

COMMENTS ON REVISED BRIEF

The proposal has been revised on the basis of comments received on 5 June.

1. A Table outlining Priority Capacity Assessment Needs has been inserted as requested and discussed with Ms. Song Li on 19 June.
2. The section Country Driven CHM project has been further elaborated as requested.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Global Environment Facility
Proposal for Additional Funding of a Biodiversity Enabling Activity¹

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|---|---|
| Country name: | Nicaragua |
| Project Title: | Assessment of Capacity Building Needs |
| Country Eligibility: | Nicaragua ratified the CBD on 20.11.1995 |
| Initial GEF Financing: | US\$ 252,247 |
| Additional GEF Financing: | US\$ 197,753 |
| Estimated Total Budget: | US\$ 450,000 |
| GEF Implementing Agency²: | UNDP Nicaragua |
| National Executing Agency: | Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point: | Dirección General de Biodiversidad y Recursos Naturales |
| CHM Focal Point: | Dirección General de Biodiversidad y Recursos Naturales |
| Estimated Starting Date: | September 2001 |
| Duration: | 12 months |

Enabling Activity Status

The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed by the Government of Nicaragua in June 1992 and ratified by the National Assembly in November 1995. The activities which have been implemented until now in compliance with the commitments made under the Convention, include the following:

- Elaboration of the Country Study on Biodiversity in Nicaragua (financed through the Bilateral Cooperation Finland - Nicaragua) which represents the initial step of the planning process of Biodiversity in Nicaragua;
 - Formulation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) initiated in January 2000 within the framework of the Biodiversity Enabling Activities financed by the Global Environmental Facility. A multi-disciplinary team, responsible for
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coordinating the project and facilitating the formulation process, was established within the “Dirrección General de Biodiversidad y Recursos Naturales” of MARENA. The methodology chosen for the formulation of the strategy emphasizes a participative process with the view of involving the greatest number possible of stakeholders in the national consultation.

The formulation process of the NBSAP consists of the following steps:

1. Conceptualization, design and planning (February – April 2000): this phase was used to define the conceptual and reference framework, to design the methodology of the process, to plan the local consultations and workshops as well as to identify and define the role of each stakeholder in the process.
 2. Analysis of information and elaboration of Draft document(May 2000–March 2001): a large consultation of all relevant actors was undertaken: 19 consultation workshops were held at the local level with the purpose of identifying the problems and existent potentialities in each department of the country with the participation of more than 700 local actors. 4 Thematic Consultancies were also implemented simultaneously on the Valuation and Problematic of: Ecosystems and Flora from Nicaragua; Fauna of Nicaragua; Genetic Resources; and Economic valuation of Biodiversity resources. 7 thematic workshops were held within the framework of these consultancies, with the participation of 500 representatives of different organisms. As result of these consultations a first draft of the National Biodiversity Strategy has been produced.
 3. Validation and officialization of the NBS (April – June 2001): the first draft of the NBS document is being presented and subjected to validation workshops. In particular, it is planned to have 10 sectorial workshops addressed to indigenous and peasant communities, NGOs, Government and entrepreneurs.
- The implementation rate of the Biodiversity Enabling Activities in Nicaragua reaches 89% in June 2001 with the project finalizing in August with the publication of the NBS and presentation of the First National Report of Nicaragua to the Secretariat of the CBD.
 - In this First Phase of the Biodiversity Enabling Activity for Nicaragua, the funds attributed to the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) were used specifically to finance the acquisition of hardware and software, as well as the access to Internet. This initial support has helped contribute to the dissemination of information on the project to the different actors and to the general public through the establishment of the website <http://www.marena.gob.ni/enb/>.
 - A draft document of the Biodiversity Law was formulated and will be subjected in 2001 to the consensus of the different sectors involved and to approval of the National Assembly.
 - Nicaragua also formulated its Environmental Policy Guidelines for the period 2001 –

2006, which define, in the area of Biodiversity Conservation, aspects related to the formulation of policy, to the implementation of an incentives program for the conservation of natural areas and restoration of degraded areas, as well as the establishment of a system of monitoring and control.

