



Herbert Acquay

12/09/99 08:07 AM



172

Extn: 85781

GEF

Subject: PDF A: Conservation of habitats and species of global significance in arid and semi-arid ecosystems in Balochistan

Dear Rafael:

The GEF Secretariat has reviewed the above PDF A and has the following comments:

- (a) the proposed PDF A is eligible under OP # 1 because its objectives are consistent with those of OP#1;
- (b) the GEF has successfully supported similar community based approaches to biodiversity conservation in Pakistan and we hope that they would serve as models to replicate with support from the government and other donors; and
- (c) Efforts should be made as the project is developed to secure co-financing from the intended beneficiaries and other key stakeholders.

Sincerely,
Herbert Acquay

To: Rafael.Asenjo@Undp.Org
cc: Gefbio-lw
Ramon Prudencio C. De Mesa



Ref #: GEFSEC-N-1999-00179

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR GEFSEC

Incoming Correspondence Log

Official Use Only

Due Date: 12/22/99

FOR ACTION: Kanta Kumari

STATUS: Open

Project Name: Conservation of habitats and Species of Global Significance in Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems in Balochistan

VPLI/Dept/Div: GEF	Date Logged: 11/22/99 08:56:06 AM
Room : G 6-036	Logged By: Ramon Prudencio C. De Mesa (GEF)
Telephone: 473-4269	

CORRESPONDENCE DESCRIPTION:

From: Rafael Asenjo
 Organization: UNDP
 Reference #:
 To: Mr. Keneth King
 Dated: 11/12/99
 Type: OP1
 Subject: OP1: PDF A: Pakistan: Conservation of Habitats and Species of Global Significance in Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems in Balochistan

ACTION INSTRUCTIONS:

Please reply directly and provide a copy

INFORMATION COPIES:

Colin P. Rees/Person/World Bank, Herbert Acquay/Person/World Bank, Mario A. Ramos/Person/World Bank, Maria C. J. Cruz/Person/World Bank, Walter J. Lusigi/Person/World Bank, Julie Anne Waller/Person/World Bank, Samia Rechache/Person/World Bank



United Nations Development Programme



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Date: 12/11/1999

To: Mr. Kenneth King
Assistant Chief Executive Officer
GEF Secretariat

Mr. Lars Vidaeus, Chief
Global Environment Division.
World Bank

Mr. Ahmed Djoghla
GEF Executive Coordinator
UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya

Pages: 16

Fax: 202-522-3240
202-522-3256
2542-520-625

From: Rafael Asenjo
Executive Coordinator

Subject: PDF A Funding for Medium Size Project: *Conservation of habitats and Species of Global Significance in Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in Balochistan, Pakistan*

Please find attached for your review and comments a PDF Block A request for funding entitled: *Conservation of habitats and Species of Global Significance in Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in Balochistan, Pakistan*

We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than 22 November 99

Thank you.

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**PROJECT PROPOSAL
BLOCK A PDF**

PART I - ELIGIBILITY

1. **Project Name:**
Conservation of habitats and species of global significance in arid and semi-arid ecosystems through community-based co-management in Balochistan, Pakistan.
2. **GEF Implementing Agency:**
United Nations Development Program
3. **Country or Countries in which the project is being implemented:**
Pakistan
4. **Country eligibility:**
CBD ratification: 26 July 1994
5. **GEF focal area(s) and/or cross-cutting issues:**
Biodiversity
6. **Operational program/short-term measure:**
O.P. 1: Arid & Semi-arid Ecosystems
7. **Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs:**
Sustainability and Conservation is the focus of National Conservation Strategy (NCS) which lays great stress on sustainable use of wild living resources that ensures their viability and preservation. The Balochistan Conservation Strategy (BCS) also places emphasis on conserving biodiversity through sustainable use. The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Pakistan identifies the need to strengthen the management of Pakistan's natural resource utilization programs and its recommendations specific to this project include the following:
 - a) To create conditions and incentives for biodiversity conservation at the local community level;
 - b) To strengthen and apply more broadly the tools and technologies for conserving biodiversity; and
 - c) To strengthen human knowledge, will and capacity to conserve biological diversity;

The project will be contributing to all these actions identified by the BAP.

