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l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## Item 5 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

### COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Third Session

Rome, 26 – 28 October 2005

#### **MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION* AND PREPARATION OF THE *SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE***

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Tenth Regular Session, the Commission recommended the continuation of work related to the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>1</sup> and it requested that the Working Group “review and provide guidance on monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, and provide guidance concerning the *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. An information document identifying, and providing comment on, relevant activities and processes in other forums is requested including linkages to the work of FAO.”

2. The purpose of this document is to report on progress in monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* and in preparing the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The requested information on relevant activities and processes in other forums is presented to the Working Group in document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.2.

### The Global Plan of Action

3. In 1991, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requested the development of a rolling *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, with programmes and activities aimed at filling gaps, overcoming constraints and facing emergency situations. The periodically updated *Plan* would permit the Commission to recommend priorities and promote the rationalization and coordination of efforts. The first *Global Plan of Action* was developed under the guidance of the Commission, through a country-driven preparatory process. It was adopted in 1996 by 150 countries, at the Fourth International Technical Conference in Leipzig.<sup>2</sup> The first *Plan* comprises twenty priority activity areas, in four main groups covering *in situ* conservation and development, *ex situ* conservation, plant genetic resources utilization, and institutions and capacity-building. The International Technical Conference agreed that the *Plan* should be implemented as an integral part of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in harmony with the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD), and that governments would monitor and guide overall progress, through the Commission. The *Global Plan of Action* is a Supporting Component of the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Article 14).

4. At its Tenth Regular Session (November 2004), the Commission recognized the importance of an efficient system for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, in terms of planning, priority-setting and achieving the mobilization of financial resources to support national plant genetic resource programmes<sup>3</sup>. It reviewed progress in developing its new approach for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. The Commission acknowledged the successful pilot phase for the new approach and its evaluation, and adopted the revised indicators and reporting format for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* that were presented in the document entitled *Indicators and reporting format for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>4</sup> It supported the application of the new monitoring approach to all countries, in view of the integration of monitoring activities with the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The Commission invited the Future Harvest Centres to collaborate with FAO in both processes.

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP para.20.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/AGP/AGPS/Pgrfa/gpaeng.htm>

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP *Report of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, Tenth Regular Session, Rome, 8 - 12 November 2004, para. 26.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-10/04/Inf.5.

5. In the context of its cooperation with the CBD, the Commission also decided that it would accept the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, to consider how the *Global Plan of Action* can contribute to the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*, in particular target 9, and noted the need for, and the importance of higher order indicators in this regard.<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, the Secretariat has provided the Working Group with an information document on the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*<sup>6</sup>, as well as an information document on *The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Ecosystem Approach*.<sup>7</sup>

### **Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources**

6. In 1989, the Commission “recommended that the Secretariat should periodically prepare a *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*, with the cooperation of other bodies concerned. The report should analyze the current plant genetic resources situation, and describe activities and programmes being carried out by regional, international and non-governmental organizations, with the aim of identifying gaps, constraints and emergency situations; this would allow the Commission to recommend priorities and ways of harmonizing the overall effort”<sup>8</sup>. The first *Report*<sup>9</sup> was welcomed by the Fourth International Technical Conference, held in Leipzig, Germany in 1996 as the first comprehensive worldwide assessment of the status and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. According to the International Treaty (Article 17.3), “the Contracting Parties shall cooperate with the Commission ... in its periodic reassessment of the state of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in order to facilitate the updating of the rolling *Global Plan of Action*”.

