



Global Environment Facility

Monique Barbut
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June 10, 2008

Ms. Barbara Cooney
GEF Executive Coordinator
Food and Agriculture Organization
Rome
Italy

Dear Ms. Cooney:

I am pleased to inform you that I am endorsing the project proposal entitled *Global (Algeria, Chile, China, Peru, Philippines, Tunisia): Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)*, for \$3,500,000 in financing from the GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF). I understand that this project proposal will be submitted for Agency approval in accordance with FAO's procedures. I note that a project preparation grant (PPG) of \$725,000 was previously approved for preparation of this project and that a report on the use of those funds has been submitted to the Secretariat. Taking into account the project preparation funds, total GEF grant for the project is \$4,225,000.

I am endorsing this project on the understanding that the project will meet the following milestones:

- (i) The grant agreement will be signed no later than July 2008;
- (ii) A report on the status of the project at mid-term will be submitted to the Secretariat no later than December 2010; and
- (iii) The closing date of the project grant will be no later than June 2013, and a terminal evaluation/project completion report will be submitted to the Secretariat within 6 months of such closing date.

You are requested to ensure that the GEF Secretariat is informed when each of these milestones is met. If any milestone is not achieved, and after consultations with your Agency, I may agree to revised milestones or recommend cancellation, termination, or suspension of the project, and I will communicate to the beneficiary country and your Agency the basis for such a recommendation.

Ms. Barbara Cooney

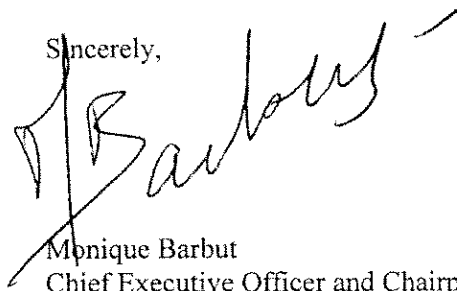
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June 10, 2008

Please ensure that your grant agreements continue to fully reflect this understanding.

I am attaching a copy of the project tracking sheet for your records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monique Barbut', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Monique Barbut
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachments: GEF Tracking Sheet, Review Sheet

cc: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee



REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL
PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: 10 April 2008

Re-submission Date: 6 May 2008

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 2127

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 2050

COUNTRY(IES): Global / Multiple (Algeria, Chile, China, Peru, Philippines, Tunisia)

PROJECT TITLE: *CONSERVATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS (GIAHS)*

GEF AGENCY(IES): FAO

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): Algeria: Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'environnement ; Chile:

Centro de Tecnología y Educación /CET ; China: Ministry of

Agriculture/MOA ; Peru: National Environmental Council /CONAMA ; Philippines: Department of Environment and Natural Resources /DENR ; Tunisia: Ministère de l'environnement et du développement durable

GEF FOCAL AREA(S): Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): *Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors*

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT:

Expected Calendar	
Milestones	Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	June 2007
GEF Agency Approval	May 2008
Implementation Start	July 2008
Mid-term Review (if planned)	3 rd Qtr 2010
Implementation Completion	June 2013

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To promote conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harbored in globally important agricultural heritage systems or GIAHS.								
Project Components	Type of Investment (TA, STA**)	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing*		Indicative Co-financing*		Total (\$)
				(\$)	%	(\$)	%	
1. An internationally accepted system for full recognition of GIAHS is in place (Global)	STA	1.1 Number of GIAHS systems receiving international recognition 1.2 Statements from FAO, CGRFA, ITPGRFA, UNESCO, WHC, CBD, CoP, CCD, IUCN endorsing the GIAHS concept, definition and identification criteria. 1.3 Sustainable finance mechanism is in place.	1.1 At least 15 more GIAHS is recognized and 40 other potential GIAHS is identified in accordance with internationally accepted criteria. 1.2 All identified institutions issue resolutions/ statements supporting GIAHS concept. 1.3 A sustainable financing mechanism and institutional support for consolidating and expanding the GIAHS approach as a long-term open-ended program.	374 445	27.2	1 000 556	72.8	1 375 001

<p>2. The conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harbored in GIAHS in six countries is mainstreamed in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies in pilot countries (National)</p>	<p>TA, STA</p>	<p>2.1 Amendment to key sectoral and intersectoral policies and plans. 2.2 Local government and budgetary support to GIAHS</p>	<p>2.1 Official recognition of GIAHS in the national policy documents. 2.2 Development of capacities of national-level institutions to mainstream GIAHS in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies. 2.3 At least 1-2 government staff per pilot country are dedicated and qualified to champion the concept of GIAHS.</p>	<p>534 442</p>	<p>28.4</p>	<p>1 344 220</p>	<p>71.6</p>	<p>1 878 662</p>
<p>3. Globally significant agricultural biodiversity in pilot GIAHS is being managed and sustainably used by empowering local communities and harnessing evolving economic, social, and policy processes and by adaptation of appropriate new technologies that allow interaction between ecological and cultural processes (Local)</p>	<p>TA, STA</p>	<p>3.1 No further decline in land conversion and land abandonment pressures on traditional farming systems. 3.2 Decline in land conversion pressures on surrounding habitats. 3.3 Improved level of understanding and commitment of communities to GIAHS in the pilot sites 3.4 Number of traditional crops and varieties are being cultivated.</p>	<p>3.1 About 90% of farmers are estimated to observe management practices supportive of GIAHS criteria. 3.2 Habitat networks surrounding traditional farms remains stable or increase compared to baseline levels 3.3. No further decline in land conversion and land abandonment: Chiloe: 10,616 ha China: 451 ha Algeria: 500 ha Tunisia: 700 ha Peru: 30,798 ha Philippines: 68,416 ha 3.4 No decline in the number of traditional crops and varieties that are being cultivated.</p>	<p>1 108 152</p>	<p>13.0</p>	<p>7 383 754</p>	<p>87.0</p>	<p>8 491 906</p>

<p>4. Lessons learned and best practices from promoting effective management of pilot GIAHS are widely disseminated to support expansion and upscaling of the GIAHS in other areas/countries and creation of the GIAHS network (Global, National, Local)</p>	<p>TA, STA</p>	<p>4.1 Expressions of interest from other GIAHS around the world to apply the project approach, along with commitments to provide co-financing. 4.2 Interest from academic and research institutes in analyzing and further study of experience in pilot sites 4.3 Network of GIAHS systems is established and usage of electronic forum and database by interested stakeholders.</p>	<p>4.1 The project's M&E plan at global and pilot-country levels is adapted. 4.2 Global publication on lessons learned and best practices emerging from the pilot countries on the identification, designation and participatory management of GIAHS is prepared and published. 4.3 Scientific reports and publications arising from project investigations and implementation are prepared and published. 4.4 GIAHS Web-based information management system (database on existing and potential GIAHS) and an electronic forum for sharing information and experiences across the various pilots (networks) are created and maintained.</p>	<p>1 172 742</p>	<p>22.9</p>	<p>3 953 908</p>	<p>77.1</p>	<p>5 126 650</p>
<p>5. Project management budget cost (GEF amount is 8.86% of the total GEF cost)</p>				<p>310 220</p>	<p>28.9</p>	<p>764 434</p>	<p>71.1</p>	<p>1 074 654</p>
<p>Total Project Costs</p>				<p>3 500 000</p>	<p>19.5</p>	<p>14 446 872</p>	<p>80.5</p>	<p>17 946 872</p>

** TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & Technical analysis.

B. FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	<i>Project Preparation*</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Agency Fee</i>	<i>Total at CEO Endorsement*</i>	<i>For the record: Total at PIF</i>
GEF PDF-A	25 000	3 500 000	422 500	4 647 500	
GEF PDF-B	700 000				
Co-financing	1 040 000	14 446 872		15 505 872	
Total	1 765 000	17 946 872	422 500	20 153 372	

* PDF grant; **Amount already approved for FSP. Status of implementation and use of fund for the PDF grant is in Annex D.

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING FOR THE FSP.

Name of Co-financier (source)	Classification	Type	Amount (\$)	Status
FAO	Implementing/ Executing agency	in kind	1 832 762	Confirmed
FAO	Implementing/ Executing agency	in cash	600 000	Confirmed
National Governments*	Government	in kind and cash	4 719 516	Confirmed
Germany	Bilateral donor	in cash	2 200 033	Confirmed
HEADs	Foundation	in kind	49 457	Confirmed
HEADs	Foundation	in cash	100 000	Confirmed
TCF	Foundation	in cash	1 165 376	Confirmed
TCF	Foundation	in kind	600 000	Confirmed
IFAD	Multilat. Agency	in cash	199 906	Confirmed
Roman Forum	Foundation/CSO	in kind	1 000 000	Confirmed
Roman Forum	Foundation/CSO	in cash	1 979 822	Confirmed
Total Co-financing			14 446 872	

* Percentage of each co-financier's contribution at CEO endorsement to total co-financing.

** Initial confirmed co-financing.

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY FOCAL AREA(S), AGENCY (IES) OR COUNTRY(IES)

<i>GEF Agency</i>	<i>Focal Area</i>	<i>Country Name/ Global</i>	<i>(in \$)</i>			
			<i>Project Preparation</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Agency Fee</i>	<i>Total</i>
FAO	Biodiversity	Algeria		200 000		
FAO	Biodiversity	Chile		600 000		
FAO	Biodiversity	China		500 000		
FAO	Biodiversity	Peru		600 000		
FAO	Biodiversity	Philippines		500 000		
FAO	Biodiversity	Tunisia		100 000		
FAO	Biodiversity	Global		1 000 000		
Total GEF Resources			725 000	3 500 000	422 500	4 647 500

(rounded numbers according to letters)

* **NO** need to provide information for this table if it is a single focal area, single country and single GEF Agency project.

E. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST

The project management cost of this proposal includes costs for technical project coordination and management and administrative costs.

Component	Estimated Staff weeks	GEF(\$)	Other Sources (\$)	Project Total (\$)
Personnel:				
Locally recruited personnel ¹	280	120 000	490 250	610 250
Internationally recruited consultants ²	105	83 390	100 950	184 340
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications		15 750	38 500	54 250
Travel		22 680	62 386	85 066
Miscellaneous		68 400	72 348	140 748
Totals		310 220	764 434	1 074 654

¹Part-time Administrative Staff/Financial/Budget Analyst (1 staff – HQ; 6 staff-local hire, country-based).

²International consultants: FAO uses an average cost of 350 USD per day or 1 750 per week.

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Estimated Staff Weeks	GEF (\$)	Other Sources	Project Total
Local Consultants ³	860	258 000	258 000	516 000
International Consultants ⁴	319	209 426	349 174	558 600
Total	1 179	467 426	607 174	1 074 600

³Local Consultants: Local consultants (country-based) have been defined as all temporary and specialized personnel to be supported to assist national focal institutions. This includes, for example, trainers and other capacity building personnel. Details on the area of expertise of the national consultants are provided in Annex C.

⁴International consultants: FAO uses an average cost of 350 USD per day or 1 750 per week.

Details of personnel (Tables E and F) and the area of expertise for the local/international consultants are provided in Annex C. More detailed terms of references of the personnel and consultants are described in PART VIII of the FSP Project Document.

