

AN ENABLING ACTIVITY IN BIODIVERSITY

Country:	Regional: Jordan and the Palestinian Authority
Project Title:	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Report to the CBD
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Jordan: Convention Ratified in November 1993 Palestinian Authority: See letter of GEF CEO of 2 August 1996 to GEF Executive Council members (Annex 4).
GEF Financing:	US\$ 350,000
Local Contribution:	In kind
Estimated Total Budget:	US\$ 350,000
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
Local Executing Agencies:	General Corporation for Environment Protection (GCEP) - Jordan Palestinian Institute for Arid Land and Environmental Studies (PIALES) - Palestinian Authority
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Ms. Nadia Juhari, Ministry of Planning (MoP) Jordan
CBD Focal Point:	H.E. Mr. Nader Therat, Minister Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs and the Environment Jordan
Estimated Starting Date:	July 1997
Duration of Project :	12 months

Background

1. The area of Jordan and Palestinian Authority (J/PA) is situated to the eastern shore of the Mediterranean and to the northeast of the Arabian Peninsula. It occurs at 29° to 33° N and 35° to 42° E, comprising a total area of approximately 97,655 km², where Jordan covers 91,590 km² and the Palestinian Authority, 6,065 km². The total population of this combined area is 6.7 million, of which 4.3 million live in Jordan and the rest live in the PA. Both Jordan and the PA have short coastlines; for Jordan, about 27 km around the

Gulf of Aqaba on the Red Sea in the south, for the Palestinian Authority, 30 km named as Gaza Sea Shore on the southeast corner of the Mediterranean. The estimated natural growth rate for the people of this area is between 3-5%, comprising one of the highest growth rates in the region.

2. The J/PA is dry area where most of the land is arid and semi-arid. The climate is typically Mediterranean, with hot-dry summer, and mild-rainy winter. The mean annual rainfall decreases from 700 mm in the northwest to about 100 mm in the Jordan Valley, and more drastically to less than 25 mm in the south eastern desert of Jordan. Based on its geographical location in West Asia, at the edge of the Fertile Crescent, and along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, together with its diverse geology, geomorphology, topography, climate and human influence, the J/PA area enjoys a unique visible biological diversity of wild life and ecological habitats.

3. There are over 130 families of flowering plants recorded in *Flora Palaestina* for this area which includes about 900 genera and more than 4000 species. Unfortunately, several taxa of these are poorly studied and for most of them, no precise description of chorology exists. The families Leguminosae, Compositae and Graminae includes 800 species, many of which are indigenous to the area and have a global importance. It is reported that around 40 species are endangered of becoming extinct, while other 200 species are rare. In terms of wild life, the area hosts more than 120 species of mammals, 500 species of birds, 100 reptiles and amphibians, 1,000 fish, and about 4-5,000 insects. Although accurate figures are hard to find, but some of these species live under actual threats of degradation and extinction.

4. Agriculture occupies an important place as far as J/PA are concerned with more than 50% of the population depending directly on agriculture. Dryland cultivation accounts for cultivation of about 90% of the arable land and occurs mostly in marginal areas (arid and semi-arid), where evaporation rate exceeds precipitation and where natural resources are less abundant. The conservation of biodiversity and agrobiodiversity is particularly important in arid and semi-arid regions like the J/PA where ecological and agricultural systems are fragile and the renewable natural resources are inherently scarce.

5. The area of Jordan-Palestinian Authority is one of the nuclear centers where many of the agricultural species including important food crops and pasture plants are originated and their wild relatives and crop land races are still found. Food demand and market forces have resulted in a degradation of agrobiodiversity, and so agricultural production has come to be based on fewer crops and within crops on fewer genotypes. While some information about the characteristics and the status of agricultural biodiversity and the ecosystems of the region, are collated and stored at international agencies such as ICARDA, IPGRI, FAO etc., little information is available, especially for the Palestinian Authority. The wild progenitors of many cereals such as wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), barely (*Hordeum vulgare*) and legume pulses such as chickpea (*Cicer aritinum*), lentils (*Lens culinaris*), the wild relatives of many fruit trees as fig (*Ficus carica*), grapes (*Vitis vinefera*), olive (*Olea europaea*) and almond (*Amygdalus communis*) as well as forage species and important vegetables are virtually lost. Their degradation is particularly attributed to the destruction in their habitats through human activities and erosion in soil fertility.

6. The deplorable situation of dryland in the area is a result of many socio-economic and political factors in the course of past and recent history, and is a situation specific to the subregion. Many areas in the west and east sides of the Jordan river have been subjected to intensive livestock grazing and over utilization. A great proportion of nature and biodiversity in the J/PA area is exploited at rates that exceed sustainable yield. In addition, land transformation from intensive agricultural development, negligence, urban and industrial development, population growth, pollution in addition to the limitation of legislation and the lack of clear policy and strategy for the conservation of biodiversity, threatened the sustained utility of such diversity and the survival of its biota.

