

COUNTRY: PANAMA
Enabling Activity Proposal in Biodiversity

Country	Panama	
Project Title	Add ons: Assessment of Capacity-building needs for Biodiversity, Participation in CHM, and Preparation of a Second National Report	
GEF Focal Area	Biological Diversity	
Country Eligibility	Panama ratified the CBD on 17 January 1995	
GEF Financing	US\$ 220,800	
Government Contribution (in kind)		
	Office premises	USDS\$ 15,000
	Staff time	USDS\$50,000
	Biodiveristy Info. Network	USD \$10,000
	TOTAL	USDS\$ 75,000
Estimated Total Budget	USDS\$ 295,800	
GEF Implementing Agency	UNEP	
National Executing Agency	Autoridad Nacional de Ambiente (ANAM)	
GEF Operational Focal Point	Mr. Ricardo Anguizola Administrador General Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM) Albrook, Edificio 803 P.O. BOX: C-Zona 0843, Balboa, Ancon, Panamá Tel: (507) 315-0527, 315-1117 Fax: (507) 315-0573 Email: anam-bt@orbi.net or < anam-bt@orbi.net >	
Endorsement by GEF Operational Focal Point	Letter of Endorsement Attached	
CBD Focal Point	ANAM	
CHM Focal Point	ANAM	
Estimated Starting Date	February 2001	
Project Duration	15 months	

EA Status

NBSAP was completed in 1999 and the first National Report to the COP was submitted in 1998.

The NBSAP has been approved by the Council of Ministers in 1999.

90% of the UNEP/GEF grant has been disbursed.

Background

Initial UNEP/GEF funding (Project No. GF/1200-96-48) enabled the Protected Areas and Wildlife Unit of INRENARE to hire a project team to coordinate preparation of a NBSAP over a 3-year period. During this period the team:

- Established a National Biodiversity Steering Committee (NBSC)
- Reviewed existing knowledge of Panama's biodiversity and identifying key gaps
- Gathered information on the use of biodiversity in Panama as a guide to the socioeconomic importance of different species and ecosystems
- Consulted with Government ministries and technical bodies, Provincial authorities, organisations and community leaders to gain understanding of the concerns of each and seek consensus on strategic priorities and action plans
- Released a draft NBSAP for public review and comments
- Finalized the national strategy and submitted it to the Council of Ministers for endorsement
- Raised awareness of biodiversity through media, special events, and production of information materials.
- Participated in a trial of the Clearinghouse Mechanism obtaining access to the Internet.

The NBSAP project had major secondary achievements in raising the technical capacity of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Unit to address biodiversity management issues; in consolidating information about Panama's biodiversity; in building networks between the Unit and the other technical bodies, civil society organizations.

Participation in a trial of the CHM allowed the Environment Unit to develop competence in the use of electronic mail and the Internet, and have access to biodiversity information not otherwise available in Panama.

Project Objectives

1. To obtain national consensus on the specific mechanisms needed for on-going capacity building to manage the use of biodiversity and ensure its conservation in accord with the NBSAP.
2. Expand on initial participation in the CHM.
3. In accordance with the Decision V/19 of the Conference of the Parties, prepare a second national report for submission to the Secretariat CBD by the deadline May15, 2001.

Priorities for assessing capacity building needs

Panama's NBSAP identified a broad range of specific measures where it was necessary for the country to develop capacity to conserve and manage the use of biodiversity. These included improvement of scientific research, technical studies and introduction of information technology, interaction with various social and economic interest groups. However it fell short of detailing the specific mechanisms needed to address the capacity building needs of various technical bodies responsible for biodiversity management. Add-on funding will enable national consensus to be reached on specific capacity building mechanisms that can be implemented by government, and civil society and community as appropriate. (Annex A).

Participation in the CHM process

At present ANAM has a dial-up access to send and receive email and Internet browsing. However, this is barely enough to serve the growing needs for exchanging communication and posting material on the Internet. At present, an Internet site www.anam.gob.pa is under construction.

ANAM is coordinating the creation of the “Sistema Nacional de Información Ambiental (SINIA)” – a national initiative for environmental information management. It will be the gateway for all biodiversity-related information in the country with links to all relevant Ministries, authorities, technical bodies, academia and others.

