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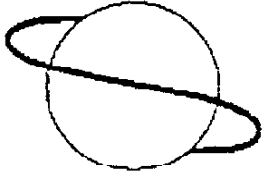
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Third meeting
Buenos Aires, Argentina
4 to 15 November 1996
Item 6.1 of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

The Conference of the Parties decided at its first meeting to instruct the restructured Global Environment Facility to prepare and submit through the Secretariat an annual report on its operations in support of the Convention. Attached to this note is the Draft Report to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, prepared by the Global Environment Facility. The report will remain in draft form until adopted by the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its meeting from the 8 - 10 October 1996.

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Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.8/10
September 4, 1996

GEF Council
October 8 - 10, 1996
Agenda Item 10

DRAFT

REPORT OF THE GEF TO THE THIRD MEETING
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the GEF to prepare and submit through the Convention Secretariat an annual report on its operations in support of the Convention. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the GEF "to take the following comments into account when preparing the report to be submitted to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

- (a) Detailed information should be provided on the conformity of the approved work programs with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) A list of projects submitted by eligible country Parties and information on their status should be included."¹

2. At its meeting in April 1996, the GEF Council approved an approach for reporting to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity consistent with the guidance of the Convention. This approach is to submit to each Conference of the Parties the most recent GEF Annual Report and Quarterly Operational Report, together with a report prepared specially for the Conference of the Parties containing factual updates to the two documents and an analysis of the GEF activities in the area of biological diversity demonstrating how the Convention's guidance has been implemented.

3. This report has been prepared in response to the request of the Conference of the Parties for the GEF to report on its activities in the area of biological diversity. It has been approved by the Council for submission to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity together with the *GEF Annual Report* for 1995 and the *Quarterly Operational Report* (July 1996). The GEF Annual Report, Section II, Biological Diversity, covers the activities of the GEF in the area of biological diversity for fiscal year 1995 (July 1, 1994 through June 30, 1995). This report covers the period of July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1996, and addresses the year's activities since the last report to the Conference of the Parties.

II. GEF COUNCIL MEETINGS

4. The GEF Council met three times during the period July 1, 1995 to June 30 1996: July 18 to 20, 1995, October 25 to 27, 1995, and April 2 to 4, 1996. At each Council meeting the Convention on Biological Diversity was represented by the Executive Secretary of the Convention. The Executive Secretary addressed each meeting and participated in a question and answer session with the Council.

¹ Decision II/6, *Financial Resources and Mechanism*, paragraph 6.

5. During the reporting period, the Council made the following decisions of direct relevance to GEF biodiversity activities:

- (a) Approval of the GEF Operational Strategy;
- (b) Approval of two work programs, which brings the GEF financing for biodiversity activities to a total of US\$ 437.11 million through June 1996. These projects include US\$ 293.79 million of co-financing, which results in total project financing for biodiversity activities amounting to US\$ 730.90 million.
- (c) Approval of expedited procedures and an initial allocation of \$30 million to support enabling activities;
- (d) Approval of terms of reference for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP). In reviewing the terms of reference, the Council requested that STAP interact in a collaborative and cooperative manner with the scientific and technical bodies of the Conventions. The Council noted that STAP's work should be complementary, and *not duplicative*, to the work of the Convention bodies;
- (e) Approval of the GEF policy on public involvement in GEF-financed projects; and
- (f) Agreement to request that the Secretariat prepare for Council consideration a proposal on ways to streamline the processing and financing of medium-sized projects.

III. GEF OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

6. The GEF Operational Strategy, which fully incorporates the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, was developed to guide the GEF in the preparation of country-driven initiatives in its four focal areas, including biological diversity. Specifically, the GEF Operational Strategy chapter concerning biological diversity activities recognizes that:

"The GEF's objectives in biological diversity derive from the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights

*over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding."*²
*All GEF-funded activities in biodiversity will be in full conformity with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity."*³

7. The GEF Operational Strategy was prepared on the basis of consultations and preparatory work of the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Implementing Agencies. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was invited to attend relevant meetings so as to ensure that the strategy fully integrated the guidance approved by the Conference of the Parties.
8. In accordance with the guidance, the GEF Operational Strategy provides for three categories of activities: (i) operational programs encompassing long-term measures, (ii) enabling activities, and (iii) short-term response measures. Land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as it relates to biodiversity issues has also been addressed in the strategy for biological diversity activities.
9. The strategy provides that long-term measures are to be developed within the context of an operational program. An operational program is a conceptual and planning framework for the design, implementation, and coordination of a set of projects to achieve a global environmental objective. It organizes the development of country-driven projects and ensures systematic coordination between the Implementing Agencies and other actors.
10. In the area of biological diversity, four initial operational programs have been identified:
 - (i) Arid and semi-arid ecosystems;
 - (ii) Coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems (including wetlands);
 - (iii) Forest ecosystems; and
 - (iv) Mountain ecosystems.
11. Copies of the GEF Operational Strategy will be made available at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

² Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 1.

³ GEF Operational Strategy, page 14.

IV. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

A. Enabling activities and implementation of Article 6 of the Convention

12. Both Decision II/6, *Financial Resources and Mechanism* and Decision II/7, *Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention*, adopted by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, requested the GEF to facilitate urgent implementation of Article 6. Decision II/6 states:

"The Conference of the Parties requests the interim institutional structure operating the financial mechanism to facilitate urgent implementation of Article 6 of the Convention by availing to developing country Parties financial resources for projects in a flexible and expeditious manner."

13. The GEF Operational Strategy defines enabling activities in biodiversity as;

"[Activities] that prepare the foundation to design and implement effective response measures to achieve Convention objectives. They will assist recipient countries to develop national strategies, plans or programs referred to in Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to identify components of biodiversity together with processes and activities likely to have significant adverse impacts on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. They will normally involve the review and assessment of information and will assist a recipient country to gain a better understanding of the nature and scope of its biodiversity assets and issues as well as a clearer sense of the options for the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity. Enabling activities include supporting country-driven activities for taking stock of or inventorying biodiversity based on national programs and relying on studies, without new primary research; identifying options and establishing priorities to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity; preparing and developing biodiversity planning exercises, such as national strategies, action plans and sectoral plans; and disseminating of information through national communications to the Convention on Biological Diversity.⁴

14. In order to facilitate and expedite the preparation and implementation of enabling projects, the GEF has taken the following steps:

- (a) Operational Criteria for enabling activities in the area of biological diversity have been prepared. These criteria will facilitate project preparation and

⁴ GEF Operational Strategy, page 21.

adoption. The criteria have been developed in consultation with the GEF Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariat;

- (b) an expedited process for approving enabling activities project proposals consistent with the operational criteria was approved, recognizing the urgency for implementing these activities and in light of their preparatory nature to enable countries to move forward in implementing the Convention;
- (c) an initial allocation of US\$ 30 million was approved for enabling activities to expedite a broad effort of enabling activities in support of biodiversity and climate change conventions;
- (d) the GEF and the Convention Secretariats have taken steps to inform eligible countries of the availability of financial resources to assist the implementation of enabling activities.

