

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

Project of the
Palestinian Authority

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Number: PAL/97/G33/A/1G/31
Title: Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region

Duration: 3 years

Project Site: Wadi Gaza

ACC/UNDP Sector and Sub-sector: 0400 Environment
0340 Biological resources

UNDP/GEF: \$540,000

National Contribution:
\$ 122,800 (in kind)
Netherlands: \$ 200,000 (to be confirmed)

Total: \$ 862,800

GEF Theme: Biodiversity
Government Implementing Agency: Palestinian Environmental Authority (PEA)
Executing Agency: UNDP/PAPP
Estimated Starting Date: February 1999

Brief Description:

This project is the Palestinian component of a Mediterranean regional initiative involving Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia. The overall initiative is aimed at ensuring the sustainable management the biological diversity of the coastal areas and wetlands in 6 Mediterranean countries/Authority through the development of adequate legal and regulatory frameworks, the creation of institutional organizations adapted to the complexity of the issues at stake, capacity-building and the development of an exchange network at the regional level both to achieve economies of scale and to save time when implementing and replicating the innovating actions undertaken.

The objective of the project is to create or enhance the exchange structures and fora concerned with this general management:

- ◆ By establishing interministerial coordination mechanisms for projects undertaken at the local and national levels;
- ◆ By developing demonstration activities at the most significant sites;
- ◆ By awareness-raising, training and networking of the population groups and the social and economic actors and establishing linkages between them around the Mediterranean basin.

On behalf of

Signature

Date

Name/Title

UNDP:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. CONTEXT

1. REGIONALITY OF PROJECT
2. DESCRIPTION OF SUBSECTOR
3. HOST COUNTRY STRATEGY
4. PRIOR AND ONGOING ASSISTANCE
5. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUBSECTOR

B. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. PRESENT SITUATION AND PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED
2. EXPECTED END OF PROJECT SITUATION
3. TARGET BENEFICIARIES
4. PROJECT STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS
5. REASONS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GEF
6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
7. CO-ORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS
8. COUNTERPART SUPPORT CAPACITY

C. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

D. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

E. INPUTS

F. RISKS

G. PRIOR OBLIGATIONS AND PREREQUISITES

H. PROJECT REVIEW, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

I. LEGAL CONTEXT

J. BUDGETS

K. ANNEXES

ANNEX I - WORK PLAN

ANNEX II - SCHEDULE OF PROJECT REVIEWS, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

ANNEX III - JOB DESCRIPTIONS

ANNEX IV - EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

ANNEX V - TRAINING PROGRAMME

ANNEX VI - PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS FOR CO-FINANCING

CONTEXT

1. PRESENTATION
2. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION
3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES
4. PROJECT STRATEGY
5. PROJECT ORGANIZATION
6. PROJECT BUDGET
7. PROJECT RISK
8. PROJECT MONITORING

1. PRESENTATION
2. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION
3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES
4. PROJECT STRATEGY
5. PROJECT ORGANIZATION
6. PROJECT BUDGET
7. PROJECT RISK
8. PROJECT MONITORING

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

IMMEDIATE

INTERMEDIATE

LONG TERM

PERMANENT

BUDGET

ANNUAL

QUARTERLY

- I - PROJECT REVIEW
- II - PROJECT REVIEW
- III - PROJECT REVIEW
- IV - PROJECT REVIEW
- V - PROJECT REVIEW

A. CONTEXT

1. REGIONALITY OF PROJECT

The main objective of this project is to build capacity in the participating countries in the Mediterranean region to conserve threatened, globally significant biodiversity in coastal and wetland eco-systems within the framework of sustainable coastal development. The project therefore aims at «closing the Mediterranean circle», in terms of wetland and coastal conservation initiative. The project will ensure that lessons learned and experiences made in the northern rim of the Mediterranean can be effectively transferred and, where applicable, applied and/or adapted to the prevailing circumstances in the participating countries. The regionality of the project provides a greater cost effectiveness and effectiveness for such information and experience transfers both on a north-south basis as well as on a south-south basis.

For the purposes of this project, eligible wetlands, primarily of lagoon type, are those whose flows are interconnected with the Mediterranean Sea, while coastal areas are the terrestrial components of the coastal zone in the vicinity, and under the influence of the Mediterranean Sea. The project does therefore not address navigational and marine pollution issues and nor marine biodiversity. These are presently covered by other existing and planned programmes, in particular under MAP/UNEP (GEF PDF B: Formulation of a strategic action programme for the Mediterranean Sea to address pollution from land-based activities).

This proposal, hereafter referred to as the 'Wetlands project', addresses conservation of globally threatened biodiversity in 16 important wetland and coastal sites in five Mediterranean countries and in the Palestinian Authority. Through a combination of innovative land-use and wetland policies at national level, site protection and management at local level and regional networking and exchange of experience the proposal will provide a biodiversity protection increment to other brown programme addressing pollution and water resource issues in the beneficiary countries/authority. At site level mechanisms for taking account of local concerns and ensuring local participation and economic returns are built into the project from the outset.

The Mediterranean region has seen the rise and fall of many empires over the last 2500 years. Numerous invasions and commercial links, many of them by sea, have seen eastern traders found cities in the western basin, Catalan influence extend as far as Greece, and Arabic culture penetrate well into the Iberian peninsula. These fluxes, together with the enclosed nature of the sea, have led to the establishment of a common Mediterranean identity and culture. This identity is reinforced by the circum-Mediterranean climate of hot dry summers and rainy winters, which is also responsible for the development of ecosystems characteristic of the region.

The Mediterranean coastline (26,000 km) is an area of high biodiversity, where more than 50% of the 25,000 plant species are endemic to the region. It is also a critical area for migratory birds in the Africa-Palearctic flyway as wetlands in the region provide an essential flyway stepping stone on either side of the Mediterranean Sea and between the sea and the vast expanse of the Sahara desert to the south.

The major threats to the exceptional biodiversity of these wetland and coastal ecosystems related to uncontrolled development, urbanization, increasing national and international tourism, land-based pollution, and unplanned or over-exploitation of natural resources, in particular freshwater.

Aware of their common heritage, the Mediterranean States and European Union have developed common programmes and policies for the sustainable development and conservation of the coast since 1975. The Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP Regional Seas Programme), the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, METAP, LIFE, MedWet, Natura 2000 and MEDA (EU) are some of these regional initiatives.

The MedWet programme for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands originated from the Grado Conference (Italy, 1991). The initiative was recently widened (Venice, 1996) where all the riparian States present endorsed a common strategy for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands. In parallel, the Mediterranean Action Plan, Conservatoire du Littoral (France) and Ramsar Convention secretariat held a joint technical meeting on coastal zone management (Hyeres, 1995) where 12 countries agreed on the need to develop land use policies for effective management of the coastal zone.

Today, the States of the Mediterranean region are at different stages of economic and institutional development and therefore differ in their capacity to address biodiversity issues within the context of sustainable development. Incremental funding is required to allow them to implement agreed regional policies in the field.

The overall GEF-funded Wetlands project includes six countries/authorities, namely Albania, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority.

2. DESCRIPTION OF SUBSECTOR

According to the agreements signed by the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Israel (Oslo I in 1994 and Oslo II in 1995), the established Palestinian Authority gained limited autonomy over and administration of parts of the Gaza strip and the West Bank. The parts of the Gaza strip presently under the Palestinian Authority represent the only Palestinian access to the Mediterranean Sea and the coastal and wetland areas covered by this project.

The Gaza strip is 40 km long, between 6 and 12 km wide and covers an area of 365 km² along the coastal zone. The population is estimated to be around 850 000 people concentrated mainly in the ancient town of Gaza (250 000) and in the eight refugee camps (320 000). Sixteen Jewish settlements with an estimated population of 3000-5000 and some corridors occupying 80 km² remain outside the Autonomy and access for Palestinians is restricted. A significant settlement on the southern part of the strip covers around one third of the total coastline. Average population density in the Gaza Strip is 2330 people/km².

The climate of the Gaza Strip is typically Mediterranean, and is a transition between the hot dry deserts of the Sinai Peninsula and more semi-humid conditions prevailing further north. Annual rainfall is highly variable (200 - 900 mm) but averages 200 mm in the south to 400 mm in the north. Recent rainfall has been above the long-term average. Rain falls principally between November and February. This restricted rainfall pattern is a constraint on availability of water resources.

The geology of the area is dominated by wind- and sea- formed sandstones overlaid with varying depths of windblown sand, much of it originating from the sediments of the Nile River. Soils are therefore sandy and permeable with limited organic matter and water absorption capacity. Variations in texture (sand mixed with alluvial or loess soils) allow different crops to be grown. Active wind-blown dune systems occur along the southern coast, but elsewhere have been negatively impacted by sand quarrying.

Water resources are scarce with no natural permanent surface water. Groundwater resources are also limited, and in some places have high nitrate content (50 - >300 mg/l). It is estimated that the total volume of fresh, unpolluted groundwater is decreasing at a rate of 3 - 4% per year. If this continues, freshwater supplies will be exhausted in 30 years time. Every year, extraction exceeds replenishment by 16 - 22 million m³, which eventually leads to salinization through saline groundwater intrusion. In most areas, water is unsuitable for drinking, with agrochemicals and uncontrolled discharge of sewage impacting directly on groundwater quality. Only 7% of domestic water supplies are considered potable according to WHO standards for nitrate and chloride. Wadi Gaza plays a role in recharging groundwater estimated at 2 million m³ per year.

Land is a scarce resource in Gaza strip and is heavily used. Around 19 % of the land are urbanized and 50 % agricultural. The remainder is sand-dune, scrub or other usage. The land ownership around Wadi Gaza is a mixture of private land (west and south of the central road bridge), Wakf land (Islamic community, rented out to local farmers, to the North west of the bridge), Beir el Saba'a land (authority land that has been sold, but not registered at the time of the war- in the east of the Wadi) and authority land is thought to cover only 2.5 ha (Ministry of Housing). The Wadi bed itself is private land in places, due to the changing course of the Wadi.

The total agricultural area declines by 2-3% each year due to construction. 73% of farms cover less than a hectare and land-holdings are increasingly fragmented as human populations increase. Crops include rainfed barley, wheat, peas, onions, watermelons, often cultivated together with almonds; olives or date palms. Irrigated agriculture in green-houses is increasing, although there is direct competition with Israeli farmers for export of these products.

Land reclamation, mostly of dune systems, was encouraged under the Egyptian administration, and continues to this day, mostly along the Wadi Gaza and in the Khan-Younis-Rafah area.

Sheep, camels and goats graze extensively on marginal lands and dune systems, however many Bedouin have returned to the Sinai following the Israel-Egypt Camp David agreements, and livestock numbers are well below historical levels.

The Gaza strip has been heavily settled since the Ottoman period, and extensive agriculture, and grazing have left few natural habitats. The coastal dunes are still rich in flora in places, with 17 endemic species recorded but elsewhere flora only flourishes in abandoned agricultural areas, or along roadside verges. Few data are available on their distribution. , According to the limited historical data available, an estimated 72 globally threatened species occur in the Palestinian territories, with 45 on the coastal zone.

Marine turtles have been recorded along the coast (*Caretta caretta* and *Chelonias mydas*) but hunting and egg collection are thought to have brought these species to extinction. Forty species of terrestrial reptile are recorded along with seven species of amphibian, but precise data on status and distribution are hard to locate. Fourteen species of mammal are confirmed, and a further ten are of uncertain status. Dense bird migration occurs over the Gaza strip in both spring and autumn, and many species use the coastal and wetland habitats of Gaza as a stop-over point before continuing their annual migration.

3. HOST COUNTRY STRATEGY

From the initiation of environmental assessments in the Gaza strip following the establishment of the autonomous authority in 1994, the Wadi Gaza and the coastal area have been identified as a remaining natural zone with potential as a significant nature conservation/recreation area. This significance of Wadi Gaza has been reflected in most of the Palestinian Authority regional and domestic planning schemes. The outputs of the first phase of the Emergency Plan for Environmental Protection, produced by the Environmental Planning Directorate of MOPIC in early 1996 has placed Wadi Gaza as a green area that should be protected. The subsequent MOPIC Coastal Zone Plan of December 1996 has also designated Wadi Gaza as an area of nature conservation/recreation value. This significance of Wadi Gaza was also reaffirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture (Environment Directorate) and by the newly established Palestinian Environment Authority (PEnA).

Although there are apparently no biodiversity experts in the Gaza Strip, wide range of nature conservation activities exists in the West Bank areas under the jurisdiction of the Authority. These activities include respect for parts of the protected areas network established under the Israeli regime and the development of environmental legislation that would protect nature reserves and biodiversity.

