

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

Country: Nigeria

Project Title: Nigeria's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Country Report to the COP

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

Country Eligibility: Convention ratified on 29 August 1994

GEF Financing: US \$313,740

Government Contribution: In kind

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

National Executing Agency: Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA)

GEF Operational Focal Point: FEPA

CBD Operational Focal Point: FEPA

Estimated Starting Date: July 1998

Project Duration: 12 months

A. Background

1. Nigeria is situated along the Atlantic Ocean by the Gulf of Guinea, and has a land area of 923,850km². Much of the country belongs to the Niger and Benue Rivers drainage system with only a small portion in the north-east in the basin of Lake Chad, and the south-east belonging to the Cross River watershed. It is bordered by Cameroon, Benin, Niger and Chad in the east, west, north-west and north-east respectively. With an estimated population of about 100 million which is growing at a rate of 2.9% per annum, the country's population is by far the largest and one of the fastest growing in Africa. Nigeria's average annual per capita income is \$280, and oil and agriculture constitute the pillar of the economy. The country is a federation of 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

2. Biogeographically, Nigeria occupies the transition zone between the Guinea-Congolean and Sudanian biomes. Also, there are Afro-montane elements in the eastern part of the country, and a Sahel transition zone in the extreme north-east. Lowland forests are believed to have once covered at least the southern half of the country, but the forests in south are now considerably fragmented for agriculture. Today, only about 10% of the country's total land area is covered with forest. Sudanian woodlands are found in the north, with a mosaic of forest patches. Grasslands predominate in the center of the country. There are extensive

mangrove areas along the coast, especially in the Niger Delta, as well as important wetlands along the northern rivers and around Lake Chad.

3. There are five distinct ecological zones in the country. These are: (a) the dry to semi-arid belt in the north-east; (b) the dry and semi-arid region in the north-west; (c) the savanna biome in the central part of the country (Middle Belt); (d) the rain forest belts in the south-east and south-west; and (e) the riparian vegetation (with rain forest and mangroves) in the south-east and south-west. These ecological regions constitute entities that are characterized by particular land use patterns and similar customs vis-à-vis natural resources utilization among local people and communities.

4. It is estimated that 4,614 vascular plant species occur in Nigeria with at least 205 endemic of which 128 are concentrated on Oban Hills, a center of endemism, in the east (IUCN 1990). Other centers of endemism include the Obudu and Mambila Plateaus. Animal life is diversified as well. There occur 24 primate species, 23 antelope species with two recent extinction (the giant eland and scimitar-horned oryx), 13 species of fruit bats, 2 rodent species of conservation concern, and there are many species of large mammals including the elephant, hippopotamus, pygmy hippopotamus, warthog, giant forest hog, and the red river hog. Six threatened species of bird occur of which the Fernando Po swift, Anambra wexbill and Ibadan malimbe are prominent. Also 3 crocodile species survive in small numbers, and there occur several tortoise species including the threatened African spurred tortoise. The status of marine turtles is unknown, but they seem to be threatened by offshore oil drilling. At least 19 species of amphibian occur in Nigeria, including the endemic toad, *Bufo perneti*, as well as several invertebrate species.

5. Through help by UNEP, Nigeria completed a Biodiversity Country Study in 1993. Also a National Conservation Strategy (NCS) was completed in 1997. Conservation area covers a little less than 10% of the total landmass of the country. The country's plan is to increase this figure to reach about 25% of the country's landmass. Presently, the protected area system comprises 6 national parks and 33 game reserves or sanctuaries covering a total area of about 4,293,800 ha scattered in different parts of the country, 12 strict nature reserves and 13 proposed game reserves and national parks covering about 372,000 ha located across the country. There are about 445 forest reserves located in different ecological zones covering a total of about 9,652 ha. The most prominent national parks are (a) Yankari, (b) Cross River, (c) Chad Basin Complex, (d) Gashaka Gumti, (e) Old Oyo and (f) Kainji Lake. These parks are providing protection for valuable forest, wetlands, woodland, shrub and grassland habitats. However, some habitats of particular concerns such as montane forest, mangrove swamp forest, mining areas and vast savanna regions are yet to be covered in the protected system.

6. Threats to biodiversity come from human encroachment and clearing of forest and woodland habitats for agriculture and energy resources. Further threats to biodiversity originate from hunting pressures, unregulated bush fires, grazing by livestock, soil erosion, and pollution, particularly from the oil industry. Moreover, not only is the country's protected area system not covering all the different types of threatened habitats, it

is also inadequately managed at all levels, but particularly at the federal level (IUCN 1990, 1992). Finally, there is lack of a coherent land use scheme for the country.

