

## **Global Environment Facility Biodiversity Enabling Activity Proposal**

Country: The Republic of Suriname  
Project Title: Formulation of a National Biodiversity Action Plan for the  
Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy  
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity  
Country Eligibility: CBD Ratified July 1995  
GEF Financing: US\$92,000  
Government Contribution: In Kind  
GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP  
National Executing Agency: UNDP  
GEF Operational Focal Point: National Planning Office  
CBD Focal Point: National Planning Office  
Estimated Starting Date: June 1997  
Project Duration: 7 months

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### **Background**

1. Suriname is located on the northern edge of South America between Guyana and French Guiana, just north of Brazil. Ninety percent of the total land area of 163,470 km<sup>2</sup> is forested, most of which is primary tropical forest. The country encompasses part of the Guiana shield and the Amazon Basin – both rich biogeographic regions. These mostly intact primary forests of Suriname, the richness of the flora of the region, and the varied topography in the southern part of the country have made Suriname rich in biological diversity for its size. Suriname's known flora and fauna are comprised of 674 species of birds, 200 mammal species, 130 species of reptiles, 99 amphibians and approximately 4,500 higher plant species.

2. The Government of Suriname (GoS) has a conservation tradition, as evidenced by the 15 protected areas currently covering 5% of the country. In addition, there are plans for protecting a total of at least 8% of Suriname. Suriname is a signatory to almost every major regional and global agreement and convention regarding conservation of biological resources: CITES, Ramsar, Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3. The Forest Management Act (1992) establishes basic requirements for more sustainable harvesting of timber resources. The Multi-Annual Development Plan (5 year) was completed in 1994 and has established target investment levels for key sectors of the economy and incorporates environmental concerns. The Nature Conservation Act (1954) provides the legal basis for protecting important natural areas and wildlife habitat through the establishment of reserves. The Game Act (1954) sets out specific hunting regulations and provides for the sustainable harvesting of game animals. Suriname's draft National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) sets out action

points for strengthening the policies and regulations related to sustainably manage Suriname's environment.

4. However, there is growing pressure on Suriname's biodiversity resources. The mining industry is growing throughout the country; fisheries are earning much needed foreign exchange and there are pressures to expand aquaculture; and large concessions for timber harvesting are being actively considered.

#### **Project Objectives and Brief Summary:**

5. In Suriname, the "National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Suriname's Biological Diversity" (NSBD) is completed. What is still needed is a complementary action plan. The GoS proposes to develop a complementary National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) to integrate biodiversity concerns into national development and sector planning, especially in those sectors that impact or depend directly upon, biological resources such as: agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, energy, and transport. Together, the Strategy and NBAP will provide a much-needed enabling framework for the implementation of the CBD in Suriname.

6. This project has the following objectives: 1) building upon the existing NSBD, to identify, analyze and define the priority actions necessary to implement this strategy including cross sectoral issues and their linkages to national sustainable development. Resource needs and responsibilities for implementation will also be defined; 2) to enhance public knowledge of the CBD, participation in the action planning process, and society's commitment to its implementation through wide dissemination of the final version; 3) to prepare the first national report to the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

7. Preparation of the NBAP will follow a logical sequence of participatory steps in line with the sequence recommended in the WRI/IUCN/UNEP Guidelines. The NSBD was developed with a limited amount of funding. Consequently, a "topping-up" of stocktaking exercises will be undertaken under this action planning project. A working group comprised of senior-level national experts and led by a project team leader, will conduct the initial stocktaking and assessment of existing information. Using the results of this assessment, they will work collaboratively with a national steering committee to prepare a "first draft" outline of the action plan. This draft will, based upon the existing NSBD, identify a long list of possible action points for the next five years covering a range of sectors including, economic development, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and protected areas. The draft will be considered and approved by the steering committee in their first meeting of the exercise. The draft will also serve as the basis for the first round of local consultations.

8. This first draft will form the basis for local consultations to confirm goals and identify actions to achieve them. Three local consultations will be held – two in the coastal zone where the majority of the population lives and where agriculture and fisheries are the predominant economic activity and one in the interior where indigenous groups live and gold mining and forestry are the

predominant economic activities. NGOs, the private business sector and local community and government officials will participate in these local consultations, the inputs from which will form the basis for bringing the NBAP to fruition. A campaign will be conducted throughout the planning exercise to inform the general public of Suriname'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.

9. A second draft version of the NBAP 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 one final 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.

10. The steering committee will meet in Paramaribo 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/IUCN/UNEP guidelines. The steering committee will meet for the second time to consider the revision of the first draft following the first round of consultations. A final steering committee meeting will be held to consider and approve the final version of the strategy and action plan.

11. The first report to the CBD will be developed by the team leader and submitted in before the December 31, 1997 deadline.