15. In the period addressed by this report, fifteen project proposals for enabling activities, with GEF-financing of US\$ 3.926 million, have been approved. Of these, fourteen were approved under expedited procedures. With these projects, the GEF has provided enabling assistance to 41 countries, including country studies, national plans and other enabling activities components. Total funding for these activities to date is US\$ 64.18 million. The developing country Parties assisted include:

Albania, Argentina, Bahamas, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, China, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malawi, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Syria, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen and Zaire.

16. In addition, during the reporting period, ten proposals for project preparation financing were approved to prepare projects that will provide enabling activities in the following eligible countries:

Argentina, Benin, Botswana, Ghana, Lesotho, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Uganda, and Zaire.

17. Given the urgency of activities to enable developing country Parties to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Implementing Agencies expect to submit an additional 40 enabling activity projects proposals during the 1997 fiscal year (July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997).

B. Project Preparation Financing

18. The Project Development and Preparation Facility (PDF) provides GEF financing for preparing project proposals. 49% of PDF resources approved to date are for the preparation of biodiversity projects. An analysis of the GEF pipeline suggests that a large number of PDF-funded proposals mature into full projects. Therefore, PDF proposals can provide the Conference of the Parties with an idea of future GEF activities in the area of biodiversity. During the reporting period, 35 PDF proposals were approved in the area of biological diversity, totaling US\$ 4.67 million in project preparation funds. It is estimated that the PDF financing approved during this reporting period should result in approximately US\$ 120 million in GEF support to biodiversity projects. A list of approved PDF resources is contained in Annex A to this report. At the Council meeting in April 1996, the Implementing Agencies informed the GEF Council that a number of projects in the area of biodiversity are in an advanced stage of preparation.

C. Projects in the Area of Biodiversity

19. The Council approved all biological diversity project proposals presented in the two proposed work programs submitted to it during the period addressed by this report. In preparing proposals for inclusion in the proposed work programs, the Implementing Agencies fully took into account the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties at its two meetings. The views of the Convention Secretariat were solicited on each project proposal in the area of biological diversity when the project proposals were reviewed at the meetings of the GEF Operations Committee prior to submission to the GEF CEO for inclusion in the proposed work program.

20. Twenty biodiversity project proposals were approved by the GEF Council or by the GEF Chief Executive Officer during the period July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1996 with GEF-financing of US\$ 25.93 million, and total project financing of US\$ 57.10 million. Fifteen proposals are for enabling activities (see above) and five are investment and technical assistance project proposals. The developing country Parties implementing the latter project proposals are:

Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Peru, South Africa, Swaziland, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

21. A list of approved biodiversity project proposals is included in Annex B to this report. A fuller description of each project proposal is included in *the Quarterly Operational Report* (July 1996).

Small Grants Programme

22. The GEF Council approved in October 1995 an additional allocation of US\$ 24 million for the small grants program. The small grants program was established to complement the larger GEF work program by focusing specifically on community-based activities, often implemented through NGOs, to address local aspects of global environmental challenges. 147 small grants have been allocated in the area of biodiversity, and an additional 21 grants are for projects that address all four focal areas. These projects represent approximately 70% of the small grants financing allocated during the reporting period. For detailed information, please see the *Quarterly Operational Report* (July 1996). Small grants have been allocated for biodiversity activities in the following developing country Parties:

Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe.

Financing for biological diversity activities outside the financial mechanism

23. The GEF Instrument provides that when financing is provided outside the framework of the financial mechanism of the Convention, GEF grants for activities within the biodiversity focal area are only to be made available to eligible recipient countries that are party to the Convention.⁵ Furthermore, the GEF Operational Strategy specifies that when GEF provides assistance outside the financial mechanism, it will ensure that such assistance is fully consistent with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.⁶ With regard to the period addressed in this report, two project proposals are for activities in countries not eligible for financing under the financial mechanism (Lithuania and Ukraine). Even though these projects are financed outside the financial mechanism, the guidance of the Conference of the Parties has been followed by the Implementing Agencies in preparing the project proposals, and the views of the Convention Secretariat were sought on each proposal.

Leveraging

24. One of the ten operational principles of the GEF Operational Strategy provides, "in seeking to maximize global environmental benefits, the GEF will emphasize its catalytic role and leverage additional financing from other sources."⁷ In the present reporting period, the project co-financing exceeded that provided by the GEF: total project financing was approximately US\$ 57 million of which over US\$ 25 million was provided from GEF resources and almost US\$ 32 million was leveraged from other

⁵ *Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF*, paragraph 9(b).

⁶ *GEF Operational Strategy*, page 14.

⁷ *GEF Operational Strategy*, page 2.

sources.⁸ In totality, financing for biodiversity activities through June 1996 was US\$ 730.90 million of which over US\$ 437 million was provided from GEF resources and almost US\$ 240 million was leveraged from other resources.

International waters projects

25. It should also be emphasized that many projects in the GEF focal area of international waters include significant biodiversity activities. The following international waters project proposals and proposals for project preparation, approved during the reporting period, contribute directly to the conservation and sustainable use of fresh, marine and coastal biodiversity elements. Total GEF financing for these activities is US\$ 40.2 million and total project financing is over US\$ 90 million.

TABLE 1: PROJECT PREPARATION FINANCING IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL WATERS INCLUDING SIGNIFICANT BIODIVERSITY COMPONENTS

TITLE	GEF FINANCING	TOTAL FINANCING
Lake Ohrid (Albania/Macedonia)	285,000	285,000
Aral Sea Basin. Env. Management (Kazakhstan, Iran, Turkmenistan)	340,000	340,000
Bermejo River (Argentina/Bolivia)	280,000	280,000
Red Sea and Gulf for Aden (Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen)	340,000	340,000
Okavango Delta (Angola, Botswana, Namibia)	350,000	350,000
Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria)	347,000	347,000
Dnieper River Basin (Belarus, Russia, Ukraine)	261,000	261,000
Black Sea (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine)	49,000	49,000
Danube River Basin (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tcheck., Ukraine)	290,000	290,000
TOTAL FINANCING	2,542,000	2,542,000

⁸ GEF Operational Strategy, page 2.

TABLE 2: PROJECT PROPOSALS IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL WATERS INCLUDING SIGNIFICANT BIODIVERSITY COMPONENTS

TITLE	GEF FINANCING	TOTAL FINANCING
Lake Victoria (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda)	35,000,000	77,800,000
Gulf of Aqaba (Jordan)	2,700,000	12,670,000
TOTAL FINANCING	37,700,000	90,470,000

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTION GUIDANCE

26. In response to the request of the Conference of the Parties, this section summarizes how the financial mechanism has responded to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties.

27. The policy, strategy, program priorities and eligibility criteria for access to utilization of financial resources adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties⁹ were taken fully into account in preparing the GEF Operational Strategy, and are being further incorporated into the biodiversity operational programs under development pursuant to the strategy. The strategy also provides that "the GEF will maintain the flexibility needed to respond to new developments and incorporate continuing guidance from the relevant Conventions and the GEF Council."¹⁰

Guidance from the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (November/December 1994)

28. The Conference of the Parties identified thirteen program priorities at its first meeting¹¹. The GEF has funded a number of activities in response to these priorities. The following describes the GEF activities approved during the reporting period which respond to each of the program priorities.

⁹ UNEP/CBD/COP/1/17, Decision 1/2, Annex I.

¹⁰ GEF Operational Strategy, page 1.

¹¹ UNEP/CBD/COP/1/17, Decision I/2, Annex I, paragraph 4.

