


New York, January 20, 1997

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This is to acknowledge receipt of GEFSEC comments for Mexico. We have carefully reviewed the comments in consultation with the recipient country and the proposal has been revised as appropriate:

1) While we agree that a great deal of information has and is being generated through different activities, additional resources are needed not only to ensure the proper integration of this information into comprehensive synthesis but also to present it in a manner understandable to a wide and diverse audience of stakeholders. Proper integration and presentation of this information is essential for the required participatory approach envisaged in the EA as well as the multisectoral discussions to be realized in the workshops. In this regard, it is estimated that \$US 4000 are needed to realize the above tasks as described in paragraph 6 pg.2; the budget table pg.5; and comment 1 pg.6.

2) CS contribution: it is necessary to clarify that the CS, in its final chapter discusses and outlines the principal lines of the National Biodiversity Strategy, and CONABIO will take into account this first mode, completing it with a more participatory approach: the organization of two national workshops and five thematic meetings with actors (see pg. 2, paragraph 4, last sentence and the Activity Matrix, pg.6, comment 2). Any relevant inputs provided by the WB/GEF Biodiversity project (1992) from the pilot phase, during the time-span of the EA will be considered and incorporated into the development of the NBSAP.

3) With regards to the participatory process proposed for the elaboration of the NBSAP, we have taken into account your concerns and introduced the necessary changes reflected in pg.3 para.#3; and pg.4 (first paragraph).

4) With regards to the resources previously allocated for Monitoring and Evaluation, you will note that these have been removed from the budget, as EA guidelines do not make provisions for this type activity.

The total and final EA budget is therefore \$US 198,000.

## GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

<b>Country:</b>	Mexico
<b>Project Title:</b>	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Report to the CoP
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Country Eligibility:</b>	March 11, 1993
<b>GEF Financing:</b>	US\$198,000
<b>Government Contribution:</b>	US\$56,000
<b>GEF Implementing Agency:</b>	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
<b>National Executing Agency:</b>	National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO)
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point:</b>	Ministry of the Treasury and Public Credit (SHCP)
<b>CBD Focal Point:</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE)
<b>Estimated Starting Date:</b>	February 1997
<b>Duration of Project:</b>	12 months

### I. Background:

Mexico has a remarkable biological diversity. Its location at the confluence of two biogeographical regions, with a great variety of climates and complex topography results in the physical and biological diversity that prevails in its territory. The country covers an area of 1,947,153 sq.km. which represents about 1.5% of the emerged land of the planet and is one of the eleven countries considered as 'megadiverse' that together contains approximately 65% of the earth's total biodiversity.

Mexico houses about 10% of the earth's land biodiversity. The nation occupies the first place in the world in reptile diversity with 704 species (of which 368 are endemic); the second in mammals with 466 species (144 endemic); the fourth in amphibians with 290 species (174 endemic); the fourth in vascular plants with 26,000 species (9,670 endemic) and the eleventh place in birds with 1,060 species (111 endemic) (CONABIO, 1992; WCMC, 1992). Mexico has almost all types of vegetation identified in the world and exhibits ecosystems of global significance. Another characteristic of Mexico is that many species of agricultural importance such as corn, cacao and tomato originated there.

Mexico is one of the most populated countries of Latin America and one of the 11 most populated nations in the world (Pujol, 1992; INEGI, 1995). In 1990 it had a population of 81,249,645 being the fourth most densely populated of those countries classified as 'megadiverse' (INEGI, 1990b). The country's population characteristics correspond to a decreasing population growth and an increasing life's expectancy at birth, with a considerable decrease in mortality and birth-rate (Pujol, 1992). Most of the population is between 15 and 64 years of age (Pujol, 1992). Currently, Mexico is going through a strong urbanization process. Despite its continual growth, the rural population represents a decreasing proportion of the total population of the country. In 1990, the estimated rural population was 23,289,924. As part of the rural population, indigenous groups experienced an increase in their absolute numbers but a decrease relative to the total population. Indigenous groups represent 10.7% of the Mexican population and they are distributed throughout the national territory. Mexico is also a country with a high cultural diversity, where 92 indigenous languages are spoken (INI, 1995).

