Guinea-Congolese and Sudanian biomes. Its vegetation was originally a mosaic of lowland forest and woodland, but it has been largely cleared, and as a result, grasslands have become prevalent. Pockets of broad leafed forests still occupy the center of the country, while coastal areas and offshore islands contain the most extensive areas of mangroves on the African continent. Also there occur extensive inter-tidal mudflats and coastal wetlands, which harbor large populations of migratory birds. It is estimated that 12 percent of about 8 million Palearctic wading birds that migrate along the west African coastline winter on the coast of Guinea-Bissau.

Traditionally, the local communities have been the steward of their forest resources. Most remaining patches of forests, especially in the north-east, have been long looked after by the local populations as sacred forests. These sacred forests have traditionally been conserved by ensuring the regeneration of most species found there. Unfortunately commercial logging of these forests is heavily jeopardizing their continued existence and the extent of biological diversity.

Little is known about the extent of biodiversity in Guinea Bissau. It is estimated that there occur 1,000 of vascular plant species with 12 endemics. There are large populations of migratory bird species. Also 11 species of primates and 14 species of antelopes occur in Guinea-Bissau. Aquatic mammals comprise manatees, otters, and dolphins. There is a diversified fauna of freshwater as well as marine crustaceans and fishes. The mouth of the Corubal River and the shallow freshwater of the Cufada Lagoon constitute essential habitats for large numbers of hippos, crocodiles, manatees and freshwater fish populations. Along the River there are invaluable forest habitats for mammals and birds, and at Cantanhez, there are habitats for shrimp reproduction. Elsewhere, Dulombi is one of the few remaining places in Guinea-Bissau, where as much as 47 species of large mammals can still be watched.

Biodiversity resources are threatened by human population pressures, fires, inappropriate agricultural practices, overgrazing by livestock, unregulated hunting and forest exploitation for timber (IUCN 1992; CECI/IUCN/MDRA 1992). Popular dam constructions for rice irrigation and vegetation clearing for rice and cashew plantations have recently resulted in the loss of mangrove and forest habitats. As an example, Atlanta Consult (1985) reported that from 1978 to 1985, about 200,000 hectares of forests were cleared and lost for ever in Guinea-Bissau. Following forest clearing, precipitation, which used to range between 1,500 and 2,000 mm of rain per year, has been steadily decreasing over the past 15 years. This in turn is resulting in a reduction of soil moisture and productivity of the land. The rate of land degradation is being accelerated by the following compounded factors. These are: (a) the increasing numbers of the native population; (b) refugee immigration pressures from the province of Casamance in Senegal; and (c) the lack of suitable policy for forest utilization despite a Tropical Forest Action Plan (TFAP) that was completed in 1992 with the help of FAO. All these pressures are being compounded by a greater access to the lands and resources in the South following a newly completed highway between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau.

To reverse the trend, the Government of Guinea Bissau with assistance from IUCN, is planning to set aside 20 conservation areas in the islands and along the coastline. Recently set aside conservation areas include: (a) the Cufada Lagoon (72,000 hectares); (b) the Dulombi National Park (2,250 km²); (c) the Cantanhez Forest National Park; (d) the Mangrove National Park; and (e) the Orango Island National Park. Bolama was recognized as a Biosphere Reserve in April 1996. These conservation areas are being overseen by the Coastal Zone Management Cabinet (CZMC). Also two ministries have recently been put in place to oversee conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. These are the Ministry of the Environment, Tourism and Craftsmanship Industry, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. These two complement the Ministry of Fisheries. Ever since 1994, when a multiple-party regime was established in the country, the Government of Guinea-Bissau has been committed to establishing sound environmental management and biodiversity conservation. In February 1996, the first

national conference on the environment took place, and its recommendations were the basis for a round table organized by the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Craftsmanship Industry in May 1996. As a result of these two meetings, the government of Guinea Bissau decided to concomitantly formulate its National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) and a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). On 22 August 1996, the Government of Guinea Bissau requested assistance to the Global Environment Facility through UNDP to formulate its BSAP and to draft its first Country Report to the Conference of Parties (COP).