- (a) *Projects and program that have national priority status and that fulfill the obligations of the Convention*

29. The GEF Operations Committee (GEFOP) ensures that GEF projects are country driven. Project proposals are prepared in accordance with the GEF Operational Strategy, which specifies "GEF programs and projects will be country-driven"¹² The GEF project cycle specifies that a letter of endorsement from a country's national operational focal point must accompany each project proposal. The Conference of the Parties has determined that only developing country Parties are eligible to receive GEF financing under the Convention's financial mechanism. The view of the CBD Secretariat concerning eligibility is sought on each project proposal.

30. The GEF Instrument also specifies that a country must be a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to receive GEF financing in the area of biological diversity.¹³

- (b) *Development of integrated national strategies, plans or programs for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components in accordance with article 6 of the Convention*

31. Enabling activity projects address this program priority. Fifteen enabling activity projects were approved during the reporting period. In order to expedite further enabling activities, a number of measures have been taken (See paragraphs 12 to 17).

- (c) *Strengthening conservation, management and sustainable use of ecosystems and habitats identified by national Governments in accordance with article 7 of the Convention*

32. One regional project, *Inventory, Evaluation and Monitoring of Botanical Diversity in Southern Africa*, (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) particularly addresses this program priority. Other projects have components which respond to the priority.

- (d) *Identification and monitoring of wild and domesticated biodiversity components, in particular those under threat, and implementation of measures for their conservation and sustainable use*

33. Financing to prepare three project proposals supporting this program priority has been approved. They are:

¹² GEF Operational Strategy, page 3.

¹³ Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF, paragraph 9(b).

PROJECT PROPOSALS

COUNTRY	TITLE
Africa (Uganda, Zaire)	Survival for Northern White Rhino
India	Coral Reefs Rehabilitation and Management Project
Indonesia	Coral Reefs Rehabilitation and Management Project

(e) *Capacity-building, including human resources development and institutional development and/or strengthening, to facilitate the preparation and /or implementation of national strategies, plans for priority programmes and activities for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components*

34. The GEF Operational Strategy provides: "GEF operations will be programmed in three broad, interrelated categories: Operational programs, Enabling activities and Short-term response measures." Enabling activities provide assistance for capacity-building and are aimed at the preparation of national strategies and plans. (see paragraphs 12 to 17).

35. In addition, the following approved project preparation financing and project proposals address the program priorities described in this paragraph:

PROJECT PREPARATION FINANCING

COUNTRY	TITLE
Regional (Anigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago)	Development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for Small Island States of the Caribbean
Chad	Building Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation
Ghana	Development of Policy and Institutional Framework for Bioprospecting
Lesotho	Developing a Biodiversity Conservation Program for Lesotho
Romania	Biodiversity Priority Setting and Action Plan
Zaire	Building Institutional Capacity to Strategically Plan and Manage for Biodiversity and Protected Areas

PROJECT PROPOSAL

COUNTRY	TITLE
Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela),	Action for Sustainable Amazonia

(f) *In accordance with Article 16 of the Convention, and to meet the objectives of conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components, projects which promote access to, transfer of and cooperation for joint development of technology*

36. The regional project, *Inventory, Evaluation and Monitoring of Botanical Diversity in Southern Africa* (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) responds to this program priority.

(g) *Projects that promote the sustainability of project benefits; that offer a potential contribution to experience in the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components which may have application elsewhere; and encourage scientific excellence*

37. Among the projects approved during the fiscal year, the following respond, in particular, to this priority:

COUNTRY	TITLE
Regional (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe),	Inventory, Evaluation and Monitoring of Botanical Diversity in Southern Africa
Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru)	Biodiversity Enterprise Fund for Latin America

- (h) *Activities that provide access to other international, national and/or private sector funds and scientific and technical cooperation*

38. One of the operational principles for development and implementation of the GEF's work program is "in seeking to maximize global environmental benefits, the GEF will emphasize its catalytic role and leverage additional financing from other sources."¹⁴ During the reporting period, the following projects have leveraged additional resources:

COUNTRY	TITLE
Comoros	Island Biodiversity
Vietnam	Creating Protected Areas for Resources Conservation
Regional (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)	Inventory, Evaluation and Monitoring of Botanical Diversity in Southern Africa
Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru)	Biodiversity Enterprise Fund for Latin America

39. Among these projects, the Biodiversity Enterprise Fund for Latin America will support the establishment of a fund of up to \$30 million to make equity and quasi-equity investments in Latin American companies that sustainably use or protect biodiversity.

¹⁴ *GEF Operational Strategy, page 2.*

- (i) *Innovative measures, including in the field of economic incentives, aiming at conservation of biological diversity and/or sustainable use of its components, including those which assist developing countries to address situations where opportunity costs are incurred by local communities and to identify ways and means by which these can be compensated, in accordance with article 11 of the Convention*

40. The following project preparation financing and project proposals contain innovative measures, including the use of economic incentive measures to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use:

PROJECT PREPARATION FINANCING

COUNTRY	TITLE
Brazil	Juruena Feasibility Study for Industrial Production of Non-timber Forest Products

PROJECT PROPOSALS

COUNTRY	TITLE
Vietnam	Creating Protected Areas for Resources Conservation
Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela)	Action for Sustainable Amazonia
Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru),	Biodiversity Enterprise Fund for Latin America

- (j) *Projects that strengthen the involvement of local and indigenous people in the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components*

41. As stated in paragraphs 35 and 36 of this report, the Council approved a policy on public involvement in GEF projects. GEF-financed projects will provide for consultation and participation, as appropriate, of local and indigenous communities. The following project highlights in particular the involvement of local and indigenous communities:

COUNTRY	TITLE
Comoros	Island Biodiversity
Vietnam	Creating Protected Areas for Resources Conservation

- (k) *Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of coastal and marine resources under threat. Also, projects which promote the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components in other environmentally vulnerable areas such as arid and semi-arid and mountainous areas*

42. Among four initial operational programs under development in the area of biodiversity, three address these listed priorities. They are:

- (a) Arid and semi-arid ecosystems
- (b) Coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems (including wetland), and
- (c) Mountain ecosystems.

43. Project preparation financing and project proposals approved during the reporting period, which respond to this priorities are:¹⁵

¹⁵ See also Tables 1 and 2 which provide information on international waters activities that include biodiversity components.