Project objectives

On the basis of the work undertaken during the First Phase of Nicaragua's Biodiversity Enabling Activity, the objectives of the Second Phase of the project will be the following:

(i) Identify and assess the Capacity-Building needs of Nicaragua in the following priority areas:

- a) Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to biodiversity components
- b) Initial assessment and monitoring programs, including taxonomy
- c) Incentives measures for the sustainable use of Biodiversity

(ii) Promote a dialogue among the different stakeholders working in the priority areas as well as improve the availability and dissemination of information on Biodiversity through the CHM.

(iii) Support consultations for the Second National Report of Nicaragua (the First National Report will be submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention in August 2001).

The Implementing Agency and the GEF Focal Point in Nicaragua have satisfied themselves that this proposal for Additional Funding complies with the Operational Criteria for the Expedited Financing of Additional Biodiversity Enabling Activities.

Priorities for Assessing Capacity Building Needs

The priorities contemplated in this Second Phase of the Project were identified and selected on the basis of the extensive consultations undertaken with representatives of the key stakeholders (governmental sector, private sector, academic sector, environmental organizations, NGOs, scientists, farmers and indigenous communities, etc.) during the formulation process of the NSBAP and reflect their immediate concerns. The priority areas identified are the following:

a) Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to Biodiversity components

Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to Biological Diversity components are of great importance for Nicaragua as its biodiversity is endangered by a range of serious threats caused and/or enhanced by the vulnerability of the national territory. The main threats faced by Nicaragua have been identified through the participative elaboration of the National Strategy of Biodiversity. However, the country does not possess the methodologies necessary for the evaluation and/or mitigation of these threats, which would allow a better management of its biodiversity resources.

Activities: the following activities will be carried out by the Coordination team of the National Strategy of Biodiversity, in coordination with relevant actors, including the National Forum of Biodiversity (FOROBIO), the National Commission of Sustainable Development (CONADES) and the National Commission of Biodiversity (CONABIO). National consultants and experts with wide experience in the subject will also be contracted.

- Gather information and identify weaknesses in national capacities to evaluate and to mitigate threats to the biodiversity;
- Revise the existent methodologies and identify the appropriate ones to be implemented in Nicaragua, using the existing mechanisms for exchange and facilitation of information (CHM among others). Special emphasis will be made on the methodologies used in the Meso-American Region;
- Organize three regional workshops of presentation and discussion of the identified methodology to validate it and identify obstacles and necessities for its implementation. Representatives of the governmental, private and academic sector and NGOs working on this topic will be invited to the workshops.
- Organize a national workshop of presentation of the results obtained in the process.

Product: an assessment and recommendations for the development of capacities that would allow Nicaragua to have an appropriate methodology to evaluate and to mitigate specific threats to its Biodiversity. Another output will be a system of indicators for the monitoring of threats to the Biodiversity of Nicaragua.

b) Initial assessment and monitoring programs, including taxonomy

The formulation process of the National Strategy of Biodiversity has determined that one of the aspects that the Country should strengthen is its capacity to monitor the Biodiversity. At the moment the country counts with a System of Information that has not been able to systematize all the efforts that the different institutions are carrying out to establish specific systems of information. Therefore, it is proposed to work in coordination with these institutions and standardize the different systems in order to build a National Monitoring Programme that strengthens the capacity of the Country and allows suitable decisions to be made on the monitoring of Biodiversity. This Program will be designed in such a way that it involves local actors and organizations, as well as the scientific community and universities.

Activities: the following activities will be coordinated by the team of the National Strategy of Biodiversity, with the support of national and regional experts:

- Gather information on existing Monitoring Systems in the Central American Region and identify suitable options for Nicaragua;
- Identify current monitoring activities in Nicaragua, what are the institutions implementing them, what are their capacities, requirements and weaknesses, and how could these capacities be strengthened in order to be integrated in a National Monitoring Programme;
- Organize three regional workshops to help gather this information and define the role to be played by the different actors within the National Monitoring Programme;
- Design a proposal for capacity building for a National Monitoring Programme and a strategy of implementation with recommendations for development of national capacities;

- Hold a national workshop to present and discuss the programme proposal and its strategy of implementation;
- Finalize the Programme Proposal and hold a final presentation workshop.

