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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

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TELEFAX TRANSMISSION

To:	Mr. Kenneth King Assistant Chief Executive Officer GEF Secretariat Washington, D.C. 20433, USA	Date: 19 March 2002
	(1 202) 522 3240/3245 ATTN: GEF Programme Coordination	
From:	Mr. Ahmed Djoghla Director Division of GEF Coordination	
Subject	Revision of MSP on Biodiversity Indicators	Page 1 of 1

As you may recall, the MSP proposal on Biodiversity Indicators received comments from the German Council member when it was circulated to Council members.

The points below highlight how the proposal has been revised to reflect the comments from the Council member. The highlights on the MSP brief show the changes made.

1. Time constraints: The MSP brief was developed with PDF-A funds and one of the issues discussed was the duration of the project. Given that there has been a lot of theoretical work and substantive progress on a number of different indicator frameworks and that this project builds on that work, the total time for the development and implementation of draft frameworks (activities b & d) was estimated at 10 months. The duration has now been increased to 13. Note that this is not the period to produce the final outputs since there will be a further refinement period of 6 months, which we have also increased to 8. The total duration of the project has thus increased from 24 months to 30 months in response to the comments received. In addition, it should be noted that the project will be developing indicator frameworks for which the upper levels will be applicable across countries i.e. the approaches and the guidelines for the development of indicators will be transferable, whether or not the specific manifestations of individual indicators are universally applicable.

2. Regarding the comment on capacity building, it should be noted that the in-country partners all have substantial capacity. Nevertheless, the MSP brief has been revised to reflect that this will be supplemented and enhanced by technical support visits from the executing agencies (see changes in activities b & d in both the project summary and the narrative and change in the institutional framework).
3. On the comment on the adequacy of the number of workshops and steering committee meetings, the MSP brief budget could not be revised to reflect more meetings given budgetary limitations. However, should the GEF Secretariat recommend that the GEF budget be increased from US\$ 823,200 to accommodate more meetings, we would be happy to increase the number of workshops. Nevertheless, we have revised the proposal to address the need for more interaction between the various players through exchange of experience and progress throughout the project via electronic means (website). This can be accommodated within the existing project budget.
4. On the composition of the steering committee, another developing country representative has been added to the committee. In addition, the project will utilize its contacts with the CBD and GEF secretariats to help ensure that project outputs are disseminated to wider audiences.
5. On the question of data needs, we have revised the proposal to reflect the discussions during the PDF A preparation phase for this proposal where sufficient data was identified to provide reliable indicators for substantial sections of an indicator framework. For framework sections where insufficient data exist, the project will generate clear recommendations for appropriate data collection programmes, which will take place in the MSP implementation phase. The attached project brief has been revised accordingly.

Regards