

ENABLING ACTIVITIES IN BIODIVERSITY

Country: Republic of Sudan

Title: A National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Report to the CBD

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

Country Eligibility: Convention ratified on 30 October 1995

GEF Financing: \$ US 334,000

Government Contribution: In kind

Estimated Total Budget: \$ US 334,000

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

National Executing Agency: The High Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR)

GEF Operational Focal Point: Mr. Amin Salih Yasin, Senior Inspector
Ministry of Finance and National Economy
Technical Assistance Department

CBD Focal Point: Dr. Nadir Mohamed Awad
Acting Secretary General
Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (to be formally confirmed)

Estimated Starting Date: November 1997

Project Duration: 12 months

Background

1. Sudan is the largest country in Africa, situated on the north-eastern side of the continent at 21° & 3° North latitude and 21° & 38° East longitude, comprising an area of 2.5 million km². The Sudan is essentially a country of vast plains, interrupted by a few widely separated groups of hills and mountains such as the Amatong in the south, and the Red Sea Hills in the east. The country is bordered by eight countries: Egypt and Libya from the north; Chad and Central Africa from the west; Zaire, Uganda and Kenya from the south, Ethiopia and Eritrea from the south-east. The total population is approximately 25 million of which 80% lives in rural areas mainly in the Nile Valley and in the capital (Khartoum). The Nile river and its tributaries penetrate the country for about 1,700 km, and constitute a major natural resource for economic and agricultural development.

2. The climate is variable, ranging from the Sahara Arabian climate in the north to the tropical sub-humid in the south. The mean annual rainfall decreases from about 1,500 mm in the south to less than 25 mm in the north. The main rainy season is July-September, although occasional showers fall in May-June, particularly in the south. There are five vegetation zones in the Sudan named from north to the south as: the Desert, the Semi-desert, the Savanna, the Mountain Scrub, and the Swamp. The large variation in climate and soil is reflected in the rich flora and fauna of the country and the high diversity of its ecological habitats.

3. In terms of flora, Sudan has over 3,100 flowering plants, of which 409 are endemic. In the desert region where the annual rainfall varies between 0-25 mm, the vegetation is extremely scanty and is generally found in depressions or in almost permanently dry water courses. Woody species are practically absent and the few to be found are usually deep rooted such as *Fagonia critica* and *Acacia tortilis*. The semi-desert areas to the south of the desert zone have a range of shrub species including *Acacia tortilis*, *A. millifera*, *A. glucophylla*, and *Maerua crassifolia*. Species like *Balanites*, *Anogeissus*, *Combretum*, *Pennisetum*, *Urelytrum*, *Dalbergia*, *Albizia* and *Prosopis* are mostly common in the Savanna vegetation zone, while *Cyperus papyrus*, *Vossia cuspidata*, *Echinochloa pyramidiales* as well as some *Acacia spp.* are the main floristic characteristics of the swamp areas in the white Nile known as the Sudd. Sudan has some six national parks, twenty game reserves, three sanctuaries and forest reserves where hunting is prohibited.

Unfortunately, present legislation on national parks protection and management is unsatisfactory to preserve what remains, and the enforcement of game laws is inadequate. Some game reserves and sanctuaries are no longer worthy of their name, because many of the game animals have disappeared from them and their natural habitat has been destroyed.

4. Wildlife is an important component of Sudan's biodiversity. It has received little attention in recent history and has been subjected to serious hunting and misuse. A wide range of wildlife diversity exists. Of the 13 mammalian orders in Africa, 12 occur in the Sudan which include 266 species and subspecies, 19 of which are known as globally threatened. The mammalian wildlife of Sudan is characterized by the regularity of elephants, buffalo giraffe, rhino, gazelles, ibex,

chimpanzee, lions, etc. There are 931 species of birds, 106 species of fish, and an unknown number of insects, reptiles and amphibians.

5. The agricultural sector contributes to the livelihood of more than 80% of the population in Sudan, making up 35% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The major export commodities are cotton, groundnuts, sesame and gum arabic; while the principal food crops are sorghum and millet. The country has some 36 million ha of arable land, of which less than 30% is cultivated; in addition the country has 100 million ha of grazing land, and around 18 million ha of natural forests. Of the cultivated area, only one million ha is under irrigation while three million ha is under rainfed mechanized farming and the rest is under traditional cultivation. Livestock production is another contributor to the agricultural productivity in Sudan and consists almost entirely of cattle, goats, sheep and camels. Unfortunately, socio-economic pressures have resulted in a degradation of agrobiodiversity, and agricultural production has thus been based on fewer biological species and within species on fewer genotypes.

