

LCB/97/1634
32A



الجمهوريّة اللبنانيّة

مكتب وزير الدولة لشؤون التنمية الإداريّة
مركز مشاريع ودراسات القطاع العام

16 March 1997

Dear Mr. Mountain,

Republic of Lebanon
Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform
Center for Public Sector Projects and Studies
(C.P.S.P.S.)

Subject: Lebanon: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Report to the CBD

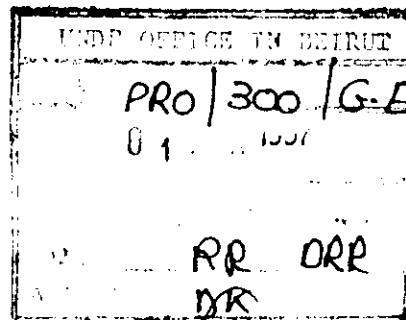
Please be informed that the above mentioned project has received its endorsement from Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with established GEF procedures. Please find herewith attached a copy of the letter of approval to this effect, dated 27 February 1997 (transmitted to me 14 March 1997).

I am therefore very pleased to delegate to you the full authority to sign the project document on behalf of UNDP. Please ensure that a fully signed copy of the project document, as well as all budget revisions, are forwarded to the RBAS GEF Coordinator for the project files and for onward forwarding to my office.

Yours sincerely,

Rafael Asejo
Executive Coordinator
Global Environment Facility/SEED/BPPS

Mr. Ross Mountain
Resident Representative
United Nations Development Programme
Beirut, Lebanon



Received by DT
on 1-4-97
HY.

GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENT
FACILITY

MOHAMED T. EL-ASHRY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AND CHAIRMAN

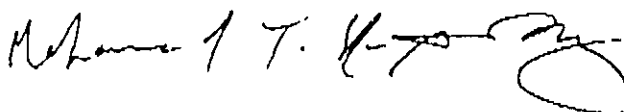
February 27, 1997

Mr. Rafael Asenjo
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
New York, New York
Fax No. : 212 906 6998

Dear Mr. Asenjo:

Please refer to UNDP's letter of February 19, 1997 enclosing the revised project proposal for the Republic of Lebanon entitled: *Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Report to the CBD*. Under the expedited procedures for enabling activities, I am happy to approve the proposal for a total amount of US\$145,000. In accordance with the decisions we took at the Management Retreat of July 24-25, 1996, 15% of the approved amount should be made available immediately for start up work in the recipient country.

Sincerely,



cc : Messrs. Ahmed Djoghlaif (UNEP), Lars Vidaeus (World Bank),
Pier Vellinga (STAP)

R. Asenjo
E. Fuentes
J. Andersen
14 March 97
E. Towes
H. Gaubert
Chen

LEB/97/G31
32 A

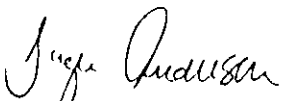
UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

U N D P

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM
REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ARAB STATES
(FAX NO. (212) 906-5487)
One United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017
Telephone (212) 906-6199
E-Mail via Internet: inger.andersen@undp.org

FAX NO:
DATE: 16 March 1997
FILE: LEB/97/G31

TO: Mr. Ross Mountain
Resident Representative
United Nations Development Programme
Lebanon


FROM: Inger Andersen
Regional GEF Coordinator
RBAS

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS SHEET):

SUBJECT: Approval of GEF "Enabling project" for biodiversity

Further to earlier discussions, I am pleased to inform you that the Lebanon Biodiversity Enabling project is now approved.

I herewith enclose as follows:

- 1/ Letter from GEF Secretariat giving us the approval of the project
- 2/ Project brief which was approved
- 3/ Project document for Lebanon (also sent by Higgins)
- 4/ Authorization from Mr. Rafael Asenjo to sign the project document

I would kindly request you to review and submit for signature project document for Lebanon.

.../2

If you or the Government wish to introduce any changes into the project document, please do so from your side provided you send us back the new text of the document by e-mail in which the new changes are cleared marked by underlining new text and ~~striking out canceled text~~.

However, as the objectives, outputs and activities in the project document are entirely in line with the project brief which Dr. Khouzami initially wrote and which the Government of Lebanon officially requested, we are assuming that there will agreement to the enclosed project document.

You will note from Mr. Rafael Asenjo's letter that you are authorized to sign the project document on behalf of GEF and UNDP. Please ensure that you forward a signed copy of the project document to me for our files and for onward forwarding to Mr. Asenjo's office.

With my very best regards.

With my very best regards.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Global Environment Facility (GEF)

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country:	Lebanon
Project Title:	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and Country Report to the Conference of Parties (CoP)
Project Number:	LEB/97/G31/A/1G/99
Expected Duration:	12 months
Project Site:	Lebanon
ACC/UNDP Sector/Subsector	0430 Biological Resources
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	Ministry of the Environment
Estimated Starting Date:	1 April 1997
UNDP-GEF Financing:	US \$ 145,000
Government Inputs:	In kind
Total Budget:	US \$ 145,000

Project Summary

The Biodiversity Enabling Activity will assist the Government of Lebanon, the Ministry of the Environment in developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The NBSAP will strengthen the national institutional capacity in Lebanon and will motivate key stakeholders to contribute to the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity. It will build upon and reinforce other existing national strategies, plans or programs. The main elements of the project include the establishment of a multi-sectoral National Steering Committee, biodiversity assessment on the basis of existing knowledge, identification and analysis of options through extensive dialogue and consultation, elaboration of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and preparation and dissemination of a First National Report and submission of report to the CoP.

Approved:

On behalf of the Government of Lebanon

Date

On behalf of UNDP

Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
A. CONTEXT	3
1. Country and Project Background	3
2. Host Country strategy	4
3. Prior and Ongoing Assistance	4
4. Institutional Framework	5
B. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION	5
1. Issues to be Addressed	5
2. Expected end of the Project Situation	6
3. Target Beneficiaries	7
4. Project Strategy and Implementation Arrangements	7
5. Reasons for UNDP Assistance	8
6. Special Considerations	8
7. Co-ordination Arrangements	9
8. Counterpart Support Capacity	9
C. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES	9
D. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES	10
• Immediate Objective 1:	10
• Immediate Objective 2:	11
• Immediate Objective 3:	15
E. INPUTS	17
F. RISKS	17
G. PRIOR OBLIGATIONS AND PREREQUISITES	18
H. PROJECT REVIEW, REPORTING AND EVALUATION	19
I. LEGAL CONTEXT	19
J. BUDGETS	20
ANNEXES	
Annex 1 Workplan of Activity/Month Matrix	21
Annex 2 Terms of Reference for the National Consultant	22
Annex 3 Organisation Chart	24
Annex 4 Letter of Endorsement	25

A. CONTEXT

1. Country and Project Background

Lebanon is situated on the Eastern shore of the Mediterranean Basin, to the West of Syria and to the North of geographic Palestine. It runs along an average of 220 km North-South and 48 km West East, comprising a total area of 10,452 km². It has two mountain ranges: Mount Lebanon which runs parallel to the sea overlooking the narrow coastal plain; and in the east the Anti Lebanon range which runs parallel to Mount Lebanon. The two mountain chains are separated by the elongated Bekaa Plain. The estimated combined population of Lebanon is 4.1 millions, of which about one million are foreigners. Lebanon is split into six administrative districts (Mohafazats) which are subdivided into 24 sub-districts or Cazas, each having a caimacam. In total there are 624 Municipalities in Lebanon.

Based on its geographic location and physiography, Lebanon enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate with some zonal variations between the Coastal Subtropical, the Mediterranean Middle Slopes, the cold High Lands, and the Sub-Desert Plains. These zonal variations account for the wide variability of ecosystems and the diversity of landscapes within a limited land area. The mean annual rainfall in Lebanon is about 700 mm in the coastal and mountainous regions, but decreases to below 200 mm in the extreme north-eastern plains of the country.

