

**REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING ON
BIODIVERSITY ENABLING ACTIVITY**

Submitted by UNDP on behalf of the

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestinian Authority (PA)

Country Name: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestinian Authority

Project Title: Assessment of capacity building needs and country/authority specific priorities in biodiversity

Country Eligibility: Jordan ratified the CBD in 1992
Palestinian Authority: See letter of GEF-CEO of 2nd August 1996 to GEF Executive Council Members

GEF Financing Phase 1: US\$ 350,000
CHM (Palestinian component) US\$ 12,500
GEF Financing Add-on: US\$ 87,500

Total GEF Budget: US\$ 450,000

Government Contribution: Jordan: \$20,000 (in kind)
PA: \$20,000 (in kind)

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

National Executing/Coordinating Agencies: Jordan: General Corporation for Environment Protection (GCEP)
PA: Ministry of Environmental Affairs (MEnA)

GEF Operational Focal Points: Ms. Nadia Jawhari, MOP, Jordan
Mr. Saeed Jalala, MenA, PA

CBD Operational Focal Points: Jordan: GCEP
PA: Mr. Saeed Jalala, MEnA

CHM Focal Points: Jordan: GCEP
PA: Mr. Saeed Jalala, MenA

Estimated Starting Date: October 2001

Duration: 10 Months

I. Status of Biodiversity Enabling Activity

Jordan

Under the approved regional EA, Jordan is undergoing the preparation of its NBSAP with the main objectives to strengthen the national institutional capacity of national and local agencies dealing with biodiversity, and motivate key stakeholders in Jordan to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The project has completed a biodiversity stocktaking stage after forming a collaborative multi-sectoral steering committee, institutionalizing within GCEP the project implementation unit and recruiting national team of experts undergoing biodiversity assessments in various ecosystems/biodiversity thematic areas based on existing knowledge. A first national workshop was convened in April 2001 to summarize the biodiversity stocktaking reports, and two provincial workshops (in north and south Jordan) consequently were also convened with provincial stakeholders to identify options/mechanisms necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In view of the synergy between BSAP development and assessment of capacity needs for implementing the BSAP, the Government of Jordan has decided to carry out an assessment of priority capacity building needs in concert with the remaining BSAP development activities.

In Jordan, the NBSAP, which will be emerging in couple of months time will build upon the findings of the Biodiversity Country Study (BSC) that was completed in 1998 and submitted as part of the country's national commitment to the CBD. The main achievements of the BCS, in line with the objectives of the NBSAP, were to deepen the national concerns for conservation and management of the natural resources in a sustainable manner, and to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits arising from genetic resources. The short-term objectives of the study were to enhance the capacity of GCEP and other relevant agencies in conservation and management of biological diversity to review the status of biodiversity and to identify country specific priorities and capacity needs as well as the required measures to address these priorities.

Palestinian Authority

The Palestinian Authority completed its national biodiversity strategy and action plan in mid April 1999. The final NBSAP was officially endorsed by the Palestinian Chairman office in a national meeting and the strategy and action plan was adopted as a planning and action oriented instrument to conserve biodiversity and restore critical habitats. Though it has not yet been done, the PA had welcomed the integration of the NBSAP into the overall national planning process aiming at promoting economic development and prosperity without compromising the value of its biological heritage and the natural resource development base.

The main outcomes of the biodiversity enabling project in addition to the NBSAP document was the establishment of the national biodiversity committee at the onset of the project and the biodiversity management unit, which was instituted within MEnA to backstop biodiversity programs and projects at the level of all Palestinian Territories (PT).

The NBSAP in the PT had identified several gaps, in line with the add-on priorities, that present major challenges and constraints towards the achievement of long term biodiversity conservation and sustainable development objectives. Among these gaps were the scarcity of human resources specialized in most of the fields relevant to biodiversity, gaps in the legal framework and the lack of adequate environmental policy, instability of the political situation, gaps in co-ordination among different stakeholders at all levels: local, national, regional, and global. The NBSAP has identified priority areas of concern (local traditional knowledge, PA management system, removal of threats to biodiversity, restoration of critical habitats) and focused on the urgency to address existing bottlenecks preventing the PA from creating an enabling environment inductive to sustainable development as a whole.

