Log No. 98-364

Correspondence Description

Addressed to: *Mr. Kenneth King*	Correspondence Date: 08/19/98
Date Received: 08/20/98	Organization: UNEP
From: J. Pernetta	

Assigned To: M. Ramos

Status: Open

Type: Fax
Topic: PDF A: MULTI-COUNTRY: Biodiversity Indicators

Action Instructions

☐ For Bilateral meeting

☐ For information only. No action needed.

☐ Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Kenneth King and provide a copy.

☐ Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry and provide a copy.

☐ Please prepare a draft response and return to Program Coordinator

☐ Please reply directly and provide a copy.

☒ Please review and/or technical comments

Special Instructions

Information Copies Sent To:
K. Kumari, M. Cruz, H. Acquay, W. Lusigi

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United Nations Environment Programme

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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

MEMORANDUM

To :	Kenneth King Assistant CEO Attn: Programme Coordination GEF Secretariat Washington D.C., USA Fax: (1 202) 522 3240	Date:	19 August, 98
		Drafter	SAK
	Lars Vidaeus, WB/GEF Washington DC, USA Fax: (1 522) 3456		
	Rafael Asenjo, UNDP/GEF New York, USA Fax: (1 212) 906 6998		
	Calestous Juma, SCBD Montreal, Canada Fax: (1 514) 288 6588		
	Madhav Gadgil, STAP Bangalore, India Fax: 91 80 334 1683		
Through:		Room: Extension:	Q235 3265
From:	J. Pernetta Officer-in-Charge	Reference:	PDF A/MSP

Subject: PDF A request: Biodiversity Indicators

Please find attached a PDF Block A request for US$25,000 to prepare the medium-sized project brief on Biodiversity Indicators. The concept has been cleared by the GEF Research Committee and approved by the Executive Director of UNEP.

Please note that the PDF A activities will be used to carry out the necessary consultations with experts and relevant organizations to decide on how to select and assess biodiversity indicators building on the work already done to date. The workshop will also determine how case studies can be used to test the use of biodiversity indicators at a practical level. However, actual in-country work will not begin at this stage. Although we have received requests from countries wishing to participate in the project, the final selection of countries and eventual letters of endorsement will be provided once an agreement is reached during the workshop on which countries have the necessary structures and experience in place to carry out the activities of the resulting project.

We would appreciate your comments by 27 August, 1998. Thank you.

BLOCK A PDF for a GEF Medium-Sized Project on Biodiversity Indicators

1. Project Name: Biodiversity Indicators	2. GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP
3. Country or countries in which the project is being implemented: Global	4. Country Eligibility: (Tentative list of countries that have requested assistance on the use of biodiversity indicators for possible inclusion in case studies in the full medium sized project) 1. KENYA (Ratified CBD 26/7/94) 2. MEXICO (Ratified CBD 11/3/93) 3. COSTA RICA (Ratified CBD 26/8/94) 4. PHILIPPINES (Ratified CBD 8/10/93) 5. UKRAINE (Ratified CBD (7/2/95) 6. A PACIFIC ISLAND STATE (tbd)
5. GEF Focal Area(s): Biodiversity	6. Operational program/Short-term measure: Targeted research project focusing on OP# 2 & 3

7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs:

In April 1997, over 85 leading experts from around the world came together to assist CBD Parties to explore the issue of biodiversity indicators and targets. This meeting served to act as a catalyst for national-level activity by providing an information resource to Parties and providing a forum to discuss ways in which biodiversity indicators could be included in national reports. At its third meeting, held 1-5 September 1997, in Montreal, Canada, SBSTTA discussed an initial proposal for a core set of state and pressure indicators of biological diversity for use under the CBD (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/9, inf.13). This project aims at addressing the needs of the above mentioned candidate countries to monitor and assess the progress of their actions on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in selected ecosystems while concurrently implementing the above pressure-state-response indicator framework for identified priority ecosystem types through case studies. The Kenya Wildlife Service has expressed its need for applying such a framework. Costa Rica has been involved in the establishment of REDBIO, a regional network for management of biodiversity information for Mesoamerica, with National Focal Points and has also been involved in advancing the use of environmental and sustainability indicators in the region. The use of biodiversity indicators for decision-making regarding Costa Rica's forests has been raised as an additional area of interest requiring further attention. In addition, the Philippines and Ukraine have also stated the need to, at national level, monitor and assess the progress of their actions towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