In terms of landscapes and biodiversity, Lebanon is regarded as an attractive country hosting more than 4633 native floristic taxa, of which 3761 are terrestrial and the rest are marine taxa. Of the terrestrial flora, 2863 species are angiosperms and the rest are either gymnosperms, ferns or bryophytes. It is estimated that around 392 species are endemic in Lebanon, 52 of these are globally threatened. In terms of fauna and wild life, Lebanon has around 340 species of birds, 52 mammals, 51 reptiles and amphibians, 900 fish and more than 1300 insects and butterflies.

Lebanon is an agricultural country where about 50% of the population benefits directly from agricultural production. Agricultural habitats contain a great number of wild ancestors and relatives of several cultivated species, mainly cereals and food legumes. In spite of the great importance of these wild relatives for improved cultivated species and for food security purposes, no efforts were undertaken in the past to conserve these species at a national level. Major threats to agrobiodiversity are: the expansion of urbanised centres in the coast and in the Bekaa Valley, the introduction and adoption of high production inputs such as high yielding monocultures, and the misuse of fertilisers and pesticides gradually resulting in the disappearance of many local varieties of cereals, fruits and vegetables. The need for genetic conservation, in almost all crops is an urgent measure that should be taken in Lebanon.

Although rainfall percentage in Lebanon is slightly higher than those of neighbouring Arab Countries, vast areas in the eastern parts of the country fall within the arid and semi arid ecological systems. Water flow from rainfall and snowfall is estimated at nearly 10 billions m³/year, of which 4 billions are carried by surface flow in 40 rivers. Seventeen of these rivers are perennial and emanate from the Mount Lebanon range with the exception of the Assi and Litani (Bekaa) and the Hasbani (Jabal Al-Sheikh). These rivers support the rich and diverse flora and fauna, particularly in the deep valleys where the local climate is mild. Lebanon's

rivers are at present under great stress from the concentrated urban development, industrial expansion and intensive agricultural practices.

The present forest area is an important component of Lebanon biodiversity, estimated to be 70,000 ha, representing 7% of the total area. It includes a wide range of native forest species such as: *Quercus spp.*, *Cedrus libani*, *Abies cilica*, *Juniperus spp.* and the Mediterranean Pines. Unfortunately, the Lebanese forests have been under continuous degradation over the last millennia, primarily by urbanisation and infrastructure development. There is a need for starting afforestation programs in these degraded areas in order to bring the total forest coverage to the origin of 200,000 ha. Lebanon is also rich in rangeland biodiversity, primarily found in the Middle and Eastern Slopes of the country. Unfortunately, rangeland species are also subjected to various types of degradation, of which the most serious are: over-grazing, shrub cutting, flower-picking and urban development.

2. Host Country strategy

Over the past and recent history, bearing in mind the socio-economic and political situation of the country, environmental protection has not been considered in Lebanon. Only during the last few years that Lebanon has become aware of the reality of environmental situation in the country and has taken serious steps at all levels of governmental and non-governmental agencies to address environmental issues and to develop a better understanding for environmental protection and biological resource conservation. Recently, Lebanon has become a signatory to a number of international conventions dealing with nature conservation including the Basle Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Desertification Convention, and the Climate Change Convention. Following the signature and ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 1994, the Government of Lebanon has requested the assistance of the GEF and UNDP to meet its initial obligation to the Convention through the development of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. As to existing policies, Lebanon has produced legal provisions for the creation of nature reserves, protection of forests and agricultural lands, use of fertilisers and chemicals, and protection of water resources.

3. Prior and Ongoing Assistance

Through the GEF/UNDP project on nature reserves, protected areas have been officially declared, including Palm Islands, Horsh Ehden and Jabal El-Barouk. In addition to governmental bodies, Scientific Institutions such as the National Council for Scientific Research, the Agricultural Research Institute, the Marine Research Centre, the Geophysical Centre, the American University of Beirut, the Lebanese University, the University of Saint-Esprit, the University Saint-Joseph and others have been actively involved in various aspects of environmental protection and natural resource conservation. Non governmental organisations are also playing an increasingly important role in conservation and environmental protection, both at the national and local levels.

The Country Study on Biodiversity, conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture with the financial assistance from GEF, and the technical support from UNEP (Project GEF/6105-92-

72) is one of the most valuable resources describing the status and causes for degradation of biological diversity in Lebanon. It has produced nine study reports including, species checklist; socio-economic factors affecting biodiversity; terrestrial flora; terrestrial fauna; marine fauna and flora; freshwater fauna and flora; agricultural and livestock habitats; nature reserves; and the national current capacity and economic evaluation.

The current project will be able to draw on a variety of existing sources of information such as: GEF/UNEP Biodiversity Country Study of Lebanon; Establishment of and Enabling Environment for Integrating the Principles of Sustainable Development in Lebanon (LEB/93/G81/B/15/00); Strengthening of Natural Capacity and Grassroots *in situ* Conservation for Sustainable Biodiversity Protection (LEB/95/G31/A1A/99); Building Capacity for DFG Inventory and Action Plan in Response to UFCCC Communications Obligations (LEB/95/632); Assessment of the State of Environment in Lebanon; the Final Report, November 1995 by METAP; and Environmental Strategy Framework-WB 1996.

4. Institutional Framework

The Ministry of Environment in Lebanon is the central governmental body with mandate for environmental protection and management. The Ministry of Environment, through a multi-disciplinary, integrated and participatory approach, will be executing all activities of the NBSAP as shown in the attached Table of Activity/Month Workplan (annex 1). Under supervision and overall planning of the Ministry of Environment, a National Steering Committee involving related ministries and governmental agencies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, industry, transport, energy, finance and education), local NGOs, universities (the American University of Beirut, the Lebanese University, the University of Saint-Esprit, the University Saint-Joseph), research institutions (National Council for Scientific Research, the Agricultural Research Institute, the Marine Research Centre, the Geophysical Centre), donor countries, UNDP and the private sector will be formed on the onset of the project. A project planning team will be established by the Steering Committee to be responsible for the actual execution of project activities and will be lead by a national consultant who has a wide range of experience in administration and biodiversity planning. Planning team members will be selected according to their biodiversity and planning expertise and ability to work within joint task forces.

B. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. Issues to be Addressed

The overall degradation of biodiversity in Lebanon is a result of many social, economical and political factors over the past and recent history. Deforestation since biblical times, urban development, road construction, intensive and extensive agriculture, hunting, industrial development, and the lack of community awareness are the main causes of the degradation of the flora and fauna in Lebanon. There is evidence that many aquatic and terrestrial species have either disappeared, or are subjected to severe threats resulting from the destruction of their habitats. Reports have also showed that soil erosion, especially in the mountain and hilly areas which form 73% of the country is severe, and is caused primarily by rainfall intensity

and runoff. The common heritage of land tenure is also an important factor in the course of land degradation and crop genetic erosion.

Given the current state of biodiversity degradation, the Government of Lebanon has realised the need for biodiversity conservation and for applying the concept of environmental protection in its economic, agricultural and industrial productivity as a mean towards sustainable development. In respond, Lebanon has become a signatory to many United Nation Conventions dealing with nature conservation, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

One of the main concerns for the Government of Lebanon is to meet its obligation to the CBD by fulfilling the requirements of Articles 6 and 26 of the convention. Article 6 calls upon the contracting parties, both developed and developing countries to develop national strategies, plans or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adopt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programs which reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in the Convention relevant to the contracting parties concerned. Article 26 of the convention requires each contracting party, at intervals determined by the Conference of the Parties (CoP), to present to the CoP reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the CBD.

One of the main problems facing Lebanon is the lack of funding to develop the NBSAP and prepare the First National Report to the CoP. The Government of Lebanon has requested the financial and technical assistance from the UNDP/GEF to develop the start up process and to backstop the implementation of the NBSAP within the national, regional and international context.

2. Expected end of the Project Situation

In accordance with articles 6 and 26 of the CBD, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will be prepared, and Lebanon First National Report submitted to the CoP before 1 January 1998. The National Strategy will include a descriptive analysis of data presented in the country study; determine goals and operational objectives, and identify gaps and the specific measures to close these gaps. By identifying the roles of stakeholder groups, the NBSAP will reach a consensus on acceptable targets and mechanisms for action and investment needed to address each objectives and assigns priorities to each.

