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FROM RAFAEL ASENJO UNDP GEF

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Global Environment Facility

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November 8, 1999

Mr. Rafael Asenjo
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Asenjo,

I wish to inform you that the CEO has approved the PDF B request for *Regional (Benin, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria): Reversing Land and Water Degradation Trends in the Niger River Basin* which was discussed in the Bilateral Review Meeting with UNDP on June 14, 1999.

Please find attached a copy of the project tracking sheet for your records.

Sincerely,

Kenneth King
Assistant Chief Executive Officer

cc: Mr. Lars Videus
GEF Executive Coordinator
World Bank

INCOMING MAIL	
UNDP/GEF	
TO:	RAJET
ACTION:	John Hough B. Facal P. Chan
DATE	
cc:	NOV 10 1999
	Pat Hartung G. O'Brien
FILE:	

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
PROPOSAL FOR PDF BLOCK B GRANT

Country: Regional: Main Basin of the Niger River – Benin, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria

GEF/Focal Area: International Waters (with Land Degradation)

GEF Programming: OP #9: Integrated Land and Water Multiple Focal Area
(Also: Land Degradation; OP #1: Arid and Semi-Arid Zone Ecosystems; OP #2: Coastal, Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems)

Project Title: Reversing Land and Water Degradation Trends in the Niger River Basin

PDF Request: US\$ 350,000 GEF

Co-Financing: US\$ 70,000 Governments
US\$ 18,000 Niger Basin Authority
US\$ 30,000 UNDP

Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / World Bank

Executing Agency: Governments / UNOPS

Block: PDF Block B

Block A Grant: Yes (UNDP-GEF \$25,000/UN-DESA \$25,000)

Duration: 10 months (July 1999-April 2000)

PROJECT SUMMARY

The objective of the project is to support the nine riparian countries of the Niger River Basin in their efforts to work together to assure the sustainable development and management of the basin's land and water resources, including protection of its unique drylands environment and associated biodiversity. The nine countries that share the basin (Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad) are all signatories to the Convention that led to the creation of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA). The proposed project would be implemented in three phases. Phase 1, the subject of this PDF-B assistance request, will include, among other things, development of a framework transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) for the five riparian countries that share the main stem of the Niger River. Phase 1 will also include, as part of the framework TDA, identification of initial transboundary priority issues that will be the subject of pilot demonstration projects in Phase 2 of the Project. In addition to the implementation of the pilot demonstration projects, Phase 2 will include the formal integration of the remaining four riparian countries into project work, development of a full TDA

- for the entire Basin, and development of a Strategic Action Program (SAP) for the entire basin. Phase 3 of the project will be the SAP implementation phase. The NBA will serve as the Regional Coordinating Agency for, and at the request of, the participating countries.

This preparatory support (Phase 1) will have seven principal outputs:

- Strengthening of the existing consultative process among the five initial participating countries;
- within the participating countries, involvement of a broad array of stakeholders including local communities, local and sub-national governments and institutions, the private sector and the NGO community;
- through the NBA, establishment of a project informational and consultative process for all NBA members;
- preparation of an initial, five country TDA summarising key issues, and priorities;
- an initial evaluation of the current, combined national water resources development scenarios and their individual and, to the extent possible, their combined impact on the natural and human environment;
- identification of 2 demonstration projects, in line with the findings of the framework TDA, in each of the five initial participating countries; and
- preparation of a full GEF proposal for Phase 2 of the Project.

Development of the TDA and SAP, and SAP implementation, provide the focus of GEF support to the countries and to the NBA. GEF support will provide overall project structure and act as a management tool against which progress toward sustainability can be measured. The project is designed to address GEF priorities in the Integrated Land and Water Operational Program (OP #9) of the International Waters Focal Area, with special emphasis being given to the Land Degradation Component of OP #9.

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This Project will complement, benefit from, and work directly with other GEF IW Projects in the Senegal River Basin and Lake Chad, both of which are concerned with desertification issues and are part of the overall GEF effort to emphasize land degradation activities in Africa. Further collaboration will be sought with the Canary Current and Volta River GEF IW projects, both under the aegis of the UNEP.