#### **Operational Criteria:**

**Coverage without Duplication:** The NBAP will build on the materials produced by other, sectoral and multi-sectoral initiatives. Most notable among these initiatives is the finalization of the National Biodiversity Strategy. Relevant information from the existing National Biodiversity Strategy will be included. Suriname's draft NEAP contains important technical information to be utilized under this initiative. A Conservation Action Plan for Suriname was published in 1990 and later complemented by the publication of the Priority Conservation Activities for Suriname in 1994. These will be fully utilized. The lessons learned from the ongoing implementation of the regional UNDP-GEF project underway in Suriname entitled "Training for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Amazon" will be tapped. Information from the "Flora of the Guianas" Project, a regional flora identification project for the entire Guiana Shield, will be utilized. UNEP is supporting an Integrated Coastal Management (ICAM) Plan for two coastal districts in Suriname. The Government of the Netherlands is working with Suriname on several initiatives, including an Ecological Zoning of the Interior project to ecologically map the interior of Suriname, the Jan Starker Forest Management Training Center Rehabilitation Project, and an assessment of existing information on the biodiversity of the interior. All will be valuable sources of information for this initiative. A group of international NGOs, including Conservation International and Squibb pharmaceutical company are working with Suriname on an International Cooperative Biodiversity Grant Research Agreement to screen plants for the pharmaceutical value

in cooperation with indigenous groups, academia, government and the private sector. The wealth of information generated and collected by these initiatives will be utilized to ensure that this project builds upon the work undertaken by these and other germane initiatives.

#### Appropriate Sequencing of Activities:

| Month  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stocktaking and Assessment (topping-up what has been done with biodiversity information with new stocktaking related to development initiatives/information) | X |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Initiation of public awareness campaign  | X | X |   |   |   |   |   |
| Familiarization workshop with WRI guidelines – Identification of Specific Planning Programmes  |   | X | X |   |   |   |   |
| Development of Biodiversity Action Plan First Draft  |   |   |   | X |   |   |   |
| Local Consultations to Review Draft Action Plan  |   |   |   | X | X |   |   |
| Finalization of BSAP   |   |   |   |   | X |   |   |
| Public Dissemination of BSAP Final Version   |   |   |   |   |   | X |   |
| Production of First National Report  |   |   |   |   |   | X | X |

#### Best Practice

12. The methodology for the project will be based on the “Guidelines for Country Studies on Biological Diversity (UNEP 1993), the Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity (IUCN 1994) and the “National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Country Experiences” prepared by WRI, IUCN and UNEP (1995).

**Deviations from Cost Norms:** None.

#### Institutional Framework

Appropriate government departments and ministries will contribute sector-specific information, objectives, and actions. The Ministry of Planning and Development Aid's National Planning Office (NPO) is the GEF focal point. The NPO's Environment Department is responsible for overall coordination of environmental programs within the GoS. The two governmental entities responsible for on-the-ground biodiversity conservation and management are the Ministry of Natural Resources's (MNR) Forestry Division and Nature Conservation Department and the Ministry of Agriculture's (MoA) 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 University of Suriname provides technical expertise in the field of natural science.

The national steering committee for this enabling activity will be comprised of representatives from the following institutions and sectors: the NPO, MNR's Division of Forestry and MoA's Division of Fisheries; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; an NGO; STINASU; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Public Works, and a representative of the business community. The United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) will have observer status on the steering committee to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of the project.

As the GEF focal point, the NPO representative will be designated as the project coordinator. The project coordinator will be responsible for the oversight of the implementation of the project and direct and serve as the liaison to the steering committee. The project coordinator will oversee the project working group and will work directly with the working group's team leader. The working group is an already existing entity setup under the auspices of the University of Suriname to draft the NSBD. By involving the same people who developed the NSBD in developing the action plan, efficacy will be maintained and any duplication of effort avoided. 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 other national consultants.

National consultants and NGOs, working in close coordination with government staff, will undertake most of the project's activities. The working group 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.

