

Walter / Kwanfa

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

Country:	Rwanda
Project Title:	Rwanda: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Country Report to the COP
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Convention ratified 28 May 1996
GEF Financing:	US \$ 170,640
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
CBD Operational Focal Point:	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Estimated Starting Date:	September, 1996
Duration of Project:	10 Months

Background

Rwanda is a land locked country located astride the east African Rift in the heart of Central Africa. Rwanda contains a variety of habitats and species, its Afro-Montane forests in particular harbor a remarkable number of rare, endangered, taxonomically unique and endemic species (Bergmark, 1993). Nyungwe forest, the largest tract of Afro Montane forest in Rwanda, contains more than 100 species of orchids, 275 species of birds of which 24 are endemic, and 14 species of primates. The Volcano National Park on the country's northern border with Zaire contains significant populations of the endangered mountain gorilla. The IUCN acknowledges the global importance of Rwanda's biodiversity and in the face of escalating threats to its ecosystems has rated their conservation as one of the highest priorities in Africa (Bergmark, 1993).

With 7 million people in 1989, contained in an area of 26,000 sq. km, Rwanda had one of the highest population densities in Africa (IUCN, 1992). Rwanda's natural habitat has gradually been converted to agricultural land to provide food for its growing population. As a result, the remaining natural habitat is now restricted to a small network of 5 national parks and protected areas.

The civil war between 1990 and 1994, followed by the tragedy of the genocide, created large numbers of refugees who overran all the national parks and protected areas and usurped existing land holdings. Rwanda is currently facing a large scale resettlement of refugees returning from Zaire, Tanzania and Uganda. 750,000 people are currently being resettled while another two million have the possibility to return soon (UNDP, 1996).

A plan clearly detailing where people are to be resettled and which areas remain protected is under development. Under the Arusha accords the government of Rwanda acknowledges the right of every Rwandan to return. It also declared the importance of its protected areas and national park system. However, with the exception of Volcano National Park on the Zaire border, the government of Rwanda does not exclude protected areas or national parks from resettlement.

The existing national parks and protected areas in Rwanda are facing the brunt of resettlement. Many refugees survive by clearing forestland for agriculture and cutting trees for fuel and timber. Over a million refugees in camps near Goma in Zaire depend on the transboundary Volcano National Park for their wood supply. The exact status of the habitat and species in many of the national parks and protected areas is currently unknown.

Despite economic difficulties, insufficient capacity and infrastructure, the government of Rwanda is taking a proactive approach towards dealing with national socio-environmental problems. With a view to halting degradation and coordinating the sustainable use of the country's biodiversity, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism(MINETO) has been reconstituted. A GEF biodiversity working group with representatives from MINETO and relevant ministries, NGOs and the UNDP was established in December 1995 to identify conservation needs and provide a link with donor efforts. A round -table to facilitate the updating of a National Agenda 21 was held in April 1996 and a National Environmental Strategy(NES) is under preparation with Canadian assistance.

In addition to these conservation efforts the international donor community has pledged \$627 million toward Rwanda's medium range development between 1996- 98. The development initiatives will help to reduce the reliance of the Rwandese economy on agriculture.

To ensure integration of biodiversity concerns into the NES and development efforts, MINETO and the GEF working group have placed a premium on preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan(BSAP). A request was therefore made by MINETO to the UNDP/GEF for assistance in formulating a BSAP.

The BSAP will provide a framework for parallel implementation of a GEF Short Term Response Measure to control degradation in the Gishwati and Nyungwe forests and the Volcano National Park. The STRM will assist the Office for Tourism and National Parks(ORTPN) which is the field arm of MINETO, to reestablish a field presence in these areas. The STRM will further aid in rehabilitating and strengthening the protected areas and lay the groundwork for implementation of the BSAP.

Implementation of the STRM in the Gishwati, Nyungwe forests and the Volcano National Park will be coordinated with ongoing projects such as studies and proposed rehabilitation of the Akagera savannah park by the GTZ and a joint Swiss and Ministry of Agriculture project to set up buffer zones around the Nyungwe forest. The STRM will draw upon strategies and plans in the 1993 UNDP and USAID proposals to strengthen and rehabilitate Rwanda's protected areas and national parks.

Project Objectives

The GEF project will assist MINETO in developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). The BSAP will draw on existing knowledge and information and, through an open process of consultation and participatory planning, identify the current status of, pressures on, options for, and priority actions to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The BSAP will build on and reinforce other national strategies and plans such as the National Environment Strategy. The BSAP will also introduce biodiversity concerns into other resource management sectors especially agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The BSAP will emphasize links with resettlement activities which are presently the main priority of the Government. The enabling activity will allow Rwanda to meet its obligations under the Convention on Biodiversity by assisting it in preparing its first national report to the COP.