As this project is developed, the Palestinian Authority is moving out of the transition phase of emergency measures and ad hoc arrangements for environmental issues into a medium term phase of institutional development through the Palestinian Environment Authority (PEnA) which has taken over responsibility for environmental affairs. The establishment of a Palestinian Biodiversity and Action Plan (BSAP), funded by GEF, is presently one of the main activities of PEnA. A national Biodiversity Steering Committee has also been established to promote and coordinate activities in respect to biodiversity.

4. PRIOR OR ONGOING ASSISTANCE

This project has been based on the application of the GEF funding of incremental costs to achieve global benefits for biodiversity. During the development phase of this document, a range of projects were identified which were addressing, or which intended to address, the sewage treatment, water quality and solid waste issues associated with Wadi Gaza and improved capacity to address brown issues in general. Some of these projects address the infrastructure needs in the water and sewerage sector in the Gaza Strip and around Wadi Gaza. The implementation of these projects would alleviate constraints on the Wetlands project and allow GEF funds to address the core issues of biodiversity in the Wadi Gaza context.

The following is a list of prior and on-going initiatives that address, directly or indirectly, Wadi Gaza and its biodiversity:

- The Environmental Action Plan, funded by the Netherlands Government, addresses the designation of nature reserves and protected areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and draw an action plan to protect the environment and natural resources.
- The Environmental Protection of the Coastal Zone project, which aims at the implementation of the Coastal Zone Action Plan of 1997. This project is waiting for funding.
- Projects for the building capacity of the Palestinian Environmental Authority, funded by the UNDP and the Governments of Japan (through UNDP/PAPP) and Italy. These projects will strengthen the human and resource capacity of PEnA and create an effective legal framework and institutional instrument that would be able to implement the GEF funded Wetlands project.
- The completion of feasibility study and detailed plans for the sewerage collection network for the Middle Region refugee camps to be implemented by UNRWA. This project complements the feasibility study of the proposed new wastewater treatment plant for the Gaza Strip Middle Region (supported by France). These plans aim at treating wastewater of the Middle Region refugee camps which otherwise flow into Wadi Gaza. The project is fully funded by France. The construction of the Gaza Central Wastewater Treatment Plant is presently under consideration for funding by the German Government. Italy has committed itself to the operation and maintenance of the Gaza wastewater treatment plant.
- Various parties have addressed the solid waste management of the Gaza Strip Middle region. The dumping of solid waste in the Wadi Gaza has subsequently been stooped and three sanitary landfills have been established for the Gaza Strip. The Netherlands funded the ongoing Solid Waste Action Plan project, Spain is funding a solid waste sorting and compacting unit, and Japan is supporting the solid waste sector in general.
- METAP III includes a proposal to arrest Hot spot pollution at Wadi Gaza
- PEnA has received support from GEF and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to develop a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) which includes biodiversity-enabling activities in the Gaza Strip. The BSAP is presently under implementation and its activities are preparing the grounds and building the human capacity that would effectively contribute to the Wetlands project. A central Biodiversity Steering Committee, under the umbrella of PEnA, has also been established and provides guidance to biodiversity activities in the Palestinian Authority areas
- The Institutional Building of PEnA project, funded by Japan through UNDP/PAPP, includes a study of protected and national parks and the drawing out of a Palestinian Environmental Action Plan (PEAP).
- A framework environmental legislation is currently being formulated with support from Belgium. This legislation is expected to pass in middle 1998. It will provide the basis for special regulatory arrangements for Wadi Gaza area.
- An Environmental Education and Awareness project is presently undergoing by the Children for the Protection of Nature Society with support from The World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The project addresses the issues of biodiversity and environmental protection with special emphasis on Wadi Gaza.
- USAID showed interest in funding a project to control mosquito in the Wadi Gaza area through biological control (BTI) and is expected to be implemented in 1998.

5. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUBSECTOR

Prior to the creation of the Palestinian Environment Authority (PEnA) in 1997, environmental protection and legislation has been poorly developed and structured. The British Mandate (1922 - 1948) and the Egyptian Administration (1948 - 1967) made little progress in wildlife protection, hunting legislation, nature conservation and management. Since the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip in 1967 until the partial Israeli redeployment of 1993, the environmental legislation was not fully put into effect in the Gaza Strip. This has clearly contributed to the degraded state of the environment in general and water resources in particular, while no foundations were laid in biodiversity expertise, survey, monitoring or nature management. Human resources in all these fields are limited or non-existent.

The most active department in the Gaza strip, prior to the establishment of PEnA, has been the Environmental Planning Directorate of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (EPD/MOPIC). This department coordinated the Environmental Profile (1994), the regional plan (1997) and the Coastal Management Plan (1998), and the Environment department of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In 1997, the Palestinian Environment Authority (PEnA) was created, absorbing the Environment departments of other Ministries (MOPIC, Agriculture and Health), including transfer of selected staff, projects and equipment. Among others, PEnA has the mandate to develop and implement environmental policies, strategies, and environmental laws. It is also responsible for the sustainable management and protection of natural resources and environmental awareness.

The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) has initiated several programs that aims at the conservation of water resources and the formulation of water policies. Several surface and ground water monitoring programmes have been initiated by PWA in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. No work thus far has been done on Wadi Gaza.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) works in the refugee camps and has responsibility for public health, sanitation, education activities, environmental awareness and extension work. In this respect it also has a link to Wadi Gaza through the outflow of untreated sewage from the camps to the Wadi. The proximity of the camps to the Wadi and the interactions between the refugees and the Wadi makes UNRWA a key partner in the management of this ecosystem.

Both Universities in Gaza Strip have the capacity to assist in analysis of water quality samples and to provide students to support fieldwork in biodiversity. There is however, only limited capacity to undertake the detailed biodiversity surveys essential for the success of the project, and support will need to be sought from Jordanian, Egyptian, or other international sources. Al Najah University in Nablus has hydrological modeling expertise.

In the NGO sector, Greenpeace already collaborates with Children for the Protection of Nature in Palestine (CPNP) in raising awareness of Wadi Gaza. The Environmental Protection and Research Institute (EPRI) has worked on the applied research aspects of the mosquito problem in the Wadi Gaza area. In the West Bank, CPNP is developing children's education center in Bethlehem, which constitutes a valuable resource of expertise at central level. The Applied research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ) undertakes applied research, notably linked to GIS, satellite and aerial imagery, spatial mapping and watershed modeling, and is also based in Bethlehem.

Two NGO umbrella organizations, Ecopeace and Palestinian-Israeli Environmental Secretariate (PIES), both Jerusalem-based, are also seeking to improve Palestinian - Israeli partnerships through environmental activities, as a civil society contribution to building links in aid of the peace process.

B. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. PRESENT SITUATION AND PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

1.1 Wadi Gaza

1.1.1 The present situation

The regional analysis of biodiversity hotspots showed that the biodiversity of the Gaza Strip is generally little known. Yet, there is sufficient information to show the presence of endemic plants, reptiles and mammals, and to demonstrate its key strategic importance on the migration pathways of wetland bird species as Wadi Gaza is one of the few wetlands on this section of the middle east flyway (along with Aamiq marshes in Lebanon, another component of this regional project).

Wadi Gaza is the only major watercourse in Gaza Strip. Its catchment covers 3,500 km² most of which is in Israeli territory, only the last 7 km of its course lying in the Gaza Strip. The Gaza section, which lies some 7 - 8 km south of Gaza City, is a sandy valley 20 - 50 m wide, with steep cliffs 6-8 m high. The river flow has eroded the Wadi banks, expanding to a permanent, brackish, water body several hundred meters wide, shortly before it reaches the sea.

No data are available on flood-flow frequency, height or volume yet it is evident that occasional or regular flash floods sweep down the Wadi bed, although their frequency may be reduced by the suspected presence of small dams, or diversion schemes, in the catchment. The Gaza Strip Environmental Profile (1994) records that flow occur ten days per year, with no further details.

There is a constant flow of untreated sewage water into the Wadi from the refugee camps. This maintains a trickle of water in the Wadi bed, and feeds the permanent stagnant pool that covers several hectares at the mouth of Wadi Gaza, hence maintaining an extensive water body during the dry season. Fish are known to occur in this pool which is therefore not completely deoxygenated, although dominated by dense algal growth. No surface water quality data are available, but several wells around the Wadi appear to have unacceptable levels of bacterial contamination, indicating that the pollution is extending to the groundwater in this area.

Three bridges cross the Wadi (two road and one rail) and numerous dry season tracks criss-cross the Wadi bed where it widens near the refugee camps. On either side of the Wadi extends farmland with olives, vines, market gardens and other crops, some of which are probably temporarily flooded during major storm events. At the eastern road bridge, farmers dam the river in summer using earth, and pump the water for irrigation; this water is affected by algal blooms and is a bright green color.

The vegetation in the Wadi is dominated by Tamarisk growing on the dunes and sand deposits in and around the Wadi bed. The wetter areas have stands of Typha which also fringe the water body near the outlet to the sea. Around 125 ha of saltmarshes recorded in the Gaza Environmental Profile of 1994 have disappeared following construction of the new bridge at the Wadi Gaza outflow in 1996. This has disrupted the outlet, affected windblown sand deposition, improved access to the public, and generally modified the whole of the ecology and geomorphology of the Wadi Gaza estuary. Local staff reports that the foundations of the bridge have also blocked the river course and therefore raised the level of the pond. While this may be the case, it is evident that sand accumulation, either brought down by Wadi Gaza in recent floods, or deposited during sea storm events is the another proximate cause of the blockage. During westerly storms, seawater may be pushed over the sand barrier into the Wadi, maintaining brackish conditions in the downstream part of the system.

1.1.2 Threats to the integrity of the site

The inflow of untreated sewage from the refugee camps neighboring Wadi Gaza maintains water levels in the Wadi, hence allowing the establishment of a permanent waterbody near the sea. It has, however several undesirable side effects. Firstly from a human health perspective, this situation is unsatisfactory. Secondly, the downward percolation of this water is polluting the groundwater, and several wells along the Wadi have recently been closed for health reasons. Thirdly, the quality of the wetland habitat thus created has low biodiversity value for submerged plants and invertebrates due to the eutrophicated status of the pond, and may even contain elements poisonous to migratory bird species higher up the food chain.

There is particular concern in the Gaza Strip about the proliferation of mosquitoes in this polluted area, and proposals have been made to drain the pond to the sea (either by gravity or by pumping). In 1997, pesticides were sprayed against mosquitoes throughout the area, herbicide was used to kill riparian vegetation (habitat for adult mosquitoes) and motor oil was poured on the water to kill suspended larvae. In addition, local people dump solid wastes in the Wadi bed in an attempt to fill stagnant ponds.

Industrial sites upstream in the catchment area are reported to evacuate their wastewater into Wadi Gaza. This has been addressed by the then Environment Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, and progress has been made on reducing such activities. However there are no data on water quality available to support the assertion that industrial waste no longer reaches the Gaza section of the Wadi.

The dry Wadi bed is used as a solid-waste dumping site for building materials, domestic garbage, old cars and other wastes. Much of this is swept out to sea, or redistributed during strong flood events.

Construction is another threat to Wadi Gaza, considering the high population density there and the pressure to expand available housing areas. For the time being this does not encroach directly on the Wadi Gaza area, yet uncontrolled development along the Wadi banks in future would reduce its amenity and recreation value, as well as its value for biodiversity.

A positive feature of the Wadi Gaza ecosystem is the regular cycle of strong floods, the last in 1994, which periodically flush the system following heavy rainfall, reducing accumulation of organic matter, removing eutrophicated water and reducing the salinity to zero. This allows the real prospect of rehabilitating the Wadi in the long term.

1.1.3 The Palestinian Authority response

The PA and UNRWA are gradually addressing the serious and complex situation of sewage treatment through the concerned Ministries and Authorities. They are motivated principally by a desire to improve human health, reduce sewage infiltration into the already polluted aquifer, and to recycle part of the wastewater for agricultural use.

UNRWA and MOPIC have put forward fully costed feasibility studies for sewage treatment, including design of collectors for the middle camps and siting of the sewage treatment plant. Donors have either committed or expressed interest in funding such projects (see ongoing assistance, above). During the construction period (up to four years), sewage will continue to flow into the Wadi, but thereafter improvement should be rapid and substantial.

The legislation which will mandate PEnA to manage natural areas, and to regulate local activities is currently being elaborated and is expected to be passed by mid-1998. The GEF-funded BSAP and the Institutional Building of PEnA project (funded by Japan) are also developing the regulations and management patterns of nature reserves and protected areas.

MOPIC has designated 3 land fill sites in Gaza strip and the 40 old dumpsites have been «closed». Enforcement must await the new legislation, but already UNRWA has abandoned the dumpsite at Wadi Gaza which it had used for many years.

