

7/11/97

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL IN BIODIVERSITY**

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Country	:	Federation of St. Christopher (Kitts) and Nevis
Project Title	:	National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and Report to the CBD.
GEF Focal Area	:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility	:	CBD Ratification: January 1993
GEF Financing	:	US \$104,000
Government Contribution	:	In kind staff contribution
GEF Implementing Agency	:	UNDP
National Executing Agency	:	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Environment, Department of the Environment
GEF Operational Focal Point	:	Ministry of Finance, Development and Planning
CBD Focal Point	:	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Environment, Department of the Environment
Estimated Start Date	:	July 1997
Project Duration	:	7 months

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### **I. BACKGROUND**

The two-island federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) is located in the Eastern Caribbean. Each island is dominated by a single cone surrounded by glacia falling first steeply and then more gradually to the sea. The island of St. Kitts' 176 km<sup>2</sup> landscape ranges from the coral reefs ringing the island 30 feet below the surface of the water to a central mountain range rising to Mount Liamuiga's 1,176 meters. The island of Nevis (93 sq. km) is characterized by a single peak, Nevis Peak (985 m). The combined population of the two islands is estimated at 45,000.

St. Kitts and Nevis are important stop-over points for migratory birds. Approximately 120 species of birds are known to occur here. Sixteen species of reptiles and 15 mammal species are known to occur here. Sea grass beds, coral reefs, salt lagoons, and montane forest comprise the most critical habitat in and around SKN. Two species of threatened coral occur in SKN's waters and three species of sea turtles are known to feed in coastal waters and nest on the beaches of St. Kitts and Nevis. Eleven additional animal species known to occur in SKN are determined to be species of special concern by IUCN.

The Government of SKN (GOSKN) places a high priority on the conservation and sustainable use of its biodiversity resources. The relatively small, fragile island ecosystem -- from high mountain forests to coastal and marine areas -- create a special need for protection of natural resources. SKN has been actively involved with AOSIS (Alliance of Small Island Developing States) and has been working to ensure the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. To date, the GOSKN has designated three protected areas and several more are in the final stages of consideration.

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The environmental legislative base of St. Kitts and Nevis was put in place with the passage of the NCEPA (National Conservation and Environmental Protection Act) in 1987 and the Fisheries Act in 1984. The NCEPA serves as an overall legal framework within which regulations and policies to protect and preserve the natural environment can be developed and implemented. It provides for the establishment and management of protected areas and species conservation and the establishment of a National Conservation Commission to advise the Government on environmental matters. The Fisheries Act (1984) empowers the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Housing to sustainably manage and develop fisheries and to establish and manage marine protected areas.

The legislative basis has been strengthened in recent years by the development of SKN's National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) in 1994. The NEAP deals with broader issues of sustainable development including the "brown" sector, such as urban planning, pollution, and some "green" sector issues of renewable natural resources, tourism, and biodiversity conservation. The analysis of environmental issues undertaken by the NEAP process will greatly facilitate this EA's work in identifying gaps and developing opportunities for specific biodiversity conservation interventions. In addition, SKN's National Report to UNCED and the State of the Environment report prepared for the Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States provide useful background material on environment and resources as well as a preliminary action plan for the environment.

Despite this priority placed upon conservation and sustainable development, the growing needs of St. Kitts and Nevis's developing economy (tourism development, construction, fishing) are placing heavy demands on certain biologically sensitive areas.

## **II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES and PROCESS DESCRIPTION**

The objective of this Enabling Activity is to formulate a strategy for the protection and sustainable use of SKN's biodiversity in accordance with Articles 6 and 8 of the CBD, as well as prepare a plan of action for their implementation. The primary output will be the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The Federation's first National Report to the Conference of the Parties of the CBD will also be prepared for submission by December 1997.

The principal tasks of this project will be to: 1) conduct a comprehensive assessment of the existing information on biodiversity in SKN 2) implement a participatory, strategic planning process and develop priorities for action in protecting SKN's biodiversity culminating in a NBSAP; 3) conduct a public information campaign to encourage local participation in the strategic planning exercises; 4) prepare the first National Report for submission to the COP.

Preparation of the NBSAP will follow a logical sequence of participatory steps in line with the sequence recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines. Led by a Team Leader, two national consultants – one on St. Kitts and one on Nevis – will conduct the initial stocktaking and assessment of existing information. Using the results of this assessment, they will work closely with a National Steering Committee to prepare a "first draft" outline of the strategy and action plan. This draft will outline the present status in the country and define specific goals for the next five years covering a

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range of sectors including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and protected areas. The draft will be considered and approved by the Steering Committee in their first meeting of the exercise.

This first draft will form the basis for a series of local consultations – two on St. Kitts and one on Nevis -- to confirm goals and identify strategies to achieve them. NGOs, the private business sector (representing tourism, agriculture and fisheries) and local government officials will participate in these local consultations, the inputs from which will form the basis for fully developing and finalizing the NBSAP. A campaign will be held throughout the planning exercise to inform the general public of SKN's commitments to the CBD, and the participatory nature of the formulation of the NBSAP. The campaign will be carried out by an NGO in a series of newspaper, TV and radio advertisements.

