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**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

*8 Feb 1998*

**Project Brief**

Country	Philippines
Project Title	Enabling Activity to Prepare the Philippines First National Report to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and establishment of a Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)
GEF Focal Area	Biodiversity
GEF Financing	US\$ 36,300
Government Contribution	US\$ 20,000 (in-kind)
GEF Implementing Agency	United Nations Development Programme
National Executing Agency	Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (PAWB-DENR)
GEF Operational Focal Point	Mr. Rafael Gamat, Director, Foreign Assisted and Special Projects, DENR
CHM Focal Point	Mr. Wilfrido Pollisco, Director, PAWB-DENR
Estimated Starting Date	February 1998
Project Duration	Four Months

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## I. Background

The Philippines has a total land area of about 300,000 square kilometers within its 1,968,700 sq. kilometers of territorial waters. It is the second largest archipelago in the world composed of approximately 7,107 islands. Although non-contiguous, it also has an unusually long coastline of about 18,000-km.

The country has a variety of marine, wetland and terrestrial ecosystem including coral reefs, mangrove, mossy and dipterocarp forests. A combination of factors such as varied topography, climatic conditions and geographical location predisposes the existence of such a complex mix of ecosystems. In turn, a rich variety of plant and animal species thrive in these islands and its surrounding seas.

The Philippines has one of the highest numbers of endemic species of plants and animals in the world. It has about 12,000 known plant species, 32 percent of which are endemic. Animal species (mostly insects) total about 170,000, about half of which are endemic. Specifically, there are about 960 species of terrestrial vertebrates of which 43 percent are endemic. Marine organisms include 488 species of corals, about 2,400 species of birds, 69 species of algae, 125 species of protozoan, and 6 species of seagrass. Moreover, there are over 4,000 species of pteridophytes, bryophytes, algae and lichens.

The country is also considered one of the biodiversity hotspots in the world. This is because it has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world, which translates to habitat destruction not only in the uplands but in the coastal and marine ecosystems as well. Recent estimates show that the total forest area of the Philippines has been reduced to about one third of its size in 1935. Only 6 percent of

the country's coral reefs have been classified in excellent condition, and only 24 percent in good condition. Sixty nine percent of Philippine wetlands are in the moderately- to highly- threatened status. This is largely due to anthropogenic impacts arising from unsustainable extraction of resources such as logging, coral mining, encroachment of people into forests and other habitats, land conversion, pollution and industrialization.

The Philippine government has adopted the sustainable development approach in late 1980s. A spate of policies and legislation followed in support of this new development paradigm, including the National Integrated and Protected Areas System Law known as the NIPAS Law, and the signing of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992. Others included the creation of a top-level Philippine Council for Sustainable Development with a Sub-Committee on Biodiversity, the adoption of the Philippine Agenda 21, and the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

The Philippine Government has recently published the Philippine Biodiversity Assessment and Action Plan with funding from UNEP/GEF under the Biodiversity Action Plan (BSAP) process. The book is the first comprehensive assessment of Philippine Biodiversity including a strategy and action plan for its conservation and sustainable use.

As a signatory to the CBD, the Philippine Government has to prepare and submit its First national Report to the Conference of the Parties to the CBD. The enabling activity proposal will help the Government prepare the report. A soft launching of the report was conducted last 29 December 1997 and will be available to all interested parties through the DENR and through commercial bookstores. A homepage for the Philippine BSAP was prepared by DENR recently with assistance from UNDP.

## **II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS DESCRIPTION**

The project will enable the Philippines to prepare its First National Report to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The project will likewise establish the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) for the Philippines.

The Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (PAWB-DENR) will coordinate the project. PAWB-DENR is the focal agency for the Philippines with respect to the CBD and the CHM. The Philippine Government intends to submit its First National Report to the CBD in May 1998. The project team, will be composed of a National Coordinator, designated by the Government, the members of the Sub-Committee on Biodiversity of the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development and a team of national consultants. The national consultants will be responsible for the preparation of the national report. The PAWB-DENR will be responsible for the establishment and operation of the clearing-house mechanism.

The project team will prepare the Philippines First National Report to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in accordance with the requirements for the preparation of the First National Report as stipulated in the "Suggested Guidelines for National Reporting on the Implementation of Article 6 of the CBD". This will be undertaken in close consultation with the PAWB-DENR through

steering committee meetings and regular consultations. The NBSAP will form a substantive basis of the preparation of the First National Report.

Upon completion of the First National Report, the project team will prepare a booklet on the First National Report. Salient aspects of the NBSAP will be included. The First National Report will be submitted to the PAWB-DENR and a final steering committee meeting will approve the report. The First National Report will be submitted to Cabinet for approval and subsequent submission to the COP-4 of the CBD.