The habitats/species to be conserved have been identified as priority areas/species to be conserved in the Biodiversity Action Plan. The Balochistan Conservation Strategy, a government of Balochistan policy document, also

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recommends strengthening the protected areas system for in situ conservation, and starting community based sustainable use programmes for the conservation of biological diversity.

The UNDP/GEF Project "Biodiversity Conservation in Pakistan with Rural Community Development" piloted a community-based co-management approach to conservation in Pakistan. However, the modalities of community-based co-management have to be adapted to local conditions, and this project will build on experiences already gained through the above-mentioned project to generate locally applicable models of community-based conservation and management.

There will be no programmatic or geographic overlap with other GEF large and medium scale projects in Balochistan, viz., the Protected Area Management Project (PAMP) and the PDF-A for conservation of juniper forests (IUCN) - see Annex II. In fact, both the PAMP and juniper projects have a strong component of community participation and thus this project will not only complement the PAMP and juniper forest projects, but will also complement the promotion of community based approaches to conservation. This project will actively network with other GEF projects in Pakistan and, where necessary, in the region for sharing of experiences.

8. **GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement:**
Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development. The project was endorsed by the Government of Balochistan on 6th October 1998, and by the Government of Pakistan on 4th November, 1998.
9. **Project rationale and objectives:**
Protected Areas cover 11.4 % of the total area of Pakistan, but they do not adequately cover critical habitats for important species. Due to frequent conflicts between conservation and human needs, it is difficult to establish any viable approach to conservation except through active community participation. The historic 'protectionist' approach to conservation is both exclusionary and expensive and evidence of the last three decades shows that it has not been very effective in many regions of the world. Indigenous people, who live in intimate contact with their major resources have, by necessity, a detailed and profound knowledge of their ecosystem and species, for their own subsistence.

This Project will work with local communities and the Government of Balochistan - Wildlife and Forest Department - to remove direct threats and underlying causes for losses of biodiversity, and to develop sustainable use regimes. A concurrent benefit of the project will be capacity building of Department staff at all levels to improve management of participatory approaches for conservation.

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The project will build on activities already pioneered by the Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG) in the Qila Saifullah District (one of the proposed sites for this project) to promote awareness of environmental problems and to establish conditions favourable to community-based management and conservation. The project will work at 1 or 2 sites (to be selected during PDF-A activities) to extend and adapt these pioneering efforts, both to similar and to different ecosystems.

Four candidate sites will be considered during the PDF-A, from which 1 or 2 sites will be selected for the GEF project itself. All four candidate sites contain biodiversity of global significance. In some cases the justification of global significance is based on several specific species which may be considered as flagship or indicator species, but in each case an ecosystem approach will be used to conserve biodiversity. In order to retain focus, project sites will have clearly defined and manageable geographical limits. A brief account of the species, habitats and ecosystems selected for intervention through community managed conservation programme is as follows:

1. Chagai Desert – habitat of endemic reptiles

The Chagai Desert is situated in South West Balochistan and is characterized by extensive sand dunes with isolated patches of arid mountains. It extends 500 km along the borders with the Siestan basin of Southern Afghanistan and Fars province in Iran, and is about 160 km across at its widest point. The Chagai Desert is an important center of endemism, particularly for reptiles. It contains six endemic reptile species; five lizards (*Agamura femoralis*, *Stenodactylus maynardi*, *Stenodactylus lumsdent*, *Eremias acutirostris*, *Eremias aporosceles*) and one snake (*Lytorthynchus maynardi*). The Chagai also contains two endemic mammals: the pygmy jerboa (*Salpingosus michaelis*), and Hotson's jerboa (*Allactaga hotsoni*). The area also is habitat to a threatened desert ungulate, the goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*). This species is quite rare in Pakistan and is only found in isolated pockets in Chagai Desert. This area is not covered by any category of protected area. The survival of these endemic reptiles, small mammals and goitered gazelle is threatened from exploitation for export to middle east and degradation of the habitat due to over-grazing.