A first national study looking at the content and status of Palestinian biological diversity and identifying priorities for conservation and sustainable use have been developed as part of the NBSAP project. A final version of this study is under publication and a summary report was submitted to the Secretariat of CBD Convention. Finally, the Palestinian NBSAP had benefited from CHM resources in the amount of \$12,500 allocated mainly to enable the Ministry of Environment have access to broader networks of biodiversity information and knowledge, not otherwise present in the PT.

Approximately 86 percent of the funds approved for the original Enabling Activity have been spent so far with the remaining funds budgeted for upcoming activities.

Project objectives

The main objective of the add-on request is to assist the government of Jordan and the Palestinian Authority in the assessment of capacity building needs at all levels (individual, institutional, and systematic) and identify existing gaps that hinder conservation and sustainable management of the country's/authority's biodiversity. The add-on request will help both parties identify the needed supportive measures, costs required to address obstacles, analyze functional capabilities, and determine mechanisms necessary to protect national biological heritage in line with NBSAP priorities and the CoP/CBD obligations and guidelines.

As second objective for this add-on includes enabling both the General Co-operation for Environmental Protection in Jordan and the MEnA in the PT to undertake the necessary consultative process required to submit the Second National Report on biodiversity in line with decision V/19 of the CoP/CBD.

I. Priorities for Assessing Capacity Building Needs

1. Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to components of biological diversity

In line with the recommendations and action plans proposed in Jordan's BCS (and the conclusions of the NBSAP stocktaking reports) and the Palestinian NBSAP, efforts in management and conservation of the biodiversity in both Jordan and the Palestinian Authority are increasingly gaining momentum as important areas of concern. There is a wide range of anthropogenic and economic pressures that are impeding the sound use and conservation of biodiversity and (especially in the Palestinian Territories) there is still a gap in areas of targeted research and monitoring to contribute to habitat restoration (including rangelands, wetlands, forests, and integrated agro-ecosystems). In Jordan, successful pioneer projects, including the GEF Dana and Azraq have achieved good models of integrated conservation and sustainable development and have generated levels of institutional capacity to handle pressures impacting on biodiversity including excessive tourism. Despite this level of capacity building elements, the NBSAP stocktaking reports concluded a need for evaluation of capacity at the level of national stakeholder agencies (GCEP, MoA, MoT, NGOs, and others) to mitigate other specific threats/pressures to biological diversity in a wider range of environmental and sustainable development context. The existing gap in the area of information and lack of primary scientific data and documentation presents a major constraint to the attainment of any success. Accordingly, there is an urgent need to evaluate existing national capacities (human and institutional) required to alleviate pressures and remove barriers standing against conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the species, habitat and ecosystem levels.

The current add-on request, through participatory approaches, consultative groups and workshops, will carry out an assessment of national capacities in monitoring and mitigating threats to components of biological diversity to contribute to critical habitat/nature reserve restoration. The assessment will help identify the capacity building constraints and the kind of capacity development strategies, human resources and training required as well as the financial mechanisms needed to effectively evaluate and mitigate specific threats to components of biological diversity.

The main outputs of this activity will be an assessment report that reviews capacity building needs, biodiversity status, threats to critical species, habitats and ecosystems and propose methodologies to be undertaken to carry out monitoring and mitigation scenarios. The report will list existing stakeholders: research centers, institutions, individuals, etc., and provide a comprehensive analysis of the required assistance to upgrade and build the national capacity in this respect. A national consultative meeting involving relevant stakeholders will be convened in each country-authority to present/discuss each side working-group results. The project coordinator will summarize meeting results and recommendations to be incorporated into the overall add on assessment report.