PEnA will put forward Wadi Gaza catchment issues (quantity and quality) to the joint Palestinian-Israeli working group on water if pollution from upstream sources was to be found in the Wadi Gaza water flow.

Studies are underway to resolve the mosquito problem in the Wadi Gaza through biological control (BTI) and are expected to be implemented in 1998. Support for this control has been requested from USAID.

There is general local agreement from MOPIC, PWA, PEnA and MoA that Wadi Gaza should be designated a natural area with a protected status. A co-ordination committee has been proposed that would coordinate activities on the site, given the intersectoral nature of the problems to be addressed and the need for planned and concerted action. Each ministry has its own proposals, for example for groundwater recharge, construction of sills or dams in the Wadi for irrigation, or as a nature protection area, and it is important that intersectoral planning be instigated for the successful long term management of the site.

One of the features of current planning at Wadi Gaza is that no spatial or temporal baseline information exists on flood frequency or flows, water quality, pollution inflows, biodiversity distribution etc. This makes it difficult, or impossible, to plan on a firm footing, and this project therefore proposes to collect and publish, the baseline data needed for informed decision-making in the area.

1.2 Coastal zone

Elsewhere in the coastal zone, a few areas have been identified as important for biodiversity, but little information exists on species distribution or the threats they are facing. A total of 17 or more endemic plant species have been recorded in the coastal area. Extensive desert-like areas in the south of the Gaza Strip are one of the few main remaining natural areas. The Gaza Strip Environmental Profile notes «A belt of 500 -1000m from the coastline inwards, notably between the beach resorts of Gush Katif and Neve Dekalipm is an outstanding example of this valuable landscape and floristic and faunal diversity».

In this area the El Mawasy agriculture is common along the seashore. This special agricultural technique consists of removing the surface layers of windblown sand (several meters deep) until richer soil is reached which is in close contact with the groundwater lens. Vernal pools exist within the dunes that have good water quality and provide a

haven for amphibian species. Unfortunately they are little studied and more survey work is essential before biodiversity assessments can be made.

Substantial work has already been undertaken in the coastal zone, mainly the Coastal Zone Action Plan of 1997. This plan classified the Gaza Strip coastal zone into areas with special values for recreation, nature protection, urbanization, tourism and agriculture. The Environmental Protection of the Coastal Zone project aims at the implementation of the Coastal Zone Action Plan.

2. EXPECTED END OF PROJECT SITUATION

Developed and institutionalized a sustainable framework for the management, policies and protection of the wetland and coastal biodiversity, contributing to "closing the Mediterranean circle" in close networking with the other participating countries.

The problems of Wadi Gaza are wide-ranging and the resources of the current project are considered only as an incremental contribution - an addition to the ongoing programmes such as those dealing with sewage treatment, water quality or environmental health and which address brown issues directly. In this respect, the «green» increment can only be truly effective if the groundwork on pollution issues goes ahead as planned.

Specific achievements will be:

- Legal, regulatory and institutional instruments and tools will have been established for the protection and conservation of threatened biodiversity in the coastal and wetlands areas of the Mediterranean basin.
- Regional networks will have been established for exchange of experiences and for mutual reinforcement of actions.
- On-site protection of globally significant biodiversity will have been achieved in the project sites, and actions will have been taken to broaden these initiatives beyond the selected priority sites to others in the country.
- Improved knowledge of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems, interlinkages, distribution, threats and uses
- Improved capacity at the local and national levels to address biodiversity issues in lateral and integrated planning levels
- A solid legal framework for the protected/conservation areas will have been established
- A detailed assessment of threatened species and appropriate measures (Management Plan) for their preservation will have been developed
- A general public awareness campaign for stressing the importance of natural environment resources protection will have been undertaken
- Grassroots involvement in biodiversity protection will have been ensured.
- A monitoring system for globally threatened biodiversity will have been set up
- A series of training for biodiversity experts and other relevant participatory bodies will have been accomplished
- Local level management structures will have been established/strengthened to ensure sustainable long term management of the globally significant biodiversity in the selected sites
- Cross-sectoral structures and policies for the effective management of biodiversity and wetland and coastal resources will have been developed.
- Indirect benefits, such as human health improvements, employment creation, increased tourism, etc. will also be associated with this initiative.

3. TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries are the people of the Gaza Strip will gain from having a well-managed Wadi Gaza. Those who live in and around the site will benefit from the long term sustainable management of this resource. These are people with precarious livelihoods.

Protected areas are important for regional development. It is recognised that tourists and visitors are increasingly vacationing in or near to natural, unspoiled areas, many spending their holidays experiencing nature and observing wildlife. Albania is seeking to increase nature based tourism (i.e. ecotourism) (in complementarity to the existing cultural and leisure tours) and the Mediterranean tourism sector will benefit from the proposed protected area network.

Other national beneficiaries include all the project participants: the Palestinian Authority and its respective agencies, universities, scientific institutes, NGOs and national experts. At international level, exchanges between the countries involved in this project and the common approach to conserving part of the Mediterranean region's biodiversity will increase regional collaboration and the cross-fertilization of ideas and approaches. At the level of the individual participants this will broaden understanding of others problems, break down cultural or political barriers, and promote the feeling of belonging to a regional network faced with, and solving similar problems.

4. PROJECT STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 At the regional level

The priority sites identified in each country/Authority provide the basis for urgent actions to protect threatened biodiversity. They also provide a framework to which further sites can be added in future in order to address coastal and biodiversity issues in the country/Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The project will develop, within the Mediterranean region, the instruments and management policies for wetlands and coastal zones whose conservation is of common interest to all the riparian countries. The experience from site level will feed into the activities for addressing root causes of biodiversity loss at national level and provide the case studies necessary for justifying the need for policy change. The combination of regional, national and local activities will allow the development of a set of legal, technical, regulatory and organisational frameworks which are individually specific but which serve to achieve a common goal.

The regional team will be a full technical partner to UNDP and the executing governments/authority, to provide advice on terms of reference, project planning through the TPR and to give technical guidance to both national and local actions. The main issues to be addressed at regional level are the horizontal themes which are relevant to all participating parties and where economies of scale can be made by undertaking these activities at regional level. The project will therefore emphasise exchange of the best available experience through technical assistance and networking, regional seminars on key topics of relevance to this project, training initiatives, and publication of guidance on management issues.

The regional activities will support the national actions by promoting exchange of experience within the region and by demonstrating how different countries (from north and south) have resolved or addressed similar problems. The regional team will also seek to promote information exchange concerning project activities at regional, national and site level through web-sites on the Internet.

A number of networks exist within the region and through their key positions in these technical and political networks, the Conservatoire du Littoral and the Tour du Valat are able to mobilise their members to support country actions, and to disseminate the results of the project in ways that will benefit stakeholders in other countries. Both organisations are committed to the sustainable development of coastal and wetland ecosystems within the Mediterranean region.

The implementation strategy adopted for this project is aimed at decentralizing to the appropriate national entities all actions that can be conducted and monitored at the local level. Each beneficiary country will manage the funds allocated to UNDP by the GEF through Government implementing agencies for national activities in Albania, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. In the case of Lebanon, FFEM allocated the funds to a project governmental agency through the UNDP Beirut office and the French Embassy. For the Palestinian Authority, PAPP/UNDP of Jerusalem will be the executing agency and the Regional Project component will be managed by UNOPS.

The presence of a Regional Facilitator will impart substantial added value to the project through the regional use of national actions, the efficiency gains obtained by avoiding the repetition of errors and the dissemination of good practices to be emulated; this regional action will be supported by a Regional Advisory Committee. This will be achieved:

- ◆ In the area of training, where the national actors will benefit from inputs and the experience of their colleagues in other countries, to whom they will also communicate their own experience;
- ◆ In the common preparation of methodology documents (guidelines) and in their distribution;
- ◆ In many other areas, such as feedback information, harmonizing databases, establishing common scientific procedures, whose availability will be enhanced by state-of-the-art communication systems such as the Internet.

The goal is therefore to create an actual network between the actors concerned in the various countries and to establish exchanges and partnerships between them. Likewise, information on the activities carried out and the programmes undertaken will be communicated to the other riparian countries, thus contributing to the actions conducted within the framework of the international conventions and activities in the Mediterranean Basin (Mediterranean Action Plan, Barcelona Convention, Ramsar Convention and MedWet).

Regional activity will make it possible to capitalize on, enhance and transfer experience at a lower cost and with greater efficiency.

4.1.1 Regional Advisory Committee

In order to maintain the coherence of the regional approach while capitalizing on the experience of each of the participants, it is crucial, throughout the implementation of the project, to adhere to a regional vision sustained by a **Regional Advisory Committee** which will ensure, at the highest level, that the regional approach be maintained, one which will have a synergistic effect increasing the efficiency of the actions conducted at the national level.

The composition of the Regional Advisory Committee will include:

- One representative of each of the Ministries or entities in charge of the environment in each country/Authority (if possible the Chief or Assistant Chief of the delegation to the MAP meeting)
- The National Project Coordinator;
- GEF/UNDP,
- UNOPS
- FFEM/AFD,
- French Environment Ministry;
- The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan or his representative;
- The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention or his representative.
- Tour du Valat
- Conservatoire du Littoral

The *Regional Advisory Committee* may invite the participation, at their own expense, of other partners or qualified authorities: European Union, IUCN, WWF or any other person whose presence might be considered appropriate.

The expenses incurred by the members of the *Regional Advisory Committee* for their participation in the Committee's annual meeting are charged to their respective national budgets.

4.1.2 Regional Facilitator

The need to establish relations between project actors in the various countries/Authority, the organization of training activities and exchanges, and the monitoring for consistency have given rise to the necessity of appointing Regional Facilitator for this purpose. This person will be based at la Tour du Valat, the Mediterranean centre for research and conservation of wetlands, located in the Camargue region of France.

The Regional Facilitator assists each of the governments/Authority reach the objectives set within the framework of the project, in close collaboration with UNDP country offices and FFEM local representatives. This is essentially a technical task, involving no administrative support and backstopping and reporting. On behalf of GEF/UNDP, the Facilitator also monitors the use of GEF/UNDP funds and will provide reports on such use., based on the regular reports which he/she will receive from the National Coordinators.

He/She maintains contact with all project actors in each of the countries/Authority at the local and national levels, as well as all of the ministries concerned and the UNDP office and FFEM local representatives. The national responsible parties will provide the Regional Facilitator with the elements required to accomplish his/her mission and in particular with a copy of all sectoral studies, reports in connection with the project, records of the various national and local committees, and any other documents which might serve to ensure efficient monitoring of the project implementation.

At the completion of the project, the results of all operations conducted in the beneficiary countries/Authority will be reviewed at the regional level and a synthetic summary of the lessons learned will be established by the Regional Facilitator. This summary will be distributed in the Mediterranean region via the existing networks.

4.1.3 Roles of Tour du Valat and Conservatoire du Littoral.

The tasks entrusted to the Regional Facilitator will be numerous and varied. He/She will be supported in his/her activities by a team of experts in training, wetland management, biodiversity, integrated management of coastal areas and land-use policies. All of these experts will make their technical knowledge available to the Facilitator to support the development of regional activities and will also provide access to their own regional expert networks. The technical coordination of this team of experts will be ensured by Tour du Valat/MedWet for the wetland component and the Conservatoire du Littoral for matters pertaining to coastal management and the development of land policies.

There are numerous networks in place in the Mediterranean region and, thanks to their central position within those technical and institutional networks, the Conservatoire du littoral and the Tour du Valat Centre are able to support the project by calling on their counterparts throughout the region. These two not-for-profit organizations were created for the purpose of conducting integrated actions for the development of coastal areas and wetlands and to protect biodiversity.

4.2 Strategy at the national level

Wadi Gaza is a complex management issue where a serious situation has been left un-addressed for over thirty years. It will not be possible to reverse this neglect overnight, and this project should be seen as little more than the first step in attempting to rehabilitate the Wadi in a situation involving many difficult technical subjects, in a context where there is little local experience of intersectoral collaboration, where ministries and PEnA are still relatively young with limited human capacity, and where the information base for informed decision-making is not yet available.

The project strategy is to firstly create or improve the legal framework essential for effective biodiversity conservation; secondly to improve the knowledge of biodiversity distribution, water quality and quantity, pollution accumulation etc, as a basis for effective planning; thirdly to assist in the implementation of field actions to improve the quality of the site, through the creation of an intersectoral coordination committee which will provide a forum for discussing all projects related to the Wadi and its resources (see Annex II for Terms of Reference); fourthly promote improved awareness of the importance of biodiversity, and of Wadi Gaza through information, education and awareness in the local community.