2. Balochistan Bear (*Ursus thibetanus gedrosianus*) habitat in Phab Range, Khuzdar

The Balochistan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus gedrosianus*) has been listed as an endangered species in the IUCN Red Data Book. The habitat of the Balochistan Bear falls in semi-arid subtropical ecosystems of the Central Brahwi and Phab mountain ranges of Balochistan. The area is not included in any Protected Area system. Local communities belong to various sub-tribes of Brahwi speaking Balochs. Rain-fed agriculture and livestock are the major source of livelihood. The area contains perhaps the last surviving viable population of the Balochistan Bear.

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There are also anecdotal records of the common leopard (*Panthera pardus*), which is listed as threatened in the IUCN Red Data Book. The Balochistan Bear is killed by local people because it is perceived to destroy their cereal crops and attack their livestock. Consequently, the species is in imminent danger of extinction. The habitat also contains dwarf palm (*Nannorrhops ritchiana*). The roots, fresh shoots and fruit of this species is an important source of food for the bear. This palm is also being over-harvested commercially for manufacture of mats and ropes, thus destroying an important component of the habitat of the Balochistan Bear. There is an urgent need to conserve these species and their habitat through awareness raising and sustainable use of natural resources through community-based conservation programmes.

3. Straight-horned markhor (*Capra falconeri megaceros*) and Afghan urial (*Ovis orientalis cycloceros*) in Toba Kakar Range

The dry temperate semi-evergreen ecosystem of Toba Kakar range, in the north west of Qila Saifullah District, contains the last remnant population of internationally threatened straight-horned markhor (*Capra falconeri megaceros*) and Afghan urial (*Ovis orientalis cycloceros*). The area is also not covered by any category of protected area. Local communities belong to various subtribes of the Pashtoon Kakar tribe. Limited agriculture and livestock are mainstays of the local economy. In 1985, the local people of the Torghar mountains – part of the Toba Kakar range - started a modest conservation programme with the help of a local NGO called the Society for Torghar Environmental Protection (STEP). The NGO lacks financial resources and technical capacity for scientifically-based management of natural resources, but enjoys overwhelming support of local tribes. Grazing pressure is on the increase, due to the growth of the human population, and the conservation gains made to date are likely to be lost if the local people do not get the support to develop their capacity for proper management and utilization of natural resources.

4. Arid sub-tropical thorn ecosystem in southern Balochistan - habitat of various ungulates and cat species

The arid tropical thorn ecosystem in southern Balochistan is not only a threatened ecosystem but also contains some species which are of global significance. For example it is habitat of the Asiatic cheetah, mainly found in Iran but also reported here. In addition it is also the habitat of a species of the genus *Ovis*, the exact taxonomic status of which has not yet been determined. There are also significant populations of Sind wild goats (*Capra aegagrus blythis*) and chinkara (*Gazella gazella*). In addition the area also contains the common leopard, caracal (*Felis caracal*), desert cat (*Felis libyca*), jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), jackal (*Canis aureus*), and desert fox (*Vulpes vulpes pusilla*). The locals belong to the Baluchi speaking Bizinjo tribe. Livestock rearing and very limited agriculture are their main sources of income. The area also contains tracts of dwarf palm which is used locally for

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manufacturing mats, ropes, footwear and roofing material as well as exploited commercially - mostly by outsiders - for supplying manufacturers in other parts of the country. There is extensive illicit hunting in the area, mostly involving influential people from outside the area. The cats and canids are hunted locally for their skins and for preventing predation of livestock. If hunting goes on unchecked the wildlife will soon vanish. There is a dire need to introduce locally adapted management systems to provide protection to this unique ecosystem and its associated wildlife species.

In each of the sites, due to the breakdown of the traditional local institutions in the face of increasing centralized authority, local people are no longer able to make collective decisions through consensus. The state institutions have deprived people of their legitimate rights and tenure over wild land resources, which has resulted in open access to traditionally collectively managed common property resources. These factors are contributing to degradation of natural resources and loss of biodiversity. The women and children take care of the livestock, gather firewood, and collect many wild plants for food, medicine, and spices, etc. Therefore, the women and children have been severely affected by the degradation of the natural resources, as they have now to spend longer hours in pursuit of their tasks. Furthermore, women are generally neither consulted nor involved in planning, implementation of any type of the conservation and development projects.

