

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Country: Gabon

Project Title: Preparation of the First National Communication to
the UNFCCC

GEF Focal Area: Climate Change

Country Eligibility: Gabon ratified the UNFCCC, on January 21 1998

GEF Contribution: US\$ 319,,450

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Executing Agency: Government of Gabon

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Environment

**Other Participating:
Counterpart Agencies:** Ministry of Mining, Energy and Water Resources

Project Duration: 2 Years

Starting Date: November 1998

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Country Profile

1. Gabon is located in Central Africa with a total area of 267,667 sq. km occupied mainly by rain forest (85% of the territory). The country is bordered on the north by Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south and east by The Congo Republic. The relief of Gabon is characterized by three type of topographies: a flat band coastal area (30 to 200 Km), internal plateaus in the north and the south and mountainous highlands in the center of the country culminating at 980 m above the sea (Iboundji mountain). The Climate consists of equatorial and tropical humid types with a one raining season (September to March) and one dry season (June to August). Total annual rainfall is above 2 meters everywhere in the country. Temperatures are high the whole year (23 to 26 degrees centigrade).
2. The economy of Gabon is largely export oriented. It is dominated by petroleum, mining and forestry resources. Agriculture accounts for only 11% of the GNP but employs 50% of the population. Cultivated area, however, represents only 0.5% of the total area of the country. Traditional agriculture accounts for only 50% of the population's need. The petroleum sector accounts for more than 70% of the total revenues from export, representing 45% of the GDP. Major minerals produced are manganese and uranium. Proven reserves of gold and iron are estimated at 850 millions tons. Transport networks (road, railway and river) are relatively well developed.
3. The secondary sector is also important with different types of manufacturing: refineries (more than 1.6 million tons of petroleum products), wood products and food processing (starchy food, beer, sugar..).
4. Primary energy supply is traditionally based on biomass (90%) such as wood fuel, charcoal, crop and animal residues. Transport sector and commercial energy production are the main fossil fuel consumers. Import of petroleum products account for 20 % of the total export earnings in 1989.
5. In 1991, the total population was estimated at 1.168 millions with an annual growth rate of 1.6%. This population is evenly distributed in rural and urban areas. This latter comprises Libreville (the capital city with an estimated 350,000 to 400,000 inhabitants), Port Gentil (170,000), and Franceville (75,000).
6. With regards to energy, Gabon is endowed with important energy sources including hydro-electricity, petroleum, natural gas, uranium and wood fuel. From 1980 to 1990, the production of crude petroleum increased from 8.9 to 13.5 Millions tons. It reached 15 millions tin 1993. Only 3 to 4% is processed by national refineries, the remaining (96%) being exported. From reserves of natural gas (estimated at 16 billions of cubic meters), only 2 billions of cubic meters were produced in 1990 and 1 million used directly by local industries. The remaining is flared. The hydro potential existing in two main rivers (the Komo and the Abanga) is estimated at 5,000 MW of which only 300 MW are currently utilized or under construction.

7. The electricity produced by "La Société d'Electricité et d'Eau du Gabon" (SEEG) amounts to 946 GWH in 1992, mainly hydro based (706 GWH) although the installed power is equally shared by hydro and thermal plants (164MW & 133 MW respectively). But thermal is essentially used for rescue situation. Gabon is not interconnected to neighboring countries such as Congo or Cameroon.
8. Despite the petroleum based economy, forests products play an important part both in the subsistence economy and the export trade of Gabon. The country is endowed with a 22 millions hectares of rain forests. Industrial wood production is estimated to 1.5 million tons and an equivalent waste or residues used for domestic (mainly households) level. End uses include smoking fish, cooking, charcoal making, industrial heat,...etc. Good availability and affordability of LPG in urban areas have led to fuel wood being restricted to rural dwellers essentially. FAO estimated that about 5 millions tons of cubic meters of fuel wood are consumed by households in the rural areas annually.
9. Renewable energies are being mainly introduced for specific end use such as marine beacons, lighting for schools and health care centers, water pumping in isolated areas. Mini-hydro plants are also planned for the countryside.

