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**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

<b>Country:</b>	<b>Russian Federation</b>
<b>Project Title :</b>	First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b>	Biodiversity
<b>GEF Country Eligibility</b>	Ratified the CBD on 5 April 1995
<b>GEF Financing</b>	US\$ 52,920
<b>GEF Implementing Agency</b>	UNEP
<b>National Implementing Agency</b>	State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environment Protection
<b>National Executing Agency (NEA)</b>	Centre for Preparation and Implementation of International projects on Technical Assistance
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point</b>	ND
<b>CBD Focal Point</b>	Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources
<b>Estimated Starting Date</b>	July 1997
<b>Duration of project:</b>	6 months

## **I. Background/Context:**

The Russian Federation, at one eighth of the world's land mass, contains an enormous diversity of vast ecosystems which represent some of the last few remaining areas where the dynamics of ecological processes and wildlife populations can operate naturally. There are eight biogeographic zones which encompass 54 ecological zones and contain associations of species which are outstanding in terms of uniqueness, endemism and biodiversity. Of equal importance is the role of the huge expanses of forest and tundra which act as a significant carbon sink. Although much of Russia's biodiversity falls outside of the protected area system, this system which covers 6% of the country, is the largest, one of the most important and until recently, one of the best organized in the world.

The Government of the Russian federation (GOR) recognizes that with the current transition of the Russian economy there will be impacts on biodiversity and nature protection. Indeed the current status of natural resource management and biodiversity conservation is already seriously threatened by the reform process. Agricultural and forestry resource use occurs in changing and ill-defined administrative and legal circumstances, further complicated by the uncertainty generated by the land reform and privatization process. Administrative and political decentralization has assigned the responsibility of policy implementation to a local level, which has resulted in a loss of coordination and a minimal implementation of laws and activity regulation. The consequent unsustainable use of natural resources is augmented by the fragmented institutional structure - particularly evident in the Protected Area administration - which is uniformly and simultaneously beset by a lack of coordination, efficacy, finance and clarity.

The vast range of endemic and non-endemic species in Russia represents a significant percentage, which is now vulnerable, of the world's total biodiversity. Some flagship species such as the Siberian Tiger, the Snow Leopard and Pallas' Sea Eagle are highly endangered. The protected area system is in a process of dissolution which is diminishing its effectiveness. Given the global importance of the country's biodiversity, immediate action is required to halt this process and develop management regimes more aligned to current social economic conditions.

Several initiatives are now under way with various donors trying to assist the Government of the Russian Federation to maintain optimum levels of biodiversity in accordance with the principles of economic and environmentally sound sustainable development. One of the biggest projects in this regard is the World Bank/GEF Biodiversity Conservation Project associated with the IBRD-financed Environmental Framework Programme (EFP) which has been designed as a four to five year programme to enhance environmental and natural resource management issues at federal, regional and local levels in demonstration areas across a wide spectra of natural areas. The EFP has 8 principal components one of which concerns specifically biodiversity conservation and natural resources management.

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Much of the information for the background section of this proposal is drawn from the World Bank/GEF project entitled "Russian Federation: Biodiversity Conservation Project" (1994).

The objectives of the biodiversity component of the EFP are five fold:

- i) supporting the development of federal and regional biodiversity strategies;
- ii) developing and implementing mechanisms and approaches which will mainstream biodiversity conservation and environmental protection into the policy making process;
- iii) assessing the protected area institutional framework and subsequently strengthening its effectiveness;
- iv) enabling the participation of all interested stakeholders, including aboriginal peoples and local communities into biodiversity conservation;
- v) developing an inter-regional demonstration of inter-sectoral biodiversity conservation and environmentally sustainable natural resource management.

The realization of these objectives will facilitate the integration of the 3 objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity into the national sustainable development framework and, specifically, will facilitate the implementation of Article 6 of this Convention as required by Decision II/7 of the Conference of the Parties (COP).

## **II. Project Objectives and Short Description of process:**

As the Russian Federation is already receiving assistance from the GEF for the preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy, the objective of this project is to enable this vast country to prepare and submit its first national report to the CBD in line with Article 26 of the Convention and Decision II/17 of the COP.

