



Strategic Environmental Assessment & Land Use Planning in Lebanon

Mr. Napoleon Tiapo
CBBIA-Program
IAIA International Headquarters
1330 23rd Street South, Suite C
Fargo, ND 58103
USA

Antelias, 30 September 2004

Subject: Capacity Building for Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA)

Dear Mr. Tiapo,

This is to express our interest in taking part in the Small Grants Capacity Building for Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA) Program, and in submitting the proposal entitled "Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity in Lebanon".

The SEA Project is funded by the European LIFE-Third Countries program, and executed by the Ministry of Environment in partnership with UNDP. Its overall aim is to integrate environmental considerations into public decisions and undertakings on par with social and economic considerations in order to alleviate major problems facing sustainable development in the country. Accordingly, the following specific objectives were set:

- Developing a regulatory, institutional and procedural framework for implementing Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Lebanon
- Strengthening concerned public institutions and building capacities in public administrations, and the civil society (NGOs, academia and private consultants, etc.)
- Applying the proposed SEA framework in the development of environmental directives to be applied to land use planning.
- Undertaking a demonstration activity in the field of land use management.

For more details please refer to the attached summary sheet presenting an overview of the progress achieved so far.

The proposed initiative integrates well with the third and fourth objectives of the SEA project. Indeed, in the absence of national guidelines for translating the concept of biodiversity conservation into practice, biodiversity studies are limited to inventories and surveys. The development of national guidelines for biodiversity conservation will allow the SEA project team to mainstream biodiversity in decision-making as well as in land use planning procedures via SEA application.



Alissar Chaker
SEA & Land Use Planning
Project Manager