8. GEF Operational Focal Point and date of country endorsement

Letters of endorsement will be solicited from the Operational Focal Points upon agreement on the modalities and methodologies to be used in testing and applying biodiversity indicators.

9. Project rationale and objectives:

Both development and conservation activities require a comprehensive assessment of their goals and the impacts on other sectors at the national level as it is important to know (i) whether conservation projects reach their goals - and hence can be analyzed to see what lessons learned and best practices can be drawn out and replicated where relevant; and, (ii) the cumulative impacts of development activities and development projects so that their impacts are considered and mitigated for if national conservation objectives are to be met. While environmental impact assessment is a tool used for understanding the potential impacts of such activities, it does not provide the tools needed for measuring the cumulative impact on entire ecosystems in a quantitative, unambiguous and policy significant manner. Indeed, in order to ensure sustainability of all desired results, continuous monitoring is a necessary prerequisite to track and assess changes over time on the natural capital of each country as is common practice in the socio-economic field in so called economic and social capital indices.

Monitoring and evaluation activities, in the conventional sense, are used for individual projects or a series of projects focusing on a particular common theme. What, however, is still needed is a tool that countries themselves can use that would assess the status and trends of their overall biodiversity based on impacts that have accumulated over a much longer term from a variety of cross-cutting environmental and development activities so that they may decide for themselves where action is needed most and where activities may need

to be modified. This would help ensure that actions taken, at country level, in one sector do not adversely impact the country's long term goal in the sector responsible for ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Indeed, Article 6b of the CBD states that countries should integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans and programmes.

Biodiversity indicators, as defined by SBSTTA, are the information tools needed by countries to summarize data on complex and sometimes conflicting environmental issues to indicate the overall status and trends of their biodiversity. They can help in measuring and achieving tangible progress towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and in the implementation of the CBD.

The use of biodiversity indicators to assess or to monitor environmental conditions, in terms of biodiversity, offers an opportunity to address environmental problems holistically and from an ecosystem approach, rather than in an *ad hoc* species-by-species approach. Biodiversity indicators also offer the opportunity to provide an "early warning system" of change. Ideally, they should suffice the following criteria:
- be widely applicable or cover a broad geographical area;
- be relatively independent of sample size;
- easy and cost effective to measure, collect and assay;
- able to provide information over a wide range of stress;
- to differentiate naturally cyclical trends from those induced by anthropogenic stress; and,
- relevant to ecologically significant phenomena.
- can be aggregated at the national, regional or global level to provide overviews and enable better communication with policy makers and the public.

Most important is the need for biodiversity indicators to be policy relevant, scientifically credible and easily understood.

Although there have been several initiatives concerning biodiversity indicators, only a few deal with the development and implementation of a core set of universally applicable, quantitative and yet, nationally relevant biodiversity indicators which can be applied to national decision-making and also allow for the aggregation of local or national information for the purposes of regional or global comparison. At its third meeting, held in Montreal, Canada, 1 to 5 September 1997, SBSTTA stated the need for a core set of 'universally applicable' indicators for biodiversity as being necessary from the Convention point of view since it is vital that the progress of countries in conserving and sustainably using biodiversity can be comparatively addressed. Being 'nationally and policy relevant' was considered important because countries must be able to assess for themselves their own progress that applies to their own development and conservation needs and adjust their policies, programmes and activities in line with their own assessments and conclusions. In addition, in order for biodiversity indicators to be useful at national level, they must provide information that relates to the specific local ecosystem-specific situations within the respective countries. SBSTTA has noted that the bridging of scientific and policy needs that must be encompassed within this will require that the accuracy of indicators corresponds with the necessity of policy making, not solely for scientifically-described assessments of biodiversity.