6. The rangeland resources are reduced by grass fires, by expansion of cultivation and by deforestation. There are indications of a high mortality rate in many rangeland species in the Sudan. This is thought to be caused primarily by human mismanagement and continuous drought conditions. In terms of forest land, the pressure for fuelwood and timber is leading to increased deforestation. There is an urgent need to increase the areas of planted forests and to enforce the plans to increase the forest reserved areas to at least 15% of the total land areas.

7. There are four main water resources in Sudan: rainfall, the Nile river, ground water and the Red Sea. The Nile river is the country major source for irrigated agriculture. The largest ground water reservoirs in the Sudan are contained between two main aquifers: The Nubi and the Umm Rawabah aquifers which contain high water quality. The Red Sea is the Sudan sole marine shore, and it is the main source for minerals, fish, and salt. It provides an excellent environment for fish farming. Presently marine and coastal pollution close to Port Sudan, industries, shipping, reclamation and urban construction are the main factors contributing to the degradation of marine biology. The Sudan is an active participant in the GEF financed Red Sea Strategic Action Programme initiative.. Through this work, it is expected that the maritime as well as the marine biodiversity hotspots will be identified and priority actions pertaining to marine issues established.

8. Desertification is one of the most serious problems affecting more than 60% of the country. It manifests itself in declining land productivity, food shortages, shifting sand dunes, shortage in fuel wood and deterioration in environmental quality. Desertification and land degradation in the Sudan is the product of interaction of environmental parameters with unbalanced human activities and uncontrolled utilization of natural resources. In the years 1984/85 and 1989/90 combined effects of drought and desertification led to severe food shortages and famine, which resulted in a large scale movements and change in the social structure and economic activities Sudan has fully ratified the International Convention to Combat Desertification in 1995. Prior to that, the country had prepared the 5-years Programme to Combat Desertification. In addition, Sudan had prepared the methodology to assess desertification in 1992 followed by mapping of the Geographical Extent of Desertification in

1993. Recently UNDP has secured funds for the Government to prepare The National Action Programmes (NAP) to cope with the provisions of the Convention. It should be stressed that desertification, climate change and biodiversity are all considered closely interlinked in the Sudan. It is therefore very significant that the Higher Council is responsible for all these initiatives, as this will ensure further integration of the thematic issues.

9. The United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity is an important component of the Earth Summit. Article 6 of the Convention requires each contracting party, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities to develop national strategies, plans or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programs which should reflect inter alia, and integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, into relevant sectoral plans, programs and policies. The biological diversity of the Sudan needs to be conserved and managed in ways which provide sustainable benefits to the livelihood of the population. The Government of the Sudan is aware of the value of biological resources as a potential for yielding sustainable benefits. It has recognized the necessity to protect the country's natural resources and biodiversity, and is concerned of the need for the biological diversity conservation and sustainable use.

10. Sudan has signed and ratified the Conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification, and is committed to participate in the conservation and management of biological and natural resources. There is no a national country study on Sudan's biological diversity. The national report, submitted to the United Nation Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), provides some useful, but rather general, data for environmental protection and natural resource conservation. Moreover, it does not include detailed information/knowledge on biodiversity elements including important ecosystems, species richness, diversity, and degree of rarity as indicators for conservation, management and sustainable use. The Sudanese Society for the Protection of the Environment (SSPE), in cooperation with the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR) and Fredrich Eibert Corporation in Germany has recently completed a National Environmental Action Plan which includes some general references to natural and biological resources. Under the chair and patronage of the HCENR, a National Biodiversity Steering Committee in Sudan is now established and is responsible for all biodiversity issues. It includes representatives from several governmental entities (HCENR, Ministry of Agriculture, The National Forest Agency, Rangeland Directorate) Sudanese universities and research institutes, and representatives from the wide range of national experts.

