

REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

Enabling Activity Proposal in Biodiversity

Country:	Republic of Tunisia
Project Title:	Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan and National Report
GEF Focal Area:	Biological Diversity
Country Eligibility:	Convention ratified July 1993
GEF Financing:	US \$ 89,000
Government Contribution:	in kind
GEF Implementing Agency:	World Bank
National Executing Agency:	Ministry of Environment and Land Use Planning
GEF Focal Point:	Ministry of Environment and Land Use Planning
CBD Focal Point:	Ministry of Environment and Land Use Planning
Estimated Starting Date:	January 1997
Project Duration:	12 months

Background/Context:

Tunisia is a country of 8 million people with a total land mass of 163,610 km². The country's geography varies from Northwest humid Mediterranean climates (similar to Southern Europe) to arid and desert Mediterranean climates in the south, typical of a large portion of the Maghreb large countries situated north of the Sahara. Relatively poor in extractable natural resources, Tunisia is rich in scenic beauty, biodiversity and cultural/historical resources, including the Site of Carthage and Medina of Tunis. These scenic riches offer significant potential for developing ecotourism activities.

Tunisia's biological diversity spans seven major ecosystems which, along with international waters adjacent to Tunisia. Of the 870 species of plants that are rare, threatened or endemic in North Africa, 150 grow in Tunisia. Species of note include the Thuya de Berberie (*Tetraclinis articulata*) in northern Tunisia and the Outarde Roubara (*Chlamydotis undulata*) in southern Tunisia. However, many of these endemic species are in localized but expanding areas increasingly vulnerable to pollution, degradation, urbanization and industrialization. Biodiversity losses have resulted from the construction of dams upstream from important wetlands, thereby affecting unique flora and fauna. Forest degradation is occurring at an alarming rate particularly in the mountainous areas. Overgrazing as well as fuelwood and fodder collection also reduce ground cover and accelerate erosion and desertification, a prime ecological concern in Tunisia. Likewise, although the Tunisian coast (1300 km) is one of the cleanest areas of the Mediterranean Sea, untreated sewage and chemically contaminated waste water are discharged and garbage is dumped into the sea and several salt lakes, while intensive fishing activity and coral harvesting disrupt coastal ecosystems.

In recent years, Tunisia has recognized the need to conserve biological resources. In 1990, Tunisia was one of the first countries to complete a National Environmental Action Plan, which was updated in 1995. The creation of the Ministry of the Environment and Land Use Planning

(MELUP) with sub-ministries including APAL (Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral), CITE (Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement), ANPE (Agence de Protection de l'Environnement) and ONAS (Office National de l'Assainissement) represents a further national commitment to environmental protection and sustainable use of its resources.

Important on-going work related to biodiversity includes a UNEP-funded National Country Study on Biodiversity. The UNDP-managed GEF Small Grants Program has funded extensive work on biodiversity, including Support for Protection of Touari Nature Reserve, Women and Forest Conservation, and the Environmental Programme of Boukounine National Park. Furthermore, GEF resources have been targeted to addressing oil pollution problems in the southwest Mediterranean Sea, including Tunisia as well as conserving wetlands and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean region. On-going World Bank efforts include a forestry project aimed at augmenting environmental services provided by forests, coastal zone management activities, and management plans for wetlands. These assorted programs have allowed for the accumulation of information regarding flora, fauna, and ecosystems for terrestrial and coastal/marine areas, which will serve as important inputs into the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. (BSAP)

Project objectives:

The objectives of the BSAP include formulating the strategies and actions necessary for the protection and sustainable use of Tunisia's biodiversity in accordance with Article 6 and 8 of the CBD, as well as prepare a plan for their implementation. The primary product will be the BSAP. In addition, Tunisia's first National Report to the Conference of the parties will be prepared.

The BSAP will serve as a vehicle for future project implementation funding, establish an appropriate framework for conservation and development, facilitate sustainable protection and management of biodiversity through the identification of cross-sectoral priorities, identify effective and innovative techniques to conserve biodiversity, and provide an opportunity to promote the transfer and use of new technologies for biodiversity.

Finally, the enabling activities will raise public awareness regarding the broad array of benefits provided by biodiversity, through national workshops and public information efforts. These efforts are essential in ensuring the full participation of interested stakeholders in the formulation of the BSAP.

Coverage without duplication:

The BSAP will rely upon existing capacity as well as significant materials, most notably the UNEP-funded National Country Study on Biodiversity, which is currently be prepared by Tunisians under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment and Land Use Planning. Many sections have been completed, including chapters on terrestrial, marine and aquatic fauna and

flora, ecosystems microorganisms, genetic resources. The country study is expected to be completed by late 1996.

Other materials which will be utilized include information relating to the national parks planning program, as well as stocktaking materials gathered in preparation for the recently updated National Environmental Action Plan. Heavy reliance upon existing materials will ensure that the BSAP and National Report are completed in a cost-effective manner without duplication.

Appropriate overall sequencing of activities:

The BSAP will be produced over a period of 12 months according to the schedule outlined below. Preparation of the BSAP will follow a logical sequence of participatory steps, beginning in January 1997. A steering committee, comprised of representatives from various government ministries (including the Ministry of Environment and Land Use Planning; Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Tourism), NGOs {including the Tunisian Association for the Protection of Nature and the Environment (ATPNE); Association for the Protection of Nature (APNEG); Tunisian Association for Sustainable Development (ATMDD); World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); and Association for Friends of Wildlife (AAO)}, academics and the private sector will prepare a detailed work plan and terms of reference for the national consultants.