A second draft version of the NBSAP will be prepared by the project team based upon the input from the initial consultations. This version will be reviewed by the steering committee and discussed at a national consultation comprised of nominees from the first round of consultations. Input from this final consultation will be applied to the revision of the second draft into final draft form.

The Steering Committee will meet in Basseterre on the island of St. Kitts for the first of three occasions to: 1) provide necessary policy guidance; 2) ensure that all the stakeholders are given a voice in the planning process; 3) approve the work plan and corresponding benchmarks for the succeeding seven months; and 4) discuss the WRI/TUCN/UNEP guidelines. The Steering Committee will meet for the second time in Charlestown on the island of Nevis to consider the revision of the first draft following the initial round of consultations. A final Steering Committee meeting will be held in Basseterre in conjunction with the national consultation to consider and approve the final version of the strategy and action plan.

### III. OPERATIONAL CRITERIA

#### *Coverage without duplication*

The NBSAP will build on the stocktaking materials produced in other, sectoral strategies and more general multi-sectoral plans. A good deal of biodiversity-related information has been generated on SKN under the regional, Caribbean umbrella. These initiatives have produced varying degrees of information useful to this exercise and will be utilized. A World Bank/Caribbean Development Bank/OECS solid waste management project has gone through a detailed planning period and the resulting document will be utilized. Regional coral reef initiatives of various sorts are underway in the Caribbean. Coral reef surveys and monitoring are ongoing in St. Kitts under the aegis of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). A World Bank supported C-PAC (Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change Project) will be developing a Caribbean-wide program for monitoring sea level rise, conducting coastal inventories, economic valuations, formulation of regulatory proposals and building policy foundations for coastal zone management. The French Mission for Cooperation is also supporting development of coral reef conservation strategy for St. Lucia and SKN.

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National, biodiversity-related initiatives either completed or underway on St. Kitts and Nevis will also provide useful information for the stocktaking and assessment exercise. SKN's draft, five-year National Development Plan targets major economic and social development goals for SKN and outlines issues in need of consideration related to biodiversity conservation. The Environmental Assessment Report on the Proposed Southeast Peninsula Access Road also details coral reef composition on the peninsula. The ETAP, completed in 1996 (Environment and Tourism Awareness Programme), focused on creating a greater community awareness of the importance of protecting the environment and forming partnerships to do so. The Country Environmental Profile, supported by USAID/Caribbean Conservation Association, was completed in 1991. The profile will be a valuable source of information from which the strategy and action plan will be developed.

In summary, a number of programs have been implemented and studies completed which have peripherally dealt with various issues under the biodiversity umbrella. However, none have taken a comprehensive, strategic approach to biodiversity conservation in SKN. This Enabling Activity proposes to do this.

#### IV. TIME PLAN and SEQUENCING

The project will follow the sequence recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines. Activities will start in July 1997 and will last for 7 months. A preliminary national report will be submitted to the CBD by 31 December 1997. The project will be implemented according to the following timetable with specific outputs in bold letters.

Activity	Month						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Stocktaking and Assessment/Development of strategic/action points</b>	X						
<b>Steering Committee meets to consider WRI guidelines, etc.../ First draft of strategy and action points completed.</b>		X					
<b>Development of Biodiversity Action Plan First Draft – Initiation of Public Awareness Initiative</b>		X					
<b>Dissemination of Draft for Discussion/ Consultations Held to Discuss Draft Plan.</b>			X				
<b>Draft Plan Revised per input from Consultations/2<sup>nd</sup> Draft NBSAP Completed/Steering Grp Meets to consider 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of Plan</b>				X			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the Plan disseminated for final consultation/National Consultation on final version of Plan</b>					X		
<b>NBSAP Finalized – Final Steering Committee Mtng Held</b>						X	X
<b>Production of the preliminary National Report to the CoP and the final report</b>						X	X

## V. BEST PRACTICES

The methodology for the implementation of the project is based on the "Guidelines for Country Study on Biological Diversity" (UNEP, 1993), 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 GOSKN will follow the best practice criteria as contained in the "Enabling Activity Operational Criteria" document.