Main institutions with connections to climate change

10. The Ministry of Environment co-ordinates and executes overall environmental policies in the country including some issues related to the UNFCCC. But the Ministry of Mining, Energy and Water resources is the operational focal point for Climate Change.
11. Therefore, apart from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Mining, Energy and Water Resources and different affiliated departments are making effort at contributing to a better understanding and implementation of climate change issues and related policies. Some NGOs and associations having environmental protection activities are involved in issues like solid and liquid wastes and forestry.

Environmental legislation and national measures for environmental protection

12. As a rain forest and fossil fuel-based economy, environmental issues are very sensitive in Gabon. The country has accorded environmental issues and sustainable management of natural resources a high priority in the development process. The establishment of the Ministry of Environment (ME) and many related department show this attitude which is also reflected in the signing and ratification of the UNFCCC.

Measures adopted to fulfill the obligations undertaken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

13. While Gabon ratified the Framework Convention on Climate Change on 21 January,1998, it undertook no national initiative in direct connection with this Convention or

having any relation with global climate change. All the themes to be included in the national communication (gas emission inventory, vulnerability study, adaptation options, mitigation options, and national action plan) must therefore be studied for the first time within the perspective of the climate change issues. The statistical infrastructure existing in the various areas of interest should, however, make it possible to deal with these various themes by the prescribed deadline and within the established budgetary limits.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

14. The immediate project objective is to facilitate the preparation of the national communication of Gabon to be provided to the Conference of Parties under Article 12 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

15. This project will make it possible to create an institutional framework suited to capacity building and the elaboration of the national communication. This framework will also make it possible to identify the most appropriate mitigation measures and adaptation and response options.

16. The project will play an essential role in awareness-raising and general information on climate change issues in Gabon and will allow these issues to be taken into consideration in the general national planning exercises and in the elaboration of the country's strategies in various economic and technical sectors.

17. Gabon will also derive benefits from this project by applying a multidisciplinary approach, which is rarely operationalized under other circumstances, and thus improving the coordination of the activities connected with climate change issues, reinforcing the dialogue and cooperation between all actors concerned (including those in the public, non governmental, academic, private and grassroot sectors), and leading to a more coherent position in international fora.

18. In addition, this project will make it possible to establish data banks in the various areas which can be brought together to help facilitate the development of action plans and which will provide an opportunity to establish linkages between the steps taken to address climate change issues and development priorities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

19. In the course of the realization of its immediate objective, which is the elaboration of the national communication, the project will attempt to implement various components that are considered intermediate objectives. The first intermediate objective is to set up an institutional framework, which will be the project key objective as it will provide the structure for the capacity-building process in the area of climate change, to prepare the various expected outputs, and to ensure the durability of the process. The project intermediate objectives and outputs are described below.

Objective 1: Establish the project institutional framework

Output 1A: Project lead agency selected, project director appointed, project steering committee created.

Output 1B: Entire project team provided with training on climate change issues.

Output 1C: Project team informed of regional and international initiatives in the area of climate change.

Output 1D: Project team informed of data existing in Gabon, to be used within the framework of the project, and of the projects and programmes which could have linkages with the themes to be address by the project.

Objective 2: Enable Gabon, to prepare the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions using the IPCC/OECD methodology and taking into consideration all of the gases listed in the guidelines provided by the Conference of Parties

Output 2A: Project team trained in the methodology to inventory greenhouse gas emissions

- Training workshop on inventories
- Elaboration of the workplan and approach to implement the tasks in connection with the inventory

Output 2B: Data required to establish the inventory collected and/or produced

- Identification of required data
- Collection of existing data/documents
- Definition of guidelines and development of inventory taking process

Output 2C: Finalized inventory report

- Collection and processing of all data to be integrated within the inventory
- Formulation of the inventory report