7. As is the case in many countries of the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region, over- extraction of water resources in the Jordan Valley is a major concern facing the sustainable development of the area. The Jordan River is the only major source of surface fresh-water in the sub-region

8. Jordan is known for its rangeland conservation and management with a total of eighteen existing sites of grazing reserves covering around 51,500 ha. In the Palestinian Territories, about 30% of the land can be considered as pastoral rangeland, suitable for the production of grazing livestock. The Palestinians however, have access to only about 15% of the range land area in the Eastern Slopes. Over the last 30 years, severe and dramatic changes have taken place in the J/PA area that have impacted the rangeland capacity and the genetic diversity of its species. There are reports about high mortality rate in many individuals of the *Acacia*, *Prosopis*, and *Artemisia* species, which affect the diversity, frequency and movement of important wild life species (such as the mountain Gazelle) in the area.

9. Nature and forest land protection in Jordan is delegated to the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), and to the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. There are five wildlife reserves, managed by RSCN covering around 97,000 ha, and another seven reserves are in the process of being established. Three national parks covering an area of 25,100 ha are used for recreation and tourism. In the West Bank, around 2500 ha consists of forest land with 84% being in the Jenin District in the north. No forest lands exists in the Gaza Strip. Forest land conservation and management are not well developed within the PA. An example of natural forest species in J/PA area is *Pinus halepensis*, *Pistacia atlantica*, *P. lentiscus*, *Ceratonia Siliqua*, *Quercus caliprinose*, *Cupressus sempverence* and many others. Within the context of the environmental protection, the conservation, management and development of forest land in these areas are urgently needed.

10. The south-eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea (the Gaza Sea shore) is defined by its extreme oligotrophy, high salinity, and temperature, and the Gulf of Aqaba is an area of significant endemism. Despite high population pressures and environmental hazards, these coasts remain the sole place of Jordan-Palestinian marine biology. Existing information indicates that coral diversity is extremely high in the Gulf of Aqaba (48 genera and 127 species). The Palestinian marine biology is characterized by the diversity of fish biota, especially the regularity of Dolphins, Marine Turtles (*Caretta caretta*), whales, and the Monk Seal species. Not only hunting and egg collection brought these

species to the brink of extinction, but also major other works such as the motorized fishing and the construction of harbors, etc. which all affect the area's coastal marine environment.

11. At a national level, environmental protection in Jordan has been a constant concern of both the Royalty and Government, always realizing the fragile nature of Jordan's ecosystems owing to the extreme physiogeography and climate of the country. In the Palestinian Authority, there is an increasing awareness of the value of biological resources as an integral part of the natural heritage and as a potential for yielding sustainable benefits. Both Jordan and the PA have recognized the necessity to protect natural resources and biodiversity, and are concerned of the need for biological diversity conservation and sustainable use. In 1980, Jordan was among the original 30 countries to declare support for the World Conservation Strategy. Another milestone in this effort is the "National Environment Strategy" (NES) for Jordan, a resource of information and guidelines for action, compiled by a team of 180 Jordanian specialists with support from the IUCN and USAID. In October 1995, the new Jordanian Environmental Law (JEL) was passed to achieve the principal objectives mentioned in the NES, and the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) was prepared emphasizing the need for a national biodiversity inventory. In September of 1996, the National Agenda-21 project was launched to lay the ground for sustainable resource development and environmentally sound management in the country. The Country Study on Biodiversity in Jordan was recently completed by the National Unit for Biodiversity (NUB) under the guidance of the GCEP, with financial support from the GEF through UNEP implementation. On the other hand, there is no biodiversity country study available for the PA. The Palestinian Institute for Arid Land and Environmental Studies (PIALES) has recently completed a preliminary study on the status of biological and agricultural diversity in the West Bank, its components, reasons of degradation and sustainable utilization. This enabling activity will benefit from, build upon and add to the existing biodiversity knowledge, compiled by these and other related studies, to safeguard (especially in case of Jordan) against duplication and overlapping.