The Action Plan will spell out the steps and measures needed to implement the selected strategy and then addresses the who is who that will take up which activities, over what time frame, at what location, by what means, and with what resources.

The First National Report will include a summary section describing the current status of biodiversity in the country, a section defining the long term national strategy and action plan for the sound use and conservation of biodiversity in Lebanon within the light of its economic development, and a third section highlighting the resources needed to meet the implementation of the action plan.

One of the expected end products of this project is the enhancement of public awareness and knowledge among governmental planners on biodiversity issues and the subsequent incorporation of these issues into the overall national planning. An improved integrated approach and inter-institutional fertilisation, and national capacity to address issues related to the wise utilisation and conservation of biological resources will be developed by the end of the project.

5. Target Beneficiaries

The NBSAP will benefit the whole population of Lebanon, the Government and its respective institutions, Local NGOs, Research Scientists, Resource Managers and the Private Sector. The project will also contribute to the overall regional and global efforts to conserve, manage and monitor biological diversity, and so the target beneficiaries are seen in a regional and global context, including the people of Lebanon.

4. Project Strategy and Implementation Arrangements

Under the overall supervision and guidance from the UNDP, the project will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment and will last for 12 months starting from April 1997. It will enable the Government of Lebanon to prepare the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and its First National Report to the CoP in accordance with Articles 6 and 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The methodology for the implementation of the project will be based on the Guidelines of Country Study on Biological Diversity (UNEP 1993), the WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995 guidelines for national biodiversity planning, and within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Following a participatory and multidisciplinary approach, the project major elements will include: the establishment of a multi-sectoral and consensus mechanism that will further the planning and co-ordination of ongoing and future activities on biodiversity (Biodiversity Steering Committee); training of planning team, extensive consultations and dialogues with all stakeholders through seminars, workshops and consultative meetings will enhance the national capacity and the human resources to deal with issues related to the conservation, management and monitoring of biodiversity; empowerment of all relevant stakeholders to ensure that sound principles of biodiversity conservation are integral part of defining national priorities via increased roles in the planning process; The NBSAP will be formulated and the First National Report submitted to the CoP. One of the major components of this project is the involvement of the civil society (particularly women), and the mass media (TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, Internet, etc.) during the process of option identification and the NBSAP. Regional and national experience will be utilised to provide training, guidance and backstopping during the project, particularly, the preparation of the NBSAP and option identification process.

The National Steering Committee will include members from all related ministries and governmental agencies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, industry, transport, energy,

finance and education), local NGOs, universities, research institutions. The UNDP task manager, donor countries and the private sector. Under supervision of the steering committee, a planning team will be formed to undertake the work of the enabling activity. Planning team members will be selected according to their biodiversity and planning expertise and will be lead by a national consultant. The lead national consultant, assisted by other national consultants, will

- facilitate project activities through extensive consultations and dialogue with all stakeholders;
- organise the instruction courses and will contribute to the training of planning team on various aspects of biodiversity planning and participatory approaches;
- run the national and provincial workshops and will synthesise findings of these workshops;
- assess and synthesise the results of the identification and analysis of options phase; and
- prepare the NBSAP and the First National Report.

It shall be noted that the planning team and national consultants will be supported, both administratively and technically by the UNDP office in Lebanon and the UNDP task manager will be represented on the Steering Committee. Work on the NBSAP will be composed from stocktaking, identification and assessment of options, strategizing and action planning, and report to the CBD/CoP with a one year time table.

5. Reasons for GEF and UNDP Assistance

The project is focusing on the elaboration of NBSAP for Lebanon within the objectives of the CBD and the operational criteria for GEF Enabling Activities. More precisely, the project responds to the sound use and conservation of biodiversity and to enhancing capacity building within Lebanon institutional and human resource structures.

Within the country's current financial and other resource constraints, it is not possible for Lebanon alone to undertake the measures and steps necessary to ensure that its national biodiversity is conserved. Given the status of the UNDP as one of the implementing agencies of the GEF and as a financial, technical and administratively valuable resource, the Government of Lebanon has requested the GEF/UNDP to assist the country in the formulation of the NBSAP. The project will intend to organise series of activities where by stakeholders from all sectors/themes can meet to discuss options and means required for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The project will also focus on building up the institutional capacity of the agencies executing the NBSAP and developing the human resources base of the country.

6. Special Considerations

One of the special considerations related to this project is the need by the Government of Lebanon to develop a NBSAP that will lead to the establishment of a biodiversity data base

management system. This system will enable users from all biodiversity disciplines to use it for monitoring purposes and for future biodiversity planning.

7. Co-ordination arrangements

The project Steering Committee will be responsible for overseeing general co-ordination among project activities and other ongoing and planned initiatives. The lead national consultant and the planning team, under the supervision of the Steering Committee, will be responsible for executing of the project activities as indicated in the attached Workplan (annex 1) and the overall co-ordination among all stakeholders and various groups. Co-ordination of activities among the different international and governmental agencies will be undertaken by the UNDP office in Lebanon.

8. Counterpart Support Capacity

The Government of Lebanon is fully committed to the objectives of the project as a priority for biodiversity conservation. This has been reflected in their signatory and ratification of the Convention on Biodiversity and their request from the UNDP/GEF for assistance to develop the NBSAP. For this reason the Government of Lebanon has designated the Ministry of Environment as the focal point for biodiversity and as the project national implementing agency, and has provided the space and personnel for this purpose.

C. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this project is to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for Lebanon, and a First National Report to be submitted to the CoP within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The NBSAP will define the current status of biological diversity, reasons of degradation, strategies and priority actions to conserve and sustainably use its components in the context of the country's social and economic development.

Through a participatory and a multidisciplinary approach including the civil society, the NBSAP will enhance public awareness among all stakeholders from governmental bodies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, industry, transport, energy, finance, and education), related NGOs, private sector, and the community about the importance of protecting biological diversity and the need for its conservation. One of the objectives of the NBSAP is to promote human resource development and institutional mechanisms for capacity building of the country.

The project will rely on extensive analysis, consultations and dialogues on pertaining issues of biodiversity. It will assess the existing gaps in knowledge and identify options for the sound use and conservation of biodiversity. The main thrusts and provisions of the NBSAP addresses the policies, strategies and actions aimed at conserving, managing and monitoring biodiversity. The NBSAP will also identify entities responsible for the implementation of activities to be undertaken according to the strategy.

D. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Immediate Objective 1:

To strengthen the institutional capacity of governmental agencies and other national institutions dealing with sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

Output 1.1

Establishment of a Biodiversity Steering Committee

Activity 1.1.1. Appointment of Lead National Consultant, Establishment Biodiversity Steering Committee, and Project Planning Team

- Appointment of Lead National Consultant by the national executing agency (me) to be responsible for the overall co-ordination and actual execution of the project individual components (details on roles of the lead national consultant can be obtained from the attached terms of reference, annex 2).
- The lead national consultant will invite stakeholders from all within the country to an official meeting, proposed to take place on the first half of month 1, to establish the Biodiversity Steering Committee and the project planning team, and to review/prepare a project Workplan and draft initial outline format for the NBSAP. The Biodiversity Steering Committee will include members from all related governmental agencies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, industry, transport, energy, finance and education), local NGOs, universities, research institutions, donor countries UNDP, and the private sector. The planning team will be selected according to their biodiversity background/interest and according to their biodiversity planning expertise.
- The lead national consultant together with the Steering Committee members will identify a group of other national consultants on various elements of biodiversity, and will prepare overviews of required tasks and inputs formats, and roles in the execution of the NBSAP, and based on that finalise the TORs for other national consultants. consultant.

Output 1.2

Training (familiarisation) in biodiversity analysis, planning and monitoring

Activity 1.2.1: Organisation of two instruction courses for the project planning team and other national consultants.

