

"Revisions carried out in response to GEFSEC comments of 14 May 2001

1. Confusion regarding executing agency: this one is complicated because in UNDP language the "executing agency" is "the government" – generally represented by the Ministry of Finance. While the Ministry of Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment has overall responsibility for the environment it is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Marine Resources that will take the lead in implementation and we have adjusted page 1. to show this as the Executing Agency.
2. As a consequence of government restructuring the Environment Division is no longer in the Ministry of Transport, Communications and the Environment but is now in the Ministry of Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment. The GEF Operational Focal Point is still the Director of Environment (or as you have it the "Head of the Environment"). The focal point is the post, not the parent ministry, nor an individual.
3. Past and ongoing activities have now been summarized in Para. 15.
4. A statement regarding UNDP's confidence in the civil situation has been inserted in para. 6.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

Country:	Republic of Sierra Leone
Project Title:	Sierra Leone's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Country Report to the COP
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Convention ratified on 12 December 1994
GEF Financing:	USD275,000
Government Contribution:	In kind
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Marine Resources
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Director of Environment
CBD Operational Focal Point:	Ministry of External Affairs
Estimated Starting Date:	July 2001
Project Duration:	12 months

Background

1. Sierra Leone is situated along the Atlantic Ocean in the West Africa, and it is bordered by Guinea to the North and North-east, and Liberia to the East. Sierra Leone has a land area of 72,278km². Its population, which is growing at the rate of 2.4% per annum, was estimated at around 4,200,000 in 1994. With a per capita income of \$184, Sierra Leone is among the poorest countries in the world. Natural resources are the basis of the economy of the country, which is particularly based on rice cultivation as well as bauxite, diamond and gold mining. Also offshore fisheries constitute one of the largest industries of the country.

2. Biogeographically, Sierra Leone falls in the transition zone between the Guinea-Congolean and Sudanian biomes with Afromontane elements on elevated grounds. The country is found at the western tip of the Upper Guinea lowland forests. Lowland forests are believed to have once covered at least half of the country, but only few patches remain protected in the south and east. Remaining forests cover only 5 to 6% of the country land area (IUCN) 1990, 1992). Nowadays, the country is a mosaic of secondary forests and agriculture land, and woodland savannas are found in the north. Swamps are found in the estuaries of Scarcies, Sierra Leone, Sherbro, and Malan Rivers. Mangroves colonize the Atlantic coastline. Following these land use patterns, the country can be divided into 3 ecological zones; that is (a) woodland savannas in the north, (b)

mosaic of forests and agricultural land in the center, and (c) swamps, mangroves and islands along the coastline.

3. It is estimated that there occur 2,000 vascular plant species with at least 74 endemic (IUCN 1990). The country is endowed with several centers of endemism and plant diversity such as the Gola forest, Loma Mountain, and Tingi Hills. Also 15 species of primate occur, 18 species of antelopes, 9 species of fruit bats, and there are many species of large mammals including the elephant, pygmy hippopotamus, warthog, giant forest hog, and the red river hog. Six threatened species of bird occur, particularly in the rainforests of Sierra Leone. These are: (a) the white-breasted guineafowl; (b) the rufous fishing owl; (c) the yellow-throated olive greenbul; (d) the western wattled cuckoo-shrike; (e) the white-necked picathartes; and the Gola malimbe. Several species of palearctic migratory waders and ducks rest along the coast of Sierra Leone. Also several species of marine turtles nest along the coastline and on some islands, among these are: the loggerheaded, the hawksbill, and the green turtles. Two endemic species of amphibian occur in Sierra Leone as well as several invertebrate species including two dragon-fly species. Moreover Sierra Leone is endowed with domesticated species of conservation concern. As an example 21 indigenous cultivars of rice have been identified in the country (Swartzendruber 1994).

4. Threats to biodiversity come from forest clearing for agriculture and excessive burning (IUCN 1990,1992). During the world's summit on environment and development in 1992, Sierra Leone pledged to arrest further destruction of its forests (Swartzendruber 1994) Unfortunately political strife has prevented the country to live up its pledge. However several conservation areas have been set aside. These include: several national parks (such as Outamba-Kilimi National Park); one game sanctuary on the Tiwai Island; one swamp nature reserve at Mamunta-Mayoso; and ten forest reserves (i.e. Kuru Hills, Loma Mountains, Tingi Hills, Tonkoli, Tama, Kangari Hills, Gola North, Gola West and Gola East Forest Reserves). Also the government of Sierra Leone is considering an innovative strategy for forest conservation. This would entail establishing a network of carefully selected protected areas to represent most of the country's habitats. These would then be placed under the management of tribal chiefdoms with technical input and oversight responsibility from the government agencies (Swartzendruber 1994). This is now possible as after the civil war as much as 90% of the country is under control by the government, and only the eastern border with Liberia and Guinea is still effervescent with rebels groups that are preparing to rather transform themselves into an opposition party and to participate in the country democracy.