**Budget**

| Budget Elements  | Product         | Process         | Total (US \$)   |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Development-related Information</b> | <b>\$11,600</b> |                 | <b>\$11,600</b> |
| - National consultants (4 p/m)   | 9,600           |                 |                 |
| - Misc   | 2,000           |                 |                 |
| <b>Identification and Analysis of Options</b>                                | <b>\$ 2,500</b> | <b>\$37,900</b> | <b>\$40,400</b> |
| - National consultants (6 p/m)   |                 | 14,400          |                 |
| - Familiarization workshop   |                 | 1,000           |                 |
| - 1 int'l expert (familiarization/1st draft- 2 wks)                          |                 | 8,000           |                 |
| - Consultations (3 @ 40 participants) on 1st draft                           |                 | 6,000           |                 |
| - Awareness Campaign for NBAP(newspaper, TV)                                 |                 | 7,000           |                 |
| - Travel/logistics.  | 2,500           | 1,500           |                 |
| <b>Preparation of Action Plan</b>  | <b>\$4,800</b>  | <b>\$19,800</b> | <b>\$24,600</b> |
| - National Consultants (4 p/m)   | 4,800           | 11,800          |                 |
| - National consultation to review final draft                                |                 | 5,000           |                 |
| - Dissemination  |                 | 3,000           |                 |
| <b>Preparation of First National Report</b>                                  | <b>\$6,400</b>  | <b>\$4,000</b>  | <b>\$10,400</b> |
| - National consultant  | 2,400           |                 |                 |
| - Dissemination/translation/Publication                                      | 4,000           | 4,000           |                 |
| <b>Coordination and Management (5%)</b>                                      |                 | <b>\$5,000</b>  | <b>\$5,000</b>  |
| <b>TOTALS</b>  | <b>\$25,300</b> | <b>\$66,700</b> | <b>\$92,000</b> |

\* These figures are standard rates for international consultants. Every effort will be made to utilize a consultant from the region, in which case, we expect these costs to be lower.

**Annex A: ACTIVITY MATRIX:**

| Enabling Activity   | Output   | Capacity<br>Inst<br>Strength | Building<br>Training | Public<br>Partic. | Notes |
|---|--|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------|
| <b>Stocktaking and Assessment</b><br>- biodiversity & biological resources<br>- cross sectoral issues<br>- policy and regulatory framework<br>- institutional and human capacity<br>- analysis of root causes of BD loss<br>- technologies for conservation and sustainable use<br>- activities with adverse impacts<br>- existing measures and programmes<br>- preliminary statement of objectives<br>- identification of gaps<br>- assessment of existing needs | X/NSBD<br>X/NEAP<br>NEAP<br>UNDP/JS/GEF<br>NSBD<br>X<br>X/NSBD<br>NEAP/NSBD<br>NSBD<br>X/NSBD/EZP<br>X |                              |                      |                   | 1     |
| <b>Identification and Analysis of Options to meet the Objectives of the CBD</b><br>- strategies for conservation<br>- strategies for sustainable use<br>- strategies for benefit sharing<br><br><b>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</b><br>- national strategy<br>- national action plan   | NSBD/NEAP<br>X<br>X/NSBD<br><br>NSBD<br>X  |                              | X<br>X<br>X          | X<br>X<br>X       | 2     |
| <b>Preparation of first National Report</b><br>- first national report  | X  | X                            | X                    | X                 | 3     |

Legend: x = activity undertaken by the project

The acronyms in the matrix are defined below:

**NSBD:** National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Suriname's Biological Diversity

**NEAP:** National Environmental Action Plan

**EZP:** Ecological Zoning Project funded by Gov't of the Netherlands

**JS:** Jan Starker Training Center Project

**WRI:** World Resources Institute Report entitled:

**GEF:** Training for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Amazon

1. Due to limited funding for the development of the NSBD, stocktaking efforts under the NSBD did not do an adequate job of covering cross-sectoral and sustainable development related information. This effort will fill in information gaps between stocktaking exercises already conducted under NSBD

development and other initiatives as indicated by the "x's" in this section.

2. Specific activities to achieve sustainable use of biological diversity will be discussed and included in the BAP. Benefit sharing will be an important issue considered by this Action Planning effort; especially with relation to intellectual property rights and sustainable forestry.
3. Suriname's National Biodiversity Action Plan will be developed through this project. The Conservation Action Plan developed for Suriname in 1992 provides useful points to be included in the NBAP, but does not focus on biodiversity and the multi-sectoral approach to conserving it.

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## FACSIMILE

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**Subject:** GEF funding for finalizing the National Strategy on Biodiversity and Action Plan, and preparation of the First National Report.

**To:** Mr. Rafael Amanjo  
 Executive Coordinator UNDP-GEF  
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 New York, NY 10017  
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**From:** Director National Planning Office  
 Mrs. L.J.M. Monsels-Thompson  
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FOLLOWING THE FAX WE RECEIVED FROM MR. JOHN ASHE, COUNCIL MEMBER, GEF CARIBBEAN CONSTITUENCY, WE HEREBY INDICATE THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE USE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FINALIZING THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN AND FOR PREPARATION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL REPORT TO THE CBD.

WHILE AWAITING YOUR FURTHER COMMUNICATION AS TO HOW TO PROCEED WE WILL CONSULT THOSE INVOLVED IN THESE ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL ON OUR SPECIFIC NEEDS REGARDING ASSISTANCE.

Yours Sincerely,  
 NATIONAL PLANNING OFFICE

DRS. L.J.M. MONSELS-THOMPSON  
 DIRECTOR