PROJECT PREPARATION FINANCING

COUNTRY	TITLE
Regional (Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles)	A Marine Biodiversity Conservation Programme for the Western Indian Ocean
Regional (Angola, Botswana, Namibia)	Integrated Okavango River Basin Hydro-Environmental Project
Regional (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia)	Mediterranean Wetlands
Regional (Lebanon, Jordan)	Germplasm for Arid Lands and Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of Dryland Biodiversity within Priority Agro- Ecosystems
India	Conservation and Management of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
India	Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project
Indonesia	Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project
Uganda	Biodiversity and Conservation in Non-Protected Areas

PROJECT PROPOSALS

COUNTRY	TITLE
Comoros	Island Biodiversity
Vietnam	Creating Protected Areas for Resources Protection

(1) *Projects that promote the conservation and/or sustainable use of endemic species*

44. The following approved activities address the conservation and/or sustainable use of endemic species:

PROJECT PREPARATION FINANCING

COUNTRY	TITLE
Lebanon	Strengthening of National Capacity and Grassroots In-Situ Conservation for Sustainable Biodiversity Protection
Peru	In-Situ Conservation of Native Cultivars and Wild Relatives
Regional (Lebanon, Jordan)	Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of Dryland Biodiversity within Priority Agro-Ecosystems
Sierra Leone	Genetic Resource Network

PROJECT PROPOSALS

COUNTRY	TITLE
Comoros	Island Biodiversity
Regional (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)	Inventory, Evaluation and Monitoring of Botanical Diversity in Southern Africa

(m) *Projects aimed at the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components which integrate social dimensions including those related to poverty*

45. The GEF Operational Strategy provides that: "GEF projects will be linked with national sustainable development efforts;"¹⁶ "sustainable achievement of global biodiversity benefits ... are related to appropriate national policy frameworks and plans of sectoral, economic, and social development;"¹⁷ and "GEF activities will be designed so as to ... be environmentally, socially and financially sustainable."¹⁸

46. Project preparation and project proposals funded by the GEF in the area of biodiversity do integrate social dimensions, including those related to poverty. Some particularly relevant examples from this reporting period are:

¹⁶ GEF Operational Strategy, page 3.

¹⁷ GEF Operational Strategy, page 14.

¹⁸ GEF Operational Strategy, page 3.

PROJECT PREPARATION FINANCING

COUNTRY	TITLE
Regional (Angola, Botswana, Namibia)	Integrated Okavango River Basin Hydro-Environmental Project
Benin	Preperation of a National Parks Management and Conservation Plan
Ghana	Development of Policy and Institutional Framework for Bioprospecting
India	Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project
Indonesia	Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project
Uganda	Biodiversity and Conservation in Non-Protected Areas

PROJECT PROPOSALS

TITLE	AMOUNT
Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela	Action for Sustainable Amazonia
Vietnam	Creating Protected Areas for Resources Conservation

Guidance from the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (November 1995)

47. After reviewing the guidance approved by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, it was considered that the new guidance could be addressed fully within the context of the approved GEF operational strategy. Furthermore, the guidance of the Convention is being emphasized in the preparation of the operational programs called for in the strategy. Additional operational programs will be identified and prepared as required to fulfill the evolving guidance of the Conference of the Parties. Specific actions undertaken in response to the requests of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, such as expediting enabling activities and medium-sized grants and preparing a report on modalities to provide support to developing country Parties for capacity-building in relation to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism, are described below.

Decision II/3, paragraph 9, requests the GEF to explore the modalities of providing support through the financial mechanism to developing country Parties for capacity-building in relation to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

48. The GEF and Convention Secretariats have been consulting closely with one another with regard to the clearing-house mechanism. The GEF has prepared a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties on its efforts to explore modalities of providing support to developing country Parties for capacity building in relation to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism. The report is before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision II/6, paragraph 5, requests the GEF to facilitate urgent implementation of Article 6.

49. A description of how this request is being addressed is presented in the section of this report describing enabling activities.

Decision II/6, paragraph 6, requests the GEF to incorporate fully, on an ongoing basis, guidance from the Conference of the Parties into the further development of the GEF Operational Strategy and programs. The Conference of the Parties also requests the GEF to take the following comments into account when preparing the report to be submitted to the third Conference of the Parties:

(a) Detailed information should be provided on the conformity of the approved work programs with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) A list of projects submitted by eligible country Parties and information on their status should be included.

50. The guidance of the Convention is being emphasized in the preparation of the operational programs foreseen in the GEF strategy. Additional operational programs will be identified and prepared as requested to fulfill the evolving guidance of the Conference of the Parties.

51. The present GEF report responds to the requirements contained in Decision II/6. Detailed information has been provided in the present report on the conformity of the approved work programs with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties. A list of projects submitted by eligible country Parties and information on their status is presented in Annex C.

Decision II/6, paragraph 7, requests the GEF to take additional appropriate steps to expedite the project preparation and approval process.

52. The GEF is continuously seeking to streamline its project cycle and to expedite the project preparation and approval process. During the current reporting period, a number of significant improvements have been made or are under consideration.

- (a) The Council agreed to the approval of work programs by mail in the period between regular Council meetings. This will facilitate work program review by doubling the opportunities for Council approval of project proposals.
- (b) Recognizing the urgency of providing assistance to facilitate urgent implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, the Council approved an expedited approval process of enabling activities. At a recent GEF management meeting agreement was reached on steps to simplify internal review and consultation and to promote early disbursement of project financing after approval of enabling activities projects.
- (c) The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare for its consideration a proposal on ways to streamline the processing and financing of medium-sized projects. This proposal will be considered by the Council at its meeting in October 1996.
- (d) At a meeting of GEF Heads of Agency in June 1996, the Chairman/CEO briefed the Heads of Agency on the status of programming of GEF financial resources, commitments and disbursements. It was noted that, while the quality of GEF projects has risen appreciably over time, and the ability to commit resources to projects is proceeding satisfactorily, disbursement of funds continue to be a problem. The President of the World Bank outlined the steps he is undertaking within the Bank to streamline its project

cycle and documentation and indicated that he will ask Bank staff to explore ways to reduce in half the processing time of GEF projects within the Bank's control. The Heads of UNDP and UNEP indicated that their staff will also explore opportunities for speeding up processing and disbursement in their agencies even further.

Decision II/6, paragraph 8, requests participation of a representative of SBSTTA and of STAP in respective meetings of SBSTTA and STAP on a reciprocal basis.

53. On a regular basis, the STAP invites the Chair of SBSTTA to attend, or send a representative to, each of its meetings.

Decision II/6, paragraph 10, recommends GEF to explore the possibility of promoting diverse forms of public involvement and more effective collaboration between all tiers of government and civil society, including the feasibility of a program of grants for medium-sized projects.

54. The GEF Operational Strategy provides that: 'GEF projects will provide for consultation with, and participation as appropriate of, the beneficiaries and affected groups of people.'¹⁹ Under the chapter on biodiversity it is further provided that: 'participation of affected stakeholders is of central importance;' and 'effective involvement of local people in GEF's biodiversity activities must be based on knowledge of their social, cultural and economic context and their impacts on biological resources.'²⁰

55. The GEF Council approved the GEF policy on public involvement in GEF projects at its meeting in April 1996. Operational guidelines to assist the Implementing Agencies in incorporating the approved policy in GEF project preparation and implementation are under preparation.

56. As noted in paragraph 5(f), the Secretariat has been requested to prepare for the Council's consideration a proposal on ways to streamline the processing and financing of medium-sized projects. This proposal will be considered by the Council at its meeting in October 1996.

Decision II/7, Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention requests the GEF to facilitate urgent implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention by availing to developing country Parties financial resources for projects in a flexible and expeditious manner.

57. As described above, the GEF is addressing the implementation of article 6 under the rubric of "Enabling Activities" and has adopted procedures for expedited approval of these activities. During the reporting period, fifteen projects were approved containing

¹⁹ GEF Operational Strategy, page 2.

²⁰ GEF Operational Strategy, page 70.

components to assist developing country Parties to develop national strategies, plans or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programs. With these projects, the GEF has provided enabling assistance to 41 countries.