2. Assessment of national capacity building needs in biodiversity monitoring including taxonomy

Enhancing national institutional capacity and human resource development capability to identify, classify, monitor components of biological diversity and manage biodiversity information networks are among the national priority objectives of the NBSAP and BCS in both Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. The two country/authority are willing to cooperate and are giving due consideration to initiate national biodiversity data management and learning centers ensuring interactive networking and access to biodiversity knowledge for all stakeholders and users.

The add on proposal will provide an opportunity for two working groups to meet to review national capacity building needs in Jordan and the PT to identify/assess biodiversity monitoring gaps, responsibility sharing and roles in plants and animal taxonomy. The WG will consult with relevant national and provincial stakeholder agencies and institutions to articulate comprehensive assessment reports. A capacity-building plan/report demonstrating availability, strengths and weaknesses in human resource development and institutional capacities (including training, responsibility sharing) in plant and animal taxonomy will be developed. A mechanism and time frame agreed on with relevant stakeholders will be incorporated into the overall capacity building program of the project. The NBSAP and the BCS consider this exercise an important step for establishing a reliable monitoring system in each country-authority on biodiversity.

A national consultative workshop will be convened in each country-authority to present/discuss working-group results. The project coordinator will organize the consultative meeting in coordination with the working group and will incorporate meeting's conclusions and recommendations into the overall add-on report.

3. Assessment of capacity building needs related to biodiversity knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles

The need to understand, respect, document and apply traditional indigenous knowledge for the benefit of biodiversity and the people of Jordan and the Palestinian Territories was highlighted an utmost priority. In Jordan, a recommendation to assess this issue through the adoption of participatory approaches to promote involvement of indigenous communities in the conservation and management of biological diversity was put forward by the NBSAP team and the country's biodiversity study. The Palestinian NBSAP highlighted the need to undertake a collaborative assessment of national capacities required to study and preserve an oral history of indigenous knowledge and skills possessed by local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, customary regimes, herbal knowledge, etc.

The current add-on request will enable two working groups in Jordan and the PA to undertake an appraisal exercise to assess the country/authority's traditional knowledge and lifestyles in biodiversity and analyze the needs required to fulfill existing constraints preventing full and dependable documentation, preservation and wise application.

The main outputs of this activity will be an assessment report highlighting existing gaps and capacity building needs related to documentation, preservation and sound application of traditional biodiversity knowledge, identify techniques and institutions and traditional lifestyles relevant to the management of natural and biological heritage. A national consultative workshop will be convened in each country-authority to present/discuss working-group results. The project coordinator in each side will organize the consultative meeting in coordination with the national team and will incorporate meeting's conclusions and recommendations into the overall add-on report.

II. Consultative process for the adoption and submission of the second national report to the Secretariat of the CBD Convention

Jordan and the the Palestinian Authority have submitted to the CBD their first national report on biodiversity and both parties intend to submit their 2nd national report to the Secretariat of the Convention in line with decision V/19 of the CoP/CBD.

The add-on funding will enable the Ministry of Environmental Affairs (MENA) in the PA and GCEP in Jordan to cooperate and undertake the necessary discussions/consultations with relevant stakeholders in each side for the submission of the 2nd National Report. A deadline of May 15th 2001 was assigned by the CoP/CBD deadline, which neither Jordan nor the Palestine Authority had been able to meet. The main output of this effort will be completion of the questionnaire endorsed in COP decision V/19 and a report on the second national communication describing the main measures/actions adopted or completed by Jordan and the PA towards implementing the CBD since the first report was completed.

Under the overall supervision of the National Project Co-ordinator in each side, the following consultative process will be undertaken: 1) preparation for consultation meetings/documents; 2) initiation of contacts and interviews with the national biodiversity steering committee members and national stakeholder organizations; 3) collation of committee members comments and completion of the questionnaire, 4) convening a one-day meeting of the steering committee to adopt the report.

