

Sao Tomé and Príncipe

Enabling Activity Proposal in Biodiversity and Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism

Country:	Sao Tomé and Príncipe
Project Title: GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, First National Report and Clearing House Mechanism
Country Eligibility:	Convention acceded to in October 1999
GEF Financing Request:	US\$163,000
Government Contribution:	In-kind
GEF Implementing Agency:	World Bank
National Executing Agency:	Department for the Environment
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Mr. Lorenzo Monteiro de Jesus, Department for the Environment
CBD Focal Point:	Director, Department of Forestry
CHM Focal Point	Mr. Arlindo de Ceita Carvalho, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Estimated Starting Date:	May 2000
Project Duration	One year

Background/context

Sao Tomé and Príncipe has a land area of slightly over 100,000 ha (85,700 ha for the island of Sao Tome, about 15,000 ha for the island of Principe and under a 1,000 ha spread over several small islands) and a population estimated at anywhere from 130,000-145,000 people. It is located in the Gulf of Guinea.¹ The country gained independence only in 1975.

Sao Tome and Principe's contribution to global diversity is primarily in three areas, coastal zone, forests and wildlife. Volcanic activities on the islands ceased about 3 million years ago allowing a flora and fauna to develop which has differentiated itself from that of the mainland. Its forests are now considered the second most important primary forests out of a list of 75 sites in Africa.

Despite its small size, forest biodiversity on Sao Tome is diverse and at lower elevations scattered over several areas. The mangrove forests in the south of the island, several smaller lowland forests scattered over the island ranging over different climatic zones (from humid to arid). At higher elevations there is a large area with primal forests (mostly in the areas above 600-800 meters, where the forest is still untouched and penetration by man introduced species has not yet occurred). These forests are home to a large number of bird species (at least 131), of which 43 are endemic to the island, and 3

¹ The geographic location is between 0.00 and 0.25 degrees northern latitude and 6.30 and 6.45 degrees eastern longitude.

of these are at danger of becoming extent and 6 are classified as vulnerable. The archipelago is a nesting ground for five species of turtles. Each species nests in a different part of the archipelago. A full inventory of plant and animal life on the islands has not been carried out and it is expected that undiscovered animal and bird species live in the forests. The most pressing need is to protect these areas, as the ecological balance is very fragile and can be easily undermined by human intervention.

The loss of habitat primarily due to the logging of secondary forests and shade trees at lower elevations, the indiscriminate catch of turtles and their eggs pose among the most significant threats for biodiversity conservation. In addition, the logging of trees poses serious erosion problems as most of the trees are located on steep hills, thereby not only robbing birds and monkeys of their habitat, but also destroying the productive potential of lower lying areas. A new and growing threat is posed by the indiscriminate digging of sand from beached for construction by construction companies. This activity is fueled by the growing demand for construction materials following increased donor support for investment projects.

The commitment of the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to biodiversity conservation is illustrated in the National Policy for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development (NPPESD), which is expected to be adopted formally by the Government this year. Biodiversity conservation and the development of a Biodiversity Strategy are integral parts and priorities in this document. Likewise, Sao Tome and Principe ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in October 1999. Legislation pertaining to the protection of forests has been drafted, with technical assistance provided by the Government of Germany, and adopted by the Parliament in 1998.

Project Objectives and Short Description

The purpose of the proposed project is to enable the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to develop a biodiversity strategy in compliance with Articles 6 and 8 of the CBD and as a means of identifying priority actions for biodiversity conservation and management. The project will provide the resources to Government to prepare its first National Report to the Conference of the Parties. As such the project will also be an important first step in enhancing the capacity of Government and other stakeholders in various fields related to biodiversity and in identifying priority areas for biodiversity conservation and management in Sao Tome and Principe. Under the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), the project will also provide minimal equipment to the focal point that will enable the Government to execute its responsibilities relative to the CBD.

The Department for the Environment will establish a core planning team, which will coordinate activities during the development of the Biodiversity Strategy and National Report. This team will be responsible for the stocktaking and assessment exercise, which will be carried out using existing information. Identification and analysis of options will be carried out through a series of national and local (district level) workshops in open forums. Local workshops will be held in all districts as the country is small and fragile ecosystems are relatively close to all population areas. The National Workshop will provide a forum for engaging policy makers and planners in the

development and finalization of the strategy, drawing heavily on the results of the local workshops. Dissemination of information about biodiversity will be carried out through the production of printed materials. In all rural areas, participatory rural appraisal methods will be carried out to identify best options for biodiversity conservation and to facilitate the preparation of plans for the targeting of investments in biodiversity conservation initiatives at the local level. The final draft, produced in Portuguese and translated into English and French for broader dissemination outside the country, will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for discussion and approval. The First National Report will be prepared for the 2001 Conference of the Parties of the CBD, describing the development of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and other measures taken by Sao Tome and Principe to implement the CBD.