G. DETAILS OF THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties/Participants	Budget US\$ Excluding Project Team and FAO Staff time	Time-frame
Inception Workshop	Full project team FAO (LTU, BH, FAO country office) National Focal Point Institutions Co-Financing Institutions	60 000	Within first three months of project start up
Inception Report	Project Coordinator, FAO	5 000	Immediately following IW
Impact and field monitoring	Project Coordinator, in consultation with FAO LTU and BH, will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant country teams/PCU members. Measurements by regional field officers, local implementing agencies and teams, consultants	140 000	Annually
Project Implementation Review (PIR)	Project Team FAO	15 000	Annually
Project Steering Committee Meetings	Project Coordinator, FAO, Participating countries, Partners	60 000	Immediately following Project IW and subsequently every year
Quarterly Project Implementation Reports (QPIRs) – internal FAO monitoring tool	FAO Budget Holder, TCOM, TCAP	None	Quarterly
Semi-annual Project Progress Reports	Project team, FAO (LTU, BH, TCAP, TCOM)	None	June and December
Technical and thematic reports	Project team, FAO (LTU, BH, Project Task Force), Consultants as required	120 000	To be determined during the project implementation by Project Team, PSC, FAO
Visits to field sites	Government representatives Various stakeholders, as required	83 500	Annually
Independent Bipartite Mid-term Evaluation	FAO (LTU, BH, PBEE, TCAP, TCOM) in close consultation with: National Project team of Participating countries External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	40 000	At mid-point of project implementation
Independent Bipartite Final Evaluation	FAO (LTU, BH, PBEE, TCAP, TCOM) in close consultation with: Project team of Participating countries External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	40 000	At least 6 months before project completion
Terminal Report	Project team , FAO (Terminal Report is normally prepared by the Project Coordinator + consultant support)	15 000	At least 3 months before the end of the project
Lessons learned	Project team, FAO (particularly the LTU)	41 500	Annually
Monitoring using internet-based M & E system (FAO's SPHERE Programme)	Project team, FAO-GPIU	None	Continuously
TOTAL indicative COST		625 000	

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. *Project Rationale*

The biodiversity that underpins agricultural systems¹ spans a continuum from simple human use of wild species to the creation and intensive management of genetically modified organisms. Within this spectrum, “agricultural biodiversity” represents that group of organisms which has been domesticated, maintained and adapted in a process of co-evolution with human management systems². Thus, landraces and wild species of animals and plants as well as live organisms contained in soils and water, are the essential source of genetic variability for responding to biotic and abiotic stress through genetic adaptation. The agricultural biodiversity in any form can only be effectively maintained and adapted with the human management systems that have created it, including indigenous knowledge systems and technologies, specific forms of social organization, customary or formal law and other cultural practices. Agricultural practices in many parts of the world have led to landscape-scale ecosystem variation, and provided mosaics of micro-habitats, that support associated plant and animal communities, which now depend largely on continued management of their viability. In many regions of the world, especially where natural conditions of climate, soil, accessibility and human presence militate against intensification, there still persist agro-ecosystems and landscapes that are maintained by traditional practices developed by generations of farmers and herders. Based on a high diversity of species and their interactions, the use of locally adapted, distinctive and often ingenious combinations of management practices and techniques, such agricultural systems testify to millennia of co-evolution of human societies with their natural environments. These systems often contain rich and globally unique agricultural biodiversity, within and between species but also at ecosystem and landscape level. Having been founded on ancient agricultural civilizations, certain of these systems are linked to important centers of origin and diversity of domesticated plant and animal species, the *in situ* conservation of which is of great importance and global value. Many of these indigenous and traditional agricultural systems referred to as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) have resulted not only in outstanding landscapes (some are recognized as World Heritage Sites), but, more importantly, in the perpetuation of globally significant agricultural biodiversity, maintenance of resilient ecosystems, and preservation of valuable traditional knowledge and cultural practices. Perhaps above all they embody the principles for sustained provision of multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security, and a certain quality of life that keeps a close link with its natural environment.

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) represent a unique sub-set of agricultural systems, which exemplify customary use of globally significant agricultural biodiversity (Article 10 c and 8j of CBD) and merit to be recognized as a heritage of human kind within the national sovereignty jurisdictions. To halt the rapid degradation of GIAHS their dynamic nature must first be recognized. Their resilience depends on their capacity to adapt to new challenges without losing their biological and cultural wealth, and productive capacity. This requires continuous agro-ecological and social innovation combined with careful transfer of accumulated knowledge and experience across the generations. Trying to conserve GIAHS by “freezing them in time” would surely lead to their degradation and condemn their communities to poverty. The GIAHS approach will centre on the human management and knowledge systems, including their socio-organizational, economic and cultural features that underpin the conservation and adaptation processes in GIAHS without compromising their resilience, sustainability and integrity. The innovative feature of the project allows the integration of these local agricultural and livelihood systems to global environmental markets such as eco-labeling, carbon sequestration, eco-tourism and other payment for environmental services schemes thereby ensuring their sustainability without their fossilization. GIAHS can be viewed also as benchmark systems that can provide principles and lessons for international and national strategies for the *in situ*-conservation of biodiversity. This project will endeavor to achieve a better understanding, locally and globally, of the indigenous people’s knowledge and management experience related to nature and the environment, and applying this to contemporary developmental challenges, especially for the reinvigoration of sustainable agriculture and rural development objectives.

¹ A broad concept of agriculture is applied, including cropping, animal husbandry, forestry, swidden agriculture, fisheries, hunting, gathering and combinations thereof.

² According to the CBD, agricultural biological diversity is “...a broad term that includes all components of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture, and all components of biological diversity that constitute the agro-ecosystem: the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms, at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels, which are necessary to sustain key functions of the agro-ecosystem, its structure and processes...” (decision V/5)

To date, over 100 systems world-wide have been identified under GEF-PDF resources that meet general selection criteria (Project Document, Section IV, Part III). Extant indigenous and traditional agricultural systems covered by the project are:

Table 1: Globally Significant Agricultural biodiversity in pilot GIAHS to be conserved by the Project

Pilot GIAHS	Globally Significant Agricultural biodiversity
<p>Chile Chiloé Agriculture Chiloe Island</p>	<p><u>Agricultural biodiversity:</u> Chiloe Island is one of the Vavilov centers of origin of crop diversity. It is a centre of origin of potatoes (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>), and a centre of mango (<i>Bromus moango</i>) and strawberry (<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>). Some 200 documented varieties of native potatoes are still managed today, together with a variety of garlic (Ajo chilote) that is unique to the islands and its volcanic soils. The island supports an indigenous horse race, the hardy Caballo Chilote.</p> <p><u>Associated biodiversity:</u> WWF has listed Chiloe Island as one of the 25 priority areas for ecosystem conservation in the world. Both primary and secondary temperate rainforest are found on Chiloe Island in the patchwork landscape shaped as a result of 10 000 years of co-evolution with human livelihoods. They hold a wide range of species including 15 rare to endangered bird species, 33 endemic species of amphibians (three rare to endangered), nine species of endemic mammals (all rare to endangered), and four species of vulnerable to endangered freshwater fish; Wild species provide fruit (eight species), dyes (nine species), ethno-medicines (41 species) and used for sculpture (five species).</p> <p><u>Ecosystem functions:</u> Field hedges and the adjacent forests support pollinators and pest predators. Seaweed and washed-up cuttlefish are used for soil improvement.</p>
<p>China Rice-fish system, Lonxiang village, Zhejiang Province</p>	<p><u>Agricultural biodiversity:</u> Rice paddies (20 native rice varieties; many threatened), home gardens, and livestock / poultry; Trees and field hedges; Numerous native vegetables and fruits including lotus roots, beans, taro, eggplant, Chinese plum (<i>Prunus simoni</i>), mulberry; six native breeds of carp.</p> <p><u>Associated biodiversity:</u> five species of fish, and amphibians and snails in paddies; seven species of wild vegetables collected in borders of fields; 62 forest species are used (21 as food); 53 medicinal plants.</p> <p><u>Ecosystem functions:</u> Integrated use of forest (70% of water catchments) and managed rice-fish interactions for nutrient recycling, pest control and high quality protein production from organic waste material; Use of four species of <i>Azolla</i> for nitrogen fixation and protein rich fish food; Use of trees in field and hedges for pest control (ethno-pesticides or habitats for beneficial insects)</p>
<p>(Algeria: Bénilsguen, Tunisia: Gafsa) Oases of the Maghreb</p>	<p><u>Agricultural biodiversity:</u> 50 date varieties in Gafsa, Tunisia; 100 in Beni, Algeria, several local varieties of vegetables, beans, medicinal plants, fruit trees and shrubs, local breeds of goat, sheep, etc.</p> <p><u>Associated biodiversity:</u> Migratory birds, Gazelle (<i>Gazella cuvieri</i>), Fennec (<i>Vulpes zerda</i>).</p> <p><u>Ecosystem functions:</u> The three tier system (palms; shrubs and fruit trees; ground crops) creates conditions suited for water conservation and micro-climate regulation; ingenious under ground irrigation systems called Fogara with traditional water rights and management system and unique blind fish in Fogaras, Management of inter- and intra-species interactions for pest and disease control and efficiency of water and nutrient uses; Efficient water-use and reduced land degradation</p>
<p>Peru Andean Agriculture</p>	<p><u>Agricultural Biodiversity:</u> Primary centre of origin of potatoes, quinoa, kañiwa, chilis, the chinchona tree, the coca shrub, oca, olluco, mashwa), amaranth, leguminous plants such as beans and lupins, and roots such as arracacha, yacón, mace and chagos; Extraordinarily polymorphic groups of the soft corn have been differentiated; Domestication of llamas, alpacas and guinea pigs.</p> <p><u>Baseline Caritamaya:</u> Potatoes (28 varieties). Bitter potatoes (13 var.) Quinoa (43 var.), Kañiwa (8 var.), Oca, Olluco, Llamas, Alpacas (all 24 colors, three major breeds).</p> <p><u>Baseline Microcuenca de San José:</u> Potatoes (80 var.), Mashua (14 var.), Olluco (18 var.), Kañiwa (12 var.) Oca (20 var.) Llamas, Alpacas .</p> <p><u>Baseline Cuenca de Lares:</u> Potatoes (177 var.), Oca (20 var.), Olluco (11 var.), Mashua (17 var.), Maiz (23), Quinoa, Kañiwa, Lupins, Llamas, Alpcas, wild relatives</p> <p><u>Baseline Micro de Carmen:</u> potatoes (105 var.), Oca (25 var.) Olluco (14 var.), Mashua (20 var.), Maiz (34), Quinoa, Kañiwa, Lupins, Llamas, Alpcas, wild relatives</p> <p><u>Associated biodiversity:</u> Vicuña; Endemic grassland and wetland birds (including many North American migrants); Wild medicinal and food plants; Wild crop relatives</p> <p><u>Ecosystem functions:</u> Climate regulation through water management (waru waru, qochas); Hedges for pest and disease control; Land degradation control through terracing; Efficient water-use through Inca</p>

	and pre-Inca irrigation systems
Philippines Ifugao Rice Terraces	<p><u>Agricultural biodiversity</u>: Traditional rice varieties of high quality for rice wine production (four endemic); Associated mudfish, snails, shrimps, and frogs in paddies, some of which are endemic; Managed forest re-growth (muyong) after shifting cultivation, with enhanced biodiversity (264 species, most indigenous, 47 endemic), including 171 tree species (112 species are used), ten varieties of climbing rattan, 45 medicinal plant species, 20 plant species which are used as ethno-pesticides</p> <p><u>Associated biodiversity</u>: 41 bird species, six indigenous mammal species and two endemic reptiles</p> <p><u>Ecosystem functions</u>: The muyong have important functions for water regulation in the hydrological cycle (catching 320 cubic meters of water while primary forest catches 74.5 cubic meters), and provide habitat for pollinators and pest predators. The terraces provide reservoirs for excess water, reduce land degradation and erosion and catch nutrients and filter water for human consumption.</p>

As described above, GIAHS with their range of co-evolved and locally managed races, species, varieties and agro-ecosystems, have outstanding significance within the scope of Article 10(c) of the CBD that requires parties to “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.” However, the accelerating pace of change in modern political, social and economic systems and their interactions with ecological factors (which themselves are also changing with global climate change) pose enormous challenges for maintaining agro-ecosystems that are widely valued in terms of their agro-biodiversity of global significance. This project explicitly recognizes that change in "traditional" political, social and economic processes is inevitable; they cannot be frozen or re-created. Consequently, it adopts the “adaptive management” approach to explore and develop novel political, social and economic processes that strengthen the existing management systems, and which generate the same biodiversity outcomes – that is, maintain the same races, species and agro-ecosystems. Thus, the processes may be different and contain new and modern elements, but the way they interact with the biophysical world should maintain the valuable components and functionalities of these agro ecosystems. The project has identified a range of different systems to test such new approaches on a case by case basis in a wide variety of settings. Ultimately, it will help the people living in and around GIAHS to establish strengthened socio-political (governance) and economic processes (markets and employment opportunities) that help them address the challenges of today’s world (with all its modern pressures) and let them to take advantage of the opportunities of modern living, while at the same time maintaining the wonderful agro ecosystems and interlinked cultures they have.

