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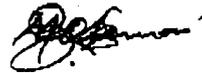
**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SECRETARIAT
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
P.O. BOX 527, MASERU LESOTHO.**

FACSIMILE: (266) 310506 TELEPHONE: (266) 316604

TO: Dr John L. Hough (Att. Ajay Gupta)
Coordinator for Biodiversity and
International Waters
GEF Regional Bureau for Africa
UNDP

FAX NO.: 1 (212) 906 6362

FROM: Bore Motsamai (Mr)
Secretary General



REF. NO.: NES/CONV/1

DATE: 19th July, 1996.

Subject: Lesotho Enabling Activity Proposal

Lesotho ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on 10th January 1995 and therefore has committed itself to its implementation, particularly at this point, to decision II/17 of the 2nd Meeting of Conference of Parties (COPII) held in Jakarta, Indonesia in 1995.

Article 6 of the Convention provides that each party shall develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The COPII's II/17 decided that the first reports by Parties be submitted in accordance with Article 26 by June 1997, focusing on measures taken for the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention.

An earlier submission of request for financial assistance was sent to UNEP/GEF Coordination in Nairobi, after this office had made an offer for assistance. Lesotho's submission was later referred to UNDP for purposes of better coordination.

Further to these developments, Lesotho wishes to renew a request for financial assistance so as to meet the required obligations.

Thank you for your assistance.

*Al Dada / Ali / Avani / Marco / Walter / Hemanta / Sang Li /
Chon / F. de*

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

Country: Kingdom of Lesotho

Project Title: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Report to the COP

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

Country Eligibility: Convention ratified 10 January 1995

GEF Financing: US \$114,480

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

National Executing Agency: National Environment Secretariat

GEF Operational Focal Point: National Environment Secretariat

CBD Focal Point: National Environment Secretariat

Estimated Starting Date: September 1996

Project Duration: 10 Months

Background

The southern African Kingdom of Lesotho occupies an area of 30,400 sq. kilometers, entirely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. The eastern two thirds of Lesotho containing the Drakensberg-Maloti highlands are mountainous, with wide seasonal and geographical variation. The western third of the country is lower lying, drier and densely populated (IUCN, 1992).

The Drakensberg and Maloti mountains contain zones of Afro- Alpine, Afro- Montane vegetation (which are 2 of the 7 floristic regions of sub Saharan Africa) as well as unique wetland habitats with high levels of endemism. Field studies confirm the presence of at least 1,375 species of plants, 250 species of birds, 50 species of mammals and 30 species of amphibians and reptiles. 30 percent of the plant species are endemic to the area. In addition 20 percent of the birds found in the area, two antelope species, and a number of other species are endemic to southern Africa (Hilliard, 1987). Based on a 1985 survey, IUCN has recommended recognition of a portion of the Drakensberg- Maloti area as a world heritage site.

Natural resources in Lesotho are under increasingly severe pressure from a combination of factors. In the lowlands, competition is intense among the large human population for limited land resources. Due to poor agricultural practices, soil erosion is widespread, as land degrades forestland is cleared for agricultural purposes. Contributing to deforestation, 90 percent of the household energy needs in the country are met by depleting biomass in the Drakensberg-Maloti highlands. The highlands further suffer from overgrazing by a large livestock population. As a result of these intensive long term activities, most of the country's natural vegetation and habitats have been severely depleted and soil degradation and erosion are serious problems.

To guide the protection of its natural resources, Lesotho prepared a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) in 1989 which has since been modified to incorporate the principles of Agenda 21. In 1994, the UNDP assisted in establishing the National Environment Secretariat(NES) under the Prime Ministers office. As part of its responsibility for the conservation and sustainable use of the country's natural resources, the NES is coordinating soil conservation and reforestation projects of the GTZ, FAO, Netherlands and ODA in the Drakensberg- Maloti mountains. Management proposals for the cross border region of the Drakensberg- Maloti mountains have also been developed in cooperation with the Natal Parks Board of South Africa,

The NES is also an actor in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project(LHWP), a major multilaterally funded scheme for the capture and transfer of water to South Africa and the generation of hydro- electricity in Lesotho. In association with the LHWP, biodiversity conservation and watershed management activities will be undertaken in the highest alpine and mountain zones. The watershed management project will develop and implement strategies to ensure sustainable development in the highlands. Activities will be undertaken in livestock husbandry, ecotourism, environmental education, land use management and conservation of natural resources.

The NES has identified the preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) as a priority to provide a context for biodiversity activities under the LHWP and to lay the framework for biodiversity conservation in the country. Preparation of a BSAP will also allow Lesotho, as a signatory of the Convention on Biodiversity to meet its obligations to the COP.

Project Objectives and Short Description

The enabling activity project will allow the NES to prepare a BSAP and a country report for the COP. The project will build on the existing knowledge base and strengthen in-country capacity to develop a BSAP through a process of participatory planning and stakeholder consultation. The BSAP will identify the current status of, pressures on, options for and actions to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Lesotho. The BSAP will complement the National Environment Action Plan and Agenda 21 strategies and provide a necessary link for watershed management and biodiversity activities undertaken through the LHWP.

The NES will initially establish a steering committee to supervise preparation of the BSAP and provide overall direction and policy guidance. Members of the steering committee will be drawn from the full range of concerned stakeholders, including the Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Natural Resources, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), the national university, the private sector, NGOs 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 and will be assisted by a national consultant experienced in biodiversity related issues and data gathering.