This proposal includes provision for Panama’s Operational Focal Point to expand upon its present Internet access and links to the CHM mechanism of CBD. In addition to meeting recurrent CHM costs, the project will expand Panama’s Internet site on biodiversity and provide a forum for national and regional biodiversity researchers. It will also assist in:

- Creation of databases on national biodiversity particularly vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants viz. status, numbers; habitats; species distribution; use and other values of the species; available publications
- Data base on protected areas viz. status; boundary; habitats; inventory of species, ecological, economic, social and other values, available publications, etc.
- 2 CDs on a) Red-listed flora and fauna; and b) Protected areas
- Provide contact details for organisations in Panama responsible for biodiversity management
- Environmental information of interest to visitors to Panama: conservation areas; sites to observe, species of note etc.

It also provides for a consultant to be employed to provide on-the-job training in use and management of the CHM Internet site to the Project staff, civil society members and key partners in the Government.

Preparation of the 2nd National Report to the COP

The budget includes provision to assist with preparation of Panama’s reports to the COP, due with the CBD secretariat on 15 May 2001. Panama’s 2nd national report will be prepared by a local consultant in consultation with the NBSC and government and non-government organisations involved in the use and management of biological resources. Draft reports will be developed with a one-day workshop of national-level stakeholders in association with the NBSC. The report will be prepared in accord with the format and guidelines issued by the CBD secretariat so as to measure the state of national implementation of the CBD and review national priorities and actions.

Panama would also take this opportunity to explore the possibility of synergizing its approach to the preparation of various reports to biodiversity-related conventions such as CBD, Ramsar, CMS, and CITES.

Time Plan and Sequencing

The project is designed to be completed over 15 months to ensure effective consultation processes.

	1-3	4 - 6	7 - 9	10 - 12	13 - 15
Re-energise the National Biodiversity	➤				

Steering Committee					
Contract of Project staff/consultants	➤				
Establish working groups		➤			
Working Groups set on operation: ➤ Policy, Institutional and Legislative Review ➤ Assessment and monitoring ➤ Incentive Measures ➤ Access to genetic resources/benefit sharing ➤ Preservation of indigenous knowledge ➤ National Report	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤
National/regional workshops		➤	➤	➤	➤
Host consultations to produce the necessary responses for Second National Report	➤				
Public awareness initiatives to promote CHM and raise awareness of mechanisms adopted		➤	➤	➤	➤

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

Responsibility for managing the assessment of capacity building needs in the various areas, promotion and maintenance of the CHM, production of the Second National Report and reporting to UNEP / GEF will rest with ANAM. ANAM is the successor institution to INRENARE. ANAM is the national Focal Point GEF Operations as well as CHM. ANAM has created a Biodiversity Unit within the Natural Heritage Division, which will eventually have six professional members.

The present Project will be managed by the Biodiversity Unit of ANAM and technically supported by the National Biodiversity Steering Committee (NBSC). The NBSC will be composed of representatives from all relevant ministries, NGOs, including indigenous groups, and the private sector. The following institutions are expected to play important roles because of their responsibilities related to the overall management of biodiversity: the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the National Commission on Science and Technology, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the National Marine Authority, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the National Institute of Tourism, the National Institute of Culture (INAC), the Panama Canal Authority, and the Institute of Agricultural Research. As and when required, members from the academia, NGOs, private business and other walks of life would be invited.

In order to achieve its mandate, ANAM will contract project staff/consultants who will be based in the Biodiversity Unit and who will be responsible for the provision of technical, secretarial and administrative support to the Project.

The NBSC will also establish a number of working groups that will provide more detailed inputs and advice on the programs identified, and conducts necessary assessments. The NBSC will liaise with relevant agencies and bodies and undertake participatory approaches to produce the necessary responses to the Second National Report.

Working groups will draft discussion papers on a regular basis and submit these to the NBSC for appropriate action. At all levels, working groups will be comprised mainly of Panamanian

nationals, since there is extensive experience and expertise in the country, and since it is felt that participation in these working groups will constitute a capacity-building activity in itself. However, external expertise will be sought when necessary to maximize the output from the various enabling programs.

At all times public involvement in all major enabling programs will be sought. This will occur through a series of consultations.

Consistency of Approach and Procedures

The Implementing Agency and the GEF focal point of Panama have satisfied themselves that the proposal for additional funding complies with the Operational Criteria for the expedited financing of biodiversity enabling activities.