As most tropical countries, Mexico has suffered a severe environmental degradation. Uncontrolled urbanization, changes in land use and inadequate technologies for using natural resources are causes of concern. Approximately 700,000 hectares of woods and forests are deforested annually and more than 900 plant species and 1,471 animal species are registered as threatened to some degree.

Improper land use has reduced soil fertility. Out of 37 hydrological regions, 29 exhibit manifest pollution. There are several cases in which commercial fisheries have been overfished. Given the very high proportion of endemisms in the Mexican biota, these environmental alterations have global impacts beyond the national sphere and become a topic of international concern.

Since the actors involved in one way or another with the use and conservation of biodiversity are manifold, the participation of a wide range of institutions, such as research centers and governmental and non-governmental organisations is therefore essential for the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) has been charged by the Government with the task of co-ordinating the different actors to produce the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NBSAP will define the fundamental lines of action intended to provide guidance for national policies that have repercussions on issues related to the conservation and sustainable uses of biodiversity and biological resources.

CONABIO is an interministerial body integrated by the following Ministries of State: Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP); Social Development (SEDESOL); Foreign Affairs (SRE); the Treasury and Public Credit (SHCP); Energy (SE); Commerce and Industrial Development (SECOFI); Agriculture, Husbandry and Rural Development (SAGAR); Education (SEP); Health (SSA) and Tourism (SECTUR). A presidential decree of March 16th, 1992, created CONABIO, as the responsible entity for promotion and coordination of projects and activities aimed at increasing the knowledge about biodiversity, the development of pilot projects of rational use of the potential of biological resources, and the diffusion of information and knowledge about biodiversity and biological resources to all sectors of society.

One of CONABIO's responsibilities within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity was to prepare a Country Study (CS). This project embodied a general diagnosis of the biodiversity situation prevailing in Mexico. It included issues such as biodiversity knowledge and uses, as well as identification of social, economic, technological or other processes that become the main threats and challenges concerning the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use. The CS was initiated in 1994 and constitutes the main information basis that will make possible the development of the NBSAP. The CS up to date has 5 chapters: The Country, in which demographic, social and cultural characteristics are described; Biodiversity, with a description of the available information, based on many sources including CONABIO's own databases, of the ecosystems, species diversity, genetic diversity and main threats and endangered species; Conservation, which describes the National System of Protected Areas, together with an analysis of its problems and also the main *ex situ* collections. The chapter on Use of Biodiversity is not yet finished since the information about non-timber products is still been gathered. The final chapter is a discussion and an outline of the National Strategy of Biodiversity.

In relation to the CS, out of 5 chapters, 3 of them need to be completed, and 2 more full chapters are already being developed according to the UN guidelines. Even if a considerable amount (70%) of primary information is available on biological resources in the CS, it will not be possible for this project to present all data but rather summarise what is strictly necessary for the production of the NBSAP.

CONABIO will fill the remaining topics of the CS in order to complete it. National consultants will be required in order to synthesize the great quantity of information derived from the Country Study during the first two months. This synthesis must be presented at the First National Workshop related to the NBSAP.

## II. Project Objectives and a Brief Process Description

The objective of the project is to generate a participatory process that, making use of the considerable amount of information and human actors available in Mexico, will produce i) a set of documents (the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, or NBSAP) describing the key actors and the actions, scopes and timings required from them to fulfil the objectives of the CBD. ii) Strengthen local and institutional capabilities to develop the NBSAP through a process of participatory planning and stakeholder consultation.

The enabling activity will also allow the country to meet its obligations under the Convention on Biodiversity by assisting it to prepare the First National Report for the 1997 COP.

Initially CONABIO will set up a multisectoral planning team (PT) with ten members who will be drawn from all the sectors involved in the Strategy: governmental agencies; the academic sector: conservationist associations and organizations; the social (peasant and indigenous communities) sector, the private sector as well as NGOs. The PT will be assisted by one lead national consultant and other national consultants who are experts in several fields such as economics, social sciences, ecology, forestry, environment management and legislation, among others. The lead national consultant will coordinate and facilitate project activities. The national consultants will help to run the national workshops. With assistance from the national consultants, the PT will undertake a review of the WRI/IUCN/UNEP guidelines for the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

The planning team members will be composed by people with ample and acknowledged representativity in their own sectors. Given the constraint of the size and complexity of the country, the number and variety of actors, and the time limitations of the project (whose results should be presented to the IV COP) an alternative of building the planning effort from the grass roots will be an impossible exercise, and probably unnecessary, since a number of fairly representative organizations and individuals have been developed over the last decade.