12. At the regional and international levels, the Government of Jordan has ratified the following conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1993, the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention, and the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden Environment. Jordan is also party to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program through a national committee. The Palestinian Authority is not yet eligible to sign and ratify UN conventions. This proposal was initiated to enable the PA to benefit from GEF funding to be able to formulate strategies and priority actions for the conservation and sustainable use of Palestinian biological resources. The Palestinian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is proposed to be prepared in parallel to that of Jordan primarily because of the similar environmental, climatic and physiographic characteristics of the two regions and the common socio-economic perceptions of both populations. The current project represents the basis for initiating an enabling activity and preparing a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. This will, for Jordan, help it to meet its obligations in implementing articles 6 and 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

13. The two areas, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority are closely interlinked, be it culturally, economically, environmentally or historically. Following the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, exchange visits and joint programmes have been initiated between the two partners, the most important of which is the recent (1996) joint study on Combating Desertification in the Jordan Valley, which was implemented through the INCD Secretariat with a grant from the Government of Switzerland.

Objectives

14. The project's primary objective is the elaboration of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This work will be carried out in accordance with methods introduced in the *Guidelines for National Biodiversity Planning* (WRI/IUCN/UNEP, 1995) and will, in the case of Jordan, also lead to the elaboration of a First National Report to be submitted to the CBD at the fourth session of the Conference of Parties.

15. The enabling project aims at determining the biodiversity status and trends, the dangers threatening biodiversity and the extent of the potential contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development. A resource inventory should be drawn up in order to identify existing potential and measures, and to assess needs. Special focus will be given to the status of agrobiodiversity resources and impacts of livestock.

16. The project will rely on extensive analysis, consultations and dialogues on issues pertaining to biodiversity. The BSAP main thrusts and provisions are concerning the policies, strategies and actions aimed at conserving, managing and monitoring biodiversity. It will also identify entities responsible for the implementation of activities to be undertaken in accordance with the strategy.

17. The project will enhance the participation of civil society through networking and public awareness raising. It will further ensure that governmental and non governmental agencies, private sector and the community are aware of the importance of biodiversity and the need for its conservation, sustainable utilization and benefit sharing. One of the objectives of the BSAP is to promote human resource development and institutional capacity building, and mechanisms required for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy within the country.

TIME PLAN AND SEQUENCING

18. **Agencies executing the BSAP:** The current enabling activity will be undertaken through a joint collaborative program between the Government of Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. The General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP) of the Ministry of Local Municipalities in Jordan, and the Palestinian Institute for Arid Land and Environmental Studies (PIALES) of the Palestinian Environmental Authority (PENa) will be entrusted with the execution of the BSAP in collaboration with other Palestinian NGOs. The project will meet the criteria insofar as the enabling activity launches the planning and consultation process leading to the formulation of the BSAP. It will follow

the sequence recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines. Activities will last for 12 months starting from July 1997, and will be carried out in accordance with the activity month matrix.

19. **Biodiversity Steering Committees (Jordan & the Palestinian Authority):** While cooperation and cross fertilization between the two regions are envisaged to take place to the maximum extent possible, two Biodiversity Steering Committees will be formed to facilitate project overseeing and implementation. In view of difficult logistics, the Steering Committees will operate in Jordan and the Palestinian Authority respectively; however, each Committee will see the participation of one person from the other committee to facilitate maximum interchange and communication. The Committees will involve all actors concerned through the development of the strategy. In Jordan, the Steering Committee will include representatives from the General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Transport, local universities, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), local NGOs and the private sector. In the PA, the Steering Committee will be represented from all governmental entities (Palestinian Environmental Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Local government, Ministry of Transport, Palestinian Water Authority, Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ), universities and other research institutes, local NGOs, and the private sector.

20. **Planning teams (Jordan and the Palestinian Authority):** In each country/authority and under the supervision of each Steering Committee, a planning team will be established to undertake the work of the enabling activity. Planning team members will be selected according to their biodiversity and planning expertise and will be led by a national consultant, assisted (where appropriate) by an international consultant, and other national consultants on various aspects of biodiversity and public participation. The lead national consultant in each country/authority will exercise and facilitate project activities, will help to run the national workshops as well as identification of options, drafting of the BSAP and, in the case of Jordan, the First National Report. The international consultant will be used for briefing (training) of the planning team and other national consultants, will assist the lead national consultant in the identification and analysis of options, and will help in preparing the BSAP. The other national consultants will assist the lead national consultant and the planning team in executing the project activities during the inventory and stocktaking, identification of options, formulation of the BSAP, and the preparation of the Jordanian First National Report. The terms of reference for the national consultants and the international consultant will be finalized by the end of the second month of the project. Also, in the first two months, the existing institutional structure of agencies interested in the project (NUB and GCEP in Jordan, PIALES in the PA) and their roles will be clarified to ensure efficient and effective execution of the BSAP.