Budget Panama			
Cost Estimates For Additional Enabling Activities (Biodiversity)			
Activity	Product	Process	Total (US\$)
Approved Earlier			
Original EA less cost of CHM activities			215000
CHM support (provided through add on module of project itself)			14000
Total approved support			229000
1. ADDITIONAL REQUEST			
Assessment of capacity building needs for-			
<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation measures for in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use	8500	15000	23500
<input type="checkbox"/> Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threat to biodiversity components			
<input type="checkbox"/> Biosafety			
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Assessment & monitoring programs including taxonomy	8500	15000	23500
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity important for agriculture			
<input type="checkbox"/> Incentive measures	8500	15000	23500
<input type="checkbox"/> Access to genetic resources, benefit sharing and formulation of mechanisms for these purposes	31500	25000	56500
<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation/maintenance of biodiversity related knowledge of indigenous and local communities with traditional lifestyles	10000	10900	20900
Sub-Total	67000	80900	147900
2. Participation in CHM (Clearing House Mechanism)	45900	24000	69900
Sub-Total	45900	24000	69900
3. Preparation of a second national report to COP	0	3000	3000
Sub-Total	0	3000	3000
Total New Request	112900	107900	220800
GRAND TOTAL			449800

PRIORITY	RATIONALE	WORK TO BE DONE	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	Notes
<p>EX SITU AND IN SITU CONSERVATION</p> <p>Working Group: POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE REVIEW</p> <p>Implementation measures for in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use</p>	<p>There are critical gaps and overlaps in institutional arrangements especially for the management of marine and aquatic resources. The legal framework for protected areas is inadequate to achieve the objectives of the strategy and action plan. The policy reflected in the NBSAP now needs to be clearly articulated, adopted and operationalized.</p>	<p>Working group and consultants to review and advise on legal, institutional and policy issues regarding protected areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue with agencies with stake in protected areas viz. ANAM, Marine Authority, Canal Authority, Inter Oceanic Region Authority, local authorities, and others • Recommendations for appropriate institutional arrangements required for effective biodiversity management. • Development of legal instruments and/or policy to harmonize approaches roles and functions of various authorities with stake in protected areas. • Assessment of capacity building needs for management of protected areas. 	
	<p>There is need for serious and effective assessment and monitoring of biological diversity and the trends affecting its components as this information is indispensable for management.</p>	<p>1. Technical team/ consultants to assess capacity building needs to identify and select tools and methodologies including baseline variables and indicators, necessary for effective assessment and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on the capacity building needs for biodiversity assessment and monitoring procedures • A report on the assessment of capacity building needs for baseline indicators for aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. 	
<p>INITIAL ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY, INCLUDING TAXONOMY</p> <p>Working Group: Assessment and Monitoring</p> <p>Initial assessment and monitoring of biodiversity, including taxonomy</p>				

		<p>monitoring of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.</p> <p>2. Assessment of capacity building needs for training of relevant personnel in the application of prescribed methodologies.</p> <p>3. Assess infrastructural capacity to undertake effective assessment and monitoring of biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on the assessment of capacity building needs for persons from stakeholder bodies to be trained in the application of key tools/methodologies as defined in the procedure manual. 	
<p>Incentive Measures Working Group: Incentive Measures</p> <p>Forestry and agro-forestry</p> <p>Lack of incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use</p> <p>Existence of taxes and subsidies to certain economic sectors which may discourage biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Limited appreciation among decision makers of how incentive measures can promote sound biodiversity management in Panama</p>				
		<p>Carry out a diagnosis of all economic instruments which are positively or negatively affecting biodiversity management goals</p> <p>Consultation with all relevant stakeholders on the design and management principles of incentive measures applicable to forestry and agro-forestry sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of capacity building for incentive measures • Consensus on priority areas where incentive measures may be applied • A national workshop for promoting incentive measures through communities, business associations, interest groups and key government agencies to assess methodologies, success stories and best practices • Develop a policy paper on incentive measures detailing institutional, economic and legal considerations 	

ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES, BENEFIT SHARING AND FORMULATION OF MECHANISMS FOR THESE PURPOSES			
Working Group: Access to Genetic Resources			
Appreciate and formulate national policies for access to genetic resources and benefit sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for sharing international experience in access to genetic resources and benefit sharing in agricultural, medicinal plants and marine resources • Lack of adequate national institutional and legal framework for material transfer, property rights, and benefit sharing 	Carry out a diagnosis study of mechanisms of relevant transactions between national parties and national and international entities involving access to genetic material and associated sharing of benefits Consultations with all relevant stakeholders on the design and management principles of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of capacity building needs for regulating access to genetic resources and benefit sharing • Consensus on priority areas and mechanisms to be applied for regulating access to genetic material • A national workshop for sharing national and international experience in designing ways of regulating flow of genetic material, quantifying benefits therefrom and distributing those benefits among relevant stakeholders • Develop a policy paper on access to genetic material and benefit sharing detailing institutional, economic and legal considerations
PRESERVATION/ MAINTENANCE OF BIODIVERSITY RELATED KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
Working Group: BIODIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE, AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION			
Preservation/ maintenance of biodiversity related knowledge of local communities	The objectives of the NBSAP cannot be achieved in the absence of a high level of awareness among all members of the public.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify threats to indigenous knowledge systems related to use of biodiversity, cultural significance and traditional lifestyle 2. To document measures that can reduce threats identified above 3. Assess policies, programs and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To document in pilot areas the status and use biodiversity by indigenous communities • Recommendations based on consensus for reduction of threats to biodiversity and conservation of traditional knowledge and lifestyles. • Organize a national workshop with

			<p>priorities which can support building of capacity for biodiversity management among indigenous population</p>	<p>organizations working with indigenous communities to assess their capacity building needs</p>	
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Annex B

Priorities for Capacity Building Needs

Priority	Reasons for Priority	Work to be done	Product expected
<p>Participation in the CHM process</p>	<p>Lack of a mechanism ensuring prompt and timely decision-making, exchange in relevant technologies and results of scientific researches, and biodiversity related initiatives implementation process.</p> <p>ANAM lacks finances for obtaining and dissemination of information on the status of biodiversity.</p> <p>Lack of adequately experienced and trained staff.</p> <p>Need for integrating national information management initiative with other biodiversity information systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To conduct extensive consultations with all the stakeholders concerned on how to establish the National CHM and create linkages with appropriate sites and databases. ● To conduct a workshop on the development and follow-up adoption of an Action Plan, identification of the National CHM priorities, and establishing links with the CHM of the Convention. ● To provide technical support to the National CHM, establish close links with appropriate sites. ● To provide on-the-job training in use and management of the Internet in view to facilitate work on the project. ● Collecting and analysis of information for establishment of the relevant Internet sites: - review and analysis of completed and on-going projects on biodiversity; - review of submitted and approved biodiversity related programs and projects; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Action Plan on the consolidation of CHM - Electronic databases on national biodiversity - Expansion of national CHM Internet site <www.anam.gob.pa> - Trained and duly qualified staff - Workshops on the establishment of National CHM - National CHM duly equipped with PCs and communication tools. - Publicity + information material - 2 CDs on a) Panama' Red-listed species of fauna and flora; b) Protected Areas

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contact information on Panama' organisations involved in biodiversity use and management; • To create 2 CDs on a) Red-listed species of Panama fauna and flora, b) Protected Areas. • To publicize and disseminate posters and booklets on biodiversity 	
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**autoridad
nacional del
ambiente**

Panama, January 17, 2001.
AG-0094

Manab Chakraborty
Task Manager
Biodiversity Enabling Activities
UNEP/GEF
PO Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya
Fax: (254 2) 624268/623162

Dear Sir,

RE: Endorsement of Enabling Activity Proposal for Biodiversity

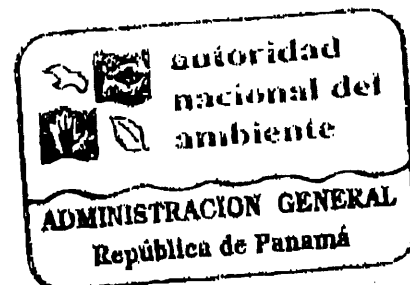
The National Environmental Authority (Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente) of Republic of Panama, which is the National GEF Operational Focal Point, is pleased to give its full support and endorsement for the Biodiversity Enabling Activity proposal which is being submitted for financial consideration.

The government of the Republic of Panama attaches great importance to the establishment and expansion of Clearing House Mechanism activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in the country.

We thank you for your kind consideration and we look forward to our continued working relationship.

Yours sincerely,

Ing. RICARDO ANGUIZOLA MORALES
General Administrator



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"TRABAJAMOS JUNTOS POR PANAMÁ"

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