Project Objectives and Short Description

The principal objective of this enabling activity is to assist Guinea-Bissau in preparing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). The BSAP will define the current status of, pressures on, options for, and priority actions to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable share of its biological diversity. The project will build on the existing knowledge base to elaborate the BSAP through a process of participatory planning and stakeholder consultation. This will also enable Guinea-Bissau to meet its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by preparing its first country report to the Conference of the Parties.

The Government of Guinea-Bissau will initially appoint a steering committee to supervise the BSAP process and provide overall direction and policy guidance. Members of the steering committee will be drawn, as a representative sample, from the full range of concerned biodiversity stakeholders. To name a few, these include the Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries, and Environment, Tourism and Craftsmanship Industry, research institutions, CZMC, the private sector, NGOs, tribal leaders, and local communities. Under supervision of the steering committee, a planning team will undertake the work of the enabling activity. Planning team members will be selected according to their biodiversity and planning expertise. Additional planning team members will be drawn to represent, on the one hand, decision and law makers, and on the other hand, biodiversity resource users.

The BSAP process will also draw from different sectors of the society. It will include the organization of 2 national workshops and 3 regional workshops. One regional workshop will be organized for the Bijagos Archipelago, which contains insular species' assemblages. The economy of Bijagos Archipelago is characterized by the fishing industry. The second regional workshop will be organized for the administrative sectors along the Atlantic coastline, which is dominated by mangroves. The coastline comprises the densest settlements and cultivated areas of the country. The third regional workshop will be organized for the administrative sector of Boe and the rest of the mainland, which are rather mesic and landlocked further east inland. This landlocked region of Guinea-Bissau harbors differentiated fauna and flora of the Sudanian affinities, and it is sparsely inhabited.

The planning team will be assisted by one lead national consultant, several national and short term consultants experienced in biodiversity issues. The lead national consultant will coordinate and facilitate project activities. The national consultants will help to run the national workshops, and the short term consultants will run the 3 regional workshops. An

international consultant will provide assistance in familiarizing the planning team in biodiversity planning, framing key strategies, drafting the BSAP and facilitating participation by all relevant biodiversity resources' stakeholders.

The planning team and consultants will initially undertake a review of WRI/IUCN/UNEP guidelines (Miller and Lanou 1995) for the preparation of national biodiversity strategy and action plan. They will then compile and summarize existing information on the status of, and threats to the nation's biodiversity. This information, along with summaries of the TFAP, and other donor financed natural resource activities in Guinea Bissau, will be presented at the first national workshop.

With support from national and international consultants, the planning team will conduct the first national workshop, which will draw together the full range of actors and stakeholders relevant to biodiversity. The first national workshop will include participants from national and local government agencies and institutions, the private sector, NGOs and local communities. The workshop participants will analyze the results of the stocktaking and inventory to select objectives, identify key issues and options as well as actors and priority areas for review. In conjunction with the first national workshop and with the help of the lead national consultant, the international consultant will provide familiarization sessions in participatory methods, biodiversity analysis, strategic planning techniques and dissemination techniques to the planning team particularly to the national and short term consultants.

Following the first national workshop, a detailed analysis of the issues and options will be carried out by the planning team with the help of national consultants. As part of this process, 3 regional workshops will put together representatives from local communities and institutions, private sector and government agencies. The regional workshops will assess various issues and options by region of the country and involve the full range of local stakeholders in the BSAP process. The regional workshops will be conducted primarily by the short term consultants with assistance from the planning team and the national consultants.

The results of the analysis and regional workshops will then be drawn together by the planning team assisted by the short term consultants, and a draft BSAP will be prepared with the assistance of the national and international consultants. A second national workshop, to be attended by government agencies, NGOs, the private sector and local communities, will invite comment on the initial analysis and draft BSAP. New alternatives and options will be identified and developed to seek consensus among the stakeholders prior to the finalization of the details of the BSAP.