Objective 3: Enable Gabon, and strengthen its capacities, to identify and analyze the most relevant measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, in view of the national development priorities and the emissions mitigation results expected

Output 3A: Project team trained in the methodologies and approaches for identification and analysis of measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions

- Training workshop on identification, analysis and assessment of mitigation measures
- Elaboration of the workplan and approach to implement the tasks in connection with the mitigation measures

Output 3B: Data required to carry out the tasks in connection with the assessment of mitigation measures gathered and/or produced

- Identification of most relevant measures according to the results of the inventory
- Collection of existing data/documents in order to analyze these measures

Output 3C: Finalized report on the Burundian strategy to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions

- Analysis and evaluation of mitigation measures based on parameters, criteria and methodologies internationally recognized and proven. Analysis and evaluation of measures to enhance carbon storage capacities based on parameters, criteria and methodologies internationally recognized and proven.
- Formulation of the mitigation strategy report

Output 3D: Simplified summaries of the most promising mitigation measures produced

- Selection of most promising mitigation measures
- Formulation of simplified summaries including the main characteristics of these mitigation measures and their expected results

Objective 4: Enable Gabon, and strengthen its capacities, to assess the country's vulnerability to climate change impacts

Output 4A: Project team trained in the methodologies to assess vulnerability and the selected analysis approach

- Training workshop on vulnerability assessment
- Elaboration of the workplan and approach to implement the tasks in connection with the vulnerability assessment

Output 4B: Data required to carry out the tasks in connection with the vulnerability assessment gathered and/or produced

- Identification of most relevant themes for vulnerability assessment in view of the existing conditions in Gabon
- Collection and compilation of existing data/documents, at the national and international levels, in order to analyze these themes

Output 4C: Finalized report on the country's vulnerability to climate change impacts

- Analysis and evaluation of vulnerability based on parameters, criteria and methodologies internationally recognized and proven.
- Formulation of the vulnerability assessment report

Objective 5: Enable Gabon, and strengthen its capacities, to identify and analyze the options for adaptation to climate change impacts

Output 5A: Project team trained in the methodologies to assess the options for adaptation to climate change impacts and in the selected analysis approach

- Workshop whose purpose is to discuss the results of the vulnerability assessment for Gabon and provide training in the methodologies and approaches to assess the options

for adaptation to climate change options, in particular those developed by the IPCC and other agencies or international programmes

- Elaboration of the workplan and approach to implement the tasks in connection with the adaptation option assessment

Output 5B: Data required to carry out the tasks in connection with the assessment of adaptation options gathered and/or produced

- Identification of most relevant and most realistic adaptation options for Burundi according to the results of the vulnerability study
- Collection of existing data/documents at the national and international level in order to analyze the selected adaptation options

Output 5C: Finalized report on the analysis of adaptation options

- Analysis and evaluation of adaptation options based on parameters, criteria and methodologies internationally recognized and proven.
- Formulation of the report on the evaluation of adaptation options

Output 5D: Simplified summaries of the most realistic adaptation options produced

- Selection of most realistic adaptation options
- Formulation of simplified summaries including the main characteristics of these adaptation options and their expected results

Objective 6: Enable Gabon, and strengthen its capacities, to elaborate a plan of action to mitigate the emissions and adapt to climate change impacts

Output 6A: Plan of action to mitigate the emissions and adapt to climate change impacts

- Based on the assessment of the mitigation measures, prepare and quantify a mitigation action plan
- Based on the assessment of the adaptation options, prepare and quantify an adaptation action plan

Objective 7: Enable Gabon, and strengthen its capacities, to prepare its initial national communication to the UNFCCC.

Output 7A: Initial national communication to the Conference of Parties of the FCCC

- Compiling all of the documents produced: emissions inventory, mitigation measures analysis, vulnerability analysis, adaptation options analysis, and mitigation and adaptation action plan, and presenting them as a document representing the national communication of Gabon.