Under supervision of MINETO, a steering committee will be established to oversee preparation of the BSAP. The steering committee members will be drawn from government agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI), Ministry of Planning (MINIPLAN), the Tourism Directorate (ORTPN) as well as research institutions. The Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Reinsertion (MINIREISO) which is in charge of resettlement will be an important player in the enabling activity process and will participate in the steering committee. Additional members will be drawn from local communities and NGOs such as WWF, Project Conservation de la Foret du Nyungwe (PCFN) and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund which have considerable expertise in Rwanda's protected areas, preexisting capacity and infrastructure.

Under the guidance of the steering committee, a national multi-sectoral planning team drawing upon appropriate biodiversity related expertise, will be constituted to undertake the work of the enabling activity. The GEF biodiversity working group in Rwanda will contribute members with biodiversity and planning expertise to the planning team. The planning team will be supported by a national consultant and an international consultant who will help launch the BSAP process.

The planning team and national consultant will initially review WRI/IUCN/UNEP guidelines for the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. This will be followed by compiling and summarizing existing information on the status of, and threats to, the biodiversity of Rwanda. With assistance from a limited international consultancy, satellite images and GIS maps of protected areas from existing UN operations will be analyzed to provide information on the current status of national parks and protected areas. Biodiversity related data also needs to be repatriated from Belgium, due to the

destruction of databases in Rwanda. This information, along with summaries and results from the National Environment Strategy, UNDP and USAID proposals, German and Swiss studies, will be presented at the first national workshop.

The first national workshop which will be conducted by the planning team, international and national consultants will draw together representatives from a wide range of national and local government agencies and NGOs representatives from communities in the protected areas and national parks and regional district commissioners. The first national workshop will specifically draw upon representatives of indigenous communities such as the Batwa Pygmies of the Gishwati and Nyungwe forests to take their interests into account. To enhance regional cooperation and sharing of information, regional biodiversity experts with who are familiar with policy processes in neighboring countries will attend the first national workshop and assist in training and capacity building. Drawing on the results of the stocktaking and review, the workshop participants will identify key issues and options as well as actors and priority geographical areas for review during the following consultation process.

In view of the limited experience of Rwandese experts in environmental planning and management, and in the absence of a formal institutional structure for biodiversity planning, the project will need to undertake familiarization activities. Towards the end of the first national workshop, sessions in biodiversity analysis, participatory methods, strategic planning, land use planning and options as well as public dissemination techniques will be conducted by the international consultant and regional experts to familiarize the planning team and national consultant with the analysis and planning process. Short term consultants who will be hired to conduct consultations will also be familiarized with these techniques.

The planning team, with the help of the national consultant and short term consultants, will then conduct a detailed analysis of the issues and options identified. As part of this process a wide range of consultations with local and indigenous communities, government agencies, field officers, NGOs, officials in charge of resettlement and civil institutions will be conducted. The consultations will promote integration of the BSAP with resettlement plans as well as create awareness among the communities surrounding national parks.

The results of the consultations and identification and analysis of options will then be drawn together by the planning team assisted by the international and national consultants. These results will be presented at a second national workshop to invite comment and feedback. New options and alternatives will be identified and developed and a broad consensus between government agencies such as MINETO, MINIREISO, MINAGRI, MINIPLAN and local community representatives will be achieved prior to finalization of the BSAP. The completed BSAP will then be disseminated widely through Rwanda and a national report to the COP of the Biodiversity Convention will be prepared.

Coverage Without Duplication

The project will complement Rwanda's National Environment Strategy which is being prepared with Canadian support and assistance. The BSAP will utilize data and information from current Swiss and GTZ funded studies. Cooperation and links with NGOs such as the WWF, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and PCFN will be emphasized to take advantage of their expertise. A wide range of cross sectoral agencies concerned with ongoing development efforts will be involved in the BSAP process through the workshops and consultations.

Time Plan and Sequencing

Activities will start in September 1996 and will last for 10 months as follows:

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Establishment of steering committee and planning team	x									
Stocktaking and inventory of information	x	x								
First national workshop			x							
Training of planning team			x							
Identification and analysis of options, regional consultations				x	x	x				
Second national workshop							x			
Preparation of biodiversity strategy and action plan, dissemination								x	x	
Preparation of final report and submission to COP										x

Best Practice

The project's methodology will be based on the "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994) and the "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (WRI/IUCN/UNEP). The project will take advantage of preceding studies and ongoing efforts and draw on a GEF working group already present in Rwanda. A participatory approach will be followed, using workshops and local consultations, to encourage input from a diverse range of stakeholders and achieve a consensus.