Project Implementation/Institutional Framework

In Jordan, the add-on request will follow national execution arrangements. GCEP will be entrusted with project execution on behalf of UNDP-GEF. The project will be overseen by the National steering committee of the NBSAP that will have an overall advisory role. The Project Coordinator will be organizing all meetings of steering committee and coordinating all works of the working groups and will be responsible for the daily management of the project. The Project Coordinator will also be responsible for the formulation of a final report summarizing capacity building needs and priorities in biodiversity and will ensure the submission of the report (and other reports, documents, and action plans) through the executing agencies to the government for endorsement.

In the PT, similar implementation arrangements to that of Jordan will be followed whereby MEnA will be entrusted with project coordination on behalf of the PAPP/UNDP. The project also will be overseen by the National steering committee that was established under the NBSAP formulation phase. The Project Coordinator will be organizing all meetings of steering committee and coordinating all works of the working groups and will be responsible for the daily management of the project. The Project Coordinator will also be responsible for the formulation of a final report summarizing capacity building needs and priorities in biodiversity and will ensure the submission of the report (and other reports, documents, and action plans) through the executing agencies to the government for endorsement.

The project coordinators in both Jordan and the PA will ensure effective bilateral coordination of add-on activities through all means of communications including e-mailing, sharing of meeting reports, relevant documentation, etc. The project in the PA intends to annex its second national report on biodiversity actions and programs including the add-on outcomes to the Jordan's second national report, and the Government of Jordan will submit the report on behalf of the PA to the CoP/CBD.

UNDP office in Amman and the PAPP/UNDP office in Jerusalem will provide overall technical backstopping and will monitor project implementation as per UNDP rules and procedures including convening a tripartite review meeting.

The Implementing Agency and the GEF Focal Points in both Jordan and the Palestinian Authority have satisfied themselves that the proposal for additional funding complies with the operational criteria for the expedited financing of biodiversity enabling activities.

Table 1. Priorities for capacity building needs

Priority/objective	Reasons for Priority	Work to be done	Product expected	Notes
Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to components of biological diversity	Wide range of human & economic pressures and barriers impeding biodiversity conservation.	A working group will be established to assess threats, root causes and their impact on the biodiversity at all levels. The WG will prepare recommendations for capacity building needs	An assessment report demonstrating the status of threatened biodiversity, types/nature of threats, their root causes the skills to be available and the human resources and training programs needed for threat mitigation. The report will document national capacity building needs in biodiversity relevant areas to be submitted to the Government of Jordan and the PA for endorsement	The outcome of this assessment will feed on-going efforts to develop a PA management project in Palestine. Included contribution \$10,000 (\$5,000 from each partner)
Assessment of national capacity building needs in biodiversity monitoring including taxonomy	Perceived need to evaluate and raise monitoring capacity at national level in both Jordan and the PA	A working group will be established to undertake an evaluation of the level of expertise in plant and animal taxonomy and identify monitoring needs including data storage and networking. WG will prepare an outline of priority options and recommendations for managing biodiversity knowledge	An assessment report demonstrating existing national capacities and expertise, gaps as well as the required types of training and human resource development programs, and the resource mobilization capacity for implementation.	In kind contribution is \$10,000 (\$5,000 from each partner)
Assessment of capacity related to biodiversity knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles.	Urgent need to document, preserve and apply traditional, biodiversity knowledge and practices	A WG will be established to assess existing capacity and prepare detailed outline of national needs on indigenous biodiversity knowledge. WG will organize several informal participatory meetings and a national workshop for this purpose	A synthesized assessment report highlighting sources of traditional biodiversity knowledge, guidelines and priority needs and detailed financing to meet needs	In kind contribution is \$10,000 (\$5,000 from each side)
Consultative process for the Second National Report to CoP/CBD	2nd National report was due in May 2001 and Jordan and the PA are willing to meet their obligations under the CoP/CBD.	Interactive consultation process for CBD questionnaire, and special consultative meetings for the National steering committee.	Report will include completed questionnaire developed by the CBD Secretariat as well as a description of the main measures/steps undertaken or completed by the Government of Jordan and the PA to implement the CBD.	In kind contribution is \$10,000 (\$5,000 from each side)

