

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

Country:	Republic of Niger
Project Title:	Niger's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Country Report to the COP
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Convention ratified on 25 July 1995
GEF Financing:	US \$229,500
Government Contribution:	In kind
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	Ministry of Water Resources and the Environment (MHE)
GEF Operational Focal Point:	None designated
CBD Operational Focal Point:	Directorate of Wildlife and Fisheries
Estimated Starting Date:	April 1997
Project Duration:	12 months

Background

The Republic of Niger lies between 12^o and 23^o latitude North, and between 0^o and 16^o longitude East in West Africa. The country is surrounded by Chad, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mali, Algeria, and Libya. The country has a land area of 1,267,000km², all of it in Niger River drainage. Niger's population was estimated at around 8,650,000 in 1993. With a per capita income of \$211, Niger is among the poorest countries in the world. Biological resources are the basis of the country's economy and 87% of the active population is involved in agriculture and cattle herding.

Biogeographically, Niger falls in the Sahel region, which constitutes a transition zone between the Saharan and Sudanian biomes. The northern half of the country is desertic and semi-desertic; the central part of the country is the Sahel dominated by wooded grasslands; and the South has Sudanian woodlands. On the basis of water availability and rainfall, the country has been subdivided into four agro-ecological zones ranging from north to south: that is respectively, the Saharan, Sahelo-Saharan, Sahelo-Sudanian, and the Sudanian zones. The Saharan zone covers as much as 65% of the country and receives less than 200mm of rainfall per annum. The Sahelo-Saharan zone receives between 200 and 300mm of rainfall per year, and it is essentially pastorals. The Sahelo-Sudanian zone receives between 300 and 600mm of rainfall per year, and it is mainly used for both agriculture

(cultivation) and cattle herding. Lastly, the Sudanian zone receives between 800 and 900mm of rainfall per year.

An overall reduction in rainfall patterns has been observed over the past 30 years. Rainfall reduction along with several human induced factors, including soil erosion, agricultural expansion, overgrazing, and a heavy demand for firewood and forest cutting constitute the major threats to the biological and natural resources of the country. Rapid soil degradation and advance of the desert in several regions of the country, such as Manga, Anzourou, Zarmaganda, Damergou, and around urban centers are also a threat.

The known extent of biodiversity in Niger amounts to 1,178 of vascular plants with only 2 endemic, 127 species of large mammals and 500 species of birds. It is believed that, for example, over the past 30 years there has been a drop of as much as 90% in the numbers of large mammal populations. Several mammal species are threatened with extinction. These include the addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), oryx (*Oryx algazelle*), collared sheep (*Ammontragus lervia*), manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), dama (*Gazella dama ruficolis*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and ostrich (*Struthio camelus*). As a country dominated by pastoralism, Niger also has a great variety of domesticated mammal species. These include camels, asses, cattle, sheep, and goats. The Kouri cattle strain, which is endemic to the Lake Chad basin, is on the brink of extinction.

The country has set aside some conservation areas. Air and Tenere Nature Reserve is floristically outstanding, particularly its highest peaks that have Saharo-montane vegetation. Along with "W" National Park and Tamou Nature Reserve, they conserve as much as 80% of the biodiversity of the country. "W" National Park is one of the key conservation areas for savanna woodlands in West Africa, due to its size and the proximity of other protected areas in Benin and Burkina Faso. Adjacent to the Tamou Nature Reserve occur important wildlife populations along the Sirba River. Also further to the north along the Niger River occur important habitats for wildlife, but they are under severe threat.

Threats to wild and domesticated animal and plant diversity in Niger have prompted the country to engage in major institutional, legal, and land reforms. In 1992, the *Conseil National de l'Environnement pour un Développement Durable (CNEDD)* was created and housed in the Office of the Prime Minister. CNEDD has been entrusted with the elaboration of a National Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development (*PNEDD*) and a National Programme for the Management of Natural Resources (*PNGRN*). Legal reforms have consisted of the enactment of the Guiding Principles for a Rural Development Code and the revision of the Forestry Code, Hunting Rights, and Fishing Rights. Meanwhile, a new constitution has been adopted, and it provides provisions for self governance, and free association for development and professional activities.

