



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT
TELEFAX TRANSMISSION FROM



GEF COORDINATION OFFICE

CABLE: UNITERRA NAIROBI
TEL: (254 2) 621234

P.O. BOX 30552
Nairobi, Kenya

FAX: (254 2) 520825
(254 2) 226886
TX: 22068 UNEP KE

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <u>To:</u> | Mohamed El Ashry CEO GEF Secretariat | <u>Date:</u> 28 February 1997 |
| <u>Fax No:</u> | 1 202 522 3240, Washington D.C. | <u>Drafter:</u> CS |
| <u>From:</u> | John Tychsen Deputy Programme Coordinator UNEP/GEF Coordination Office | <u>Room:</u> Q-213 |
| | | <u>Ext:</u> 3257 |
| <u>Subject:</u> | Biodiversity Enabling Activity - Mauritania | |

Prefix No: JT/CS/sm

T.O.S. _____

Dear Mohamed,

Please find attached the biodiversity enabling activity proposal for Mauritania, for your consideration and approval.

The proposal was circulated to the inter-agency Task Force and subsequently revised to incorporate the comments received, as per the agreed expedited procedures for enabling activities.

I look forward to your positive feed back.

Yours sincerely

c.c. Avani Vaish
GEF Secretariat

Rohit Khanna
UNEP/GEF Liaison Office
Washington D.C.

Out/Fax No. _____/1997

Page 1 of 10

a:Maurita 28 Feb 97

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

Country: Mauritania

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 6 August 1996

GEF Financing: US\$ 233,000

Government Contribution: In kind and personnel

Estimated Total Budget: US\$ 233,000

GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP

National Executing Agency: Direction de l'Environnement et de l'Aménagement Rural (DEAR), Ministère du Développement Rural et de l'Environnement (MDRE)

GEF Operational Focal Point:

CBD Focal Point: DEAR

Estimated Starting Date: April 1997

Project Duration: 15 months

I. Background/Context:

Situated at the westernmost coast of Africa, Mauritania is one of the largest countries in West Africa extending over an area of 1,030,700 square km with an estimated current population of 2.3 million people. The largest part of the country occurs in the Sahara arid zone (in the north of the country) with an annual rainfall of less than 200mm, while the southern part of the country is in the Sahel region with an annual rainfall averaging 600mm. The coastal region along the Atlantic Ocean is recognized internationally as containing biodiversity of global significance with a marine park that was designated a Ramsar Site (Park du Banc d'Arguin). Wetlands in the Senegal River basin are also significant ecosystems in terms of biodiversity value.

The demographic profile of the country has undergone profound changes in recent years of which sedentarization of the population has been the most important. While a large proportion of the population consisted of nomadic herders some 30 years ago, the census of 1993 revealed that 2 out of 3 nomads have settled. This settlement, the high population growth rate (2.8% per annum), the unequal distribution of the population in the country (most of the population is concentrated in the south of the country), persistent drought and desertification are putting tremendous pressures on natural resources.

Despite the arid conditions found in most parts of the country, the topography of Mauritania has resulted in a unique landscape spanning: desert, steppe, savana, forests, woodlands, coastal area, oasis, lakes, springs, wadi and the Senegal River basin, in which a rich assemblage of fauna and flora can be found. More than 12,000 plant species have been recorded in Mauritania while the terrestrial wild fauna comprises animal species characteristically encountered in hot arid zones (e.g. Addax, Oryx, gazelles, bustards and ostriches). Domesticated animals, providing the major means of livelihood for the rural population, account for a substantial proportion of the vertebrate fauna of the country (cattle, camels, sheep and goats).

Nature conservation has received high priority in the country in recent years particularly with the creation of the world famous marine park "Parc du Banc d'Arguin" (Ramsar site) which contains an exceptional wealth of bird life, fish and marine biodiversity. It also shelters a number of world wide threatened species such as the green marine turtle, the Monk Seal and several Cetacea. This park is also an important site for a number of migratory bird species, most notably the world's largest concentration of overwintering migrant waders (> 2million). A new national park, the Parc National du Diawling, has recently been established in the delta of the Senegal River.

The government of Mauritania (GoM) has undertaken a number of steps to enhance the preservation and sustainable management of its biodiversity resources. The Ministry of Rural Development and Environment (MDRE) has the overall responsibility for formulating national policies related to environmental protection through its Directorate of Environment and Rural Development (DEAR). In order to ensure coordination with other parts of the government whose activities impact on biodiversity, a National Council for Environment and Development (CNED) was created. Chaired by the Minister for DRE assisted by the Minister for Fisheries and Maritime Economic Affairs, it brings together several stakeholders in the environment/development sector and the various regions of the country are represented in it by the Regional Councils for Environment and Development (CRED). An inter-ministerial Technical Committee for Environment and Development advises the CNED on the technical implementation of environmental policies by the different departments of the government.