Last, the projects mentioned above will both form and be informed by the Africa Land and Water Degradation initiative of the Implementing Agencies. The increasing, explicit level of cooperation between and among Implementing Agencies, the initial example being described in Annex 1, will help ensure that these projects offer benefits to and will derive benefits from the Africa Land and Water Initiative once it is developed and implementation begins.

1. CONTEXT

1.1 The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The GEF was created to facilitate international cooperation in order to protect the global environment in four specific areas, biodiversity, climate change, ozone depletion and international waters. The International Waters (IW) Focal Area of the GEF has three Operational Programs (OP) or (OPs). The IW OPs include the Waterbody-Based, Integrated Land and Water, and Contaminants Based OPs. This proposal will address issues directly relevant to the Integrated Land and Water Based OP, or OP #9.

The long-term objective of OP #9 is *"To achieve multiple global environmental benefits through implementation of IW projects which utilize integrated land and water management strategies that help achieve changes in sectoral policies and activities while promoting sustainable development."* This goal is further refined *"....to help groups of countries to utilize the full range of technical, economic, financial, regulatory and institutional measures needed to operationalize sustainable development strategies for international waters and their drainage basins..... Prevention is stressed here while remediation is stressed in the waterbody-based OP."*

For purposes of this project the Land Degradation Component of OP #9 has special significance. The Land Degradation Component states that *"Improved watershed and catchment management, sustainable land-use and conservation systems, as well as sound sectoral development and economic policies are essential to addressing transboundary water-related environmental concerns related to land degradation."* The Land Degradation Component further states that *"Support for preparation of water resources management strategies by riparian countries for a transboundary dryland basin is a common characteristic of these projects, providing a basis for the harmonization of sectoral water uses among basin countries in an environmentally sustainable manner."*

The sustainable development of the Niger River Basin and the protection of its dryland and aquatic resources and associated biodiversity will require harmonization of the basin's riparian development objectives, the assessment of the environmental impact of development options, and the formulation and implementation of an integrated management plan that includes specific, identified action elements. These requirements will clearly transcend national capacities and priorities and will require financial and technical resources significantly beyond those that can be mobilised by each riparian state singly or in combination.

It is expected that development and full implementation of the SAP will occur under future GEF proposals. The global environmental benefits that would accrue as a result of the three project phases include:

- Effective collaboration between and among the nine countries of the Basin (all members of the NBA) in addressing transboundary environmental issues of regional/global concern;
- Avoidance of conflict in competing for limited water resources in a regional and globally important arid region;
- Prevention of land degradation in the Basin;
- Conservation of an important inland biome, and its associated biodiversity, in an arid setting;
- Preservation of critical habitat for 350 bird species, of which 108 are palearctic migratory species;
- Effective integration of the results of this project, to the extent possible, with those of associated GEF International Waters projects such as the Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) project, the Lake Chad Project, and the Senegal River Project; and
- Demonstration of an open and transparent consultative process based on the exchange and sharing of information as a mechanism for international river basin management.

The scope of this proposal will cut across several GEF focal areas. In addition to its focus on International Waters, the project will in general address important biodiversity issues of regional and global importance that are the subject of the Biodiversity Focal Area. Specifically, the proposal will address land degradation issues relevant to Operational Program # 1, Arid and

1.2 The Niger River Basin

The Niger River, with its 4130 km, is the third longest river in Africa and the 14th longest in the world. In terms of surface area, the Niger is the world's ninth largest river system. Its geographic basin includes vast desert zones with large valleys undergoing fossilization.

The Niger plays a crucial role in the and for the countries through which it flows. It provides rapidly growing riparian populations with invaluable fishery resources whose exploitation until recently was sustainable. The flood plains of the River are extensively used for the cultivation of rice, cotton, and, in the northern-most area of the Basin, wheat.

The Niger River rises in the Southern face of Fouta-Djallon in Guinea, a highland area with an elevation of approximately one thousand meters. Initially, the river and its main tributaries run along abrupt slopes. Then from Kouroussa to Bamako, when entering Mali, the river becomes navigable. Before the River enters the Inner Delta, at the southern edge of the Sahara Desert. Its flow, including those of its tributary the Bani River, averages approximately 45 billion m³/year. The flood plain of the river as it flows along the southern edge of the Sahara covers, on average, approximately 20 000 to 30 000 km².

