

Comments received from the GEF on May 17 have been addressed as follows.

1. Page 1 explains the status of the original EA both in terms of expenditure and activities remaining.
2. Activities for assessing capacity building needs for access and benefit sharing as well as indigenous knowledge have been further elaborated.
3. The CHM proposal has been further elaborated as well and the budget reduced as requested by the GEFSEC.
4. The Government of Samoa actually did nominate the Division for Environment and Conservation in the Department of Lands Survey and Environment as the CHM Focal Point on 10 March 1999. We are surprised the CBD website does not reflect this and will request the Government of Samoa to contact the CBD Secretariat. We hope the endorsement letter from the CHM Focal Point that was included with the submission on 2 May will suffice.

Please contact Ajay Gupta at 212 906 5560 if you have any questions.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Global Environment Facility

Country name:	Samoa
Project Title:	Additional Funding of Biodiversity Enabling Activity
Country Eligibility:	CBD Ratification 9 th February 1994
GEF Financing:	USD \$215,000
Government Contribution:	USD \$25,000 (in-kind)
Estimated Total Budget:	USD \$240,000
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	Division of Environment and Conservation
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Mr. Mose Aiono Sua - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CBD Operational Focal Point:	Mr. Mose Aiono Sua - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CHM Focal Point:	Mr. Sailimalo Pati Liu - Division of Environment and Conservation
Estimated Starting Date:	August 2001
Estimated Ending Date:	July 2003

EA Status

Samoa received the approval for its Biodiversity Enabling Activity funding to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 1999. Significant work has been undertaken during the implementation of this project, including the establishment of a NBSAP steering committee and technical groups, which have conducted the stocktaking and assessment of biodiversity and resource use. The stocktaking and assessment work included consultations with all stakeholders, ranging from the private sector, local communities, academic institutions, government, and non-government organizations.

The NBSAP document was endorsed by Cabinet in April 2001 and officially launched during the World Biodiversity Day celebrations in May 2001. Although the NBSAP has been officially endorsed, a number of activities still need to be completed before the project can be considered successfully concluded. Activities yet to be completed include: the NBSAP awareness programme which, is on-going until the end of the project, the printing and dissemination of all publications produced as part of the NBSAP, and the biodiversity database upgrade to a Windows based programme.

Financially, the NBSAP project delivery rate for year 2000 was recorded at 80 percent (%), which is considered satisfactory. The remaining funds are sufficient to cover the outstanding activities that are expected to be complete by the end of July 2001.

A participatory approach was adopted and used throughout the consultation process for the NBSAP, coordinated and facilitated by the Division of Environment and Conservation with the guidance and support from the Steering Committee. This approach not only facilitated the participation of all the main stakeholder groups, but also raised awareness and understanding of the NBSAP and biodiversity issues in general. It was also a learning experience for the staff of the Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and has strengthened their capacity in project management and other related technical skills

significantly. One other important result of the NBSAP process, is the establishment of an interactive network amongst all those involved in the NBSAP. Samoa's Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) was approved in 2000 for its initial set up, and has now been added to the activities of the NBSAP. This will provide a clear linkage to the proposed add-on project without any duplication or repetition of activities.

Project objectives

With this request, the Government of Samoa expresses its priorities and seeks to undertake the following activities which are seen to be fully in line with the “Guidelines for Additional Funding of Biodiversity Enabling Activities” (Expedited Procedures). The prioritization of the suggested activities was discussed by the Steering Committee and other involved partners in February 2001 and again during the Tripartite Review (TPR) meeting in April, and reflects a consensus amongst all key stakeholders. Both UNDP/GEF and the Government of Samoa are satisfied this proposal conforms with the Guidelines for Additional Funding of Biodiversity Enabling Activities.

The Government of Samoa has already prepared and submitted its Second National Report to the Cop of the CBD.

1. Priority for Assessing Capacity Building Needs

Based on the recently approved NBSAP and the Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) Report, the following matrix presents key areas for further assessment, as these were not adequately covered previously given their status as relatively new emerging issues.

The needs assessment will be conducted utilizing the same participatory approach as that undertaken for the NBSAP, through formal and informal consultations with stakeholders. It is envisaged that the needs assessment will be as interactive as possible with the intention of promoting awareness at the same time on biodiversity matters to promote a more reciprocal process rather than just collecting and recording views on capacity assessment needs. Results from the assessment will provide baseline information for the formulation and development of national policies and programmes.

Priority	Reasons for priority	Work to be done	Product expected	Notes
Access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, and in particular: 1) assessment of existing policy measures and institutional/ human capacity related to access to genetic resources and benefit sharing; 2)	There is limited knowledge and capacity locally to fully address all pertinent issues relating to access and benefit-sharing which have become high priorities in the	Identify, assess and explore possible mechanisms to address access and benefit sharing issues at the national and community levels.	Policies and management plans for the sustainable management of access to genetic resources and measures to facilitate the equitable	Need to address these issues in line with relevant existing programmes by regional and international organizations.

formulation of access and benefit-sharing mechanisms.	biodiversity area.		sharing of benefits from these resources.	
Preservation and maintenance of biodiversity related knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles.	Traditional knowledge, practices and innovations relevant to biodiversity conservation need to be promoted, encouraged and strengthened.	Comprehensive assessment of traditional knowledge, practices and innovations through consultations with key stakeholder groups and literature review.	Development of national policies and appropriate measures to protect traditional knowledge, practices and innovations. Development of a capacity building programme to promote the preservation of traditional knowledge, practices and innovations relevant to biodiversity.	Activities to build on existing baseline work already being initiated.

