

Global Environment Facility

Country:	The Co-Operative Republic of Guyana
Project Title:	Formulation of a National Biodiversity Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy.
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Convention Ratified August 1994
GEF Financing:	US\$ 82,600
Government Contribution:	In Kind
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	Environmental Protection Agency
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Office of the President
CBD Focal Point:	Office of the President
Estimated Starting Date:	December 1997 ← revised date
Project Duration:	7 months

Background

1. The Co-Operative Republic of Guyana encompasses part of the Guiana shield and the Amazon Basin – both rich biogeographic regions. Located on the Atlantic seaboard of northeastern South America, Guyana's tropical climate, unique geology, and relatively pristine ecosystems support extensive areas of species rich rainforests and natural habitats with high levels of endemism. Over 80 percent of the country is still covered by forests, ranging from dry evergreen and seasonal forests to montane and lowland evergreen rainforests in the region bordering Venezuela. Tropical wet and semi-wet savannah are found in the northeast of the Guyana. Tropical dry savannah in the southwest extends into northern Brazil.
2. Although the approximate extent of Guyana's biological wealth is known, there is a general paucity of information on its exact nature and extent. Some 10,000 species of flora, of which half are endemic, have been identified in the biogeographic Guiana region. Guyana provides habitat for a variety of fauna and is deemed to have one of the richest mammalian fauna assemblages of any comparably sized area in the world. Of the approximately 1,200 vertebrates, 728 are birds, 198 mammals, 137 reptiles, and 105 amphibians are known to occur in Guyana.
3. The Government of Guyana (GoG) is aware of the valuable natural resources of the country and has recently made progress in moving towards their conservation and wise-use within the context of sustainable human development. Landmark laws and policies pertaining to the conservation and wise-use of its biodiversity have been passed in recent years. The Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development Act (IICRFCDA) and a new Environmental Protection Agency Act were passed in early 1996 after a country-wide land use consultation and broad public review of various proposals. Together with the Carter Center, the government has prepared an impressively comprehensive National Development

Strategy.

4. The Environmental Protection Agency Act of 1996 established a central agency in Guyana responsible for coordinating all aspects of sustainable development programming, environmental protection, and enforcement. The IICRFCDA set aside 360,000 ha in central Guyana as the largest area of pristine forest in the world dedicated to biodiversity conservation and sustainable forestry. The National Development Strategy is built on the concept of sustained, yet sustainable economic growth. Guyana's National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), ratified by Parliament in June 1994, affirms its commitment to the principle of sustainable development and states that it will "conserve and use the environment and natural resources of Guyana for the benefit of both present and future generations." Among many actions, the NEAP specifically commits Guyana to establishing a national protected areas system. The National Forest Action Plan (NFAP) of 1989 includes action points on transforming Guyana's forestry on the basis of careful, comprehensive land-use planning and sustainability, citing biodiversity as an important component of any forest management plan.

5. Though Guyana is committed to sustainably developing its resources, the country is also committed to developing its economy and increasing the standard of living for its citizens. Consequently, there are significant pressures in the mining, forestry, fisheries and agriculture sectors to develop the country's vast forest, river, and coastal resources.

Project Objectives and Brief Summary:

6. The objective of this proposed project is to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The CoP and GEF recognize that the implementation of the biodiversity planning process under the EA window requires flexibility based upon the particular circumstances of each country. In Guyana, the "National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Guyana's Biological Diversity" (NSBD) was completed in February 1997 with the support of the regional UNDP-GEF Pilot Phase project entitled "Regional Strategies for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Amazon". No detailed Action Plan has been developed, however. Consequently, the GoG proposes to develop a BAP in order to integrate biodiversity concerns into national development and sector planning, especially in those sectors that impact or depend directly upon, biological resources such as: agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, energy and transport. Together, the Strategy and BAP will provide a much-needed enabling framework for the implementation of the CBD in Guyana.