5. The government of Sierra Leone has engaged in institutional and legal reforms to improve its caretaking for its environment, in general, and its diverse biological resources in particular. Two ministries have been put in place to oversee conservation areas and to deal with threats to biological resources and the environment. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Marine Resources (MAF&MR) is responsible for conservation areas, and the Ministry of Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment is responsible for environmental matters, including environmental policy and pollution control. Forest reserves, national parks, and wildlife conservation are managed under the authority of the Forestry Division in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Marine Resources are managed under the Division of Marine Resources in the same ministry. Also in 1990 a National Environment Policy was approved by the government. The policy calls for the preparation of a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). With regained political stability, the government of Sierra Leone has now completed and enacted its National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). On 29 August 1996, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Marine Resources requested assistance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP to formulate Sierra Leone's BSAP and the draft the Country Report to the Conference of Parties (COP). Soon after, renewed civil strife in the country prevented again the formulation of BSAP. The demand of MAF&MR was renewed on 9th November 2000 to the GEF through UNDP to assist in the formulation of Sierra Leone's BSAP and country report to COP.

Project Objectives and Short Description

6. The Principal objective of this enabling activity is to assist Sierra Leone in preparing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). The BSAP will define the current status of, pressures on, options for, and priority actions to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable share of its biological diversity. The project will build on the existing knowledge base to elaborate the BSAP through a process of participatory planning and stakeholder consultation. This will also enable Sierra Leone to meet its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by preparing its first country report to the Conference of the Parties. The Government of Sierra Leone and UNDP/GEF are satisfied this proposal conforms with the GEF Criteria for Expedited Financing of Enabling Activities in Biodiversity. In addition, UNDP/GEF is satisfied that the political situation in the country is conducive to implementation of the project.

7. The Government of Sierra Leone will initially appoint a steering committee to supervise the BSAP process and provide overall direction and guidance. Members of the steering committee will be drawn, as a representative sample, from the full range of concerned biodiversity stakeholders. These will include representatives from the public sector (government and public institutions), the private sector (NGOs and local communities) and the donor community. Under supervision of the steering committee, a planning team will undertake the work of the enabling activity. Planning team members will be selected according to their biodiversity and planning expertise. Additional planning team members will be drawn to represent, on the one hand, decision and law makers, and on the other hand, biodiversity resource users.

8. The BSAP process will also draw from different sectors of the society. It will include the organization of 2 national workshops and 3 regional workshops. Regional workshops will be organized for each of the 3 ecological zone that correspond to specific land use patterns as discussed above. National and regional workshops will be attended by representatives from various ministries, public institutions, private sector, NGOs, tribal leaders, local communities, and the donor community.

9. The planning team will be assisted by one lead national consultant, several national and short term consultants experienced in biodiversity issues. The lead national consultant will coordinate and facilitate project activities. The national consultants will help to run the national workshops, and the short term consultants will run the 3 regional workshops. An international consultant will provide assistance in familiarizing the planning team in biodiversity planning, farming key strategies, drafting the BSAP and facilitating participation by all relevant biodiversity resources' stakeholders.

10. The planning team and consultants will initially undertake a review of WRI/IUCN/UNEP guidelines (Miller and Lanou 1995) for the preparation of national biodiversity strategy and action plan. They will also use recent guides generated from GEF experience in assisting BSAPs around the world and lessons learned from the completed BSAP projects in the region. They will then compile and summarize existing information on the status of, and threats to the nation's biodiversity. Some of the information for stocktaking will come from the completed GEF project on the Upper Guinea Forest, whose end-product (land-use data, vegetation coverage, biodiversity hotspot maps, etc.) is stored on CD-ROM. However Sierra Leone will need proper equipment and hands-on training of its biodiversity planning cadre for the interpretation and digest of that remote sensing information. The summary of this information will be presented at the first national workshop in readily understandable and usable form by biodiversity stakeholders.

11. With support from national and international consultants, the planning team will conduct the first national workshop, which will draw together the full range of actors and stakeholders relevant to biodiversity. The workshop participants will analyze the results of the stocktaking and inventory to select objectives, identify key issues and options as well as actors and priority areas for review. In conjunction with the first national workshop and with the help of the lead national consultant, the international consultant will provide familiarization sessions in participatory methods, biodiversity analysis, strategic planning techniques and dissemination techniques to the planning team, particularly to the national and short term consultants.