RATIONALE FOR GEF SUPPORT

20. The project under consideration is in conformity with the GEF operational strategy and the GEF operational criteria for enabling activities aimed at provided coordinated and timely support to the country in order to enable them to fulfill their obligations under the FCCC. The project meets these objectives in providing for the implementation of an activity required to enable Gabon to prepare its national communication to the Conference of Parties. Since none of the activities included in the list of norms applicable to the activities was conducted in Gabon in the past, GEF support should be provided for all these activities.

21. The approach envisioned within the project is also in conformity with the spirit of the actions as defined for enabling activities. In particular, the creation of a project steering committee will contribute to the institutional strengthening of Gabon in the climate change area. In addition, all project components will be the subject of training activities on the various aspects of climate change, and of studies and research on the major theme, i.e.: emissions inventory, vulnerability, adaptation, and mitigation, all of which should lead to the drafting of the national communication of Gabon.

SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

22. The Government of Gabon fully supports the objectives of this project and gives it a high priority. The government also agrees that the output of the project should be the national communication in conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

23. It must be recalled that success in dealing with climate change issues is largely predicated upon the selected approach. This approach requires close cooperation and intensive, regular sharing of information between the various institutions involved, so that they may each in their respective areas of specialization integrate climate change concerns within their own action plans, and fully benefit from the newly-acquired knowledge and take full advantage of the opportunities to strengthen capabilities in all development areas.

24. A nucleus of institutions proceeding from the national committee on climate change, being currently instituted, will need to be selected in order to create the project steering committee. The entity which will act as the project lead agency must have a horizontal cross-cutting perspective on environmental matters, allowing it to integrate all aspects of the climate changes issues to be addressed by the project: forestry, agriculture, littoral, air, energy, sanitation, waste, etc.

25. After the completion of the project, the nucleus consisting of the project steering committee will need to assume the responsibility of ensuring the sustainability of the national process dealing with climate change issues and liaising with the development issues. Special emphasis will need to be placed on the communication of information to the members of the national committee on climate change as well as its dissemination to the general public.

LESSONS AND RISKS

26. In addition to the importance of the involvement and participation of all stakeholders, including the ministries, NGOs, education and research institutions, as well as representatives of the private sector, which is recognized in the present proposal, emphasis will also need to be placed on the exchange of information at the regional and international levels. For this purpose, the project will need to remain in constant communication with other national, regional and international initiatives in the climate change area (e.g. CC:TRAIN, African capacity-building project, Maghreb capacity-building project, national enabling activity projects, etc.).

27. In the implementation of the various planned activities, the project will act in conformity with the internationally adopted guidelines and will apply the existing methods and instruments as they are available. Wherever possible, technical assistance will be provided by regional and local experts so as to ensure that the national conditions and context are appropriately taken into consideration.

28. In general, currently available data should enable the project to reach its objectives, provided the national institutions operate in close cooperation and linkages are established with international initiatives. However, in view of the project's limited timeframe, inertia could hamper the performance of certain tasks, in particular those in relation with data gathering and the analysis of ongoing programmes and projects. The project steering committee, in cooperation with all institutions concerned, will need to make a conscious effort to overcome these obstacles if the project is to be successful.

PROJECT FUNDING AND BUDGET

29. As this is an enabling activity in connection with the fulfillment of the obligations of Gabon regarding the national communication under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, GEF will provide funding on the basis of "the agreed full costs". A detailed budget in conformity with the format requirements and costs standards of the GEF operational criteria for enabling activities is attached in Annex1 to the present proposal. ENDA-TM (a regional NGO based in Dakar) which is already collaborating with UNDP/GEF in the implementation of an on-going project (Capacity building in Sub-Saharan Africa) has agreed to provide technical assistance to this project in the light of the lack of indigenous technical capacity in climate change.