Priority 1: Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing

Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing are relatively new issues that Samoa has recently experienced in light of new information being disseminated through the CBD Secretariat, and other sources. An attempt was made in the past to draft an appropriate legislation to address these issues, however, there has not been much progress due to the lack of awareness and understanding of the implications of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing arising out of it. Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing are considered high priorities because of the complexities of these issues thus requiring the assessment of appropriate capacities to implement and enforce effective measures that regulate access to genetic resources and promote benefit sharing.

Activities:

1. Identify and assess capacity building needs of key government and academic institutions who are directly involved in areas of genetic resources, mainly the Department of Environment, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the National University of Samoa through consultations in the form of workshops, meetings, and individual interviews.
2. Identify and assess capacity building needs of non-governmental organizations and community groups to ascertain key areas where future capacity development is needed through consultations with stakeholders.

3. Identify and assess existing policies and plans and make recommendations on the most appropriate national measures to address access to genetic resources and benefits sharing issues at all levels through consultations with all relevant stakeholders.

Priority 2: Preservation and maintenance of biodiversity related knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles.

The NBSAP recognizes the significant role traditional knowledge, practices and innovations play in the conservation of biodiversity. However, it is pertinent to assess capacity needs to provide a framework on which appropriate national measures are formulated and implemented for the protection and preservation of traditional knowledge, practices and innovations.

Activities:

1. Identify key information on traditional knowledge, practices and innovations relevant to biodiversity conservation through consultations and literature review.
2. Assess capacity building needs for all relevant institutions (government, non-government, private sector, academic institutions and community groups) on the preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge, practices and innovations. This activity is envisaged to be undertaken through workshops, interviews, meetings and stakeholder consultations.
3. Identify and assess relevant policies and plans covering traditional knowledge, practices and innovations to ensure the development of appropriate measures to address these issues through meetings and stakeholder consultations.

2. Completion of the CHM for Samoa.

To ensure the effective and efficient flow of information both internally and externally of Samoa on the CBD and biodiversity issues of significance nationally and globally, Samoa needs to complete its CHM. From the time Samoa became a party to the CBD, information dissemination was carried out on an ad hoc basis with no formal mechanism in place to ensure all relevant stakeholders receive this information. The CHM provides this mechanism thus facilitating the dissemination of biodiversity information through a centralized CHM, filtering this information right down to the grassroots levels promoting a better understanding of biodiversity and in particular the programmes and obligations set out under the CBD. The CHM being the centre of information dissemination, will likewise disseminate information gathered from the community and grassroots levels back to the decision makers at the national level, and subsequently report and convey all required information back to the CBD Secretariat, and other relevant international agencies and organizations.

The Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC), as the CHM Focal Point, is the primary Government agency responsible for this important process facilitating the

dissemination and sharing of information amongst all stakeholders. Samoa's CHM will benefit both the DEC and all stakeholders with regular access to biodiversity information and consequently its vital role in sound decision-making. This component builds on the initial CHM support received from GEF.

Objective: To increase public awareness of biodiversity issues, which ultimately leads to effective and sound decision-makings on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at all levels.

It is envisaged that the Country Driven CHM Project will produce the following general **outputs**:

- 1). Strengthening coordination and collaboration amongst key stakeholders who are directly involved in biodiversity work. This builds on the successful work that was carried out as part of the NBSAP.
- 2). Information on biodiversity, CBD and other relevant conventions and agreements will be centralized and coordinated through the CHM focal point housed within the Division of Environment and Conservation.
- 3). Integration of biodiversity conservation issues and principles into national policies and plans through regular information updates passed through the CHM to all relevant stakeholders.
- 4). Increased public awareness on status of national implementation of CBD activities and related programmes, and a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder group and individuals.
- 5). Reliable and accurate biodiversity information system established to provide information pertinent to sound decision making on the conservation and sustainable uses of Samoa's biodiversity.

Activities

- 1). Formalizing the establishment of a CHM Steering Committee and its functions to review and monitor the implementation of the NBSAP and facilitate the effective implementation of the CBD and other related biodiversity conventions Samoa has acceded.
- 2). Development of a national environmental web site which will host national biodiversity information such as the NBSAP, the national biodiversity database, conservation areas, biodiversity project database, other nationally related information and links to appropriate regional and international web sites. The national web site will be modeled on the regional biodiversity portal (<http://www.pacificbiodiv.org>) but with relevant national conditions appropriate. The web site will be developed alongside the national biodiversity database.
- 3). Development and dissemination of resource materials based on information collected from the NBSAP and CBD information to increase national awareness of conservation and sustainable use.