58. To date, the GEF has approved 55 project proposals addressing in-situ conservation in pursuance of Article 8. During the present reporting period, 3 project proposals and 24 proposals for project preparation financing were approved that contain elements addressing in-situ conservation. These are listed in Tables 3 and 4.

TABLE 3: PROJECTS ADDRESSING IN-SITU CONSERVATION

TITLE	GEF FINANCING (US\$ MILLION)	TOTAL FINANCING (US\$ MILLION)
Biodiversity Enterprise Fund for Latin America	5.00	30.00
Comoros Island Biodiversity	2.44	3.28
Vietnam Protected Areas	5.69	5.70
TOTAL FINANCING	13.13	38.98

TABLE 4: PROJECT PREPARATION FOR IN-SITU CONSERVATION

TITLE	GEF FINANCING (US\$)	TOTAL FINANCING (US\$)
Africa (Central), Regional Environment Information Management	25,000	25,000
Africa (Northern), White Rhino	25,000	25,000
Africa (Southern), Biodiversity Sup. Program	24,800	24,800
Argentina, Biodiversity Conservation	289,000	289,000
Benin, Protected Areas	244,000	244,000
Brazil, Jurena Forest Protection	279,900	279,900
Dryland Biodiversity	52,000	52,000
Germplasm Arid Land	55,000	55,000
Global, Establishment of a Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas	350,000	350,000
Honduras, Biodiversity Conservation	300,000	300,000
W. Indian Ocean Marine Program	25,000	25,000
Indonesia, Coral Reefs	280,000	280,000
Integrated Okavango River Basin (Angola, Botswana, Namibia)	25,000	25,000
Lesotho, Biodiversity Program	25,000	25,000
Meso American Corridor	348,000	348,000
Nicaragua, Atlantic Corridor Biodiversity	330,000	330,000

TABLE 4: PROJECT PREPARATION IN-SITU CONSERVATION
(cont.)

TITLE	GEF FINANCING (US\$)	TOTAL FINANCING (US\$)
Pakistan, Biodiversity Strategy	338,000	338,000
Papua New Guinea, Forest Management and Monitoring Program	22,000	22,000
Peru, In-Situ protection	171,500	171,500
Romania, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy	25,000	25,000
Romania, Priority Seating	25,000	25,000
Sri Lanka, Medicinal Plant	345,000	345,000
Uganda, Biodiversity Conservation	289,000	289,000
Venezuela, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity	25,000	25,000
TOTAL FINANCING	3,918,200	3,918,200

Decision II/8 Preliminary consideration of components of biological diversity particularly under threat and action which could be taken under the Convention

59. Although there is no specific request for GEF assistance in the text of this decision, the decision emphasizes the need for capacity-building as well as adequate financial resources for the implementation of the tasks identified in the decision and encourages Parties, as part of their first national report, to identify priority issues specifically related to those components of biological diversity under threat. The GEF is available for assistance in preparing an eligible Party's first national report if so requested by the Party. The GEF is also available to finance project activities aimed at addressing the priority issues identified by the Parties consistent with the guidance of the Convention. The availability of this assistance is made clear in the operational criteria for enabling activities and the GEF Operational Strategy.

60. Two project preparation proposals totaling US\$ 305,000 have been approved during the reporting period to address endangered components of biodiversity. They are for the Survival Plan for Northern White Rhino and Indonesia Coral Reefs.

61. Other policies endorsed in the preamble of the decision, such as using the ecosystem approach as the primary framework of action, identifying the driving forces determining the status and trends of components of biological diversity, stressing the importance of making full use of existing knowledge and available expertise, and emphasizing the need for capacity-building are specifically recognized in the GEF Operational Strategy and contribute to the framework within which GEF project proposals are prepared.

Decision II/17, Form and Intervals of National Reports by Parties, urges the financial mechanism under the Convention to make available financial resources to developing country Parties to assist in the preparation of their national reports.

62. The Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities in the area of biological diversity provide that "in response to the request of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, for the period 1996-1997, enabling activities may also include financial assistance to facilitate the submission of information through national reports to the Conference of the Parties."

63. At the time of preparation of this report, 15 projects have been approved with a component for preparation of the recipient country's national report. About 40 enabling activities projects are expected to be approved in FY97 to address the reporting needs of developing country Parties.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

64. The Council of the GEF would also like to draw the attention of the Conference of the Parties to three additional issues: (a) enabling activities; (b) modalities for providing support through the financial mechanism to developing country Parties for capacity-building in relation to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism; and (c) incremental costs.

A. Outreach to countries

65. As noted in paragraphs 5(c) and 14(c), the GEF Council has approved an allocation of funds for enabling activities together with expedited procedures for approving project proposals. In this regard, the Council also requested the GEF Secretariat to coordinate, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariat, an outreach process to inform recipient countries of the availability of resources for enabling

activities and to assess the requests for financial assistance within the next two to three months.

66. Pursuant to this request, the GEF Secretariat has informed the GEF operational focal points in eligible recipient countries of the Council's decision and the availability of financial assistance for purposes of enabling activities, and in particular, the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and the preparation of the country's national report to the Conference of the Parties. This outreach effort was drawn to the attention of the Convention's focal points in the Administrative Report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention prepared for the Parties.

67. The Conference of the Parties is called upon to assist in this matter by encouraging all Parties that are interested in receiving assistance for enabling activities through the GEF to respond to this outreach effort as early as possible and to collaborate with the GEF Implementing Agencies in preparing and implementing country-specific enabling activity projects.

B. Clearing-House Mechanism

68. As noted in paragraph 28, the GEF, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, has prepared a report on modalities for providing support for capacity building related to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism. The GEF report outlines a number of ways in which the GEF can support developing country Parties with regard to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism. The GEF would welcome any further guidance the Conference of the Parties may wish to provide.

C. Incremental Costs

69. The GEF Council has recognized the need for a flexible application of the concept of incremental costs. The Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies are collaborating on ways to apply the approved incremental costs approach to specific focal areas and projects. As biodiversity projects have presented the most difficulties, efforts will focus on this focal area, recognizing that lessons learned will then be applied as appropriate to the other focal areas. The intention is to develop criteria for projects (training, capacity building, institutional strengthening or planning projects) that lend themselves to a rapid incremental cost assessment. Guidelines will be developed on how to carry out such assessments, and how to identify items that should be financed at *full cost*. For larger investment projects, such as those that address root causes of biodiversity loss by building on a sustainable development activity in a way that also protects the diversity of biological resources, the incremental costs would need a fuller consideration. Paradigms for such analysis will be developed.