Such biodiversity indicators have a high potential to enable countries to base their decisions on a sound scientific basis so as to strategically place scarce resources where the threats to significantly important biodiversity are highest. Without countries having such tools at hand to enable them to prioritize their needs and to judge the progress of their actions towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, scarce resources will not necessarily be allocated to areas where action is needed most. Indicators link the fields of policy making and science and therefore, the exercise of selecting a core set of indicators must be a consultative effort between scientists and policy makers.

International, among others.

The progress achieved in the implementation of a number of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity including its threefold objectives cannot be measured without an adequate set of quantifiable indicators to be designed, agreed and tested. Such an urgent need has been recognised by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as well as by its subsidiary body. The Secretariat of the Convention has also recognised such a need by establishing a Liaison Group on Biodiversity Indicators. The recommendations on a core set of indicators of biological diversity put forward by the Liaison Group under the CBD uses and integrates suitable elements of the initiatives mentioned above into one universally applicable indicator framework, the NCI-framework. This project will draw upon this framework as a starting point with its overall goal being to advance the development and application of the state-pressure-response biodiversity indicator framework by means of implementing case studies. These experiences should assist developing country Parties to the CBD in implementing particularly Articles 6 and 7 of the CBD as called for by COP Decision III/10 and -- more generally -- in measuring their progress and the effectiveness of actions being taken to address biodiversity loss. The overall objective of the project is to help CBD Parties measure and achieve tangible progress in implementing the CBD. More specific objectives include:

i) to test and further improve the NCI-framework, as a core set of national level biodiversity indicators using the pressure-state-response indicators framework, in real-world constraints, that reflect the nested/hierarchical structure of many ecological phenomena, focusing on 'state', 'pressure' and 'response' indicators, which are applicable to specific local, ecosystem specific situations at the national level and allow for overviews and analyses at the regional and global level, and could be incorporated by CBD Parties in their national reports;

ii) to assist in the development of a key set of standard questions to be answered through application of the indicators framework;

iii) to elaborate universal principles and guidelines for designing national-level monitoring programmes and indicators, and for utilisation of the results in the national policy making process, based upon the case studies;

iv) to build the capacity of policy makers to apply information supplied by biodiversity indicators to national planning and decision-making;

iv) to support global and regional discussion within the CBD process on the proposed NCI-framework;

This project will generate the necessary knowledge and know-how for countries to prioritize their actions and judge the progress of their actions taken to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. It therefore adheres to *The Principles for GEF Financing of Targeted Research* by focusing on generating knowledge relating to biodiversity indicators, as mentioned above, that enable conclusions to be drawn on which ecosystems in specific areas it is necessary to target further GEF activity so as to improve the effectiveness of GEF intervention in the biodiversity focal area.

10. Expected Outcomes:

(i) Tested and improved criteria and methods for identifying biodiversity indicators to ensure that they will be validated and correlated with the relevant underlying variables and processes;

(ii) Set of policy relevant state, pressure and response indicators for the specific ecosystems selected in each of the countries participating in the case studies for judging the progress of, and prioritizing, their actions towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(iii) A first calculation of the Natural Capital Index of the ecosystems which are considered, as well as a first prognosis on the future NCI based on a business-as-usual scenario;

(iv) An effective monitoring and research programme related to this core set of indicators;

(v) Introduction of the indicators in the participating countries in the policy making process at the governmental level;

(vi) Increased capacity of national decision makers to apply the information supplied by biodiversity indicators to national planning and decision-making;

(vi) Recommendations to the CBD on a potential core set of universally relevant indicators for wider use by additional countries;

11. Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

A workshop will be convened in early 1998 to develop a targeted research proposal to achieve the above mentioned goal and objectives. The workshop will involve governmental or related institutes of key institutions working on biodiversity indicators such as the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, UNESCO, WRI, CABI, WCMC, CIFOR, IOC, DIVERSITAS, the CIAT-UNEP project, FAO and the 5 participating countries: i) INBIO, Costa Rica and the University of Costa Rica; ii) The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) of Kenya, iii) an institute of the Ukraine; iv) possibly ICLARM at the Philippines, and representatives of members of the Liaison Group on Biodiversity Indicators, and will draw upon the following terms of reference:

Terms of Reference for Workshop on Biodiversity Indicators

1. In preparation for this workshop, introduce the NCI-framework to the participating institutes/members and support them with the preparation of discussion documents on state, pressure and response indicators, with an emphasis on the criteria and procedures that have been used in identifying these indicators with a carefully argued scientific basis for selecting each. These documents will suggest an outline for the targeted research case study activities for the implementation of the NCI-framework for each of the following 5 priority ecosystems:

- fresh water ecosystems (Kenya);
- marine/coastal ecosystems (Philippines);
- forest ecosystems (Costa Rica);
- agro-ecosystems (Ukraine); and,
- small island developing states (to be selected);

Given the more complicated scenario for measuring the status and trends of biodiversity in agro-ecosystems, particularly in terms of agreeing on a relevant baseline, the PDF A activities will decide on the feasibility, at this stage, of testing information supplied by biodiversity indicators to agroecosystems.

2. Convene a workshop of 2 days at a site to be determined by a host country that will involve:
a) discussions based on the background documents prepared above and finalise a GEF targeted research proposal that includes the following elements:

- the implementation of 5 case studies in the selected countries for the five ecosystem types as mentioned above, identified as priorities by the CBD COP, including three for which GEF Operational Programmes currently exist.
- by means of the implementation of these case studies, support the regional and global discussion on the NCI-framework within the CBD process, and draw lessons for the further development of a general - framework;
- recommend a key set of standard questions to be used when applying the indicators framework to specific national situations.
- test and improve the 7-step procedure for the implementation of the NCI-framework.
   b) identification of co-financing sources for the project.
c) a time schedule for all 5 case studies

Activities proposed for the targeted research project will provide tangible outputs of practical use by:

- CBD Parties (to fulfil their CBD obligations, particularly under Article 7);
- the SBSTTA (to support its mandate to provide advice to the COP, including assessing existing and tested indicators);
- the CBD Secretariat (particularly to assist their work to develop Global Biodiversity Outlook reports);
- GEF to assess the contribution of its projects to stem biodiversity loss on the basis of the defined biodiversity indicators.

The workshop will be convened by IUCN in co-operation with RIVM, from which the participants are both members of the CBD Liaison Group. The preparation and convening of the workshop will be undertaken in close co-operation with the Secretariat of the CBD. A Steering Committee will be established with the participation of among others, STAP, the CBD Secretariat, and the GEF Implementing Agencies.

12. Stakeholders involved in project:
Governments, key institutions and experts (see list of stakeholders above) will be involved in the discussions in order to bring together those experts/institutions working on the scientific analysis of bioindicators with those government representatives, particularly policy makers needing information on the relevance and progress of their activities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. To keep the meeting as small as possible in order to make it effective and to keep cost low, the participants will preferably combine expertise on both ecology, indicators and policy making.

PART II - INFORMATION ON BLOCK A PDF ACTIVITIES

13. Activities to be financed by the PDF:
PDF A activities will be used to finance the preparation of necessary documentation that will form the basis for discussions during the consultative workshop in order to assess needs, building on the work already achieved in this area and developing the elements of a targeted research proposal taking into account the *Principles for GEF Financing of Targeted Research*. It will therefore finance the preparation of the proposal and general organisation for the workshop and travel of participants to the workshop. The daily subsistence allowance and logistics will be financed with other sources of cofinancing (see details below).