First instruction course held in the second half of month 2 includes:

- the role of biodiversity in national development
- the objectives of the enabling activity
- WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995 guidelines, GEF Criteria for enabling activities, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Second instruction course held in the first half of month 4 will:

- inject to participants biodiversity planning processes
- specific methodologies involved in the assessment of options and the formulation of the NBSAP.

Activity 1.2.2: Consultative Meetings

The organisation of a small ongoing sectoral and cross-sectoral consultative meetings where by project planning team meets with national consultants and other stakeholders to discuss the NBSAP and the priority options and the mechanism for the conservation and management of biological resources. These meetings will strengthen mutual communication and inject analytical and strategic thinking to participants so that the team becomes acquainted with planning capabilities to actively contribute to the process and to provide input to the NBSAP.

Activity 1.2.3. Provincial Workshops & National Workshops

The organisation of 4 provincial workshops and 2 national workshops, as per the time frame indicated in the Workplan, will provide the participants with the objectives of the enabling activities in formulating a framework for the conservation and management of biodiversity in Lebanon. These workshops (provincial and national) will inject indirect training to participants on biodiversity planning, will trigger dialogue and partnership among the different stakeholders on the identifications and analysis of priority options and on the elaboration of the NBSAP.

Activity 1.2.4. Public Awareness

Through the ongoing public awareness campaigns, the project personnel, other participants and the public will be indirectly informed and familiarised about the importance of biodiversity and the need for its conservation and sustainable conservation. Public awareness raising can be undertaken through the deep and serious participation of the mass media, both national and local, through out the NBSAP. The national TV of Lebanon and other TV stations, radio and local radios news papers, magazines, WWW, etc. will be utilised for the transfer of experience, new ideas and dissemination of project results and findings within the country and between the subregion.

Immediate objective 2

Complete the biodiversity assessment, select priority options, and develop the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the First National Report.

Output 2.1

Synthesised inventory report

Activity 2.1.1: Instruction (Familiarisation) Courses

Bending on the Workplan, the planning team will familiarise them selves with biodiversity knowledge, especially those provided by the country study (the nine study reports: including, species checklist; socio-economic factors affecting biodiversity; terrestrial flora; terrestrial fauna; marine fauna and flora; freshwater fauna and flora; agricultural and livestock habitats; nature reserves; and the national current capacity and economic evaluation).

Activity 2.1.2. The lead national consultant will analyse, compile and synthesise biodiversity data (assessment) into a working document which will be reviewed/approved by the Steering Committee during the first national workshop (planned during the second half of month 3).

- The document shall include existing data on biodiversity;
- assess the existing financial resources for biodiversity conservation and determining the amount of unmet financial needs;
- provide for an economic rationale the value of conserving biodiversity and the envisaged benefit out of this conservation; and
- finally evaluate the cost-benefit analysis of biodiversity conservation and management.

The lead national consultant and other national consultants will prepare the agenda for the first national workshop and will send invitation to all stakeholders represented on the Steering Committee and those who are not represented but express interest in biodiversity conservation, taking into account the involvement of the NGOs, and the civil society. In the workshop, the lead national consultant will make sure that the following topics/materials are covered: Convention on Biological Diversity, the objectives of the Enabling Activity, results of stocktaking including any gaps in biodiversity knowledge, the means needed to cover these gaps, and brainstorming on possible options necessary for the NBSAP. The lead national consultant, assisted by other national consultants will compile the minutes of the first national workshop into a small proceedings that will be reviewed and analysed later to be incorporated in the NBSAP.

Output 2.2

Priority options for the biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan are identified.

Activity 2.2.1: The organisation of 4 provincial workshops in North Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa Valley and South Lebanon.

The lead national consultant and the other national consultants will organise these meetings during months 4 and 5 of the project period. They will take responsibility for preparing meeting agendas/schedules, and invitation list for all stakeholders involved at the level of each province (in this instance biodiversity related agencies, university lecturers, community leaders, NGOs, and any other related stakeholders). In each meeting, the characteristics of biodiversity, content and reasons of degradation in each province is discussed in relation to future conservation, management and monitoring plan. More specifically, the national

consultants and planning team members will meet with all stakeholders from the province interested in biodiversity to trigger dialogue and partnership to obtain feedback on the identifications and analysis of options to meet the objectives of the CBD and the development of the NBSAP. Clearly, each provincial workshop is planned to devise a biodiversity strategy close to the needs of local community in each province that will be part of the overall NBSAP.

Activity 2.2.2: Consultative Meetings

The organisation of small ongoing sectoral and cross-sectoral consultative meetings, along the line of identification and analysis of options will bring opportunity for project planning team and national consultants to meet where possible and/or when ever needed with active stakeholders from all sectors to generate ideas, evaluate and analysed options and resolve conflicts of biodiversity issues that might exist between different options in different sectors. In this way the participants will be more acquainted with analytical and strategic thinking to actively contribute in the process and provide input to the NBSAP.

Activity 2.2.3: Public Awareness

The organisation of a public awareness campaign by a specialist under the guidance of the lead national consultant, aims at increasing the awareness of the general public and understanding of governmental and recourse management officials on the importance of biodiversity for long term economic development and for the people livelihood in the area. The campaign will be organised ongoing, using all means of mass media including, radio and local radios, TV and local TV stations, newspapers, Internet, leaflets, etc., taking into account the effective participation and genuine commitment of the civil society through out the NBSAP.

Activity 2.2.4. First National workshop

The organisation of a first national workshop during month 3 of the project just after stocktaking will provide another opportunity for participants, in addition to reviewing results from the biodiversity assessment, to brainstorm on the possible options that are necessary for the sound use and conservation of biodiversity resources in Lebanon. The lead national consultant will make sure that all related stakeholders, especially members of the civil society are participating in this event, and that the mass media is well represented to cover and disseminate findings to the public.

Activity 2.2.5 Second National Workshop

The second national workshop will further input to the identification and analysis of options and might generate new priority options to be added to the draft NBSAP.

The lead national consultant, assisted by other national consultants will undertake responsibility of assessing the results and findings of these meetings (first and second national workshops, provincial workshops, and consultative meetings) and synthesise output data into

working papers to be incorporated into the NBSAP and for review/approval by the Steering Committee.

Output 2.3

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is developed.

Activity 2.3.2: Elaboration of NBSAP

The lead national consultant, assisted by the other national consultants, together with the planning team will prepare, consult and review the NBSAP of Lebanon. If additional consultants are needed at this stage, the lead national consultant will prepare their TORs and other contracting documents. Reference is made to the WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995 guidelines which is a valuable resource for biodiversity national planning and strategising.

The lead national consultant will make sure that the national biodiversity strategy conforms fully with the Conventions general provisions and specific articles and that the NBSAP is not a short term activity but a long term, cyclical process and a participatory approach.

1- The National Biodiversity Strategy will

- articulate and debate on the overall vision for conserving biodiversity and for making the use of its components more sustainable
- break down of visions and potential goals into component parts that give pragmatic direction to action:
 - save biodiversity by protecting genes, species, habitats and ecosystems;
 - out of the biodiversity inventory (assessment), document biodiversity components, distribution, structure and function;
 - ensuring the maintenance and application of indigenous knowledge;
 - building an awareness of biodiversity values among all stakeholders; and
 - using the biodiversity resources sustainably and equitably within the context of national economic development.
- analyse, from the synthesised inventory report, the status and trends of biodiversity and estimate its value and contribution to the national development, and compare the actual situation with envisaged goals and objectives.
- formulate options and select of priority ones for actions that cover the most important gaps and address means and opportunities for attaining the objectives of biodiversity conservation and management at ecosystems, habitat, species and genes levels;
- highlight the impacts/benefits/implication of the NBSAP on the national, human, institutional, infrastructure, financial capacities, and the possible need for international co-operation;
- propose the action and investment needed to address each objectives and assigns priorities to each

2- The Action Plan will cover the following steps:

- The actions identified in the strategy can be broken down into discrete tasks linking the related sectors and the interested working groups to the actions to be undertaken.
- the roles and duties of each stakeholder institution (governmental and non-governmental) have to be clarified by the action plan by addressing practical questions: which agency will take up which activities, over what frame, at what location, by what means and with what resources? specifically, what will the implementation schedule be, over what budget, and how/where does the regional and international co-operation fit.