PROJECT INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND EXECUTION

30. The project will be executed by the Ministry of Environment on behalf of the Government of Gabon and in consultation with the Project Steering Committee (PSC). A project manager will be hired to work on a full-time basis for the project, and he/she will be responsible for the management of the project on a day-to-day basis. He/she will also be in charge of summarizing the results of the studies, supervising the workshops, and finalizing the National Communication together with Government personnel and national experts. The PSC will guide the implementation of the project, ensure that the results will be disseminated to and evaluated by the stakeholders in Gabon, and support the smooth transition from this enabling activity to the further development and implementation of the identified follow-up measures. The final

composition of the PSC will be decided at the beginning of the project and will include representatives from relevant ministries, institutions, and organizations.

31. In determining the final composition of the PSC, efforts will be made to ensure that key sectors are equally represented (including academic institutions, NGOs, and private sector entities) while, at the same time, maintaining a limited number of seats to keep the PSC operational.
32. The project steering committee, which shall meet regularly, will be in charge of supervising the progress of project implementation and ensuring the conformity of the activities as conducted with their description in the project document and the planning, as well as the quality of the performance. It will be responsible for providing the advice and assistance necessary to ensure the smooth implementation of the project and will facilitate access to all information and collaboration with all ongoing projects and programmer in Burundi. Likewise, the members of the project steering committee will make special efforts to ensure the dissemination of the results of the project activities within their respective departments and to apply the main lessons drawn from said activities. A perfect mobilization of the members of the steering committee is an important factor for the success of the project.
33. Working relationships must be established with the international programmer and entities involved in the climate change process. In particular, the officials in charge and the publications of the IPCC, UNEP, the Secretariat of the Convention, OECD, etc. will need to be consulted at the time of the selection of the methodologies to be used in the various studies. Likewise, the project will take advantage of the experiences and lessons drawn from other national and international programs and projects. In order to improve the sharing of information, whenever possible the project will make use of the electronic media such as CC:INFO.WEB, and will cooperate with the CC:FORUM and other initiatives of the UNFCCC Secretariat.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

34. After the activities have been described in detail and the workplan has been established, they will be subject to an external review. This review will serve to identify possible gaps, overlaps and other defects which might compromise the quality of the results expected from project activities. It will also provide an opportunity to draw on the experience gained in similar projects and to ensure a synergistic effect between the projects.
35. The executing agency and the project steering committee will be jointly responsible for the continuous monitoring of the project. The project director will be in charge of producing periodic reports in cooperation with the sectoral managers. These reports will provide a description of the project progress and status and of the results of the various tasks undertaken by each of the project components.
36. In addition, the project will conform to UNDP's usual practices as regards monitoring and evaluation, and will therefore be subject to a mid-term evaluation and a tripartite review within 12 months of the project's effective start-up date.

ANNEX I
BUDGET FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING OF THE ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL
FOR PREPARING THE INITIAL NATIONAL COMMUNICATION OF GABON

Information to be included into The national communication	Enabling activity to produce the information needed	Type of Activity			Total Costs in US\$
		Planning/ execution	Capacity Building		
			Inst.	Training	
1. National circumstances	Compilation of the info from existing sources	-	-	-	-
2. Greenhouse gas inventory	Data gathering and an inventory of GHG emissions	30,000	17,500	17,500	65,000
3. General description of steps (a) programs related to sustainable development, research, public awareness, etc.; (b) policy options for monitoring systems and response strategies for impacts; (c) policy frameworks for implementing adaptation measures & response strategies; (d) building capacity to integrate climate change concerns into planning; (e) programs to address climate change and its adverse impacts, including the abatement of increase in GHG emissions and enhancement of sinks	An assessment of potential impacts of climate change in the country	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
	An analysis of potential options to adapt to the impacts of climate change	20,000	5,000	15,000	40,000
	An analysis of potential options to abate the increase in GHG emissions and enhance sinks.	20,000	5,000	15,000	40,000
	Formulation of programs and policy frameworks for implementing the identified response measures and public awareness.	20,000	10,000	10,000	40,000
4. Other information: a) Financial and technological needs & constraints associated with the implementation of the Convention under art. 4 and 12 b) projects for financing c) material for calculation of global emission trends	Based on the results of the studies, compilation and preparation of the additional information that the country wants to present in its national communication	10,000			10,000
5. Compilation and production of national communication	Preparation, translation, and publication of national communication.	10,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
Project management		30,000	25,000	15,000	70,000
Monitoring/Evaluation		10,000			10,000
Subtotal		155,000	72,500	82,500	310,000
Project support services(3%)		9,450			9,450
GRAND TOTAL		164,450	72,500	82,500	319,450
Percentage of total budget		51.5%	22.7%	25.8%	100%