21. **Stocktaking:** Stocktaking will be done in the Palestinian Authority over a period of three months, starting from the second month. The planning team executing components of the enabling activity in the Palestinian Authority will collate, assess and synthesize existing knowledge on biological diversity. In Jordan where biodiversity information and literature are available, the planning team will only need two months to synthesize available

knowledge, to fit with the BSAP, on biodiversity from the National Biodiversity Country Study, NES, JEL, NEAP and any other related projects such as the Agenda 21.

22. First National Workshops (Jordan & Palestinian Authority): In each country/authority, the first national workshop will be convened at the end of stocktaking and the beginning of the option identification process (month 4) as indicated in the activity/month matrix. It will include representatives from all government entities (e.g. ministries and departments for agriculture, fisheries, transport, energy), private sector, the community, and NGOs concerned with environment and biodiversity management. The purpose of this first workshop will be to present data from the stocktaking, to explain the objectives of the enabling project and the process involved, and to brainstorm on the possible options in the management of biodiversity. Recommendations will be made regarding the operational procedures in order to provide for a sound, coordinated apportionment of the various tasks involved in developing the BSAP. It is viewed that a joint representation from both sides in the first national workshops will enhance and strengthen mutual discussions, brainstorming, and idea sharing on the possible options for sound use and conservation of biodiversity. In view of the fact that Jordan is considerably further ahead in biodiversity issues in general, Jordanian biodiversity specialists will be invited to the Palestinian workshop and vice versa, to facilitate maximum exchange and transfer of information.

23. Instruction courses: In the **Palestinian Authority**: two seminar/instruction courses will be organized for the Palestinian team members (including government agencies, research institutions and NGOs) and the other national consultants by the lead national consultant and the international consultant. The need for organizing two seminar/instruction courses in the PA stems from the lack of capacity on biodiversity within Palestinian institutional structures, and from the fact that biodiversity is a new concept in the Authority and very few people are specialized in it. The first session will be a seminar in month 2 to familiarize participants with objectives of the Enabling Activities, and with the Convention on Biological Diversity and to inject to them biodiversity and sustainable development concepts, and biodiversity assessment methodology. The second seminar/instruction course will be held later in month 3, focusing on dialogue and participatory approaches for the identification on and analysis of options necessary for the conservation, management and sound use of biodiversity. In **Jordan**, as public awareness of biodiversity issues and roles are relatively more advanced than in the PA, only one seminars/instruction course will be organized for the Jordan planning team. This will be held in month 3 of the project so as to inject to the participants biodiversity planning processes, and the specific methodologies involved in the assessment of options and formulation of the BSAP. These instruction courses will allow participants to better understand the role of NGOs and the participatory approach and will familiarize project partners with WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995 guidelines, GEF criteria for enabling activities, and the CBD. The timing of these courses is planned such that the maximum momentum generated from each one of them will be used in the subsequent activities; namely the assessment of existing data, the identification of options and the preparation of the BSAP. Participants will therefore be able to fully contribute to the process of the Enabling Activity. To ensure collaboration and idea sharing, the lead national consultant or one of the key persons on the planning team from each side will participate in the seminar course held in the other side.

24. **Provincial workshops:** Two provincial workshops will be held in the PA by the lead Palestinian consultant and the planning team in months 5 & 6 of the project period, one in the Gaza Strip and the other, in the West Bank. The organization of the provincial workshops will trigger dialogue and partnership among all related agencies, community leaders, NGOs and the private sector in each area, especially for the identifications and analysis of options to meet the objectives of the CBD and the preparation and development of the BSAP. Each provincial workshop will devise a biodiversity strategy close to the needs of local community that will be part of the overall BSAP.

25. **Consultative meetings (Jordan and the Palestinian Authority):** During the project, there will be two series of three small cross-sectoral meetings where stakeholders from all sectors will be invited to discuss biodiversity issues, and to agree upon local perceptions about issues and alternative solutions for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity resources. These meetings are designed to bring about a consensus on biodiversity issues, and common biodiversity approach to fit in the national strategy for the sound use and conservation of biodiversity resources. The cross-sectoral meetings referred to above will include: participants from departments dealing with agriculture, water, fisheries, rangelands/desertification, tourism, industry and the non-governmental sector.

26. **Identification and analysis of options (Jordan and the Palestinian Authority):** Over a four month period for the Palestinian Authority, and three months for Jordan, starting from month 4, the process of options identification and analysis required for the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity will be developed. Selected priority options will be identified. Priority options will be identified from the cross-sectoral meetings, provincial workshops and the national workshops. The priority options will be developed in a participatory and a multidisciplinary approach, and along the lines of sustainable development.

27. **BSAP (Jordan and the Palestinian Authority):** The preparation of the BSAP in each country/authority respectively, will be formalized by the lead national consultant, assisted by the other national consultants, with backstopping from the international consultant on month 10 of the project.