The Niger provides habitat for over 130 aquatic species, including fish, hippopotami, crocodiles, and sea-cows. Further, the important vegetable biomass created by the expanse of these humid zones constitutes a unique reservoir of biodiversity and an essential barrier against desert encroachment. In particular, the inner delta of the Niger is considered to be one of the most important inundated zones in the world and an exceptional biotope in a sahelian zone. It is the center of a fundamentally important, diverse and unique array of vegetable and animal resources that are globally significant and of fundamental importance for the development of the countries in the region.

The Basin can be separated into four major, distinct geographic sub-systems.

The **Upstream Area of the Basin** effectively serves as the water tower of the Niger, and is seen to have to offer the possibility for bringing about partial regulation of discharges throughout the reach of the river. The upstream areas of the Massif are currently experiencing an increase in mining activity, which creates economic opportunity as well as the potential for upstream pollution that could affect downstream areas. The upstream reaches in the Massif are also subject to frequent bush fires, anthropogenic in nature, and increasing amounts of deforestation. At present the only significant control structure affecting the upper reaches of the Niger River is the Selingue Dam on the Sankarani River, a tributary of the Niger. This dam, a single purpose, hydro generating structure, seasonally regulates the equivalent of approximately five percent of average upstream volumes.

The **Inner Delta of the Niger River** is a vast zone in Mali and has experienced significant development. This area provides most of Mali's rice supply, a major crop the production of which is enhanced in part by the Markala diversion dam, which is used to irrigate approximately 70,000 hectares. The Inner Delta area contains over 20% of Mali's population, and is the source of, on average, 90,000 metric tons of fish per year. During the dry season the Inner Delta provides grazing and water supply for up to one million head of cattle and two million sheep and goats. The three million animals that use the Delta for grazing, water-supply and forage move

between and among Mali, Burkina-Faso and Mauritania, thus giving the rich, dry-season Delta plain international significance and importance.

In **Niger** there is a series of **Irrigated Terraces** extending from Kandadji, just North and West of Niamey, to Gaya, located at the boundary between Niger and Nigeria. These irrigated terraces cover approximately 15,000 hectares of which approximately 10,000 are committed to rice production. The remaining area of the valley is used in large measure to provide grazing and water for approximately 830,000 head of cattle. Limited areas of the valley are protected and there is little information concerning environmental values.

The **Niger River Basin Area of Nigeria** is characterised by large hydro-power producing dams and growing industrial production. Energy production primarily derives from two dams, the Kainji and Jebba, which together provide 68% of Nigeria's hydroelectric supply and 22% of the total national power supply. At present, Nigeria's power demand is outstripping its supply, a condition that is likely to worsen in the future. It is thus clear that increased, upstream uses of water for any purpose will be of interest to Nigeria as the downstream riparian with a stake in maximising downstream flows for hydroelectric power production, particularly during periods of dry season flows. Nigeria has formally expressed concern regarding these issues to the NBA, and is one example of the growing need for the NBA to assume a stronger regional presence.

Threats to the Niger River Basin Ecosystem

The natural resources and environment of the Niger River Basin have become dangerously fragile due to the joint, and reinforcing effects of a diminished rainfall pattern since the early 1970s and human pressures exerted on natural resources and environment by growing and impoverished populations that have few alternatives to current patterns of use.

For almost 25 years, the Sahel has been experiencing persistent drought which has led to :

- a reduction of approximately 37% of average supplies (1974-1994) to the Niger River as compared to the period of record from 1907 to 1973;
- a reduction in the alluvial aquifer recharge which contributes to the drop in supplies to the river; and
- a reduction in sand transportation capacity due to reduced water levels, while eolian, mechanical and hydraulic erosion is stronger because of the desertification of slopes and the degradation of banks, which result from human and animal pressure. This process results in the increased siltation of tributaries and the main river-bed.

As drought conditions persist, human pressure on natural resources and conflicts over use increase. In the inner delta, the concentration of human activities (animal husbandry, fishing, agriculture) on low land during low flow periods or drought conditions have been generating conflict that comes of an increase in the number of users and a decrease in the amount of available productive land. The humid zone, the maritime delta and the coastal zone are also being degraded. Sources and causes of degradation include, among other things, local pollution, overexploitation of groundwater resources, and morphologic changes due largely to land subsidence and decreased river sediment carrying capacity, which leads to increased flooding, siltation and habitat destruction. As the drought continues and land productivity declines, high population growth places additional stress on available resources.