In order to provide systematic support to the conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS, the chosen project strategy is to make interventions at three distinct levels. First, at the global level, it will facilitate international recognition of the concept of GIAHS wherein globally significant agro biodiversity is harbored, and it will consolidate and disseminate lessons learned and best practices from project activities at the pilot country level. Second, at the national level in pilot countries, the project will ensure mainstreaming of the GIAHS concept in national sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies. Third, at the site-level in pilot countries, the project will address conservation and adaptive management at the community level. The focus of GEF resources will be on the global and national component, while pilot system activities will be financed largely through re-directing national financing and mobilization of additional co-financing.

Expected global environmental benefits

Expected global benefits will arise from the conservation and adaptive management of significant agro-biodiversity of global importance, including the associated knowledge systems, the prevention and rehabilitation of land degradation, and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services and the benefits they generate e.g. soil health and soil biodiversity (quality of soil, fertility, resilience), climate (adaptation inasmuch as these systems have greater resilience to climate change, and carbon sequestration), water (purity, recharge, availability) and air (purity, reduced wind erosion) as well as human life (food, nutrition, health, income, landscape, cultural identity, aesthetics, recreation areas, quality of life). GEF incremental is justified on the basis of achieving these global benefits, and on removing barriers to the safeguard and adaptive management of selected GIAHS, as well as building global consensus, developing and demonstrating methods for identifying GIAHS, and disseminating best practices and lessons learnt to local and national decision makers and policy makers throughout the world. Co-funding has been sought according to national capacity and needs to support the generation of local and national benefits, including

activities related to community development plans and income generation. Benefits safeguarded and generated by the GEF project include:

Table 2: Local, National and Global Benefits

Local Benefits	<p>Conservation benefits: long term sustainability and availability of essential biodiversity, natural resources management and ecosystem services, continuation and use of traditional knowledge systems for environmental management;</p> <p>Livelihood benefits: community empowerment and self-reliance, income generation opportunities, poverty reduction and food security, education and health, recognitions of cultural identity and rights of indigenous people/ quality of life</p>
National Benefits	<p>Identification and recognition of national agricultural heritage as a subset of national heritage</p> <p>National conservation benefits: integrated policies and programme development and long term sustainability of agro-ecosystems, availability and sustainable use of essential biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystem services, lessons and principles learnt for policy and practice of sustainable agriculture</p> <p>Contribution to national implementation of international conventions</p> <p>Lessons learnt for development policy and practice</p>
Global Benefits	<p>Sustained provision of globally important agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems</p> <p>Conservation of unique agricultural biodiversity as part of a global asset</p> <p>Lessons learnt for development policies, strategies and good practices</p> <p>Contribute towards the realisation of international objectives and commitments of GEF and other key global agreements on environment, food security, poverty alleviation</p>

B. CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS

The project will contribute to national and international efforts to implement the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly agricultural biodiversity work programme; sustainable use of biological diversity; and enhance the knowledge, innovations, and practices of traditional and indigenous communities. As described above, GIAHS with their range of co-evolved and locally managed plant species and crop varieties, animal races and local breeds, agro-ecosystems and landscapes diversities as well as social organization, indigenous knowledge and agri-“cultural” diversities, provide outstanding significance within the scope of Article 10(c) of the CBD that requires parties to “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements”. The project will also support the article 8(j) of CBD to “respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity”.

The project will also support the implementation of the Convention to Combat the Desertification (CCD) and Climate Change Convention(UNFCCC) by including selected dry land agro-ecosystems (e.g. the Oasis of Maghreb and the Altiplano agro-ecosystems in Peru), which have demonstrated outstanding resilience and adaptation to extreme climate variability and are repositories of valuable traditional knowledge. In each country, the project will contribute to national actions to implement National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources of Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

C. PROJECT’S CONSISTENCY WITH GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

The project addresses the strategic long-term objective of GEF-Biodiversity focal area in mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes/seascapes and sectors. The project will promote the positive impacts and mitigate the negative impacts of agricultural systems and practices on biological diversity in agro-ecosystems and their interface with other ecosystems; the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of actual and potential value for food and agriculture; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of

genetic resources. It will use the “adaptive management” approach to explore and develop novel political, social and economic processes strengthening traditional management systems to interact with the biophysical world in order to maintain the biodiversity and cultural values of agro-ecosystems. The project has identified a range of different systems to test such new approaches on a case by case basis in a wide variety of settings. Ultimately, it will help the people living in and around GIAHS to establish strengthened socio-political (governance) and economic processes (markets and alternative livelihood opportunities) that help them address the challenges of today’s world (with all its modern pressures) and let them to take advantage of the opportunities of modern living, while at the same time maintaining the target agro-ecosystems.

The project also fully fits with the Strategic Programs 4 for GEF-4 Biodiversity: *Strengthening the policy and regulatory frameworks for mainstreaming biodiversity*. The project will address this strategic program by: contributing to mainstreaming through policy and regulatory reforms and support for systematic and institutional capacity building; (ii) conservation and sustainable management of 112 000 ha of outstanding traditional agricultural systems in six countries through conducive agricultural policies and regulatory reforms and support for integrated approach and institutional capacity building and empowerment of local communities; (iii) improving awareness and education among government agencies, local authorities and communities, and other stakeholders; (iv) demonstrating “local livelihood benefits – global environmental benefits linkages” through agro-ecosystem approaches across government agencies, local communities, indigenous peoples and private sector; and (v) disseminating key best practices and lessons learned between implementing agencies, recipient communities and countries -locally, regionally and on a global scale in order to enhance and sustain a significant overall impact.

The project contributes to the strategic long-term objectives of ‘Land Degradation (LD)’ 1,: to develop an enabling environment that will place Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in the mainstream of development policy and practices at the regional, national, and local levels, and 2,: to upscale SLM investments that generate mutual benefits for the global environment and local livelihoods. The project will contribute to these objectives since the sustainable land management is the very essence of the conservation and adaptive management of agricultural heritage systems. All threats of land degradation such as unsustainable agricultural practices, soil erosion, overgrazing, deforestation, and the issues of prevention and control are duly addressed. By promoting the conservation of fragile ecosystems, such as in drylands and deserts, through the traditional GIAHS practices that have evolved over millennia in harmony with the human and natural resources assets in these regions, the project aims at preventing further land degradation and at ameliorating the situation for improved livelihood and human well being. GIAHS, through its integrated approach to biodiversity and non-biotic resources, provides multiple global benefits and thereby also contributes to LD strategic program on investing in innovative approaches in SLM (LD#3). The holistic approach applied by the project shall contribute significantly to the Millennium Development Goals (1&7) of reducing by half the proportion of people impacted by poverty and hunger by 2015 and at the same time ensuring environmental security.

D. COORDINATION WITH OTHER GEF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN RELATED INITIATIVES

FAO with its country offices in all of the pilot countries has a long experience with coordination and management of multi-country knowledge management and capacity building projects, and has strong linkages with the relevant national and international organizations. FAO works closely with the World Bank through its Investment Centre, UNDP and UNESCO through UNDAF and UNEP/GEF, IFAD and ADB on issues of SLM and agricultural biodiversity. Cooperation with GEF agencies and national partners and stakeholders at all levels has ensured that the project is in line with the country’s national priorities and recognition of farmers and land managers as the stewards of agricultural biodiversity. The International Steering Committee of the project to which all GEF agencies, national institutions and other relevant organizations are members, met three times (2002, 2004, and 2006) during the project development phase. In these meetings cum workshops, the criteria, methodological guidelines, and strategic framework for adaptive management of GIAHS for agricultural biodiversity conservation has been comprehensively discussed and adopted. These meetings were attended by National Focal Institutions and resource people from partner countries and other collaborating institutions to share experience in dynamic conservation of agro biodiversity, to produce country specific GIAHS framework and testing, adaptation and demonstration at each

selected GIAHS at pilot countries. In each pilot country continuous dialogue and ongoing work has allowed to establish solid institutional mechanisms and stake holders groups dedicated to conservation and adaptive management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems. In addition, a number of international and research and academic institutions have made contributions and commitments to collaborate with the project on conceptual, technical and financial levels. These include Christensen Foundation, Roman Forum, Hari Environment and Development Society (HEADS), the Wageningen International, Slow Food Movement, University of Bonn (ZEF Bonn), University of California, Berkeley, Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen, United Nations University, University of Kent, and University of Tuscia and a number of NGOs, Civil Society organization and private Foundations.

The proposed project will likewise work to coordinate and collaborate with a number of GEF – funded projects that work in conservation and adaptive management of agricultural biodiversity. The project will share information and lessons learned with these projects and learn from the experiences generated in these other projects. The modalities for sharing of experience and information dissemination will be elaborated in Project Year 1. Where possible, this project will try to formalize collaboration around certain thematic issues, and even plan project activities in such a way that they complement other efforts in the best possible way. In particular, the current project will seek formalized collaboration with the following GEF-financed initiatives:

- UNDP/GEF Bosque Modelo de Chiloé: MSP-BD on primary and secondary temperate rainforest conservation and sustainable use. The GIAHS will build linkages and complementarities with the institutional capacity built for the MSP and exchange data and lessons learnt on the management of areas of the landscape where traditional agriculture and forest concerns meet. Traditional agricultural practices on Chiloé Island are compatible with forest conservation. The Centro de Educación y Tecnología (CET), designated by the Chilean government for Project implementation, will co-ordinate linkages between the projects locally.

- UNEP-GEF (OP 13) Conservation and Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture, through an Ecosystem Approach, submitted to GEFSEC for consideration in June 2006 Work Programme. GIAHS will collaborate on the lessons learnt in policy and practice on the management of pollinators populations in agricultural landscapes.

- The World Bank implemented regional Central American project “*Integrated Ecosystem Management in Indigenous Communities*” has as its overall goal to support an emerging network of indigenous communities engaged in integrated ecosystem management in the Central American region, in order to enhance the sustainability of human-managed systems that have been evolving for centuries in Central America and conserving high levels of biodiversity, but that are under increasing threat. The building of community networks across the region will create links between communities with established best practice examples of Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) and those with comparable environmental characteristics and similar potential for IEM. The long-term outcome will be that successful and proven regional models are effectively adopted in local and national initiatives, including World Bank and IDB-assisted projects, and that a common vision emerges among indigenous communities on how best to manage their traditional resources. The present project will seek to contribute to the regional WB project by providing lessons learnt from other regions. The WB project will be approached to identify sites for GIAHS replication.

At the national level, the Project will seek to link with the World Bank, Regional Development Banks and IFAD in the development and implementation of their agricultural and rural development programmes, poverty alleviation strategies, and sustainable land management activities and on indigenous people’s issues in food and agriculture.

E. INCREMENTAL REASONING OF THE PROJECT

Global Environmental Objective

The global environmental objective of the project is to ensure conservation and adaptive management of Agro biodiversity of global significance that is harbored in Globally Important Agricultural heritage Systems or GIAHS. The project rationale is based on a holistic approach to enable the harmonious interaction between different components of the agro ecosystem to allow the conservation but also smooth adaptation and evolution of

biodiversity and genetic resources within the agro-ecosystem. This reveals to be the most effective way of in-situ conservation of agro-biodiversity while addressing poverty, food security and sustainable development.

Development Objective

At the global level, biodiversity important to agriculture has received much attention through various international conventions, agreements and treaties. Notably, the CBD (Articles 8j and 10c), the UNCCD, the World Heritage Convention, the Man and the Biosphere Program of UNESCO, the Millennium Development Goals, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources emphasize the particular contribution of indigenous and traditional peoples to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity.

Baseline scenario

Without a GEF intervention, continued survival of GIAHS will be threatened by various factors such as the loss of customary institutions and forms of social organization that underpin management of these systems; abandonment of the traditional cultivation and farming systems; conversion of land and habitat in and around traditionally managed fields to alternative uses such as unsustainable intensive farming, plantations, housing; and the displacement and dilution of traditional varieties cultivated in these systems.

At the international level, some areas that meet the criteria of GIAHS are likely to be designated as special areas under existing international conventions, possibly the World Heritage Convention. Similarly, at the national level, some globally important agricultural heritage systems are likely to receive support under existing national conservation or cultural heritage plans, but only secondarily (for example, a GIAHS site might receive some technical and financial support insofar as it might be an important element of the buffer zone of a protected area). However, these areas receiving special attention are likely to be few in number. Furthermore, even when such special attention is accorded, the emphasis is likely to be on conserving certain aspects of the system – for example the genetic resources or the cultural values – and not on each and every constituent component of importance to its holistic (or integrated) functioning, ranging from the biodiversity, ecosystem and landscape characteristics to the customary institutions that underpin these systems, the traditional management practices and knowledge systems that ensure maintenance and co-evolution.