Coverage without Duplication

The development of the Biodiversity Strategy was identified as a priority in the draft NPPESD. The BSAP will expand and complement the sections on biodiversity and will follow the principles outlined therein, particularly the need for cross-sectoral planning of the management priorities identified by the communities and other local organizations through the consultative process.

A number of related initiatives are currently underway or in the pipeline. The following initiatives have been taken into account in the design of the proposal:

- a) GTZ and UNEP are supporting the drafting of legislation related to environmental protection
- b) ECOFAC is executing a European Union funded project, focussing on the establishment and protection of the proposed national parks. A regional project focussing on marine life preservation has recently been completed and a new project is under preparation.

Time Plan and Sequencing

The BSAP will be produced over a period of 12 months according to the schedule outlined below and starting in May 2000. The tasks and sequence of events envisioned for the Sao Tome and Principe BSAP are consistent with those recommended in *National Biodiversity Planning and Early Experiences Around the World* (WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1993) as well as the *Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities: Biodiversity* (Global Environment Facility, 1996). The schedule outlined below is consistent with the need to submit the first National Report on implementation of the CBD by June 2001.

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Establish Core Planning Team	X											
Preparation of Work Plan	X	X										
Review stocktaking materials		X	X									
Identification and analysis of options				X	X	X						
District workshops						X	X	X				
Production of Issues Paper								X	X			
Preparation of BSAP									X	X		
National Workshop											X	
Finalize BSAP											X	X
Preparation of National Report										X		

Best Practices

The Sao Tomean Department for the Environment builds on the approaches described in *National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Country Experiences* (WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995) and comply with the best practices outlined in the *Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities: Biodiversity*. Many of the steps are taken from this publication and adapted to the Sao Tomean situation.

Ownership. The Government has placed great emphasis on environmentally sustainable development and has shown its commitment to biodiversity protection by setting aside its two primary old growth forests as national parks, covering almost 30 percent of the national territory. In addition, a high priority is accorded to the development of a biodiversity strategy in the NPESD. The strategy will be integrated into the broader development policy framework and will identify mechanisms and activities to address sectoral and cross-sectoral issues.

Consultation and community participation. Community consultation on biodiversity protection related issues at the district level would be difficult because of the lack of social cohesion at many communities following many generations of colonial rule that only culminated in independence in 1975. Special emphasis will be placed on this aspect to ensure community inputs into the planning process.

Use of local and regional expertise. National expertise on environment and biodiversity protection is weak, but will be used to the extent possible, supplemented by regional and international technical assistance.

Cross border linkages. Cross border issues, especially where it relates to marine life and birds will be identified and discussed during the strategy development process. Links

will also be established with the clearinghouse mechanism of the CBD Secretariat to encourage the exchange of information.

Investment Planning. The Biodiversity Strategy will identify a number of specific initiatives for which investments are required and should lay the basis for preparation of subsequent proposals to GEF and to other multilateral and bilateral donors for financing these activities.

Cost Effectiveness

Four particular aspects of the situation in Sao Tome and Principe account for the relatively high cost of the proposed project. The Government's capacity to undertake this initiative is severely constrained and there is a lack of national expertise on biodiversity conservation. Environmental institutions are still at their infancy and face many pressing tasks. Moreover, they have little or no equipment to carry out their tasks. This proposal therefore emphasizes capacity building, through a judicious use of national and international consultants. One computer with internet connection is therefore proposed to allow the Department for the Environment to facilitate the execution of the activities included under this proposal. In addition, the islands of Sao Tome and Principe are isolated from the mainland of Africa and transport to and from the islands is relatively expensive, as are telecommunications, including internet access. Finally, communities are not communities in the traditional African sense as many lack social cohesion. This makes participatory rural appraisals more time consuming and therefore more costly.

Deviation from Criteria and Norms

The proposal does not deviate from the *Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities: Biodiversity*.

Consistency of Approach and Procedures

Two biodiversity activities are ongoing or planned in Sao Tome and Principe as described above (see "Coverage without Duplication"). The approach and procedures of the BSAP will be consistent with these ongoing activities as well as the *Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities: Biodiversity*.