28. **Final national workshops (Jordan and the Palestinian Authority):** The final national workshop will be held by the lead national consultant and the international consultant during month 9 to review strategies and priority options and to obtain additional inputs from the participants in the preparation, finalization and endorsement of the BSAP. To enhance cooperation and idea sharing, the enabling activity will ensure that the final national workshops held in either the PA or Jordan should include joint representation (at least two representatives from particularly the planning team dealing with the BSAP) from both sides.

29. **First National Report (Jordan):** The First National Report will be prepared by the national consultants in month 8 of the project, and it will be submitted to the CBD Secretariat prior to COP4. A final report on the outcome of the enabling activity will also be prepared at the end of the project. On the Palestinian component, a final report may also be prepared and may be submitted as an attachment to the Jordanian First National Report. Over a period of two months, starting from month 11 of the project, the lead national

consultant with the other national consultants would ensure that the BSAP as well as other publications are translated into Arabic language and disseminated among all stakeholders.

30. **Civil society participation and public awareness (Jordan and the Palestinian Authority):** Throughout the project, strong emphasis will be placed on the effective, genuine participation of the civil society in the project. The NGOs will participate especially actively in the option identification phase and in raising public awareness during the project. Such participation of the NGOs is indispensable during the planned workshops as a number of tasks such as awareness raising and information dissemination will be entrusted to them. With respect to public awareness and outreach, the project will organize a series of public awareness activities, including broad media coverage (TV such as the Jordan TV, the Palestinian TV, local TV stations, radio and if found local radio stations, newspapers, magazines, Internet, etc.). Under identification of options, the public awareness campaign will be organized by a specialist under the guidance of the lead national consultant, aiming at increasing the awareness and understanding of the general public on CBD, and the importance of biodiversity for long term economic development and for people's livelihood.

Regionality of project

31. This project is prepared as a regional initiative, with distinct activities in the Palestinian Authority and Jordan respectively. In view of the increased involvement and exposure to biodiversity work in Jordan, it is anticipated that a number of the consultants hired under the Palestinian part may indeed be Jordanian.

32. Close links already exist between a number of biodiversity specialists in Jordan and those in the Authority. This project will further enhance these links. Information, data and lessons will be exchanged on a regular basis. Difficulties pertaining to travel does necessitate that two separate Steering Committees will need to be established, however, if circumstances permit, it is planned that these two will have a number of joint meetings. If this is not feasible, in view of travel complications, at the minimum, the project will ensure that a representative from either side will attend the other's Steering Committee.

33. The various familiarization/instruction courses envisaged for this project will be held with largely the same trainers and utilizing the same training materials, where appropriate. Again, if circumstances permit, joint training events will be preferred as opposed to separate events in each area.

34. IUCN is already supporting the Palestinian Authority with basic biodiversity work through a grant of \$50,000 funded from the Swiss Government. The Coordinator for the Swiss/IUCN project in the Palestinian Authority will also be drawn upon for the Jordanian component of the present GEF project, thereby ensuring complete regionality of this exercise.

ACTIVITY/MONTH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Creation of two biodiversity steering committees & planning teams-J/PA	x											
Drafting & finalization of TORs for nat'l & internat'l consultants-J/PA	x	x										
Consolidation of existing structure & clarification of roles of agencies executing the BSAP-J/PA	x	x										
Assessment-PA and Synthesis of existing data (stocktaking)-J/PA		x	x	x ¹								
First national workshop-J/PA				x								
Provincial workshops (2)-PA					x	x						
Instruction courses (training)-J/PA		x	x									
Identification & analysis of options-J/PA				x	x	x	x ¹					
Cross-sectoral meetings-J/PA				O	N	G	O	I	N	G		
Public awareness-J/PA				O	N	G	O	I	N	G		
Preparation of the BSAP-J/PA								x	x	x	x	
Final national workshop-J/PA									x			
First National Report-J/PA ²								x				x
Translation into Arabic, publications and Dissemination of BSAP-J/PA											x	x

¹ activity not for Jordan;

² The PA will prepare a report that may be submitted attached to the Jordanian First National Report.