12. Following the first national workshop, a detailed analysis of the issues and options will be carried out by the planning team with the help of national consultants. As part of this process, 3 regional workshops will put together representatives from local communities and institutions, private sector, government agencies, and donors. The regional workshops will assess various issues and options by region of the country and involve the full range of local stakeholders in the BSAP process. The regional workshops will be conducted primarily by the short term consultants with assistance from the planning team and the national consultants.

13. The results of the analysis and regional workshops will then be drawn together by the planning team assisted by the short term consultants, and a draft BSAP will be prepared with the assistance of the national and international consultants. A second national workshop will invite comment on the initial analysis and draft BSAP. New alternatives and options will be identified and developed to seek consensus among the stakeholders prior to the finalization of the details of the BSAP.

14. Upon approval by the project steering committee and the Government of Sierra Leone, the BSAP will be disseminated widely within Sierra Leone and a country report to the COP of the biodiversity convention will be prepared by the planning team. Because the First Country Report will not be available until April 2002, in 2001 the planning team will draft an interim report that the Government of Sierra Leone will initially present to the COP.

Coverage Without Duplication

15. The BSAP will allow better linkages between government ministries. The BSAP will build on existing data to be compiled by national consultants under the guidance of the planning team. Significant stocktaking activities will be undertaken, as there is need to synthesize the existing information from biodiversity related projects and to repatriate data from abroad, primarily from the United Kingdom and Germany. BSAP will fit and benefit from other past and ongoing activities, including donor funded projects. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Marine Resources along with the BSAP Steering Committee will ensure that there is no duplication of efforts. Sierra Leone present request does not include support for Clearing House Mechanism of CBD as the country is still building its capacities after civil strife, and it has not yet nominated a CHM focal point. BSAP will build initial capacity in biodiversity use and conservation planning before a request of CHM can be made.

The BSAP stocktaking will build on the base of information which exists as a result of initiatives and projects by CSSL (Conservation Society of Sierra Leone), FAO, IUCN, UNDP, GTZ, Peace Corps, WWF, WCS and the EU. Recent remote sensing data, on current land cover, use and country's biodiversity priority spots, are readily available on CD-ROM as an output of the GEF funded Upper Guinea Forest, but the cadre of biodiversity planning in Sierra Leone will need hands-on training for suitable use and digest of this information. Also all existing information needs to be summarized and recognized to fit into BSAP process.

Time Plan and Sequencing

16. The project will follow the sequence of activities recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines, with variations as appropriate, based on lessons learned from early country experiences around the world (Miller and Lanou 1995) as well as GEF funded and completed BSAP in western Africa. Activities will start in July 2001 and will last for 12 month.

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Establishment of steering committee and planning team	x	x										
Stocktaking, hands-on training on CD-ROM data use, inventory of information (digest)	x	x	x									
Training (familiarization) of planning team				x								
First national workshop				x								
Identification and analysis of options, regional (provincial) workshops					x	x	x					
Preparation of biodiversity strategy, action plan								x	x	x		
Second national workshop										x		
Adoption of BSAP by the Government and dissemination											x	
Preparation of interim report and submission to COP		x										
Preparation of country report											x	x

Best Practice

17. The project will follow methodology recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP's "Guideline for Preparation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (Miller and Lanou 1995). Also lessons learned by BSAP processes in neighboring countries will be used to avoid mistakes and capitalize on their best practices. The BSAP will prepare the grounds and identify priority needs of activities in the fields of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and benefit sharing to be undertaken by follow up projects. All nine criteria for best practices will be adhered to. The project will enforce the development of participatory approaches in Sierra Leone, by incorporating inputs from all sectors of the society and practicing a decentralized multi-sectoral approach to mitigating biodiversity issues.

Project Financing

	Product	Process	Total
Stocktaking and Inventory of Information	24,000		24,000
- National Consultants	10,000		10,000
- Documentation, Misc.	14,000		14,000
Identification and Analysis of Options	20,000	125,000	145,000
- National consultants	12,000	20,000	32,000
- International consultant	8,000	12,000	20,000
- First national workshop		23,000	23,000
- Training (familiarization)		15,000	15,000
- Regional workshops (3)		45,000	45,000
- Travel and miscellaneous		10,000	10,000
Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan	25,000	60,000	85,000