7. Most aspects of environmental management are devoted to the government of each Nigeria's State; the federal government provides only advice and coordination among State governments. Under the Office of the President of the Republic there is the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA), which sets out policy standards for the environment. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources oversees agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, but the institutional setting is so intertwined that responsibility for the management of biological resources is bewildering. As an example, while forestry and inland fisheries management devolves entirely on the State Governments, the Federal Government Department of Fisheries, along with the Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research controls marine fisheries. Wildlife conservation comes under the Federal Department of Forestry, while National parks operate under the Federal Departments of Forestry and Agricultural Land Resources. The National Council of Agriculture, which receives guidance from the National Forestry Development Committee (NFDC), provides further advice on conservation policy. The lands are controlled by State Governments, except the national parks. Within States, wildlife and forest conservation falls under the responsibility of a commissioner for agriculture, to whom in turn a Director of Forestry reports to. Although the State Governments have wide powers on natural resources, in practice they are influenced by the Federal Government because their funding are mainly provided by the federal government, and State Directors of forestry sit on the NFDC.

8. Because of the plethora of institutions with various responsibilities at State and Federal levels, the management of natural resource is poor. A major effort to streamline these institutions after several failed attempts, led to the establishment of FEPA in 1989. Also the country has now adopted a global vision for where it wants to be by 2010. This long-term vision is intended to guide all developmental work, including allocation and use of natural resources in Nigeria. FEPA is currently working in putting together a simpler coherent system to provide policy guidance and to manage the environment, in general, and biological resources in particular. Through a participatory process, FEPA is currently working on a National Environment Action Plan (NEAP), and a land use map for the country is being negotiated through the process. In addition, on 17 October 1996, FEPA requested the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP for assistance to develop and implement biodiversity projects. The initial component of the support is to assist the country to formulate a national strategy for its biological resources, to prepare a biodiversity action plan to be integrated with the NCS and NEAP and to report to the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

B. Project Objectives and Short Description

9. The principal objective of this enabling activity is to assist FEPA, relevant government ministries, State and Local Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs,) local communities and research institutions Nigeria to formulate a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and country report to the COP. The BSAP will define the current

status of, pressures on, options for, and priority actions to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable share 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 Nigeria to meet its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by preparing its first country report to the Conference of the Parties. The enabling activity will be conducted in conformity with the long-term development vision (Vision 2010) and will allow biodiversity to be properly integrated with existing frameworks such as NEAP and NCS.

10. Initially, a steering committee to be chaired by the Director-General/Chief Executive of FEPA will be established to supervise the BSAP process and provide overall direction and policy guidance. The members of the steering committee will be drawn, as a representative sample, from the full range of concerned biodiversity stakeholders. These will include representatives from relevant government agencies/departments and institutions such as the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources, States Environmental Protection Agencies, Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research, and Nigerian Institute for Pharmaceutical Research, the private sector (NGOs and local communities) and 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.

11. The BSAP process will involve representatives from different relevant sectors of the society, and it will involve the organization of 2 national workshops and 5 regional workshops. Regional workshops will be organized for each of the 5 ecological zones that combine the FCT and 36 States of the country following their specific land use patterns and bio-geo-climatic affinities. National and regional workshops will be attended by representatives from various ministries, public institutions, private sector, NGOs, community leaders and representatives, as well as the donor community.

12. The planning team will be assisted by one lead national consultant, several national and short-term consultants experienced in biodiversity issues. The lead national consultant will coordinate and facilitate project activities, as well as familiarizing the planning team in biodiversity planning, framing key strategies, drafting the BSAP and facilitating participation by all relevant biodiversity resources' stakeholders. The national consultants will help to run the national workshops, and the short-term consultants will run the 5 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.

13. The planning team and consultants will initially undertake a review of WRI/IUCN/UNEP guidelines (Miller and Lanou 1995) for the preparation of 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. Data will also be compiled on biosafety, biotechnology, and agrobiodiversity. This information, along with

summaries of the National Conservation Strategy, and other federal government or donor financed natural resource activities in Nigeria, will be presented at the first national workshop. This national workshop will draw together the full range of national actors and stakeholders relevant to biodiversity. 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 addition, with assistance from the national lead consultant, an 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.

14. Following the first national workshop, the planning team with the help of national consultants will carry out a detailed analysis of the issues and options. As part of this process, 5 regional workshops will put together representatives from local communities and institutions, private sector, government agencies, and donors. The regional workshops will assess various issues and options by the 5 ecological zones of the country and involve the full range of local stakeholders in the BSAP process. Primarily the short-term consultants will conduct the regional workshops with assistance from the planning team and the national consultants.

15. 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 will invite comment on the initial analysis and draft BSAP. New alternatives and options will be identified and developed to seek consensus among the stakeholders prior to the finalization of the details of the BSAP.

16. Upon approval by the project steering committee and the Government of Nigeria, the BSAP will be disseminated widely within Nigeria and the planning team will prepare a country report to the COP of the biodiversity convention.

