

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
Enabling Activities Proposal in Biodiversity

Country	Kyrgyz Republic
Project Title	Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan and National Report to the COP
GEF Focal Area	Biological Diversity
Country Eligibility	Kyrgyz Republic ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on July 10, 1996
GEF Financing	\$108,000.
Government Contribution	In-kind
GEF Implementing Agency	World Bank
National Executing Agency	Ministry of Environmental Protection
CBD Focal Point	Ministry of Environmental Protection
Estimated Starting Date	April 1997
Project Duration	10 months

Background

1. The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked, mountainous country in Central Asia with a population of 4.5 million people and is the smallest and poorest nation of Central Asia, covering an area of 198,000 km². It is divided into six provinces, or Oblasts, and a capital district, Bishkek. Although the country is a democratic republic and relies on the former Soviet administrative structure, the indigenous social and political structure is still strong.

2. The Kyrgyz Republic contains some of the world's most unique and rare ecosystems. Ecological diversity in the Republic is naturally high due to the diverse landscape types and microclimates. Elevations vary from 400 meters to 7,439 meters with a wide variety of habitats ranging from desert to broadleaf and conifer forests to high alpine ecosystems. The aquatic habitats consist of wetlands, perennial and intermittent streams and rivers as well as fresh and saltwater lakes, including the world's second deepest inland water body, Lake Issyk-Kul. The Western Tien Shan mountain system has the broadest range of ecosystems (22 out of 24 classes), followed by the Inner Tien Shan (18 out of 24), the Alai and the Northern Tien Shan (16 classes), and the Issyk-Kul and the Central Tien Shan regions (12 classes each). As a result of these ecosystem niches, species diversity is also naturally high. For example, over 500 species of vertebrates have been found here, including 83 mammals, 368 reptiles and 75 fishes as well as at least 3,000 insect species and over 4,500 species of higher plants.

3. Part of the Kyrgyz Republic is covered by a protected area system, made up of 5 Zapovedniks, which are strict scientific nature reserves, 2 National Parks, and 70 Zakazniks, which are special purpose nature preserves. However, the federally protected areas, once united under a Soviet-wide system supported from Moscow, have suffered significantly from social and economic changes in the last decade. Additionally, increasing utilization of the Republic's

natural resources such as minerals, timber and pasture lands over the last twenty years has undermined the region's biological diversity.

Project Objectives

4. The project will assist the Kyrgyz Republic to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity through the development of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and will assist in the preparation of the first National Report to the Conference of the Parties (COP). The project will also raise public awareness about biodiversity conservation and strengthen those institutions responsible for biodiversity conservation by holding one national and two regional workshops. These are critical to ensure stakeholder participation as the Krygyz Republic will increasingly rely upon the wise management of natural resources by local communities to ensure adequate protection of biodiversity.

5. The BSAP will identify current challenges to the conservation and wise use of the Krygyz Republic's biological resources, including the effectiveness of the Krygyz laws and institutions. A priority of the BSAP will be to identify how natural resource use is adversely impacting ecosystems and threatening species with extinction. These solutions may include, *inter alia*, the creation of new laws, more effective enforcement of existing laws and regulations, creation of new protected areas, expansion of existing protected areas, better land and habitat management and broader participation of responsible governmental and non-governmental organizations in natural resource management. The BSAP process will promote cross-sectoral coordination at the local, regional and national levels.

Operational Criteria

Criterion 1: Coverage without duplication

6. The BSAP will utilize existing information and in-country expertise to the greatest extent possible. The development of the BSAP will be closely coordinated with the implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), which was developed with the assistance of the World Bank and completed in October 1995. Where appropriate, the BSAP will also be coordinated with the West Tien Shan Transboundary Biodiversity Project, for which Project Development Funds were approved by GEF in August 1996. The project will also coordinate with the activities underway to establish a Biosphere Reserve in the central Tien Shan region.

Criterion 2: Appropriate overall sequencing of activities

7. The BSAP will be produced over a period of 10 months according to the schedule outlined below, starting in April 1997. A Working Group drawn from the President's Council on Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Academy of Sciences and NGOs (such as *Aleyne*), with the assistance of an international consultant, will prepare a detailed work plan and TORs for the national consultants. National consultants and working groups will participate in integrating tasks of: a) preparing the Country Study by summarizing existing

information on Kyrgyz biodiversity and preparing additional descriptions and analyses to fill information gaps considered necessary for the BSAP; b) participating in working groups to formulate the policies and actions of the BSAP; c) participating in the working groups and preparing the BSAP document; d) holding regional workshops; and e) preparing the National Report to the COP.

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Establishment of working groups	X									
Preparation of work plan by working groups	X									
Finalization of TOR for national consultants and international consultant		X								
Preparation of stocktaking chapters, assessment of gaps		X	X	X	X	X				
Analysis and assessment of options, including discussions with stakeholders in 2 workshops (Osh, Issyk-Kul regions)					X	X	X			
Preparation of draft BSAP							X	X	X	
National workshop to present BSAP										X
Incorporation of comments of draft, Preparation of final reports										X
Public awareness campaign					X	X	X	X	X	X
Preparation of first National Report to COP								X	X	

Criterion 3: Best practice

8. The Kyrgyz BSAP will comply with best practices and lessons learned from GEF experiences in other countries, such as Kazakstan and the Czech Republic. The BSAP will be authored by Kyrgyz nationals, represent national priorities and be consistent with the country's cultural, historical, and geographic setting.