II. Project Objectives and Short Description:

Despite the efforts undertaken by the GoM to enhance the preservation and sustainable management of the biodiversity resources of the country, this unique biodiversity, particularly in the coastal and marine areas and the valley of the River Senegal, is confronted to increasing pressures especially from urban and industrial development, settlement of the population and expansion of agriculture. In a fragile environment characterized by persistent

drought and desertification, these additional pressures need to be addressed if irreversible loss of the remaining biodiversity is to be avoided. Hence the principal objective of this enabling activity is to formulate the strategies necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of Mauritania's biodiversity, and prepare a plan for their implementation, within the overall framework of national sustainable development. The preparation of the first national report to the CBD will enable Mauritania to fulfill her obligations under Article 26 of the CBD pursuant to Decision II/17 of the Conference of the Parties (COP).

The project will start off with an orientation/training workshop to familiarise the planning team and national consultants in biodiversity analysis and planning and to sensitize them to the objectives and implementation schedule of the project. An international consultant will facilitate this workshop.

The preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) will adopt a logical sequencing of activities, starting with a stocktaking and review of existing data and information on the status of the country's biodiversity. The data collated in this exercise will be computerized in a data base hence offering the country the foundation for a biodiversity data management system. Procedures and guidelines will be set up for continuous development of this data base. The methodologies and toolkits developed under the UNEP/GEF Biodiversity Data Management and Networking (BDM) project will be provided to the national team to facilitate this undertaking.

The assessment of existing data will constitute the basis for the identification and analysis of options to meet the objectives of the CBD, a process that will be as participatory as possible bringing together all major stakeholders groups through regional and national workshops and as much public sensitization on biodiversity issues as possible through existing media and other outreach activities. Four regional workshops will be held bringing together as many stakeholders as possible, in the coastal region, the Senegal River Valley, the Sahara and the Sahel eco-regions respectively. The views gathered from these public consultations will be formalized in the draft national biodiversity strategy and action plan whose adoption will involve again a wide consultative process in a national workshop. The first national report to the Convention will be based on the progress achieved in the NBSAP and will be submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention in the time frame agreed by the COP at its third meeting. National consultants will be largely responsible for undertaking the stocktaking and review of existing data, and for the preparation of the NBSAP. International experts will be invited to the national workshop to assist the national team in the finalization of the NBSAP and to advise on the preparation of the first national report to the CBD.

III Operational Criteria:

i) Coverage without duplication:

The NBSAP preparation will rely on the existing information in Mauritania, build on and collaborate closely with other projects dealing with natural resources currently underway in the country. In particular, relevant information in the draft Country Environmental Strategy Paper (CESP) prepared with assistance from the World Bank will be fully utilized and consolidated.

ii) Appropriate overall sequencing of activities:

The project will be conducted over a period of 18 months as reflected in the schedule shown in the following table.

| | Activity/Month | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 | 11-12 | 13-14 | 15 |
|----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|----|
| 1 | Formation of Task Force and Planning Team, selection of consultants | x | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Orientation workshop for Planning Team and consultants on Biodiversity Analysis and Planning | | x | | | | | | |
| 3 | Stocktaking and Assessment of Existing Information | x | x | | | | | | |
| 4 | Public sensitization/media campaign activities | | | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| 5 | Regional workshops | | | x | x | | | | |
| 6 | First national workshop | | | | x | | | | |
| 7 | Drafting of NBSAP report | | | | x | x | x | | |
| 8 | Circulation of NBSAP draft report for comments | | | | | | x | | |
| 9 | Second national workshop | | | | | | x | | |
| 10 | Finalization of NBSAP | | | | | | x | x | |
| 11 | Printing and Publication of NBSAP | | | | | | | | x |
| 12 | Preparation and submission of First National Report to CBD | | | | | x* | | | x |

*-Because of the deadline of 1 January 1998 agreed upon at COP 3, an interim report will be submitted by that date. A final report will be prepared after completion of the BSAP.

iii) Best practice:

The methodology for the implementation of this project will be based on "Guidelines for preparation of biodiversity country studies" (UNEP 1993), the IUCN "Guide to the Convention" (1994) and "Guidelines for Biodiversity Planning" (WRI/UNEP/IUCN 1995). The lessons learned from other relevant projects and activities in Mauritania such as the NEAP will be fully utilized. The First National Report to the CBD will be based on the guidance provided in Decision II/17 of COP 2.

IV Institutional Framework:

The DEAR will be responsible for the implementation of this project under the overall supervision of the Ministry of Rural Development and Environment. At the onset of the project, DEAR will designate a project coordinator who will chair a Task Force for the project whose composition will draw on the existing departments and institutions represented in the CNED and include also representatives from NGOs, the local communities and the private sector. A core Planning Team of this Task Force, consisting mainly of the inter ministerial Technical Committee for Environment and Development will be responsible for planning the execution of activities under this project and will have the power to take all necessary decisions to ensure the smooth and timely implementation of the project. This planning team will be assisted by national and international consultants as appropriate in carrying out the tasks under the project.

