

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

**Project brief**

<b>Country:</b>	Samoa
<b>Project Title:</b>	Preparation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Preparation of First National Report to the Fourth Session of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Country Eligibility:</b>	Ratification of Convention on Biological Diversity in April 1993
<b>GEF Financing:</b>	US\$ 172,010
<b>Government Contribution:</b>	US\$ 11,000
<b>GEF Implementing Agency:</b>	UNDP
<b>National Executing Agency:</b>	Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Department of Lands, Surveys and Environment (DLSE)
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point:</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>CBD Focal Point:</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>Estimated Starting Date:</b>	March 1998
<b>Project Duration:</b>	11 months

**Background**

Samoa is the largest island group in the Samoan Archipelago (which includes American Samoa) located in the southwest Pacific, south of the equator. It is comprised of the two main islands of Upolu (1,115/sqkm) and Savaii (1,700/sq km), seven smaller islands and islets, for a total land area of 2,882/sq km.

The majority of Samoa's 161,298 people (1991, Census) inhabit the coastal lowland area of its islands. Most of the land, which extends from the high water mark inland, is in customary ownership. Approximately 47 % of Samoa is still covered by forest (46% natural forests, 1% plantations). Despite the relatively large areas of land that are still covered with forest, the current rates of deforestation are very high. It is estimated that 1,500 ha of forest are lost each year, logging accounting for 25% of this loss and agricultural expansion and other farming activities accounting for 75%. Almost all of the original lowland forest areas have been lost and those remaining are under threat.

Samoa has one of the most highly diverse flora diversity in the South Pacific. Its vegetation has been divided into 19 plant communities within five broad categories: littoral vegetation, rainforest vegetation, wetland vegetation, volcanic scrub and disturbed vegetation. Within these five categories, 96 families, 298 genera and 500 species of plants have been identified. Twenty-five percent of these plants are endemic and about 136 species have been identified as potentially threatened or endangered. There are over 35 land-bird species, of which eight are endemic to Western Samoa, and the significance of this avifauna has been recognized internationally by the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP). There are 14 species of land reptiles, two turtles commonly recorded (of which, the hawksbill is a breeding population in Western Samoa), and a diverse but poorly described

invertebrate fauna that includes rare land snails.

There are 991 species of marine fish identified in Samoa, of which 890 are considered shallow-water or reef-inhabiting species, 56 are deeper bottom fish, and 45 are surface species. The islands are not endowed with very extensive coral reefs, partly because they consist of steep-sided volcanic cones set in deep waters. Also, recent volcanic flows have covered previous reef areas, leaving rocky coasts. Recent studies have raised serious concern about damage to the lagoons and reef areas that are a result of cyclones, over-fishing and pollution.

The loss of biological diversity in Samoa is a serious concern and is a top priority at present. Poor land management and deforestation affect the protection and conservation of Samoa's water, forest, plant and animal resources. Samoa's economy has suffered in the 1990s due to the destruction of its resources in 1990 and 1991 by tropical cyclones OFA and VAL. Soil erosion, increased water run-off, dynamite fishing and solid waste disposal are major environmental issues that contribute to the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity. The spread of introduced animal and plant pest species is a further problem that needs attention. There is a need to promote, encourage and assist local community efforts for the conservation of unique ecosystems. Samoa has developed two biodiversity conservation areas in the Uafato and Sataoa/Sanapu Communities through the GEF South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP).

The Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC) under the Department of Lands, Surveys and Environment was established in 1989 to take responsibility for environmental issues in Samoa and carry out appropriate implementation and administration activities. The Act was revised in 1993 to strengthen the protection and conservation of natural flora and fauna and biological diversity of Samoa, in that same year, the National Environment and Development Management Strategies (NEMS) established a framework for environmental planning. Its task team meets regularly and is a good example of cross-sectoral cooperation.

Training of DEC staff to implement fully the various programmes resultant from the Lands, Surveys and Environment Act is progressing successfully. The DEC is working to coordinate work with other government agencies; for example, they worked with the Fisheries Division to include conservation measures for fish stocks and turtles in the DEC regulations in 1996.

### **Project Objectives and Short Description**

The objective of this Enabling Activity is to formulate, through a participatory and analytical process, the strategies and actions necessary for the protection and sustainable use of the biodiversity in Samoa and to prepare a formal plan for their implementation. The primary output will be a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). A National Report to the Conference of the Parties shall be prepared for presentation to the Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-4) in Bratislava in May 1998.

The Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC) will coordinate the project. The already existing NEMS Task Force will constitute the project's steering committee. Its membership will be broadened to ensure representation of stakeholders that have a role in the conservation or sustainable use of biodiversity. A National Coordinator will be appointed by the DEC to direct the implementation of project activities, with support from an international and two national consultants. The steering committee will provide overall guidance to the preparation of the BSAP, ensure the

participation of relevant stakeholders and develop a detailed work plan. The steering committee will ensure integration of cross-sectoral issues and, monitor the participatory strategic planning process, meeting quarterly for this purpose.