Project Financing

	Product	Process	Total Support
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Information</i>	22,500		22,500
International consultants	10,000		10,000
National consultant(s)	10,000		10,000
Documentation	2,500		2,500
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i>	15,000	30,000	45,000
International Consultants	5,000	10,000	15,000
National Consultants	5,000	10,000	15,000
District workshops		7,500	7,500
Training: Participatory Rural Appraisals		2,500	2,500
Travel and per diem	5,000		5,000
<i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i>	27,500	35,000	62,500
International consultants	7,500	5,000	12,500
National consultants		15,000	15,000
Training (planning)		5,000	5,000
National workshop		10,000	10,000
Dissemination of draft Strategy and Action Plan	5,000		5,000
Publication and Translation	15,000		15,000
<i>First National Report</i>	14,000		14,000
Publication and translation	10,000		10,000
Promotion	4,000		4,000
<i>Clearing House Mechanism</i>	9,000		9,000
Hardware	4,000		4,000
Software	1,000		1,000
Modem	500		500
Internet access	3,000		3,000
Set-up fees	500		500
<i>Coordination and Management Costs</i>	10,000		10,000
<i>Total</i>	98,000	65,000	163,000

Standard Activity Matrix

	Existing Activities					Proposed Enabling Activities				
	NPESD ⁱ	GTZ ⁱⁱ	ECOFAC National Parks Project ⁱⁱⁱ	ECOFAC Turtle Protection ^{iv}	Output	Institutional Strengthening	Capacity Building Training	Public Participation	Comments	
Stocktaking and Assessment										
Biodiversity and biological resources	X		X	X	X					
Cross-sectoral issues	X	X			X					
Policy and regulatory framework	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Institutional and human capacity					X	X	X			
Analysis of root causes for BD loss	X		X	X	X	X	X			
Technologies for conservation and sustainable use			X		X			X		
Activities with adverse impacts	X	X	X	X	X					
Existing measures and programs	X		X		X					
Preliminary statement of objectives	X		X		X					
Identification of gaps			X		X	X		X		
Assessment of existing needs	X		X		X	X				
Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD										
Strategies for conservation			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Strategies for sustainable use			X		X	X	X	X		
Strategies for benefit sharing			X		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		

[illegible]

Notes

ⁱ The NPPESD was completed in 1998 prior to the ratification of the CBD. While it describes priorities with regard to biodiversity protection, it lacks details and the included investment program is more focussed on general development priorities than on biodiversity protection. Further development of the biodiversity conservation priorities and the means for addressing these is considered a priority and will be addressed by the Enabling Activity

ⁱⁱ GTZ has played an important role in supporting Government with the drafting of legislation for the protection of the environment. Legislation to date has focussed on forestry protection.

ⁱⁱⁱ The ECOFAC National Parks Project includes several activities aimed at biodiversity protection. This project is consistent with the priorities identified in the NPPESD. In addition, this project has collected survey data on forest biodiversity on especially the island of Sao Tome. Limited information has been collected in the island of Principe or the smaller islands making up the archipelago. There is no duplication between this project and the work to be carried out in preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy.

^{iv} The work done under the regional Turtle Protection Project has yielded valuable information that will be used in the preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy.

REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA



DE S. TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

MINISTÉRIO DO PLANEAMENTO, FINANÇAS E COOPERAÇÃO

GABINETE DO MINISTRO
(Unidade - Disciplina - Trabalho)

A M. le Secrétaire
Secrétariat du Fonds Environnemental Mondial
Banque Mondiale
Washington, DC 20433

São Tomé, November 12, 1999

Objet: Convention sur la Biodiversité et Actions de Mise en Oeuvre

M. le Secrétaire,

Nous avons l'honneur de vous informer que le Gouvernement de Sao Tomé et Príncipe, suite à la signature de la Convention sur la Biodiversité le 12 juin 1992, vient également de ratifier cette même Convention en date du 29 septembre 1999. Le Gouvernement, à cet effet, nommé M. Louraço Monteiro de Jesus, du Ministère des Infrastructures, des Ressources Naturelles et de l'Environnement, comme personne chargée de coordonner les activités relatives à cette Convention.

Nous voulons saisir cette occasion pour vous demander un appui technique et financier pour élaborer une stratégie de conservation de l'environnement et de protection de la biodiversité conformément aux articles 6 et 8 de la convention. En même temps, nous souhaitons un appui pour entreprendre la préparation d'un projet de protection de la biodiversité et de promotion de l'écotourisme.

Nous nous tenons à votre disposition pour discuter les modalités de mise en oeuvre de ces actions proposées.

Veuillez agréer, M. le Secrétaire, l'expression de ma considération distinguée.

Ministre du Plan, Finances et de la Coopération

C.C:

S.F. M. Guilherme Posser da Costa, Premier Ministre

S.E. Mme Maria das Neves Barista de Sousa, Ministre de l'Economie

S.E. M. Luis dos Prazeres, Ministre des Infrastructures, des Ressources Naturelles et de l'Environnement

M. Lourenço Monteiro de Jesus, Ministère des Infrastructures, des Ressources Naturelles et de l'Environnement

M. Hasan Tuluy, Directeur des Opérations chargé de Sao Tomé et Príncipe, Banque Mondiale