Local people are not organized to respond to these new institutional controls over land and natural resources. They lack necessary skills, incentives, and institutional support to respond to the changed institutional arrangements. Still rooted in their traditional social structure, the men lack awareness of the need to involve women in decision making process under the new conditions. Both men and women are aware of the degradation of their natural resources, but have no organization and resources for collective action, and lack capacity to start locally adapted conservation initiatives.

The objectives of the project are to conserve biological diversity in globally significant ecosystems of Balochistan through socially well-adapted community-based co-management of the resources. Conservation of biological diversity in Pakistan, as in most of the developing countries, depends on engaging local people who derive their subsistence from the natural resources. Both the CBD and Pakistan's Biodiversity Action Plan place great stress on encouraging and protecting biodiversity through sustainable use and recognize the need to support local communities in this endeavor.

The conventional approaches of conservation through legal measures alone have not been successful in the past. Because of the perceived negative consequences of the designation of areas under some form of protection, there would be a lot of

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resistance from local communities to such an approach. Therefore, the only alternative is to use a community based conservation approach.

Specifically, this project aims to implement the following provisions of article 10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity:

- a) Support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (Article 10d of CBD).
- b) Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation and sustainable use requirements (Article 10c of CBD).
- c) Adopt measures relating to the use of biological resources to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (Article 10b of CBD);
- d) To contribute the lessons learnt to policy debates in CoP of CBD, Global Biodiversity Forum and other regional, global and national fora;
- e) To build capacity of the local NGOs and CBOs for conservation of biodiversity in Pakistan;

10. Expected outcomes:

The duration of the project will be five years. Some of the expected outcomes of the project are as follows:

- a) Selected critical habitats and species of global significance will be conserved through plans prepared and implemented by the local communities.
- b) Capacity of local organizations and government line agencies for community based conservation of biodiversity will be enhanced.
- c) Ecological profiles of the selected critical habitats will be prepared.
- d) Contributions will be made to improvements in legislation and policy to create an enabling environment for community based conservation.
- e) Networking with other community based conservation programmes will be promoted for sharing of ideas and experiences.
- f) Traditional systems of common property resource management will be re-instituted for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including establishment of village conservation funds.

11. Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

The project objectives will be achieved through the following list of indicative activities:

Social Mobilization

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- Awareness raising among local communities (both men and women), NGOs, and local government agencies of opportunities for constructive partnerships in community-based management and conservation.
- Fostering of community-based organizations for collective action to conserve and sustainably manage natural resources, with an emphasis on gender balance.
- Capacity building of stakeholders for community based conservation.
- Strengthening the capacity of local NGOs to emphasize community based biodiversity conservation in their programmes and involvement of women in conservation activities.
- Technical backstopping of selected NGOs/CBOs for the preparation of resource management plans;

Habitat Conservation and Sustainable Use

- Diagnostic surveys to assess habitat rehabilitation needs;
Rehabilitation of degraded habitats;
- Development of simple protocols for use by local people to collect and manage information for management of natural resources;
Develop and implement sustainable use regimes for conservation of habitats and wild species of commercial importance;

Policy and Legal Reform

- Contribute to policy and legal reform through demonstration and dissemination of models of community-based natural resource management and conservation

Documentation of Sustainable Use Regimes and Indigenous Knowledge:

- Document and analyze selected case studies on traditional cultures and knowledge which are particularly good examples of productive relationships between people and the wild resources including the use made of the species.

Awareness Raising and Communication of lessons learnt

- Orientation programmes for the NGOs, CBOs, on the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Stakeholder review meetings; publication of a quarterly newsletter in Urdu; and general awareness raising through print, and audio-visual media.

12. Stakeholders involved in the project:

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The Sustainable Use Specialist Group for Central Asia (SUSG), a volunteer network of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, will implement the project with active involvement of local communities, and the Provincial Forest and Wildlife Department. In addition, intermediary NGOs such as Strengthening Participatory Organizations (SPO), the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), IUCN, and WWF will be involved in design and implementation of the project.