The collection of data concerning biodiversity distribution requires competent, motivated individuals with an aptitude for field survey, yet it appears that capacity is limited in the Gaza Strip at the present time. International consultants from the Middle East region therefore might have to be called in to assist in this work. However, for transfer of competence to Palestinian staff to be operational, it is essential that a local biodiversity working group be identified, coordinated and motivated by a biodiversity coordinator contracted by the Project.

The project will develop and promote a biodiversity working group for the Gaza Strip and a local intersectoral coordination committee for the Wadi Gaza through the establishment of a project coordination office in the PEnA offices in the Gaza City. The project as a whole will report its activities to the Central Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Committee, established in the framework of the GEF funded BSAP project, which has been set up with inter-ministerial and NGO participation. There is therefore no need to establish a second steering committee at central level.

4.2.1 Implementation arrangement

PEnA will be the umbrella implementing agency of the Wetlands project for the Palestinian Authority. The Executing agency for the project will be UNDP through its Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP).

Both PEnA and UNDP/PAPP have a key role to play in the implementation of this project. It is essential that PEnA maintain a clear vision of how to reach the projects objectives within the context of the Palestinian Authority, and the particular context of the Gaza Strip. The UNDP/PAPP will provide technical backstopping support, and facilitate the implementation of the project. In full consultation with PEnA, UNDP/PAPP will ensure the recruitment of all project staff, including the project-coordinator. In full consultation with UNDP/PAPP, PEnA will contract local implementing institutions for certain components of project. Selection and drafting of contracts with local implementing insitutions will be jointly carried out by UNDP/PAPP and PEnA.

The following will be undertaken with full consultation between the two parties:

1. Selection of the project manager, based at PEnA's office in the Gaza Strip, responsible for the implementation of the project and preparation of his/her ToR;
2. Selection of local and international consultants, and local implementing insitutions to be contracted for the project, and preparation of his/her ToR;
3. Publishing in the local newspapers of pre-qualification advertisements for local implementing institutions(or agencies) and consultants;
4. Organizing regular meetings with the local implementing institutions in order to review progress and achievements and to plan future activities. At least once per year, the Regional facilitator will participate in this review;
5. Monitoring and evaluating the project at several levels including inputs, outputs, impact and progress;
6. Negotiating sub-contracts with the selected local implementing institutions, or with appropriate short-term consultants;
7. Reviewing and approve the implementation plans and schedules prepared by the local implementing institutions;
8. Ensuring overall coordination of the project activities and supervising project implementation.

PEnA responsibilities will include: __

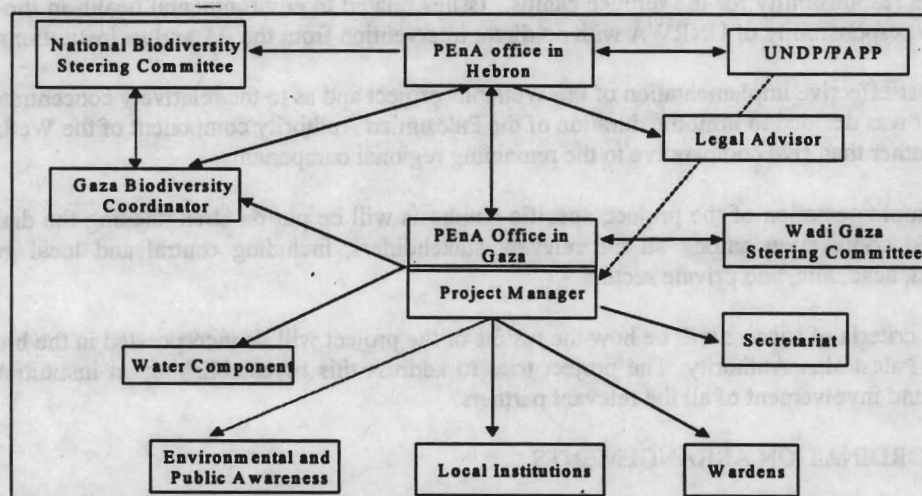
1. Providing a fully functional office for the project in PEnA premises in the Gaza Strip, including a full-time secretary;
2. Provide a full-time qualified technical assistance to the project manager;
3. To, jointly with UNDP/PAPP, select and prepare ToRs and negotiate contracts for local implementing institutions and/or agencies and international and national consultants for the relevant activities in the project;
4. To, in consultation with UNDP/PAPP select and contract three wardens and executive secretary to be hired for the project;
5. Preparing quarterly financial and operational reports as requested;
6. Establishing and chairing a local intersectoral co-ordination committee for Wadi Gaza, composed of all relevant authority departments (including, MOPIC, Palestinian Water Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Information, the Governorate, universities, local mukhtars representing the community, UNRWA, UNDP and NGOs, such as Greenpeace, and CNPN (See Annex II for ToR);
7. Establishing and chairing a biodiversity working group for the Gaza Strip, involving NGOs, universities and biodiversity experts; and
8. Supervising activities of sub-contracted institutions and local consultants.

UNDP/PAPP responsibilities will be the following:

1. To contract a project manager for the Wetlands project according to the ToR (Annex II);
2. To contract the selected local implementing institutions, or appropriate short-term consultants for the relevant activities of the project;
3. To transfer the funds available to the implementing institutions into separate bank accounts to be opened by them for the purpose of their subcontract with UNDP/PAPP, upon submission of a written request and certified documents and according to an agreed schedule of payment;
4. To monitor the project implementation and progress;
5. To purchase equipment necessary for the implementation of the project and to make the necessary arrangements for its temporary or permanent use by the implementing institutions or individuals, in full consultation with PEnA;
6. To provide appropriate support, as necessary, through UNDP Gaza; and
7. To report to GEF – New York.

A separate contract will be negotiated between PWA and UNDP/PAPP and PEnA in respect to the water flow and data component of the Wetlands project. The UNDP/PAPP will be responsible for the purchase of the hydro monitoring equipment; provision of limited maintenance cost, and contracting hydrologist for the building of a simple model for surface water balance for Wadi Gaza. The PWA will be responsible for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of the hydro monitoring equipment throughout the duration of the project, and cooperation and coordination with the Project Manager of the Wetlands project and the contracted hydrologist.

An implementation chart of the Wetlands project is shown below.



5. REASONS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GEF

The narrow Mediterranean coastline and its associated wetlands is a limited area increasingly colonised by human presence. The most frequent, and irreversible, trend is urbanisation which wipes out the potential for biodiversity and natural habitats.

This occupation of space is virtually irreversible as a return to natural habitats is largely impossible. At the other end of the spectrum, however, other dangerous threats, for example pollution, can be reversed with appropriate resources. It is therefore essential to develop planning and management policies, natural resource management and sustainable development initiatives that aim to limit the loss of natural habitats, especially wetlands.

All the beneficiaries of this project have ratified the Convention on Biological diversity, and the Ramsar Convention. This project also complies with principles of biodiversity protection, the GEF operational strategy and the programmes on coastal, marine and freshwater agreed at the second conference of the parties to CBD (Jakarta, Indonesia, Nov 1995).

The incremental contribution of the GEF and FFEM will accelerate the implementation of policies whose costs could not otherwise be carried by the states alone, considering the substantial funds committed by them to address existing brown issues.

In addition, the development of pilot management methods for the coastal zone, and the development of structured exchanges through a regional network, will allow a number of Mediterranean countries to avoid the need to reinvent the wheel in addressing their own national issues, hence promoting accelerated replication of experience gained elsewhere.

6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The prevailing conditions in the Gaza strip, and current restrictions on movement between the Palestinian-administered territories will affect efficient project implementation if they continue in their present form. Large-scale unemployment, economic stagnation and shortages may lead to frustration at the lack of progress in the peace process. Environmental issues cannot easily be addressed against a backdrop of social unrest and insecurity.

The newly created Palestinian environment authority began assuming its operational responsibilities in the second half of 1997. The early years of the project will therefore coincide with a transition phase as PEnA gradually acquires legal tools, trained personnel and the information required to pursue its mandate.

UNRWA has responsibility for the refugee camps. Issues related to environmental health in the refugee camps are thus the only responsibility of UNRWA with no direct intervention from the PA and its institutions.

To ensure cost-effective implementation of the Wetlands project and as to the relatively concentrated focal sites of the project, it was decided to limit the duration of the Palestinian Authority component of the Wetlands project to three years rather than five comparative to the remaining regional components.

During the implementation of the project, specific emphasis will be put on strengthening the dialogue, information exchange and cooperation among all the relevant stakeholders, including central and local governmental, non-governmental, academic, and private sectors.

The ultimate criteria of success will be how the results of the project will be incorporated in the broader development goals of the Palestinian Authority. The project tries to address this by establishing an institutional framework for cooperation and involvement of all the relevant partners.

7. COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS

Strong links will be established between PEnA, the UNDP/GEF Programme Officer and the GEF Regional Facilitator who will give advice on terms of reference for short term consultants, identify regional expertise available to address particular technical issues, and design training programmes to support implementation of this regional programme.

The local coordination committee for Wadi Gaza will ensure the coordination of the project activities with the stakeholders of the Wadi and with other initiatives in the Gaza Strip addressing the biodiversity and coastal zone.

Close coordination will be maintained between the Wetlands project and a complementary external project on environmental and public awareness for the Wadi Gaza that was submitted by UNDP/PAPP to funders for support. This project includes activities in the environmental and public awareness field, which are complementary to the activities undertaken within the Wetlands project. The details of the complementary project are outlined in Annex

IV. The Wetlands Project manager would be in charge of coordinating the activities of the external project and the timely implementation of its activities to better serve the overall goals of the Wetlands project.

At the Mediterranean level, beside the constant information exchanges between the six participating countries/territories, the project will establish relations with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) of MAP, METAP, and the various programmes undertaken by a number of donors, as well as with initiatives targeting the Mediterranean region such as those undertaken by IUCN or conducted by the WWF. These networking activities will be one of the missions assigned to the Regional Facilitator

8. COUNTERPART SUPPORT CAPACITY

The Palestinian Environment Authority (PEnA) has been officially established in December 1996 and received its full mandate and authority over the Palestinian environmental issues in July 1997. Presently PEnA established three offices, in Hebron, Ramallah, and the Gaza Strip. The Gaza Strip office is well equipped and may function as the focal center for the implementation of the Wetlands project.

Several projects and currently undergoing to building the human and resource capacity of PEnA. New qualified staff is being added as well as environmental workframe, policies and strategies are under formulation.

A Biodiversity Steering Committee has been established and chaired by PEnA that will provide guidance and supervision to biodiversity projects in the Palestinian Authority areas, including the Wetlands. PEnA has also established strong coordination channels with the various Palestinian Authority ministries and institutions which would facilitate the implementation of the intersectoral tasks of the Wetlands project. PEnA has developed its expertise in the field of biodiversity and demonstrated great interest in the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources.

Several local institutions in the Palestinian Authority have developed the technical capacity that would allow them to participate in the implementation of the Wetlands project.

C. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The project's overall development objective is to conserve globally endangered species and their habitats, recognising nature conservation as an integral part of sustainable human development while improving the capacity of governmental and non-governmental agencies to address biodiversity conservation issues and to promote the institutional and human resources capacity to assess, monitor and manage the remaining natural resources of the Gaza Strip for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

D. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Objective 1. Promotion and capacity building for the development of central policies and tools to address the policy-related root causes of the loss of wetland and coastal biodiversity.

The legal and policy framework, which allows PEnA to regulate activities and especially those impacting negatively on biodiversity conservation, is still under development. Substantial progress is being made, through emergency legislation, and through enabling laws, yet this effort should continue in order to provide the tools necessary for addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss. These activities are necessarily dependent on prevailing political circumstances, and the volume of legislation being processed, yet these factors should not prevent the conceptual process from taking place during this project.

Output 1.1 Reinforcement of the legal framework required to establish a network of protected areas within the territories of the Palestinian Authority

The legal activities should draw on the experience available within the region, and travel funds are available for the contracted lawyer to visit other countries and benefit from their experience.

Activity 1.1.1: Review and analyze existing legislation (property rights, nature protection, water and wetlands, urban planning, coastal planning, tourism, waste disposal and other relevant issues) and identify the components of this legislation which may be immediately applied for the protection of sensitive natural areas in the Gaza strip. Publish this as an information document for all those involved in the management of Wadi Gaza.

Activity 1.1.2: Propose measures for addressing the gaps in the existing legal framework linking long term biodiversity protection to sustainable development in sites of central or regional importance for biodiversity.

Activity 1.1.3: Drafting of legal text providing the basis for the legal protection of the biodiversity at Wadi Gaza, including the delimitation and zoning determined as a result of the biodiversity and socio-economic field studies, and making appropriate provision for an intersectoral management authority for the area.