Coverage without Duplication

35. There are no duplicative efforts known to be underway or planned in either Jordan or the Palestinian Authority. The preparation of the BSAP will build upon and add to the existing data available in the field of environment and biodiversity. In **Jordan**, the Biodiversity Country Study provides basic line data on the status of biological resources in Jordan and their causes of degradation. The Jordan Environmental Law, the National Environmental Strategy, and NEAP involve the preparation of environmental profiles, Action Plans and laws, the aim of which is to protect and wisely manage Jordanian environment. The Agenda 21 project and the current enabling activity will complement each other and will focus on different issues. The Agenda 21 will focus on environmental degradation within the light of sustainable development, whereas the BSAP will put emphasis on the impact of environmental degradation and exploitative pressures on biodiversity and the priority actions needed to conserve and sustainably utilise the country's biodiversity. Moreover, relevant data and findings from various analyses will be shared during the preparation of the two documents. In addition, as the GCEP, which will be executing the Enabling Activities is also the agency for the Country Study, and the Agenda 21 project, there will not be any duplicative efforts in the stocktaking process. In the **Palestinian Authority**, the Gaza Environmental Profile as well as PIALES' preliminary Biodiversity report will provide useful background information to the present exercise. Moreover, the project will compliment and build on a Swiss Government contribution through IUCN (\$50,000) which will begin the task of data gathering and ground work for the biodiversity strategy and action plan. The present project will enable the Government of Jordan to prepare the NBSAP and a First National Report to the 1997 CBD/COP, thereby fulfilling one of the

commitments of the CBD, while at the same time highlighting the significance of Jordan's conservation efforts in the global context.

Best Practice

36. The methodology for the implementation of the project will be based on the Guidelines for country study on Biological Diversity, Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP, 1993), and the WRI/IUCN/UNEP (1995) Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Planning. The same documents will be used for training. All activities will be done by the national consultant, assisted by other national consultants. The international consultant will be called upon to develop and deliver some specialized training courses, to act as a catalyst to the process, and to provide backstopping, especially in the overall planning. For subsequent activities, Jordan and the PA are keen to incorporate biodiversity into the mainstream development and are therefore committed to developing strategies, options as well as policy guidance and capacity to address these issues on the process of national development planning. The Government of Jordan and the PA are also aware of the nine criteria for best practice contained in the GEF Enabling Activities, Operational Criteria document and will follow them as closely as possible.

Project Financing-Jordan

	Product	Process	Sub-Total (\$)
Stocktaking and inventory	2,000	1,000	3,000
- National consultant	1,000	1,000	2,000
- Documentation	1,000		1,000
Identification and analysis of options	7,000	53,000	60,000 subtotal
- National consultants-10 p/m	2,000	5,000	7,000
- International consultant		10,000	10,000
- 1 instruction courses*		5,000	5,000
- 1 national workshop*		10,000	10,000
- 3 cross-sectoral meetings*		15,000	15,000
- Public awareness*	2,000	3,000	5,000
- Travel & transportation	1,000	3,000	4,000
- miscellaneous	2,000	2,000	4,000
Preparation of the BSAP	11,000	41,000	52,000 subtotal
- National consultants 20 p/m	7,000	8,000	15,000
- International consultant		8,000	8,000
- 1 national workshop*		10,000	10,000
- 3 cross-sectoral meetings*		9,000	9,000
- Translation and printing	2,000	3,000	5,000
- Public awareness*	2,000	3,000	5,000
Preparation of First National Report	7,000	2,000	9,000 subtotal
- National consultants 2 p/m	5,000		5,000
- Dissemination	2,000	2,000	4,000
Coordination and management costs	1,000	3,000	4,000 subtotal
Total (\$)	28,000	100,000	128,000

* Marks activities in which Palestinian participation/benefits will be ensured to ensure maximum cross-fertilization.

Project Financing-Palestinian Authority

	Product	Process	Sub-Total (\$)
Stocktaking and inventory	4,000	9,000	13,000 subtotal
- National consultants 5p/m	3,000	8,000	11,000
- Documentation	1,000	1,000	2,000
Identification and analysis of options	15,000	97,000	112,000 subtotal
- National consultants 15p/m	9,000	21,000	30,000
- International consultant		15,000	15,000
- 2 instruction courses*		10,000	10,000
- 1 national workshop*		15,000	15,000
- 2 provincial workshops		15,000	15,000
- 3 cross-sectoral meetings*		12,000	12,000
- Public awareness*	2,000	4,000	6,000
- Travel & transportation	2,000	3,000	5,000
- Miscellaneous	2,000	2,000	4,000
Preparation of the BSAP	14,000	63,000	77,000 subtotal
- National consultants 10 p/m	10,000	20,000	30,000
- International consultant		10,000	10,000
- 1 national workshop*		15,000	15,000
- 3 cross-sectoral meetings*		12,000	12,000
- Translation and printing	2,000	3,000	5,000
- Public awareness*	2,000	3,000	5,000
Preparation of Reports	12,000	2,000	14,000 subtotal
- National consultants 2 p/m	10,000		10,000
- Dissemination	2,000	2,000	4,000
Coordination and management	1,000	5,000	6,000 subtotal
Total (\$)	46,000	176,000	222,000

* Marks activities in which Jordanian participation will be invited to share experiences and to strengthen capacity building.