The Provincial Forest and Wildlife Department is responsible for managing the Forests, Wildlife, Rangelands and Watersheds of Balochistan. The Department is under-staffed and currently its only focus is on enforcement of legislation. The critical habitats identified for conservation in this project do not receive adequate attention from the meagre staff who, in any case, lack capacity to envisage and act upon innovative, community-based conservation programmes. However, the government is aware of the need to conserve these habitats and both the provincial and central governments have endorsed the project proposal. During project implementation, the capacity of government agencies to conserve biodiversity through community-based conservation approaches will be enhanced. Furthermore, the government is committed to improving the socio-economic conditions of the people living in these areas and is therefore willing to seek ways to integrate conservation into development activities. During PDF-A activities alternative approaches to ensure sustainability of global benefits secured through the project will be explored.

PART II – INFORMATION OF BLOCK A PDF ACTIVITIES**13. Activities to be funded by the PDF:**

1. A diagnostic survey to:
 - 1.1. assess the health and condition of the selected habitats, and
 - 1.2. reconnaissance surveys to identify underlying causes for the degradation of habitat, and loss of biodiversity.
2. Preparation of a socio-economic profile of the selected sites.
3. Participatory assessments of the capacity building needs of the local people, intermediary organizations and government line departments.
4. On the basis of activities 1-3, select project sites and assess the scale of the project in terms of proceeding to an MSP brief or formulating a PDF-B en route to a Full Size project
5. Organize local and provincial level consultative workshops for consensus building.
6. Design a conceptual model of project interventions to tackle each of the threats at the selected site(s).
7. Develop collaborative partnerships with different stakeholders.

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8. Undertake an incremental costs analysis, and on this basis, identify sources of co-financing for activities not eligible for GEF funding, and mechanisms to ensure sustainability.

14. Expected outputs and completion dates:

The PDF A will result in the preparation of either a Medium Sized Project Brief or a PDF-B proposal. Intermediate outputs will include survey and workshop reports, and a draft conceptual model for discussion with UNDP/GEF. It is estimated that the various reports will be completed within four months from the date of availability of funds, and the final brief within six months.

15. Other possible contributors/donors and amount:

The Government of Pakistan is placing special emphasis on poverty alleviation under its Social Action Plan. The project will establish linkages with the relevant Government agencies for investments in the area to address development needs of the local people. In addition the World Bank has established a Poverty Alleviation Fund in Pakistan which is accessible by credible local organizations. In addition many donors have programmes for funding conservation and development activities of NGOs. All these sources will be investigated for co-financing under the PDF-A.

The Global Support Team of IUCN's Sustainable Use Initiative and other experts of Species Survival Commission will provide technical support on an in-kind basis. Similarly the Pakistani members of SUSG will provide technical assistance. SUSG Central Asia will contribute office facilities and services of the support staff.

16. Total budget and information on how costs will be met (including the Block A grant) – all figures in US\$.

1.	An assessment of the ecological and biological status of project sites	7500
2.	Preparation of socio-economic profiles of the project sites including underlying causes for loss of biodiversity	6500
3.	Training need assessment of stakeholders	2000
4.	Consultative workshops for project planning and design	2500
5.	Preparation of project proposal	2000
6.	Miscellaneous	500
	TOTAL	21,000

Projected request from GEF for project implementation will be in the range of \$700,000 to \$1.2 million, with comparable levels of co-financing for activities not eligible for GEF-funding.

Sustainable Use Specialist Group**PART III - INFORMATION ON APPLICANT INSTITUTION**