Responsible party: PENA/Local Advisor/Ministry of Justice/Lawyers association (in accordance with ToR, Annex II).

Output 1.2: Reinforce the legal basis required for effective implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Plan

In many Mediterranean countries, the best-laid plans have failed to prevent extensive littoralization and construction along the coast. Several have now turned to a policy of either buying private land along the coast, in order to leave it in its natural and undeveloped state, or giving the Environment Ministry the public lands along the coast to manage in tandem with sustainable tourism development, rather than selling the land for hotel and tourism development.

Activity 1.2.1: Supply examples of Mediterranean coastal zone planning legislation to PEnA.

Responsible party: Project regional facilitator

Activity 1.2.2: Definition of procedures allowing the acquisition of private or Wakf lands by the Palestinian Environment Authority for the specific purpose of protecting its coastal biodiversity in the long term through appropriate land-use policies.

Responsible party: PENA/Local Advisor/Ministry of Justice/Lawyers association (in accordance with ToR, Annex II).

Activity 1.2.3: Mapping and digitizing of land ownership along the coastal zone, and around Wadi Gaza.

Responsible party: Land registry/ Ministry of Housing/MOPIC

Output 1.3: Improvement of the information base on the distribution of coastal biodiversity.

The coastal biodiversity of Gaza is little known. Inventory and surveys are required to identify important areas and include them in a network of conservation areas along the coast, building on the experience gained in managing the Wadi Gaza.

Activity 1.3.1: Field survey of remaining natural areas of the Gaza Strip coast, and particularly the «el mawasy» areas, to assess globally threatened biodiversity distribution and identify sites worthy of future protection.

Activity 1.3.2: Field surveys for nesting loggerhead turtles along the coastal strip.

Responsible party: Local university/NGOs with input from Egyptian, Jordanian or other Mediterranean experts.

Objective 2. Protection and removal of root causes in key demonstration sites selected in view of their global significance and of the variety which they present in terms of threats and accompanying actions.

Conservation of threatened species requires knowledge of their distribution, the factors influencing their presence or absence (e.g. grazing, hunting, etc.) and an understanding of how local land-use and economic activities may interact with the species concerned.

This information provides the basis for designating the boundaries of the site, the activities to be permitted within different zones of the area (if appropriate) and the location and nature of management activities put into place by the management committee. Within the GEF framework, particular emphasis is put on identifying, managing and monitoring globally threatened species. The data gathered will also feed directly into the public awareness and education activities, funded separately by the Netherlands Government.

The creation of a Biodiversity Working Group, chaired by a contracted coordinator, will allow collation of the available data in a standard spatial format using the same digital base map, hence allowing data to be summarized under a GIS. This working group will continue to monitor biodiversity of the conservation area network, and will advise the coordination committee, and PEnA on biodiversity issues as required.

While it is assumed that the Peace process will increasingly facilitate links and travel between Gaza and West Bank, is essential that these activities be undertaken wherever possible by local experts or organizations based in Gaza, so that they can participate actively in the evolving management process at a local level in the medium and long term.

Output 2.1: Preliminary site diagnosis for Wadi Gaza including assessment of biodiversity distribution (plants, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals), topographic survey, water quality, flood regimes, socio-economic activities.

Activity 2.1.1: Undertake a literature review of all information available concerning biodiversity distribution in Gaza, and especially Wadi Gaza.

Responsible party: Local Institution(s) in accordance with ToR (Annex II) in collaboration with PEnA.

Activity 2.1.2: Undertake a topographic survey of the site (50 cm contours) and digitize the resulting map.

Activity 2.1.3: Provide a digital base map (with grid squares) on which all other species/habitats/land-use and physical features will be mapped (1: 5000 scale)

Responsible party: Local or public institutions in accordance with the pre-qualification in Annex II).

Activity 2.1.4: Assess historical changes to local land-use in the Wadi Gaza catchment, and especially along the Gaza section through satellite image, aerial photo analysis and available land use maps.

Responsible party: Local Institutions in accordance with the ToR (Annex II).

Activity 2.1.5: Describe the recent history of the area along with the changes or trends related to the natural environment, as perceived by its inhabitants.

Activity 2.1.6: Undertake a PRA of socio-economic activities in the area.

Responsible party: Local institution or university in association with PEnA

Activity 2.1.7: Describe the medicinal plants used by local people around Wadi Gaza

Responsible party: University or international/regional consultant

Activity 2.1.8: Describe the principal vegetation types, plot the distribution of globally threatened plants and design a monitoring system for these species.

Activity 2.1.9: Describe the mammals of the area, plot the distribution of globally threatened mammals and design a monitoring system for these species.

Activity 2.1.10 : Describe the amphibians of the area, plot the distribution of globally threatened amphibians and design a monitoring system for these species.

Activity 2.1.11: Describe the reptiles of the area, plot the distribution of globally threatened reptiles and design a monitoring system for these species.

Activity 2.1.12: Describe the birds of the area, plot the distribution of globally threatened birds and design a monitoring system for these species.

Responsible party: PEnA with input from local institutions, universities, local consultants and Jordanian/Egyptian consultants (in accordance with ToR in Annex II).

Output 2.2: Establishment of an interim co-ordination committee and field staff for the area

Initially, the project office will be located in Gaza City. As the programme develops it is desirable to establish an office and information center much closer to the Wadi, both as an administrative presence on the project site being managed, and as a focal information point for visitors, schools and local people.

Activity 2.2.1: A workshop will be held on Wadi Gaza including all involved ministries, NGOs, UNRWA, local economic actors, mukhtars and concerned municipalities.

Activity 2.2.2: Designation by the competent authority of the composition of the coordination committee, to be formalized as the core of the future management authority when the conservation area is established.

Activity 2.2.3: Recruitment of wardens to assist in public awareness activities and in surveillance of land-use within the area.

Activity 2.2.4 : Installation of the project in accommodation (to be identified) near the Wadi.

Responsible party: PEnA

Output 2.3: Public awareness activities to sensitize local people and decision-makers of the importance of Wadi Gaza, and the natural environment in general.

Activity 2.3.1: Organize a «Nature of Wadi Gaza» event with the intention of not only improving awareness, but also to attract and identify enthusiastic amateurs willing to join and assist in surveys or in future awareness activities. This could be accomplished through showing documentaries on Wadi Gaza,

lectures for students and adults, photo exhibit of Wadi Gaza biodiversity and nature, advertisements widely published in the local press, demonstrations of the potentials of Wadi Gaza, and other relevant activities.

Activity 2.3.2: Produce information materials, stickers, t-shirts and posters on Wadi Gaza and its importance for biodiversity, designed for schools and the public.

Responsible party: PEnA, possibly in association with local implementing institutions, such as NGOs and private sector

Output 2.4: Establishment of a monitoring system for hydrology and water quality in association with relevant institutions in order to develop a water balance model to guide decision-making.

Activity 2.4.1: Install hydrological monitoring equipment to monitor flood flows during flood events, the levels of the main water body in the Wadi, and marine inflow.

Activity 2.4.2: Measure surface water quality (including heavy metals) at regular intervals, especially where the Wadi crosses the border with Israel.

Responsible parties: PEnA and PWA

Activity 2.4.3: Development of a simple model for the surface water balance of Wadi Gaza to assist future decision-making on management scenarios. This activity includes the installation of water flow monitoring equipment in the Wadi to provide the basic data on water flow and floods.

Responsible party: PWA and a local hydrologist.

Activity 2.4.4: Based on the results of the initial biodiversity survey, monitor globally threatened plants, reptiles, mammals and amphibians at appropriate frequency and at least once in the final year of the project.

Responsible party: PEnA

Output 2.5: Equipping of management authority and the site

Activity 2.5.1: Identify site for future Wadi Gaza information center

Activity 2.5.2: Implement indigenous tree planting projects compatible with biodiversity conservation around the Wadi, preferably shade trees.

Activity 2.5.3: Install appropriate signs around the Wadi to inform local people of the boundaries of the conservation area.

Responsible party: PEnA

Output 2.6: Development of a finalized management plan formally accepted and adopted by the appropriate authority

Activity 2.6.1 Bring together all the above information in a single, budgeted, plan to guide the future management of the site. This activity is to be carried out in consultation with the coordination committee.

Responsible party: PEnA, coordination committee, with international management consultant (see ToR in Annex II)

Objective 3. Contributing to «closing the Mediterranean circle» in terms of biodiversity protection and sustainable management of wetlands and coastal zones through cost-effective networking for transfer of lessons, interchange and training.

The Palestinian Authority can benefit substantially from the experience gained elsewhere in the Mediterranean region on biodiversity management issues, and this component will allow effective transfer of knowledge and know-how within the 6 participating countries/authority, and within the region as a whole. The training team, based at the regional coordination centre for the project, will undertake the design and teaching of the course.

Output 3.1: Training for Palestinian staff

Before launching the biodiversity inventory, the biodiversity group should be constituted, and a 10 days course held to learn, discuss and plan the biodiversity work. This course should include international biodiversity experts, and benefit from experience on these issues from Egypt and Jordan.

The first course should coincide with the launch of the fieldwork, hence allowing international and Palestinian experts to go to the field together to begin the inventory and discuss any difficulties which may arise.

Activity 3.1.1: Define detailed training needs for staff appointed on the project

Responsible party: Regional facilitator

Activity 3.1.2: Implement a training course on management planning methods

Responsible party: PEnA and Regional coordination

Activity 3.1.3: Training in establishment of inventory and monitoring procedures for biodiversity

Responsible party: PEnA and Regional coordination

Activity 3.1.4: Participation in regional seminars

Six regional seminars are planned within the project (see regional project component), and one will be organized in the Gaza Strip. All participating countries will attend if the security situation permits. Palestinians will participate in the other 5 seminars in each of the project countries.

Responsible party: PEnA and Regional Facilitator

E. INPUTS

1. GEF Contribution

GEF will provide a total of \$540,000 to this project. This input will be used to pay for non-in-kind support required for this project. The details of the use of these funds are shown in the Budget below.

2. Palestinian Authority Contribution

The Palestinian Authority, through PEnA, will provide in-kind administrative costs and assign one qualified and experienced staff member from PEnA to help in carrying out the project activities. The PEnA will also be responsible for providing the office space, including utilities, for project staff and consultants. The PEnA shall also be responsible for providing drivers and maintenance expenses of the vehicle to be acquired by the Wetlands project, including miscellaneous transportation expenses. The total in-kind contributions of the PEnA are valued at \$122,800.

Summary of PEnA In-Kind Contributions

Item	Work Months	Total Cost In US\$
Staff member	36	54,000
Other Administrative Support	36	45,000
Facilities		10,800
Partial Operation & vehicle Maintenance costs		1,000
Reporting		5,000
Misc. Expenses		7,000
Total In-Kind Contribution		122,800

F. RISKS

Adapting legislation and reglementation concerning land-use rights is a long-term and complex process. The creation of new structures specialised in the protection of the coastline may also generate opposition within the administration and therefore requires substantial commitment from government to succeed. The support of local people and of the media may also contribute, and in this sense the image and international nature of the project is an important feature.

The active participation of local people and local government in decision-making on land-use and water issues is essential as it is at this level that the main pressures on remaining natural areas occur. This purpose is rendered difficult by lack of resources to allow full participation and the weakness of analytical, consultative and inter-administrative systems.

In addition, effective coordination between all administrative levels (local and national) is essential for project success and this will require a sustained effort from all project participants and strong political will. Building on the interest shown by all the participating countries/authority, the project preparation process has nevertheless improved the awareness of these issues and attention should remain focussed on promoting this in each of the project sites.

G. PRIOR OBLIGATIONS AND PREREQUISITES

Prerequisites: Establishment of a Wadi Gaza coordination committee composed of representatives of all concerned ministries, and including universities and NGOs.

The PA will reaffirm its commitment to arresting pollution in Wadi Gaza and facilitate the implementation of sewage treatment facilities for the middle camps as a development priority.

No infrastructure projects (such as sills, dykes, infill of the Wadi) will be implemented by Ministries or Authorities until the baseline data are available to evaluate their effectiveness, and their potential impacts on the natural values of the site.

Assistance for the project will be provided only if the obligations and prerequisites stipulated above have been fulfilled or are likely to be fulfilled. When anticipated fulfillment of one or more prerequisites fails to materialize, UNDP may, at its discretion, either suspend or terminate its assistance.

G. PROJECT REVIEW, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

In view of the regional nature of the project and the specific linkages between the 6 countries/territories involved, special conditions for monitoring and reporting have been established.