### **III. COVERAGE WITHOUT DUPLICATION**

There is presently no known effort underway or proposed that would duplicate this effort in the country. The Philippines has not prepared any report to the CBD and this will be its first National Report to be submitted. The Philippines has the required telecommunications infrastructure. The project would allow PAWB-DENR, the Philippine focal agency for CBD, to have dedicated Internet and e-mail facilities for biodiversity information exchange. Philippines would therefore fall under Group I, and is going with Option A of direct assistance. The areas covered by the project, and the relevance of other parallel activities undertaken in the context of other projects is summarized below.

**Activity matrix**

Enabling Activity Commitment	Output	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments
		Institutional Strengthening	Training		
Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information - biodiversity and biological resources - cross-Sectoral issues - policy and regulatory framework - institutional and human capacity - analysis of root causes of BD loss - technologies for conservation and sustainable use - activities with adverse impacts - existing measures and programs - preliminary statement of objectives - identification of gaps - assessment of existing needs	BSAP BSAP BSAP BSAP BSAP  BSAP BSAP BSAP  BSAP BSAP				
Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD - strategies for conservation - strategies for sustainable use - strategies for benefit sharing	BSAP BSAP BSAP				
Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan - national strategy - national action plan	BSAP BSAP				
Establishment of a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)		XXXXXX	XXXXXX		1
Preparation of the first National Report - first national report	XXXXXX			XXXXXX	1

**Footnote:**

1 The NBSAP has already been completed and published. The enabling activity will help Government in preparing the First National Report to the CBD and establish the CHM.

#### IV. TIME PLAN AND SEQUENCING

Activity	1998			
	Month			
Report Preparation	1	2	3	4
Contracting of National Consultant	xx			
Preparation of National Report	xxxx	xxxx	xx	
Submission of National Report to CBD			xx	xxxx
Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)				
Acquisition of equipment/computer	xxxx			
Setting-up, training and operation of the CHM system		xxxx	xxxx	xxxx

#### V. BEST PRACTICE

The BSAP preparation adhered to the established and widely accepted guidelines and methodologies prepared by UNEP, WRI and WCU. The project will utilize local technical expertise and will be nationally executed.

#### VI. PROJECT FINANCING

The total project budget amounts to US\$ 56,300 covering contribution from UNDP/GEF of US\$ 36,300 and Government contribution, in-kind of US\$ 20,000.

	Product	Process	Total (US \$)
<i>Preparation of First National Report</i>			
Consultants	15,000		15,000
Steering Committee meetings		2,000	2,000
Publication/translation		3,000	3,000
dissemination		5,000	5,000
<i>Establishment of Clearing-House Mechanism</i>			
Hardware	4,000		4,000
Software	1,000		1,000
Modem	500		500
Recurrent Access Costs		3,800	3,800
Technical Set-up Fees		500	500
Internet and E-mail training		1,500	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>15,800</b>	<b>36,300</b>

## **VII. EXPLANATION FOR DEVIATIONS FROM CRITERIA AND NORMS**

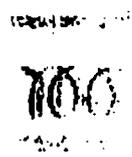
The project fully complies with the GEF operational criteria for enabling activities in biodiversity.

## **VIII. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

The project will be under the direct supervision of the PAWB-DENR, as the focal agency for CBD in the Philippines. The Director of the Bureau will act as the Project Coordinator and will be in-charge with directing and supervising its overall implementation. A Project Steering Committee will be created to provide technical direction and oversight functions to the project. Working groups will be formed composed of members from the Sub-Committee on Biodiversity of the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development. National consultants will be hired for project implementation. Support staff will be provided by DENR-PAWB.



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02 February 1998

**MS. SARAH L. TIMPSON**  
Resident Representative  
United Nations Development Programme  
NEDA sa Makati Bldg.  
Amauso St., Legaspi  
Makati City

Dear Ms. Timpson:

Further to our endorsement on the project document "Enabling Activity to Prepare the Philippines First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity" to the UNDP dated 19 January 1998, we would also like to endorse the government's request for Clearing House Mechanism to the UNDP for consideration under the GEF grant assistance on enabling activities for biodiversity conservation. The Clearing House Mechanism form part of the enabling activity proposal which we have earlier submitted.

Thank you for your usual support.

Best regards,

Very truly yours

*Rafael E. Camal Jr.*  
**RAFAEL E. CAMAL, JR.**

Director, Foreign Assisted & Special Projects  
Office & GEF Operations