



REPUBLIQUE LIBANAISE
MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Our Ref:

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,

The Service of Conservation of Nature attaches a great importance to mainstreaming biodiversity in sectoral initiatives and undertakings, and is highly interested in submitting a proposal for the Small Grants - Capacity Building for Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA) Program. The main output of the proposed initiative "*Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity in Lebanon*" will provide practical guidelines for the integration of biodiversity in EIA/SEA taking into consideration the national context and priorities. Although biodiversity protection has been literally stipulated in relevant laws and regulations, the practical translation of this concept is still a weak link, and is limited to basic biodiversity surveys. It is worth noting that the Government of Lebanon joined the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention and the African Eurasian Water Birds Agreement in 1994 (Law no. 359/94), 1999 (Law no. 23/99), and 2002 (Law no. 412/02) respectively.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the current proposal complements another on-going initiative entitled: "Strategic Environmental Assessment & Land Use Planning in Lebanon" executed by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with UNDP. It is expected to provide a practical tool for the integration of biodiversity in decision-making.



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Accordingly, the Service of Conservation of Nature fully supports the proposed initiative and commits itself with the assistance of the SEA Project to assuring a successful outcome and to select the appropriate consultant to undertake the project activities as per the attached proposal.

Should you need any clarification, do not hesitate to contact me on the following address: tel n°: +961 4 522 222 ext 451

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Looking forward to a successful and fruitful collaboration,

Yours sincerely,

Lamia Chamas
Head of Service
Conservation of Nature