As has already been described in the Regional Project Document, the Regional Facilitator will provide assistance and advice and will ensure the networking of the national projects. The Regional Facilitator will be responsible for drafting and submitting various technical reports to GEF/UNDP, to UNOPS and the FFEM. In addition the Regional Facilitator will also provide comments to national *Project Reviews* and will also attend the annual meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee.

Project Review – PR (also called TPR in regular national projects)

This project will be subject to annual Project Reviews (PR) which will take place at least every twelve months, with the first such meeting to take place within the first twelve months following actual project start-up.

The participants to these Annual Project Reviews (APR) will include: representatives of the Government, the implementing agency, UNDP, and the Regional Facilitator. Upon the initiative of the representatives of the Government, the implementing agency, UNDP, two national coordinators for other countries or any other national or international actor participating in the regional project may be invited to attend.

Annual Performance Report

The Project Manager will be responsible for preparing and submitting to each Project Review (PR) an Annual Performance Report (APR). Other evaluation reports may be requested, as needed, during the implementation of the project. Each project partner (representatives of the Government, the implementing agency, UNDP, the Regional Facilitator, as well as the GEF/RBAS New York) will be provided with copies of the Reports before the Project Reviews (PR).

The APRs from each national project component will be submitted to the Regional Facilitator, so that she/he may write a combined and summarized APR for the entire project to be submitted to GEF/RBAS.

A project completion report will be prepared to be discussed at the last Project Review (PR). This report will need to be prepared in advance, so as to enable the implementing agency to provide technical inputs and to make comments, at least four months before this last tripartite review.

Mid-term evaluation

The project will be subject to a mid-term evaluation, i.e. during the third year after actual project start-up. The organization, the terms of reference and the timing will be determined after consultation with the participants in the APR preceding the mid-term evaluation.

The consultants who will carry out this evaluation exercise will normally be selected from the GEF STAP roster after consultation with project partners. This evaluation will be independent. Particular attention will be paid to the selection of regional consultants to the extent possible. The evaluation team will consist of no more than 3 people. The same team will visit all of the countries participating in the project in order to produce a coherent evaluation. The results of the mid-term evaluation will be made publicly available according to the GEF's principles of transparency and free access.

Clearing House Mechanism

The National Coordinator will work with the project's national partners to establish biodiversity indicators and monitoring indicators during the first year of the project. These indicators will be submitted to the Regional Facilitator for his assent as to the type of biodiversity to be monitored, the frequency of the measurements and the periodicity of the reports to be submitted to him. This information will be shared with the focal point of the "Clearing House Mechanism", GEF / UNDP as well as the other project partners.

The monitoring information will be reviewed and summarized by the Project Manager and submitted to the Regional Facilitator for further analysis and review.

GEF Project Implementation Review

The project will also be subject to the GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) process. This involves filling out a computerized questionnaire (to be submitted each year in July/August). In view of the fact that this regional project will be treated as a single entity, each national component, through its National Coordinator, will submit the

information required by the Regional Facilitator in a timely manner so that the GEF PIR process may be completed on time.

UNDP monitoring of GEF-funded project activities

Ad hoc monitoring missions may be undertaken, in coordination with the Regional Facilitator, FFEM, Tour du Valat / Conservatoire du Littoral, by the UNDP/GEF group of New York in all countries concerned by the activities funded by UNDP/GEF (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority and Tunisia). The UNDP Country Offices in these countries/Authority will be responsible for day-to-day monitoring and dialogue with the national authorities during the implementation of the project.

Regional Advisory Committee annual meetings

The purpose of the annual meetings of the Regional Advisory Committee is to provide a forum for dialogue contributing to a project global strategic vision, and for exchanges of ideas between the participants in order to transfer good practices and the lessons learned within each of the Mediterranean countries. The Regional Advisory Committee may issue recommendations in line with project objectives. UNOPS and UNDP/GEF will implement them taking into consideration the existing conditions, the GEF eligibility criteria and the budget constraints.

The composition of the Regional Advisory Committee will include:

- One representative of each of the Ministries or entities in charge of the environment in each country/Authority (if possible the Chief or Assistant Chief of the delegation to the MAP meeting)
- The National Project Coordinator;
- GEF/UNDP,
- UNOPS
- FFEM/AFD,
- French Environment Ministry;
- The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan or his representative;
- The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention or his representative.
- Tour du Valat
- Conservatoire du Littoral

The *Regional Advisory Committee* may invite the participation, at their own expense, of other partners or qualified authorities: European Union, IUCN, WWF or any other person whose presence might be considered appropriate.

The expenses incurred by the members of the *Regional Advisory Committee* for their participation in the Committee's annual meeting are charged to their respective national budgets.

I. LEGAL CONTEXT

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed between UNDP/PAPP and the Palestinian Environmental Authority (PEnA). The MOU will outline the expectations and responsibilities of each party in carrying out the implementation of the project.

J. BUDGETS

B.L.	Description	Total		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
		Budget	AOS	Budget	AOS	Budget	AOS	Budget	AOS
	Experts/Consultants								
1151	Botanist	12,000	960	12000	960	0	0	0	0
1152	Medicinal plants botanist	4,000	320	4000	320	0	0	0	0
1153	Ornithologist	12,000	960	12000	960	0	0	0	0
1154	Mammalogist	6,000	480	6000	480	0	0	0	0
1155	Management planner	24000	1920	0	0	0	0	24000	1920
	<i>Subtotal</i>	58000	4640	34000	0	0	0	24000	1920
	Administrative Support								
1301	Executive Secretary	9000	720	3000	240	3000	240	3000	240
	<i>Subtotal</i>	9000	720	3000	240	3000	240	3000	240
	Official Travel								
1501	Travel	25000	2000	8000	640	8000	640	9000	720
	<i>Subtotal</i>	25000	2000	8000	640	8000	640	9000	720
	Mission Cost								
1601	Mid term review	8,000	640	0	0	8000	640	0	0
	<i>Subtotal</i>	8,000	640	0	0	8000	640	0	0
	Local Professionals								
1701	Project Manager - PenA Gaza	82,800	6624	27600	2208	27600	2208	27600	2208
1702	3 wardens (33 m/months each)	39,600	3168	10800	864	14400	1152	14400	1152
	<i>Subtotal</i>	122,400	9792	38400	3072	42000	3360	42000	3360
	Local Consultants								
1751	Legal adviser(s)	12,000	960	12000	960	0	0	0	0
1752	Botanists	16,000	1280	6000	480	6000	480	4000	320
1753	Ornithologist	12,000	960	5000	400	6000	480	1000	80
1754	Hydrologist	18,000	1440	18000	1440	0	0	0	0
1755	Biodiversity coordinator	10,000	800	1000	800	0	0	0	0
1797	Herpetologist	3,000	240	1500	120	0	0	1500	120
	<i>Subtotal</i>	71,000	5680	52500	4200	12000	960	6500	520
	Sub-Contracts								
2101	Public awareness, PenA	20,000	1600	20,000	1600	0	0	0	0
2102	Topography/ GIS/digitizing	25,000	2000	25,000	2000	0	0	0	0
2103	PRA and Social Studies	15,000	1200	15,000	1200	0	0	0	0
2104	Land Use Changes Study	23,000	1840	23,000	1840	0	0	0	0
2105	Watershed Quality	12,000	960	4966	397	4966	397	2068	165
2106	Literature review	3,500	280	3500	280	0	0	0	0
2107	Signposting	2,000	160	2000	160	0	0	0	0
2108	Treeplanting	3,000	240	0	0	3000	240	0	0
	<i>Subtotal</i>	103,500	8,280	93,466	7,477	7,966	637	2,068	165
	Training								
3201	Seminars and training	20,000	1600	7000	560	7000	560	6000	480
	<i>Subtotal</i>	20,000	1600	7000	560	7000	560	6000	480
	Equipment								
4501	Equipment (Computer/printer/overhead)	4,160	333	4,160	333	0	0	0	0
4502	Vehicle	18,500	1480	18,500	1480	0	0	0	0

4503	Motorcycles (3)	10,100	808	10,100	808	0	0	0	0
4504	Hydro Monitoring unit	6,000	480	6,000	480	0	0	0	0
4505	Maintenance (hydro-unit)	2,000	160	1,000	80	1000	80	0	0
	<i>Subtotal</i>	40,760	3261	39760	3180	1000	80	0	0
	Miscellaneous								
5301	Miscellaneous/contingency	42,340	3387	14000	1120	14000	1120	14340	1147
	<i>Subtotal</i>	42340	3387	14000	1120	14000	1120	14340	1147
99	Total	500,000	40000	298126	23850	94966	7597	106908	8553
999	Project total	540,000							

K. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Work Plan

As the Palestinian Authority part in the regional project is limited in geographic focal sites, the implementation of the project could be carried out in a three-year period without affecting the outputs. The first two years of the project would be designated for the inventory on biodiversity, monitoring of water flow and quality in Wadi Gaza, the establishment of the Wadi Gaza Steering Committee, the literature survey, and public awareness and training. The third year would be designated for the analysis of data, design of the management plan, and definition of investments for the conservation and/or development of the Wadi Gaza.

PAL/97/G33/A/1G/3I

[illegible]

Project Workplan

Year	Year 1												Year 2												Year 3												
Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35		
Appoint Proj. Mang.	X																																				
Appoint Consultants	X																																				
Activity 1.1.1			X	X	X																																
Activity 1.1.2			X	X	X																																
Activity 1.1.3			X	X	X																																
Activity 1.2.1			X																																		
Activity 1.2.2			X	X	X																																
Activity 1.2.3			X	X	X	X																															
Activity 1.3.1												X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		
Activity 1.3.2												X	X	X																							
Activity 2.1.1			X	X	X																																
Activity 2.1.2			X	X	X	X																															
Activity 2.1.3			X	X	X	X																															
Activity 2.1.4					X	X	X	X	X	X	X																										
Activity 2.1.5					X	X	X	X	X	X																											
Activity 2.1.6					X	X	X	X	X	X	X																										
Activity 2.1.7					X	X	X	X	X	X																											
Activity 2.1.8/2.4.4				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Activity 2.1.9											X	X																									
Activity 2.1.10/2.4.4											X																									X	
Activity 2.1.11/2.4.4											X																									X	
Activity 2.1.12/2.4.4						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Activity 2.2.1		X																																			
Activity 2.2.2		X	Committee continue to meet - on call																																		
Activity 2.2.3			X																																		
Activity 2.2.4				X	X																																
Activity 2.3.1										X																											
Activity 2.3.2										X	X	X	X																								
Activity 2.4.1			X	X																																	
Activity 2.4.2			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Activity 2.4.3						X	X	X	X	X	X	X																									
Activity 2.5.1						X	X																		X												
Activity 2.5.2																										X	X	X	X								
Activity 2.5.3						X	X																			X											
Activity 2.6.1																												X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Activity 3.1.1/2.1/3.1	According to the project regional workplan																																				
Activity 3.4.1	According to the project regional workplan																																				
Terminal Report																															X	X					
Project Review												X																									

Annex II. Schedule of project review and reporting

Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region
PAL/97/G33/A/IG/31

	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Year 1</u>				<u>Year 2</u>				<u>Year 3</u>			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1	Inception report	2/											
2	<i>APR</i>		6/										
3	<i>TPR</i>			9/									
4	APR Mid-term evaluation					6/							
5	<i>TPR</i>						9/1						
6	<i>APR</i>									6/			
7	Terminal TPR										9/		

Annex III. Job Descriptions—

Terms of Reference - Project Manager

The project Manager is responsible for the implementation of project activities in full cooperation with PEnA, the project focal point at the local level, and his/her tasks are as follows:

- Ensure timely implementation of the different project activities;
- Supervise and coordinate the issuing of subcontracts for each of the project activities in close consultation with UNDP/PAPP and PEnA;
- Provide the secretariat for the Wadi Gaza intersectoral coordination committee, draft the agenda in collaboration with the Chairperson and write minutes of the discussions;
- Circulate information concerning the project, its activities, and the wider activities of other Ministries specifically concerning Wadi Gaza;
- Assist and advise the local implementing institutions with the workplans and accomplishing their activities under the project;
- Write all the necessary financial and progress reports required within the UNDP project cycle and any others, as requested;
- Maintain coordination channels between PEnA and the local implementing institutions in regard to project activities;
- Maintain regular contact with the project Regional Facilitator and draw on the regional network for advice and information that would improve project implementation at Wadi Gaza; and
- Participate in the planned regional seminars, and organize one such seminar in Gaza City for the other regional participants (if the political situation allows).

Qualifications

- A University higher degree (Masters or Ph.D.) in environmental science, agriculture, forestry or other fields relevant to biodiversity;
- Experience of project management, preferably in the field of environmental;
- Experience of working with NGOs;
- Familiarity with the Gaza Strip, its institutions and social politics is essential;
- Ability to communicate and work effectively with a wide range of project partners;
- Capacity to write reports and manage budgets; and
- Fluent in English and Arabic.