ANNEX II
STANDARD ACTIVITY MATRIX FOR CLIMATE
GABON

Enabling Activity Commitment	Planning and Execution	Data Gathering and Research	Institutional Strengthening	Training & Education
1. <u>National Circumstances</u>	X	NA	NA	NA
2. <u>Greenhouse Gas Inventories</u>				
1. All Energy Sources	X	X	X	X
2. Industrial Processes	X	X	X	X
3. Agricultural Processes	X	X	X	X
4. Land Use Change & Forestry	X	X	X	X
5. Other Sources	X	X	X	X
3. <u>General Description of Steps</u> (taken or envisaged to Implement the Convention)	X	X	X	X
* (a) Public Awareness, etc.	X		X	X
* (b) Assessment of Impacts	X	X	X	X
- Coastal Zones	X	X	X	X
- Agriculture	X	X	X	X
- Fisheries	X	X	X	X
- Forestry	X	X	X	X
- Natural ecosystems	X	X	X	X
- Other Impacts				X
* © Adaptation Options (Stage1)	X	X	X	X
* (d) Integrating Climate concerns into Planning Processes	X	X	X	X
* (e) Identification of Abatement Programs	X	X	X	X
energy related	X	X	X	X
industry	X	X	X	X
agriculture	X	X	X	X
Land use change and forestry	X	X	X	X
Other	X	X	X	X
4. <u>Other Information</u>	X	X	X	X
Calculation of Emission Trends	X	X	X	X
Financial and Technological Needs	X	X	X	X
and Constraints for	X	X	X	X
Projects for Financing	X	X	X	X
National Communications	X	X	X	X
Vulnerability Assessment	X	X	X	X
Adaptation	X	X	X	X

In the context of communication-related enabling activities.

x - Activity yet to be undertaken

ANNEX III

COP GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF INITIAL COMMUNICATIONS BY PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

[Source: FCCC/CP/1996, decision 10/CP.2, Annex.]

1. The guidelines for the preparation of initial communications by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-annex I Parties) have five principle objectives, taking into account Article 4.7:

(a) To assist non-Annex I Parties in meeting their commitments under Article 12.1;

(b) To encourage the presentation of information in ways that are, to the extent possible, consistent, transparent and comparable as well as flexible, and to take into account specific national situation and requirements for support to improve the completeness and reliability of activity data, emission factors and estimations;

(c) To serve as policy guidance to the interim operating entity of the financial mechanism for the timely provision of financial support needed by the developing country Parties to meet the agreed full costs in complying with their obligations under Article 12.1, as referred to in decision 11/CP.2;

(d) To facilitate the process of preparation, compilation and consideration of the communications, including the preparation of compilation and synthesis documentation; and

(e) To ensure that the Conference of the Parties has sufficient information to carry out its responsibilities to assess the overall aggregated effects of the steps taken by the Parties in the light of the latest scientific assessments concerning climate change, and to assess the implementation of the Convention.

Scope

2. In accordance with Article 12.1, the communication should include:

(a) a national Inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent its capacities permit, using comparable methodologies to be promoted and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties;

(b) A general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the convention; and

(c) Any other information that the Party considers relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in its communication, including, if feasible, material relevant for calculations of global emission trends.

National Circumstances

3. In presenting the information, non-Annex I Parties should specify their national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances on the basis of which they will address climate change and its adverse impacts. The description of these circumstances can cover a wide range of information. In addition to information which can be conveniently presented in a table (see table I below), Parties may present basic economic, geographic and climatic information, as well as other factors relevant to climate change of any nature, such as, for example, features of their economy which may affect their ability to deal with climate change.