To date several institutions are dealing with the management of animal and plant resources for conservation and sustainable use. Among these are research institutions (*Institut National des Recherches Agronomiques du Niger, INRAN*; the University of Niger, IPGRI, ICRISAT, ORSTOM); development projects and structures in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (CMS, DA, CGRN); in the Ministry of Water Resources and the Environment (DE,

CSF, DFPP); and non-governmental organizations (ONVPE). Conservation areas are managed under the Ministry of Water Resources and the Environment (MHE) by the Wildlife Service. The Department of Water and Forestry also operates under the MHE and oversees wildlife, fisheries, and forests outside protected areas. Unfortunately these institutions and projects are working in a piecemeal fashion without the involvement of local communities, particularly in regard to their long-standing wisdom on ways to sustainably use biological resources.

To back up these reforms and institutions, there is a need for a coordinated framework strategy for biodiversity that will involve governmental and non-governmental institutions along with the local communities and that will clearly state the country's biodiversity vision under the PNEDD. The Secretary General of the *Conseil National de l'Environnement pour un Développement Durable (CNEDD)* in the Office of the Prime Minister has formally requested the Global Environment Facility through UNDP to support the formulation of the Country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and its first Report to the Conference of Parties (COP).

Project Objectives and Short Description

The principal objective of this enabling activity is to assist the Conseil National de l'Environnement pour un Développement Durable (CNEDD) and the Government of Niger in preparing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). The BSAP will define the current status of, pressures on, options for, and priority actions to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of its biological diversity. The project will build on the existing knowledge base to elaborate the BSAP through a process of participatory planning and stakeholder consultation. This will also enable Niger to meet its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by preparing its first country report to the Conference of the Parties. The BSAP will be a component of the PNEDD, which is to be formulated by CNEDD.

CNEDD will initially appoint a steering committee to supervise the BSAP process and provide overall direction and policy guidance. Members of the steering committee will be drawn, as a representative sample, from the full range of concerned biodiversity stakeholders. These include the Ministries of Water Resources and the Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries, and Education, research institutions, the private sector, NGOs, tribal leaders, nomadic cattle herders, and local communities. Representatives from these stakeholders will seat in the Steering Committee as respective delegates of: (a) the public sector (government and public institutions); (b) the private sector (NGOs and local communities); and (c) the donor community. Under supervision of the steering committee, a planning team will undertake the work of the enabling activity. Planning team members will be selected according to their biodiversity and planning expertise. Additional planning team members will be drawn to represent, on the one hand, decision and law makers, and on the other hand, biodiversity resource users.

The BSAP process will also draw from different sectors of the society. It will include the organization of 2 national workshops and 4 regional workshops. Regional workshops will

be organized for each agro-ecological zone of the country, as these correspond to a specific land use pattern.

The planning team will be assisted by one lead national consultant and several national and short term consultants experienced in biodiversity issues. The lead national consultant will coordinate and facilitate project activities. The national consultants will help to run the national workshops, and the short term consultants will run the 4 regional workshops. An international consultant will provide assistance in familiarizing the planning team in biodiversity planning, framing key strategies, drafting the BSAP and facilitating participation by all relevant biodiversity resources' stakeholders.

The planning team and consultants will initially undertake a review of WRI/IUCN/UNEP guidelines (Miller and Lanou 1995) for the preparation of a national biodiversity strategy and action plan. They will then compile and summarize existing information on the status of, and threats to the nation's biodiversity. This information and summaries of other donor financed natural resource activities in Niger will be presented at the first national workshop.

With support from national and international consultants, the planning team will conduct the first national workshop, which will draw together the full range of actors and stakeholders relevant to biodiversity. The first national workshop will include participants from national and local government agencies and institutions, the private sector, NGOs and local communities⁽¹⁾. The workshop participants will analyze the results of the stocktaking and inventory to select objectives, identify key issues and options, as well as actors and priority areas for review. In conjunction with the first national workshop and with the help of the lead national consultant, the international consultant will provide familiarization sessions in participatory methods, biodiversity analysis, strategic planning techniques and dissemination techniques to the planning team particularly to the national and short term consultants.

Following the first national workshop, a detailed analysis of the issues and options will be carried out by the planning team with the help of national consultants. As part of this process, 4 regional workshops will put together representatives from local communities and institutions, private sector and government agencies. The regional workshops will assess various issues and options by region of the country and involve the full range of local stakeholders in the BSAP process. The regional workshops will be conducted primarily by the short term consultants with assistance from the planning team and the national consultants.