Criterion 4: Cost effectiveness

9. The Kyrgyz BSAP is expected to cost \$108,000. The proposed budget, summarized below, is cost-effective insofar as it relies to the maximum extent on existing materials, such as

the NEAP, the work undertaken in the Central Tien Shan Biosphere Reserve and stocktaking work undertaken by the Institute of Biology of the National Academy of Sciences.

Criterion 5: Consistency of approach and procedures

10. Currently the GEF is also funding the preparation of the West Tien Shan Transboundary Biodiversity Project in the Kyrgyz Republic. A National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) has already been prepared with assistance from the World Bank. Whereas the NEAP encompasses a wider range of environmental issues facing the Kyrgyz Republic, the West Tien Shan project will be geographically focused. The BSAP will utilize existing professional and informational resources available in each of these projects.

Institutional Framework And Project Implementation

11. The project will be developed by the Ministry for Environmental Protection. The Ministry will manage a multi-disciplinary team, including the national consultants, the working group within the President's Council on Sustainable Development, as well as selected representatives from NGOs which are instrumental in developing and implementing policies related to biodiversity conservation. The Ministry of Environmental Protection is the key agency responsible for environmental policy and regulations. The Ministry of Environmental Protection administers Kyrgyz environmental law throughout the country, including the various laws and regulations that pertain to fisheries and wildlife, impacts to natural communities, and protection of threatened and endangered species (i.e., those listed in the Kyrgyz Red Book). The administration of protected areas is the responsibility of the Ministry of Environmental Protection's Department of Bioresources and Protected Areas, which oversees the country's Zapovedniks, and the State Agency of Forestry, which administers the national parks and nature reserves. Local municipalities are responsible for the management of protected areas considered to be of lower importance, such as Zakazniks. The Kyrgyz Academy of Sciences, particularly the Institute of Biology, plays an important role in biodiversity conservation, both as an institution and through the activities of its individual scientists.

12. In 1996, the President's Council on Sustainable Development was created. The Council, with members representing both government and NGO interests and chaired by the Minister of Environmental Protection, will assist in the identification of objectives and a work plan for the BSAP. In addition, a working group, chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Environment, will be established under the council to advise on the BSAP's implementation. Likewise, this Working Group will also have thematic sub-groups concentrating on particular sectors, including agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. The BSAP will be the result of consultations between the Council, working group and all stakeholders.

13. The Council and the Ministry of Environmental Protection will identify members of the working group and sub-working groups based on the following criteria: (i) *Governmental representation*. The BSAP will be official government policy which will identify responsibilities of the various committees and ministries (including environment protection, forestry, agriculture,

finance and tourism) for its implementation. Each of these committees and ministries will be asked to participate in the working group or relevant sub-working groups. (ii) *Non-governmental representation*. At least one NGO will be represented in the working group and in each sub-working group. (iii) *Technical expertise*. Experts in biodiversity, agriculture, forestry, hydrology, toxic waste management and other technical fields will be included in the appropriate thematic sub-working groups.

14. The coordinating agency for the BSAP will be the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Given that the existing office established to coordinate the NEAP is currently staffed with people trained in procurement, disbursement, and contracts, it is expected that the NEAP office will be employed to facilitate and expedite the coordination of the BSAP. This office will also bear responsibility for the PDF project management for the West Tien Shan Transboundary Biodiversity Project. It will also coordinate the public workshops, the results of which will be submitted to the BSAP Working Group. These workshops will be in addition to the numerous consultations and other meetings undertaken by the Council, working group and sub-working groups.

15. In addition to numerous consultations and meetings undertaken by the steering committee, working groups, and other project participants, three workshops are planned: one national workshop in Bishkek and two regional ones, in Osh and the Lake Issy-kul region. The regional workshops will enable broad participation from the key stakeholders, which include protected area staff, local institutions, staff of the local administrations, NGOs and interested members of the public, including representatives from communities adjacent to existing or potential protected areas.¹ These workshops will both explain the function of the BSAP and discuss the options for conservation that are available. The national workshop will allow for the draft BSAP to be presented to interested groups and individuals. Copies of the draft BSAP will be disseminated several weeks before the national workshop, which will held over two days. The workshop will seek comments and recommendations on the BSAP and its implementation and where appropriate, these will be included in the final BSAP. Prior to and after the national workshop, a public awareness campaign will use newspaper and television media to inform the public about the goals and objectives of the BSAP project, raise awareness of Krygyz biodiversity and the need and value for its conservation. It will also report the results and conclusions of the BSAP.

16. An international consultant will assist the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Council on the running of the workshops and will specifically provide advice on developing country-specific strategies for conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and public participation.