LIST OF BIODIVERSITY PROJECT PREPARATION FINANCING
(Approved from July 1995 to June 1996)

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	GEF FINANCING (US\$)
Argentina	Biodiversity Conservation Project	289,000
Benin	Preparation of a National Parks Management and Conservation Project	244,000
Botswana	Integrated Okavango River Basin Hydro-Environmental Project	25,000
Brazil	Juruena Feasibility Study for Industrial Production of Non-Timber Forest Products	279,917
Chad	Building Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Chad	25,000
Ghana	Development of Policy and Institutional Framework for Bioprospecting	49,000
Global	Establishment of a Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas	350,000
Honduras	Biodiversity Conservation	300,000
India	Conservation and Management of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity	24,000
India	Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project	345,000
Indonesia	Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project	280,000
Lesotho	Developing a Biodiversity Conservation Programme for Lesotho	25,000
Nicaragua	Atlantic Biodiversity Corridor	330,000
Pakistan	Biodiversity Strategy	338,000
Papua New Guinea	Forest Management and Monitoring Program	22,000
Peru	In-Situ Conservation of Native Cultivars and Wild Relatives	171,500

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	GEF FINANCING (US\$)
Regional (Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles)	A Marine Biodiversity Conservation Programme for the Western Indian Ocean	25,000
Regional (Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Tunisia)	Building Local NGO Capacity through Biodiversity Survey	24,000
Regional (Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia)	Southern Africa Biodiversity Support Programme	24,800
Regional (Uganda, Zaire)	Survival Plan for Northern White Rhinoceros	25,000
Regional (Egypt)	Southern Mediterranean Sea Environmental Policy	25,000
Regional (Lebanon, Jordan)	Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of Dryland Biodiversity within Priority Agro-Ecosystems	52,000
Regional (Egypt, Tunisia)	Germplasm for Arid Lands	55,000
Regional (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia,)	Mediterranean Wetlands	162,245
Regional (East Asian Seas)	Assessment and Support to Management	25,000
Regional (Caribbean)	Development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for Small Island States of the Caribbean	25,000
Regional (Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama)	Meso American Corridor	348,000

ANNEX A

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	GEF FINANCING (US\$)
Regional	Central African Regional Environment Information Management	25,000
Romania	Biodiversity and Action Plan	25,000
Romania	Biodiversity Priority Setting	25,000
Sierra Leone	Genetic Resource Network	25,000
Sri Lanka	Medical Plant	345,000
Uganda	Biodiversity and Conservation in Non-Protected Areas	289,000
Venezuela	Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity	25,000
Zaire	Building Institutional Capacity to Strategically Plan and Manage for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Zaire	25,000
TOTAL		4,672,462

ANNEX B

LIST OF BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS APPROVED
(Approved from July 1995 to June 1996)

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF FINANCING (US\$ MILLION)	TOTAL FINANCING (US\$ MILLION)
Argentina	Enabling Activities	0.35	0.35
Bahamas	Enabling Activities	0.15	0.15
Bhutan	Enabling Activities	0.12	0.12
Cameroon	Enabling Activities	0.30	0.30
Comoros	Island Biodiversity	2.44	3.28
Ecuatorial Guinea	Enabling Activities	0.30	0.30
Egypt	Enabling Activities	0.288	0.288
Gambia	Enabling Activities	0.243	0.243
Georgia	Enabling Activities	0.12	0.12
Kazakhstan	Enabling Activities	0.12	0.12
Lithuania	Enabling Activities	0.70	0.70
Malawi	Enabling Activities	0.289	0.289
Mozambique	Enabling Activities	0.216	0.216
Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru)	Biodiversity Enterprise Fund for Latin America	5.00	30.00
Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela)	Action for Sustainable Amazonia	3.80	3.80

Note: For a description of the project, see the Quarterly Operational Report.

ANNEX B

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF FINANCING (US\$ MILLION)	TOTAL FINANCING (US\$ MILLION)
Regional (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)	Inventory, Evaluation and Monitoring of Botanical Diversity in Southern Africa	4.725	9.411
Ukraine	Enabling Activities	0.11	0.11
Vietnam	Creating Protected Areas for Resource Conservation	6.04	6.69
Yemen	Enabling Activities	0.29	0.29
Zaire	Enabling Activities	0.33	0.33
TOTAL		25.931	57.107

Note: For a description of the project, see the Quarterly Operational Report.

LIST OF PROJECT IDEAS SUBMITTED BY ELIGIBLE PARTIES
DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD AND THEIR STATUS
(July 1995 to June 1996)

COUNTRY	TITLE OF PROPOSAL	DATE OF SUBMISSION	STATUS OF PROPOSAL	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
Albania	Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan and National Report	June 1996	Approved July 1996	World Bank
Albania, Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia	Conservation of Wetland Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region	November 1995	Approved December 1995	UNDP
Argentina	Biodiversity and Land Use in the Argentine Pampas	February 1996	Not cleared. Does not conform with Op. Strategy (UNDP)	UNDP
Bahamas	National Biodiversity Strategy		Approved April 25, 1996	UNEP
Bhutan	Biodiversity Conservation Plan	August 1995	Approved June 1996	UNDP
Cameroon	National Biodiversity Strategy		Approved April 1996	UNEP
Central American States	Planning and Dev. of a Central American Biological Corridor		Under consideration by UNEP	UNEP
Ecuador	On-Farm Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity	November 1995	Project proposal in late stages of preparation	UNDP
Egypt	National Biodiversity Strategy		Approved April 25, 1996	UNEP
Gambia	National Biodiversity Strategy		Approved June 6, 1996	UNEP
Georgia	Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan and National Report	March 1996	Approved July 1996	World Bank/UNEP

COUNTRY	TITLE OF PROPOSAL	DATE OF SUBMISSION	STATUS OF PROPOSAL	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
Guinea	Guinea Biodiversity Conservation	June 1996	Project idea being considered	World Bank
Guyana	Demonstrating Sustainable Use of Tropical Forest ecosystems	May 1996	Preparing request for project preparation financing	UNDP
India	Water Projects for Mathura and Vrindavan	November 1995	Not eligible. Does not conform with Op. Strategy	UNDP
India	Eco-parks for the treatment of urban sewage using a modified well technology		Not eligible. Does not conform with Op. Strategy	UNDP
India	Protection of Fish Stocks in Bay of Bengni	April 1996	Project Idea under consideration	UNDP
India	Community based natural regeneration of forests in degraded land areas and watershed management	May 1996	Project idea under consideration by UNDP	UNDP
Iran	Biodiversity strategy and Action Plan	January 1996	Project proposal being prepared by UNDP	UNDP
Kazakhstan	Country Strategy on Biodiversity	November 1995	Approved in Council April, 1996	UNDP
Kenya	National Biodiversity Strategy		Project proposal being prepared	UNEP
Latin America (El Salvador, Honduras)	Golfo de Fonseca: An Integrated Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Natural Resources	September 1995	May be incorporated into Mesoamerican Regional Corridor proposal (UNDP)	UNDP

COUNTRY	TITLE OF PROPOSAL	DATE OF SUBMISSION	STATUS OF PROPOSAL	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
Latin America (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama)	Planning and Development of a Mesoamerican Environmental Communications Initiative to Promote Global Environment Objectives	September 1995	May be incorporated into Mesoamerican Regional Corridor (UNDP)	UNDP
Latin America	Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Development and Capacity Building	November 1995	Pending Revision per Op. Strategy by UNDP	UNDP
Latin America	Creating Integrated Policy, Planning & Mgmt Frameworks in Support Ecosystem Protection of the Caribbean Sea	March 1996	Project preparation financing proposal being developed	UNDP
Latin America	Conservation of the Amazon Forest: A Common Strategy Based on the Stabilization of Migratory Agriculture and Sustainable Management of the Forests (BOSQUE)	May 1996	Under consideration taking into account existing initiatives and consistency with the Operational Strategy	UNDP
Madagascar	Environment Program Support	September 1995	Approved July 1996	World Bank
Malawi	National Biodiversity Strategy		Approved April 1996	UNEP
Maldives	Biodiversity Action Plan	July 1995	To be submitted to the Task Force in August 1996	UNDP

