

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
ADDITIONAL ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

Country	:	Mali
Project Title	:	Capacity Needs Assessment for the Implementation of Mali's National Biodiversity Strategy and Country Driven Clearing House Mechanism Project.
Country's Eligibility	:	Mali ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in March 1995.
GEF Funding	:	US \$184,500
Government Inputs	:	In kind
Total Budget	:	US \$184,500
GEF Agent	:	United Nations Development Programme
National Agency in charge of execution	:	Ministry of Equipment, Land-Planning, Environment and Urbanism
GEF Focal Point	:	Abdoulaye Kone
CBD Focal Point	:	Bather Koné
CHM Focal Point	:	Bather Koné
Start-up Date	:	November 2001
Duration	:	12 months

I BACKGROUND

In May 1998, Mali initiated the formulation of a National Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The elaboration of the BSAP was based on the gathering and analysis of available information and on a participatory planning process involving consultations with the stakeholders.

The initial work carried out enabled the parties to take stock of current knowledge regarding the state of biodiversity in Mali, the constraints on species, the country's ecosystems and the mechanisms for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources. The output of this work was submitted to a national workshop convened in March 1999, attended by representatives of national and local government bodies, private sector entities, NGOs, local communities and the community of development partners. The consultations which were carried out at the national, regional (9 regions) and local (50 "circles") provided support for the informational base and ensured that the strategy would proceed from a common understanding of its goals, the issues and the possible solutions to be selected for its implementation.

The resulting National Strategy and Action Plan were validated at a national forum held from 17 to 20 April 2000. The strategy provides a biodiversity management framework. It focuses on increasing awareness of biodiversity, capacity-building and development of conservation tools and management approaches, setting up an appropriate information system and promoting biotechnology to support the conservation and preservation of biodiversity.

The documents produced throughout the process included 6 thematic study reports, 9 regional reports and two volumes (one presenting the general status of biodiversity in Mali and the other the National Strategy and Action Plan). The documents have been filed with the Cabinet of the Ministry of Equipment, Land-Planning, Environment and Urbanism for their approval by the Council of Ministers. The financial support obtained from GEF for the initial enabling activity amounted to US\$265,320.00, of which US\$252,180.00 was for the initial enabling activity and US\$13,140.00 for the CHM¹. Disbursements made to date under the initial project are on the order of 98% the remaining amount is being used for publishing and disseminating key documents.

This add-on request is submitted so that Mali can better respond to fill the gaps highlighted during the National Validation Forum regarding capacity-building needs in order to implement effectively components of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Capacity assessment priorities selected therein include: (a) *In-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation measures, and (b) the preservation of traditional knowledge and practices which ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

¹ This amount was used to purchase computer equipment and accessories.

II PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The implementation of additional enabling activities is aimed at:

- Assessing the needs for capacity strengthening for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy, essentially for: (a) *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation measures, and (b) the preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge; and
- Country Driven CHM Project.

III CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The Action Plan selected for the implementation of the National Strategy has defined, with the year 2005 as a target, priority areas, measures and actions which will shape the general context which will enable effective conservation of biodiversity. The selection of these priorities was based on consensus as reached through the various regional and national consultations. The choice was validated by the 150 people representing the technical entities, NGOs, the private sector and the National Assembly who participated in the National Forum.

The activities considered under this request are part of these priority initiatives. They were selected on the basis of their eligibility for additional funding and include the following:

3.1 Strengthening of capacities for the implementation of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation measures

- Carry out a study to assess the needs for training of the elected officials (at the municipality, regional and national levels) in taking biodiversity into consideration within the development planning process.
- Convene a study feedback workshop and design a consensual capacity strengthening programme.
- Carry out a study aimed at assessing:
 - the needs for technical training in the areas of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation;
 - NGOs' capacity to promote biodiversity conservation;
 - national priorities as regards research in the area of biodiversity and taxonomy in particular; and
 - the needs for research in fundamental and applied biology for biodiversity conservation.
- Organize a feedback workshop on that study, in order to assess the needs in the areas of professional training, and capacity-building for NGOs for the promotion of both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* biodiversity conservation;

3.2 Strengthening capacities for the preservation and maintenance of local traditional knowledge and practices related to biodiversity.

- Conduct a study in the area of traditional knowledge and practices in order to:
 - identify, analyze and assess existing intellectual property systems so as to determine whether they are appropriate as mechanisms for the protection of traditional knowledge;
 - assess the needs to strengthen capacities on traditional knowledge and practices for the conservation of biodiversity.
- Organize a feedback workshop on the study's assessment of needs for strengthening the capacities on traditional knowledge and practices.