11. A systematic presentation of the information on the country biodiversity in a synthesized form will be an important priority. The profile of available information on the habitats of flora and fauna characteristics, climate, people, wildlife interaction related to socio-economic attributes will be an integral part of this enabling activity. This activity would propose an agenda for future biodiversity related studies and would also seek to develop a solution to the degradation of biological diversity base that could be implemented by the available institutional structures. It would identify specific programs and the institutional means for implementing them, with the thrust given to the use of local expertise. The outcome will be addressed to benefit

the Sudanese population and will provide a clear strategy for conserving biological diversity and using biological resources sustainably.

Objectives

12. The main objective of this project is the preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the conservation and sustainable use of Sudan's biodiversity. This project will be undertaken as closely as possible to methods introduced in the *Guidelines for National Biodiversity Planning* (WRI/IUCN/UNEP, 1995) and will also lead to the elaboration of a (i) Interim National Report which the Government will attempt to have ready by 31 December 1997 (ii) National Report to be completed by the end of the project.

13. The enabling project aims at determining the biodiversity status and trends, the dangers threatening biodiversity and the extent of the potential contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development. A resource inventory should be drawn up in order to identify gaps in knowledge, evaluate existing potential, select measures, and to assess needs for the sound use and conservation of biodiversity. Special focus will be given to the status of agrobiodiversity resources and impacts from livestock.

14. The project will rely on extensive analysis, consultations and dialogues on pertaining issues of biodiversity. The NBSAP main thrusts concern the policies, strategies and actions aimed at conserving, managing and monitoring biodiversity. It will also identify entities responsible for the implementation of activities to be undertaken according to the strategy.

15. The project will enhance participation of the civil society through networking and public awareness raising. It will ensure that governmental and non-governmental agencies, private sector and the community are aware of the importance of biodiversity and the need for its conservation, sustainable utilization and equal benefit sharing. One of the objectives of the NBSAP is to promote human resource development and institutional capacity building, and mechanisms required for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy within the country.

Time Plan and Sequencing

16. The current enabling activity will be undertaken through a participatory and multidisciplinary approach involving all stakeholders. The Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR) in Sudan will be entrusted with the execution of all project activities including the NBSAP. The project will meet the criteria insofar as the enabling activity should launch the planning and consultation process leading to the formulation of the NBSAP. It will follow the sequence recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP, 1995 Guidelines. Activities will last for 12 months starting from June 1997, and will be carried out in accordance with the activity month matrix.

17. A National Biodiversity Steering Committee has been formed in the Sudan involving all actors concerned through the development of the strategy, including governmental entities (Ministry of Agriculture, HCENR, National Forest Agency, Rangeland Directorate, etc.), Sudanese universities and research institutes, and representatives from the private sector. Under supervision of the BD Steering Committee, a planning team will be established to undertake the work of the enabling activity. Planning team members will be selected according to their biodiversity and planning expertise and will be lead by a national consultant, assisted by an international consultant, and other national consultants on various aspects of biodiversity and public participation. The apportionment of roles of the Steering Committee and planning team members will be clarified during the first month of the project. The lead national consultant will facilitate project activities, will help to run the national workshops as well as identification of options, drafting of the NBSAP and the Interim and first National Report. The international consultant will be used for training of the planning team and other national consultants, will assist the lead national consultant in the identification and analysis of options, and will help in preparing the NBSAP. The other national consultants will assist the lead national consultant and the planning team in executing the project activities during the inventory and stocktaking, identification of options, formulation of the NBSAP, and the preparation of the Interim and the National Report. The terms of reference for national consultants and the international consultant will be finalized by the end of the second month of the project.

18. In a period of three months, starting from the second month, the planning team executing components of the enabling activity in the Sudan will be able to collate, assess and synthesize existing knowledge on biological diversity. Two seminar/instruction courses will be organized for the planning team members (including government agencies, research institutions and NGOs) and the other national consultants by the lead national consultant and the international consultant. The first session will be a seminar in month 2 to familiarize the participants with the role of biodiversity in national development, and with the objectives of the enabling activity. The second seminar/instruction course will be held in month 4, focusing on biodiversity planning processes, and the specific methodologies involved in the assessment of options and formulation of the NBSAP. These courses will allow participants to better understand the role of NGOs and the participatory approach through mutual learning and idea sharing and will familiarize project partners with WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995 guidelines, GEF criteria for enabling activities, and the CBD. The timing of these courses are planned such that the maximum momentum generated from each one of them will be used in the subsequent activities; namely the assessment of existing data, the identification of options and the preparation of the NBSAP. Participants will therefore be able to fully contribute to the process of the enabling activity.