V Project Financing Project Budget (US\$) Mauritania NBSAP

| Activity | Product | Process | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Stocktaking and Assessment of Existing Information | 40,000 | | 40,000 |
| - Collection of data/documentation | 7,000 | | |
| - National consultants (15p/m) | 15,000 | | |
| - International consultants (3p/m) | 9,000 | | |
| - Reports | 2,000 | | |
| - Miscellaneous | 2,000 | | |
| - Computerization of data | 5,000 | | |
| 2. Identification and analysis of options | 20,000 | 96,000 | 116,000 |
| - Orientation workshop for Planning Team | 3,000 | | |
| - Regional workshops (4) | | 60,000 | |
| - Public sensitization/media campaign activities | | 10,000 | |
| - National workshop | 3,000 | 15,000 | |
| - International consultants | 4,000 | 3,000 | |
| - National consultants | 5,000 | 3,000 | |
| - Reports | 3,000 | | |
| - Miscellaneous | 2,000 | | |
| - Task Force consultations | | 5,000 | |
| 3. Preparation of NBSAP | 17,000 | 30,000 | 47,000 |
| - National consultants (7p/m) | 3,000 | 4,000 | |
| - International consultants (2p/m) | 3,000 | 3,000 | |
| - Dissemination of draft NBSAP report | | 3,000 | |
| - National workshop | | 15,000 | |
| - Printing and publication | 7,000 | | |
| - Miscellaneous | 2,000 | | |
| - Task Force consultations | 2,000 | 5,000 | |
| 4. Preparation of first national report to the CBD | 12,000 | | 12,000 |
| - National consultants (report preparation and editing, 2p/m) | 6,000 | | |
| - Printing and publication | 5,000 | | |
| - Miscellaneous | 1,000 | | |
| 5. Co-ordination & Management Costs (approx. 8%) | 12,000 | 6,000 | 18,000 |
| Total | 101,000 | 132,000 | 233,000 |

VI Deviations from norms and criteria: None.

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

| Enabling Activity | Out-put | Capacity | Building | Public Participation | Comments (To see foot-notes) |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | Planning, Execution | Institutional Strengthening | Training | | |
| Stocktaking of existing information | | | | | 1,2,3 |
| - biodiversity and biological resources | x CESP | | | | |
| - cross-sectoral issues | x, CESP | | | | |
| - policy and regulatory framework | x, CESP | | | | |
| - institutional and human capacity | x, CESP | | | | |
| - analysis of root causes | x | | | | |
| - technologies for conservation and sustainable use | x | | | | |
| - activities with adverse impacts | x | | | | |
| - Existing measures and programs | x, CESP | | | | |
| - preliminary statement of objectives | x, CESP | | | | |
| - identification of gaps | x | | | | |
| - assessment of exiting needs | x | | | | |
| Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD | | | | | 1,2,3 |
| - strategies for conservation | x, CESP | x | x | x | |
| - strategies for sustainable use | x, CESP | x | x | x | |
| - strategies for benefit sharing | x | x | x | x | |
| Planning and Preparation of NBSAP | | | | | |
| - national strategy | | | | | |
| - national action plan | x, CESP | x | x | x | |
| | x | x | x | x | |
| Preparation of the First National Report | | | | | |
| - First National Report | x | | | x | |

x - Activity to be undertaken under this project.

1. CESP: A Country Environmental Strategy Paper was drafted with assistance from the World Bank in November 1993. It has not yet been finalized.
2. The following projects dealing with sustainable management of natural resources are currently under implementation and have generated information of relevance to this enabling activity: Lake R'Kiz project, Lake Aleg project, Tagant mountain range project, Desertification Control Multisectoral project,

Sustainable Management of Forest Resources project.

3. **An important stock of data on aquatic and coastal biodiversity is available from the Parc du Banc d'Arguin (Ramsar site) and the Parc National du Diawling (biosphere reserve).**

SENT BY:

254 2 520825
28- 2-97 : 2:19PM ;

UNEP→

202 522 3240;#10/10

Fax émis par : 22 22 507 41

D E A R

A4→04 04/02/97 09:55 Pg: 2

To: 00 254 222 3140

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

République Islamique de Mauritanie
Honneur - Fraternité - Justice

Ministère du Développement Rural
et de l'Environnement



الجمهورية الإسلامية الموريتانية
شرف - اخاء - عدل

وزارة التنمية الريفية
و البيئة

N° 00058/SG

08 FEB 1997

Nouakchott, le ذواكشتو في

N/R61.

V/R61.

Le Secrétaire Général الكاتب العام

A Monsieur Ahmed Djoghlaï,
Coordinateur Exécutif du GBF/PNUE

Objet : Plan d'action National pour la
biodiversité de la Mauritanie.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre le projet annexé à la présente portant sur la préparation d'un plan d'action national sur la biodiversité de la Mauritanie.

Le gouvernement de la République Islamique de la Mauritanie sollicite l'assistance du PNUE pour soumettre ce projet au Fonds Mondial pour l'Environnement afin de permettre à la Mauritanie de s'acquitter de ses obligations dans le cadre des décisions adoptées par la Conférence des Parties à la convention sur la diversité biologique.

Vous en souhaitant bonne réception, veuillez agréer Monsieur le Directeur, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

MOHAMED MAHMOUD SULD DAHI