14. Expected outputs and completion dates:
The Expected outputs of the PDF A activities are:
a) Report of the workshop to be published and distributed by IUCN in co-operation with RIVM;
b) A GEF targeted research proposal on the NCI-framework (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/9, inf.13) to be drafted by IUCN and RIVM in consultation with identified partners including STAP and the CBD Secretariat, by September 1998. The project will be co-ordinated by IUCN and executed at national level by developing country executing agencies, outlining a comprehensive set of integrated and targeted research-related activities designed, in particular to respond to guidance by the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) in Decision III/10. The proposal will include a provisional programme of work containing, *inter alia*, sequences of activities, assignments, timelines, and co-ordination mechanisms. The proposal will be circulated for review to the CBD Secretariat, Chairs of the CBD SBSTTA and GEF/STAP, experts in the indicators field, and others.

PDF A activities will be completed within 4 months of approval of the PDF A proposal.

15. Other possible contributors/donors and amounts:
A host country will be identified to cofinance the workshop (approx. US $40,000). Through the PDF A, other sources of cofinancing for the full project will be identified.

16. Total budget and information on how costs will be met (including the Block A grant):

Expected Total cost of full project for 5 case studies (GEF contribution):	US $750,000 including PDF A resources

PDF A:

Logistics (meeting room etc.)	$ 1,000*
Travel cost (15 pers.)	$15,000
Daily subsistence allowance (15 pers. x 4 days x 160$)	$10,000*
Preparation and guidance of 5 draft discussion documents which will include a suggested outline for implementing each case study	$ 3,000
Organisation of the workshop, communications, miscellaneous	$ 5,000
Preparation of project proposal	$ 2,000
Total:	$36,000

* financed by host country or participating countries; US 25,000 requested from GEF

PART III - INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT INSTITUTION

17.	**Name:** IUCN (The World Conservation Union), in co-operation with RIVM.

18.	**Date of establishment, membership and leadership**

IUCN was founded in 1948. IUCN brings together States, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organisations in a unique world partnership: over 800 members in all, spread across some 137 countries. A central secretariat co-ordinates the IUCN Programme and serves the Union membership, representing their views on the world stage and providing them with the strategies, services, scientific knowledge and technical support they need to achieve their goals. Through its six Commissions, IUCN draws together over 6000 expert volunteers in project teams and action groups, focusing in particular on species and biodiversity conservation and the management of habitats and natural resources. The Union has helped many countries to prepare National Conservation Strategies, and demonstrates the application of its knowledge through the field projects that it supervises. Operations are increasingly decentralised and are carried forward by an expanding network of regional and country offices, located principally in developing countries. The World Conservation Union builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels. IUCN will collaborate with RIVM, which is the National Institute for Public Health and Environment in the Netherlands, and will be hosting the workshop. It is a governmental research institute, doing research and providing advice on matters of public health and environment in order to support policy making at the national and international policy making levels. RIVM is topic centre for Europe's Environmental Agency in Copenhagen and collaborating centre for UNEP's Global Environment Outlook. RIVM is co-author of GEO1 and GEO2. RIVM participates in the CBD Liaison Group on Biological Diversity Indicators, June 1997 in Wagoningen, The Netherlands.

19.	**Mandate and terms of reference:** IUCN seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

20.	**Sources of Revenue**

To be added later.

21.	**Recent activities/programmes in particular those relevant to the GEF**

IUCN's activities of relevance to the objectives of the GEF in the area of biodiversity include the development of national strategies for sustainable development, local strategies, assessing progress towards sustainability, biodiversity action plans, involving indigenous peoples, and strategies for sustainability. IUCN focuses on the application of methods and tools for system, project and institutional assessment, including a participatory approach to engaging stakeholders in defining the key sustainability issues affecting their lives, and practical ways of measuring change in human and ecosystem condition related to these issues. This includes a way of developing and combining indicators into a sustainability index or rating, and training, capacity building and networking for field practitioners engaged in assessment activities.