17. **Name**
Sustainable Use Specialist Group for Central Asia
18. **Date of establishment, membership, and leadership:**
Sustainable Use Initiative of IUCN was established under the aegis of Species Survival Commission in January 1995. The SUSG for Central Asia with its secretariat in Pakistan was established in February 1996. The Group has 44 volunteer members. The group covers 8 countries of the region (Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). The SUSG/Central Asia has received only seed money of US\$ 27,000 from Sustainable Use Initiative/IUCN to develop a membership base, develop a project proposal for demonstrating sustainable use in biodiversity conservation, document "good examples", and disseminate information.
19. **Mandate/terms of reference:**
To conserve biological diversity and benefit people, the SUSG-CAsia seeks to improve the understanding of factors or conditions that enhance the likelihood of sustainability in uses of wild-living natural resources. For this purpose, SUSG-CAsia has organized a network of experts to investigate relevant environmental and socio-economic factors, in particular by analyzing uses of wild-living natural resources in local and regional situations. SUSG-CAsia aims to communicate the findings of the network and resultant recommendations for application within IUCN, and to resource managers, government policy makers, involved communities, and the public generally, to encourage best practices and policies in the use and long-term maintenance of wild-living natural resources and the benefits derived from them.
20. **Sources of revenue:**
IUCN and other donors
21. **Recent activities/programmes in particular those relevant to GEF:**
Regional Programme Officer, Sustainable Use has implemented GEF UNDP Pilot Project entitled "Biodiversity Conservation in Pakistan with Rural Community Development. He was also the Director of the project formulation team for Protected Areas Management Project for Pakistan prepared by Pakistan through the World Bank. SUSG has undertaken following activities:
- a) SUSG held a number of meetings with Ministry of Environment for bringing about changes in the national policies, rules and regulations for community based conservation. The Group was instrumental in reactivating the National

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Council for Conservation of Wildlife (NCCW) which met in April 1998 after a lapse of seven years.

- b) Helped Government of Pakistan prepare a resolution for the 10th COP of CITES at Zimbabwe in June 1997 for export of six Markhor trophies from community managed conservation areas, which was approved by CITES.
- c) Provided training to the village wildlife guides to organize trophy hunting in the Northern Areas of Pakistan under a GEF/UNDP project entitled "Maintaining Biodiversity in Pakistan with Rural Community Development"
- d) Held a workshop in May 1998 in Bishkek, Kyrgistan on Conservation of Genetic Resources and Sustainable Use.

The workplan of SUSG/Central Asia for 2000 is as follows:

1. Prepare an over view of unsustainable use of biodiversity in the former Central Asian Republics.
2. Develop membership in Iran and Turkmanistan.
3. Publish a study on "good examples" of sustainable use in Pakistan.
4. Build on lessons learned from a pilot demonstration project for conservation of biodiversity in Balochistan.

Thus, this GEF project proposal complements but does not duplicate the core work programme of SUSG/Central Asia.

PART IV – INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

22. **Project identification number:** PAK/98/A07

23. **Implementing agency contact person:** Tim Boyle, Regional Coordinator, UNDP/GEF, One UN Plaza DC1-2364, New York NY 10017. Tel: (212)906-6511; fax: (212) 906-5825; email: tim.boyle@undp.org

24. **Project Linkage to Agency program(s)**

PAK/93/G41: Maintaining Biodiversity with Rural Community Development (GEF funded)