- National consultants	12,000	18,000	30,000
- International consultant	10,000	12,000	22,000
- Second national workshop		20,000	20,000
- Travel and miscellaneous		5,000	5,000
- Publication and dissemination	3,000	5,000	8,000
First National Report	9,000	12,000	21,000
- Preparation of interim report	1,000		1,000
- Preparation of country report	3,000	6,000	9,000
- Publication of final report	5,000		5,000
- Dissemination and miscellaneous		6,000	6,000
Total for Enabling Activity	78,000	197,000	275,000

Deviations from Criteria and Norms

18. The project does not deviate from GEF enabling activity criteria and norms.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

19. The project will be executed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Marine Resources with support from UNDP's country office. Under the guidance of the multi-sectoral Steering Committee, an inter-agency planning team will manage project activities with the assistance of national and international consultants. During its early meetings the Steering Committee will agree on the country's biodiversity vision, as well as on methodologies and indicators for assessing progress and performance.

20. The first country report will be prepared following the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties. The report will be developed in consultation with diverse governmental and non-governmental agencies, including both the private sector and community representatives. The report and the BSAP will be disseminated widely upon completion.

Activity Matrix

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity	Building	Public Participat	Comments
		Inst. Strength	Training		
Commitment					
Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information					
- biodiversity & 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		X		1
- technologies for conservation and sustainable use	X		X		1
- activities with adverse impacts	X				1
- existing measures and programmes	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	
- 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	2
- national action plan	X	X	X	X	2
Preparation of the first National Report					
interim report to COP					
- national report	X			X	
	X				

Notes on the Activity Matrix

- The BSAP stocktaking will build on the base of information which exists as a result of initiatives and projects by CSSL (Conservation Society of Sierra Leone), FAO, IUCN, UNDP, GTZ, Peace Corps, WWF, WCS and the EU. Recent remote sensing data, on current land cover, use and country's biodiversity priority spots, are readily available on CD-ROM as an output of the GEF funded Upper Guinea Forest, but the cadre of biodiversity planning in Sierra Leone will need hands-on training for suitable use and digest of this information. Also all existing information needs to be summarized and recognized to fit into BSAP process. Some significant development projects related to biodiversity resources include:

 - the CSSL's Rainforest Conservation Programme at Gola on forest resource use by rural communities and timber companies with the intent to develop sound and practical conservation policies;
 - the GTZ projects on the development of efficient wood-burning stoves for smoking fish at Tombo in order to reduce deforestation;
 - the Peace Corps projects to assist national parks in Loma Mountain, Manumta-Mayoso swamp and Tiwai;
 - the WWF assistance for the management of Outamba-Kilimi National Park; and
 - Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) project to develop a visitor center, research station, conservation education programmes, and confirms cooperative at the Tiwai Island Game Sanctuary.
- The BSAP will effectively complement and enhance the provisions from existing plans and strategies. There will be no duplication as the MAF&MR will ensure integration of the above mentioned programmes and other existing plans, such as the tropical forestry action plan (TFAP), into the BSAP process.

References

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- Miller, K.R. and S.M. Lanou 1995. National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Experiences Around the World. WRI, UNEP, IUCN. 162 pp.
- Swartzendruber, J.F. 1994. Trip Report: Sierra Leone. Unpublished Final Report of a UNDP Mission. 12pp.
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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
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9th November, 2000.

REF:MLHCPE/EPD/005

The Resident Representative
 United Nation Development Programme
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 Sierra Leone.

Dear Sir,

**UNDP-GEF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
 AND COUNTRY REPORT TO THE COP**

I wish to refer to the above GEF enabling activity proposal submitted in February 1997 for which action was delayed because of the political dispensation in the country at that time.

With regained political stability in the country and the recently concluded National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Workshop for Anglophone West African countries held in Accra, Ghana 16 - 18th October 2000, Sierra Leone was encouraged to update the proposal to reflect recent institutional and other changes.


In the light of the above, I now forward. . to you for onward delivery to GEF, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for approval.

The proposal seeks to address some of the main concerns in the newly enacted National Environmental Action Plan and therefore has the full support of the Environmental protection department.

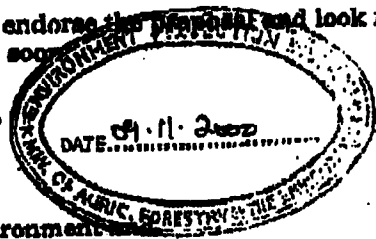
In the overall area of environmental protection, Sierra Leone will stand to benefit from the implementation of the proposal.

I therefore fully endorse the proposal and look forward to its implementation soon.

Yours sincerely,



S.S.J. Jusu
 Director of Environment
 GEF Operational Focal Point.



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