The biodiversity strategy and action plan is viewed to be ongoing, continuous and cyclical process, and the actions outlined in the strategy get implemented along the line of national development and within the light regional and international context. In this way the national planners will become as the national implementers so that biodiversity conservation becomes sustainable and its management affect positively the national economy and the livelihood of the people of Lebanon.

Output 2.4

The First National Report is prepared

Activity 2.4.1: First National Report

The lead national consultant, assisted by other national consultants will undertake responsibility of preparing the First National Report on month 9 of the project period so as to be submitted to the CBD/COP before 1 January 1998. Another report will be elaborated at the end of the project (on month 12) which will include any findings, input, and appraisal of the NBSAP that might appear after the submission of the First National report. The First National Report will include a summary section describing the current status of biodiversity in the country, a section defining the long term national strategy and action plan for the sound use and conservation of biodiversity in Lebanon within the light of its economic development, and a third section highlighting the resources needed to meet the implementation of the action plan.

Activity 2.4.2: Translation of First National Report

The lead national consultant, assisted by other national consultants will be undertaking the translation of the NBSAP and the First National Report, and will ensure their dissemination to all stakeholders, decision makers and resource managers of the country.

Immediate Objective 3

The motivation of key stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity in Lebanon

Output 3.1

Wide sense of ownership of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and country-wide commitment to its implementation

Activity 3.1.1. Provincial Workshops

Consultation, and dialogue with local communities and stakeholders from all within the country through the organisation of four provincial workshops will certainly motivate the enthusiasm of local communities and will build commitments in stakeholder agencies to actively participate in the process of biodiversity conservation and long term management so that biodiversity conservation and management becomes part of mainstream national development.

Activity 3.1.2: The organisation of the first national workshop

The lead national consultant, assisted by other national consultants will organise the first national workshop on the second half of month 3, just after the biodiversity assessment and inventory report is completed. He will invite the project Steering Committee, the planning team, community leaders, the private sectors, mass media, interested civil society members (especially from rural areas as they are more associated with biodiversity) to the workshop to present the data from stocktaking, discuss biodiversity issues and the need for its conservation and sustainable use, and to brainstorm on the mechanisms for the identification of possible options that are required for the NBSAP. The output and findings of the first national workshops will be compiled by the lead national consultant to be later analysed and evaluated by the project team before being incorporated into the NBSAP.

Activity 3.1.3. The organisation of the second national workshop

After preparation of the draft document of the NBSAP, the lead national consultant will organise a second national workshop with all stakeholders during month 9 of the project period to review the Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan and to prioritise options for action and to obtain further input from participants for the finalisation and endorsement of the NBSAP.

These two national workshops by having a wide range of participants from within the national and private agencies and the civil society, in particular women. They will enjoy a wide media coverage so as to enhance the appreciation of biodiversity resources in national development, encourage the motivation among the participants to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure the commitment among themselves to the implementation of appropriate actions in the long term management and monitoring period.

Activity 3.1.4: Public Awareness

Raising awareness for the decision makers and public on the importance and value of biodiversity where it might otherwise get lost among the array of other national and community priorities is foreseen in the current project. The Project will call upon all available mass media in Lebanon and shall undertake further public awareness programs and synthesised community outreach to ensure that the NBSAP is publicised and disseminated, and that the people of Lebanon are becoming more involved and committed to the sound use, management and conservation of biological resources. One of the outputs of this awareness program is the elaboration of a documentary TV episode that will highlight the value of biodiversity in national development, the objectives, results, and benefits of the NBSAP.

Activity 3.1.5: Consultative Meetings

The organisation of small ongoing sectoral and cross-sectoral consultative meetings including members of the planning team, national consultants and other active stakeholders from all sectors to discuss the elaboration of the NBSAP and to obtain feedback and suggestions on the draft NBSAP. In these meetings the lead national consultant and other national consultants will make sure that biodiversity topics are placed into various sectors and that biodiversity components are mutually and complimentary linked with other sectors issues and their link is beneficial. In these meetings, the incorporation of biodiversity considerations into the various sectors of the Government is ensured, in other words, each agency influencing biodiversity in Lebanon will prepare a sector biodiversity planning strategy which can be incorporated to the overall NBSAP.

E. INPUTS

Government Input: in kind

UNDP/GEF: \$ US 145,000 as outlined below

	Subtotal (\$)
Travel	4,000
National Expertise	81,000
Training, Courses, Meetings & Workshops	49,000
Translation & Dissemination	4,650
Co-ordination & Management	6,350
<hr/>	
Total (\$)	145,000

F. RISKS

The most crucial element for the project is the achievement of a participatory and a multidisciplinary approach to the conservation, management planning, and monitoring of biological resources in Lebanon. Given the political situation of Lebanon, adequate consultation with all relevant stakeholders especially in the southern part of the country will become a concern for the project to specifically address the NBSAP in the south. The project will respond to this issue by having a full range of relevant stakeholders represented on the Steering Committee and making use of significant national capacities and consultants to be recruited from all governmental and non-governmental sectors.

One of the concerns facing this project is the lack of co-ordination between Lebanese agencies interested in biodiversity. This issue is attributed to the lack of necessary resources and incentives and little means to share results within the country. The project aims to respond to this issue by establishing a national data base management system that will promote data exchange and will be shared by all stakeholders.

The project will ensure the serious participation and genuine commitment of the civil society during the NBSAP, the involvement of the mass media in the process of awareness raising and community outreach, and to promote human resource development and institutional capacity building of the country.

G. PRIOR OBLIGATIONS AND PREREQUISITES

Prior Obligations

The Government of Lebanon has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on 15 December 1994. It has made a request to the UNDP/GEF to provide Lebanon with financial resources and technical assistance required for the elaboration of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

There are no other projects planned or underway in Lebanon that will duplicate with this project. This project will cover all tasks necessary for the formulation of the NBSAP taking into consideration all related existing studies and reports. The project will be able to draw on a variety of existing sources of information such as: GEF/UNEP Biodiversity Country Study of Lebanon (Project GEF/6105-92-72); Establishment of an Enabling Environment for Integrating the Principles of Sustainable Development in Lebanon (LEB/93/G81/B/15/00); Strengthening of Natural Capacity and Grassroots *in situ* Conservation for Sustainable Biodiversity Protection (LEB/95/G31/A1G/99); Building Capacity for DFG Inventory and Action Plan in Response to UFCCC Communications Obligations (LEB/95/632); Assessment of the State of Environment in Lebanon; the Final Report, November 1995 by METAP; and Environmental Strategy Framework-WB 1996.

Prerequisites

The Government of Lebanon within the capacity of the Ministry of Environment will provide the necessary space, equipment, facilities, etc. for the implementation of project activities. It will make available personnel, national consultants and experts to participate in the project Steering Committee and the planning team. The Government will further facilitate the acquisition of data by the project planning team and will ensure the implementation of project individual activities within the assigned time frame. Based on the above prerequisites the project document shall be signed by the Government and UNDP Resident Office prior to the execution of its individual activities.

H. PROJECT REVIEW, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

The project will last for 12 months starting from March 1997. It shall be subjected to tripartite joint review (Representatives from the Government, executing agency and the UNDP). The First National Report, prepared by month 10 of the project, will be reviewed by the tripartite reviewing committee prior to its submission to the CoP/CBD before 1 January 1998. In addition, the project shall be subjected to interim evaluation, at the end of identification and analysis of options and after the NBSAP.

I. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Lebanon and the United Nation Development Programme, signed by the parties on 10 February 1986. The host country implementing agency shall, for the purpose of Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, refer to the government co-operating agency described in that agreement

J. BUDGETS

Country: Lebanon
 Project Number: LEB/97/G31/A/1G/99
 Project Title: National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan, and Report to the CoP

PROJECT BUDGET COVERING UNDP CONTRIBUTION IN US DOLLARS

Budg. line	Description	Totals		Mar. - Dec. 1997		Jan.-Feb. 1998	
		p/m	\$	p/m	\$	p/m	\$
15	Duty Travel						
15.01	In country missions		4,000		3,250		750
15.99	Sub-Total		4,000		3,250		750
17	National Project Personnel						
17.01	1 LNC, Stocktaking and Inventory (@3,000/m-month)	2	6,000	2	6,000		
17.02	1 LNC/ (@3,000/ m-month)	10	30,000	8	24,000	2	6,000
17.03	NC /Identif. & Analysis of Options (@ \$2,000/m)	10	20,000	8	16,000	2	4,000
04	NC /Strategy & Action Plan (@\$1,500/m-month)	10	20,000	8	16,000	2	4,000
17.07	1 Secretary	12	5,000	10	4,000	2	1,000
17.99	Sub-Total		81,000		66,000		15,000
21	SUB CONTRACTS						
21.01	1st national workshop		8,000		8,000		
21.02	2nd national workshop		8,000		8,000		
21.03	Public awareness campaign (ongoing)		6,000		6,000		
21.04	Consultative meetings (ongoing)		7,000		7,000		
21.05	Provincial workshops (4)		12,000		12,000		
21.99	Sub-Total		41,000		41,000		
30	TRAINING						
33.00	In Service Training						
33.01	Instruction Courses		8,000		8,000		
30.99	Sub-Total		8,000		8,000		
50	MISCELLANEOUS						
52.01	Reporting, publications, dissemination, translation		4,650		3,000		1,650
53.01	Administration, communication		2,000		1,600		400
54.01	Project Support Services (3%)		4,350		3,625		725
Subtotal			11,000		8,225		2,775
GRAND TOTAL			145,000		126,475		16,525

LNC: Lead national Consultant, NC: National Consultant.

ANNEX 1 . WORK PLAN (ACTIVITY/MONTH MATRIX)

Objective	Output	Activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Objective 1	Output 1.1	Institutional structure												
		1.1.1 Establishment of Biodiversity Steering Committee, planning team, appointment LNC	X											
		1.1.2 Project Workplan, NBSAP draft initial outline	X											
		1.1.3 Finalization of TORs for National Consultants	X											
Objective 2	Output 1.2	Instruction courses (Training)												
		1.2.1 instruction courses		X										
		1.2.2 Consultative meetings												
		1.2.3 Provincial workshops (4)												
Objective 2	Output 2.1	Stocktaking.												
		2.1.1- instruction courses												
		2.1.2 LNC synthesises biodiversity data into a document	X	X										
		Priority options												
Objective 2	Output 2.2	2.2.1 Provincial workshops (4)												
		2.2.2 Consultative meetings												
		2.2.3 Public awareness												
		2.2.4 First national workshop												
Objective 2	Output 2.3	The NBSAP												
		2.3.1 Preparation of the NBSAP												
		First National Report												
		2.4.1 Preparation of First National Report												
Objective 3	Output 3.1	Stakeholders motivated & committed to the NBSAP												
		3.1.1 Provincial workshops												
		3.1.2 First National workshop												
		3.1.3 Second national workshop												

TERMS OF REFERENCES
for
The Lead National Consultant
The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Background

This project is UNDP/GEF enabling activity that aims at assisting the Government of Lebanon to meet its obligation to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular Articles 6, and 26 by elaborating a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and a First National Report to the Conference of the Parties. The main components of the project will be the establishment of a consolidated organisational structure within the Ministry of Environment; the formation of an inter-sectoral project Steering Committee and a Planning Team; biodiversity assessment and inventory based on existing knowledge (Stocktaking); Identification and analysis of options for biodiversity conservation, management and equal benefit sharing; elaboration of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Lebanon; and preparation and dissemination of the First National Report to be submitted to the CBD/CoP by 31 December 1997. The project will be executed based on extensive consultation and dialogue with stakeholders through sectoral and cross-sectoral meetings, provincial workshops, national workshops and on the job training courses. The project will enjoy a broad media coverage and synthesised community outreach for enhancing public awareness on the importance of biodiversity, and will ensure the real commitment and genuine participation of the civil society through out the main activities of the NBSAP.

Tasks

Under overall supervision and guidance from the project Steering Committee and the UNDP, the lead national consultant will be responsible for the overall execution of project individual components and will exercise the facilitation of activities with due time and diligence. In more detail the lead national consultant, assisted by other national consultants will

- provide supervision and overall guidance to the project activities and undertake co-ordination among the various stakeholder agencies involved in the NBSAP
- assist the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the agency executing the NBSAP and other national agencies.
- provide guidance to the development of an initial Workplan
- synthesise the first document from the biodiversity assessment (stocktaking) to be presented in the first national workshop
- assist the national executing agency in conducting the training (familiarisation) courses to the planning team following the WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995 guidelines for national biodiversity planning
- provide support/organise the first and second national workshops, provincial workshops, consultative meetings, etc.

- provide guidance and support to the biodiversity planning process and to the drafting and finalization of the NBSAP
- provide guidance and support to the drafting and finalization of the First National Report

Outputs

The following outputs are required from the lead national consultants

Document on biodiversity assessment
 Report on training sessions
 National workshops proceedings
 Provincial workshops proceedings
 NBSAP document
 The First National Report

Qualifications

The lead national consultant must have a higher degree in one of the related to biodiversity and shall be intricately familiar with all biodiversity issue in the Arab region, in particular in Lebanon. He should have an excellent knowledge of the Convention on Biological Diversity, GEF guidelines, the WRI/UNEP/IUCN 1995 guidelines for national biodiversity planning, and other related documents. The lead national consultant must have a mother tongue in Arabic, and be fluent in either English or French Languages.

Duration

The lead national consultant will have to be contracted by the national executing agency for the whole period of the project (12 months), starting from March 1997 - February 1998.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF PROJECT

Government of Lebanon

Ministry of Environment

Project Steering Committee

Lead National Consultant

Project Planning Team

Other National Consultants

Other Planning Team Members

Republic of Lebanon
Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform
Center for Public Sector Projects and Studies
(C.P.S.P.S.)

ENABLING ACTIVITIES IN BIODIVERSITY

Country:	Republic of Lebanon
Project Title:	Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and Report to the CBD
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Convention ratified on 15.12.1994
GEF Financing:	\$ US 145,000
Government Contribution:	In-kind and personnel
Estimated Total Budget:	\$ US 145,000
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	Ministry of Environment
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Minister of Environment
CBD Focal Point:	Ministry of Environment
Estimating starting date:	March 1997
Duration of project:	12 months

Background/Context

1. Lebanon is situated on the Eastern shore of the Mediterranean Basin, to the West of Syria and to the North of geographic Palestine. It runs along an average of 220 km North-South and 48 km West East, comprising a total area of 10,452 km². It has two mountain ranges: Mount Lebanon which runs parallel to the sea overlooking the narrow coastal plain; and in the east the Anti Lebanon range which runs parallel to Mount Lebanon. The two mountain chains are separated by the elongated Bekaa Plain. The estimated combined population of Lebanon is 4.1 millions, of which about one million are foreigners. Lebanon is split into six administrative districts (Mohafazats) which are subdivided into 24 sub-districts or Cazas, each having a caimacam. In total there are 624 Municipalities in Lebanon.

2. Based on its geographic location and physiography, Lebanon enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate with some zonal variations between the Coastal Subtropical, the Mediterranean Middle Slopes, the cold High Lands, and the Sub-Desert Plains. These zonal variations account for the wide variability of ecosystems and the diversity of landscapes within a limited land area. The mean annual rainfall in Lebanon is about 700 mm in the coastal and mountainous regions, but decreases to below 200 mm in the extreme north-eastern plains of the country.

3. In terms of landscapes and biodiversity, Lebanon is regarded as an attractive country hosting more than 4633 native floristic taxa, of which 3761 are terrestrial and the rest are marine taxa. Of the terrestrial flora, 2863 species are angiosperms and the rest are either gymnosperms, ferns or bryophytes. It is estimated that around 392 species are endemic in Lebanon, 52 of these are globally threatened. In terms of fauna and wild life, Lebanon has around 340 species of birds, 52 mammals, 51 reptiles and amphibians, 900 fish and more than 1300 insects and butterflies.