The rule curves of the Selingue and Markala dams give priority to hydro generation and irrigation, in that order. Fortunately, peak demand comes during the dry season and discharged water yields a significant dry-season benefit to downstream aquatic resources up to Niamey. This support was

especially critical during the extreme dry years of 1984, 1985 and 1990 when flows decreased dangerously in relation to Niamey's municipal water supply. Regulatory capability of these dams is limited. For example, during the dry season the Selingue Dam, notwithstanding that it has reservoir capacity of 2 Billion m³, seasonally retains less than 5% of water volumes entering the inner delta. Thus the extent of regulation is not sufficient to give substantial downstream protection of ecosystem values and certain human uses. It should be noted that while the Selingue Dam is controlled to assist the dry-season need to protect aquatic habitat, dams in the region generally have been constructed without prior coordination and consultation among the various countries or even among stakeholders within the same country.

In summary, conditions in the Niger River Delta make it imperative that the nine Basin riparian states work collaboratively to create an anticipatory capacity to minimize disruption to peoples and environments in the face of continuing drought and human pressure. The escalating and negative consequences of drought and human pressure on the resources and people of the region cannot be as effectively addressed at the national level. The GEF is designed to ensure a regional, multi-country collaborative process needed to create future and enhance current levels of cooperation between and among participating countries as they strive to create a sustainable future for the Basin.

1.3 Prior Activities

The NBA, UNDP, UN-DESA, WMO, FAO, UNESCO, the European Union, France, the Netherlands, Japan, Germany, the USA, the OPEC, British Council, other agencies and several NGO's have sponsored projects related to the development of the Niger River Basin and its environment and natural resources. Following is a sample of projects previously funded:

- A 1964 USAID project to establish a library and information unit at the NBA;
- A 1969 UNDP-FAO project to assist the NBA in the formulation of policies and strategies for participation in the development of the Basin;
- A 1977-86 USAID sponsored project to develop an integrated development plan for the Basin whose central element was the preparation of a model on the simulation of river sedimentation;
- A 1978-82 NBA/FAC (France) project, (*Modele Mathematique du Fleuve Niger*), to develop a hydraulic model of river flows and flood zones to simulate levels for existing and future medium irrigation projects and to gather detailed information on low flows between Selingue and Niamey;
- A US\$ 5,000,000 project called HYDRONIGER. The HYDRONIGER system became operational in 1990. It is and provides a means to forecast flow patterns and thus assist countries in drought and flood control activities. It is the largest forecasting system in West Africa and utilizes satellite data collection capability and 65 data collection platforms in eight of the nine NBA member countries. HYDRONIGER was funded by the EEC, UNDP, and OPEC with member countries also providing resources for its development;
- A 1995 ECA funded initiative to develop a proposal for a legal framework for the management of the Basin's international waters; and
- A 1995 ECA sponsored study to develop a comprehensive inventory of Basin water projects, analyze major basic investments, recurrent costs, a cost sharing formula, and a cost recovery plan; and
- A 1993 grant from the International Bank for Information on Francophone States for the computerization of the NBA's documentation center composed of 7000 documents;

In addition to the above, the UN-DESA, at the request of the UNDP, undertook in 1995 a pre-performance/diagnosis of the adequacy and effectiveness of national and regional institutions, national legislation pertinent to the region, Niger River development stakeholders, water resources,

evolution of water requirements, dams, environmental concerns, and ongoing actions. High level meetings with the relevant Ministers in Niger and Bamako indicated growing political will to effectively address river protection issues and thus give renewed impetus to international cooperation and support.

Further, the Japanese Government through JALDA has and continues to sponsor an analysis of desertification. The major objective of the program is to develop strategies to enhance living conditions of people living in desertified areas of the Basin. Currently, three pilot projects have been established, one each Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali. The project seeks to develop manuals and fund on-the-ground, community based initiatives in three phases. Phase 1, undertaken from 1985-1990, resulted in a study for agricultural development in the Basin. Phase 2 included an assessment and test applications of desertification control techniques. And Phase 3, recently initiated, is intended to consolidate major accomplishments from the first two phases. This phase will continue to the year 2001. It is expected that the proposed GEF Project, with its strong focus on desertification, will complement and build upon the successful experiences of this JALDA funded effort.