Familiarization in participatory biodiversity planning methodologies and strategic analysis and planning for biodiversity management will be provided as an early activity by the international consultant. He/she will facilitate a review of the WRI/TUCN/UNEP "Guidelines for the Preparation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" help develop detailed methodology and a work plan consequent to this. The international consultant will also take responsibility for the preparation of the national report to the COP-4.

A comprehensive stocktaking and assessment of existing information will be undertaken. The consultants will examine relevant national environmental and cross-sectoral legislation, environmental initiatives, and institutional arrangements relevant to biodiversity. Existing data on the current status of biodiversity will be reviewed, mapped, summarized and correlated with socio-economic and land use patterns. An inventory of past and present biodiversity resource use practices, specifically as they pertain to the use of indigenous knowledge, will be conducted. Threats and pressures contributing to the loss of biodiversity will be identified and the root causes analyzed. The results of the assessment and inventory will be synthesized into reports. The stocktaking and assessment will be carried out in close consultation with the South Pacific Environmental Programme (SPREP) which coordinated development of the NEMS.

The stocktaking reports will be presented at the first National Workshop that will be conducted by the consultants. Participants will be drawn from Government, NGOs, private sector and other stakeholders with a stake and interest in biodiversity conservation. Workshop participants will be oriented with the project, its objectives, general issues such as causes and implications of biodiversity loss. Consequently, the participants will analyze the stocktaking reports to identify and rank conservation priorities in each area, identify gaps and options and thereby develop preliminary strategies for biodiversity conservation.

After the workshop, the project team will carry out a detailed analysis of the issues and options identified during the workshop through a process of consultations<sup>1</sup> with key government representatives, NGO representatives, traditional leaders and local communities. In the process traditional and modern resource use practices will also be documented. This consultative process will develop specific action plans to implement the BSAP strategies. The action plans will specify concrete implementable actions, identify stakeholders, their roles and responsibilities, geographic area of focus, approximate funds needed.

The results of the stocktaking, first workshop and consultations will be synthesized into a draft BSAP. A second and final national workshop, again involving all key stakeholders will then be held to review the draft BSAP. Participants will review and debate the strategies and action plans in the draft BSAP and propose and agree on revisions as necessary.

Consequently, the BSAP, once finalized, will be submitted to the Samoan cabinet for formal

<sup>1</sup> Consultations will be held in key areas for biodiversity conservation. Consultations may also be held with stakeholders in key resource use sectors (e.g. fisheries, indigenous knowledge). The specific locations and sectors will be identified during the stocktaking and selected during the first national workshop.

Mr. John Hough, Regional Coordinator, RBA

Ms. Theima Awoti, Regional Director, RBA

endorsement prior to publication and widespread dissemination through the traditional media and web.

Samoa's national report will be prepared for presentation to the Fourth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The lead national consultant and international consultant will take responsibility for preparing the report during the first two months of the project by analyzing and synthesizing existing reports and publications.

**Coverage without duplication**

The 1993 National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) proposed the following objectives to guide biodiversity conservation:

- to maximize the potential benefits related to biodiversity
- to protect and preserve the Global Environment
- to integrate biodiversity conservation with environmental planning and assessment
- to develop knowledge and promote understanding of local biodiversity
- to create public awareness of the need to conserve biological and genetic resources

However, the NEMS process did not include an assessment of biodiversity information and the NEMS does not propose strategies and action plans. Therefore, this project will not overlap with NEMS activities and outputs. However complementarity will be encouraged and the BSAP strategies and action plans will focus on how to attain the objectives embodied in the NEMS. Objectives and policy guidance contained in the NEMS for other related sectors will be studied and linkages will be opportunistically built.

The integration of biodiversity in other sectoral plans and policies is still at their infancy stages. Although the National Policies on Population, Land Use, Water, and Waste Management have been drafted by NEMS Task force, they pay scant attention to inclusion of biodiversity issues in their respective policies. One of the key tasks of the BSAP process will be to review these policies, identify gaps and make suggestions for inclusion of biodiversity concerns.

I am pleased to delegate to you the authority to sign the attached project document, on behalf of FAO, and to commence execution of the project once signed by the UNDP Resident Representatives and the Governments of the respective countries. In this connection, I have also authorised the UNDP Resident Representatives of the respective country offices to sign the project document, on behalf of UNDP, and to forward it to the concerned Governments for their signature.

**Reducing Biodiversity At Cross Border Sites in East Africa**

URT/97/G31/A/1G/99: RAF/97/G32/A/1G/12

Subject: KEN/97/G31/A/1G/99: UGA/97/G31/A/1G/99:

Dear Mr. Dada,

27 February 1998

**Work Plan**

Activities will begin in February 1998 and proceed for 11 months. The national report will be prepared in time for submission to COP-4.