7. At its Ninth Regular Session, the Commission adopted the outline of the second *Report* (shown in *Annex I* of the present document), and considered steps for its preparation. At its Tenth Regular Session, the Commission considered a document on *Progress in the Preparation of the Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>10</sup> The Commission decided that the second *Report* should provide objective information and analysis and identify priorities, as a basis for updating the rolling *Global Plan of Action*. The Commission encouraged Members and other countries and relevant organizations, such as the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), to participate in the preparatory process. It adopted the steps for preparing the second *Report* recommended in the report of the Second Session of the Working Group,<sup>11</sup> and requested FAO to revise the time line, on the basis that the second *Report* would be completed in 2008. It confirmed that the country-driven preparatory process for the second *Report* should be fully integrated into the process of monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, in order to minimize the reporting burden on Members. The Commission called upon donor countries and international organizations to assist, by providing the financial resources required for the full participation of all countries in the preparation of the second *Report*, including in the monitoring of the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.<sup>12</sup>

8. The Commission approved a list of thematic background studies<sup>13</sup>, confirming that priority should be given to updating the first *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food*

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<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP para. 76.

<sup>6</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/Inf.3

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/Inf.4

<sup>8</sup> CPGR/89/REP, para.15.

<sup>9</sup> FAO, 1996. See [http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/AGP/AGPS/Pgrfa/wrlmap\\_e.htm](http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/AGP/AGPS/Pgrfa/wrlmap_e.htm)

<sup>10</sup> CGRFA-10/04/5 Add.1

<sup>11</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-2/03/REPORT, *Appendix D*.

<sup>12</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP para. 22-24.

<sup>13</sup> CGRFA-10/04/REP, *Appendix E*.

and Agriculture, focusing, as far as possible, on changes that had occurred since its adoption. The Commission confirmed that the proposed thematic studies should be carried out, as far as resources allowed. It took note of the draft *Guidelines for Country Reports*<sup>14</sup>, and observed that these should be further considered and refined at regional meetings, before their finalization.

## **2. PROGRESS IN MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION**

9. FAO and IPGRI are working as partners to facilitate a country-driven, participatory and capacity-building process to monitor the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, culminating in the establishment of national information-sharing mechanisms.

10. The new monitoring approach relies on four main components, which have been developed by FAO with the collaboration of IPGRI, and with inputs from national programmes on plant genetic resources and an expert group. These components are:

- a) a list of indicators for monitoring the implementation at the country level of all priority activity areas of the *Global Plan of Action*;
- b) a reporting format, which is a structured questionnaire based on these indicators;
- c) a computer application, which has been developed to facilitate and simplify recording, processing, analysis and sharing of the information addressed by the indicators and the questionnaire; and
- d) guidelines for initiating and coordinating this process, including guidelines for the involvement of stakeholders and for establishing a national information-sharing mechanism<sup>15</sup>.

As of June 2005, the indicators, reporting format and computer application are available in Arabic, Chinese, Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Malay, Russian, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese languages. The guidelines for the involvement of stakeholders are available in English and Spanish, while the guidelines for the establishment of the National Information Sharing Mechanism, including the manual for the use of the computer application, are available in English, French, Russian, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese.

11. Including the pilot testing phase, as of June 2005, eighteen countries<sup>16</sup> had completed or were in the course of monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* using the new monitoring approach. In addition, preliminary discussions have been held and funding has been secured for undertaking the new monitoring approach in ten additional countries. Three International Agricultural Research Centres<sup>17</sup> of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) are monitoring their contributions to implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* using the new approach. Other CGIAR centres involved in plant genetic resources have also agreed to make available relevant information on their contributions to implementation of the *Plan*<sup>18</sup>.

12. Ten countries have implemented a National Information Sharing Mechanism as of June 2005. Information obtained from the monitoring, and shared by these countries, can be consulted on their

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<sup>14</sup> CGRFA-10/04/Inf.8

<sup>15</sup> See CGRFA/WG-PGR-2/03/4, paras. 10-17.

<sup>16</sup> Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Ghana, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Papua-New Guinea, Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam

<sup>17</sup> International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

<sup>18</sup> See CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.2 for more information

own established web sites and through a prototype global portal under FAO's *World Information and Early Warning System on PGRFA* (WIEWS) at [www.pgrfa.org/gpa](http://www.pgrfa.org/gpa). National focal points have full control over the information posted in their country's National Information Sharing Mechanism.