Lastly, the UNDP-GEF initiated, with the support of UN-DESA a PDF-A grant to begin the process of country collaboration under the auspices and to foster constructive engagement with the NBA. Work undertaken during the PDF-A result in, among other things, an understanding that information concerning developments in individual countries is rarely made available to the other riparian states, thus increasing the likelihood that misunderstanding and mistrust could easily increase, particularly in the context of continued drought and increasing human pressure on the natural resource base and the environment. The arrival of a new Executive Director of the NBA in 1998 reinvigorated that organization and has resulted in, among other positive initiatives, the organization of the Abuja (Nigeria) Ministerial Conference and the Bamako Colloquium in April of 1999.

PDF-A consultations, undertaken by UN-DESA, took place in four countries, involved more than 200 resource persons (government officials, professional organizations, scientists, foreign assistance personnel, locally elected leaders, manufacturers, water technicians, fishermen, herders, irrigation laborers, final users, and NGOs). Individuals and groups consulted were asked to comment on their perceptions of a range of issues pertinent to the basin and identified, among other things:

- Perceptions of the adequacy of existing Basin institutions, existing, relevant national policies, existing management regimes and regulations, and current levels of stakeholder participation;
- Views of how to assure integrated and equitable management of international waters, including groundwater resources, consistent with the conservation of the basin's unique drylands array of flora and fauna;
- Assessment of the rehabilitation needs for damaged aquatic habitat and the protection of biodiversity linked to international waters;
- Recommendations on systems required to reduce or prevent hazards linked to pollution, flooding, low water conditions, and desertification;
- The need for pre-investment studies to ultimately secure funding for identified priority actions and the impacts of possible future structures;
- Measures that might be employed to curb siltation;
- Measures that might be taken to control the growing problem of water hyacinth;
- Cartographic and surveying needs, particularly in irrigated areas; and
- The adequacy of existing public information practices and procedures.

Notwithstanding this history of support, coordination within each country for Basin projects remains inadequate. The role of the NBA was to have been assurance of an effective coordination function for regional level activity. The effectiveness of the NBA in relation to this coordination function has been inadequate. This inadequacy has resulted in a steady decrease in donor interest and member state support. The result has been an NBA with limited personnel and program capability. In mid-1998 there was a re-mobilization of the member countries to support the NBA. The continuation of the JALDA Project for a second phase of five (5) years, and, as previously mentioned, the appointment of a new Executive Secretary for the NBA has begun to reinvigorate the role of the NBA as convenor, facilitator and coordinator of a regional approach to the Basin. There continues to be an urgent need, however, for the NBA, through its member states, to re-define and give added support to its intervention strategy, regain its credibility, and become a more transparent, participatory regional entity which does not overlook the environmental needs of the basin.

2. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

2.1 Current Circumstances/Problems to be Addressed

At present there are several major barriers that need to be removed if the participating countries and the NBA are to make progress in their attempts to secure a sustainable future for the Niger River Basin ecosystem. Work undertaken to date, and other consultations indicate that:

- Mechanisms are inadequate to achieve integrated development at the national and sub-national levels. At the local, departmental, and national levels, policy development and institutional, legal, and scientific frameworks have been generally insufficient to assure the coherent, inter-sectoral coordination of the water and associated resources of the Basin.
- There is an inadequate level of cooperation and coordination at the regional level. At the regional level, coordination of planning and implementation efforts between and among countries has been deficient. NBA member states and basin stakeholders acknowledge that, at present, the NBA has little authority and minimal impact. Further, effective donor coordination has recently been largely absent due in part to the lack of any framework to assure greater levels of information exchange, coordination, and implications of action at the regional level.
- Despite the efforts that have taken place within the Basin, there continues to be inadequate understanding of, and thus formulation of an effective action plan to protect and enhance the physical, socio-economic and environmental sub-systems of the basin. Despite the significant technical and scientific studies that have been undertaken, important gaps remain
 1. in systemic and integrated analysis of both national and transboundary water resources and water resource utilization (surface water and ground water) questions throughout the basin, and among sectors;
 2. in hydraulic functioning of run-off in flood zones, infiltration routes, and evaporation in the inner delta;
 3. in terms of the feasibility, appropriateness, potential transboundary effects and environmental implications of structural solutions (control structures) intended to bring greater predictability of flows throughout the basin;
 4. in terms of the relationship among natural resources, socio-economic questions, the environment, and the need to jointly define and prioritize issues of a transboundary nature; and
 5. in relation to the development of an integrative mechanism for joint actions, ensuring effective communications between and among nations and sectors,

monitoring, regulation, and the joint creation of approaches and measures to sustain the availability of high quality freshwater resources.