The post is based in Gaza City (PEnA office) and reports to PEnA and to UNDP..

Terms of Reference – Legal Experts

The Legal expert(s) will work in full collaboration with the Project Manager and under the supervision of PEnA, and will undertake the following activities:

- Review and analyze existing legislation (property rights, nature protection, water and wetlands, urban planning, coastal planning, tourism, waste disposal...) and identify the components of this legislation that may be immediately applied for the protection of sensitive natural areas in the Gaza strip.
- Draft legal text providing the basis for the legal protection of the biodiversity at Wadi Gaza, including the delimitation and zoning determined as a result of the biodiversity and socio-economic field studies, and making appropriate provision for an intersectoral management authority for the area.
- Propose measures for addressing the gaps in the existing legal framework linking long term biodiversity protection to sustainable development in sites of central or regional importance for biodiversity.
- Define legal procedures allowing the acquisition of private or Wakf lands by the Palestinian Environment Authority for the specific purpose of protecting its coastal biodiversity in long term through appropriate land-use policies.

It is essential that the process draws on experience elsewhere in the Mediterranean region, and funds are available for the necessary study tours. Contact should also be made with the IUCN environmental Law Center in Bonn, and the Conservatoire du Littoral in France, via the regional facilitator.

Terms of Reference - Site Diagnosis

The site diagnosis is an important stage in the development of a management plan for a natural area.

There are four principal objectives:

1. Determine the distribution of threatened species, where possible their number, and hence identify the important areas for each species or group of species
2. Identify and measure the threats to each of the species and their habitats (e.g. overgrazing, hunting, etc)
3. Define and implement a monitoring system for the monitoring of key parameters that have an impact on the species' habitat or the species themselves.
4. Constitute a small biodiversity working group which can advise the managers of the site in their specialist field.

Main tasks of biodiversity international consultants include:

1. Train local biodiversity consultants on species identification in the relevant field of biodiversity;
2. Describe the principle biodiversity species of Wadi Gaza and the coastal area
3. Identify globally threatened species min the Wadi Gaza and coastal area;

It is important that each group specialist (plants, birds, reptiles etc) should create links with the international NGOs and universities working on similar topics. Knowledge of biodiversity is a direct function of the time spent in the field, and it may be possible to encourage visits from naturalists, on a volunteer basis, which will help constitute the necessary information base.

Tasks of each key player are:

Regional facilitator

- Provide a model baseline document for all countries
- This will be presented at the first meeting of the biodiversity working group

Biodiversity coordinator

- Coordinate the field activities of the team
- Organize the digitized map at an appropriate scale
- compiles the final report, incorporating all the group accounts
- Make proposals for zoning of the area and the limit of the conservation area, based on biodiversity distribution
- Provide the linkage between the biodiversity working group and PEnA and with the co-ordination committee

Botanist(s)

- Establish the distribution of threatened flora
- Make a map of the principal vegetation communities
- Define and implement a monitoring system for threatened flora
- Identify the factors (positive and negative)influencing the distributions of the threatened species

Reptile and amphibian expert (s)

- Establish the distribution of reptiles and amphibians with particular attention to those that are globally threatened
- Define and implement a monitoring system for threatened reptiles and amphibians

- Identify the factors (positive and negative) influencing the distributions of the threatened species
- Ornithologist(s)**
- Establish the distribution of breeding and migratory birds with particular attention to those that are globally threatened
 - Define and implement a monitoring system for threatened birds
 - Identify the factors (positive and negative) influencing the distribution of the threatened species
- Mammalogist**
- Establish the distribution of mammals with particular attention to those that are globally threatened
 - Define and implement a monitoring system for threatened mammals
 - Identify the factors (positive and negative) influencing the distributions of the threatened species

International consultants are required to have good knowledge of the Mediterranean/Middle East biodiversity and experience in the field identification of biodiversity species.

Terms of Reference - Warden

Duties:

- Conservation of all the natural resources of Wadi Gaza through daily visits in the field.
- Protection of fauna and flora from illegal activities.
- Participation in organizing and executing rehabilitation schemes
- Participation in public awareness activities with NGOs
- Qualifications
- A University degree or High school diploma preferably in an environmental area
- Fluent in Arabic and English
- Calm personality with rigorous standards
- Resident of the immediate area surrounding the park

Terms of Reference - PRA study

The Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) is a well-known and fairly standard process. The key element here is that special emphasis be put on the relationships between local people and the natural environment of Wadi Gaza as a resource for example for grazing, wood supply, medicinal plants water, etc. The study should not focus on the full review of development needs in the Wadi area, for example in agriculture, as is often the case. The PRA should also look at the attitudes of local people to the Wadi.

It is essential not to raise expectations that all the issues raised will be addressed by the project. The report will be published in English.

Terms of Reference - Medicinal plants

- Review, through meetings with local people, the use of natural plants from the area of Wadi Gaza for medicinal, or other, purposes;
- Examine whether the available plants can satisfy the demand, and the extent of their commercialization; and
- Assess the negative and positive factors affecting these plant species, and indicate their approximate distribution within the Wadi ecosystem.

The report will be published in English.

Terms of Reference - Land-use Changes Study

- Using aerial or satellite images and available land use maps, assess the soil types and changes in land-use around Wadi Gaza and in the Wadi Gaza catchment over the last 50 years.
- Produce digitized maps of land-use changes for each of the available images, as well as a temporal analysis of each of the major uses.
- Undertake a literature review of data available on the hydrology of the Wadi Gaza catchment

Local institution(s) to be sub-contracted for this study should have experience in GIS and land use analysis, with specific qualifications as follows:

- Functional GIS system supported by well-trained staff;
- Technical capabilities and equipment to analyze satellite images, and aerial photos;
- Possess time-series aerial photos/satellite images and/or detailed land use maps of Wadi Gaza; and
- Ability to produce A0 size colored land use maps.

The report will be published in English.

Terms of Reference – Site Topography and Digitizing

Tasks:

- Undertake topographic survey of Wadi Gaza and produce a digital contour map of 50 cm line intervals;
- Provide digital base map (with grid squares and image background); and
- Plot biodiversity species and habitat information on the resultant contour and base maps.

The local institution should have experience in GIS and land survey, with specific qualifications as follows:

- Functional GIS system supported by well-trained staff;
- Experience in land survey and surveying equipment;
- Ability to produce colored elevation maps with imagery background; and
- Ability to produce computer-generated digital elevation maps of Wadi Gaza including plotted biodiversity species.

Terms of Reference - Literature review on biodiversity

- Undertake a literature review of all biodiversity data available on Wadi Gaza and the coastline of the Gaza Strip.
- Contact the appropriate experts in order to gather unpublished records of species in and around the Wadi and along the coastline.

Local institution should have access to libraries and research databases in both Palestinian Authority and Israeli universities; contacts with regional and Israeli researchers in the fields of biodiversity in the Gaza Strip; with excellent command of English and Hebrew languages.

The report will be published in English.

Pre-qualification criteria for Environmental and Public Awareness

The local institutions shall be subject to the following pre-qualification criteria to become eligible for participation in this project.

- Have strong, grassroots connections with local communities around Wadi Gaza.
- Have elements of an organizational mission and/or vision that is participative and which addresses environmental protection
- Have extensive experience in organizing local campaigns for public awareness or clean-up activities
- Have an immaculate record with respect to transparency, substantive and financial and accountability when working under subcontract.

Institutions may form partnerships in order to satisfy these criteria.

These pre-qualification criteria shall be published in newspapers in Arabic during the pre-qualification process.

Composition and Terms of Reference of the Coordination Committee

It is advised that the Wadi Gaza coordination committee includes the following:

- Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Palestinian Water Authority
- Palestinian Environment Authority Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Housing
- Ministry of Information
- Ministry of Education (if there is a schools programme)
- Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
- Ministry of Public Works
- Ministry of Waqf and Religious affairs (due to presence of Waqf land)
- Ministry of Local Government Affairs
- Representatives of local people (eg, Mukhtars)
- UNRWA
- UNDP
- NGOs active in Gaza
- Universities

The mandate of the Committee is «to ensure the sustainable development of Wadi Gaza and the conservation of its biodiversity».

Its terms of reference are as follows:

- Review the technical reports produced by the project and accept, or reject, their recommendations.
- Create a framework for an exchange of views and the harmonization of sectoral activities planned by each of the committee members.
- Agree on the annual work plan of the project and examine linkages with other ongoing projects.
- Guide the development of a management plan to create a framework for future management of the area
- Put in place a delimited conservation area, with legal weight, where nature conservation is the first priority.
- Ensure that the views of local people are fully taken into account in the management process
- Stimulate the search for additional funds to implement the proposals emanating from the different technical reports.
- Prepare an annual report that summarizes the activities of the committee on Wadi Gaza.

The committee may request qualified experts, or relevant institutions, to participate in its work. Minutes of each meeting are kept and circulated to members and to central level. The Committee is chaired by PEnA and meets at least twice per year, at the initiative of the Chairperson.

Annex IV: Equipment

Equipment list	Destination	Units	Unit cost US\$	Total US\$
Personal computer + modem	Project coordinator	1	2000	2000
Laser printer	Project coordinator	1	560	560
Overhead projector	Project coordinator	1	600	600
Jeep 4WD Suzuki	Project coordinator	1	18500	18500
Motorcycles 125 cc cross	Wardens	3	3700	10100
Hydro monitoring equipment	PWA	1	8000	8000
Total				39,760

Annex V: Training Programme

Training is an essential component of this project as its success or failure hinges on the ability of the site managers to address the threats to the different sites in a sustainable manner. This will, in many cases, require personnel to acquire new skills and especially to develop the habit of intersectoral collaboration and decision-making in their daily activities. The programme has components aimed at training of trainers, but will also directly train national staff through an appropriate training focal point. The training programme does not aim to train large numbers of people in generalities, but rather to assist either specialists to adapt their knowledge to new situations, or to give generalists some specific understanding of how to manage coastal and wetland sites. Cross-cultural (inter-disciplinary) training will be emphasized as an aid to multi-sectoral planning.

The training component of the programme has four main aims:

1. Support to the development of a training focal point for protected areas management in each country.
2. Training as a means to acquire knowledge and methodologies appropriate to intersectoral management planning for coastal and wetland areas.
3. Training as a tool within the site management process (i.e. as an opportunity to put stakeholders around a table and to promote exchanges on a topic of common concern as a way to remove obstacles in the management process "creating a common culture").
4. Promote the capacity of a national institution to provide training sessions for wetland and coastal conservation

For the training programme to be effective, it requires to be clearly focussed on needs at local level. These needs can be expected to evolve during the project cycle, and the intervention of the training activities must therefore be developed and applied on an annual basis. For example, when the site management committees are convened, a training session may be organised in order to create a "common culture", and to help the local dynamics of management plan preparation and implementation. The precise needs of the members of that committee can only clearly be identified once it is established.

The training programme will emphasise a hands-on practical problem-solving style, with "general knowledge" issues kept to a minimum. This means that it will also be strictly targeted at those who will use their improved skills in their daily work. Selection of the profile of trainees will therefore be decided in consultation with the regional training team to ensure maximum effectiveness.

The regional team will provide the design, content and material for the local training courses, while all the local costs will be covered by the national budget. To facilitate the implementation of the courses and improve capacity-building at national level, a training focal point will be designated by the National Project Director. This focal point will be responsible for mobilising national experts to deal with different themes, when such expertise is available locally, and for ensuring the smooth local logistics of the training operation.

In addition to the local courses, six regional courses will be held on the following themes:

1. Designing a national wetland strategy
2. Coastal zone planning tools
3. Integrated management planning
4. EIA techniques for Mediterranean wetlands
5. Design of public awareness programmes

6. Organising applied research on biodiversity conservation

These courses will be geared towards information, knowledge and understanding existing tools and methods, and will improve the participants' awareness of similar activities ongoing at a regional level. Information materials and documentation will be distributed at these meetings. Countries other than the beneficiaries may also participate with the agreement of the regional facilitator if they cover costs, in order to promote the regional nature of the action.

The content and design of the courses will be defined by the regional team, who will establish the nature of the key target beneficiaries, define training needs and select candidates with the required profile in consultation with the National Project Director.