¹ There are not "indigenous peoples" as such in the Kyrgyz Republic, although there is a broad range of ethnic diversity which includes the Kyrgyz people (who are composed of a number of clans), Russians, Uzbeks, and Germans.

ANNEX A: Standard Activity Matrix

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments
		Institutional Support	Training		
Commitment	Planning, Execution				
<i>Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</i>					
biodiversity and biological resources	NAS				1
cross-sectoral issues	X				3,4,8
policy and regulatory framework	NAS, WTS				1,2,3,4,5,8
institutional and human capacity	X				3,5,9
analysis of root causes of BD loss	X				3,5,8
technologies for conservation and sustainable use	X				3,4,5
activities with adverse impacts	X				6
existing measures and programs	X				1,3,4,5,8,10
preliminary statement of objectives	X				7
identification of gaps	X				2,3,4,5
assessment of existing needs	X				2,3,4,5,8
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD</i>					
strategies for conservation	X	X	X	X	3,4,5,6,7
strategies for sustainable use	X	X	X	X	3,4,5,6,7
strategies for benefit sharing	X	X	X	X	3,4,6,7
<i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i>					
national strategy	X	X	X	X	8
national action plan	X	X	X	X	8
<i>Planning of first National Report</i>					
first national report	X			X	8
<p>Legend:</p> <p>X activity undertaken by the project</p> <p>NAS Stocktaking activities have been conducted by the Institute of Biology of the National Academy of Sciences.</p> <p>WTS Analysis and development of institutional capacity under the West Tien Shan Transboundary Biodiversity Project.</p>					

Footnotes to the Activity Matrix

1. The stocktaking materials already produced by the Institute of Biology of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), to be published in five volumes, will be used to provide an overview of Kyrgyz biodiversity, its significance and its relation to other Central Asian Republics.
2. The overview and analysis of environmental legislation produced by the Institute of Biology of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) will be used as a foundation for further elaboration regarding steps needed to define the institutional and human capacity and to implement a public awareness program.
3. The GEF-financed West Tien Shan Transboundary Biodiversity Project will require an analysis of the current status of and threats to biological diversity in the West Tien Shan Mountain range.
4. Technologies for conservation and sustainable use in the Lake Issyk-Kul region are being evaluated under the current Biosphere Reserve project being implemented by a partnership of the Bishkek-based environmental NGO, Aleyne, and the German conservation NGO, NABU. Additional investigation of potentially applicable technologies will occur during the Social Assessment of the West Tien Shan Transboundary Biodiversity Project.
5. Under the West Tien Shan Transboundary Biodiversity Project, training needs for protected areas personnel, environmental educators, and other professionals responsible for biodiversity conservation will be evaluated. Available training programs and work exchanges will be identified, and if necessary, seminars and programs for professional development will be planned.
6. Under the NEAP, a Public Participation Program has been developed, financed by the Fund for Innovative Approaches in Human and Social Development (FIAHS), and launched in October 1994 by Aleyne. The public involvement effort during the development of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will be cooperatively managed by the Ministry for Environmental Protection and one or more NGOs (e.g., Aleyne or its member organizations), with assistance from an external consultant. The program will provide a vehicle for consultations with the oblast administrations and local NGOs during the final stage of NEAP preparation and during the NEAP implementation.
7. The President's Council on Sustainable Development, with the Minister of Environmental Protection as Chair, will assist the Ministry in identifying objectives and work plan for the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and will develop working groups to prepare the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
8. The existing National Environmental Action Plan will be utilized to the extent possible, and will be complementary to strategies developed by the working groups and public participation process. The President's Council on Sustainable Development, chaired by the Minister of Environmental Protection, will assist in the identification of objectives and a work plan for the BSAP. In addition, a working group will be established under the council to advise on the BSAP's implementation.
9. One of the principle concerns will be to strengthen institutional ability of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the scientific community and the NGOs. This project, by involving all three groups will enhance inter-agency communication and will strengthen the agencies' work on sustainable development.
10. The BSAP will build on the public participation activities being undertaken by the GEF Central Asian Transboundary Biodiversity Project in the West Tien Shan as well as the Central Tien Shan Biosphere Reserve Project being carried out with NABU.

Project Financing

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory</i>	14,000	0	14,000
national consultants	10,000		10,000
documentation	4,000		4,000
<i>Identification of options</i>	10,000	22,000	32,000
national consultants	5,000	5,000	10,000
international consultant	5,000	5,000	10,000
working group meetings		3,000	3,000
regional workshops		6,000	6,000
travel and misc.		3,000	3,000
<i>Strategy and Action Plan</i>	15,000	32,000	47,000
national consultants	10,000	12,000	22,000
international consultant	2,000	4,000	6,000
public awareness campaign	3,000		3,000
1 national workshop		6,000	6,000
dissemination (translation and publication) and public awareness		10,000	10,000
<i>First National Report</i>	7,000	0	7,000
publication and translation	6,000		6,000
promotion, misc.	1,000		1,000
<i>Admin. and management costs</i>	4,000	4,000	8,000
Totals	50,000	58,000	108,000