Aided by the national consultant, the planning team will begin with a review of the WRI/IUCN/UNEP "Guidelines for the Preparation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans". They will then compile and summarize existing information on the status of, and threats to biodiversity in Lesotho. This information, along with summaries of the National Environment Action Plan, Agenda 21 strategies, LHWP management plans, and other donor financed natural resource activities in Lesotho, will be presented at the first national workshop.

The first national workshop will be conducted by the planning team and national consultant with assistance from an international consultant. A wide range of participants from national and local government agencies, NGOs, local and indigenous communities, the private sector as well as experts from South Africa will be brought together. The participants will analyze and review the results of the stocktaking to identify key issues and options as well as actors and priority geographical areas for further analysis.

In association with the first national workshop, the international consultant will provide training to the planning team, national consultant and two short term consultants who will be hired to carry out local consultations. Training will be provided in participatory methods, biodiversity analysis, strategic planning techniques and dissemination methods.

The training will allow the planning team and consultants to carry out a detailed analysis of the issues and options which were identified during the workshop. As part of this process, wide ranging local consultations with local communities, private sector representatives, civil and government institutions will be conducted throughout the country. The consultations will assess various issues and options and involve the full range of stakeholders relevant to biodiversity, thus allowing a picture of ground based realities to emerge. The consultations will be carried out primarily by the short term consultants with some assistance from the planning team and national consultant.

The results of the analysis and consultations will be drawn together by the planning team, national and short term consultants with limited assistance from the international consultant. They will then conduct a second national workshop to invite comment and feedback on the results of the analysis and consultations. If appropriate, the second national workshop will develop new alternatives and options but will establish a broad consensus among the participants prior to finalization of the details of the BSAP.

Following approval of the BSAP by the steering committee, the BSAP will be disseminated widely within Lesotho and a country report to the COP of the Convention on Biodiversity will be prepared.

Coverage Without Duplication

The BSAP will provide a biodiversity conservation framework to complement the National Environment Action Plan, Agenda 21 strategies, as well as related projects by other donors. The BSAP will specifically provide a context for biodiversity management activities of the LHWP. The BSAP will rely upon preexisting data collected, and experience gained from reforestation and soil conservation projects undertaken by FAO, Netherlands, EU, ODA and the GTZ in Lesotho.

Time Plan and Sequencing

Activities will begin in September 1996 and proceed as follows:

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Establishment of steering committee and planning team	x									
Stocktaking and inventory of information	x	x								
First national workshop			x							
Training of planning team			x							
Identification and analysis of options, regional consultations				x	x	x				
Second national workshop							x			
Preparation of biodiversity strategy and action plan, dissemination								x	x	
Preparation of final report and submission to the COP										x

Best Practice

The project will follow methodology recommended in the "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994) and the "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (WRI/IUCN/UNEP). The project will draw upon South African expertise and strengthen cross border linkages to protect biodiversity. To emphasize participatory approaches towards conserving biodiversity the BSAP will conduct 2 national workshops and a wide range of consultations to involve the full range of stakeholders in Lesotho.

Project Financing:

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Information</i>	6,000		6,000
- national consultant	3,000		3,000
- documentation, misc.	3,000		3,000
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i>	7,000	63,000	70,000
- national consultants	4,000	11,000	15,000
- international consultant	3,000	9,000	12,000
- first national workshop		15,000	15,000
- training		10,000	10,000
- consultations		15,000	15,000
- travel, misc.		3,000	3,000
<i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i>	6,000	21,500	27,500
- national consultants	3,000	3,000	6,000
- international consultant	3,000	3,000	6,000
- second national workshop		12,000	12,000
- travel, misc.		1,000	1,000
- dissemination		2,500	2,500
<i>First National Report</i>	2,500		2,500
- publication	2,500		2,500
<i>Coordination and Management Costs (8%)</i>	1,720	6,760	8,480
Total for Enabling Activity	23,220	91,260	114,480

Deviations from Criteria and Norms

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

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

The National Environment Secretariat, established with UNDP assistance in 1994, will provide overall supervision to the enabling activity. The NES will establish a steering committee drawing representatives from government agencies, the LHDA, local communities, NGOs and the private sector. Guided by the steering committee, a planning team will undertake the work of the enabling activity with support from a national consultant. An international consultant will be recruited to provide training, facilitate the workshops and provide policy and planning guidance. Wide ranging consultations will be carried out primarily by short term consultants, who will be hired and trained primarily for this purpose.

References Cited

Hillard, O.M., B.L. Burtt, 1987. *The Botany of the Southern Natal Drakensberg*. Natal Botanic Gardens; Cape Town.

IUCN. 1992. World Conservation Monitoring Center. *Protected Areas of the World*. Gland Switzerland.

Natal Parks Board. 1994. *Greater Drakensberg- Maluti Mountain Region Community Development and Conservation Program*. Project Motivation Document.

Activity Matrix

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

Footnotes to Activity Matrix:

1. Lesotho has formulated a National Environment Action Plan which incorporates the principles of Agenda 21 and currently provides a limited context for biodiversity concerns. Under the NEAP framework, several soil conservation and reforestation efforts have been undertaken by the EU, ODA, GTZ, and FAO. However, existing policies and activities have failed to arrest the long term decline in biodiversity resources. A BSAP which builds on and complements prior activities and the NEAP is urgently needed to provide a framework for biodiversity conservation.

2. The BSAP will complement general strategies of the NEAP and Agenda 21 as well as management plans developed by the LHWP. Proposals and plans of the Natal Parks Board of South Africa to conserve biodiversity in the cross-border Drakensberg- Maloti mountain region will also be reviewed.