4. Lebanon is an agricultural country where about 50% of the population benefits directly from agricultural production. Agricultural habitats contain a great number of wild ancestors and relatives of several cultivated species, mainly cereals and food legumes. In spite of the great importance of these wild relatives for improved cultivated species and for food security purposes, no efforts were undertaken in the past to conserve these species at a national level. Major threats to agrobiodiversity are: the expansion of urbanized center in the coast and in the Bekaa Valley, the introduction and adoption of high production inputs such as high yielding monocultures, and the misuse of fertilizers and pesticides gradually resulting in the disappearance of many local varieties of cereals, fruits and vegetables. The need for genetic conservation, in almost all crops is an urgent measure that should be taken in Lebanon.

5. Although rainfall percentage in Lebanon is slightly higher than those of neighboring Arab Countries, vast areas in the eastern parts of the country fall within the arid and semi arid ecological systems. Water flow from rainfall and snowfall is estimated at nearly 10 billions m³/year, of which 4 billions are carried by surface flow in 40 rivers. Seventeen of these rivers are perennial and emanate from the Mount Lebanon range with the exception of the Assi and Litani (Bekaa) and the Hasbani (Jabal Al-Sheikh). These rivers support the rich and diverse flora and fauna, particularly in the deep valleys where the local climate is mild. Lebanon's rivers are at present under great stress from the concentrated urban development, industrial expansion and intensive agricultural practices.

6. The present forest area is an important component of Lebanon biodiversity, estimated to be 70.000 ha, representing 7% of the total area. It includes a wide range of native forest species such as: *Quercus spp.*, *Cedrus libani*, *Abies cilica*, *Juniperus spp.* and the Mediterranean Pines. Unfortunately, the Lebanese forests have been under continuous degradation over the last millennia, primarily by urbanization and infrastructure development. There is a need for starting afforestation programs in these degraded areas in order to bring the total forest coverage to the origin of 200.000 ha. Lebanon is also rich in rangeland biodiversity, primarily found in the Middle and Eastern Slopes of the country, which contributes significantly to the livelihood of livestock owners of these areas. Unfortunately, rangeland species are also subjected to various types of degradation, of which the most serious are: over-grazing, shrub cutting, flower-picking and urban development.

7. The overall degradation of biodiversity in Lebanon is a result of many social, economical and political factors over the past and recent history. Deforestation since biblical times, urban development, road construction, intensive and extensive agriculture, hunting, industrial development, and the lack of community awareness are the main causes of the degradation of the flora and fauna in Lebanon. There is evidence that many aquatic and terrestrial species have either disappeared, or are subjected to severe threats resulting from the destruction of their habitats. Reports have also showed that soil erosion, especially in the mountain and hilly areas which form 73% of the country is severe, and is caused primarily by rainfall intensity and runoff. The common heritage of land tenure is also an important factor in the course of land degradation and crop genetic erosion.

8. In Lebanon, there is a growing concern at all levels of governmental and non-governmental agencies to address environmental issues and to develop a better understanding for environmental protection and biological resource conservation. Lebanon has signed several international conventions dealing with nature conservation including the Basle Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Desertification Convention, and the Climate Change Convention. As to existing policies, there are legal provisions for the creation of nature reserves, protection of forests and agricultural lands, use of fertilizers and chemicals, and protection of water resources. Through the GEF/UNDP project on nature reserves, protected areas are officially declared, including Palm Islands, Horsh Ehden and Jabal El-Barouk. In addition to governmental bodies, Scientific Institutions such as the National Council for Scientific Research, the Agricultural Research Institute, the Marine Research Center, the Geophysical Center, the American University of Beirut, the Lebanese University, the University of Saint-Esprit, the University Saint-Joseph and others have been actively involved in various aspects of environmental conservation. Non governmental organizations are also playing an increasingly important role in conservation and environmental protection, both at the national and local levels.

9. The Country Study on Biodiversity, conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture with the financial assistance from GEF, and the technical support from UNEP is one of the most valuable resources describing the status and causes for degradation of biological diversity in Lebanon. It has produced nine study reports including, species checklist; socio-economic factors affecting biodiversity; terrestrial flora; terrestrial fauna; marine fauna and flora; freshwater fauna and flora; agricultural and livestock habitats; nature reserves; and the national current capacity and economic evaluation.

Objectives

10. The main objective of this project is to assist Lebanon to prepare a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the end of the project, a national report will be prepared for the CBD pursuant to decision II/17 of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The NBSAP will define the current status of biological diversity, reasons of degradation, strategies and priority actions to conserve and sustainably use its components in the context of the country's social and economic development.

11. Through a participatory and a multidisciplinary approach including the civil society, the NBSAP will enhance public awareness among all stakeholders from governmental bodies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, industry, transport, energy, finance, and education), related NGOs, private sector, and the community about the importance of protecting biological diversity and the need for its conservation. One of the objectives of the NBSAP is to promote human resource development and institutional capacity building of the country.

12. The project will rely on extensive analysis, consultations and dialogues on pertaining issues of biodiversity. It will assess the existing gaps in knowledge and identify options for the sound use and conservation of biodiversity. The main thrusts and provisions of the NBSAP addresses the policies, strategies and actions aimed at conserving, managing and monitoring biodiversity. The NBSAP will also identify entities responsible for the implementation of activities to be undertaken according to the strategy.

Time Plan and Sequencing

13. The Ministry of Environment, through a multidisciplinary, integrated and participatory approach, will be executing all activities of the NBSAP as shown in the attached table of activities. A national steering committee involving related ministries and governmental agencies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, industry, transport, energy, finance and education), local NGOs, universities, research institutions, donor countries and the private sector is to be established in the first month of project. Under supervision of the steering committee, a planning team will be formed to undertake the work of the enabling activity. Planning team members will be selected according to their biodiversity and planning expertise and will be lead by a national consultant, assisted by an international consultant, and other national consultants on various aspects of biodiversity and public participation. The lead national consultant will exercise and facilitate project activities and run the national and provincial workshops. The international consultant will be used for training of the planning team and other national consultants, and will assist the lead national consultant in the identification and analysis of options, preparing the NBSAP and the first national report. Terms of reference for national and international consultants will be finalized by the second month of the project.

14. During the first two months of the project, the planning team will be able to digest, summarize and synthesize existing knowledge on biological diversity, especially those provided by the country study.

15. Two familiarization courses/seminars will be organized for the planning team. The first one will be held in month 2 of the project to introduce to the planning team and national consultants the role of biodiversity in national development and the objectives of the enabling activity as well as the WRI/UNEP/IUCN Guidelines, GEF Criteria for enabling activities, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The second seminar will be held in month 4 of the project so as to inject to participants biodiversity planning processes and specific methodologies involved in the assessment of options and the formulation of the NBSAP. The timing of these courses is planned so that the maximum momentum generated from each one of them will be used in the subsequent activities; namely the assessment of existing data, the identification of options and the preparation of the BSAP. Participants will therefore be able to fully contribute to the process of the Enabling Activity.

16. The first national workshop is planned to take place during the third month of the project, to explain to the participants the objectives of the enabling activities, to present results of the inventories and stocktaking process, and to brainstorm on the possible options necessary for the NBSAP.

17. As communication and transportation within the country and between provinces is frequently difficult, in addition to the difficult political situation of Lebanon, four provincial workshops will be held in North Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa Valley and South Lebanon. These workshops will be organized by the lead national consultant and the planning team during the fourth and fifth months of the project, just after the first national workshop. Each provincial workshop will include participants from governmental agencies, local NGOs, researchers and university lecturers interested in biodiversity and community leaders of the province. It is planned that each workshop will trigger dialogue and partnership among participants on the identifications and analysis of options to meet the objectives of the CBD and the development of the NBSAP. Clearly, each provincial workshop is planned to devise a biodiversity strategy close to the needs of local community in each province that will be part of the overall NBSAP.