Upon approval by the project steering committee and the Government of Guinea-Bissau, the BSAP will be disseminated widely within Guinea-Bissau and a country report to the COP of the biodiversity convention will be prepared by the planning team. Because the First Country Report will not be available until February 1998, in November 1997 the planning team will draft an interim report that the Government of Guinea-Bissau will present by the COP's deadline for reporting of December 1997.

Coverage Without Duplication

The BSAP will allow better linkages between government ministries and integrate biodiversity conservation within existing legislation. The BSAP will build on existing data to be compiled by national consultants under the guidance of the planning team. Significant stocktaking activities will be undertaken, as there is need to synthesize the existing information from biodiversity related projects and to repatriate data from abroad, primarily from Portugal, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands. BSAP will fit and benefit from other past and ongoing activities, including donor funded projects, and the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Craftsmanship Industry along with the BSAP Steering Committee will ensure that there is no duplication of efforts.

Time Plan and Sequencing

The project will follow the sequence of activities recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines, with variations as appropriate, based on lessons learned from early country experiences around the world (Miller and Lanou 1995). Activities will start in March 1997 and will last for 12 months.

Activity / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Establishment of steering committee and planning team	x	x										
Stocktaking, inventory of information (digest)	x	x	x									
Training (familiarization) of planning team				x								
First national workshop				x								
Identification and analysis of options, regional (provincial) workshops					x	x	x					
Preparation of biodiversity strategy, action plan								x	x	x		
Second National Workshop										x		
Adoption of BSAP by the Government and dissemination											x	
Preparation of interim report and submission to COP									x	x		
Preparation of first country report											x	x

Best Practice

The project will follow methodology recommended in the IUCN's "Guide to the Convention on Biological diversity" (Glowka, et al. 1994) and the WRI/IUCN/UNEP's "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (Miller and Lanou 1995). The BSAP will prepare the grounds and identify priority needs of activities in the fields of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and benefit sharing to

be undertaken by follow up projects. All nine criteria for best practices will be addressed. The project will enforce the development of participatory approaches in Guinea-Bissau, by incorporating inputs from all interested sectors of the society and practicing a decentralized multi-sectoral approach to mitigating biodiversity issues.

Project Financing

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Information</i>	12,000		12,000
- national consultants	6,500		6,500
- documentation, misc.	5,500		5,500
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i>	16,000	74,000	90,000
- national consultants	9,000	10,000	19,000
- international consultant	7,000	11,000	18,000
- first national workshop		19,000	19,000
- training (familiarization)		5,000	5,000
- regional workshops (3)		24,000	24,000
- travel and miscellaneous		5,000	5,000
<i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i>	18,000	48,500	66,500
- national consultants	7,000	12,000	19,000
- international consultant	9,000	12,000	21,000
- second national workshop		18,000	18,000
- travel and miscellaneous		3,500	3,500
- publication and dissemination	2,000	3,000	5,000
- <i>First National Report</i>	6,500	6,000	12,500
- preparation of interim report	1,500		1,500
- preparation of first country report	1,500	2,000	3,500
- publication of final report	3,500		3,500
- dissemination and miscellaneous		4,000	4,000
<i>Coordination and Management Costs (8%)</i>	4,200	10,280	14,480
Total For Enabling Activity	56,700	138,780	195,480

Deviations from Criteria and Norms

The project does not deviate from GEF enabling activity criteria and norms.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Craftsmanship Industry with support from UNDP's country office. Under the guidance of the multi-sectoral Steering Committee to be chaired by the Director General of the Environment, an inter-agency planning team will manage project activities with the assistance of national and international consultants. At its first meeting the Steering Committee will agree on the country's biodiversity vision, as well as on methodologies and indicators for assessing progress and performance.

The first country report will be prepared following the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties in November 1995 and in the guidelines by Miller and Lanou (1995). The report will be developed in consultation with diverse governmental and non-governmental agencies, including both the private sector and community representatives. The report and the BSAP will be disseminated widely upon completion.