Deviation from Criteria and Norms

37. The set of activities and the overall budgeting included in this project lie within the overall activity cost norms. The seemingly high costs on the identification and analysis of options and on the preparation of the BSAP in the Palestinian Authority is due to the fact that the PA has, only in the last year, begun institution-building, and priorities have been put on issues other than those of environmental management and biodiversity conservation. Extensive training and capacity building are therefore required as is the need for consultations through a series of cross-sectoral meetings, provincial workshops and national workshops. In addition, there is a need for English-Arabic translation. It should be noted that a big difference in the cost of individual components of the enabling activity between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority is foreseen, primarily because of the high cost of living and the increased rate of economic inflation in the Palestinian side as compared with that of Jordan.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

38. The project implementation will require the creation of two Biodiversity Steering Committees in Jordan and the PA respectively, each responsible for overseeing the development and subsequent implementation of the BSAP. In **Jordan**, the Steering Committee will include representatives from the General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Transport, local universities, RSCN, private sector, and local NGOs. In the **Palestinian Authority**, the Steering Committee will be represented from all governmental entities (Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Environmental Authority, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Local government, Ministry of Transport, Palestinian Water Authority, ARIJ, local universities and research institutes, other active NGOs, and the private sector.

39. The implementation of activities on the Jordanian side will be entrusted to the GCEP and on the Palestinian side to PIALES. The international consultant will provide training for the planning team and other national consultants, and will provide overall technical backstopping to the lead national consultant. Jordan has expressed interest in drawing the required international expertise from IUCN. The execution of the project will be reviewed at the end of the project according to UNDP rules and procedures. This multidisciplinary and participatory approach will ensure integration and incorporation of sustainable resource management plans into the mainstream planning to achieve comprehensive sustainable development of the region.

Preparation of the First National Report to COP

40. The Jordanian First National Report will be submitted to the CBD Secretariat prior to COP4, possibly with the Palestinian biodiversity report attached.

Annex 1: Activity matrix-Jordan

Enabling activity Commitment	Output	Capacity building		Public Participn.	Comments
		Inst. strength	Training		
<i>Stocktaking and assessment based on Existing Information</i> -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 -assessments of existing needs					1,2
<i>Identification and analysis of options to meet the objectives of the CBD</i> -strategies for conservation -strategies for sustainable use -strategies for benefit sharing	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	3-5 3-5 3-5
<i>Planning and preparation of a strategy and action plan</i> -national strategy -national action plan	x x	x x	x x	x x	4,5 4,5
<i>Preparation of the First National Report</i> -first national report	x			x	5

Comments on Annex 1, Activity matrix-Jordan

1. Information collated in the national Biodiversity Country Study and National Agenda-21 project on various aspects of biodiversity, including flora, fauna and microbial life will be used in this activity. Efforts are needed to synthesize this knowledge to be presented in the first national workshop.

2. Some baseline data for strategic planning, policy, regulations, and procedural frameworks for environmental protection can be obtained from JEL, NES and NEAP. National consultants are also needed to synthesize this knowledge on working papers for presentation in the first national workshop.

3. Contacts with the various institutions active in the area (ministry departments, universities, research centers, NGOs, etc.) should allow for the identification of the strategy options. The two national workshops will provide opportunities to identify these options to review the solutions selected and to finalize the adoption of a National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan defining priority objectives.

4. The popular association groups, represented on the National Biodiversity Committee, will participate in the identification, analysis and adoption of the selected strategy and action plan.

5. The national consultants will be formulating the BSAP with advice and backstopping from the international consultant and will be responsible for producing the First National Report to be submitted to the National Committee for review and approval.

Annex 2: Activity matrix-Palestinian Authority

Enabling activity Commitment	Output	Capacity building		Public Participation	Comments
		Inst. Strength	Training		
<i>Stocktaking and assessment based on Existing information</i>					1
-biodiversity and biological resources	x				
-cross-sectoral issues	x				
-policy and regulatory framework	x				
-institutional and human capacity	x				
-analysis of root causes of BD loss	x				
-technologies for conservation and sustainable use	x				
-activities with adverse impacts	x				
-existing measures and programs	x				
-preliminary statement of objectives	x				
-identification of gaps	x				
-assessments of existing needs	x				
<i>Identification and analysis of options to meet the objectives of the CBD</i>					
-strategies for conservation	x	x	x	x	2
-strategies for sustainable use	x	x	x	x	2
-strategies for benefit sharing	x	x	x	x	2
<i>Preparation of BSAP</i>					
-national strategy	x	x	x	x	2
-national action plan	x	x	x	x	2
<i>Preparation of reports</i>	x			x	3

Comments on Annex 2-Palestinian Authority

1. Partial knowledge will be obtained from PIALES preliminary Study on the Status of Biological Diversity, and from the Department of Environment's Gaza Environmental Profile. National consultants are needed to assess and synthesize base line data on various aspects of biodiversity conservation and management on working papers so as to be presented in the first national workshop and to be incorporated in to the BSAP.