4. Parties may provide a brief description of existing institutional arrangements which are relevant to the preparation of the inventory on a continuing basis, or a list of perceived deficiencies in this area.

5. Parties may also present information on their specific needs and concerns arising from the adverse effects of climate change and/or the impact of the implementation of response measures, especially on:

- (a) Small island countries;
- (b) Countries with low-lying coastal areas;
- (c) Countries with arid and semiarid areas, forested areas and areas liable to forest decay;
- (d) Countries with areas prone to natural disasters;
- (e) Countries with areas liable to drought and desertification;
- (f) Countries with areas of high urban atmospheric pollution;
- (g) Countries with areas with fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems;
- (h) Countries whose economies are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export, and /or on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products;
- (i) Landlocked and transit countries; and
- (j) Other special considerations foreseen in Article 4.9 (least developed countries) and Article 4.10 (fossil-fuel dependency), as appropriate.

6. In presenting the information, wherever applicable, Parties should present numerical indicators. For example, they might present data expressed in terms of affected percentage of land area, population, gross domestic product (GDP), etc.

Inventory

7. There is a clear need for adequate and additional financial resources, technical support and technology transfer to supplement the efforts towards capacity building for preparation of the national inventories.
8. The Guidelines for the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Technical Guidelines for Assessing climate Change Impacts and Adaptation or the simplified default methodologies adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) should be used by non-Annex I Parties, as appropriate and to the extent possible, in the fulfillment of their commitments under the Convention.
9. Information should be provided on the following greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), to the extent the Party's capacities permit. In addition, Parties are encouraged to include in their national inventories the full-fluorinated compounds, as appropriate. Other greenhouse gases included in the IPCC methodology may be included at the discretion of the Parties. Emissions from bunker fuels should be reported separately from national emissions.
10. Parties should strive to present the best available data in table (see table II below), to the extent their capacities permit, and try to identify the areas where the data may be further improved in future communications through national capacity building. Additional information, such as, for example, expression of the results in terms of socio-economic, geographical indicators deemed relevant by each country, may also be provided.
11. As recognized by the IPCC in its Second Assessment Report there is still great uncertainty associated with net anthropogenic emissions resulting from activities other than combustion of fossil fuels. Such activities include, inter alia, methane emissions from agriculture and waste sectors, coal mining, biomass burning; carbon dioxide emissions from land use change and forestry; and nitrous oxide emissions from all sectors. Since the emissions resulting from these activities depend on local circumstances, and make up a large proportion of the national emissions of non-annex I Parties, such Parties should make efforts to obtain field observation data to decrease the uncertainties associated with the inventory of these emissions, taking into account the further development of the IPCC methodology.
12. It is further recognized that such improvement of the quality of emission data, in addition to improving the transparency and comparability of national emissions inventories, also improves knowledge of the relationship between global emissions and resulting atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases, and therefore aids significantly the task of estimating the emission limitations or reductions required to achieve a given concentration level of greenhouse gases, the ultimate objective of the Convention.

13. Non-Annex I Parties are thus encouraged to formulate cost-effective national, and where appropriate regional, progress aiming at the improvement of the quality of local emission factors and appropriate data gathering, and to submit requests for financial and technical assistance to the interim operation entity of the financial mechanism of the convention in addition to their request for the preparation of their initial communications.

14. Non-Annex I Parties should provide the best available data in their inventory. To this end such data should be provided for the year 1994. Alternatively, non-Annex I Parties may provide such data for the year 1990.