Project Financing (in US \$)

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Information</i>	16,000		16,000
- national consultant	4,000		4,000
- international consultant	6,000		6,000
- documentation, research	6,000		6,000
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i>	14,000	83,000	97,000
- national consultants	10,000	16,000	26,000
- international consultant	4,000	14,000	18,000
- training (including familiarization of consultants)		10,000	10,000
- workshop		20,000	20,000
- consultations		18,000	18,000
- travel, misc.		5,000	5,000
<i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i>	9,500	30,500	40,000
- national consultants	5,000	5,000	10,000
- international consultant	4,500	4,500	9,000
- workshop		12,000	12,000
- travel, misc.		4,000	4,000
- dissemination		5,000	5,000
<i>First National Report</i>	5,000		5,000
- Publication and translation	5,000		
<i>Coordination and Management Costs (8%)</i>	3,560	9,080	12,640
Total for Enabling Activity	48,060	122,580	170,640

Deviations from Criteria and Norms

The proposal does not deviate from criteria and norms for enabling activities.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

The project will be guided by a specially established steering committee drawing members from both government and non-governmental institutions. Agencies represented on the steering committee will include the MINAGRI, MINIPLAN and MINIREISO, as well as NGOs. The steering committee will act under and be chaired by the Director General of MINETO. Planning work will be carried out by a multi-sectoral planning team drawing upon appropriate expertise. GEF working group members with biodiversity and planning

expertise as well as as researchers from the University of Butare will have a strong presence on the planning team.

References Cited:

Bergmark, C.L., Frumhoff, P.C. *Conserving Rwanda's Biodiversity: An Assessment of Priorities and Recommendations for USAID Assistance*. 1993.

Gakahu, C.G. *Proposal for Rehabilitation of National Parks and Tourism*. UNDP. New York. 1993

IUCN, World Conservation Monitoring Center. *Protected Areas of the World*. Gland, Switzerland, 1992.

UNDP. *Strategic Action Plan for the Great Lakes Region of Africa*. 1996.

World Resources Institute. *World Resources 1994-95*. Washington, D.C. 1994.

Activity Matrix

Enabling Activity Commitment	Output	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments
	Planning, Execution	Institutional Strength.	Training		
<i>Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</i> - biodiversity and biological resources - cross-sectoral issues - policy and regulatory framework - institutional and human capacity - analysis of root causes of BD loss - technologies for conservation and sustainable use - activities with adverse impacts - existing measures and programs - preliminary statement of objectives - identification of gaps - assessment of existing needs	x x x x x x x x x x x				1
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD</i> - strategies for conservation - strategies for sustainable use - strategies for benefit sharing	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	2 2 2
<i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i> - national strategy - national action plan	x x	x x	x x	x x	
<i>Preparation of first National Report</i> - first national report	x			x	

Footnotes to Activity Matrix:

1. Environmental policies and plans such as *the National Environment Strategy and Action Plan of 1991* were prepared prior to the genocide and civil disturbance. They were also prepared without broad based participation and are not flexible enough to reflect the changed civil situation and political structure. Accordingly, a new National Environment Strategy(NES) is being prepared with Canadian assistance. However, the new NES does not cover biodiversity concerns adequately and did not draw upon the considerable database on Rwandese biodiversity, currently located in Belgium. The BSAP stocktaking process will include repatriation of relevant data from Belgium and will draw upon the NES and relevant information from the ongoing GTZ and Swiss projects.

2. The BSAP will build on and complement general strategies prepared under the National Environment Strategy and strategies for rehabilitation of refugees prepared by the Resettlement Directorate. The GTZ and Swiss efforts and strategies in Akagera savanna

park and Nyungwe forest will be reviewed and included in the BSAP, wherever possible. Although the civil situation and condition of the protected areas has changed drastically since the UNDP and USAID proposals were formulated in 1993, these will be reviewed and any relevant strategies adapted to the BSAP. The Short Term Response Measure which is anticipated to follow the BSAP will draw upon the UNDP and USAID proposals, wherever possible.

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Kigali; le... 23. JUL. 1996

N° 744.1.19.00

Mr. L.X. Nguyen
Resident Representative a.i.
UNDP Rwanda

Subject: Financial assistance enabling activity

Dear Mr. Nguyen,

The Ministry of environment would like to request financial assistance of US \$ 170.640 under the Biodiversity Enabling Activities program of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The Grant money would be used for preparing a biodiversity strategy.

We look forward to our continuing cooperation in support of environmental concerns in Rwanda.

Yours sincerely,

Minister of Environment
and Tourism
Jean Népomucène NABINZIMA

Director de CABINET
MUGOREWERA DROBIA