C. Coverage Without Duplication

17. The BSAP will enhance dialogue and consultation among government ministries and agencies on biodiversity issues, and it will build on existing legislation to ensure biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit sharing. Also the BSAP will build on existing data to be compiled by national consultants under the guidance of the planning team. Stocktaking activities will be undertaken, as there is need to digest the biodiversity country study and to synthesize the existing information from biodiversity related projects. BSAP will fit and benefit from other past and ongoing activities, including donor funded projects, and FEPA along with the BSAP Steering Committee will ensure that there is no duplication of efforts. The BSAP will complement the recently completed National Conservation Strategy, particularly in adding to it strategies for (a) sustainable use, and (b) equitable benefit sharing of biodiversity resources following the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

D. Time Plan and Sequencing

18. 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 July 1998 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 (ecological zones) 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 first country report											x	x

E. Best Practice

19. The project will follow methodology recommended in 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 Nigeria, by incorporating inputs from all interested sectors of the society and practicing a decentralized multi-sectoral approach to mitigating biodiversity issues. In general, the project will benefit from previous biodiversity related initiatives in the country and utilize national expertise.

Project Financing

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Information</i>	3,000		3,000
- national consultants	3,000		3,000
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i>	21,000	165,000	186,000
- national consultants	13,000	16,000	29,000
- international consultant	8,000	11,000	19,000
- first national workshop		28,000	28,000
- training (familiarization)		5,000	5,000
- regional workshops (5)		96,000	96,000
- travel and miscellaneous		9,000	9,000
<i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i>	24,000	65,000	89,000
- national consultants	12,000	15,000	27,000
- international consultant	9,000	12,000	21,000
- second national workshop		27,000	27,000
- travel and miscellaneous		6,000	6,000
- publication and dissemination	3,000	5,000	8,000
- <i>First National Report</i>	6,500	6,000	12,500
- preparation of interim report	1,500		1,500
- preparation of first country report	1,500	2,000	3,500
- publication of first country report	3,500		3,500
- dissemination and miscellaneous		4,000	4,000
<i>Coordination and Management Costs (8%)</i>	4,360	18,880	23,240
Total For Enabling Activity	58,860	254,880	313,740

G. Deviations from Criteria and Norms

20. The project does not deviate from GEF enabling activity criteria and norms. The budget for the preparation of a strategy and action plan is close to the upper permissible range for enabling activities. This is so because Nigeria has several powerful biodiversity stakeholders that need extensive effort to persuade them to agree on a sound strategy for conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of the country's biodiversity resources.

H. Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

21. The project will be executed by the FEPA with support from UNDP's country office. Under the guidance of the multi-sectoral Steering Committee, an inter-agency planning team will manage project activities with the assistance of national consultants. During its early meetings the Steering Committee will agree on the country's biodiversity vision, as well as on methodologies and indicators for assessing progress and performance.

22. The first country report will be prepared following the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties in November 1995, which was held in Djakarta, and by the guidelines written 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.

I. 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
	- 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					1
	- existing measures and programs	x				1
	- preliminary statement of objectives	x				1
	- identification of gaps	x				1
	- assessment of existing needs	x				1
		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	2
	- national action plan	x	x	x	x	2
<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 information which exists as a result of initiatives and projects by the World Bank, NCF, WWF, EU, ODA, AWF, IUCN, ICBP, FFPS, and WCS. However, existing information needs to be summarized and reorganized to fit into BSAP process, particularly the information from the biodiversity country study that was completed in 1993. Some significant projects related to biodiversity resources include:

(a) the NCF, WWF, EU, ODA project for the protection of moist forests in Nigeria, including the development of a management plan for Oban National Park and sustainable use of resources around the park;

(b) the NCF, AWF, ICBP, IUCN, FINNIDA programme to conserve Hadejia-Nguru wetlands and oases in Borno State;

- (c) the World Bank, IUCN and Nigeria's government projects to survey wildlife in the country;
- (d) the ODA, NCF, WWF project for the alleviation of land use pressures around Okumu Wildlife Sanctuary;
- (e) FFPS' conservation awareness programme for hunters in the Cross River State;
- (f) NCF projects for the survey and management of Yankari Game Reserve and Taylor Creek Reserve, as well as Scalter's guenon population studies in Anambra, Imo, and River States;
- (g) ODA programme for the reform of the forestry sector in Cross River and Bendel States; and
- (h) WCS surveys of the distribution of the drill.

2. The BSAP will effectively complement and enhance the provisions from existing plans and strategies. There will be no duplication as the FEPA will ensure integration of the above mentioned programmes and other existing or ongoing plans, such as NEAP, into the BSAP process.

J. References

- Glowka, L., F. Burhenne-Guilmin, H. Synge, J.A. McNeely, and L. Gundling 1994. *A guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity*. IUCN Gland and Cambridge. xii + 161pp.
- 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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FROM : PEPRA ABUJA DG's OFFICE.

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Thu. 29 1998 02:07PM P1

OFFICE OF THE
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THE PRESIDENCY

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OUR REF: FEPA/EC/23/X
YOUR REF: _____
DATE: 29th. Aug. 1998

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**RE: LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT FOR THE NIGERIA'S BIODIVERSITY
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROJECT**

I wish to refer to the proposal submitted on behalf of Nigeria in respect of Biodiversity Enabling Activity Project.

This is to confirm that the government of Nigeria will support and endorse its request and hopes that the request will be considered favourably to enable us participate actively in the forthcoming COP.

Mr. Anas Ezeonu
For: Director General/Chief Executive

cc:

The resident Representative
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