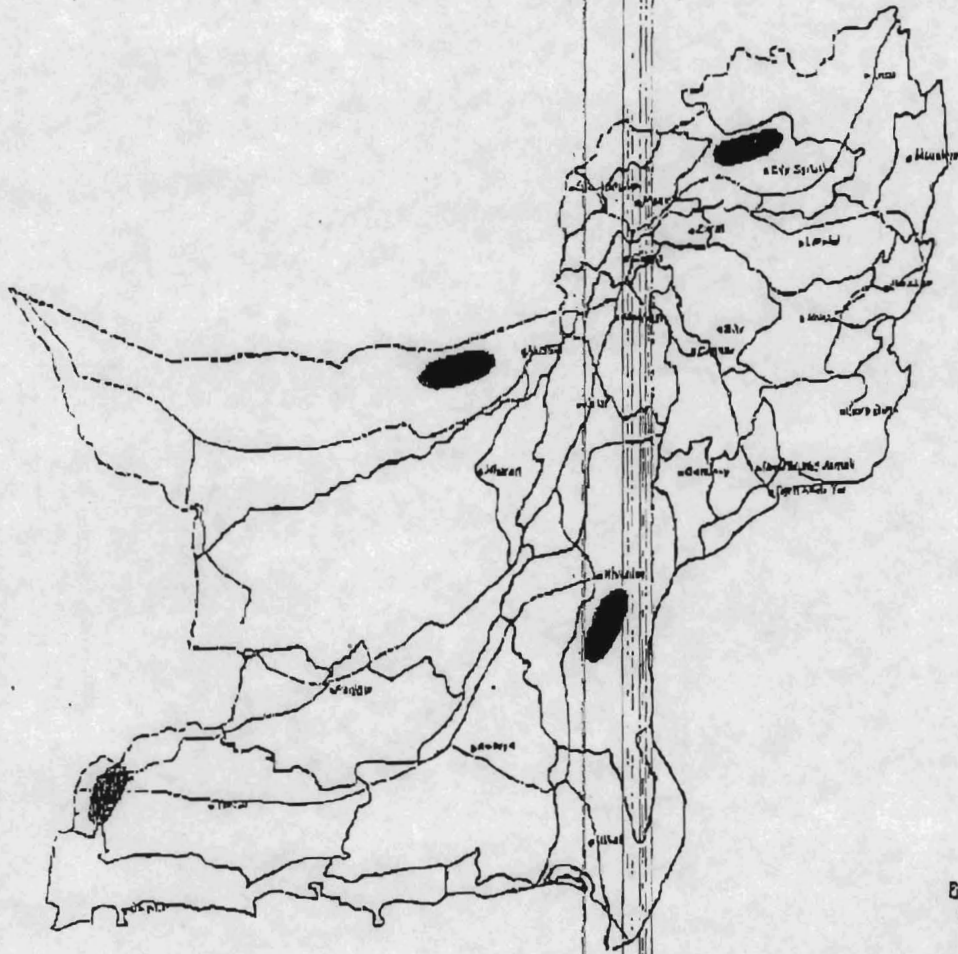
PAK/96/006: Balochistan Area Development Programme (UNDP TRAC funded)

PAK/96/021: Trial District Management Project (UNDP TRAC funded)

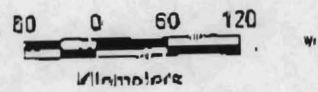
PAK/96/013: Rural Women Enterprise Development in Balochistan (UNDP TRAC funded)

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Annex I
Map of Balochistan showing the four Project sites