The first task of the PT will be to convene, with the support of national consultants, a first national workshop which will draw together a full range of actors from the relevant sectors, namely: i) the **governmental sector**, which will participate at national, regional and local levels involved in biodiversity issues; ii) the **academic sector**, represented by the foremost universities and the scientific community; iii) some of the most important or representative mexican and international **conservationist associations and organizations** which are the promoters of the conservation of natural resources and constitute a link between the government and the society; iv) the **social sector**, represented by peasant, indigenous peoples, communal and small producers associations; and v) the **private sector** with associations grouped together by the Entrepreneurial Consulting Board (CCE), vi) **NGOs**. The workshop participants will analyze the results of the stocktaking and inventory to select objectives, identify key issues and options in order to meet the objectives of the CBD.

In conjunction with the first national workshop, the lead national consultant will provide familiarization sessions for the planning team and the national consultants on analysis, strategic techniques and dissemination methods. Familiarization will allow the planning team and consultants to carry out a detailed analysis of the issues and options identified during the first national workshop. They will then develop a methodology for conducting five more thematic workshops.

Representatives from local and indigenous groups, the private sector, government agencies, NGOs and academic institutions will attend these workshops to assess various issues and options according to 5 main themes (one per workshop): 1) *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and the sustainable use of resources at different geographical scales, including genetic, forest & water resources, 2) institutional and human resources, 3) environmental legislation and management, 4) economic value of biodiversity and biological resources, 5) survey and monitoring of biological resources.

The findings of the 5 workshops will be recorded by the planning team and will result in recommendations which will be incorporated into the first draft of the NBSAP. This document will be presented at a 6th and final workshop to be held with all the involved sectors for their approval. After its approval, the NBSAP will be widely disseminated.

The planning team and the national consultants will work on the First National Report to the CoP of the Convention on Biodiversity. They will prepare an interim document in December 1997 and will present the final version at the end of the project.

### III. Operational Criteria

**Coverage without duplication:** The NBSAP will draw on existing information of governmental programs such as the Environmental Program 1995-2000 of the Federal Executive, and on other Sectorial Programs as follows: Environmental Program, Forest Program, Aquaculture Program, and Water Resources Program and as well as on the GEF/WB Biodiversity project (1992) from the pilot phase. CONABIO will also provide a Geographic Information System with thematic maps at a scale of 1:4x10<sup>6</sup> on species richness and endemism (at grids one degree and half degree) for butterflies, birds and mammals; human population (1980 density, 1990 density and rate of change); current land use (INFP, 1994); indigenous groups, ecoregions of Mexico (WWF) and localities; digital elevation models and on types of vegetation (*sensu* Rzedowsky) at a scale of 1:1x10<sup>6</sup> available. Maps of the localization of the Protected Areas are also available together with the result of a workshop on Priority Regions which produced 155 areas of importance or opportunity for conservation or sustainable use. Available, there are also 172 taxonomic databases from 49 academic institutions. These databases include 50 botanical collections, and 80 zoological collections. Links with most of the 40 biology universities' faculties and schools all over the country exist as well. No duplication is expected.

**Appropriate Sequencing of Activities:** The project will follow the sequence recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines. Activities will start in February 1997 and will last for 12 months, and be carried out according to the following time table. An Interim Report will be available in December 1997:

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Activity												
Establishment of planning team	x											
Synthesis of the CS	x	x										
First national workshop			x									
Identification of Analysis & Options				x	x	x	x	x				
Biodiversity Strategy and AP:												
a. First draft									x	x		
b. Final workshop											x	
c. Final document											x	x
Interim & First National Report											x	x

**Best Practice:** The project will be developed taking into consideration the guidelines established in the following documents: "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994), and "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (WRI/IUCN/UNEP). Experience about similar strategic planning exercises is available in the country.