19. During the enabling project, a first national workshops will be held involving all stakeholders from related government agencies, private sector, the community, and NGOs concerned with environment and biodiversity management. This workshop will be convened at the end of stocktaking and the beginning of the option identification process (month 4) as indicated in the activity/month matrix. The purpose of this first workshop will be to present data from the stocktaking, to explain the objectives of the enabling project and the process involved, and to brainstorm on the possible options in the management of biodiversity. Recommendations will be

made regarding the operational procedures in order to provide for a sound, coordinated apportionment of the various tasks involved in developing the NBSAP.

20. As Sudan is a big country with 26 Federal States, six regional workshops will be held in regions where biodiversity is rich and its components are threatened. These workshops will be organized by the national consultants and the planning team members, assisted by the international consultant during months 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the project period, in Khartoum, El Damer, Port Sudan, El Obeid, Nyala, and Juba. These workshops will trigger dialogue and partnership among the government agencies, community leaders, NGOs and the private sector for the identifications and analysis of options to meet the objectives of the CBD and the preparation and development of the NBSAP. Each regional workshop will devise a biodiversity strategy close to the needs of local community in each area that will be part of the overall NBSAP. Participants in these regional workshops will include representatives from relevant municipal and state level departments, such as range and pasture, agriculture, irrigation, fisheries, wildlife, planning as well as community groups, farmers and pastoral groups.

21. The final national workshop will be held with assistance from the national consultant and the international consultant during month 9 to review strategies and priority options and to obtain additional input from participants to the preparation, finalization and endorsement of the NBSAP. Throughout the project, but more specifically in between the two national workshops, there will be a series of ten sectoral, consultative meetings with stakeholders to discuss biodiversity issues, and to agree upon local perceptions about issues and alternative solutions for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity resources. Such stakeholders will include state-level and municipal departments handling issues pertaining to water, irrigation, range and pasture, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, the scientific community, the farmers and nomadic groups and the private sector. Each meeting is designed to share and generate ideas, to devise further inputs to set forth recommendation that fit in the national strategy for the sound use and conservation of biodiversity resources.

22. The preparation of the NBSAP will be finalized in month 10 by the lead national consultant, assisted by the other national consultants, with backstopping from the international consultant. It should be noted that during the enabling activity, but more specifically in between the two national workshops, there will be a broad media coverage (TV, national and if found local radio, newspapers, etc.) which will serve as springboards for awareness raising among the general public regarding the importance of biodiversity during the process of development. An Interim National Report will be prepared by the national consultants, and best effort will be made to submit this by 31 December 1997. By the end of the present project a full National Report will be produced. Over a period of two months, starting from month 11 of the project, the lead national consultant with the other national consultants will ensure that the NBSAP as well as the National Report are translated in to Arabic language and disseminated among all stakeholders. Throughout the project, strong emphasis will be placed on the effective, genuine participation of the civil society in the project. The NGOs will participate especially actively in the option identification phase and in raising public awareness during the project. Such participation of the NGOs is indispensable during the planned workshops as a number of tasks such as awareness raising and information dissemination will be entrusted to them.

ACTIVITY/MONTH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Roles of biodiversity steering committee and planning team members	x											
Drafting & finalization of TORs for national & international consultants	x	x										
Assessment and Synthesis of existing data (stocktaking)		x	x	x								
First national workshop				x								
Regional workshops				x	x	x	x					
Instruction courses		x		x								
Identification & analysis of options				x	x	x	x					
Sectoral meetings				O	N	G	O	I	N	G		
Public awareness				O	N	G	O	I	N	G		
Preparation of the NBSAP								x	x	x		
Final national workshop									x			
Interim National Report		x	x	x								
National Report												x
Translation of NBSAP, and 1st national report into Arabic; Dissemination											x	x