2. Efforts are needed to analyze existing information, identify gaps and generate findings through this enabling activity within the framework of the CBD, the WRI/UNEP/IUCN guidelines, and the GEF operational criteria for enabling activities. The national consultants will formulate the BSAP with advice and backstopping from the international consultant.

3. The lead Palestinian consultant, assisted by the international consultant, will elaborate the first Palestinian report which might be submitted to the CoP attached to the Jordanian First National Report.

Annex 3

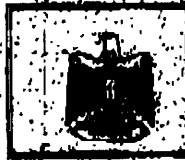
OFFICIAL REQUESTS

P. 02

عمان

الموافق

هاتف ٢٤٢٣٨١/٨٥ - ٢٤٤٤٦٦/٧٠ (١ ٩٦٦) ، فاكس ٢٤٢٢٧٧/٢٤٢٢٨١ ، بريد إلكتروني NPC جو ، تليكس ٢١٣١٩ NPC جو ، ص ب ٥٥٥ عمان ١١١٨٨ - الأردن
 P.O.Box 555 Amman (11118) JORDAN ، NPC Jo ، Telex: 21319 NPC Jo ، Cable: NPC Jo ، 644381/642247 ، 644381/85 ، 644466/70 (٧٤٦٨) ٦٠١



**Palestinian National Authority
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
Minister's Office**

Gaza Fax: 07824030 Tel: 07887854

West Bank Office Al-Ram, P.O.Box 1356 Tel: (02) 5747048 Fax: (02) 5747048

**Mr. Timothy S. Rothermy
Special Representative to the Administrator
UNDP - PAPP
Jerusalem
Fax: 02-6280089**

**From: Dr. Nabeel Sha'ath
Minister of Planning & Int. Cooperation**

Dear Mr. Rothermy,

26-2-1997

The Palestinian Authority, in recognition of the Letter of Dr. Mahmoud El-Ashery of 2 August 1986 to GEF council members, is hereby requesting your assistance in submitting the project component entitled: "Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan" to the GEF Secretariat and the Council for its consideration and approval. In view of the similar biological diversity and eco-systems in the Palestinian Territories and Jordan in the project, it should be noted that this joint project will facilitate exchanges and increase biodiversity conservation as it will be implemented jointly and concurrently.

**Dr. Nabeel Sha'ath
Minister**



Annex 4

LETTER TO COUNCIL MEMBERS RE. ELIGIBILITY WEST BANK/GAZA

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

MOHAMED T. EL-ASHRY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AND CHAIRMAN

August 2, 1996

Dear Council Member:

The *Instrument for the Establishment of the GEF* was accepted by representatives of States participating in the GEF Participants Meeting convened in Geneva from 14 to 16 March, 1994. In accepting the Instrument, the representatives participating in the meeting also agreed upon a set of understandings concerning the Instrument. These understandings are recorded in the Chairman's Summary of the meeting.

Paragraph 6 of the Chairman's Summary notes:

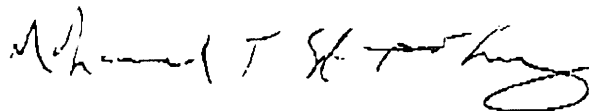
"With regard to "other activities" referred to in paragraph 9(b) of the Instrument, it is understood that territories other than "countries" may be eligible for GEF financing to the extent that they are to be recipients of such financing through a GEF regional or global project".

In the course of their operational work, the Implementing Agencies have received requests to prepare regional projects that would include activities in the West Bank and Gaza which led to inquiries as to the eligibility of the West Bank and Gaza for GEF financing. In response to the inquiries, we consulted with interested stakeholders in the region. Throughout our consultations, there was overwhelming support for GEF assistance to the West Bank and Gaza. On the basis of our consultations, I have concluded that the West Bank and Gaza is eligible for GEF financing consistent with paragraph 6 of the Chairman's Summary of March 16, 1994, and in accordance with the following understanding:

To enable Palestinian eligibility in the GEF only, the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be deemed associated with a state that is a GEF participant and has ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I thought it useful to inform you of this decision so you may take it into account in your review of future work programs.

Sincerely,



cc: Alternates, Implementing Agencies, STAP, Convention Secretariats