4). Develop and conduct a nation-wide public awareness programme for the dissemination of information, and displays on Samoa's biodiversity utilizing the media and other forms of communications.

5). Develop a monitoring programme and subsequently filter this information through the CHM for dissemination to the general public.

6). Strengthen the biodiversity information database system to provide reliable and accurate information on biodiversity as a prerequisite for the production and development of activities (2) to (5) above. To do this, it requires the implementation of the following key activities:

- i. Assessment and implementation of the most effective mechanism(s) to facilitate the collection, storage, sharing and management of biodiversity information.
- ii. Liaise and consult with relevant stakeholders on best practices for the sharing of key information relevant to biodiversity conservation, and develop a biodiversity information management plan to clearly specify the roles and responsibilities of each agency to better facilitate the dissemination of information through the CHM.
- iii. Establish protocols for information sharing and meta-data standards between the DEC and all other relevant national centers of information to effectively share and disseminate information.
- iv. Regularly update the biodiversity database incorporating all the required and relevant information, and ensuring the provision of reliable and accurate information to all stakeholders through the CHM for planning, decision making purposes, project management and implementation.

Project Implementation/ Institutional Framework

The project will follow the participatory process established in the development of the NBSAP. This will include the Division of Environment and Conservation as the lead agency in collaboration with the CHM Steering Committee acting as an advisory body to the project implementation. Following on the successful arrangements under the NBSAP, the project should have a Project Manager from DEC, which should be the Chief Biodiversity Officer, while the Project Coordinator is contracted out from a suitable person to coordinate all activities of the project. Consultants will be recruited for specialized and technical work on short-term basis where needed. It is envisaged that the CHM Focal Point will play an active role in ensuring the project is successfully implemented.

The project will work in close collaboration with World Wildlife Fund for Nature and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme who manage the regional clearinghouse node for biodiversity conservation as part of the regional biodiversity conservation portal site.

It will also collaborate closely with all stakeholders, including relevant regional and international institutions or agencies.

Timetable

Add-on Project time line	2001					2002												2003							
	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	
Meeting of CHM/SC and Project Manger	■																								
Hiring of national coordinator	■																								
Priority 1: Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing																									
1. Identify and assess capacity building needs of government and academic institutions.	■	■																							
2. Identify and assess capacity building needs of non-governmental organizations and relevant community groups			■	■																					
3. Identify and assess existing policies and plans and recommend appropriate measures.					■	■																			
Priority 2: Traditional knowledge, practices and innovations.																									
1. Identify key information on traditional knowledge, practices and innovations relevant to biodiversity.						■	■																		
2. Assess capacity building needs for all relevant institutions.								■	■																
3. Identify and assess relevant policies and plans and recommend appropriate measures.										■	■														
Clearing House Mechanism																									
1. Formalise the CHM Steering Committee	■																								
2. Develop a national website		■	■																						
3. Develop resource materials				■	■																				
4. Develop and conduct a nation-wide awareness programme						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
5. Develop a monitoring programme.						■	■																		
6. Biodiversity Information management system																									

Add-on Project time line	2001					2002												2003					
	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
6 (i) Assess and implement appropriate biodiversity information management system																							
6 (ii) Develop a biodiversity information management plan																							
6 (iii) Establish protocols for information sharing and meta-data standards																							

Table of cost estimates for additional enabling activities (biodiversity)

(US \$ 000)

ACTIVITY	PRODUCT	PROCESS	TOTAL
APPROVED EARLIER			
• Original EA, less costs of CHM activities	(no entry required)		172,000
• CHM support (provided through add-on module or project itself)			14,000
Total approved support			186,000
ADDITIONAL REQUEST			
1. Capacity Assessment			
Priority 1: Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing	10,000	20,000	30,000
Priority 2: Traditional knowledge, practices and innovations	15,000	35,000	50,000
2. Completion of the Clearing House Mechanism	37,000	98,000	135,000
Total new Request	62,000	153,000	215,000
TOTAL (previously approved plus 'add on')			401,000



Government of Samoa
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Apia - Samoa

Your Ref: fa 6/1/16

10 March, 1999

*Please address all
correspondence to
Secretary for Foreign Affairs*

The Resident Representative,
UNDP,
Matautu.

Dear Sir,

Clearing House Mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Government of Samoa has granted endorsement to the Division of Environment and Conservation to take up the implementing role for the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) Programme.

Accordingly, Government wishes to benefit from the CHM through access to global exchange of information on biological conservation including procurement of computer hardware, software and training for the implementation of the Stocktaking and Inventory assessment of our National Biological Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP).

We understand that the CHM module will be an add on activity to the NBSAP given that Samoa already has an approved Biodiversity Enabling Activity Project.

In view of the above, please find attached herewith for onforwarding to the CBD Secretariat the Technical Evaluation Form and CHM Proposal.

We thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sharon G. Potoi-Aiafi
for: Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs

attach.