COUNTRY	TITLE OF PROPOSAL	DATE OF SUBMISSION	STATUS OF PROPOSAL	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
Mexico	Promotion of Non-Timber Forest Products	October 1995	Project idea under consideration and awaiting GEF focal point endorsement	World Bank
Mongolia	Biodiversity Gobi Steppe/Grassland management	June 1996	Project proposal under preparation by UNDP	UNDP
Morocco	Reforestation for Energy in the Marakkech Region	March 1996	Awaiting government prioritization of project and receipt of proposal for GEF/RBAS assessment (UNDP)	UNDP
Morocco	Improvement of Domestic and small-scale Enterprise Energy in Rural Highlands and sustainable Management of Forest Resources	April 1996	See above	UNDP
Morocco	Organization of an Informational Conference on the National Study on Protected Areas	December 1995	Not eligible. Not directly linked to a Biodiversity operation (World Bank)	World Bank
Morocco	Morocco Preliminary Studies for the Implementation of the National Study on Protected Areas	December 1995	Not eligible, since not focused on preparing a particular project (World Bank)	World Bank
Mozambique	National Biodiversity Strategy		Approved June 1996	UNEP

COUNTRY	TITLE OF PROPOSAL	DATE OF SUBMISSION	STATUS OF PROPOSAL	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
Mozambique	National Coastal Zone Management Program	July 1995	Proposed for project preparation financing	World Bank
Myanmar	Biodiversity Action Plan	October 1995	Project proposal under preparation by UNDP	UNDP
Papua New Guinea	National Biodiversity Strategy		Project proposal being prepared	UNEP
Papua New Guinea	Forestry and Conservation	January 1996	Project preparation financing approved	World Bank
Philippine	Samar Island Biodiversity Project	May 1996	Project proposal under preparation	UNDP
Sudan	Biodiversity Inventory and Strategy	May 1996	Project idea under consideration	UNDP
Sudan	Animal and Crop Diversity	April 1996	Awaiting receipt of project concept for GEF/RBAS assessment (UNDP)	UNDP
Syria	Biodiversity Enabling Project	June 1996	Awaiting preparation of proposal for GEF/RBAS assessment	UNDP
Syria	National Park Protection	November 1995	Under consideration. Proposal will be reformulated into a larger project to begin identification soon	World Bank
Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela	Integrated Management and Protection of Resources of the Gulf of Paria	November 1995	Awaiting Government endorsement letter (UNDP)	UNDP

COMPLETE LIST OF GEF EXPENDITURES
IN THE AREA OF BIODIVERSITY
(THROUGH JUNE 1996)

I. LIST OF GEF PROJECT PREPARATION FINANCING
II. LIST OF ENABLING ACTIVITIES
III. LIST OF APPROVED GEF PROJECT PROPOSALS

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
I. List of GEF Project Preparation Financing			
Argentina	Biodiversity Conservation	0.29	0.29
Bangladesh	Coastal zone management	0.30	0.30
Benin	PA Management	0.24	0.24
Botswana	Integrated Okavango River Basin Hydro Env. Project	0.025	0.025
Brazil	Global Center for Wetland Biodiversity	0.50	0.50
Brazil	Jurena Forest Protection	0.28	0.28
Chad	Capacity Buildign for Biodiversity conservation	0.025	0.025
China	Biodiversity Pre-investment	1.70	1.70
East Asian Seas	Assessment and Support to Management	0.025	0.025
Egypt	Nile Wetlands	0.70	0.70
Eritrea	Conserving Coral Reefs in the Red Sea	0.40	0.40
Ghana	Development of Policy and Institutional Framework for Bioprospecting	0.05	0.05

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
I. List of GEF Project Preparation Financing (cont.)			
Global	Population Land Management and Environment	0.10	0.10
Honduras	Biodiversity Conservation	0.30	0.30
India	Conservation and Management of Biodiversity	0.024	0.024
India	Coral Reefs	0.345	0.345
Indonesia	Coral Reefs	0.28	0.28
Lesotho	Developing Biodiversity Conservation Programme	0.025	0.025
Madagascar	Biodiversity Conservation	0.50	0.50
Mongolia	Biodiversity Conservation	1.00	1.00
Nicaragua	Atlantic Corridor	0.33	0.33
Pakistan	Maintaining Biodiversity with Rural Community Development	2.50	2.50
Papua New Guinea	Forest Management and Monitoring Program for Environmentally Sustainable Forestry	0.022	0.022
Peru	In-situ Protection	0.171	0.171
Regional (Comoros, Madagascar)	Marine Biodiversity Conservation Programme	0.025	0.025
Regional (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania)	New Approaches to Reducing Biodiversity loss at cross-border sites in East Africa	0.244	0.277

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
I. List of GEF Project Preparation Financing (cont.)			
Regional (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama)	Meso American Corridor	0.348	0.348
Regional (Cameroun, Chana, Kenay, Madagascar, Tunisia)	Building Local NGO Capacity	0.024	0.024
Regional (Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia)	Southern Africa Biodiversity Support Programme	0.024	0.024
Regional (Uganda, Zaire)	Survival Plan for Northern White Rhino	0.025	0.025
Regional (Egypt)	Southern Mediterranean Sea Environment Policy	0.025	0.025
Regional (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago)	Caribbean, Developing National Biodiversity Strategy	0.025	0.025
Regional (Egypt, Tunisia)	Germplasm Arid Land	0.055	0.055
Regional (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia)	Mediterranean Wetland	0.162	0.162
Regional (Lebanon, Jordan)	Conservation Management and sustainable use of dryland Biodiversity within Priority Agra-ecosystems	0.052	0.052

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
I. List of GEF Project Preparation Financing (cont.)			
Regional	Central Africa Establishment of a Global Representative system of Marine Protected Area	0.025	0.025
Regional	Dryland Biodiversity	0.025	0.025
Regional	Central Africa Regional Environment Information Management	0.025	0.025
Romania	Biodiversity Action Plan	0.025	0.025
Romania	Biodiversity Priority Setting	0.025	0.025
Sierra Leone	Genetic Resource Network	0.025	0.025
Sri Lanka	Medicinal Plant	0.345	0.345
Suriname	Communities in Park Rehabilitation and Management	0.30	0.30
Thailand	Biodiversity	0.70	0.70
Uganda	Forest Conservation	0.20	0.20
Uganda	Biodiversity Conservation	0.289	0.289
Venezuela	Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity	0.025	0.025
Zaire	Building Institution Capacity	0.025	0.025
TOTAL OF LIST I:		13.193	13.208

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
II. List of Enabling Activities			
Africa	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Country Report to COP	0.296	0.296
Argentina	Enabling Activities	0.35	0.35
Bahamas	Enabling Activities	0.15	0.15
Bhutan	Enabling Activities	0.12	0.12
Cameroon	Enabling Activities	0.30	0.30
Djibouti	Development of a National Biodiversity Strategy	0.56	0.60
Egypt	Enabling Activities	0.288	0.288
Equatorial Guinea	Enabling Activities	0.30	0.30
Gambia	Enabling Activities	0.243	0.243
Georgia	Enabling Activities	0.12	0.12
Kazakhstan	Country Strategy on Biodiversity for Kazakhstan	0.12	0.13
Lithuania	Enabling Activities	0.70	0.70
Malawi	Enabling Activities	0.289	0.289
Mozambique	Enabling Activities	0.216	0.216
Pakistan	Biodiversity Strategy	0.338	0.338