One course will be held in each participating country/Authority at or near a project site and will hence allow project participants to familiarize themselves with other sites in the network

Annex VI: Proposal submitted to the Government of the Netherlands for Co-financing

Project Proposal

Project Title:	The Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region - Environmental Awareness Component
Duration:	Three years
Project Site:	Gaza Strip – Wadi Gaza
ACC/UNDP Sector & Sub-sector:	2000 Environment 2040 Awareness and Education
Executing Agency:	UNDP/PAPP
Funding Agency:	The Government of Netherlands
Funds requested:	US\$ 168,382
Estimated Starting Date:	March 1999

Brief Description

This project is designed to complement the GEF funded project on the «Conservation of Wetlands and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region». It will assist in the implementation of an environmental and public awareness programme that aims at the conservation and protection of biodiversity in Wadi Gaza. The main activities of the project include the building of Palestinian human and resource capacity in environmental and public awareness, sensitization of Palestinian for the protection and conservation of the biodiversity in Wadi Gaza.

Introduction

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the intermediate financial instrument of the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity, is developing a project in the Mediterranean region concerning the conservation of wetlands and coastal ecosystems, henceforth referred to as the Wetlands project. The countries and authorities included in this project are Albania, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and the Palestinian Authority. The target sites that have been chosen harbor a number of plant or animal taxa that are threatened globally. The Wadi Gaza and the coastal shore of the Gaza Strip are the Palestinian Authority sites that the project will address. The GEF approval of the project brief was guaranteed in May 1997 and since then two missions have already visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip to finalize the project document for the Palestinian component of the regional project.

The main components of the Wetlands project include building Palestinian capacity in developing policies to protect biodiversity, identifying threatened biodiversity species, promoting environment and public awareness on biodiversity issues and monitoring of root causes of loss of biodiversity in the Wadi Gaza and the coastal areas of the Gaza Strip.

The Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority has been approached to contribute to the environmental and public awareness component of the overall Wetlands project. The public awareness component is

designed to be carried out by Palestinian NGOs working both in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The activities under this component are to be carried out in full consultation and under the supervision of the Palestinian Environmental Authority (PENa), the implementing agency of the overall Wetlands project, and the Project Manager of the Wetlands Project.

Project Justification

Wadi Gaza is the only major watercourse in the Gaza Strip. Many indicators showed that this site hosts many endemic plant and animal species, of which some are globally or locally threatened. Wadi Gaza also represents a key strategic pathway for wetland bird species as this Wadi is one of the few wetlands on this section of the Middle East flyway.

The biodiversity of Wadi Gaza has been seriously threatened by a continuous flow of sewage into the Wadi as well as improper activities in the Wadi in regard to solid waste dumping, use of agro-chemicals, and combat of mosquitoes breeding in the Wadi area. The PA and UNRWA are gradually addressing the serious and complex situation of sewage treatment through the concerned Ministries and Authorities. Their concerns are focused on the improvement of human health, reduction of sewage flow infiltration into the already polluted aquifer, and recycling part of the wastewater for agriculture. Development plans for Wadi Gaza are also being proposed by the various Ministries and Authorities.

The main objective of the Wetlands Project is to ensure proper conservation of the Wadi Gaza's biodiversity in light of the several development plans for the site. It makes provision for biodiversity surveys, capacity building of PENa and the development of intersectoral planning capacity for the conservation of the Wadi Gaza area. The involvement of the public in the efforts of biodiversity conservation and protection is essential. Therefore, an environmental and public awareness campaign that would compliment the other activities of the Wetlands Project and sensitize the public, including the youth, schoolchildren, and community groups, is indispensable. This component would also improve the Palestinian capacity in the field of environmental and public awareness and create a strong local program that is directed towards the conservation of biodiversity in the overall Palestinian territories.

The following section details the outputs and activities to be carried out within the proposed Netherlands contribution and which will serve the overall objectives of the Wetlands project.

Outputs

The outputs in this section are divided into independent activities that may individually or collectively contribute to the overall objectives of the Wetland project. Output 1. is however, an essential component to the project without which progress on other activities may be hindered. Regular coordination meetings will be held between the NGO implementors of the following activities, UNDP/PAPP, Wetlands Project Manager, and PENa to plan events and review progress on all sides.

Output 1. Building capacity of Palestinian NGOs in environmental and public awareness.

Institutions for environmental and public awareness in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are currently ill-equipped and lack experience. They require assistance to improve Palestinian capacity in this field. This output aims to develop the grassroots institutions with whom the Wetland project would enter into partnership agreement through sub-contracts to carry out the environmental and public awareness component of the overall Wetland project, and others who would be able to contribute to the awareness activities of the Wetland project and to sensitize local people and decision-makers of the importance of Wadi Gaza and the natural environment in general. These institutions are expected to continue with their leading role in the grassroots activities to conserve and protect the Palestinian environment after the completion of the Wetland project.

Activity 1.1 Resource Building of local institutions

This activity includes the provision of **equipment** and audiovisual teaching aids to the local grassroots institution (NGOs) in the Gaza Strip which would be subcontracted to carry out the public and environmental awareness component of the GEF funded Wetland project (see the overall project document). This equipment is essential to allow the local NGOs to work more effectively at the local level.

Activity 1.2 Human Resource Development of local institutions

The development of the capacity of Palestinian civil society to lead in the field of environment and public awareness and management of institutions will ensure the continuity and growth of awareness programs and involvement of the public in the protection of Wadi Gaza and the Palestinian environment in general. This activity involves holding three specialized **workshops** for an average of 25 people including staff of Palestinian NGOs involved in environmental issues and public awareness and civil society leaders and school teachers. These workshops will specifically be oriented to meet the needs of the institutions which would be sub-contracted by the Wetlands project, addressing the issues of the status of the environment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and its needs (with a focus on biodiversity, nature reserves, and protected areas); promotion of strong leadership and mobilization of the public in the field of the environment; and proper management and administration of environment institutions.

Activity 1.3 Human Resource Development and Establishment of Regional Coordination

The activity includes two separate **study tours**, each involving 20 Palestinians to be nominated jointly by the local implementing NGOs, PEnA, and UNDP/PAPP, will be made to visit environmental NGOs, nature conservation areas, and environmental authorities in Jordan and Egypt. They would include local leaders active in the field of environment, civil society leaders, such as teachers, and staff from the Palestinian Environment Authority (PEnA). These tours aim at introducing Palestinians to environmental NGOs and their programs and modes of action in the hosting countries, strengthen regional ties and cooperation with these institutions and visit with nature reserves managers and learn from their experience. Participants in these tours are expected to take part in the Wetland environmental and public awareness campaigns.

Output 2. Develop programs to sensitize the Palestinian public in the protection and conservation of Wadi Gaza and the coastal areas of Gaza Strip. This output is to be implemented by NGO(s). PEnA should approve documentation and all sorts of public and environmental awareness material to be produced by this output.

Activity 2.1. Organize 3 one-day community-based **clean-up campaigns**, each involving around 50 people, to remove solid wastes from three sites in Wadi Gaza and transport the waste to designated landfill sites. These campaigns would include the public, youth groups and students and be organized in cooperation with the UNRWA, local Mukhtars, Municipality of Gaza city and the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works. The activity includes the purchase of gloves and tools that would serve for the three campaigns.

Activity 2.2. Organize sensitization activities for schoolchildren near Wadi Gaza through organized weekly **guided tours** that would emphasize the wildlife and biodiversity in the area and the necessity to protect it. Simple and colorful **information sheets** and leaflets on the biodiversity of Wadi Gaza will be distributed to the involved children.

Activity 2.3. Prepare **audiovisual teaching aids** to students and youth groups on the various aspects of Wadi Gaza, including biodiversity. This activity includes the production of four documentary films of around 20 minutes each, showing the current status of Wadi Gaza and the ecological cycle brought by the seasonal water floods, the wild life in Wadi Gaza and the Gaza Strip coastal area, root causes of loss of biodiversity in Wadi Gaza and their implications on the underground aquifers and human health, and the aspects of development and protection of Wadi Gaza and its wild life. Four different **posters** will be also prepared, each representing the main theme of one of the documentary films. These films will be circulated in schools and discussed with students by teachers. Prior to the circulation of these documentaries, two workshops will be carried out for school teachers inform them of the message of each documentary and train them on suitable methods which would ensure constructive discussions in classrooms.

Activity 2.4. Develop awareness materials and workshops for farmers around Wadi Gaza to make them aware of the dangers of using toxic agro-chemicals. This activity should be coordinated with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture in the Gaza Strip.

Activity 2.5. Organize 3 thematic field camps for local amateurs on biodiversity themes, such as birdwatch activities, and the identification of local plant and animal species. This activity also includes the preparation of a colored guide to the biodiversity of Wadi Gaza as well as the purchase of binoculars for the birdwatch activity. The preparation of the colored guide will be closely linked with the outputs of the biodiversity team of specialists who will survey Wadi Gaza to identify its biodiversity elements (Output 2.1. in the overall Wetlands project).

Activity 2.6. Interactive performances which would address schoolchildren and the youth. Puppet shows and interactive games are the preferred method for conveying the importance of conservation of Wadi Gaza Biodiversity and to interactively sensitize the audience. A specially designed narrative will be prepared to draw on the importance of Wadi Gaza and its biodiversity, the issue of loss of biodiversity, and the role of the public and the youth in the protection of this valuable resource. These type of activities are expected to influence schoolchildren and young people and effectively involve them in the public efforts to protect Wadi Gaza and its biodiversity.

Target Beneficiaries

- Regional and local biodiversity
- Inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip
- Palestinian environmental NGOs
- Local universities, research institutions
- Palestinian Authority and its respective agencies

Implementation Arrangement

The United Nations Development Programme/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) will be the executing agency for this project. The Netherlands grant will be used to implement the activities mentioned under Project Outputs that will complement the activities of the overall GEF funded Wetlands project. Each activity will be implemented in partnership with NGOs and public institutions that would satisfy the Terms of Reference included in the GEF funded Wetlands project. The implementation of these activities will be carried out in the Gaza Strip and in full coordination and cooperation with the Project Manager of the Wetlands project and other relevant public institutions, and in consultation with and under the supervision of the Palestinian Environmental Authority, the implementing agency of the overall Wetlands project.

UNDP/PAPP responsibilities will be the following:

1. To select the local implementing institutions in consultation with the Palestinian Environmental Authority;
2. To prepare individual sub-contracts with the selected implementing institutions for each activity, or with appropriate short-term consultants;
3. To transfer the funds available to the sub-contracted implementing institutions according to an agreed schedule of payments and upon satisfaction with the performance and outputs;
4. To purchase the equipment necessary for the building of resource capacity of sub-contracted institutions and for the implementation of the project activities;
5. To monitor the overall implementation of the project activities;
6. To provide appropriate technical support and backstopping, as necessary;
7. To ensure the financial and administrative reporting of the project; and
8. To report to the Donor, the Government of Netherlands, regarding the progress of the project.

The responsibilities of the implementing institutions are included in the Terms of Reference outlined in the overall Wetlands Project.

Time Frame

Activity	Year 1		Year 2				Year 3			
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
	⊖									
Activity 1.1.		⊖								
Activity 1.2.		⊖	⊖							
Activity 1.3.			⊖	⊖						
Activity 2.1.				⊖	⊖					
Activity 2.2.				⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Activity 2.3.			⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Activity 2.4.				⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖			
Activity 2.5.							⊖	⊖	⊖	
Activity 2.6.							⊖	⊖		

Budget

Activity	US\$
Activity 1.1.	
PC computer with modem (2)	3,400
Laser Printer (2)	1,000
TV (25" JVC)	1,500
Slide Projector	370
Overhead projector	500
Video machine	1,000
Screen	150
LCD (2)	5,200
Fax machine	1,000
desks (2)	450
Chairs (10)	340
Coordination (0.5 person/month @ US\$1000/month)	15,000
Administrative assistant (30 months@US\$ 600/month)	18,000
Subtotal	47,910

Activity 1.2.	
Workshops (3*4,000)	12,000
Subtotal	12,000

Activity 1.3.	
Two Study Tours (20 people@US\$ 4,500/tour)	9,000
Subtotal	9,000

Activity 2.1.	
Cleanup- campaigns (3)	3,000
Tools, including gloves	1,000
Subtotal	4,000

Activity 2.2.	
Guided tours	7000
Information sheets	5000
Subtotal	12,000

Activity 2.3.	
Documentaries 4@US\$ 5,500 each	22,000
Posters 4@ US\$2,000 each	8,000
Special Workshops (2)	4,000
Subtotal	34,000

Activity 2.4.	
Awareness materials	3,000
Workshop	1,000
Subtotal	4,000

Activity 2.5.	
Field camps (3@3,000 each)	9,000
Guidebook	12,000
Binoculars	2,000
Subtotal	23,000

Activity 2.6.	
Puppet Show	8,000
Equipment and interactive games	2,000
Subtotal	10,000

Subtotal	155,910
Administrative and Operational Support 8%	12,472
Total	168,382