Products: assessment of capacity building needs for the design of a National Monitoring Programme and a strategy defining the national human resources, technical and financial requirements for the implementation of the Programme.

c) Incentive Measures

Incentive measures derive from the necessity to preserve and restore biodiversity resources and/or make use of them in a more rational and sustainable way. There is no existing system of incentives in Nicaragua that promotes the realization of this type of activities, given the lack of knowledge and awareness of the value of the national biodiversity resources.

Activities: the following activities will be coordinated by the Team of the National Strategy of Biodiversity, with the support of national experts and consultants.

- Review existing economic policies and instruments for the protection of Biodiversity in the country, such as user fees, penalties, subsidies and taxation that create positive or negative incentives for environmental degradation;
- Organize workshops with key national actors (governmental sector, private sector, Chamber of Commerce, etc) in order to identify the most appropriate incentive measures for the conservation of biodiversity resources and the obstacles to design and implement them in different sectors (mining, industry, trade, fishing, agriculture, forestry).

Products: an Assessment of the existing economic incentives for the protection and conservation of biodiversity resources in Nicaragua as well as a National Capacity Building Strategy for designing and implementing a national plan of economic incentives.

Country Driven Clearing House Mechanism Project

Objective: Obtain an effective exchange and dissemination of information on Biodiversity, to promote networking among all relevant information centers as well as to promote a greater participation of all stakeholders in biodiversity conservation.

Background: A National Biodiversity Information System with its own personnel and computer equipment, has already been established within the Direccion General de Biodiversidad y Recursos Naturales, in accordance with the General Environmental Law n°217. Although this System has not yet been developed to its full capacity due to technical limitations, it could serve, once strengthened, as an excellent mean to facilitate the sustainable expansion of the CHM activities and its dissemination activities in Nicaragua.

Activities Proposed:

- Gather relevant information on Biodiversity in order to expand the scope and information available on the MARENA website (in view of the future elaboration of a comprehensive database on Biodiversity in Nicaragua), as well as promote exchange and dissemination of information of the website to all relevant stakeholders and to the general public;
- Organize training workshops for national staff and personnel of the National Biodiversity Information System in order to provide technical advice, strengthen capacities to carry out CHM activities in Nicaragua and expand the scope of the Information Management System;
- Organize presentation workshop for managers of Internet Information System in order to assist the national CHM services to reach a wider audience, and develop a coordinated strategy for information dissemination;
- Work with managers of private Internet Service Providers to promote Biodiversity information dissemination in the private sector;
- Develop information management protocols and meta-data standards to facilitate the sharing of information among national information centers of biodiversity.

Expected Outcomes:

- Information on the status of biodiversity, ongoing programs, completed BSAP and national reports, available online.
- Staff of the National Biodiversity Information Center trained in information management, website development and maintenance and information networking and able to achieve an efficient management, exchange and dissemination of information on Biodiversity in Nicaragua
- Collaboration between National Biodiversity Information System, private Internet Service Providers and managers of Internet Information System.
- Protocols and meta-data standards to share information.

Consultations for the Second National Report

The First National Report of Nicaragua, prepared by the planning team and the national consultants, will be presented to the Secretariat of the CBD end of July 2001. It is therefore proposed to use the Additional Funding to undertake the consultative process required for the Second National Report of Nicaragua, in pursuance of decision V/19 of the Conference of the Parties.

The planned *activities* include the organization of consultations at the local and national level with the holding of meetings and a national workshop with the participation of all the relevant stakeholders.