Alternative

The alternative strategy complements the sustainable development baseline at the international and national levels to provide technical and financial resources to secure conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity in GIAHS by removing barriers such as inadequate international attention to the concept of GIAHS that rests on the conservation of all constituent components of these unique systems, unsupportive sectoral policies, limited capacity of state institutions and communities to conserve GIAHS, and difficulty in accessing niche markets. It will help countries and local communities to capture environmental and socio-economic development benefits from their unique agricultural heritage.

F. RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS AND RISKS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Risks

The project strategy is to make interventions at global, national and local scales in order to promote conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS. The successful implementation of this strategy and the achievement of the project's objective, rests on the following fundamental assumptions: First, considering that the GIAHS project is based on a holistic approach to agricultural systems that takes many aspects, contexts and scales into account, its application and interpretation in each of the pilot systems still has to be tested in practice and this may lead to some risk of conflicting interpretations of the concept in different pilot systems. However, the likelihood of this risk compromising the achievement of the project objective is low, because country representatives for the pilot systems have been closely involved in PDF-B stage discussions to define GIAHS. Through this process, rigorous criteria have also been developed for identifying GIAHS sites. Nevertheless, to mitigate this risk, the project's global project implementation unit and international steering committee will, therefore, closely monitor and co-ordinate the

development of the action plans in each pilot system, keeping a clear view of the main objectives, while allowing due space for local particularities. A conceptual framework that has been prepared through co-funding provided by The Christensen Fund will be used extensively in all of the participating countries to clarify issues and provide the scientific understanding that can make different case studies and pilot systems comparable. Second, pilot countries are willing to designate, support and promote the GIAHS concept in their territories. The likelihood of this assumption holding is high, because pilot country stakeholders have been actively involved in PDF-B through several workshops and discussions about the concept and its importance. In addition, they have identified policy changes and action plans in each system to be implemented during the FSP and have defined site level activities, along with co-financing. The project, through its global level activities, will continue to advocate for the concept with the expectation that more countries will show interest in designating and promoting GIAHS in their territories. Third, collaboration among the GIAHS secretariat, governments and other international stakeholders is achieved in order to create conducive international policy environment for GIAHS. Collaboration during the PDF-B has been highly effective, and this is expected to continue during project implementation. Thus this is considered a medium-to-low risk. Project implementation arrangements have been carefully devised to ensure that all key stakeholders at the national and international level are fully engaged in the process. See Logical Framework in Section II, Part II of the Project Document for assumptions that must hold in order to achieve individual project outcomes.

The risks confronting the project have been carefully evaluated during project preparation and risk mitigation measures have been internalized into the design of the project.

Table 3: Risks and risk mitigation measures

Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation Measure
Conflicting interpretation of the concept by different pilot systems	low	In-depth briefings of country representatives/national facilitators Close coordination and follow-up by project implementation unit and international steering committee. Clear conceptual framework elaborated by project implementation unit and adapted to local specificities.
Lack of interest for the GIAHS concept by countries	low	Active awareness raising and involvement of different stakeholders at country level at an early stage. Identification of potential changes in national policies which have a direct impact on GIAHS.
Lack of fruitful collaboration between GIAHS secretariat, governments and other international stakeholders	medium to low	Careful Identification and collaboration with key stakeholders in countries. Commitment and involving key stakeholders at an early stage. Definition of realistic implementation arrangements to ensure that key stakeholders are fully engaged in the process.
Attraction of inappropriate investments (particularly in tourism sectors) due to GIAHS consideration	medium	Development and implementation of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines and agreed criteria and procedures for GIAHS designation. Development of guidelines, action plans and credit schemes for investment in GIAHS sites (including impact assessments)
Impact of climate change on ecosystems boundaries, changes in species distributions, population sizes, the timing of reproduction or migration events and possible increase in the frequency of pest and disease outbreaks as well as the risk to livelihood systems of indigenous and small holder farmers	medium	The impacts of climate change and climate variability on biophysical aspects of GIAHS are relatively minimal due to built-in resilience of these systems over millennia. However, the local communities are vulnerable to climate change due to poverty, food insecurity and their direct dependencies on natural resources. The project has the provisions for the empowerment of GIAHS communities through diversification of income, risk management and climate change information dissemination and adaptation activities.
Overall Rating	medium to low	The project has many built-in mechanisms to be risk averse as it deals with a myriad of objectives and outcomes mutually supportive and implemented in several geographic locations. It has an innovative conceptual framework and management setting that allows self generating sustainability.

G. COST EFFECTIVENESS

Designing a global project that simultaneously combines and links international, national and local level interventions is considered cost effective for the following reasons: Synchronizing the independent action programmes of different country-level projects to gather the bottom-up support for global understanding and recognition will be particularly challenging but fully cost effective. A global initiative that combines national/ local level interventions under the same project will reduce needs for co-ordination, relative to what would be needed if independent projects that may be at different stages in their implementation cycles, with variations in their strategy for conserving globally significant agro-biodiversity had to be coordinated.

At the level of pilot countries, by focusing on the policy environment influencing these systems, the project will be able to leverage resources from sectors such as agriculture, tourism, environment, and education over the long term to promote these systems.

At the level of pilot sites, an essential criterion for project site selection has been that all the necessary elements to sustain the system are still in place and can be reproduced. Thus, demonstrating conservation and adaptive management in such a context will be more cost effective than if the component elements for a successful GIAHS were close to being completely lost. The project's approach of developing institutional mechanisms at project sites that combine customary and state representation will ensure that the knowledge and resources of both types of institutions will be combined to reduce duplication or divergence in activities. Further, conservation management plans to be developed for these sites will be based on the most cost-effective management approaches.

PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:

The GIAHS project will be implemented and executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As the GEF agency of the project, FAO will be responsible for overall project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF policies and procedures and will provide guidance on linkages with other GEF-funded activities. FAO shall also provide the overall global administration, co-ordination and technical backstopping of the project. In this capacity, FAO will be responsible for, *inter alia*, the overall financial management of the project, ensuring that the necessary human resources and inputs are provided in a timely manner to ensure smooth implementation of the project and delivery of project outcomes, and the submission of project progress and financial reports to GEF. FAO will facilitate and ensure the sharing and flow of information and linkages, internationally, among and between regions, but also linking the proposed project activities with other major on-going initiatives within and outside FAO. In addition to ensuring linkages and information-flow between partners, FAO will ensure global co-ordination of the proposed project by providing technical assistance to partners, hosting international-level workshops, coordinating meetings of the International Steering Committee, visiting/evaluating specified sites of importance, and participating in regional meetings. FAO will provide technical support to the project in a very broad sense, tapping into the expertise from its programs on biodiversity, fisheries, forestry, land and water, sustainable development, market development, etc. FAO will also provide through its regional offices and country representations the administrative management and procurement of the national projects.

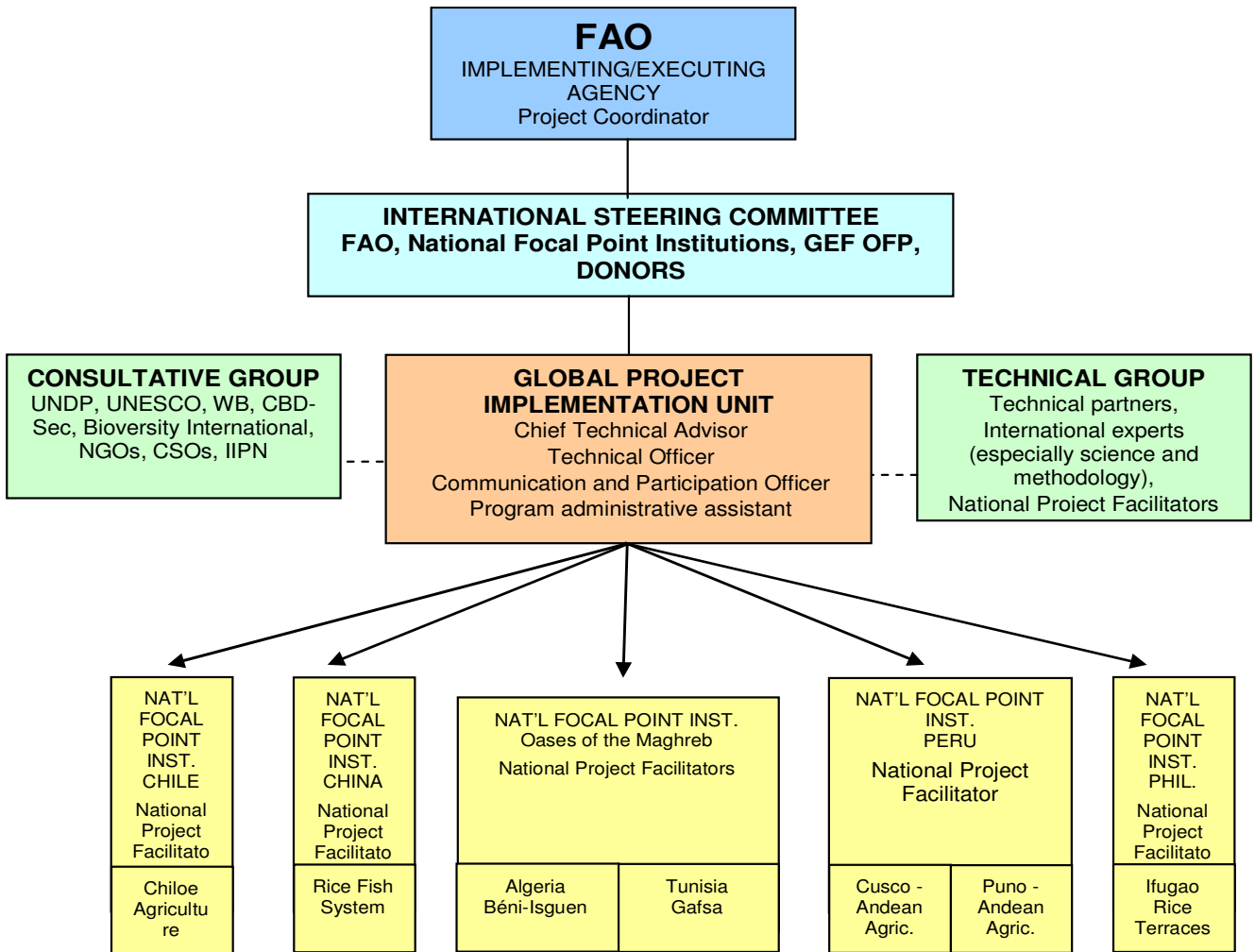
FAO will establish a Global Project Implementation Unit, (GPIU) which will be based in Rome. The GPIU will be responsible for day-to-day management of project and M&E. The GPIU will report to the FAO Project Coordinator and will be composed of Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), Technical Officer, and a Communication and Participation Officer. The CTA will be responsible for providing technical and administrative support to the project as well as for assisting in the management of the GEF resources. The Technical Officer will lead on, technical backstopping, conceptual and methodological development and support the efforts to international recognition for GIAHS and subsequent international and regional policy development, as well as the institutional mechanism for their long term support. An expert on Science and Methodology from the Technical Group will be employed as a

consultant for assisting in the development of the project conceptual and methodological frameworks worldwide based on field data and will follow-up field activities in all countries. The Information and Communications officer will be responsible for development and implementation of the communication strategy, data collection and management, web-site maintenance and the overall outreach to all the stakeholders and target groups.

At the national level the project will be implemented in five pilot systems represented by 12 pilot sites in six countries: Algeria, Chile, China, Peru, Philippines and Tunisia. National governments and ministries will play a leading role in the project activities, by providing technical support and other services through their administrative system. Financial arrangements will be made through letters of agreement with the leading institutions of each pilot system for the implementation of stakeholder participation processes.