13. Countries that have completed the new approach to monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* have reported that the results validate the significant amount of work required. National focal points stated they learned and shared up to five times more information about national activities in respect of the *Global Plan* than was available to them previously. This reinforced capacity for understanding and potential for cooperation appears in itself to be one of the major benefits of monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan*.

### **3. PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

14. FAO and IPGRI are working as partners to facilitate the preparation of the *Second Report. Guidelines for Country Reports*<sup>19</sup> were finalized by FAO with the collaboration of IPGRI. The *Guidelines* include information on the steps for preparation of the *Second Report*. A revised time line (see *Annex II* of the present document) is incorporated into the *Guidelines*, for the *Second Report* to be completed in 2008 as requested by the Commission.

15. As requested by the Commission, the *Guidelines* are fully integrated into the process of monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. Each guideline includes indications on how to use information compiled by countries using the new approach for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan*. The *Guidelines* are posted on the WIEWS web site at [http://apps3.fao.org/wiews/wiews.jsp?i\\_1=EN](http://apps3.fao.org/wiews/wiews.jsp?i_1=EN).

16. Meetings were held to discuss the *Guidelines*, as requested by the Commission. National representatives of thirteen countries of Western Asia and the Arabian Peninsula met in Amman, Jordan, on 5-7 February, 2005. Eight countries in North Africa and the Nile Valley met in Cairo, Egypt on 19-21 June, 2005. They brought together nationally designated experts in both plant genetic resources conservation and in their utilisation in seed systems. Participants also discussed monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, and were presented with information on other associated initiatives, in particular the development of national plant breeding strategies. Reports of these meetings are presented as information documents to the Working Group<sup>20 21</sup>. The meetings were financially supported by the Government of Norway and by FAO.

17. FAO sent a letter to Governments of Member Countries of the Commission recalling the Commission's decisions to apply the new approach to monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* to all countries, and to prepare Country Reports and participate in national surveys and strategies for plant breeding, contributing to the preparation of the *Second Report*. Countries were requested to nominate or confirm their National Focal Point for preparation of their Country Report and provide the name or names to FAO. The Governments of Portugal, Greece and Bolivia have notified FAO that they have started preparation of their Country Reports.

18. Given the lower relative priority assigned by the Commission for the completion of thematic background studies, and in the absence of extra-budgetary resources earmarked for their development, none have been completed to date. Logically, the preparation of studies should be coordinated with other on-going processes, such as the preparation of the *State of the World's Animal Genetic*

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<sup>19</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/Inf.5

<sup>20</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/Inf.6

<sup>21</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/Inf.7

*Resources* and the establishment of the cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition for the CBD.

19. Cost estimates for extra-budgetary resources required in support of the preparatory process for the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* were presented to the Commission at its Tenth Regular Session, including the roll-out of the new monitoring approach for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* and the development of national plant breeding strategies. An updated version of these estimates, adapted using the experience of the work carried out over the past year, and indicating the use of resources already provided, is presented in *Annex III* of the present document.

20. FAO has attempted to raise extra-budgetary funding by submitting project proposals to donors and by developing proposals for FAO Technical Cooperation Projects at the request of member countries. Out of USD 4,435 million of extra-budgetary funds required to complete the preparations, FAO has received USD 1,285 million as of July 2005 from the Governments of Japan, The Netherlands, Italy and Norway.

21. FAO is allocating USD 1,225,000 from its Regular Programme Budget in support of these activities over six years, starting in 2003. During 2003, IPGRI spent USD 24,000 from its core funds and 67 days of staff time; in 2004 these figures were USD 27,000 and 75 days, respectively.

#### **4. GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON PLANTGENETIC RESOURCES**

22. As regards monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, the Working Group may wish to provide guidance in relation to:

- i) how to apply the new monitoring approach to all countries in view of the integration of the monitoring activities with the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's PGRFA*; and
- ii) mobilization of the necessary extra-budgetary funds to apply the monitoring process to all countries between now and 30 April, 2007 (this is the date by which monitoring must be completed in order for countries to draft Country Reports in time to be used as input to the second *Report*).