National consultants and MELUP staff will participate in overlapping tasks of : a) summarizing existing information on Tunisian biodiversity; b) participating in working groups to formulate policies and actions of the BSAP; c) participating in the working groups and preparing the BSAP document; d) holding two regional workshops as well as the national workshop; and e) preparing the National Report. Working groups will be constituted on thematic grounds covering a broad spectrum of aspects relating to biodiversity, including agriculture, forestry and coastal zone management. A public awareness campaign will accompany the two regional workshops and precede the national strategy and action plan workshop to promote participation. The tasks and sequence of events envisioned for the Tunisian BSAP are consistent with those recommended in National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Experiences Around the World (WRI/UNEP/IUCN 1993) as well as the "Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities: Biodiversity" (Global Environment Facility 1996).

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Prepare workplan in conjunction with on-going UNEP study	X	X										
Finalization of TORs for consultants	X	X										
Establishment of steering committee		X										
Review of stocktaking materials		X										
Analysis and assessment of options, including discussions with stakeholders in 2 workshops			X	X								
Finalization of options and strategies					X	X						
National strategy and action plan workshop							X					
Preparation of draft BSAP								X	X			
Review of BSAP, revision based on comments										X	X	
Public awareness campaign			X	X		X						
Preparation of National Report to COP translation and distribution (1997)						X					X	X

Best Practice:

The Tunisian BSAP will comply with best practices and lessons learned from GEF experience in Tunisia. The BSAP will be authored by Tunisians, representing national priorities and be consistent with the country's cultural, historical and geographic setting. The BSAP is envisioned as a living document that will continually develop as data gaps are filled and the actions are implemented. The project is designed based on the *Guidelines for Preparation of Biodiversity Country Studies* (UNEP 1993), the guidelines and recommendations found in *National Biodiversity Planning* (WRI, UNEP, IUCN 1995) and the criteria for best practice outlined in the *Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities: Biodiversity*.

Institutional framework and project implementation

Responsibility of national resource management is shared among MELUP and Ministry of Agriculture. The MELUP, the focal point of the Convention on Biodiversity, recently created a small biodiversity group which will be coordinating BSAP work. Cooperation with government sub-ministries (including APAL, CITE, ANPE and ONAS), local and international NGOs (including ATPNE, APNEG, AAO, and WWF), the academic community, and the private sector is essential. However, given the MELUP's staff and budget limitations, the use of in-country consultants is recommended in order to facilitate completion of the BSAP within the planned time frame.

Cost effectiveness:

Project activities will be completed over a twelve-month schedule, relying heavily upon existing materials. The working group will coordinate with the current UNEP funded Country Biodiversity Study, which will provide the stocktaking materials for the BSAP.

Project Financing

	Product	Process	Total
Identification of options	17,000	24,000	41,000
National consultants	8,000	7,000	15,000
International consultant	5,000	5,000	10,000
2 workshops		12,000	12,000
Travel misc.	4,000		4,000
Strategy and Action Plan	14,000	20,000	34,000
National consultants	6,000	6,000	12,000
International consultant	5,000	5,000	10,000
Public awareness campaign	3,000		3,000
Dissemination of drafts		3,000	3,000
1 workshop		6,000	6,000
First National Report	9,000		9,000
Publication and translation	8,000		8,000
Promotion misc. & Public awareness	1,000		1,000
Coordination and Management Costs	5,000		5,000
Total	45,000	44,000	89,000

ANNEX A: Standard Activity Matrix

Enabling Activity	Output	Capacity	Building	Public Participation	Comments
Commitment	Planning Execution	Institutional Strengthening	Training		
<i>Stocktaking and Assessment based on Existing Information</i>	UNEP, WCMC				1
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD</i>					
Strategies for Conservation	X			X	1
Strategies for Sustainable use	X			X	1
Strategies for benefit sharing	X			X	1
<i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i>					
National strategy	X			X	2
National action Plan	X			X	2
<i>Preparation of first National Report</i>					
First national report	X				

Legend:

X: Activity undertaken within Enabling Activities

UNEP, WCMC: Activities undertaken by UNEP and World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Footnotes to the Standard Activity Matrix:

1. The stocktaking for the Tunisian BSAP will be built on existing materials from the UNEP-funded Country Biodiversity Study, National Park planning, and chapters on flora and fauna already compiled by scientists of various research institutions.
2. These strategies will be developed with the assistance of an external consultant. The cross-sectoral coordination as well as coordination at local, regional and national levels for the BSAP will be conducted in concert with the National Environmental Action Plan and National Agenda 21.

RÉPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE
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17 JUL 1996

MINISTÈRE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT
T DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT
DU TERRITOIRE
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To Mr. Mark D. Wilson
Division Chief Natural Resources Environment
Department Maghreb-Iran, The World Bank, Washington DC/USA
Fax : (202) 4776391

From : Ministry of Environment and Land Use Planning
Ref : Biodiversity
Date : July 13, 1996
Number of pages 9 including this cover sheet

Dear Mr Wilson,

The Ministry of Environment and Land Use Planning would like to request financial assistance of 86 000 \$ US under the Biodiversity Enabling Activities program of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

The grant money would be used for preparing a Biodiversity Strategy, National Action Plan and National Report.

We look forward to our continuing cooperation in support of environmental concerns in Tunisia.

Sincerely,

Amel
Mme. BANZARTE Amel
Chargée de Mission auprès du Ministre
Directrice de la Coopération
Internationale

Project / Ln No. :	
Date / Initials :	
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