7. This project has the following tasks: 1) to identify, analyze and define the priority actions necessary to implement this strategy including cross sectoral issues and their linkages to national sustainable development. Resource needs and responsibilities for implementation will also be defined; 2) to enhance public knowledge of the CBD, participation in the action planning process, and society's commitment to its implementation through wide dissemination of the final version; 3) to prepare the first national report to the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

8. Preparation of the BAP will follow a logical sequence of participatory steps in line with the sequence recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines. Two national consultants will conduct the initial stocktaking and assessment of existing information related to cross-sectoral/sustainable development issues. Using the results of this assessment, they will work closely with a Technical Planning Committee (TPC) to prepare a detailed "first draft" outline of the action plan. This draft will outline the present status in the country and define specific goals for the next five years covering a range of sectors including, economic development, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and protected areas. The draft will be considered and approved by the National Biodiversity Advisory Committee (NBAC) in their first meeting of the exercise.
9. This first draft will serve as the basis for initial local consultations to discuss various options for Guyana and specific action points to achieve those goals. Three consultations will be held – two for the urban, coastal areas and one for the rural, interior of Guyana. These consultations will enable stakeholders from a wide range of public and private sectors as well as from the various ethnic and cultural groups present in the country to participate in the planning process. Participation in these consultations will be enhanced by a campaign, implemented throughout the planning process, to inform the general public regarding Guyana's commitments to the CBD, and the participatory nature of the formulation of the BAP. This campaign will be carried out in the newspapers, radio and TV.
10. A final draft version of the BAP will be prepared, based on the findings of the local consultations, by the planning advisor and the TPC under the direction of the existing NBAC. One national workshop will be conducted (with nominees from the first round of local consultations) to review and discuss the final draft version. The final version will be formulated by the consultant team together with the TPC.
11. The NBAC will meet on the first of three occasions to: 1) provide necessary policy guidance; 2) ensure that all the stakeholders are given a voice in the planning process; 3) approve the work plan and corresponding benchmarks for the succeeding seven months; and 4) discuss the WRI/IUCN/UNEP guidelines. The NBAC will meet for the second time to consider the revision of the first draft following the first round of consultations. A NBAC meeting will be held to consider and approve the final version of the action plan.
12. The first report to the CBD will be developed by the lead national consultant and selected consultants and submitted in before the December 31, 1997 deadline.

Operational Criteria:

13. **Coverage without Duplication:** This project will build upon the information available from related, ongoing initiatives, the most notable of which is the finalization of the National Biodiversity Strategy. This and all other germane initiatives are shown under the Activity Matrix. Relevant information from the existing biodiversity Strategy, the UNDP/GEF Pilot

Phase Iwokrama Rain Forest Programme, the UK-ODA Guyana Forestry Commission Support Project, the WB/GEF National System of Protected Areas project, and the National Development Strategy will be scrutinized by the TPC during the initial phase of the project. Close coordination will be effected with these related programmes and initiatives, as well as aforementioned institutions, including the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation. This will be realized to ensure that the action-planning under this project builds upon the work undertaken and in-progress by these and other relevant initiatives. In view of this, no duplication is expected.

Appropriate Sequencing of Activities:

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Stocktaking and Assessment (topping-up what has been done with biodiversity information with new stocktaking related to development initiatives/information)	X						
Initiation of public awareness campaign	X	X					
Workshop to familiarize TPC with WRI guidelines – Identification of Specific Planning Programmes		X	X				
Development of Biodiversity Action Plan First Draft				X			
Local Consultations to Review Draft Action Plan				X	X		
Finalization of BSAP					X		
Public Dissemination of BSAP Final Version						X	
Production of First National Report		X					X

Best Practice

14. The methodology for the project will be based on the "Guidelines for Country Studies on Biological Diversity (UNEP 1993), the Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity (IUCN 1994) and the "National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Country Experiences" prepared by WRI, IUCN and UNEP (1995).

Deviations from Cost Norms: None.

Institutional Framework

15. The execution of this project will be carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the President (Guyana's GEF and CBD focal point). In order to incorporate biodiversity into mainstream development, this planning effort will be led by the broadly based representative National Biodiversity Advisory Committee (NBAC). This committee is already established and has been working to produce the NSBD. The Committee is comprised of representatives from: the private sector, the University of Guyana, Tropenbos rainforest research programme, Environment Protection Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institute of Applied Science and Technology, Natural Resources Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Institute, Guyana Forestry Commission, and the national land-use coordinator.

16. The NBAC will provide coordination at the policy level and facilitate actual incorporation of the BAP into the national and sectoral development plans. The TPC is an entity established to develop and complete the NSBD as well as advise the NBAC on technical matters. By involving the same people who developed the NSBD in developing the action plan, efficacy will be maintained and any duplication of effort avoided. The TPC, with the assistance of two consultants (a Planning Advisor and assistant) to be hired at the beginning of the project), will undertake day-to-day planning work. The initial stocktaking and assessment work will be conducted by the two consultants and the TPC. The Committee has expertise from the germane development sectors (Government Planning and Investment, Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Tourism, and Mining). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will have observer status on the TPC to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of the project.