23. As regards the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the Working Group may wish to provide guidance in relation to:

- i) encouraging Member States and other countries and relevant organizations to participate in the preparatory process, including nominating or confirming National Focal Points for the preparation of the Country Report and providing their names to FAO; and
- ii) mobilization of the necessary extra-budgetary resources in a timely manner, in particular to allow the full participation of developing countries in the preparatory process and the preparation of thematic studies, so that the *Second Report* may be adopted in late 2008;
- iii) priorities or contingencies in the event extra-budgetary resources cannot be mobilized in a timely manner.

## ANNEX 1

**OUTLINE OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Chapter or Annex Title</i>	<i>Scope of Chapter or Annex</i>	<i>Summary of progress in implementation of GPA activities</i>	<i>New issues and elements to be included</i>
1 The State of Diversity	Diversity within and between plant species – value of PGRFA for food and agriculture – Genetic vulnerability and genetic diversity		Use of indicators for genetic diversity, genetic erosion and genetic vulnerability – impact of climate change and other global change phenomena will be included – discussion of value of genetic resources will include consideration of the contribution of PGRFA to ecosystem goods and services
2 The State of In Situ Management	Inventories and surveys – conservation in protected areas and in production areas – on-farm management	Activities 1 – 4	To be completely updated to encompass the substantial progress made in on-farm conservation, participatory plant breeding, and local seed system development – Information on the management of crop-associated biodiversity to be included, where relevant
3 The State of Ex Situ Conservation	Collecting – types of collections (genebanks, botanic gardens) – security of materials – documentation and characterization – germplasm movement	Activities 5 – 8	To be updated with the latest data on ex situ holdings
4 The State of Use	Evaluation – genetic enhancement and base broadening – plant breeding – seed systems – marketing and processing – deployment of genetic resources in production systems	Activities 9 – 14	This chapter will be expanded to provide substantially more information on the capacity of national plant breeding and seed provision systems
5 The State of National Programmes, Training Needs and Legislation	National programmes – role of public, private and informal sectors – training and capacity-building – national policies – national legislation	Activity 15, and relevant aspects of activities 17 – 20	The chapter will include information on relevant agricultural policies, and biosafety/biosecurity measures
6 The State of Regional and International Collaboration	Regional and subregional networks – crop-specific and thematic networks – international programmes – international agreements	Activities 16, and relevant aspects of activities 17 – 20	The chapter will be updated in light of the adoption of the International Treaty on PGRFA, the Cartagena Protocol, and other relevant international agreements
7 Access to Plant Genetic Resources, Sharing of Benefits Derived from their Use, and Farmers' Rights	Legal and policy framework – access – benefit-sharing – financing – implementation of Farmers' Rights		To be updated in the light of the adoption of the International Treaty on PGRFA, and the development of national legislation
8 The contribution of PGRFA management to food security and sustainable development	New Chapter		Concluding chapter to place the management of PGRFA in the context of the objectives of contributing to agricultural sustainability, food security, economic development and poverty alleviation
A1 The State of the Art: Methodologies and Technologies for the Identification, Conservation and Use of PGRFA	Assessing and analysing genetic diversity – applications of biotechnologies – conservation methodologies – in situ management methodologies – breeding methodologies – legal and economic tools		Expanded coverage of the application of new biotechnologies and methodologies for base-broadening, information dissemination, research policy design and for in situ management
A2 The State of Diversity of Major Crops and other PGRFA	Summary of conservation and use of PGRFA for major crops and selected minor crops		To be fully updated and extended to cover major forage / pasture species and other PGRFA
T1 Status by Country of National Legislation, Programmes and Activities for PGRFA	Table: status of national programmes – legislation – adherence to international agreements – Summary of capacities		To be fully updated

<sup>1</sup> From document CGRFA-9/02/8. This Outline was adopted by the Ninth Regular Session of the Commission.