The results of the analysis and regional workshops will then be drawn together by the planning team assisted by the short term consultants, and a draft BSAP will be prepared with the assistance of the national and international consultants. A second national workshop, to be attended by government agencies, NGOs, the private sector and local communities, will invite comment on the initial analysis and draft BSAP. New alternatives

⁽¹⁾ Participants of national workshops will include representatives from local communities, particularly the nomadic and pastoral people in the degraded areas such as Manga, Anzourou, Zarmaganda, and Damergou.

and options will be identified and developed to seek consensus among the stakeholders prior to the finalization of the details of the BSAP.

Upon approval by the project steering committee, CNEDD, and the Government of Guinea-Bissau, the BSAP will be disseminated widely within Niger and a country report to the COP of the biodiversity convention will be prepared by the planning team. Because the First Country Report will not be available until March 1998, in November 1997 the planning team will draft an interim report that the Government of Niger will present by the COP's deadline for reporting in December 1997.

Coverage Without Duplication

The BSAP will allow better linkages between government ministries and integrate biodiversity conservation within existing legislation. The BSAP will build on existing data to be compiled by national consultants under the guidance of the planning team. Significant stocktaking activities will be undertaken, as there is need to synthesize the existing information from biodiversity related projects and to repatriate data from abroad, primarily from France. BSAP will fit and benefit from other past and ongoing activities, including donor funded projects. CNEDD along with the BSAP Steering Committee will ensure that there is no duplication of efforts.

Time Plan and Sequencing

The project will follow the sequence of activities recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines, with variations as appropriate, based on lessons learned from early country experiences around the world (Miller and Lanou 1995). Activities will start in April 1997 and will last for 12 months.

Activity / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Establishment of steering committee and planning team	x	x										
Stocktaking, inventory of information (digest)	x	x	x									
Training (familiarization) of planning team				x								
First national workshop				x								
Identification and analysis of options, regional (provincial) workshops					x	x	x					
Preparation of biodiversity strategy, action plan								x	x	x		
Second National Workshop										x		
Adoption of BSAP by the Government and dissemination											x	
Preparation of interim report and submission to COP								x	x			
Preparation of first country report											x	
Publication and dissemination of country report											x	x

Best Practice

The project will follow methodology recommended in the IUCN's "Guide to the Convention on Biological diversity" (Glowka, et al. 1994) and the WRI/IUCN/UNEP's "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (Miller and Lanou 1995). The BSAP will prepare the grounds and identify priority needs of activities in the fields of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and benefit sharing to be undertaken by follow up projects. All nine criteria for best practices will be addressed. The project will enforce the development of participatory approaches in Niger, by incorporating inputs from all interested sectors of the society and practicing a decentralized multi-sectoral approach to mitigating biodiversity issues.

Project Financing

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Information</i>	12,000		12,000
- national consultants	6,500		6,500
- documentation, misc.	5,500		5,500
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i>	17,000	100,000	117,000
- national consultants	9,000	12,000	21,000
- international consultant	8,000	13,000	21,000
- first national workshop		25,000	25,000
- training (familiarization)		5,000	5,000
- regional workshops (4)		40,000	40,000
- travel and miscellaneous		5,000	5,000
<i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i>	18,000	54,500	72,500
- national consultants	7,000	12,000	19,000
- international consultant	9,000	12,000	21,000
- second national workshop		24,000	24,000
- travel and miscellaneous		3,500	3,500
- publication and dissemination	2,000	3,000	5,000
- <i>First National Report</i>	7,000	4,000	11,000
- preparation of interim report	1,500		1,500
- preparation of first country report	1,500	2,000	3,500
- publication of first report	4,000		4,000
- dissemination and miscellaneous		2,000	2,000
<i>Coordination and Management Costs (8%)</i>	4,320	12,680	17,000
Total For Enabling Activity	58,320	171,180	229,500

Deviations from Criteria and Norms

The project does not deviate from GEF enabling activity criteria and norms.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources and the Environment (MHE) in conjunction with *CNEDD (the Conseil National pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable)* of the Office of the Prime Minister with support from UNDP's country office. Under the guidance of the multi-sectoral Steering Committee to be chaired by the Executive Secretary General of CNEDD, an inter-agency planning team will manage project activities with the assistance of national and international consultants. At its first meeting the Steering Committee will agree on the country's biodiversity vision, as well as on methodologies and indicators for assessing progress and performance.

The first country report will be prepared following the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties in November 1996 and the guidelines by Miller and Lanou (1995). The report will be developed in consultation with diverse governmental and non-governmental agencies, including both the private sector and community representatives. The report and the BSAP will be disseminated widely upon completion.