Coverage without Duplication

23. There is no duplicative efforts underway or planned in the Sudan. The preparation of the NBSAP will build upon and add to the existing data available in the field of environment and biodiversity. There is no biodiversity country study available for the Sudan, but there is the UNCED country Report on Environment and Development, the National Environmental Action Plan, and a 1991 brief preliminary study on biodiversity. Unfortunately, these studies present rather general information about the wise use and conservation of biodiversity without going into the kind of detailed analysis required for an NBSAP. The NBSAP will enhance and strengthen cross-sectoral policy and regulatory framework regarding the conservation, management and monitoring of biodiversity. This project will enable the Government of Sudan to prepare an Interim Report to the CBD, (plus a National Report by project end) thereby fulfilling one of the commitments under the CBD, while at the same time highlighting the significance of Sudan's conservation efforts in the global context.

Best Practice

24. The methodology for the implementation of the project will be based on the Guidelines for Country Study on Biological Diversity, Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP, 1993), the Guidelines to the CBD (IUCN, 1994), and the WRI/IUCN/UNEP (1995) Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Planning. The same documents will be used for familiarization activities. All activities will be supported by the national consultant, assisted by other national consultants. The international consultant will be called upon to develop and

deliver some specialized familiarization courses, to act as a catalyst to the process, and to provide backstopping, especially in the overall planning. For subsequent activities, Sudan is keen to incorporate biodiversity into the mainstream development and are therefore committed to developing strategies, options as well as policy guidance and capacity to address these issues on the process of national development planning. The Government of Sudan is also aware of the nine criteria for best practice contained in the GEF Enabling Activities, Operational Criteria document and will follow them as closely as possible.

Project Financing

	Product	Process	Sub-Total (\$)
Stocktaking and inventory	15,000	15,000	30,000 subtotal
- National consultants 10p/m	10,000	10,000	20,000
- Documentation	5,000	5,000	10,000
Identification and analysis of options	27,000	158,000	185,000 subtotal
- National consultant 20p/m	10,000	30,000	40,000
- International consultant		20,000	20,000
- 2 instruction courses		10,000	10,000
- 1 national workshop		20,000	20,000
- 6 regional workshops		45,000	45,000
- 5 sectoral meetings		10,000	10,000
- Public awareness	10,000	10,000	20,000
- Travel & transportation	5,000	10,000	15,000
- miscellaneous	2,000	3,000	5,000
Preparation of the NBSAP	28,000	60,000	88,000 subtotal
- National consultants 15 p/m	15,000	15,000	30,000
- International consultant		10,000	10,000
- 1 national workshop		15,000	15,000
- 5 sectoral meetings		10,000	10,000
- Translation and printing	8,000	5,000	13,000
- Public awareness	5,000	5,000	10,000
Preparation of National Report	13,000	8,000	21,000 subtotal
- National consultants 2 p/m	10,000	5,000	15,000
- Dissemination	3,000	3,000	6,000
Coordination and management	4,000	6,000	10,000 subtotal
Total (\$)	83,000	251,000	334,000

Deviation from Criteria and Norms

25. The set of activities that are included in this enabling project are derived from the GEF Operational Strategy and guidance of COP of the CBD, and do not deviate from the overall activity norms. The budgeting for activities and costs of individual components also lie within the overall activity cost norms mentioned in the GEF Operational Criteria for enabling activities. The seemingly high costs of the stocktaking and inventory is due to the lack of a national country study on biodiversity which could serve as a major source on the assessment, stocktaking and inventory side. The overall cost for the identification and analysis of options, and the preparation of the NBSAP is also relatively high, largely in view of the size and capacity challenges in the Sudan, with the limited institutional and human capacity, and the need for consultations through a series of cross-sectoral meetings, regional workshops and national workshops.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

26. The national Biodiversity Steering Committee in Sudan has already been established and this committee will be responsible for overseeing the development and subsequent implementation of the NBSAP. The Steering Committee will be enlarged to consist of representatives from all relevant government bodies, local universities and research institutes, NGOs, and the private sector.

27. The execution of individual activities and the management of day to day matters will be entrusted to the HCENR. The international consultant will provide support and groundings for the planning team and other national consultants, and will provide overall technical backstopping to the lead national consultant. The execution of the project will be monitored and reviewed according to established UNDP rules and procedures. This multidisciplinary and participatory approach will ensure integration and incorporation of sustainable resource management plans into the mainstream planning to achieve comprehensive sustainable development of the region.