## ANNEX 2

**PROVISIONAL TIME LINE FOR PREPARING THE SECOND *REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*<sup>2</sup>**

Outputs and Activities	2005						2006						2007						2008						
	1*	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	
				♦		♦				♦		♦					♦		♦				♦		♦
GPA Monitoring	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●											
				♦		♦				♦		♦					♦		♦				♦		♦
SOW Thematic Studies			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●													
				♦		♦				♦		♦					♦		♦				♦		♦
SOW Country Reports				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●										
				♦		♦				♦		♦					♦		♦				♦		♦
Regional Drafts																●	●	●							
				♦		♦				♦		♦					♦		♦				♦		♦
Regional Meetings																●	●	●							
				♦		♦				♦		♦					♦		♦				♦		♦
Final Regional Synthesis																			●						
				♦		♦				♦		♦					♦		♦				♦		♦
Preparation of First Draft																			●	●					
				♦		♦				♦		♦					♦		♦				♦		♦
Review of First Draft																				●					
				♦		♦				♦		♦					♦		♦				♦		♦
Preparation of Final Draft																				●					

\* Two months

● Process should have been initiated in all countries

♦ Deadline for preparation of documents to be submitted to the Working Group

♦ Working Group Meeting

♦ Deadline for preparation of documents to be submitted to the Commission

♦ Commission Meeting

<sup>2</sup> Taken from document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.5, *Preparation of the Second Report on The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Guidelines for Country Reports*, Annex II.

## ANNEX 3

**COST ESTIMATES FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCES REQUIRED IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING THE ROLL-OUT OF THE NEW MONITORING APPROACH FOR MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION <sup>3</sup>**

	Cost (USD)	Calculation	Estimated resources provided (USD)	Purpose and notes
Staff costs	135 000	16 months General Service plus 6 months P2/P3 level officer	0	To assist secretariat in the coordination of the process
Establishment of National Information Sharing Mechanisms to monitor GPA Implementation	2 500 000	c. 100 countries @ 25 000/country	960 000	Support for three stakeholders workshops per country, and for building in-country capacity to apply the new monitoring approach to all developing countries
Regional meetings	320 000	One meeting for each of 4 regions (Africa, CWANA, AP, LAC) @ 80 000 / region / meeting.	80 000	To review draft Guidelines for Country Reports. Two regional meetings were held, and the Guidelines are now finalized. Further allocation of funds to this activity is no longer relevant.
Development of national plant breeding strategies	200 000	c. 50 countries @ 4 000/country	54 000	To support consultations with individual countries to assess national capacities and needs, and help develop national plant breeding strategies and programmes
	40 000	Four workshops @ 10 000 each	25 000	To refine methodologies and share results among several countries
Development of Country Reports	250 000	c. 50 countries @ 5 000/country	100 000	To provide partial support to convene national workshops or consultations with stakeholders.
Technical consultancies	270 000	9 subregions @ 30 000/subregion; each 2 – 3 months honorarium, plus travel	66 000	To provide advice and assistance to countries on the preparation of Country Reports using the adopted guidelines, including identification and involvement of stakeholders, and to assist in the organization and follow up of regional meetings
Regional meetings	320 000	One meeting for each of 4 regions (Africa, CWANA, AP, LAC) @ 80 000 / region / meeting. For participation of developing countries and organizing expenses	0	To discuss regional issues arising from Country Reports, related to the State of the World's PGRFA; and to identify common needs for implementation and/or refinement of the Global Plan of Action
Development of thematic background studies	400 000	Ten thematic studies @ 40 000/study	0	To support the development of thematic studies and other necessary background material and expert meetings for the Report. To be developed according to the priorities identified by the Commission
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 435 000</b>		<b>1 285 000</b>	

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from document CGRFA-10/04/5 Add.1, Appendix I