

Haiti
Enabling Activity Proposal in Biodiversity

Country	Haiti
Project Title	<u>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan,</u> <u>First National Report to the Convention on Biological</u> <u>Diversity, and Clearing House Mechanism</u>
GEF Focal Area	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility	Approved on 20 August, 1996
GEF Financing Request	US \$262,000
Government Contribution	In kind
GEF Implementing Agencies	World Bank
National Executing Agency	Ministry of Environment
GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment
CBD Focal Point	Ministry of Environment
Estimated Starting Date	March, 1998
Project Duration	12 months

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Republic of Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic in the West Indies and covers an area of 27,750 km². The coastline extends 1,535 km, including a 5,000 km² continental plateau along the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. The population is estimated at 7.4 million with a 2.3% annual growth rate. Some 70% of the population are farmers and about 2 % make their living from fisheries and marine resources. More than 60% of the land consists of steep mountains unsuitable for annual crops, yet about 61% of all land is intensively utilized for annual crop and pasture. About 30% of all land is excessively degraded. Natural forests account for less than 2% of the national territory and are highly vulnerable to degradation.

Haiti is one of the most biologically significant countries in the Caribbean region. Its flora consists of 5,000 vascular plants with more than 300 Rubiaceae, 300 orchids, 300 Graminae, 330 Asteraceae, and 200 Melastomataceae. About 36% of all plants are endemic. The country boasts a rich fauna as well, with more than 2,000 species. The mainland and satellite islands reflect a high degree of endemism, including 54 endemic species of West Indian frogs, 212 mollusks, and 2 terrestrial mammals (a rodent and an insectivore).

The lowlands and piedmonts are characterized by tropical weather, while a subtropical climate is found in the mountains. Haiti has nine Holdridge Life Zones with a mosaic of soils and ecosystems, including cloud, cactus, and mangrove forests. The greatest threats to ecosystems are poverty, the extension of agriculture into steep and mountainous areas, free-ranging livestock and the introduction of exotic species. A number of endemic species (6 birds, 2 tree ferns, 2 mammals, 8 fishes, and 20 trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species) are now threatened with extinction.

Although in Haiti more than 100 laws and decrees make up legislation designed to protect biodiversity, they are not enforced. Thirty one sites have been identified by the Government of

Haiti (GOH) as official protected areas, yet only four receive some measure of protection. These areas cover about 41,500 hectares, or only 1.50% of the country. Some inventories have been conducted and stewardship plans have been proposed for these areas, including a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) implemented by The Ministry of Environment -- created in 1995 -- with financial assistance from USAID and the World Bank. In addition, The World Bank is funding the Forest and Parks Protection Technical Assistance Project (FPPTAP), which became effective in August, 1997. This project seeks to develop the institutional capacity for protection of Haiti's remaining ecosystems, and targets three specific protected areas for conservation and buffer zone development. A national workshop held in February, 1997 entitled the **Workshop on Protected Area Management and Alternative Financing for Biodiversity Protection** culminated in a proposed national policy for protected area management.

Several biological studies on the Haitiano-Dominican frontier areas have been conducted. The La Selle/Bahoruco, Azuei/Enriquillo lakes, Monte-Christi/Fort-Liberte/Baie de l'Acul (in the north), Peligre Watersheds/Nalga de Maco and Anse-a-Pitres/Jaragua National Park ecological complexes have been proposed as sites which would benefit from binational collaboration on conservation. The preparation of conservation strategies and insular ecosystem conservation have also been identified by the NEAP as priorities, and there are plans to assess and propose revisions to the national legal and fiscal frameworks for forestry, the national protected areas system, wetlands, coastal zones, and wildlife. The status of these efforts will be reviewed during preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The project's primary objective is to assist the GOH in preparing its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) in compliance with Articles 6 and 8 of the CBD. The BSAP will define key strategies for biodiversity conservation and utilization within the context of sustainable development. The second objective is the preparation of the First National Report to the CBD and the establishment of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM).

The project components will include:

1. **Biodiversity Assessment** to compile information generated to date on species distribution and abundance in terrestrial, aquatic, and marine environments, and to identify gaps in the existing biodiversity inventory -- an integral part of the BSAP.
2. **Preparation of the BSAP.**
3. **Preparation of the First National Report.**
4. **Establishment of the Clearing House Mechanism.**

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) will hire a **Coordinator** to be responsible for management and administration of the project. The GEF National Focal Point (at MOE) and the Coordinator will establish a **National Biodiversity Commission (NBC)** and a **Planning Team** for the overall supervision and guidance of the BSAP in compliance with environmental policies and the NEAP.