Project Implementation / Institutional Framework

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) will be in charge of the execution and coordination of the project .The multi-disciplinary team, established in January 2000 within the “Dirección General de Biodiversidad y Recursos Naturales” and in charge of the elaboration of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, will be responsible for

carrying out and supervising the project activities. UNDP will be the implementing agency.

Other key stakeholders involved in the execution of the activities will include CONADES, CONABIO and FOROBIO, as well as governmental institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade, NGOs, the private sector, universities, environmental organizations, representatives of local and indigenous communities, etc.

Timetable

| Activity | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| a) Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to Biodiversity components | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ |
| Gather information and identify weaknesses in national capacities to evaluate and to mitigate threats to the biodiversity; | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Revise the existent methodologies and identify the appropriate ones to be implemented in Nicaragua | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | |
| Organize three regional workshops of presentation and discussion of the identified methodology | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | |
| Organize a national workshop of presentation of the results obtained in the process. | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | ■ | |
| b) Initial assessment and monitoring prog. | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gather information on existing Monitoring Systems in the Central American Region and identify suitable options for Nicaragua | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| Identify current monitoring activities in Nicaragua, institutions, capacities, requirements and weaknesses | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| Organize three regional workshops | | ■ | ■ | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | |
| Design a proposal for a Monitoring Programme and a strategy of implementation | | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | |
| Hold a national workshop to present and discuss programme proposal and strategy of implementation | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | ■ | | | |
| Finalize programme and strategy and hold final presentation workshop | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ |
| c) Incentive measures | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Review existing economic policies and instruments for the protection of Biodiversity in the country | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | |
| Organize workshops with key national actors (governmental sector, private sector, Chamber of Commerce, etc) | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | ■ | | | | |
| Completion of the CHM Process | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gather information, promote access to, exchange and dissemination of information on Biodiversity; | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Organize training workshops for national staff and personnel of the National Biodiversity Information System | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| Organize workshop for managers of the Internet Information System | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| Organize workshop for managers of private Internet service providers | | ■ | ■ | | ■ | | | | | | | | |

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Gather relevant information for the future elaboration of a comprehensive database | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preparation of Second National Report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Organize consultations with local meetings and national workshop with all stakeholders | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elaborate report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**Table of cost estimates for additional enabling activities (biodiversity)
(US\$ 197,753)**

| ACTIVITY | PRODUCT | PROCESS | TOTAL |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| APPROVED EARLIER | | | |
| • Original EA, less costs of CHM activities | | | 243,747 |
| • CHM support (provided through add-on module or project itself) | | | 8,500 |
| Total approved support | | | 252,247 |
| ADDITIONAL REQUEST | | | |
| Assessment of Capacity-building needs for³: | | | |
| • Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to biodiversity components | 9,000 | 32,200 | 41,200 |
| • Initial assessment and monitoring programs, including taxonomy | 20,000 | 45,200 | 65,200 |
| • Incentive measures | 11,753 | 26,200 | 37,953 |
| Sub total | 40,753 | 103,600 | 144,353 |
| • Country-driven project for participation in the clearing house mechanism | 27,200 | 11,200 | 38,400 |
| • Consultations for the preparation of a Second National Report | | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Total new request | 67,953 | 129,800 | 197,753 |
| TOTAL | | | 450,000 |