Preparation of the National Report to COP

28. An Interim National Report will be prepared and a best effort will be made to have this ready by 31 December 1997. A full National Report will be produced by the end of the project.

Annex 1: Activity matrix

Enabling activity Commitment	Output	Capacity building		Public Participn.	Comments
		Inst. Strength	Training		
Stocktaking and assessment based on Existing information					1
-biodiversity and biological resources	x				
- sectoral issues	x				
-policy and regulatory framework	x				
-institutional and human capacity	x				
-analysis of root causes of BD loss	x				
-technologies for conservation and sustainable use	x				
-activities with adverse impacts	x				
-existing measures and programs	x				
-preliminary statement of objectives	x				
-identification of gaps	x				
-assessments of existing needs	x				
Identification & analysis of options to meet the objectives of the CBD					
-strategies for conservation	x	x	x	x	2,3
-strategies for sustainable use	x	x	x	x	2,3
-strategies for benefit sharing	x	x	x	x	2,3
Preparation of NBSAP					
-national strategy	x	x	x	x	2,3
-national action plan	x	x	x	x	2,3
Preparation of the first National Report					
-first national report	x			x	4

Comments on Annex 1.

1. There is no a national country study on biological diversity in Sudan. The UNCED National Country Report on Environment and Development (1992) provides some useful, but rather general, data for environmental protection and natural resource conservation. However, it does not include detailed information on biodiversity, including description and analysis of important ecosystems, species richness, diversity, and degree of rarity as indicators for conservation, management and sustainable use. Similarly, the National Environment Action Plan and the 1991 paper on biodiversity consideration include little information on natural and biological resources but present the need for biodiversity conservation at least in threatened key areas in the north, and provides an analytical overview of major institutions and legislation in the field of natural resource and environmental management. National consultants are needed to collate, assess and synthesize base line data on various aspects of biodiversity conservation and management. This will then be presented in the first national workshop and will be incorporated in the overall NBSAP.

Inventory work and surveys conducted under the Red Sea Strategic Action plan will be used by the present project. Original work pertaining to marine biodiversity will therefore not be required.

2. Contacts with the various institutions active in the area (governmental departments, universities, research centers, resource users, NGOs, etc.) will allow for the identification of strategic options. The national workshops will provide opportunities to identify these options, to review the solutions selected and to finalize the adoption of a National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan defining priority objectives.
3. Efforts are needed to analyze existing information, identify gaps, generate findings, select options and prepare the NBSAP through this enabling activity within the framework of the CBD, the WRI/UNEP/IUCN guidelines, and the GEF operational criteria for enabling activities. The national consultants will be formulating the NBSAP with advice and backstopping from the international consultant.
4. The national consultants will be responsible for producing the first National Report to be submitted to the Biodiversity Steering Committee for review and approval. As already mentioned, an Interim Report will be prepared under this project, while a National Report will be prepared by the end of the project.

THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN
 MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY

P.O Box 2092- KHARTOUM

TELEX- 324-224 FAX 11 - 249 - 771953 - 770576 - 776081

Date: September 11, 1997

Ref: MOFE/ GFF

Att.: Inger Andersen
 GEF Secretariat,
 New York.

Sub: Enabling Activities in Biodiversity Project

As you are aware Sudan has ratified the convention on the Biodiversity in 1995. In this connection we would like to submit the enclosed project brief for GEF funding. You will note that this project is an "ENABLING PROJECT" which will assist the Sudan in its fulfillment of the obligations under the Biodiversity convention.

We have tried to reduce and reflect very low and realistic resource levels as possible. However, in view of the vastness of the country, the long travel distances involved, the fact that Sudan has not previously undertaken any biodiversity related work, we deem the requested resources to be at the minimum levels under which the activities can be carried out.

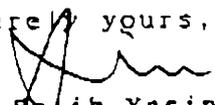
I specifically refer to the country - state consultations all of which are considered vital and essential if a successful national biodiversity strategy and action plan are to be drafted.

I would therefore appreciate your assistance in securing GEF resources for the project in question at the requested funding level of \$ 334,000.

Thank you for your assistance.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,


 Amin Saalih Yasin
 For/Undersecretary,
 Ministry of Finance and National Economy

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