17. Members of the TPC will take part in a workshop in the second month of this project to become more familiar with the WRI/IUCN/UNEP guidelines and ensure that the action planning is undertaken in accordance with best practices. The PA/TPC will undertake most of the project activities. The PA will be responsible for detailing the project workplan, defining the ToR for the TPC, planning the consultations, and overseeing the formulation of each stage of the BAP. The TPC and consultants will be familiarized with the WRI/IUCN guidelines and methodologies by way of a short planning workshop as well as on-the-job familiarization in participatory methodologies as provided by an international consultant. The international consultant is also requested to assist in the drafting of the Action Plan. Day-to-day responsibility for efficacious project implementation will be the responsibility of the UNDP-Guyana staff project coordinator.

Budget

(Estimated Costs)	Product	Process	Total (US \$)
Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Development-related Information	\$6,900		\$6,900
- National consultants (2 p/m)	4,400		
- Misc	2,500		
Identification and Analysis of Options/ Preparation of 1st Draft Action Plan	\$ 12,522	\$35,700	\$48,222
- 2 national consultants (6 p/m)		13,200	
- Familiarization workshop		2,000	
- 1 int'l expert (familiarization/1st draft- 1p/m)	6,000	6,000	
- Consultations (3 @ 30 participants to review 1st draft)		6,000	
- Dissemination of the 1 st draft	4,000		
- Awareness Campaign for BAP		7,000	
- Travel/logistics.	2,522	1,500	
Preparation of final Action Plan		\$16,800	\$16,800
- 2 national Consultants (4 p/m)		8,800	
- National workshop to review final draft		5,000	
- Dissemination		3,000	
Preparation of First National Report	\$8,200		\$8,200
- 1 national consultant (over six-mo period)	5,200		
- Publication	3,000		
Coordination and Management (3%)		2,478	2,478
TOTALS	\$27,622	\$54,478	\$82,600

* These figures are standard rates for international consultants. Every effort will be made to utilize a consultant from the region, in which case, we expect these costs to be lower.

Annex A: **ACTIVITY MATRIX:**

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Inst Strength	Building Training	Public Partic.	Notes
Stocktaking and Assessment - biodiversity & biological resources - cross sectoral issues - policy and regulatory framework - institutional and human capacity - analysis of root causes of BD loss - technologies for conservation and sustainable use - activities with adverse impacts - existing measures and programmes - preliminary statement of objectives - identification of gaps - assessment of existing needs	NSBD/IW/ <u>NSAP</u> X/WRI/NDS NDS/WRI <u>NSAP</u> <u>NDS/ODA/IW</u> <u>NSAP</u> <u>NSBD</u> X/NDS/IW X/NDS/WRI NSBD/NDS NBSD/NDS X/NSBD/NDS/ WRI X				1
Identification and Analysis of Options to meet the Objectives of the CBD - strategies for conservation - strategies for sustainable use - strategies for benefit sharing	NSBD/NEAP/ <u>NSPA</u> X X/NSBD		X X	X X	2
Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan - national strategy - national action plan	NSBD X	X	X	X	
Preparation of first National Report - first national report	X				3

Legend: x = activity undertaken by the project

1. Due to limited funding for the development of the NSBD, stocktaking efforts under the NSBD did not do an adequate job of covering cross-sectoral and sustainable development related information. This effort will top-up the stocktaking exercises already conducted under NSBD development, focusing on the cross-sectoral/sustainable-use issues.
2. Specific activities to achieve sustainable use of biological diversity will be discussed and included in the BAP. Benefit sharing will be an important issue considered by this Action Planning effort; especially with relation to intellectual property rights and sustainable forestry.
3. Guyana's National Biodiversity Action Plan will be developed through this project.

The acronyms in the matrix are defined below:

NSBD: National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Guyana's Biological Diversity

NEAP: National Environmental Action Plan

NDS: National Development Strategy (Government of Guyana and the Carter Center)

UK-ODA: Capacity Strengthening for the Guyana Forestry Commission

WRI: World Resources Institute Report entitled: "Profit without Plunder: Reaping Revenue from Guyana's Tropical Forests without Destroying Them"

(NSPA: WB/GEF project "National System of Protected Areas"

IW: UNDP/GEF project "Iwokrama Rain Forest programme")

These have been added and duly reflected in the Matrix

12/16/97