More specifically, while work undertaken during the PDF-A resulted in the development of an initial information base that will be useful to development of a TDA. Work undertaken during the PDF-A was restricted to four of the five countries that, with the addition of Benin, are the subject of this proposal. Work under the PDF-A was not intended to secure the necessary level of interministerial activity and in-depth analyses needed to satisfy GEF project requirements. That level of activity will take place beginning with the PDF-B and continuing through the project phase. The PDF Block B grant is essential since it will establish the framework in which the next two, more comprehensive project phases can be successfully implemented. It is expected that the successful engagement of the five riparian states that share the main stem of the Niger will set the stage for the expanded, successful inclusion of the remaining four countries of the NBA during Phase 2 and Phase 3.

2.2 Anticipated Results at the End of This Assistance

Results of this anticipatory assistance include:

- establishment of a Project consultative process among the five initial participating countries, and led by the NBA;
- within the participating countries, involvement of a broad array of stakeholders including local communities, local and sub-national governments and institutions, and the NGO community;
- through the NBA, establishment of an informational and consultative process for all NBA members;
- preparation of an initial, five country framework TDA summarising key issues, priorities, and future options in each of the participating countries;
- an initial evaluation of water resources development scenarios, and their individual and, to the extent possible, their combined impact on the natural and human environment;
- after country, NBA, and PCU review of the framework TDA, identification of 2 demonstration projects in each of the five initial participating countries;
- preparation of a full GEF proposal for Phase 2 of the Project; and
- establishment of a collaborative relationship between the UNDP and the WB as co-implementing agencies and the integration of the project with other ongoing basin efforts such as the World Bank sponsored project on the inner delta of the Niger River.

Development of the TDA and SAP, and SAP implementation will, during full project implementation, provide the focus of GEF support to the countries and to the NBA by providing overall project structure and acting as a management tool against which progress can be measured. The full project will be designed to address GEF priorities in the Integrated Land and Water Operational Program (OP #9) of the International Waters Focal Area, with special emphasis being given to the Land Degradation Component of OP #9.

2.3 Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the PDF-B support will be the five participating governments and a full range of stakeholders in the five countries. Protection will have been secured for a range of biological resources vulnerable to desertification, potable water supplies for growing urban populations, fishing, animal husbandry, and small and medium scale irrigation. Such protection will accrue to the benefit of the participating countries, the region, and to the global community through conservation of biological resources in an important dryland environment. PDF support will also result in strengthening of individual country and NBA capacity to provide the regional leadership necessary to long term sustainability for the region.

2.4 Implementing Agency Cooperation

As noted in the attached Annex 1, the UNDP and the World Bank are co-Implementing Agencies for this project. The IAs intend to use their comparative advantages for this and other West Africa IW projects as mentioned previously in this document.

3. ACTIVITIES/TIMETABLE

3.1 Activities

Activity 1: Identification of the Project CTA and Secretarial Support. The international, collaborative nature of the proposed activities and the compressed timeframe of this PDF-B makes necessary a full-time, professional presence to assure timely and efficient completion of PDF activities up to and including development and approval of a Phase 2 GEF Project Brief. The CTA will also be responsible for ensuring effective, ongoing mechanisms for communications between and among the various organizations and other key constituencies of the project, including communications with the four NBA countries that are not a formal part of this PDF activity. The hiring would be done with the agreement of UNDP-GEF and the Executing Agency in consultation with the NBA, acting on behalf of the participating countries.