## **III. Operational Criteria:**

### **i) Coverage without duplication:**

None of the enabling activities the Russian Federation has undertaken so far involved the preparation of a report to the CBD. There is therefore no duplication. The report will draw on existing information particularly the work conducted under the National Strategic Overview component of the IBRD/GEF Biodiversity Conservation Project whose objective is: the formulation of national and regional biodiversity strategies, the establishment of a biodiversity data base/information system and the preparation of guidelines on economic evaluation of biodiversity investment and policies.

ii) Appropriate overall sequencing of activities:

The project will be carried out according to the time table shown below. The report will be completed and submitted to the Secretariat of the CBD by the deadline of 1 January 1998 stipulated by COP3.

	Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Preparation of draft report by consultants	x	x	x			
2	Circulation of draft to stakeholders for comments				x		
3	Finalization of the report based on the comments				x	x	
4	Translation into English, Editing, Publication, Promotion and Submission to the CBD					x	x

iii) Best practice:

The report will be prepared taking into account the guide suggested in Decision II/17 of COP2.

(iv) Deviations from criteria and norms:

The cost of this project is higher than the norm for preparation of first national reports indicated in the GEF Operational Criteria for Biodiversity Enabling Activities. This is however unavoidable given that it will be the first time that this vast country will be preparing its first national report of the transition period, the difficulties in information collection, systemization and analysis of materials and in communication. A great number of consultants will be needed to carry out this undertaking. Moreover, there will be additional costs resulting from the preparation of both Russian and English versions of the report.

IV Institutional Framework:

The State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection will be the national agency overseeing the implementation of this project. The Centre for Preparation and Implementation of International Projects on Technical Assistance will be the executor of the activities stipulated in this project. UNEP will provide technical supervision to ensure conformity and consistence of the output with the guidance of the Convention and the GEF Operational Criteria for Biodiversity Enabling Activities.

**V. Project Financing****Project Budget (US\$): Russian Federation First National Report**

Activity	Product	Process	Total
<b>1. First National Report</b>			<b>49,000</b>
- Preparation (Consultants' fees and travel; data compilation)	37,000		37,000
- Translation/Editing (English version)	1,000		1,000
- Publication/Promotion/Dissemination: English Version	5,000		5,000
Russian Version	5,000		5,000
- Miscellaneous (Communication, etc.)	1,000		1,000
<b>2. Co-ordination &amp; Management Costs (8%)</b>	<b>3,920</b>		<b>3,920</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,920</b>		<b>52,920</b>

**TABLE A: Dimensions of Enabling Activities (Standard Activity Matrix),  
Russian Federation First National Report**

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments (See footnotes)
		Institutional Strengthening	Training		
Stocktaking of existing information	IBRD/GEF				1
Identification and Analysis of Options to meet the objectives of the CBD	idem				
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	idem				
First National Report to the CBD	x			x	

x: activity to be undertaken in this project

Footnote:

1. The World Bank/GEF "Russian Federation Biodiversity Conservation" is a US\$26.0 million project consisting of 3 components: i) National Strategic Overview (formulation of a national biodiversity strategy, establishment of a biodiversity database/information system, and preparation of guidelines on economic evaluation of biodiversity investments and policies); ii) Nature Protection (institutional support, training, immediate assistance to critical protected areas, and model ecotourism projects); and iii) Integrated Regional Development/Natural Resource Management in the Lake Baikal Region. The following organizations are collaborating in the execution of this project: WWF-Russia & USA; Lake Baikal Commission; Russian Academy of Sciences; Moscow State University and other Universities in the Russian Federation; Local NGOs; IUCN; Socio-Economic Union; Canadian Park Service.



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Благодарю Вас за факс от 18 декабря 1996 г.. Госкомэкологии России подготовил предложения по бюджету проекта подготовки первого национального отчета по Конвенции о биологическом разнообразии (прилагается).

National GEF Operational Focal point в России официально еще не определен, однако его функции фактически выполняет Центр Подготовки и Реализации Международных Проектов. Указанный Центр согласен с предлагаемым бюджетом и готов выступить в качестве исполнителя Проекта.

Заместитель председателя

А.М. Амирханов

10.02.97

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unofficial translation

Mr. A. Djoghlaï,  
Executive Coordinator  
GEF Coordination Office  
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Thank you for your fax-message of December 18, 1996.  
The State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environment Protection has developed proposals concerning a budget of a draft of the first National Report on Realization of the Convention on Biological Diversity (enclosed).

National GEF Operational Focal point has not official status in Russia yet. But in fact, its functions are performed by the Center for Preparation and Implementation of International Projects on Technical Assistance, which has approved the proposed budget and expressed willingness to act as a Project executor.

Dr. Amirkhan M. Amirkhanov  
Vice-Chairman