Table 2. Timetable of activity sequencing per month

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Contract National Project Coordinator	▪									
Finalization of TORs for Consultants	▪									
Finalize add-on working plan and convene meeting of national steering committee	▪									
Establish working groups and contracts for consultants	▪	▪								
Informal consultations of working groups with national and local stakeholders	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
National Consultation Meetings on - Assessment of capacity for evaluation and mitigation of specific threats facing threatened habitat and ecosystems - Assessment of capacity building needs in biodiversity monitoring including taxonomy - Assessment of traditional biodiversity related knowledge			▪	▪	▪					
Working groups prepare and finalize assessment reports on capacity building needs				▪	▪	▪	▪			
A national workshop to review/endorse recommendation reports								▪		
An overview report summarizing capacity building needs/priorities in biodiversity in Palestine							▪	▪	▪	
Submission of report and group reports and products to national implementing agency and other ministries for action									▪	▪
Consultation process for the 2 nd national report on biodiversity and incorporation of capacity building needs of the add-on outcomes into Country's/authorities report						▪	▪	▪	▪	▪

Cost estimates for additional enabling activities (US\$)¹

ACTIVITY	PRODUCT	PROCESS	TOTAL
APPROVED EARLIER			
• Original EA, less costs of CHM activities	(no entry	required)	350,000
• CHM support (provided to the Palestinian component only)			12,500
Total approved support			362,500
ADDITIONAL REQUEST			
Assessment of Capacity-building needs for:			
- Assessment of capacity for evaluation and mitigation of specific threats facing threatened habitat and ecosystems (Jordan and PA)	5,000	25,000	30,000
- Assessment of capacity building needs in biodiversity monitoring including taxonomy (Jordan and PA)	5,000	25,000	30,000
- Assessment of traditional biodiversity related knowledge	5,000	20,000	25,500
- Consultation process for the 2 nd national report on biodiversity and incorporation of capacity building needs of the add-on outcomes into Country's/authorities report		2,500	2,500
Total new request	15,000	72,500	87,500
Grand Total for Enabling Activity			450,000

¹ The Government of Jordan and the Palestinian Authority will provide in kind contribution to the add-on request in the amount of \$40,000 (\$20,000 each) to be used to cover costs of communication and within country/authority travel, and costs for two project administrative assistants

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM
OF JORDAN
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AMMAN



المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية
وزارة التخطيط
عمان

Ref No: 5011/4269
Date: 22/7/2001

الرقم
التاريخ
الموافق

U.N. Resident Representative
United Nations Development Programme
Amman - Jordan

Your ref: BD Enabling (431)
Subject: Biodiversity Add- On Funds

Excellency,

Reference is made to your letter dated 3/6/2001 requesting our endorsement for the additional fund for the assessment of capacity building needs and country/ authority specific priorities in biodiversity project.

Kindly note that the Government of Jordan agrees on the increase of additional funds of US\$87,500 for the above mentioned project and is willing to continue providing the umbrella for the Palestinian Authority.

Accept Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest considerations.

28 JUN 2001

UNDP - JORDAN		
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Sincerely Yours

Hani A. Ghanam

/ Jawad Hadid
Minister of Planning

Hani Abul-Ghanam
Acting Secretary General

Cc: GCEP

هاتف : ٤٦٤٤٣٨١/٥٠ - ٤٦٤٤٣٧٧/٧ - (٥١٧-١) ٤٦٤٤٣٤١ - فاكس : ٤٦٤٤٣٤١ - ٤٦٤٤٣٤١ - ٤٦٤٤٣٤١
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تاريخ رقم ١١/٥٠