The **Planning Team** will be composed of MOE staff members and national consultants who will plan activities and prepare the draft BSAPs. Under the NBC and the Coordinator, the team will review existing information relative to biodiversity conservation (see Standard Activity Matrix). The process of developing the Biodiversity Strategy and the National Report will be consultative and participatory, and stakeholders will take part in 4 consultative regional workshops, whose participants will include representatives from NGOs, local organizations, the GOH, universities, and the private sector. These workshops will focus on identifying and analyzing threats, constraints, challenges, and opportunities for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including areas previously neglected, such as coastal and marine resources, arid and semi-arid lands, and agroforestry biodiversity. Issues regarding policy, legislation, institutional framework, public participation and awareness, and economic incentives for conservation will be addressed. The results of the regional workshops will provide a forum for engaging policy makers in the development of the strategy.

A national workshop will be organized to revise the document and ensure stakeholder participation in producing the final draft. Participants will include representatives from the GOH, universities, research institutions, NGOs, and the private sector. Representatives from the Dominican Republic will act as observers and resource persons. Key issues and options on significant biodiversity-related work carried out in Haiti will be identified and synthesized. The final draft of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will be submitted by MOE to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Environment (IMCE) for discussion and endorsement.

The project will include a public awareness campaign to disseminate information related to the CBD and implementation of the BSAP in Haiti. In the initial stages of the strategy preparation process, NBC will receive training from an international consultant on biodiversity analysis and planning, and review existing information on the status of and threats to biodiversity in Haiti. This information will include the Country Environmental Profile (1985), the NEAP's national report on biodiversity (1996), and the results of the February 1997 Conference. The review process will benefit from recent action taken under the Biodiversity Data Management network (BDM) supported by the UNDP's Environmental Coordination and Monitoring Unit. The First National Report will be prepared for the Fifth Conference of Parties to the CBD in May 1998, and will describe the development of the biodiversity protection process and other measures taken by Haiti to implement the CBD.

The project would also continue technical collaboration with representatives from the Government of the Dominican Republic on the preparation of biodiversity protection strategies. Representatives from the Dominican and Haitian Governments met on several occasions in 1997 to draft an outline for a bi-national biodiversity protection strategy and collaborate on the preparation of their respective Enabling Activity proposals. This low-cost technical collaboration will continue during the life of this project. Representatives from the Dominican Republic will be invited as observers and resource persons to BSAP preparation workshops and it is expected that Haitian representatives will participate as observers and resource persons in the Dominican workshops. In addition, several separate workshops will be held with with Representatives of the Dominican Government to ensure that each country's BSAP is complementary, and to identify means to promote bi-national mechanisms for biodiversity protection. The project will seek to institutionalize this collaboration to ensure its sustained coordination on biodiversity protection.

COVERAGE WITHOUT DUPLICATION

Haiti has benefited from a number of projects relating to biodiversity protection, including the USAID-funded environmental country study, biological studies and stewardship plans for some national parks, the recently completed evaluation of an ICDP by the Biodiversity Support Program, the biodiversity protection component of the NEAP, and background studies conducted during the preparation of the World Bank-financed Forest and Parks Protection Project. Each of these previous activities has been discrete and relatively ad hoc.

The BSAP will represent the first attempt to establish national policy and priorities for biodiversity protection, and will create the overall framework within which specific management plans and activities can be conceived and executed. These include management plans for national forests and parks to be prepared within the context of the World Bank-financed project, the National Phylogenetic Management Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the National Coastal Zone Management Plan. The BSAP will also contribute to other related national planning activities such as the National Water Master Plan, and will provide the basis for establishment of effective binational collaboration for the protection of the Fort-Liberté/Monte-Christi, la Selle/Bahoruco and Lac Azueï/Lago Enriquillo zones.

BEST PRACTICES

The methods used in implementation of this project will follow the approaches described in *National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Experiences Around the World* (WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995) and will comply with best practices outlined in *Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities: Biodiversity* (GEF, 1996).