Each Pilot System will be coordinated locally by a national focal point institution (NFPI) which will recruit a National Project Facilitator (NPF) or the NFPI will designate an NPF from their existing senior staff. The NPF will be responsible for the technical, financial and administrative follow-up of the selected site(s). Should there be a need, the FAO country representations will assist in the recruitments of NPFs. The NPF will ensure the implementation of the work plan, both at the local and national levels. The NPF will work in close collaboration with other GEF liaison projects in the region, with other selected projects and all institutions and organization relevant to the project objectives as well as other stakeholders and partners. The NPF will be recruited by the national focal institution, in close consultation with FAO. The NPF will preferably be from the area of the pilot site, and will ensure full participation of indigenous and local communities. He/she will work in close collaboration with the GPIU and will report to this unit on regular basis. During the PDF-B each pilot system formulated a pilot framework that includes detailed national-local implementation arrangements. These include participatory decision making arrangements in which all stakeholders are represented, e.g. the national, regional and local government, (customary) authorities of the participating indigenous and traditional farming communities, scientific institutions, NGOs/CSOs and private sector, as appropriate.

Organigram of the Project



PART IV: EXPLAIN THE ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF:

The project document has been aligned as required due to some changes that took place in the course of submission for inclusion in the GEF Work Programme (transition period from GEF-3 to GEF-4). However, its objectives, outputs and activities as well as the technical content and quality remain the same. The alignment of project design with the original PIF was due to:

- Introduction of the Resources Allocation Framework (RAF) modalities and the project design was aligned to ensure it meets the GEF-4 strategic priorities. The Project was originally pipelined and expected to be included under GEF-3 Work Programme at its June 2006 session. However, due to shortages of GEF resources, it was not included and priorities were given to other pipeline projects and other projects deferred from previous work programmes.
- Under the new RAF modalities, participating governments are required to provide commitment from their country RAF for biodiversity focal area. One of the seven countries (Morocco) needed to be removed from its pilot countries for full scale project implementation due to failure to provide commitment from their country RAF, which is a critical requirement for inclusion to GEF-4 Work Programme.
- Reduction in the total project budget from US\$24 million (GEF: US\$6 million, Co-Financing: US\$18 million) to US\$18 million (GEF- country RAF allocation: US\$2.5 million; five percent window for global projects: US\$1.0 million, Co-Financing: US\$14.5 million)
- The GEF CEO recommendation to GEF Council for expanded opportunity to be given to FAO (and other EA) for areas of agencies comparative advantage areas that includes agricultural biodiversity. This decision takes effect in this project, FAO as IA/EA. UNDP remains collaborator but no longer the Implementing agency as it was submitted during the PIF.
- The original project duration of six years is reduced to five years due to total project cost reduction (from US\$6 million to US\$3.5 million).

PART V: AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement.	
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Date: <i>April 10, 2008</i>	Tel: (+3906)570553843 E-mail: Parviz.Koohafkan@fao.org

ANNEXES

A. Project results framework

B. Responses to project reviews

1. STAP Roster and Technical Review and Response

2. UNEP Review of 11 April 2006 and Response

3. GEF Secretariat Review and Response

4. Comments on Work Program (GEF/C.31/8) and Focal Area Strategies Programming for GEF-4 (GEF/C.31/10), GEF Council June 2007

C. Consultants to be hired for the project

D. Status of implementation of project preparation activities and the use of funds

E. Activity completion report on the use of GEF project preparation grants

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators				
Goal	To “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements” [cf. CBD: Article10(c)], specifically within agricultural systems				
	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
<p>Project objective</p> <p>To promote conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harboured in globally important agricultural heritage systems or GIAHS³.</p>	<p>Establishment of a global enabling environment for GIAHS</p>	<p>CBD Articles 8(j) and 10(c), and the Cultural Landscape Category of World Heritage Convention, provide starting points for an international policy framework, implementation system and funding mechanism for GIAHS</p>	<p>Accepted international policy formulated to recognise and promote the conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS and designate sites.</p> <p>Creation of an internationally recognised GIAHS interim Secretariat with a statutory mandate by the end of the project that will encourage formal recognition and designation of GIAHS worldwide.</p> <p>Establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism for the long term program</p>	<p>Documentation from competent international bodies supporting GIAHS designation (CBD, UNESCO, FAO, IUCN, WWF etc).</p> <p>Existence of GIAHS Secretariat</p> <p>Audited accounts and reports from financial mechanism</p>	<p>GIAHS is based on a holistic concept of agricultural systems; this carries the risk that its application will be given different interpretations in each of the pilot systems.</p> <p>Pilot countries are willing to designate, support and promote GIAHS concept in their territories</p> <p>Collaboration among GIAHS secretariat, governments and other stakeholders is achieved in order to create an international policy environment conducive for GIAHS</p>
	<p>Establishment of national enabling environments for GIAHS</p>	<p>Ministries responsible for Environment, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development are involved in various aspects of implementation of CBD and NBSAPs with respect to agricultural biodiversity</p>	<p>Project countries have all set up national contact points to promote the GIAHS concept and develop best practice for their designation and management</p> <p>Project countries have adopted GIAHS considerations in key policies and legislation</p>	<p>Existence of national bodies and meeting reports</p> <p>Government publications</p> <p>National Reports to CBD Secretariat with respect to implementation of Article 10(c)</p>	

	Improvement of GIAHS conservation and adaptive management	Project pilot sites face three key barriers for their conservation and sustainable management at present: (i) weak local institutions and stakeholder networks; (ii) acquiring new knowledge, methodologies and tools; and (iii) access to markets.	The key barriers to conservation and management in pilot sites are significantly reduced or removed. GIAHS operate without external financial assistance and key indicators for extent and biodiversity are achieved	Reports from M&E surveys Case history reports from Outcome 3 Scientific publications from Outcome 4	
	Tracking tool BD 2	The seven project pilot sites cover 120,000 ha of land having significant agricultural biodiversity value	40 other potential GIAHS identified in accordance with internationally accepted criteria Hectares of land managed in accordance with GIAHS definition and criteria: 120,000 ha or more.	Reports from M&E surveys National Reports to CBD Secretariat with respect to implementation of Article 10(c) Reports from GIAHS interim secretariat	
Outcome 1: An internationally accepted system for recognition of GIAHS is in place (Global)	Number of GIAHS systems receiving international recognition	Nil	At least 15 recognized	Project reports	International policy processes are influenced by many factors, and are generally very lengthy. Accordingly, not all international organisations may be able to provide the desired endorsements for GIAHS within the project period. It is assumed, however this will be achieved through the work programme and joint efforts of CBD, UNESCO and FAO.
	Official statements from FAO, UNESCO WHC, CBD CoP, CCD, IUCN endorsing the GIAHS concept, definition and identification criteria	Nil	By project end all identified institutions issue resolutions / statements supporting the GIAHS concept	Project reports Copy of the statements	
	Establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism and institutional support for consolidating and expanding the GIAHS approach as a long-term open-ended program	US\$ 18,000,000	Sustainable finance mechanism in place	Written commitments by Donors	

<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>The conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harboured in GIAHS is mainstreamed in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies in pilot countries (National)</p>	Amendments to key sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and plans	Identified policies and plans do not make explicit reference to GIAHS	By project end amendments have been approved to following: <u>Chiloé:</u> NBSAP Protected Area Legislation <u>China:</u> NBSAP Protected Area Legislation Qintiang Provincial Tourism Policy and Plan <u>Peru:</u> NBSAP Protected Area Legislation Land tenure Legislation <u>Philippines:</u> NBSAP Protected Area Legislation <u>Algeria:</u> NBSAP Protected Area Legislation <u>Tunisia:</u> NBSAP Protected Area Legislation	National govt. official publications	Government changes in pilot countries might delay the adoption of policies. However it is expected that new government fulfil the prior commitments of previous governments.
	Level of government budgetary support to GIAHS	No government support explicitly to the concept of GIAHS	At least 1-2 government staff per pilot country are dedicated and qualified to champion the concept of GIAHS	National govt. official publications	
<p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>Globally significant agricultural biodiversity in pilot GIAHS is being managed effectively by indigenous and other traditional communities (Local)</p>	No further decline in land conversion and land abandonment pressures on traditional farms	<u>Chiloé:</u> 10,616 ha <u>China:</u> 461 ha <u>Algeria:</u> 500 ha <u>Tunisia:</u> 700 ha <u>Peru:</u> 30,798 ha <u>Philippines:</u> 68,416 ha	<u>Chiloé:</u> 10,616 ha <u>China:</u> 461 ha <u>Algeria:</u> 500 ha <u>Tunisia:</u> 700 ha <u>Peru:</u> 30,798 ha <u>Philippines:</u> 68,416 ha	Annual field surveys using rapid assessment of land cover change methods	Macro-economic drivers and natural hazards, socio-economic and environmental changes (e.g. climate change) may disrupt progress in some pilot GIAHS. Local communities and key stakeholders will engage in the pilot management projects for GIAHS
	Decline in land conversion pressure on surrounding habitats	Baseline to be quantified per country in the first year	Habitat networks surrounding traditional farms remain stable or increase compared to baseline levels	Annual field surveys using rapid assessment of land cover change methods	
	Level of understanding and commitment of communities to GIAHS in the pilot sites	90% of farmers are estimated to observe management practices supportive of GIAHS criteria	No decline in percentage	Project reports	

	<p>Number of traditional crops and varieties being cultivated</p>	<p><u>Chile:</u> 200 varieties of <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> 1 variety of <i>Ajo chilote</i> <u>China:</u> 20 native varieties of rice 6 native breeds of carp <u>Algeria:</u> 100 date varieties <u>Tunisia</u> 50 date varieties <u>Peru:</u> <u>Baseline Caritamaya:</u> Potatoes (28 varieties). Bitter potatoes (13 var.) Quinoa (43 var.), Kañiwa (8 var.), Oca, Olluco, Llamas, Alpacas (all 24 colors, 3 major breeds) <u>Baseline Microcuenca de San José:</u> Potatoes (80 var.), Mashua (14 var.), Olluco (18 var.), Kañiwa (12 var.) Oca (20 var.) Llamas, Alpacas <u>Baseline Cuenca de Lares:</u> Potatoes (177 var.), Oca (20 var.), Olluco (11 var.), Mashua (17 var.), Maiz (23), Quinoa, Kañiwa, Lupins, Llamas, Alpcas, wild relatives <u>Baseline Micro de Carmen:</u> potatoes (105 var.), Oca (25 var.) Olluco (14 var.), Mashua (20 var.), Maiz (34), Quinoa, Kañiwa, Lupins, Llamas, Alpcas, wild relatives <u>Philippines:</u> 4 endemic varieties of rice 264 indig tree species 10 varieties of climbing rattan 45 medicinal plant species 20 plant species used as ethno pesticides</p>	<p>By project end, numbers are stable or increase over baseline</p>	<p>Annual field surveys</p>	<p>GIAHS is based on a holistic concept of agricultural systems; this carries the risk that its application will be given different interpretations in each of the pilot systems.</p> <p>Pilot countries are willing to designate, support and promote GIAHS concept in their territories</p> <p>Collaboration among GIAHS secretariat, governments and other stakeholders is achieved in order to create an international policy environment conducive for GIAHS</p>
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Outcome 4: Lessons learned and best practices from promoting effective management of pilot GIAHS are widely disseminated to support expansion of the GIAHS network (Global)	Expressions of interest from other GIAHS from around the world to apply the project approach, along with commitments to provide co-financing	Nil	At least five proposals by end of year 4 and 10 proposals by end of project	Project reports	Project outcomes are achieved and result in demand from other areas
	Interest from academic and research institutes in analyzing and further study of experience in pilot sites	Nil	At least 20 proposals/ scientific publications by project end	Project reports	
	Usage of electronic forum and database by interested stakeholders	Measure usage of website in year 1	Increase in usage by at least 100%	Web-site counter	

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

GIAHS Project Document is benefited and substantially improved from the reviews of STAP, UNEP, GEF Secretariat and Council Members. Responses to reviews, are as follows:

1. Response to the STAP Review

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
1. Introduction and Overview		
<p>This reviewer questions the prominence of Outcome 1 in total funding and GEF contribution. Potentially, the work of public endorsement must come with Outcome 4 as a result of the project, not a precursor to it. There would appear to be substantial overlap at Output level between Outcomes 1 and 4. Both Outcomes are essentially about promotion of the GIAHS concept, and both are specified at 'global' level. If Outcome 1 is primarily about securing a GIAHS Secretariat, then there must be some question as to its sustainability and continuity after the end of the six year project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further justification and substantiation of the proportion of the budget (26%) and activities devoted to outcome 1, on the grounds that promotion of GIAHS concept should come as an output of the project rather than a precursor. [ExecSum pp 4-5 & ProDoc] 	<p>Outcomes 1 and 4 are parallel and mutually supportive. Outcome 1 is exclusively targeted at setting up the necessary international framework for supporting and expanding GIAHS, whereas Outcome 4 is exclusively for monitoring impact and sharing lessons learnt. The issue of the sustainability of Secretariat will be resolved in the long term by progressively mainstreaming GIAHS in FAO programme of Work and Budget approved by countries and ultimately reflected also in national policies of FAO member countries. No changes have been made here.</p>	n/a
<p>Reconsideration of the balance of budget and activities between Outcomes 1 and 4. This reviewer feels that Outcome 1 is possibly too large and Outcome 4 too small. There is a potential overlap in GIAHS promotional activities. [ExecSum p.4 and ICM; ProDoc]</p>	<p>International policy work is very costly. However, most costs are actually borne through (in-kind) co-funding rather by GEF. No further changes made here.</p>	n/a
<p>In this review, I have especially looked at Annexes A and B as they provide the best overview of the project. The ICM (Annex A) for a large multi-national and multi-institutional project is difficult to construct. This review questions, first, the baseline scenario (p.18). It looks too modest. The baseline should be the current or recent activity in agricultural biodiversity in the respective countries <i>and its presentation as a concept and unique heritage</i> internationally. It is from this baseline that the project builds. It should be large. There has been a huge amount of research, development and implementation work undertaken, not just in the countries where the project will operate but in what might be loosely called generic promotion. Of course, it is difficult to trap all the relevant work. But there are some big international projects upon which GIAHS approaches will build – a few that this reviewer knows are listed in the review and there are many, many more. It is important that GIAHS is not seen as a start-up initiative. It would not have been developed without the interest and excitement provoked by the many other national and international initiatives. This should be reflected in the baseline. So, in addition to the national projects listed in the baseline (which again are probably under-reported), there should also be the international promotion of agro-biodiversity as an important global environmental agenda item.</p> <p>The ICM baseline appears to be too small. It needs a more effective and consistent sweep of both national and international efforts to promote agro-biodiversity. [ICM, p.18-19]</p>	<p>The baseline description for Outcomes number 1 and 4 have been strengthened to include more substantial references to FAO's, the CGIAR's and other baselines both suggested by the STAP reviewer and otherwise. This has been done in the narratives of the Project Document and Executive summary and in the baseline calculation for Outcome 1 in the incremental cost matrix. There is a vast amount of potentially related baseline material both in research, conservation and development. We agree with the STAP review that it is difficult to trap all the relevant work</p>	<p>Executive Summary Annex A, table 7</p> <p>Project Document Section II, Part I. Incremental Cost Analysis</p>

<p>Some details in Annexes A and B need to be reviewed in the light of comments on page 3 of this review. These include the appropriateness and relevance of the indicators in the logical framework and the construction of the alternative in the ICM analysis. Ideally, this should be done by someone experienced and engaged with logical frameworks and incremental costs and benefits! [see also Section II, Parts I and II of ProDoc where the logical framework and ICM are repeated]</p>	<p>The logical framework has been reviewed, with substantial changes made to the baselines, indicators and targets, especially for the project objective and Outcome 3.</p>	<p>Executive Summary Annex B. Logical Framework Project Document Section II, Part II Logical Framework</p>
<p>The alternative strategy (p.19 ICM) should not simply build on “the sustainable development baseline to provide financial and technical resources.” It needs to build on the science of sustainability and experiments and demonstrations that show the value of protecting biodiversity in land use systems. Outcome 1 will, for example, have to include activities that develop FAO’s recent good work on showing how agrobiodiversity helps to tackle AIDS/HIV mitigation and food insecurity.⁴ Outcomes 2 and 3 will need to build on the rich body of knowledge on how agrobiodiversity is managed by local communities.⁵ Such prior work legitimizes the rationale for undertaking this GIAHS project and should be recognized. The fact of such prior work <i>strengthens the project</i>, not weakens it.</p>	<p>It is appreciated that the GIAHS concept could provide benefits for a wide range of ecosystem and socio-economic aspects that help local communities as well other interests. A new paragraph has been added in this regard, and the text and ICM strengthened in various places.</p>	<p>Executive Summary Annex A Incremental Cost Analysis Project Document see especially para. 9</p>
<p>In the IC Matrix itself (pp. 19-20) there are some questionable entries. The ‘domestic benefit’ ascribed to the alternative for Outcome 1 appears only to be a process of shaming governments into adopting GIAHS through international pressure. Surely, with the engagement of a wide range of participating institutions and individual scientists, GIAHS should be shown as bringing domestic or national advantage through the benefits to be gained – the ‘carrot’ rather than the ‘stick’.</p>	<p>This has been adjusted in the Incremental Cost Assessment matrix.</p>	<p>Executive Summary Annex A Incremental Cost Analysis Project Document Section II Part 1</p>
<p>In the Logical Framework (Annex B) at Project Objective level, the indicators will be crucial in undertaking effective mid-term and final evaluations. This reviewer finds the indicators at this level somewhat limited to stereotypical measures of biodiversity, such as numbers of varieties. Surely, at this level where conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS is to be promoted, the indications should be primarily about policy up-take and institutional engagement. The indicators that do appear, if they are still required, should be at a much lower level in the framework – see below under ‘global environmental benefits’ for further comments on the structure of indicators in the logical framework.</p>	<p>The logical framework has been reviewed, with substantial changes made to the baselines, indicators and targets, especially for the project objective and Outcome 3.</p>	<p>Executive Summary Annex B. Logical Framework Project Document Section II, Part II. Logical Framework</p>
<p>Partly reflecting this reviewer’s problems with the construction of Outcome 1, the third indicator chosen is about financial resource commitments from international institutions. It would be more reasonable for this to be an indicator of the sustainability of the approach as developed by the project as part of Outcome 4.</p>	<p>The sustainable financing mechanism will be part of the institutional system for designation of GIAHS. We have now included its development as part of the project objective, and its implementation during the project under Outcome 1.</p>	<p>Executive Summary Annex B. Logical Framework Project Document Section II, Part II. Logical Framework</p>

<p>For Outcome 3 this review is concerned about the means of verification and appropriateness that there has been a decline in land conversion and land abandonment. “Annual field surveys” are specified, but are these budgeted and in control of the project? Why does the project not use existing LUCC tools?⁶ And how will the project disaggregate the many other reasons and pressures for land conversion and land abandonment?</p>	<p>The logical framework has been reviewed, with substantial changes made to the baselines, indicators and targets in Outcome 3. Reference is also made to using land cover change tools in the surveys. Further, the project implementation structure will have a panel of scientific experts to advise on methodologies and other matters relating to rigorous analysis of the barriers to conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS.</p>	<p><u>Executive Summary Annex B.</u> Logical Framework</p> <p><u>Project Document</u> Section II, Part II Section IV, Part II</p>
<p>The draft version of the Brief (both ProDoc and ExecSum dated 12 March 2006) provided to this reviewer is generally well-presented and follows GEF guidelines for project proposals in the ExecSum and UNDP’s own Project Document format for the main ProDoc.⁷</p>		
<p>2. Key Issues</p>		
<p>2.1. Assessment of scientific and technical soundness of the project.</p>		
<p>As noted by FAO’s Sustainable Development department, “Agrobiodiversity comprises the whole plant resource diversity that human societies use and manage for agriculture, food, healthcare, and livelihood. It includes the enormous diversity of crops and crop varieties that small-scale farmers conserve and cultivate, representing both the basis for their subsistence and a source of income. To some extent, it also embraces wild food and medicinal plants that rural populations use for nutrition, healthcare and livelihood purposes. The maintenance and use of agrobiodiversity relies on extensive indigenous knowledge systems, which address aspects such as cultivation practices, uses, and genetic resource management of such plant species.”⁸</p>		
<p>The ProDoc makes a reasonable case for the scientific rationale and soundness of the project. In terms of threats and root causes the ProDoc (page 11) identifies the loss of customary institutions, decline in traditional agricultural systems, land conversion, and displacement of traditional varieties. To these we could add the erosion of traditional knowledge of the <i>management</i> of agricultural biodiversity.</p>	<p>The text and Threat Analysis have been amended to take account of this comment.</p>	<p><u>Executive Summary</u> Project Summary; para 3.</p> <p><u>Project Document</u> para. 26 and Section IV, Part IV. Threat Analysis matrix</p>
<p>The ProDoc is much less strong on the developmental rationale for GIAHS. The quote from FAO in the paragraph above recognizes the contribution of agricultural biodiversity to nutrition, healthcare and livelihoods. We could add that barriers to GIAHS could also include conflicts, bad governance, excessive promotion of agricultural technologies, gender discrimination, loss of empowerment and many other social, cultural and political issues.</p>	<p>The barriers identified are nevertheless the most pertinent and immediate within the context of the BD-2/OP 13 thrust of the project; it cannot solve everything. No further changes made.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>It is disappointing and a little surprising that the project’s proposers have not used their PDF-B surveys and work in order to set a strong social scientific and developmental justification for the project. Although not directly fundable under GEF rules, overcoming developmental barriers and supporting local livelihoods are legitimate co-finance activities that add and strengthen global environmental objectives. It is now recognized that unless a project can also become accepted and valued domestically, there is no chance of it being sustainable in the longer term. It is imperative that GIAHS develops a strong body of data and experience on the social and developmental benefits of the approach.</p>	<p>We agree with reviewer on the importance of social and developmental justifications. Adjustments to clarify the context and reflect this comment have been made in the proposal, particularly in the sections on social context and sustainability.</p>	<p><u>Executive Summary</u> Sustainability. Para 24</p> <p><u>Project Document</u> Part I. Situation Analysis. Socio-economic context paras 11 and Part II. Strategy Sustainability; para 91.</p>

<p>In association with this observation, there needs to be a better articulated justification for sites chosen (p.5 ProDoc and ExecSum; and pp.51 onwards of ProDoc Section IV, Part III) in terms of the social and developmental benefits to be gained by <i>this</i> sample. To some, the choice of the five pilot GIAHS sites (taking the Maghreb oases as one) may seem somewhat eclectic. There must have been some rational process for sampling that would have assessed not only the biodiversity conservation value but also the developmental value of these particular sites. Section IV, Part III of the ProDoc (page 51) does claim to present the criteria for prioritization of systems⁹, but this reviewer could not find the link between these ‘criteria’ and the Part B Site Description table on the following page. The last column of this table contains some wordy text, but this is more descriptive than analytical. We should be told how the sample was derived, what the criteria for selection were and how this was applied for the five sites. The ProDoc text states that 100 potential sites were identified during project preparation, but it is silent on how the five sites were chosen. It is recognized that there may have been logistical and personal reasons, but at the very least there should be a strong social and developmental; rationale in terms of critical value to livelihoods, food security and nutrition. This reviewer is worried that, without an open and explicit publication of the criteria and rationale for choice of sample, the project will be charged with being partial and hence ignored by countries with very different traditional agro-ecosystems that also deserve conservation and protection.</p> <p>The justification for the sample of five pilot sites needs to be shown. We should be told how the sample was derived and what the criteria for selection were. This could be achieved by strengthening Section IV, Part III of the ProDoc, and showing how the criteria are implemented in the specific sites chosen (Part B: Site description table on pp.52-55).</p>	<p>The selection process and justification for selection process has been explained.</p> <p>“At the start of the PDF-B, some 100 systems were identified through literature review. About 20 of these were actually presented by national proponents for consideration of the Steering Committee. These were evaluated and prioritized along the lines of the technical selection criteria set out above, in addition to country interests and the technical/institutional capacity of the leading institutions. As a result, the following seven project pilot sites were selected”.</p>	<p><u>Executive Summary</u> Project Summary; para 2</p> <p><u>Project Document</u> Part. I Situation Analysis para. 6 Section IV, part III (b) – Pilot Systems – Selection Criteria</p>
<p>This review suggests that the ExecSum and ProDoc need strengthening in the interlinked natural and social scientific justification for this project. As a starting point, FAO itself has a 177-page training manual dealing with major issues supporting a focus on agrobiodiversity,¹⁰ such as gender and local knowledge. So, for example, the manual usefully distinguishes between types of local knowledge, each of which is critical to understanding how agrobiodiversity may be conserved in project sites.....</p> <p>Showing a ready understanding and appreciation for such issues that are fundamental to the conservation of globally significant agrobiodiversity is important and needs to be demonstrated from the very start of the project. In the PDF-B phase of GIAHS, the project’s proposers commissioned a review by Prof. Miguel Altieri that touched on some of these aspects,¹¹ but the benefits for development need systematizing and presentation so that they are valued as much as the global environmental benefits. Professor Ramakrishnan’s background paper develops the eco-cultural links, which are also important.¹² These background papers as well as additional material from the literature¹³ should be informing the full project. They should at the very least be cited at appropriate points of the Brief.</p> <p>This reviewer would have liked to see more social scientific reference and independent evidence in the root cause analysis and in the rational for the project.</p>	<p>It is true that the GIAHS concept could provide linkages among a wide range of ecosystem and socio-economic aspects. A new paragraph has been added in this regard, and the proposal text strengthened in various places reflects this.</p>	<p><u>Executive Summary</u> Part. Project Summary. Para 5.</p> <p><u>Project Document</u> Part I. Situation Analysis. Para 9</p>