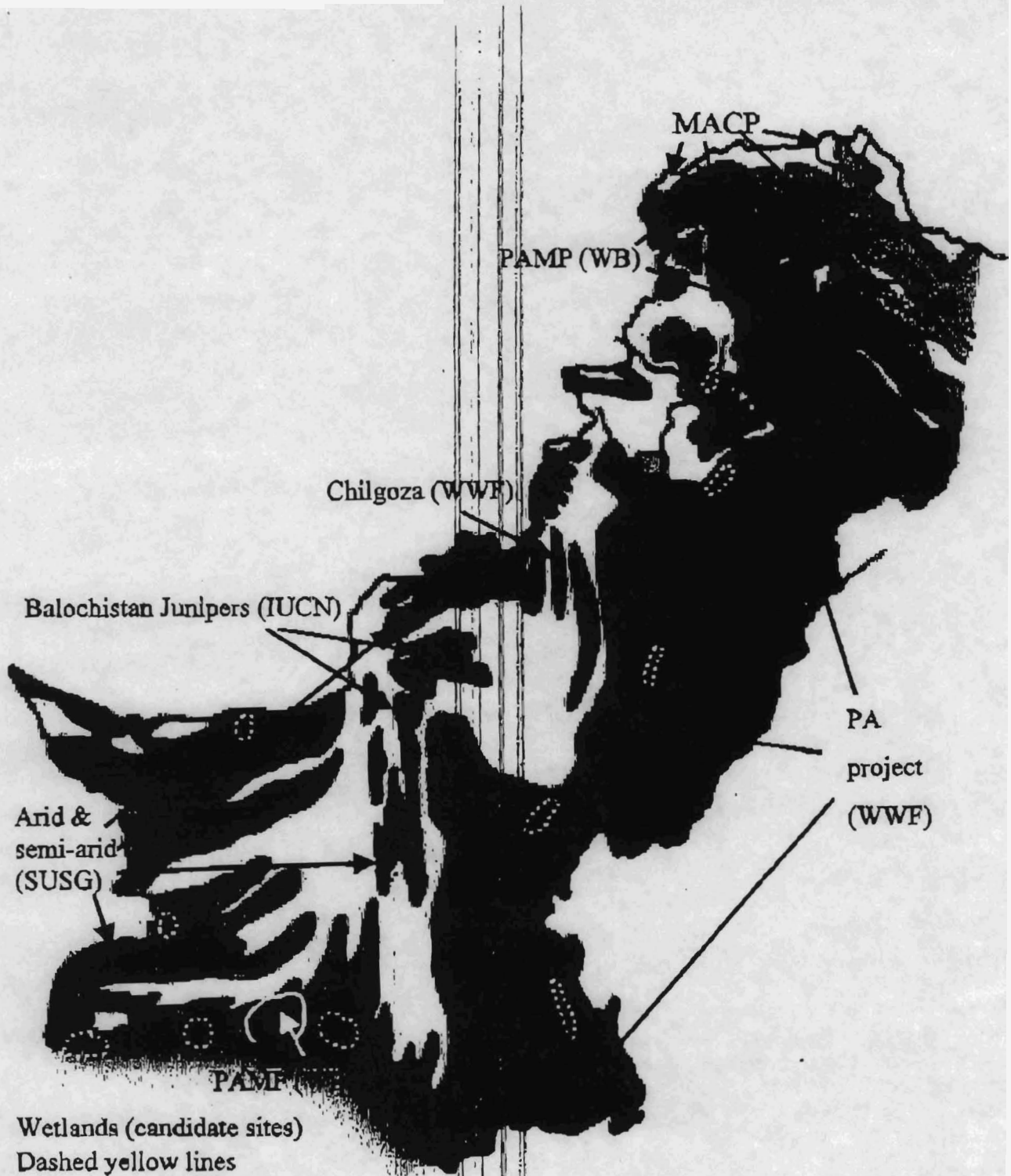


- LEGEND
- District head
 - Boundaries
 - International
 - District
 - Roads















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Annex II
Map of Pakistan showing locations of GEF project sites by ecosystem



Wetlands (candidate sites)
Dashed yellow lines

OP1: Green; OP2: Yellow
OP3: Light blue; OP4: Red
Sites under implementation:
Solid
Candidate sites: Dashed

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
|  | Sand dune desert |  | Mixed deciduous scrub |
|  | Tropical thorn/sand dune |  | Sub-tropical pine forest |
|  | Dry semi-evergreen scrub |  | Himalayan moist temperate forest |
|  | Juniper/pistachio scrub |  | Alpine scrub/moist alpine |
|  | Mangrove and littoral |  | Dry alpine/cold desert |
|  | Himalayan dry coniferous/ilex oak |  | Permanent snow fields/glaciers |

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Telex 54334 EUA PAK

No. 4(11)/97-Blo
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
Ministry of Environment, Local Government
And Rural Development



Director General (Env.)

Islamabad, November 04, 1998.

Subject: CONSERVATION OF HABITAT AND SPECIES OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID ECOSYSTEMS IN SOUTH WEST BALOCHISTAN, PAKISTAN.

Dear Mr. Sakaguchi,

A project proposal on 'Conservation of Habitats and Species of Global Significance in Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in South West Balochistan, Pakistan' submitted by Central Asia Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG) of IUCN under GEF Medium Size Funding is forwarded.

2. The sponsors of the project have initially requested for PDF Block grant of US\$ 25,000, leading ultimately to development of a full-scale project under Medium Size Funding.

3. The objective of the project is to maintain/increase biological diversity in arid and semi-arid ecosystems of Balochistan. The project will support local populations to develop and implement remedial actions in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced. This project would be a significant step forward to achieve the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Biodiversity Action Plan of Pakistan. The project is in consonance with the policy objectives of the Government with focus on the involvement of local communities in the protection of biological diversity.

4. Given the benefits accruing from the project at the global and national level, the Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development, as the national focal point of GEF initiatives in Pakistan, endorses the above mentioned project for Medium Size GEF funding.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mahboob Elahi
(MAHBOOB ELAHI)

Mr. Harumi Sakaguchi
DRR, UNDP,
Saudi-Pak Tower,
61-Jinnah Avenue,
Islamabad.

(DTP)