18. During the project, but more specifically between the two national workshops, the lead national, other national consultants and the planning team will ensure that there is an ongoing dialogue on the NBSAP with the policy makers and the stakeholders. This dialogue will be conducted through small ongoing sectoral and cross-sectoral meetings which will inject analytical and strategic thinking to all participants to actively contribute to the process and provide input to the NBSAP.

19. Building on the recommendations of sectoral meetings, provincial workshops and the first national workshop, the priority options will be identified, the human capacity developed, and the NBSAP formulated. The preparation of the NBSAP will be completed in month 10 of the project shortly after the convening of the second national workshop. The second national workshop will be held in month 9 of the project, to review strategies and priority options and to obtain further input for the finalization and endorsement of NBSAP.

20. The first national report will be completed in December 1997 and submitted to the COP of the CBD at its 4th session. The national report, as well as the NBSAP will be translated into Arabic and will be disseminated in Lebanon to allow for wider understanding of biodiversity issues, conservation and sustainable use.

21. The project, using all possible means of radio and local radios, TV and local TV stations, newspapers, Internet, leaflets, etc., will ensure that public awareness is raised and general community outreach is followed taking into account the effective participation and genuine commitment of the civil society through out the NBSAP.

Table of activities

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1- Establishment of steering committee and interagency planning team	x											
2- Finalization of TORs for Nat'l & Internat'l Consultants	x	x										
3- Stocktaking and analysis of information on BD, (Digest)	x	x										
4- Familiarization courses		x		x								
5- First national workshop			x									
6- Provincial workshops (4)				x	x							
7- Public awareness /outreach			O	N		G	O	I	N	G		
8- small cross-sectoral mtg.			O	N		G	O	I	N	G		
9- Analysis and evaluation of options					x	x						
10- Preparation of NBSAP						x	x	x	x	x		
11- Second national workshop									x			
12-Preparation and submission of the first national report to the CBD										x		
13- Translation into Arabic, publication & dissemination of NBSAP										x	x	x

Coverage without Duplication

22. It is planned that this project will cover all tasks necessary for the formulation of the NBSAP taking into consideration all related existing studies and reports. The project will be able to draw on a variety of existing sources of information such as: GEF/UNEP Biodiversity Country Study of Lebanon (Project GEF/6105-92-72); Establishment of and Enabling Environment for Integrating the Principles of Sustainable Development in Lebanon (LEB/93/G81/B/15/00); Strengthening of Natural Capacity and Grassroots *in situ* Conservation for Sustainable Biodiversity Protection (LEB/95/G31/A1G/99); Building Capacity for DFG Inventory and Action Plan in Response to UFCCC Communications Obligations (LEB/95/632); Assessment of the State of Environment in Lebanon; the Final Report, November 1995 by METAP; and Environmental Strategy Framework-WB 1996.

23. The NBSAP will be prepared using the Biodiversity Country Study (1996) and where possible benefiting from all previous reports. The enabling activity will minimize any duplication efforts but will build upon and add to the already existent knowledge of biodiversity. It will assist Lebanon in evaluating and reviewing processes and activities that have significant adverse impacts on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity pursuant to article 7 of the CBD. In this way, Lebanon will gain a better understanding of the nature and scope of its biodiversity assets and issues as well as clearer sense of the options for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable utilization and management of its components.

24. In the future, the NBSAP will lead in the future to the establishment of a biodiversity data management through an appropriate data base system which will be the tool for monitoring biodiversity status and planning exercise. The NBSAP will also enhance means of dissemination of information within and outside the country, especially to the CBD.

Best Practice

25. In order to incorporate biodiversity into the mainstream of national development, the project will be lead by a steering committee involving all stakeholders from relevant ministries and governmental bodies, key NGOs, universities, the private sector, and the community. All project activities will be done in-country to the maximum effect by national consultants. Close consultation with other experts in the region will be sought to share experience and incorporate lessons learned in other countries. The international consultant will be used for backstopping and training of the planning team in analyzing and planning activities. The methodology for the implementation of the project will be based on the "Guidelines for Country Study on Biological Diversity" (UNEP 1993), the "Guideline to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994) and the "Guidelines for preparing National Biodiversity Planning" (WRI/UNEP/IUCN, 1995). The same documents will be used for training. The project will also be followed as closely as possible to the nine criteria mentioned in the GEF Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities.

Institutional framework and project implementation

26. The project will be executed by the Ministry of Environment (MOE). The MOE will appoint a national consultant (coordinator) who will manage a multidisciplinary planning team under the supervision of the Steering Committee, involving related ministries and governmental agencies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, industry, transport, energy, finance and education), in cooperation with the private sector, NGOs, Universities research councils, and donor countries. The Steering Committee will have the overall responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the project. This broad based representation should assure that biodiversity planning becomes an integral part of mainstream planning efforts to achieve sustainable development.

27. Despite the existence of the country study in Lebanon, there is still a need for this study and other related reports to be synthesized and summarized by the planning team to be presented in the first national workshop and the four provincial workshops. The assessment and evaluation of existing knowledge will be done by the lead national consultant, assisted by other national

consultants and other members of the planning team. The planning team will have representatives from key Ministries, scientific institutions, NGOs and the private sector.

28. Workshops and meetings will be held in the various regions of Lebanon and with the various sectoral stakeholders, notably agriculture, forestry, irrigation, fisheries, transport, industry, tourism and education. Outcomes of these meetings will be discussed at the second national workshop.

Project Financing (in \$ US)

	PRODUCT	PROCESS	SUB-TOTAL
Stocktaking and inventory	0	3 000	3 000
- National consultants		2 000	2 000
- Documentation		1 000	1 000
Identification and analysis of options	10 000	58 000	68 000
- International Consultant		7 000	7 000
- National Consultants 10p/m	10 000	15 000	25 000
- Familiarization Courses		8 000	8 000
- First national workshop		8 000	8 000
- Provincial workshop (4)		12 000	12 000
- Public Awareness		3 000	3 000
- Travel, miscellaneous		5 000	5 000
Strategy and Action Plan	20 000	29 000	49 000
- International Consultant		7 000	7 000
- National Consultants	20 000	4 000	24 000
- Cross-sectoral meetings, Dissemination		7 000	7 000
- One national workshop		8 000	8 000
- Public Awareness		3 000	3 000
First National Report	12 000	3 000	15 000
- National Consultants	6 000		6 000
- Translation, publication & dissemination	6 000	3,000	9 000
Coordination and management costs	4,000	6,000	10 000
TOTAL	46,000	99 000	145 000

Deviation from Criteria and Norms

29. The overall budget as well as cost of individual activities do not deviate from the overall cost norms.

Annex 1. Dimensions of Enabling Activities (Standard Activity Matrix)

Enabling Activity Commitment	Output	Capacity	Building	Public participat.	Comments
		Inst. Strength	Training		
<i>Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information</i> - biodiversity and biological resources - cross-sectoral issues - policy and regulatory framework - institutional and human capacity - analysis of root causes of BD loss - technologies for conservation and sustainable use - activities with adverse impacts - existing measures and programs - preliminary statement of objectives - identification of gaps - assessment of existing needs					1
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD</i> - strategies for conservation - strategies for sustainable use - strategies for benefit sharing	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	2
<i>Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan</i> - national strategy - national action plan	x x	x x	x x	x x	2
<i>Preparation of the first National Report</i> - first national report	x			x	

Comments on Annex 1 (Standards Activity Matrix)

1. Valuable information can be obtained from the draft GEF/UNEP Biodiversity Country Study in Lebanon. Other information can be obtained from the Study on National Policy, Institutional Framework and Human Resource Training, undertaken by the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with UNDP. The national consultants will synthesize this information into working papers so as to be presented at the first national workshop.
2. Efforts are needed to analyze and develop existing information in the Country Study and generate findings through this enabling activity within the framework of the CBD, the Guidelines of the WRI/UNEP/IUCN 1995, and the GEF Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities.

Republic of Lebanon
Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform
Center for Public Sector Projects and Studies
(C.P.S.P.S.)