<p>This review believes that the proposed activities in GIAHS are well rooted in good social and natural scientific reasons. The project has potentially a coherent and logical structure. However, there is inadequate social and scientific justification as to how and why GEF should fund this initiative. There is no lack of information in the literature, and even in the sponsoring organizations of this proposal, of such justification. If such information does not appear here in the full Brief¹⁴, then there is a danger that the project will simply build an independent case for GIAHS promotion, duplicating much existing effort and neglecting a baseline that is much larger than presented in the ICM currently.</p>	<p>Appropriate cross-references to the underlying research and other relevant initiatives that lend support the GIAHS concept has been incorporated in the text throughout the document and therefore is difficult to give the exact reference.</p>	<p>pages 28,29,37, etc.</p>
<p>2.2. Evaluation of the identification of global environmental benefits and/or drawbacks and risks of the project.</p>		
<p>Identifying the incremental benefits and monitoring the success in achieving these benefits for biodiversity conservation in general and for OP13 Agrobiodiversity projects in particular has been the subject of much discussion inside and outside GEF. A clear and explicit identification of the global environmental benefits is necessary in the ProDoc in order to guide a suitable monitoring system for the project. In the negotiations for the Third Replenishment¹⁵, it was not only recommended that all projects include provisions for monitoring the impact and output of projects, but also that: “...indicators should be designed with a view to assessing global environmental impacts achieved from the GEF resources. All projects must include clear and monitorable indicators, plans for monitoring and supervision ... designed to improve quality at entry and to maximize impact. There should be a transparent system for the monitoring of these indicators and outcomes and for informing the Council on an annual basis” (GEF, 2002, p.52 – footnote 17 refers).</p>		
<p>So, has GIAHS specified relevant and useful benefits that are expected to be gained against which we may assess whether the project is a good use of GEF funds? Annex A, the Incremental Cost Assessment, has a 5-line paragraph on the ‘Global Environmental Objective’ of the project while the ICM lists a number of Outcome-specific global benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - greater global attention to agrobiodiversity - mainstreaming into national policies - on-farm conservation of agrobiodiversity - lessons, experience and methods in protecting biodiversity through GIAHS <p>Further, Annex B, the Logical Framework, sets out Outcome-specific indicators and quantitative and measurable targets, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - numbers of GIAHS receiving international recognition (target=15) - additional financial resource commitments (target=USD50 m) - land area under GIAHS stable or increasing (no targets, but baseline hectares identified) - academic and research interest assessed by papers and new proposals (target=20) <p>It is only at the project objective level that specific biodiversity indicators are used, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - numbers of traditional crops and varieties being cultivated stable or increasing (no targets, but baseline numbers identified) - populations of birds, indicator animals and plants stable or increasing (again no quantitative targets) <p>This review has already questioned whether the structure of verifiable indicators at the two levels of project objective and project outcomes is logical. It would be good to have a response as to why only biodiversity indicators are used at project objective level, whereas rather broader institutional and mainstreaming indicators are used at Outcome level.</p>	<p>The logical framework has been reviewed, with substantial changes made to the baselines, indicators and targets, especially for the project objective and Outcome 3, in order to accommodate these remarks as well as those from other reviewers. The ICM has also been revised and broadened.</p>	<p><u>Executive Summary</u> Annex B Logical Framework</p> <p><u>Project Document</u> Section II, Parts I and II Logical Framework</p>
<p>In so far as the development and specification of appropriate monitoring systems for achievement of the global environmental targets, the ProDoc has little information. The Section I, Part IV M&E Plan (pp.30-34) is mainly describing institutional</p>	<p>The text on M&E has been revised and brought in line with similar arrangements agreed between FAO and UNDP for</p>	<p><u>Executive Summary</u> Project Implementation</p>

<p>responsibilities and reporting schedules. Who will monitor the changes – both global environmental and developmental - induced by the project? How will the appropriate surveys of indicators be done? What scientific expertise will the project use? Activity 4.1 under Outcome 4 is for the implementation of the project’s M&E plan, but there is no scientific information in the Brief on what will be done. However, it is good that scientific papers and new proposals are specified as targets for achievement, so there will be appropriate peer review of the quality of the outputs.</p>	<p>other GEF projects. The new text clarifies the implementation and review arrangements.</p>	<p>Arrangements Para 47 - 57</p> <p>Project Document Section I, Part IV</p>
<p>This reviewer has no doubt that the project targets crucially important global environmental benefits. The doubt, however, is whether these are sufficiently prominent in the Brief and whether the project will have a sufficient steer from the start towards collecting and identifying the actual benefits that have been achieved – both environmental and developmental.</p> <p>Development and specification of appropriate monitoring systems for achievement of the global environmental targets is important. Questions are asked in the review above as to who will undertake the scientific and technical aspects of the monitoring, and how they will be done so that achievement of global environmental (and developmental) benefits is properly monitored and the information is able to be used in outcome 4 for further promotion.</p>	<p>The project implementation structure has provision for a Technical Group that includes a panel of scientific experts to advise on methodologies and other matters relating to rigorous analysis of the barriers to conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS.</p>	<p>Executive Summary Annex B</p> <p>Project Document Section II, Part II</p>
<p>2.3. Evaluation of the project’s compliance or fulfilment of the goals of GEF.</p>		
<p>GEF’s Operational Strategy relating to the focal area of biodiversity states that GEF’s operations are to be in full conformity with the CBD.¹⁶ The main strategic considerations guiding GEF-financed activities to secure global biodiversity benefits are: “(a) integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within national and, as appropriate, subregional and regional sustainable development plans and policies; (b) helping to protect and sustainably manage ecosystems through targeted and cost-effective interventions; (c) integration of efforts to achieve global benefits in other focal areas, where feasible, and in the cross-sectoral area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation; (d) development of a portfolio that encompasses representative ecosystems of global biodiversity significance; and (e) that GEF activities will be targeted and designed to help recipient countries achieve agreed biodiversity objectives in strategic and cost-effective ways.”</p>		
<p>The GIAHS proposal is strong on several of these strategic considerations. It will directly support (d) and (e) above especially. Suggestions made elsewhere in this review about strengthening developmental benefit aspects of the project would assist (a). Through the GIAHS approach, other focal areas are also potentially strengthened (c above) especially land degradation but the Brief makes little reference to this important synergy.</p> <p>It is suggested that reference should be made to the synergistic benefits of the GIAHS approach, especially for land degradation, so that the project contributes to this important strategic objective of GEF.</p>	<p>The proposal text has been strengthened in various places to reflect this. Close technical and operational links between GIAHS and LADA project both funded by GEF and executed by FAO addresses this issue</p>	<p>Executive Summary Para 20</p> <p>Project Document Para 59 - 60</p>
<p>The project is aimed principally at GEF Strategic Priority BD-2¹⁷ – Mainstreaming biodiversity. The strong emphasis on mainstreaming the GIAHS approach into policies, plans and procedures throughout the proposal admirably supports this GEF priority. A similar claim could probably be made for Strategic Priority BD-4 – Generation and dissemination of best practices for addressing current and emerging biodiversity issues. Given the emphasis on developing a relatively innovative ‘best-practice’ approach for agrobiodiversity and the intention to disseminate widely, BD-4 would seem most appropriate.¹⁸</p> <p>Consider inclusion of Strategic Priority BD-4 in view of the strengths of the project and the potential to achieve an innovative approach globally for agrobiodiversity.</p>	<p>BD-4 targets mainly the dissemination of lessons learnt. Since the lessons from this Project will only be available in later stages of the implementation, it will focus on BD-2 alone at this stage but will include BD4 at a later stage.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>The project also accords well with CBD/COP guidance on mainstreaming agrobiodiversity conservation through demonstrating sustainable use and developing mechanisms for wider dissemination.¹⁹ It is good to see that the Project Goal is rooted in CBD Article 10 (c), which mentions traditional cultural practices.</p>		

<p>The proposal is in good conformity with the GEF Operational Program 13 <i>Agrobiodiversity</i>. OP13 was designed by GEF to address the focal area of biodiversity, by concentrating on the major portion of the earth’s surface that is under land use and being managed in production landscapes. The project sensibly fits the overall program objectives of promoting “the positive impacts ... of agricultural systems and practices on biological diversity in agro-ecosystems and their interface with other ecosystems.”²⁰ The GIAHS approach should provide a major boost to seeing traditional practices in a positive light not only as contributor to biodiversity conservation but also as providing goods and services required for human well-being and development.</p>		
<p>2.4. Assessment of how the project fits within its regional context.</p>		
<p>Not applicable – this is a global project. But see the recommendation for better specifying the criteria for selection of pilot sites in the six countries. This reviewer wonders whether the chosen pilot sites should not also act as regional hubs for more effective promotion of the GIAHS in adjacent countries.²¹</p> <p>Through the individual country pilot sites, the project has scope to play a regional role in showing how GIAHS approaches may be promoted and introduced. Could this be explicitly included as one of the mandate tasks of the chosen country institutions?</p>	<p>This aspect has been included as a task in the proposal.</p>	<p><u>Executive Summary</u></p> <p><u>Project Document</u> para. 96 and Sect.IV Part V</p>
<p>2.5 and 2.6. Evaluation of the replicability and sustainability of the project.</p>		
<p>Replicability and sustainability are taken together in this review as they largely involve the same issues of scope for successful continuation of project approaches and ability to upscale to more countries and more globally important agrobiodiversity situations. In other words, they both address the added value for the global environment in other areas.</p>		
<p>Replicability or added value for the global environment beyond the countries and areas immediately involved should be well served, especially as dissemination and the publication of project lessons, approaches and experiences are well provided in the project design. The section of the ProDoc (pp.23-24) describing ‘replicability’ through an advocacy process is particularly relevant. However, this reviewer suggests this reinforces an earlier point in this review: that dissemination must be evidence-based and, therefore, the role of the project indicators to supply the evidence of benefits to be gained by GIAHS is crucially important – see ‘identification of global environmental benefits’ above.</p>	<p>See previous response on logical framework revision.</p>	<p><u>Executive Summary</u></p> <p><u>Project Document</u></p>
<p>Sustainability is set out in the ProDoc under sub-headings of institutional, financial, social and ecological sustainability. The GIAHS project design is intended to provide for continuation of institutional structures, while at the same time mobilizing longer-term financial support. The section on ‘social and ecological sustainability (para 74, page 23) is, however, insubstantial. The ProDoc admirably puts a case for the threats and root causes to agrobiodiversity in Section IV, Part IV of the ProDoc. These ‘threats’ are likely to intensify. This reviewer considers the statement that “by promoting GIAHS, the project will ensure social and ecological sustainability” to be somewhat complacent. Customary institutions are becoming rarer and local knowledge is continually diminishing in the face of ‘modernization’ and ‘commercialization’. The argument made for social and ecological sustainability in the ProDoc is essentially that GIAHS will provide for such outstanding landscapes and ecological benefits that they will be safe – i.e. sustainable. These ‘heritage systems’ cannot simply be viewed as some sort of ethno-museum; there have to be systems and institutions in place that will protect key aspects, such as particular plants and varieties, and act as repositories of local knowledge. How will this happen?</p> <p>One suggestion is that the project could deliberately build sustainability components, such as public-private participation forums, as seen in other GEF projects.²² Other actions might</p>	<p>The text strengthened in various places to reflect this comment. The sections on stakeholder analysis and involvement have also been expanded to present the full engagement of all sectors – government, private enterprise and civic society.</p>	<p><u>Project Document</u> Section I, Part I, B. Baseline Course of Action</p> <p>Section IV, Part V. Stakeholder Analysis and Participation Plan</p>