**Deviations from Criteria and Cost Norms:** None.

#### **IV. Institutional Framework and Project Implementation**

The project will use co-ordination mechanisms among the political, legal and administrative parts to achieve an effective framework that will integrate the benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into a National Strategy. This framework will allow the planning team and the consultants to simultaneously analyze social, economic, geographic, biologic, productive, legislative, administrative and political information. The resulting analysis will be of great help in preparing recommendations concerning the conservation, use and monitoring of the Mexican natural resources. This project development will be executed by CONABIO.

CONABIO will hire consultants with a broad experience in the field of biodiversity conservation in Mexico. They have a thorough knowledge of conservation activities by different sectors. The national advisers will come from different organizations and have good academic training and experience in these fields. Together they will work on the Enabling Activity.

#### **V. Budget**

	Product	Process	Total
<b>Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Information</b>	<b>4,000</b>		<b>4,000</b>
1. Synthesis & compilation of the information of the CS for the first national workshop	4,000		
<b>Identification and Analysis of Options</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>102,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>
1. National Consultants	10,000	25,000	
2. First national workshop (travel included)		13,000	
3. Thematic workshops (5) (travel included)		50,000	
4. Training		14,000	
<b>Preparation of a Strategy and Action Plan</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>52,000</b>
1. National Consultants	7,000	20,000	
2. Final workshop for the approval of the NBSAP document		9,000	
3. Publication	10,000		
4. Dissemination		6,000	
<b>First National Report</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>
1. Publication (interim and final report)	10,000		
2. Promotion, misc.		6,000	
<b>Co-ordination and Management</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>153,000</b>	<b>198,000</b>

#### **VI. Preparation of the First National Report**

The First National Report will be prepared based on the Guidelines of the Conference of the Parties.

**ANNEX A: ACTIVITY MATRIX - 1997**

ENABLING ACTIVITY	OUTPUT	CAPACITY BUILDING		PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	COMMENTS
		Planning Execution	Institutional Strengthening		
<b>1. Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</b>					
1.1. Biodiversity and biological resources	CS				1
1.2. Cross-sectoral Issues	CS				
1.3. Policy and Regulatory Framework	CS				
1.4. Institutional and Human Capacity	CS				
1.5. Analysis of root causes of BD	CS				
1.6. Technologies for Conservation and Sustainable Use	CS				
1.7. Activities with Adverse Impact	CS				
1.8. Existing Measures and Programmes	CS				
1.9. Preliminary Statement of Objectives	CS				
1.10. Identification of Gaps	CS				
1.11. Assessment of Existing Needs	CS				
<b>2. Identification and Analysis of options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD</b>					
2.1. Strategies for Conservation	X	X	X	X	2
2.2. Strategies for Sustainable Use	X	X	X	X	2
2.3. Strategies for Benefit Sharing	X	X	X	X	2
<b>3. Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</b>					
3.1. National Strategy	X	X		X	3
3.2. National Action Plan	X	X		X	3
<b>4. Preparation of First National Report to CBD</b>					
4.1. First National Report	X			X	4

CS: have been done as part of the country study.

1. CONABIO will complete the remaining topics of the CS; *i.e.* stocktaking on traditional uses of biodiversity, the introduction of exotic species, the institutional capacity for the conservation & economic values of the biodiversity and natural resources. National consultants will be hired to synthesize the great amount of information derived from the CS which will be presented at the 1st national workshop of the NBSAP.

2. Training will be provided on participatory methods, biodiversity analysis, strategic planning and dissemination techniques. The CS, in its final chapter discusses and outlines the principal lines of the National Biodiversity Strategy, and CONABIO will take into account this first mode, completing it with a more participatory approach: the organization of 2 national workshops and 5 thematic meetings with actors.

3. The draft of the NBSAP will be revised and validated through consultations with the actors and the participating sectors.

4. This report will be structured on the basis of the results of the NBSAP in order to present an interim report in June 1997 and a final document at the end of this project.

