



# Global Environment Facility

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## GUIDELINES FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF BIODIVERSITY ENABLING ACTIVITIES (EXPEDITED PROCEDURES)

## **BACKGROUND**

1. In response to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties<sup>1</sup> to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), GEF's 'enabling activities' in biodiversity have focussed on assisting countries to prepare their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and/ or their first national reports to the CBD. GEF funding for this purpose can be available to countries through expedited procedures, under which proposals not exceeding \$350,000 can be approved by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the GEF on the basis of simple project briefs; proposals exceeding \$350,000 are considered under the normal project cycle of the GEF. Initial support for participation in the Clearing House Mechanism has been included in the ambit of enabling activities.
2. The Conference of the Parties to the CBD has placed considerable emphasis on the need to develop the capacity of countries to implement various elements of the Convention and has listed its agreed priorities in a number of decisions. While particular capacity development needs are best met through full-scale, GEF projects in the biodiversity focal area, there is country interest in receiving assistance to *assess what those capacity building needs are* in the particular circumstance of each country.
3. In May, 1999, the GEF Council approved the 'Capacity Development Initiative' (CDI) which will comprehensively assess the capacity building needs of countries (for both biodiversity and climate change) in the larger context of international efforts to meet those needs, and formulate a medium/ long term plan for GEF's contribution towards those efforts. An action plan based on the CDI is expected to be given final shape by mid-2001. Recognizing the immediacy of some capacity building concerns, however, the Council has also agreed to make *additional* funding available, within expedited enabling activity procedures, for assessing capacity building needs related to the CBD.

#### **SCOPE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

4. The additional funding will be available for assessing capacity building needs and defining country specific priorities from among the following priorities determined by the COP :

- (a) implementation of general measures for in-situ and ex-situ conservation and sustainable use, including national plans, strategies and legislation;
- (b) methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to components of biological diversity;
- (c) biosafety, taking into account other GEF support that may be available for capacity building under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- (d) initial assessment and monitoring programs, including taxonomy;
- (e) conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity important to agriculture;
- (f) design and approaches relevant to the implementation of incentive measures;
- (g) access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, and in particular
  - 1) assessment of existing policy measures and institutional / human capacity related to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing,
  - 2) formulation of access and benefit-sharing mechanisms,
  - 3) developing measures for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing; and
- (h) preservation and maintenance of biodiversity related knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles.

5. It may be reiterated here that this additional funding is not designed for capacity building itself, but to assess needs, identify priorities and build consensus on particular issues. Further, the scope of each activity should remain in consonance with COP decisions relevant to that activity.

### **PRIORITIZATION AMONG ACTIVITIES**

7. The priorities a particular country wishes to address through the additional funding will be selected by the country itself. Typically, the selection will have some basis in the national biodiversity and action plan, the first national report to the CBD if submitted, or some other comparable document or process. Since the purpose of this additional funding is to address immediate concerns, it is not envisaged that a country will wish to cover simultaneously all the listed areas. Therefore, the limited funds available through expedited enabling activities should be sufficient to address priority needs. However, any country can seek a larger project in accordance with paragraph 12 below.

8. In order to allow full flexibility to each country to select its priorities and organize its efforts according to its own preferences and circumstances, cost ranges for individual activities have not been suggested. For example, if a country decides it has two priority sectors and these are 1) taxonomy and 2) designing incentive measures, it will then determine how much of the available resources it wishes to allocate to each, and what activities it will undertake with those resources. Based on these decisions, a simple budget for additional assistance will be presented in the attached table.

### **PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

9. A proposal for additional funding should be prepared in consultation with the GEF Implementing Agency<sup>3</sup> which is assisting the country with its initial enabling activity (unless there is good reason for changing the Agency) and submitted in the usual manner through that Agency. The proposal should briefly justify the priorities a country has selected, the work intended to be undertaken, and the product expected from each activity. If some of the work was accomplished through the original enabling activity or other efforts, the gap to be filled through this additional funding should be described. The proposal should also describe the current state of implementation of the original enabling activity. The narrative should be accompanied by a corresponding budget in the attached table.

Agency and the national level GEF Operational Focal Point have satisfied themselves in this regard will suffice.

11. A letter of endorsement for the additional funding will be required from the GEF Operational Focal Point in order to establish the country-drivenness of the request for additional resources. If the proposal includes assistance for clearing-house mechanism activities, a letter of endorsement will also be required from the national clearing-house mechanism focal point.

### **APPROVAL PROCESS**

12. Requests for additional assistance for enabling activities will be processed as follows :

- (a) if the requested increase keeps the total cost of the enabling activity (i.e. new request + original enabling activity and clearing house mechanism) within US\$450,000, the additional resources may be approved by the CEO of the GEF.
- (b) if the requested increase results in a total cost for the enabling activity above US\$450,000, the supplementary request will be considered for submission to the Council for approval as part of a work program.

**TABLE OF COST ESTIMATES FOR ADDITIONAL ENABLING ACTIVITIES  
(BIODIVERSITY)**

**(US \$ 000)**

ACTIVITY	PRODUCT	PROCESS	TOTAL
<b>APPROVED EARLIER</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original EA, less costs of CHM activities</li> </ul>	(no entry required)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHM support (provided through add-on module or project itself)</li> </ul>			
Total approved support			
<b>ADDITIONAL REQUEST</b>			
<p>Assessment of Capacity-building needs for<sup>5</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of measures for in-situ and ex-situ conservation and sustainable use</li> <li>• methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to biodiversity components</li> <li>• Biosafety<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Initial assessment and monitoring programs, including taxonomy</li> <li>• Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity important for agriculture</li> <li>• Incentive measures</li> <li>• Access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and formulation of mechanisms for these purposes</li> <li>• Preservation/ maintenance of biodiversity related knowledge of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles</li> </ul> <p align="right">Sub total</p>			
Country-driven project for participation in the clearing house mechanism			