3.3 Country Driven CHM Project:

Goal: Strengthen capability of CHM Focal Point to Manage and Disseminate Information:

Activities:

- Creation of a web site and training of CHM Focal Point in data gathering, storage and dissemination for website maintenance and management.
- Conduct a study to assess:
 - the needs of the CHM focal point and partners as regards appropriate techniques and tools for the establishment of a thematic information system within the framework of the CHM; and
 - the national needs in human and institutional expertise for the management of information on biodiversity within the framework of the CHM ;
 - Protocols and information sharing mechanisms between centers of knowledge.
- Organize a workshop to obtain feedback on the results of the study. The workshop should also include activities to develop a practical handbook for the participation of grassroot communities in the CHM in Mali.

The Government of Mali and the Implementing Agency are satisfied this proposal conforms with the GEF criteria for additional funding of biodiversity enabling activities.

Priorities	Rationale	Work to be carried out	Expected outputs
<p>Strengthening capacities for the implementation of <i>in-situ</i> and <i>ex-situ</i> conservation measures and sustainable use of biodiversity</p>	<p>With ongoing decentralization, the planning of rural municipalities' development will very rapidly become one of the top concerns of the local elected officials (to whom Law 95-034 of 12 April 1995 has granted very broad powers for the management of resources). The various consultations underscore the fact that for a country such as Mali, essentially a rural one, this planning needs to integrate relevant issues pertaining to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources. However, the current capacity of the elected officials is not always sufficient to allow such integration.</p> <p>Furthermore, the first studies conducted within the framework of the elaboration of the Strategy have shown the lack of qualified human resources at national and local levels.</p>	<p>A study to assess the needs for capacity strengthening for elected officials as regards the integration of the biodiversity dimension in the local development planning process. The study will consist of a literature review and semi-structured interview, both on an individual basis and in groups. The data thus collected will be analyzed in order to: (i) understand the decision-making process and identify the decision-makers in the development planning area; (ii) determine the demand for training required to implement the strategy; and (iii) identify the needs for additional training of the stakeholders.</p> <p>A workshop to validate the study to assess the needs for training of the local elected officials.</p> <p>A study to assess the needs for capacity strengthening for technical training, capacity strengthening of the NGOs as regards the promotion of biodiversity conservation, and the national priorities for research on biodiversity. The approach will consist of a survey of the relevant institutions (DNCN, DNAMR, IER, University, NGOs, etc.) and of the analysis of the data thus collected.</p> <p>A workshop to provide feedback on the study to assess the needs to strengthen national capacities and expertise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A report on the study to assess the needs for training of the local elected officials. ▪ A consensual programme to strengthen the capacities of the elected officials. ▪ A report on the study to assess the needs for technical training and capacity-building of the NGOs as regards the promotion of biodiversity conservation; ▪ A consensual programme to strengthen the capacities of the national experts.
<p>Strengthening capacities for the preservation and maintenance of traditional local knowledge and practices</p>	<p>The regional consultations have shown a lack of sufficient information on the potential of traditional knowledge and practices as regards the conservation of biodiversity and lack of qualification required to assess such potential.</p>	<p>A study to assess the needs for capacity strengthening for enhanced use of traditional knowledge and practices to support the conservation of biodiversity. The study will consist of a literature review and interviews with resource-persons.</p> <p>A workshop to validate the study to assess the needs regarding the strengthening of traditional knowledge and practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A report on the study to assess the needs for capacity strengthening as regards traditional knowledge and practices. ▪ An inventory of age-old knowledge and know-how of the populations, including the women, which may be used to implement the strategy for the conservation of biodiversity resources.