**Annex 2:**

- CONABIO (draft) *Estudio de País*, 1996.  
CONABIO (draft) *Estudio de País, estado de avance*.  
CONABIO (draft) *Situación actual y acciones para la conclusión del Estudio de País*.  
CONABIO (1992) *Mexico confronts the challenge of Biodiversity*. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, México.  
Embriz, A. *et al.* (1993) *Indicadores Socioeconómicos de los Pueblos Indígenas en México*. INI. México.  
GEF/WB Biodiversity project (1992).  
INEGI (1990b) *Estadísticas Históricas de México*. I & II. INEGI. México.  
INEGI (1995) *El sector energético en México*. 1994 Ed. INEGI. México.  
Miller, Kenton, R. & Steven M. Lanou (1995) *National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines based on Early Experiences Around the World*. World Resources Institute, United Nations Environment Programme and the World Conservation Union. Washington DC; Nairobi; Gland, Switzerland.  
Pujol (1992) *La población en México de 1950 a 2025*. Demos. Carta Demográfica sobre México.  
SEMARNAP (1995) *Programa de Medio Ambiente 1995-2000*.  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre (1992) *Global Biodiversity: Status of the Earth's living resources*. Chapman & Hall, London.



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 DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ORGANISMOS FINANCIEROS INTERNACIONALES  
 Subdirección de Proyectos Ambientales y de Desarrollo Urbano

Oficio No. 383. III. 4.- 411

México, D.F., a 1º de octubre de 1996.

**SR. BRUNO GUANDALINI**

Coordinador Residente del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo en México  
 Presidente Mazarik 29, Piso 8,  
 Colonia Chapultepec Morales  
 Ciudad

Hago referencia al proyecto denominado "Estrategia Nacional, Plan de Acción e Informe a la Conferencia de las Partes", elaborado por la Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad ( CONABIO ), en cumplimiento de los Artículos 6 y 7 de la Convención sobre Diversidad Biológica de las Naciones Unidas, con el fin de ser sometido a consideración del Fondo del Medio Ambiente Mundial ( FMAM - GEF ) para su financiamiento a través del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo ( PNUD ).

Sobre el particular y como es de su conocimiento, nuestro país ratificó la referida Convención en marzo de 1993; posteriormente la Titular de la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y pesca, M. en C. Julia Carabias Lillo, en su calidad de Secretaria Técnica de CONABIO, propuso a la misma como el organismo coordinador para la realización de actividades relativas, en conjunto con las Dependencias involucradas, que culminen en el documento de la Estrategia Nacional.

Como punto focal del GEF en México, esta Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público está plenamente convencida de la importancia de la presente solicitud de asistencia para completar nuestros esfuerzos en materia de protección, conservación y uso sustentable de la diversidad biológica de México, acorde con los principios de las Naciones Unidas.

Con base en lo anteriormente expuesto y en su calidad de punto focal del GEF en México, la Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público apoya totalmente la propuesta en cuestión, toda vez que del presente proyecto se derivarán las capacidades y acciones necesarias para iniciar el proceso de planeación en materia de diversidad biológica, el tiempo que se dará cumplimiento a los compromisos contraídos por México ante la Convención de la Diversidad Biológica, referente a la presentación del primer informe a la Conferencia de las Partes a celebrarse en la mes de junio de 1997.



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Agradeciendo de antemano el favor que su fina atención sirva dispensar al presente, y sin otro particular por el momento, aprovecho la ocasión para reiterar a Usted las seguridades de mi más atenta y distinguida consideración.

A t e n t a m e n t e,  
 SUFRAGIO EFECTIVO. NO REELECCIÓN.  
 El Director de Organismos Financieros  
 Internacionales

P. A.

Carlos Vázquez Ochoa

- c.c.p.- Excmo. Sr. Emb. Alfredo Pérez Bravo.- Director General de Cooperación Técnica y Científica.- SRE.- Eje Central Lázaro Cárdenas 287, Nivel 3, Ala "B", Colonia Guerrero.- Ciudad.
- c.c.p.- Dirección General de Crédito Público.- Secretaría Particular.- Presente.
- c.c.p.- Lic. José Luis Samaniego Leyva.- Coordinador de Asuntos Internacionales.- SEMARNAP.- Lateral de Periférico Sur 4209, Piso 6, Colonia Jardines en la Montaña.- Ciudad.
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- c.c.p.- Subdirección de Proyectos Ambientales y de Desarrollo Urbano.- Presente.