## VI. PROJECT FINANCING

(Estimated Costs)	Product	Process	Total (US \$)
<b>Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Information</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>		<b>\$9,000</b>
- 2 national consultants (2 p/m)	7,000		
- Documentation	2,000		
<b>Identification and Analysis of Options</b>	<b>\$ 18,500</b>	<b>\$31,500</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
- 2 national consultants (6 p/m)	10,500	10,500	
- 1 int'l consultant (1 p/m)	6,000	6,000	
- Familiarization workshop		1,000	
- Consultations (3)		4,500	
- Public Information Campaign		8,000	
- Travel/misc.	2,000	1,500	
<b>Preparation of a Strategy and Action Plan</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>
- 2 National Consultants (4 p/m)	7,000	7,000	
- 1 int'l consultant (1 p/m)	6,000	6,000	
- National consultation		4,000	
- Disseminate Strategy and Action Plan		1,000	
<b>Preparation of First National Report</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>
- National consultant (1 p/m)	3,500		
- Int'l consultant (1 week)	2,000	2,000	
- Publication	2,000		
<b>Coordination and Management (5%)</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$47,500</b>	<b>\$56,500</b>	<b>\$104,000</b>

## **VII. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Appropriate government departments and ministries will contribute sector-specific information, objectives, and actions. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Environment's (MTCE) Department of Environment is responsible for overall coordination of environmental programs within the GOSKN. The two governmental entities responsible for on-the-ground biodiversity conservation and management are the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Housing's (MALH) Forestry Division and the Fisheries Division. The Forestry Division is responsible for the protection and management of forests and wildlife as well as watershed management. The Fisheries Division is responsible for the management and development of fisheries, and the protection and management of marine reserves. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning's (MFDP) Department of Planning is responsible for guiding all GOSKN strategic planning initiatives.

A national-level Steering Committee will be established, consisting of representatives from each of the following institutions: MALH Fisheries and Forestry Divisions; MTCE Department of the Environment; MFDP Planning Department, the St. Christopher Heritage Society (NGO), the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NGO); and the Sugar Manufacturing Company. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will have observer status on the steering committee to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The Department of Environment representative on this committee will be designated as the Project Coordinator. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for the oversight of the implementation of the project. Day-to-day project management authority will be delegated to the Project Team Leader, who will be responsible for planning, management, and completion of all project activities with the assistance of two national consultants. An international consultant will be required during the second month to assist with the final analysis of the information, conduct a planning workshop, assist with the compilation of a first draft of the strategy and action plan, and advise and co-lead the first local consultations held on St. Kitts and Nevis. An international consultant's assistance is requested for the final six weeks of the project to assist the Team Leader with finalization of the strategy and action plan as well as the national report to the CoP.

## **VIII. PREPARATION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL REPORT**

A preliminary report will be submitted to the CoP by December 31, 1997. A final report will be available at the end of the project.

## Annex A: ACTIVITY MATRIX:

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity Inst Strength	Building Training	Public Particip	Notes
<b>Stocktaking and Assessment</b> - biodiversity & 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 programmes - preliminary statement of objectives - identification of gaps - assessment of existing needs	X (CEP) NDP X, (NEAP) X, (CEP) X, (NDP,CEP) X NDP X X X (CEP) X				1
<b>Identification and Analysis of Options to meet the Objectives of the CBD</b> - strategies for conservation - strategies for sustainable use - strategies for benefit sharing  <b>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</b> - national strategy - national action plan	X X X  X X		X X X	X X X  X X	2
<b>Preparation of first National Report</b> - first national report	X				3

Legend: x = activity undertaken by the project

## Footnotes :

1) Stocktaking and Assessment: No overall assessment of existing information on SKN's' biodiversity resources has ever been done. In doing so, this effort will draw upon on disparate studies and research papers published in SKN and internationally. The Country Environmental Profile (CEP), National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), National Development Plan (NDP) and other studies, reports and journal articles will be fully utilized to build a strong assessment upon which the strategy and action planning can take place.

2) Identification and Analysis of Options: Training and local participation. Work will be conducted in such a way as to build capacity while implementing the activities and producing the outputs. Since the EA will be a process driven activity, the local consultations will be designed to empower people to remain involved in the process of sustainably utilizing SKN's' resources, thereby strengthening the link between national policy and local implementation. The national steering committee and consultants will be familiarized with the WRI/UCN guidelines and methodologies by way of a short planning workshop as well as on-the-job familiarization in participatory methodologies as provided by an international consultant. The local consultations will provide a forum for the participation of broad a cross section of society as possible.

3) The first national report will be drafted by the project team leader (with initial guidance from the international consultant).

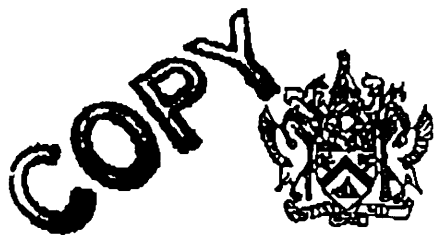
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May 6, 1997

Mr Raphael Asenjo  
Executive Co-ordinator  
UNDP/GEF  
# 304E 45th Street  
New York  
NY 10017

Dear Mr Asenjo:

On behalf of the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, I have the honour to endorse herewith, the proposal for assistance with the preparation of our National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and the Federation's first National Report to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity.

We look forward to the GEF Secretariat's favourable consideration of our request for assistance made in respect of the said Strategy and Action Plan, and National Report.

Thanks and best regards.

Yours Sincerely,

Hilary Webbe  
National Operational Focal Point to GEF

cc : Mr Oliver Knight  
Director of Planning