Activity 2: Confirmation of Lead Agencies and Senior Lead Agency Officials in each of the Participating Countries. An early task of the CTA will be to confirm the participating country Lead Agency and recruit the country Lead Agency Senior Officials to serve as the primary project contact point during the course of the PDF activity. Lead Agency designations are already in place in the participating countries. For example, in Nigeria the Department of Hydrology and Hydrogeology has been designated as the GEF Project Lead Agency, while in Guinea, Mali, Benin and Niger, the respective Directorates of National Water Resources will serve as Lead Agencies. The Lead Agency and Senior Lead Agency Official will be crucial to ensuring country level involvement, building country level project commitment, and ensuring broad involvement during the conduct of country-based activity. The Lead Agency will also be instrumental in securing the requisite interministerial level involvement in national level TDA work.

Activity 3: Review and Synthesis of Existing Materials to Inform the Process of TDA Development. The work of country level interministerial committees and the five country participatory workshops would be well served by the preparation and distribution of an updated synthesis of available basin studies that have been undertaken to date. International and national consultants will be utilized for this purpose.

Activity 4: Five Country-Based Participatory Workshops to Critique the Synthesis of Existing Material and to Generally Form and Inform TDA Preparation. Users of system resources are the key to long-term sustainability in the region. It is essential, therefore, that broad stakeholder involvement characterize the work of the project beginning with work undertaken during this

PDF. The workshops will be organized under the general supervision of the project CTA and will be directly organized by national consultants in direct cooperation with the designated country Lead Agency. The Project Brief will be specific on the nature and extent of stakeholder group participation in final project design.

Activity 5: TDA Development in the Five Participating Project Countries. This work will be informed by the creation and input of an interministerial committee organized by the Country Lead Agency and chaired by the Lead Agency Senior Official. The work of TDA input at the national level will also benefit from the work and report of the national level participatory workshops identified in Activity 4 and the synthesis of existing materials referenced in Activity 3.

Activity 6: Development of a Regional Framework TDA/Identification of 10 Pilot demonstration Sites. This work will be under the direction of the CTA, coordinated with and through the NBA, and will involve international and national consultants as necessary. Regional TDA development will be informed by the synthesis study of existing materials, country workshop reports, country interministerial reports, and other available materials. The framework TDA will include a list of 10 pilot demonstration sites that will be funded as part of the Phase 2 GEF project. The pilot demonstration sites will be selected based upon an analysis of the most pressing priority transboundary issues as identified in the TDA process. Selection criteria for the pilot demonstration sites will be described in the Project Brief.

Activity 7: Development of the GEF Project Brief. Development of the GEF project Brief will be the direct responsibility of the CTA under Implementing Agency guidance and with the Executing Agency, the participating countries and the NBA. It will be informed by the Framework TDA and will make provision for the inclusion of the additional four NBA countries that were not directly involved in this PDF activity.

Activity 8: Ministerial Level Meeting of the 9 NBA Countries. This meeting will be held under the auspices of the NBA, and sponsored by UNDP-Niger. Its objective will be endorsement of the Project Brief and Project Document and to discuss initial organization for implementation of the first phase GEF project. The meeting is seen as necessary to increase the extent of country level "buy-in" for the GEF project and underline the importance of the NBA as the crucial ingredient to the emerging regional approach to protect and conserve the important biological resources of the Niger River Basin Ecosystem.

3.2 Activity Calendar

Project Preparation Activities will commence in June 1999 and will be completed in June, 2000. A Project Brief will be submitted to the GEF for consideration as early as possible after completion of the PDF-B. The envisaged calendar of activities is as follows:

August 1999	Hiring of the Project CTA, Secretariat Support and Organization for Project Implementation;
September 1999	Designation of Lead Agencies and Senior Lead Agency Officials in each of the Five Participating Countries;
Sept./Nov. 1999	Review and Synthesis of Existing Materials to Inform the Process of TDA Development;

Dec. 99/Jan. 00

Five Country-based, Participatory Workshops to Critique the Synthesis of Existing Materials and to Assist in the Identification of Gaps to be Filled;

Sept. 99/Jan. 00

Framework TDA Development in the 5 Project Countries;

February 00

Framework TDA Developed/Identification of 10 Pilot Demonstration Sites (2 in each Participating Country)/Begin Development of GEF Project Brief;

March 00

Finalization of Phase 2 GEF Project Brief ;

End of PDF-B

Meeting of the 9 NBA Countries under Auspices of the NBA to Endorse the GEF Project Brief/Country Focal Point Endorsement.

