

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

Country: Malawi

Project Title: National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

Country Eligibility: Ratified the CBD on 2 February 1994

GEF Financing: US\$ 350,000

Government Contribution: In kind and personnel

Estimated Total Budget: US\$ 350,000

GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP

National Executing Agency: Ministry of Research and Environmental Affairs (MREA)

GEF Operational Focal Point:

CBD Focal Point: MREA

Estimated Starting Date: May 1996

Project Duration: 18 months

I. Background/Context:

Malawi is one of the countries in Southern Africa endowed with rich biological diversity. For example, the flora of Malawi is estimated at over five thousand described species. Generally speaking, knowledge about Malawi's flora and fauna is scanty even though information on some groups such as the higher plants is readily available. However, like in many other countries around the world, this valuable resource is threatened particularly by deforestation (estimated at 1.2 per cent per annum), unsustainable uses of biological resources and habitat conversion and fragmentation due to increase in human population. For example, many animal species (e.g. rhino) have been wiped out while others are threatened with extinction. The country is now seeking to identify measures to mitigate these trends by incorporating biodiversity concerns into its national planning processes.

II Project Objectives and Short Description:

The objective of the project is to support the Government of Malawi to fulfil the commitments deriving from Decisions II/7 and II/17 of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 2) as an initial step in meeting the obligations of the CBD, by:

- Documenting the biological diversity of Malawi covering plants, animals, microorganisms, genetic materials and ecosystems;
- Assessing and identifying components of biological diversity requiring immediate statutory protection;
- Identifying problems that impinge on the efforts to conserve the biological diversity of Malawi and identifying gaps that need addressing;
- Assessing the capacity of institutions and personnel in meeting the demands imposed by the requirement to conserve and sustainably use the country's biological diversity;
- Establishing a public awareness programme for the biological resources of Malawi;
- Preparing the first national report to be submitted to the fourth meeting of the COP in 1997.

III Operational Criteria:

i) Coverage without duplication:

The project will make use of existing capacity and information. For example, The National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens of Malawi has outstanding data records on the plants of Malawi which will be incorporated in the project. The activities under this proposal will complete existing efforts or assimilate them, without duplication.

ii) Appropriate overall sequencing of activities:

The general sequencing of activities will be as follows:-

- a) Preparation of a National Biodiversity Country Study including identification and analysis of options.

The process leading to the preparation of a national country study will take about a year. It will be based on a multidisciplinary, multisectoral participatory approach utilizing all relevant institutions and stakeholders to compile the existing information on Malawi's biodiversity and to build consensus on the criteria to be used for setting priorities and identifying actions.

This activity is expected to last 12 months.

b) **Preparation of a Strategy and Action Plan.**

Based on the assessment and analysis of existing data and information gathered in the country study process, a strategy and action plan will be developed to identify potential goals and objectives and to propose measures and investments needed to attain these objectives including the implications for national human, institutional, infrastructural, and financial capacities and the possible need for international cooperation.

This activity is expected to last 6 months.

c) **Preparation of the First National Report**

A National Report will be prepared based on the information contained in the country study and the progress achieved in preparing the strategy and action plan. The report will be done in the time frame stipulated in Decision II/17 of COP 2. This activity is expected to last 1 month.

iii) **Best practice:**

The methodology for the implementation of this project will be based on "Guidelines for Preparation of Biodiversity Country Studies" (UNEP 1993) and on the WRI/UNEP/IUCN "Guidelines for Biodiversity Planning".

iv) **Cost effectiveness and consistency of approach and procedures:**

The proposal will utilize existing information to the maximum possible. Exchange of experience and information with countries in the region which have prepared country studies (e.g. Mozambique and Namibia) will be encouraged to maximize benefits.

IV Institutional Framework:

The Ministry of Research and Environmental Affairs is the primary institution responsible for the coordination of activities related to management of biological diversity in Malawi. The main scientific institutions involved with biodiversity are: The National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens of Malawi; the Department of National Parks and Wildlife; the Department of Agricultural Research; the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi; the Department of Lands and Valuation; the Wildlife Society of Malawi; the Biology Departments of the national University and Colleges.

The execution of this project will be coordinated by the Ministry of Research and Environmental Affairs in conjunction with the National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens of Malawi. The MREA will appoint a project coordinator to manage a multidisciplinary team consisting of, inter alia, the institutions mentioned in the preceding paragraph. At least two workshops will be organized in the course of the implementation of the project to raise awareness of all major stakeholders on biodiversity issues and to disseminate the results of the project. The main purpose of the first workshop will be to formulate or arrive at coordination modalities between and among the participating institutions. This workshop will therefore be attended by institutions involved in biodiversity conservation, NGOs and related research institutions.

V Budget**Malawi NBSAP Project Budget (US\$)**

Activity	Product	Process	Total
1. Country study	60,000	20,000	80,000
2. Identification and analysis of options	60,000	90,000	150,000
3. Preparation of NBSAP	40,000	60,000	100,000
4. Preparation of First National Report	20	0	20,000
Total	180,000	170,000	350,000

VI Deviations from criteria and noms: None

TABLE A: Dimensions of Enabling Activities (Standard Activity Matrix), Malawi NBSAP

Enabling Activity	Out-put	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments (To see footnotes)
		Institutional Strengthening	Training		
Stocktaking of existing information					
- biodiversity and biological resources	x,o	x			1
- cross-sectoral issues	x,o	x			
- policy and regulatory framework	x,o	x			
- institutional and human capacity	x,o	x			
- analysis of root causes of BD loss	x,o	x			
- technologies for conservation and sustainable use	x,o	x			
- activities with adverse impact	x,o	x			
- existing measures and programmes	x,o	x			
- preliminary statement of objectives	x,o	x			
- identification of gaps	x,o	x			
- assessment of existing needs	x,o	x			
Identification and Analysis of Options to meet the objectives of the CBD					
- strategies for conservation	x	x		x	
- strategies for sustainable use	x	x		x	
- strategies for benefit sharing	x	x		x	
Planning and Preparation of NBSAP					
- national strategy	x	x	x	x	
- national action plan	x	x	x	x	
Preparation of the First National Report					
- First National Report	x		x	x	

¹ Generally speaking, knowledge about Malawi's biodiversity is scanty even though information on some groups is readily available.