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Establishment of Steering Committee	x										
Steering committee meetings	x			x				x			x
Familiarization in participatory biodiversity planning methodologies	x										
Stocktaking and assessment exercise		x	x								
Preparation and submission national report	x	x									
First national workshop				x							
Identification and analysis of options, Country-wide consultations,				x	x	x	x	x			
Preparation of draft BSAP						x	x	x	x		
Second national workshop									x		
Steering committee, finalization of BSAP										x	
Cabinet approval of BSAP										x	
Dissemination of BSAP											x

**Best Practice**

The project will follow the methodology recommended in the "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994) and the "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (WRI/IUCN/UNEP). As recommended by these guidelines, the project will strengthen in-country capacity to facilitate development of a country-driven and participatory BSAP. The project is being organized within the NEMS framework, which has already proven to be successful in drawing different sectors together to draft the four policies to date (Land-use, Water, Population and Waste Management).

Mr. John Hough, Regional Coordinator, RBA  
 Ms. Theilma Awori, Regional Director, RBA

**Project Financing**

The cost of this project is estimated at US\$ 172,010. The Government of Somalia is contributing staff time to the execution of this project amounting to an estimated US\$ 10,000.

Activity	Product	Process	Total US\$
<b>Stocktaking and Inventory of Information -</b>	<b>16,000</b>		<b>16,000</b>
2 national consultants	6,000		6,000
Documentation, travel, misc.	10,000		10,000
<b>Identification and Analysis of Options</b>	<b>11,000</b>		<b>11,000</b>
International consultant	2,000		2,000
2 national consultants	3,000		3,000
Steering committee meeting	4,000		4,000
Familiarization sessions		2,000	2,000
Documentation, travel, misc.		13,000	13,000
First national workshop		20,000	20,000
Stakeholder consultation meetings		12,000	12,000
<b>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>
Two consultants	6,000	6,000	12,000
Steering committee meetings	3,500		3,500
Second national workshop		20,000	20,000
Documentation, travel, misc.		12,000	12,000
Dissemination of the signed project document to the respective countries			
Translation/publication	7,500		7,500
<b>Preparation of First National Report</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
International consultant	2,000		2,000
national consultants for execution of the project	2,000		2,000
Translation/publication	4,000		4,000
Promotion	5,000		5,000
<b>Coordination and management</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>5,010</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,800</b>	<b>102,210</b>	<b>172,010</b>

**Deviations from Criteria and Norms**  
 Representatives of the respective country offices to sign the attached project document, on behalf of FAO, and to commence execution of the project once signed by the UNDP Resident Representative and the Government of Somalia. In this connection, I have also authorized the UNDP Resident Representative of the respective countries. This proposed project is consistent with GEF enabling activity criteria and norms.

**Institutional Framework and Project Implementation**

The project will be coordinated the Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC), in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The pre-existing NEMS Task Force will largely constitute the steering committee for this project. Its members may be broadened to ensure representation of stakeholders that have a role in the conservation or sustainable use of biodiversity.

The NEMS Task Force will provide review and guide the activities of the consultants, identify relevant legislation and operational programmes of the sector agencies, and provide comments on the strategies and action plans prior to BSAP finalization. A process of approval through the Minister of Lands, Surveys and Environment and Conservation is already established.

A National Coordinator will be appointed by the Steering committee to direct the implementation of project activities. The National Coordinator will be responsible for the oversight of the implementation of the project and serve as a liaison between the Steering Committee and the project team. Two national consultants will be supported and trained by an international consultant to carry out project activities. The international consultant will be required to assist in the start-up of the BSAP process and cover biodiversity analysis and participatory planning methods. It is anticipated that the international consultant will be hired as a project advisor on a retainer contract and will provide ongoing technical support over the duration of the project to the national consultants via phone, fax, E-mail.

### Activity Matrix

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

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**Comments:**

The State of the Environment Report for Western Samoa (1993) presents a general overview of the Samoan environment. However, it is aimed at policy makers and presents a general overview of the environment. Information necessary for the BSAP planning needs to encompass all related sectors, and present detailed spatially referenced information that will allow gap analysis and priority setting.

The preparation of the BSAP is consistent with the recommendation of the NEMS for the preparation of a national biodiversity policy. Although the NEMS does not propose strategies for biodiversity conservation, the broad objectives proposed in the NEMS will be complemented by the BSAP.

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Government of Samoa  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
Apia - Samoa

P.O. Box: L1859  
Fax: (685) 21504  
Tel: (685) 25319

02 December, 1997

Mr. Anthony R. Patton  
Resident Representative  
United Nations Development Programme  
**MATALIU-LUA**

Our Ref: FA 31/16/3  
Your Ref:

Please address all  
correspondence to  
Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Dear Sir,

GEF Biodiversity Enabling Activities Project Brief

Reference is made to your letter dated 27 November, 1997 on the above-mentioned subject.

We would like to endorse herewith the project proposal for enabling activities under the Convention on biological Diversity (CBD). The project proposal is in line with GEF and UNDP requirements.

Your assistance in conveying this project proposal to GEF New York with your favourable recommendation would be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Okesene T. Moananu  
for: **SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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