Annex 1. Priority Areas for Assessment of Capacity Building Needs

| Priority | Reasons for Priority | Work to be done | Product expected | Notes |
|---|--|---|--|--------------|
| <p>Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to Biodiversity components</p> | <p>Nicaragua's biodiversity is endangered by a range of serious threats caused and/or enhanced by the vulnerability of the national territory. However, the country does not possess the methodologies necessary for the evaluation and/or mitigation of these threats, which would allow a better management of its biodiversity resources.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather information and identify weaknesses in national capacities to evaluate and to mitigate threats to the biodiversity; - Revise the existent methodologies and identify the appropriate ones to be implemented in Nicaragua, using the existing mechanisms for exchange and facilitation of information (CHM among others). - Organize three regional workshops of presentation and discussion of the identified methodology to validate it and identify obstacles and necessities for its implementation. - Organize a national workshop to present the results obtained in the process | <p>An assessment and recommendations for the development of capacities that would allow Nicaragua to have an appropriate methodology to evaluate and to mitigate specific threats to its Biodiversity. Another output will be a system of indicators for the monitoring of threats to the Biodiversity of Nicaragua.</p> | |
| <p>Initial assessment and monitoring programs, including taxonomy</p> | <p>The formulation process of the NBSAP determined that the Country should strengthen its capacity to monitor the status of Biodiversity. Therefore, it is proposed to review the different monitoring methodologies employed in the country to better coordinate efforts and identify areas in which capacity needs to be strengthened.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify current monitoring activities in Nicaragua, what are the institutions implementing them, what are their capacities, requirements and weaknesses, and how could these capacities be strengthened in order to be integrated in a National Monitoring Programme; - Organize three regional workshops to help gather this information and define the role to be played by the different actors within the National Monitoring Programme; - Design a proposal for capacity building for a National Monitoring Programme and a strategy of implementation with recommendations for development of national capacities; | <p>Assessment of capacity building needs for the design of a National Monitoring Programme and a strategy defining the national human resources, technical and financial requirements for the implementation of the Programme.</p> | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | <p>-Hold a national workshop to present and discuss the programme proposal and its strategy of implementation;</p> | | |
| <p><i>Incentive Measures</i></p> | <p>There is no existing system of incentives in Nicaragua that promotes the necessity to preserve and restore biodiversity resources and/or make use of them in a more rational and sustainable way.</p> | <p>- Review existing economic policies and instruments for the protection of Biodiversity in the country, such as user fees, penalties, subsidies and taxation that create positive or negative incentives for environmental degradation;</p> <p>- Organize workshops with key national actors (governmental sector, private sector, Chamber of Commerce, etc) in order to identify the most appropriate incentive measures for the conservation of biodiversity resources and the obstacles to design and implement them in different sectors (mining, industry, trade, fishing, agriculture, forestry).</p> | <p>An assessment of the existing economic incentives for the protection and conservation of biodiversity resources in Nicaragua as well as a National Capacity Building Strategy for designing and implementing a national plan of economic incentives.</p> | |



Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

MARENA

PROTIERRA-CORREDOR BIOLÓGICO DEL ATLÁNTICO



Managua, 02 de Marzo del 2001

Señor
Carmelo Angulo
Coordinador Residente
Programa de la Naciones Unidas
Su Despacho.-

Estimado Señor Angulo:

Adjunto envío documento GEF "Remisión propuesta de Segunda Fase del Proyecto NIC/99/G31 "Estrategia Nacional de Biodiversidad, Plan de Acción e Informe a la COP", el cual después de revisarlo estoy endosando por ser un tema de mucha importancia para este país, por lo que le solicito realizar los trámites correspondientes para que sea entregado a las autoridades del Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Agradeciendo de antemano su atención a la presente, aprovecho la ocasión para brindarle mis altas muestras de consideración y estima.

Atentamente,

García A. Cantarero
García A. Cantarero
Punto Focal GEF

05 MAR 2001
UNDP - NICARAGUA

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MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE Y LOS RECURSOS NATURALES
MARENA



Dirección General de Biodiversidad y RR.NN.

DGBRN-CRL-03-0037.2001
Managua, 14 de marzo 2001.

Atención: Fionna Blum.

Señores
Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial
Su Despacho.-

Estimados Señores:

En mi calidad de Punto Focal del Clearing House Mechanism del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica, tengo el agrado de dirigirme a Ustedes en ocasión de expresar mi aprobación a las actividades referentes al Clearing House Mechanism, que se plantean en el documento de proyecto de la Segunda Fase de las Actividades de Apoyo a la Biodiversidad (Enabling Activities).

Agradeciendo mucho su atención, aprovecho la ocasión para expresarle las muestras de mi mayor consideración y estima.

Atentamente,


CARLOS RIVAS LECIO
Director General



cc: Archivo