<p>Country driven CHM project.</p>	<p>The analysis of Mali's participation in the pilot phase of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) reveals gaps in the management of information pertaining to biodiversity, in spite of the acquisition of computer equipment. These gaps appears in particular as regards the technical capacities of the focal point and partners involved when it comes to establishing an appropriate system for the dissemination of available information.</p>	<p>Goal: Strengthen capability of CHM Focal Point to Manage and Disseminate Information:</p> <p>The project will ensure capacity strengthening for the CHM via the creation of a web site and the provision of training for the staff required to maintain the site and post data.</p> <p>A study on the needs for capacity strengthening of the focal point and partners on appropriate tools to establish a thematic information system within the CHM will be carried out. It will consist of preparation and transmittal of questionnaires to those institutions identified as major actors in the management of data pertaining to biodiversity. The data collected will be analysed with a view to determining the needs for training based on the actors mandates and their experience. Protocols and information sharing mechanisms will be developed. In addition, the study will also determine how to collect, store and disseminate data on biodiversity in Mali with the participation of the grassroot communities and the parties involved. Data management skills will be used in the management of the web site which will need to be periodically updated in order to include new data gathered by the population at the grassroot level.</p> <p>A workshop will be conducted to validate capacity building needs and elaborate a handbook for the participation of local communities in the CHM and in data gathering for the web site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of a web site and training of the staff required for its management and maintenance. • Conduct a study to assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The needs of the CHM focal point and partners as regards appropriate techniques and tools for the establishment of a thematic information system within the framework of the CHM; and the national needs in human and institutional expertise for the management of information on biodiversity within the framework of the CHM ; - Protocols and information sharing mechanisms between centers of knowledge. - Organize a workshop to obtain feedback on the results of the study. The workshop should also include activities to develop a practical handbook for the participation of grassroot communities in the CHM in Mali.
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IV INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The initial approach using participatory planning and consultations adopted for the elaboration of the National Biodiversity Strategy, will be continued for the implementation of the additional enabling activities. The planning team already in place will be supported by the senior national consultant and national consultants. The project steering committee includes representatives from the following institutions: IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), National Directorate for Nature Conservation, Operations of the Parc de la Boucle du Baoulé, the focal points of the Conventions (Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, Framework Convention on Climate Change), Ministry in charge of Environment, United Nations Development Programme, CCA-ONG, National Environmental Action Plan². Specific studies will be conducted in the form of consultations.

Workshops will be held in order to provide feedback to the stakeholders on the outputs of the process and to provide them with appropriate tools to promote good ownership of the outputs.

The additional project will be executed at the national level on behalf of the Government of Mali, by the Ministry in charge of Environment. Under the authority of this Ministry, the project steering committee will supervise the daily management of the activities entrusted to a senior national consultant (also known as "national project coordinator"). The latter will be supported by a multidisciplinary team of national consultants, who will be recruited for the tasks on an ad-hoc basis.

² The National Environmental Action Plan also represents the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

	<p>Organize a workshop to obtain feedback on the results of the study. The workshop should also include activities to develop a practical handbook for the participation of grassroot communities in the CHM in Mali</p>												
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VI. TABLE OF COST ESTIMATES FOR ADDITIONAL ENABLING ACTIVITIES
(BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY)

ACTIVITY/PRIORITY	OUTPUT	PROCESS	TOTAL
PRIOR APPROVED SUPPORT			US\$
• Original Enabling Activity less cost of CHM activities	(Detail not required)		252,180
• CHM support (through a complementary module or within the Original Enabling Activity proposal)			13,140
Total Approved Support			265,320
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT			184,500
Identification of needs for strengthening human and institutional capacities for in-situ and ex-situ conservation and sustainable use in order to ensure efficient implementation of the biodiversity strategy	23,633	56,600	80,233
Identification of needs for strengthening capacities for enhanced use of traditional knowledge and practices in favour of biodiversity conservation.	18,400	45,014	63,414
Country Driven CHM Project	10,533	30,320	40,853
GRAND TOTAL			449,820

MINISTERE DU DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL

INSTITUT D'ECONOMIE RURALE

DIRECTION SCIENTIFIQUE

UNITE DES RESSOURCES GENETIQUES

REPUBLIQUE DU MALI
Un Peuple - Un But - Une Fo

Le Point Focal
du Centre du Mécanisme d'Echange
de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique

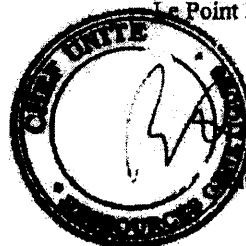
Objet: Lettre de soutien
au projet du CHM pour le Mali

A QUI DE DROIT

J'ai l'honneur par la présente de donner mon approbation au projet ci-joint pour le Centre du Méca
d'Echange, soumis au GEF par le Mali pour requête de financement.

Bamako le 22 Juin 2000

Le Point Focal du CHM



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MINISTERE DES MINES, DE L'ENERGIE
ET DE L'EAU

DIRECTION NATIONALE DE L'HYDRAULIQUE

REPUBLIQUE DU MALI
Un Peuple - Un But - Une Foi

**Le Point Focal du Point Focal
Opérationnel du Fonds pour
l'Environnement Mondial (FEM)**

Objet: *Lettre d'endossement de la requête de financement de l'évaluation des besoins de renforcement des capacités en matière de diversité biologique.*

J'ai l'honneur de donner, par la présente, mon approbation au projet d'activités additionnelles pour l'évaluation des besoins de renforcement des capacités en matière de diversité biologique et de mécanisme d'échange, soumis pour requête de financement au Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial.

Le financement de ce projet contribuera à mieux gérer les ressources de la diversité biologique au Mali.

Bamako, le 21 juillet 2001

Le Point Focal


Abdoulaye Kérékou