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
II. List of Enabling Activities (cont.)			
Poland	Enabling Activities	0.205	0.205
Ukraine	Enabling Activities	0.11	0.11
Yemen	Enabling Activities	0.29	0.29
Zaire	Enabling Activities	0.33	0.33
TOTAL OF LIST II:		5.325	5.375

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
III. List of Approved GFF Project Proposals			
Algeria	El Kala National Park and Wetlands Management	9.20	11.56
Argentina	Patagonian Coastal Zone Management Plan	2.80	2.80
Belarus	Biodiversity Protection	1.00	1.25
Belize	Sustainable Development and Management of Biologically Diverse Coastal Resources	3.00	3.00
Bhutan	Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation	10.00	20.07
Bolivia	Biodiversity Conservation	4.50	8.40
Bolivia and Peru	Conservation of Biodiversity in the Lake Titicaca Basin	3.11	4.00
Brazil	National Biodiversity Project	10.00	20.00
Brazil	Brazilian Biodiversity Fund	20.00	25.00
Burkina Faso	Optimizing Biological Diversity within Wildlife Ranching System: A Pilot Demonstration in a Semi-arid Zone	2.50	2.50
Cameroon	Biodiversity Conservation and Management	5.96	12.39
Central African Republic	A Highly Decentralized Approach to Biodiversity Protection and Use: The Bangassou Dense Forest	2.50	3.50
China	Nature Reserves Management	17.90	23.60
Colombia	Biodiversity Conservation in the Choco Region	6.00	9.0
Congo	Wildlands Protection and Management	10.00	16.80

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
III. List of Approved GEF Project Proposals (cont.)			
Costa Rica	Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in La Amistad and La Osa Conservation Areas	8.00	8.00
Costa Rica	Biodiversity Restoration Development	0.28	0.28
Cote d'Ivoire	Control of Exotic Aquatic Weeds in Rivers and Coastal Lagoons to Enhance/Restore Biodiversity	3.00	3.00
Cote d'Ivoire	PA Management	0.32	0.32
Cuba	Protecting Biodiversity and Establishing Sustainable Development in the Sabana-Camaguey Region	2.00	2.00
Czech Republic	Biodiversity Protection	2.00	2.75
Dominican Republic	Conservation and Management in the Coastal Zone of the Dominican Republic	3.00	3.00
Ecuador	Biodiversity Protection	7.20	8.80
Egypt	Red Sea Coastal and Marine Resource Management	4.75	5.73
Ethiopia	A Dynamic Farmer-based Approach to the Conservation of African Plant Genetic Resources	2.50	2.50
Gabon	Conservation of Biodiversity through Effective Management of Wildlife Trade	1.00	1.00
Ghana	Coastal Wetlands Management	7.20	8.30
Global	Biodiversity Country Studies - Phase II	2.00	2.10

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
III. List of Approved GEF Project Proposals (cont.)			
Global	Global Biodiversity Assessment	3.00	3.30
Global	Biodiversity Data Management Capacitation in Developing Countries and Networking Biodiversity Information	4.00	4.00
Global	Biodiversity Country Studies - Phase I	5.00	5.22
Global	Establishment of a Global Representative system of marine protected areas	0.35	0.35
Guatemala	Integrated Biodiversity Protection in the Saastun Motagua Region	4.00	7.70
Guyana	Programme for Sustainable Forestry (Iwokrama Rain Forest)	3.00	3.40
Guyana	PA System	0.32	0.32
India	Ecodevelopment	20.00	74.00
Indonesia	Kerinci Seblat Integrated Conservation	15.00	47.20
Indonesia	Biodiversity Collections	7.20	11.40
Indonesia	Biodiversity Conservation	1.50	1.50
Indonesia and Malaysia	Conservation Strategies for Rhinos in Southeast Asia	2.00	2.00
Jordan	Conservation of the Dana and Azraq Protected Areas	6.30	6.30
Kenya	Conservation of the Tana River National Primate Reserve	6.20	7.05

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
III. List of Approved GEF Project Proposals (cont.)			
Lao PDR	Wildlife and Protected Areas Conservation	5.00	20.30
Lebanon	Strengthening of National Capacity and Grassroots In-Situ Conservation for Sustainable Biodiversity Protection	2.50	2.50
Malawi	Lake Malawi/Nyasa Biodiversity Conservation	5.00	5.44
Mauritius	Biodiversity Restoration	1.20	1.60
Mexico	Protected Areas Program	25.00	32.20
Mongolia	Strengthening Conservation Capacity - Development and Institution of a National Biodiversity Conservation Plan	1.50	1.85
Mozambique	Transfrontier Conservation Areas and Institutional Strengthening	5.00	8.10
Nepal	Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal	3.80	8.40
Panama	Biodiversity Conservation in the Darien	3.00	3.00
Papua New Guinea	Biodiversity Conservation and Resource Management	5.00	5.00
Peru	National Trust Fund for Protected Areas	5.00	6.50
Philippines	Conservation of Priority Protected Areas	20.00	22.86
Poland	Forest Biodiversity Protection	4.50	6.20

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
III. List of Approved GEF Project Proposals (cont.)			
Regional (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)	Southern Africa Botanical Biodiversity	4.725	9.435
Regional (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda)	Institutional Support to Protect East African Biodiversity	10.00	10.00
Regional (Africa, West)	West Africa Pilot Community-based Natural Resources and Wildlife Management	7.00	13.19
Regional (Amazon)	Regional Strategies for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Amazon	4.50	4.50
Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru)	Biodiversity Enterprise for Latin America	5.00	30.00
Regional (South Pacific)	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme	8.20	12.00
Romania	Danube Delta Biodiversity	4.50	4.80
Russian Federation	Biodiversity Conservation - Priority Response Program	20.00	25.90
Seychelles	Biodiversity Conservation and Marine Pollution Abatement	1.80	2.00
Slovak Republic	Biodiversity Protection	2.30	3.17

COUNTRY OR REGION	PROJECT NAME	GEF ALLOCATION (US\$ MILLIONS)	TOTAL COSTS (US\$ MILLIONS)
III. List of Approved GEF Project Proposals (cont.)			
Sri Lanka	Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Management	4.10	4.10
Turkey	In-Situ Conservation of Genetic Biodiversity	5.10	5.70
Uganda	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park Conservation	4.00	4.89
Ukraine	Danube Delta Biodiversity	1.50	1.74
Ukraine	Transcarpathian Biodiversity Protection	0.50	0.58
Uruguay	Conservation of Biodiversity in the Eastern Wetlands	3.00	3.00
Vietnam	Creating Protected Areas for Resources Conservation (PARC) in Vietnam using a Landscape Ecology Approach	6.04	6.69
Vietnam	Conservation of Biodiversity in the Eastern Wetlands	3.00	3.00
Zimbabwe	Biodiversity Conservation in Southwest Zimbabwe	4.80	35.00
TOTAL OF LIST III:		418.595	712.315
GRAND TOTAL (of Lists I, II, III):		437.113	730.898