PART IV - INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

22.	**Project Identification Number:** tbd

23.	**Implementing Agency contact no.**

UNEP GEF Coordination Office
P.O.Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya
Fax: (254 2) 520825
Tel: (254 2) 624165

24.   Project Linkage to Implementing Agency programme:

UNEP has a primary role in the GEF in catalysing the development of scientific and technical analysis and in advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP also provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans and to international environmental agreements. This project will therefore be linked to UNEP's activities including its existing work on monitoring the state of the environment and analysing global environmental trends through its Global Environmental Outlook. In particular, the project will build on the UNEP's ENRIN and CCAD strategy for environmental information management, which includes the development of indicators to assess the state of the environment in various regions. Of those, biodiversity is a key area. Directly related to that strategy, the CCAD is now coordinating the implementation of REDBIO, a regional network for management of biodiversity information for Mesoamerica, with National focal Points.

The project will also build on the "UNEP-CIAT Project for Environmental and Sustainability Indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean". This project has advanced the use of the indicator framework (and has been accepted), and developed indicators that are being used at the regional and national level. UNEP is also working on a new potential project in Mesoamerica, to assess the state of the environment from an ecosystem point of view, and to develop indicators for those ecosystems. In the second phase of this project, UNEP
will be focusing more on national/regional level indicators for Central America for sustainable rural development in association with the World Bank.

भारत सरकार Government of India
वित्त मंत्रालय Ministry of Finance
आर्थिक कार्य विभाग Department of Economic Affairs

नई दिल्ली/New Delhi, ... 19

Abhas K. Jha,
Deputy Secretary(FB).
Tel.No 3013355

D.O.No.7(8)/94-FB.VIII   August 19, 1998

Dear Mr. Avalle,

    Kindly refer to Mr. Mohamed T.El.Ashry, CEO and Chairman, GEF's letter dated August 7, 1998 seeking comments of Government of India on the revised report for the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

    In this regard, it is mentioned that Government of India has no comments to offer on the revised report and approve the report for submission to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

            With warm regards,

                                                            Yours sincerely,

                                                            19|8|98

                                                            (Abhas K. Jha)

Mr.Oscar Avalle,
Global Environment Facility,
GEF Secretariat,
1818 H Street NW,
Washington, DC.20433 USA
(Fax No.202-522-3240/3245)

GEFSEC Project Tracking System
Response Due Date: 09/19/98

Correspondence Description

Addressed to: *Mr. Kenneth King*	Correspondence Date: 09/11/98
Date Received: 09/11/98	Organization: UNEP
From: Ahmed Djoghlaf	

Assigned To: M. Ramos

Status: Closed

Type: Fax
Topic: PDF A: Biodiversity Indicators (commencement)

Action Instructions

☐ For Bilateral meeting
☒ For information only. No action needed.
☐ Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Kenneth King and provide a copy.
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K. Kumari, H. Acquay, J. Taylor

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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

MEMORANDUM

To :	Kenneth King Assistant CEO Attn: Programme Coordination GEF Secretariat Washington D.C., USA Fax: (1 202) 522 3240	**Date:** 11 Sept, 98 **Drafter** SAK
	Lars Vidaeus, WB/GEF Washington DC, USA Fax: (1 522) 3456	
	Rafael Asenjo, UNDP/GEF New York, USA Fax: (1 212) 906 6998	
	Madhav Gadgil, STAP Bangalore, India Fax: 91 80 334 1683	
Through:		**Room:** Q235 **Extension:** 3265
From:	Ahmed Djoghlaf Executive Coordinator	**Reference:** BD MSP

Subject:	PDF A on Biodiversity Indicators

Reference is made to the PDF A on Biodiversity Indicators which was submitted for consideration of GEF financing on 19 August 1998. As no comments were received, implementation of the PDF A has now commenced.