General description of steps

15. In accordance with Article 12.1, each non-Annex I Party should communicate a general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the Convention. Taking into account the chapeau of Article 4.1, the initial communication should seek to include, as appropriate:

(a) Programs related to sustainable development, research and systematic observation, education and public awareness, training, etc;

(b) Policy options for adequate monitoring systems and response strategies for climate change impacts on terrestrial and marine ecosystems;

(c) Policy frameworks for implementing adaptation measures and response strategies in the context of coastal zone management, disaster preparedness, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, with a view to integrating climate change impact information, as appropriate, into national planning processes;

(d) In the context of undertaking national communication, building of national, regional and /or sub-regional capacity, as appropriate, to integrate climate change concerns in medium and long-term planning;

(e) Programs containing measures the Party believes contribute to addressing climate change and its adverse impacts, including the abatement of increase in greenhouse gas emissions and enhancement of removals by sinks.

Other Information

16. In accordance with Article 12.7 the Conference of the Parties should use the information in initial communication in arranging for the provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support, on request, in compiling and communicating information under Article 12, as well as in identifying the technical and financial needs associated with proposed projects and response measures under Article 4.

17. Developing country Parties may, in accordance with Article 12.4, on a voluntary basis, propose projects for financing, including specific technologies, materials, equipment, techniques or practices that would be needed to implement such projects, along with, if

possible, an estimate of all incremental costs, of the reductions of emissions and increments of removals of greenhouse gases, as well as an estimate of the consequent benefits.

18. Non-Annex I Parties may provide any other information relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention, including, if feasible, materials relevant for calculation of global emission trends, constraints and obstacles, etc.

Financial and technological needs and constraints

19. Non-Annex I Parties may describe the financial and technological needs and constraints associated with the communication of information. In particular, and following the evolving recommendations of the conference of the Parties through its subsidiary bodies, the description may cover needs and constraints associated with the further improvement of national communications, including reduction of the margin of uncertainty in emission and removal variables through appropriate institutional and capacity-building.

20. According to national priorities, non-Annex I Parties may include a description of financial and technological needs associated with activities and measures envisaged under the Convention.

21. Information on national technological needs related to measure to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change may be included in the communication.

22. Information on relevant financial and technological needs relating to the assessment of national, regional and/or sub-regional vulnerability to climate change may be added in the communication. This may include, where appropriate, information related to data-gathering systems to measure climate change effects in particularly vulnerable countries or regions or to strengthen such systems; and identification of a near-term research and development agenda to understand sensitivity to climate change.

Timing of submission of the initial communication

23. There is a need to take into full consideration the circumstances and vulnerabilities of developing country Parties, keeping in mind that the extent to which developing countries will effectively implement their commitments under Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed countries of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology.

24. In accordance with Article 12.5, the timing of submission of the initial communication is within three years of entry into force of the Convention for that Party or of the availability of financial resources in accordance with Article 4.3

Structure and executive summary

25. The information provided in accordance with these guidelines should be communicated by a Party to the Conference of the Parties in a single document. Any

additional or supporting information may be supplied through other documents such as a technical annex.

26. The initial communication should include an executive summary that would present the key information and data from the full document. The executive summary will be translated and distributed widely. It would be useful to envisage an executive summary of no more than 10 pages.

Language

27. The communications may be submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations. Non-Annex I Parties are also encouraged to submit, to the extent possible and where relevant, a translation of their communication into English

Table I - National Circumstances

Criteria	1994
Population	
Relevant areas (square kilometres)	
GDP (1994 US\$)	
GDP per capita (1994 US\$)	
Estimated share of the informal sector in the economy in GDP (percentage)	
Share of industry in GDP	
Share of services in GDP (percentage)	
Share of agriculture in GDP (percentage)	
Land areas (used for agricultural purposes (square kilometres)	
Urban population as percent of total population	
Livestock population (desegregate as appropriate)	
Forest area (square kilometres, define as appropriate)	
Population in absolute poverty	
Life expectancy at birth (years)	
Literacy rate	

ANNEX IV
PROPOSED WORK SCHEDULE

Months Activity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	X	X																		
2			X	X	X	X	X	X												
3									X	X	X	X								
4												X	X	X						
5														X	X	X	X			
6																	X	X	X	X
7																				