Activity Matrix

Commitment	Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Building		Public Participat.	Comments
			Inst. Strength	Training		
	<i>Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</i>					
	- biodiversity & biological resources	x				1
	- cross-sectoral issues	x				1
	- policy and regulatory framework	x				1,2
	- institutional and human capacity	x				1
	- analysis of root causes of BD loss	x				1
	- technologies for conservation and sustainable use	x				1
	- activities with adverse impacts	x				1
	- existing measures and programmes	x				1
	- preliminary statement of objectives	x				1
	- identification of gaps	x				1
	- assessment of existing needs	x				1
	<i>Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD</i>					
	- strategies for conservation	x	x	x	x	
	- strategies for sustainable use	x	x	x	x	
	- strategies for benefit sharing	x	x	x	x	
	<i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i>					
	- national strategy	x	x	x	x	3
	- national action plan	x	x	x	x	3
	<i>Preparation of the first National Report</i>					
	- interim report to COP	x				
	- first national report	x			x	

Notes on the Activity Matrix

1. The BSAP stocktaking will build on the base of existing information from initiatives and projects by CARE, IUCN, WWF, DDA, FAO, UNDP, WB, and the EU. However, existing information needs to be summarized and reorganized to fit into BSAP process. Stocktaking in the present project will be more in-depth and species and area-specific to provide the kind of output necessary for strategy development. Some significant development projects related to biodiversity resources include:

(a) the IUCN/WWF/DDA/ISF programme on conservation and rural development of Air and Tenere;

(b) the UNSO general assistance to the Forest Service in conjunction with the Government of the Netherlands reforestation projects at Teri and Dakora;

- (c) the CARE Projects of the conservation of elephants in Babanrafi Forest, and
- (d) the DDA Projects for Natural Resources Management and Forestry at Dallol Maouri.

2. The BSAP will build and reinforce the land use, institutional and legal reforms initiated in the country since 1992 (see page 2).
3. The BSAP will effectively complement and enhance the provisions from existing plans and strategies. There will be no duplication as CNEDD and the Ministry of Water Resources and the Environment will ensure integration of the above mentioned programmes into the BSAP process. In addition CNEDD has been entrusted to formulate a PNEDD, which will encompass the BSAP. CNEDD will ensure coordination of efforts without duplication.

References

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- IUCN., The World Conservation Union. 1990. *Biodiversity in Sub-Saharan Africa and its Islands*. Gland, Switzerland.
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- Miller, K.R. and S.M. Lanou 1995. *National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Experiences Around the World*. WRI, UNEP, IUCN. 162 pp.
- United Nations Statistics Division 1994. *1994 per capita gross domestic product for African countries in US Dollars*. Economic Statistics Branch.

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Programme des Nations Unies
pour le Développement



Développement Mondial

REPRESENTATION AU NIGER

F A X

Date : 21 février 1997

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A : Monsieur John L. Hough
Coordonnateur pour la Biodiversité
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Référence
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Objet : Endossement du Projet de Stratégie Nationale de
Biodiversité pour le Niger.

En réponse au fax du 10 février 1997 du Dr Mugangu dont j'ai
reçu copie, je vous prie de bien vouloir trouver ci-joint la
lettre d'endossement du projet de Stratégie Nationale de
Biodiversité pour le Niger, signée par M. Jacques N'GOUY,
Ministre Délégué aux Finances agissant au nom du Gouvernement
Niger.

Ce projet qui cadre avec les priorités du pays en matière
d'environnement et de développement durable, pourrait être soumis
au PEM pour financement.

Je vous prie de noter que l'original de cette lettre vous
sera aussitôt transmise par courrier séparé.

Meilleures salutations.

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REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER
CABINET DU PREMIER MINISTRE
CONSEIL NATIONAL DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
POUR UN DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
SECRETARIAT EXECUTIF

Niamey, le

LETRE D'ENDOSSEMENT

Je soussigné, JACQUES NIGNON, Ministre Délégué aux Finances agissant au nom de l'Etat Nigérien, atteste que le Projet d'Appui à l'élaboration d'une stratégie nationale et d'un plan d'action pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable de la diversité biologique, reçu l'approbation du Secrétariat Exécutif du Conseil National de l'Environnement pour le Développement Durable.

En effet, ce programme cadre bien avec les priorités du pays en matière d'environnement et de Développement Durable, par conséquent nous vous le recommandons pour financement.