Activity Matrix

Commitment	Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Building		Public Participat.	Comments
			Inst. Strength	Training		
	<i>Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</i>					
	- biodiversity & biological resources	x				1
	- cross-sectoral issues	x				1
	- policy and regulatory framework	x				1
	- institutional and human capacity	x				1
	- analysis of root causes of BD loss	x				1
	- technologies for conservation and sustainable use	x				1
	- activities with adverse impacts					1
	- existing measures and programmes	x				1
	- preliminary statement of objectives	x				1
	- identification of gaps	x				1
	- assessment of existing needs	x				1
						1
	<i>Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD</i>					
	- strategies for conservation	x	x	x	x	
	- strategies for sustainable use	x	x	x	x	
	- strategies for benefit sharing	x	x	x	x	
	<i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i>					
	- national strategy	x	x	x	x	2
	- national action plan	x	x	x	x	2
	<i>Preparation of the first National Report</i>					
	- interim report to COP	x				
	- first national report	x			x	

Notes on the Activity Matrix

1. The BSAP stocktaking will build on the base of information which exists as a result of initiatives and projects by FAO, IUCN, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and the EU. However, existing information needs to be summarized and reorganized to fit into BSAP process. Some significant development projects related to biodiversity resources include:

(a) the IUCN programme on craftsmanship fisheries and to create national protected areas, within the Coastal Zone Management Programme in Guinea-Bissau. Partners: Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries, NGOs, Local Associations (sponsored by the Switzerland Government, and EU through Portuguese bilateral cooperation);

(b) the National Programme for Conservation and Development of Bolamã, Bijagos Archipelago (Biosphere Reserve). Partners: IUCN, UNEP, Coastal Zone Management Cabinet (CZMC), Governmental Institutions, NGOs, Local Populations (sponsored by the Switzerland Government);

(c) the Conservation Programme of Cantanhez's Forests (southwest of the country) "Initiative de Cantanhez". Partners: IUCN, NGOs, Local communities (sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands); and

(d) the Action for Development Programme (ADP) for Local Communities (northwest of the country). Partners: NGOs, IUCN, UNICEP, Ministry of the Environment, Local Government and Local Communities. (sponsored by UNICEP, Switzerland Government and other European NGOs).

2. The BSAP will effectively complement and enhance the provisions from existing plans and strategies. There will be no duplication as the Ministry of the Environment, Tourism and Craftsmanship Industry will ensure integration of the above mentioned programmes into the BSAP process.

References

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REPÚBLICA DA GUINÉ-BISSAU
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Mr. Alfred Sallia FAWUNDU
Resident Representative UNDP
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N/REF° 0008 DGA/96
BISSAU, 21/08/96

B I S S A U

**Subject: National Biodiversity Strategy and
Action Plan, and Country Report to the COP**

Reference is made to the recommendations of the last Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Development.

This is to confirm that the Government of Guinea-Bissau is interested in and supports de preparatory activities for the proposed project: "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Country Report to the COP". Wich will be under the scope of what was started to elaborate de Policy and National Environment Management Plan for Guinea-Bissau.

Enclosed herewith, please find a draft of application request for Project Development Facility Grant, that we hope could be finished with your help.

Thanking you for your assistance and looking forward to our continued cooperation.

Sincerely
Antonio Isaac Monteiro
Minister of Culture and Rural Development
(On behalf of Mr. Gasparino Cassamá, Minister of Tourism,
Environment and Craft)



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Agradeciendo de antemano el favor que su fina atención sirva dispensar al presente, y sin otro particular por el momento, aprovecho la ocasión para reiterar a Usted las seguridades de mi más atenta y distinguida consideración.

A t e n t a m e n t e,
SUFRAGIO EFECTIVO. NO REELECCION.
El Director de Organismos Financieros Internacionales

P.A.

Carlos Vázquez Ochoa

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