

Global Environment Facility

Enabling Activity Proposal Add-on Component

Country: Republic of Vanuatu

Project title: Strengthening the National Clearing House Mechanism Focal Point for Participation in the Pilot Phase of the CHM of the CBD

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

Country Eligibility: Ratified the CBD

GEF Financing Requested: US\$ 13,100

GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP

National Implementing Agency: Environment Unit of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu

National CHM Focal Point Designated: Yes

Project Duration: Up to end of the pilot phase of the CHM of the CBD (end of 1998)

Background/Context:

In line with Decisions II/7 and II/17 of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, the Environment Unit of the Republic of Vanuatu is implementing a GEF-funded project for the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First National Report to the CBD.

Facilitating capacity-building in relation to the operation of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) of the CBD in developing country Parties is one of the enabling activity components stipulated in the GEF Operational Criteria for Biodiversity Enabling Activities pursuant to Decisions II/3 and III/4 of the COP.

This proposal, requested as an add-on component to the NBSAP enabling activity, will permit Vanuatu to participate in the pilot phase of the CHM and to fulfill the requirements of Decisions I/3, II/3 and III/4 of the COP.

The requested budget for this activity is shown in the following table:

Budget for the Clearing House Mechanism Add-on Component of Enabling Activity proposal:

Vanuatu* (US\$)

Item	GEF Estimated Cost Norm (US\$)	Country Actual Proposed (US\$)
- Hardware (PC of appropriate configuration)	0-4,000	3,800
- Software (Internet browsers and required software)	0-1,000	1,000
- Modem	0-500	500
- Recurrent Access Costs to Internet Service Provider (up to end of CHM Pilot Phase 1998)	0-3,800	3,400
- Technician Set-Up Fees	500-700	700
- Internet and E-mail Training for CHM Focal Point **	1,000-4,000	3,700
Total	1,500-14,000	13,100

* Group I country, Option A:

Vanuatu has the required telecommunications infrastructure and Internet connectivity. It has designated a Focal Point for the CHM, i.e. The Environment Unit, who will be directly responsible for the operations of the CHM of the CBD.

The Environment Unit is also the national executing agency for the "National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First National Report to the CBD" project endorsed by the GEF in January, 1997.

** Training of the CHM focal point will be carried out under an agreement with the Internet Service Provider that will be selected by the Environment Unit.

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No. Of pge(s) 2 (including this one)

To: Ahmed Djoghiaf, Executive Coordinator, UNEP Office, Kenya, Nairobi

From: Russell Nari, Environment Unit, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Date: 14th April, 1998

Subject: Addition of a CHM Module to National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First National Report Project.

Dear Ahmed,

Thanking you for reminding us of the additional project as indicated in your letter of 30 March 1998. Our sincere apologies for not responding immediately due to other work commitment.

However, the situation is now under control and therefore this letter serves to notify you and your office of our commitment in fully participating in the CHM pilot phase programme.

The Environment Unit of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu is hereby being nominated as the CHM Focal Point due to its coordinating roles as the major environmental agency.

Please, find attached a completed financial information form (Annex A) as requested in your letter for your consideration and action.

Best Regards

Russell NARI, Snr. Biodiversity Officer
NBSAP Supervisor