4. BUDGET

4.1 Budget Narrative

Upon approval of this request, detailed Terms of Reference will be prepared for the CTA, international and national consultants, and secretarial support. The NBA will provide working space and limited communications capability for the project. The GEF Block B grant requested is US\$ 350,000. The total PDF B project development costs are estimated at US\$ 467,000 which includes US \$ 118,000 from non-GEF Sources, \$30,000 of which is from UNDP.

The cost attributed to governments are cash and in-kind. They include provision of facilities for meetings and the work of visiting consultants/experts, salaries of national personnel from government research institutes, universities and regulatory agencies who will be involved in the preparation of national reports and participation in regional consultations.

Additional, so far uncoded, contributions are anticipated from participating National Agencies. These will primarily be in-kind and will include staff salaries, some mission costs, and preparation of technical reports.

4.2 PDF B Budget-(US\$)

Activity	Timing	Co-finance	GEF1	Total
Start up	Aug	6,000	11,000	17,000
In-country organization	Sept	6,000	20,000	26,000
Review and synthesis of materials	Sept-Nov	18,000	70,000	88,000
Country workshops	Dec-Jan	50,000	91,000	141,000
TDA development	Sept-Jan	12,000	73,000	85,000

1 Provision will be made in the GEF contribution to assist the World Bank to actively participate in the work of the project. The amount of the contribution will be US\$ 17,500.

Regional integration and pilot activity definition	Feb	6,000	37,000	43,000
GEF Project Brief and donor discussions	Mar	6,000	32,000	38,000
Ministerial meeting	Mar	14,000	15,000	29,000
Total		118,000	349,000	467,000

5. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

Implementation of the PDF B will be led by UNDP in close collaboration with the World Bank, building on the respective strengths of the two agencies and in the context of the broader developing partnership between the two agencies to address land and water issues in Africa including, but not limited to, the basins of the Lake Chad, and the Niger, Okavango and Senegal river systems.

Annex ____

This Annex is intended to describe the collaborative relationship that will exist between the UNDP and the World Bank in relation to certain International Waters projects in West Africa. The initial such collaboration will include two projects: the UNDP GEF project titled Reversing Land and Water Degradation Trends in the Niger River Basin, and the World Bank project titled Senegal River Basin Water and Environmental Management Program.

As noted the UNDP and the World Bank are co-Implementing Agencies for this project. The IA's intend to use their comparative advantages for this and other Africa IW projects as mentioned previously in this document.

The World Bank role in the Niger Basin will be to assist in project implementation through its strong technical team of 14 people in Washington, D.C., work in the important area of policy reform in the participating countries, bring to bear its strong technical presence at the national levels, and assist in the identification of and actions leading to project related investment follow-up. It is anticipated that the PDF-B for the Niger River Basin will result in the identification of groundwater issues being deemed a priority concern, and that policy reform in the participating countries, reform necessary to reverse land and water degradation trends in this important region, will also become a requirement. Resources of the PDF-B have been provided to assist the World Bank to carry out the role described above. Further, during full project implementation project resources will be made available to continue the important World Bank role, consistent with the findings of the PDF-B.

The UNDP role in the Senegal River Basin project will be to contribute its on-the-ground strength and resulting trust it builds with national governments, directly facilitate workshops and the convening of key stakeholders consistent with its comparative advantage in capacity building, work to secure national country-based financial resources to complement project activities, and provide important links to other UN Agencies such as DESA and UNIDO. The UNDP has already committed resources valued at US\$ 100,000 for the World Bank project. The UNDP will also contribute expert resources to assist in strengthening existing institutional arrangements and NGO participation. Resources from the PDF-B are being provided to complement the existing UNDP financial commitment and further assist the UNDP to carry out the role described above. As with the Niger River Basin project, resources of the full project will be made available to continue the UNDP role, consistent with the findings of the PDF-B.

The respective UNDP and WB Task Managers have been and will continue to be in direct and ongoing contact to facilitate the work of the projects and to ensure maximum levels of cooperation to bring about project success. As an immediate step the IA's will compile its respective water activities within the project area and suggest how these activities can contribute to the basin wide program. Specific additional joint activities will be sought and acted upon by the respective Task managers as the project is developed and implemented.