The overall direction of this consultative and participatory process will be focused on national consensus building. Lessons learned from the country studies on biological diversity, the NEAP process, the Biodiversity Support Program (BSP), the UNDP's environmental journal Haiti-Econet, FAO wetlands and water bodies inventories, and the National Forestry Project (PFN) will be fully utilized. The First National Report to CBD will be based on the information contained in the country studies and progress made in preparing the BSAP.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) will be the implementing agency for the project and will hire a Coordinator to supervise the project. Implementation will be guided by the National Biodiversity Commission (NBC), which will consist of representatives from government, research institutions, NGOs, and the private sector. With assistance from national and international consultants, a smaller Planning Team will be responsible for the project's actual implementation. Seven consultants will be contracted for the project, including an international consultant, a lead national consultant, and five thematic national consultants. The international consultant will facilitate execution of key steps in the process, especially the initial stages, pre-

workshop organization, and revision of the final draft before the national workshop, and will be in charge of training the Planning Team and NBC in biodiversity analysis and strategic planning.

? 1998

TIME LINE AND SEQUENCING OF ACTIVITIES

Starting in March 1988, the BSAP and the First National Report will be produced over a period of 12 months according to the schedule shown below. The project will largely follow the sequence of activities recommended in *National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Experience Around the World* (WRI/UNEP/UCN, 1995), as well as in *Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities: Biodiversity* (GEF, 1996). A draft of the First National Report should be available by early May, 1998.

Calendar

Activity	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
NBC and Planning Team selection		█											
Training of Planning Team & consultants on BD analysis and planning		█											
Preparation of work plan		█											
Review of existing information on Hispaniola in collaboration with DR			█	█	█								
Exchange with the DR for binational coordination			█										
[REDACTED]						█							
Analysis and identification of options & priorities					█	█	█	█					
Public awareness campaign							█	█	█				
Regional workshops and discussions							█	█	█				
Production of issues and option paper based on regional workshops										█	█		
Drafting of BSAP												█	█
[REDACTED]													
[REDACTED]													
Editing & final draft of BSAP												█	█
[REDACTED]													█

█ Deadlines

COST EFFECTIVENESS

GOH capacity to produce the BSAP and the First National Report is limited by a lack of institutional and technical capacity. Thus, this proposal includes capacity building within the MOE, as well as broad participation in regional and national workshops. The project will build

on the technical and administrative capacity established by the NEAP and the Bank-financed Forest and Parks Protection Project.

PROJECT FINANCING

Activity	Product	Process	Total
Stocktaking and Assessment of Existing Information	7,000	23,000	30,000
Inventories and existing information assessment	5,000		5,000
International consultant		5,000	5,000
National consultants	2,000	8,000	10,000
Capacity building: BD conservation & management information		10,000	10,000
Identification and Analysis of Options	20,000	91,000	111,000
Training for Planning Team		10,000	10,000
Capacity building (monitoring system)	8,000	10,000	18,000
Local & regional workshops		34,000	34,000
International consultant	4,000		4,000
National consultants		27,000	27,000
Material and reports	8,000		8,000
Travel and per diem		10,000	10,000
Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan	32,000	38,000	70,000
International consultant	6,000		6,000
National consultants	6,000	10,000	16,000
National workshops		20,000	20,000
SAP preparation and distribution		8,000	8,000
Publication and translation	20,000		20,000
First National Report	11,000	16,000	27,000
National consultants	2,000	13,000	15,000
Preparation & draft for COP	3,000		3,000
Publication and translation	3,000	3,000	6,000
Distribution and promotion	3,000		3,000
Clearing House Mechanism		12,000	12,000
Coordination and Management		12,000	12,000
TOTAL	70,000	192,000	262,000

STANDARD ACTIVITY MATRIX

Component / Activity	Region	Capacity Building	Training	Partners
Commitment	Planning & Execution	Institutional Strength	Training	NGO, GOH, local councils, universities, communities, cross-sectoral institutions
	MOE, Planning Team, CNB	MARNDR, MOE, GOH, NGO	NGO, GOH, local councils	
Policy and Regulatory Framework				
Biodiversity and biological resources	X	X	X	X
Cross sectoral issues	X	X	X	X
Policy and regulatory framework	X	X		X
Institutional and human capacity	X	X		
Analysis of root causes of BD loss	X	X		
Technologies for conservation and sustainable use	X	X	X	X
Activities with adverse impacts	X	X	X	X
Existing measures and programs	X	X	X	X
Preliminary statement of objectives	X			
Identification of gaps	X	X		
Needs assessment	X	X	X	X
Implementation and Monitoring				
Conservation strategies (in & ex-situ)	X	X	X	X
Strategies for sustainable use	X	X	X	X
Strategies for benefit sharing	X	X	X	X
Reporting and Evaluation				
National strategy	X			
National Action Plan	X	X	X	X
Integration of the Plan into National Policy				
First National Report	X			