<p>include the ‘greening-up’ of culture, lifestyles and business.²³ A rather more deliberate engagement with processes towards ecological sustainability is requested.</p>		
<p>3. Secondary issues:</p>		
<p>3.1. Evaluation of linkages to other focal areas (international waters, climate change, etc...).</p>		
<p>The project is in focal area biodiversity. Attention has already been drawn above to the potential linkages with other focal areas. Under the rationale for the project (ExecSum, p.2), mention could be made of the synergies with sustainable land management and contribution to carbon stocks, for example. This reviewer could find little explicit mention in the documentation to benefits in agendas in climate change²⁴ and land degradation. However, the project should be able to make a legitimate claim to bringing global environmental benefits in carbon sequestration and control of land degradation – and this should be included both in the project rationale and possibly also in the ICA with suitable ‘health warnings’ that the data are not necessarily reliable.</p> <p>The project should make a legitimate claim to bringing global environmental benefits in carbon sequestration and control of land degradation.</p>	<p>It is true that the GIAHS concept could provide linkages among a wide range of ecosystem and socio-economic aspects. The proposal text has been strengthened in various places to reflect this.</p>	<p>Executive Summary Para 20</p> <p>Project Document Para 59 - 60</p>
<p>3.2. Evaluation of linkages to other programs and action plans at the regional and sub-regional level.</p>		
<p>The project has good national linkages through its stakeholders and management arrangements. The proposers clearly are active players in agrobiodiversity, not only in their own right in FAO, but also through in-country institutions.</p>		
<p>3.3. Assessment of other beneficial or damaging environmental effects.</p>		
<p>The project is fundamentally ‘environmental’, seeking to build a sustainable basis for the protection of globally important agricultural systems that are, in themselves, environmentally friendly, employing techniques that have been handed down which are proven to be ecologically sound and financially beneficial.</p>		
<p>3.4. EVALUATION OF THE DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PROJECT.</p>		
<p>GEF attaches the greatest importance to stakeholder involvement. The Stakeholder Involvement Plan available to this reviewer was incomplete, but already an impressive array of project partners, government institutes and NGOs has been lined up. It will be essential that farming communities, as those described for Peru, are well engaged with the project and interact with it fully at all stages. It is understood that the project in its PDF-B phase had extensive consultation and coordination to enhance stakeholder participation.</p>	<p>The sections on stakeholder analysis and involvement have been expanded to present the full engagement of all sectors – government, private enterprise and civic society.</p>	<p>Project Document Section I, Part I, B. Section IV, Part V. Stakeholder Analysis and Participation Plan</p>
<p>3.5. Assessment of the capacity building aspects.</p>		
<p>Capacity building is an integral part of the project at a number of levels. In Outcome 3, there is intention to develop local capacities; in Outcome 2, national capacities; while global capacity to value GIAHS and promote it further underlies the whole project. Local and national capacity building are the subjects of specific activity sets for the relevant Outcomes (2.2 and 3.2).</p>		
<p>3.6. Innovativeness of the project.</p>		
<p>The innovation of this project primarily arises from its focus on ‘agricultural heritages’ as a mechanism for promoting biodiversity conservation. None of the methods or techniques are particularly innovative, but the project does build well in an actively-engaged way by promoting a relatively novel concept to a much wider audience of planners and policy-makers.</p>		
<p>4. Concluding remarks</p>		
<p>The project rationale is soundly based on identified scientific criteria and needs. It is generally well written, contains sound argumentation and has objectives that are sensible. There is good evidence that the project offers possible long-term solutions for mainstreaming of agrobiodiversity through GIAHS promotion, immediately in the 7 pilot countries (5 GIAHS systems) and more widely to the target 15 individual GIAHS systems during the lifetime of the project.</p>		
<p>The project proposal does need some scientific and technical strengthening as summarized below. The two issues that this reviewer sees as highest priority are to (1) build a more robust scientific rationale for the project based upon a fuller set of specified global environmental benefits²⁵, and (2) include developmental benefits, not only as justification for the project, but as a basis for the social and ecological sustainability of the GIAHS approach.</p>		
<p>THE PROPOSERS OF THE PROJECT ARE WARMLY COMMENDED FOR THEIR PROJECT PROPOSAL ON A SUBJECT THAT IS OF IMMENSE GLOBAL IMPORTANCE. THIS STAP REVIEW COMMENDS THE PROJECT TO THE GEF AS AN APPROPRIATE USE OF FUNDS ENTRUSTED AND AN EMINENTLY SUITABLE WAY TO ADDRESS PRESSING AGROBIODIVERSITY IN KEY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL (AND DEVELOPMENTAL) IMPORTANCE.</p>		

2. UNEP Review of 11 April 2006 and Response

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	
<p>UNEP welcomes the opportunity to comment on this project proposal. UNEP is fully supportive of the conservation of adaptive management of agrobiodiversity which is clear by its own agrobiodiversity portfolio, developed in a manner consistent with UNEP's mandate in the GEF. Thus, although we support the intention behind the proposed proposal --- to promote conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harboured in globally important agricultural heritage systems (GIAHS) - we would like to offer the following comments.</p>			
<p>Main Issues</p>			
<p>1</p>	<p>The baseline section of the project brief does not provide clear justification for the proposed intervention. The conservation of agro-biodiversity and the holistic and adaptive management approach are very widely discussed. The information on these topics, globally and in the project countries, is available from many sources, which are not mentioned in the proposal. In addition while the specific environment and socioeconomic baseline data are provided for each of the partner countries the legal and policy issues related to the proposed intervention are described only at global level.</p>	<p>The limitation on the length of document does not allow extensive information to be provided here; however, additional information is available on both FAO and GIAHS web sites: http://www.fao.org/landandwater/agll/giahs www.fao.org/biodiversity/index.asp</p> <p>Policy and legal issues related to proposed intervention are common to all GIAHS systems; therefore they are aggregated as common issues and addressed at global level.</p> <p>No changes made to project document texts.</p>	<p><u>Project Document</u> Section II, Part II</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>The Threats Analysis should be country specific to provide better justification for the proposed interventions in the selected project sites.</p>	<p>This is a global project. Moreover, the main threats are common to all systems and sites. Some specific threats for each site have been explained for reasons of clarity and example.</p> <p>No changes made to project document texts.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>We also would like to point out that the proposed project does not provide clear evidence for the global significance of the targeted agricultural biodiversity and for the global significance of the proposed conservation measures.</p> <p>(i) Below we provide evidence for the lack of global significance of the targeted agricultural biodiversity, based on the sites descriptions provided in project document (Part B. Site Description):</p>	<p>Site identification and analysis of global significance and threats were undertaken through a participatory approach involving all stakeholders during the PDF-B phase. The process has in fact resulted in a very adequate selection of a range of sites, agrobiodiversity, associated wildlife, cultural practices and threats that can serve to test the global approach of establishing GIAHS as mechanism for their sustainable management. This point is further elaborated in the detailed replies that follow.</p> <p>No changes made to project document texts.</p>	

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
<p><u>Chile: Chiloe Island.</u></p> <p>The Chiloe Island is not a Vavilov centre of origin, nor a centre of origin of potatoes as incorrectly stated in the project document. The Chiloe Island has diversity of potato varieties, however it is not a centre of origin of potatoes. Other inaccuracy in the site description is that the strawberry variety listed is the <i>Fragaria chilensis</i> and not <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> as wrongly written in the project document. In addition, this particular island has been the focus of research and development work by numerous international environmental, agricultural research and development agencies. UNEP remains dubious that new funds are needed to ensure the continued existence of these potato varieties and one single variety of Ajo chilote.</p>	<p>The Vavilov centre of origin although an important criteria for GIAHS selection and applied to some of them, is not the only criteria for the recognition of the importance of agro-biodiversity. Additionally, GIAHS do not merely address a single agro-biodiversity species or variety but specific agro-biodiversity of global significance in a globally important agricultural system. The importance of the Chiloe Island agricultural system is in harboring several unique varieties of Potato, Ajo Chilote, <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> and several other domesticated and wild relatives and other species as well as landscape diversity, in combination with the Chiloe adaptive management systems developed by indigenous communities provide sufficient justification to be classified as GIAHS.</p> <p>The scientific name of <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> is correctly stated (<i>chilensis</i> is a redundant synonym).</p> <p>No changes made to project document texts.</p>	
<p><u>China</u></p> <p>Very small area of diversity and number of varieties conserved compared to major areas of diversity in China. The total area in China that project is working in according to these indicators is one village of 461 ha. This area will not be increased during the project. In addition, the project proposes to be concerned with 20 local rice varieties. Given that the number of locally grown rice varieties existing in production systems in China is over 1000 and that there are over 50,000 accessions of rice landraces held in gene banks in China, a very small amount of diversity and land area is targeted by the proposed project to justify the global benefits of the proposed GEF intervention.</p> <p>The targeted area is of low ethnic diversity compared to areas of China with high diversity of indigenous people - the village chosen in China is in an area of low ethnic diversity. This is combined with the fact that the rice-fish farmers within this region of</p>	<p>The objective of GIAHS is not only the conservation of one or more biodiversity elements of global importance but also conservation and adaptive management of these systems as a whole. The traditional Rice-Fish system of China is unique in the world and <i>in situ</i> conservation of the rice, fish and other species in the system will be achieved by the conservation and sustainable management of the whole system.</p> <p>Ethnic diversity is not a criterion of GIAHS selection. In this case the sustainability and economic viability of the system as well country driven-ness have been the main criteria for selection. GIAHS objectives are conservation through adaptive management and searching for economic viability of the system.</p> <p>No changes made to project document</p>	

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
<p>China (near the economically rich area Shanghai) have higher incomes compared to farmers who grow only rice varieties without harvesting fish products. It is therefore difficult to understand the need for GEF funds to conserve these areas.</p>	<p>texts.</p>	
<p><u>Philippines</u> Very small number of rice varieties (4) conserved. Only four endemic varieties of rice are targeted in 68,416 ha of land area. The Philippines is a centre of high rice diversity and rice is a main staple crop, thus it is surprising that over an area of 68,416 ha only four varieties are part of the system? Moreover, the rice varieties to be conserved are those used for making wine and thus have a higher market price and use value, so it is not expected that these varieties would disappear.</p>	<p>As rightly stated by UNEP there are many other rice varieties in the Ifugao system but 4 of them are endemic and all are contained in this agricultural system. The system as a whole is threatened along with these varieties. As evidenced in the project document, the comparative data clearly show that the Ifugao rice system has been disappearing at an accelerating rate along with many of the rice varieties contained in the system. In fact, the high economic value of these rice varieties is a chief reason for the sustainability of the system No changes made to project document texts.</p>	
<p><u>Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) Oases</u> Only a small number of date palm varieties targeted as an indicator for global significance for Outcome 3. As UNDP has already carried out a GEF Project concerned with the conservation of Date Palm in the Oases of the Maghreb that ended in 2005 it raises the question what new conservation benefits will this project bring if the only indicator for effective management of globally significant agrobiodiversity is that the number of date palm varieties will not be reduced.</p>	<p>The same comments as above apply to the Oasis systems. The project seeks to conserve date palms and other species within the Oasis apicultural system through the adaptive management of the system as a whole. No changes made to project document texts.</p>	
<p><u>Peru</u> Lack of reference to earlier initiatives of conservation in the Andean region of Peru. The project document does not refer to numerous other initiatives to conserve Andean roots and tubers In particular the inputs of Swiss government (SDC) to the on-farm conservation of Andean and Tuber.</p>	<p>FAO is aware of many efforts by SDC and others in the Peruvian Andes and indeed has been associated with many of them including FAO's own efforts. However, the lengthy description of these past works is neither required nor possible within the specified page limit of the project documents. No changes made to project document texts.</p>	
<p>(ii) The indicators listed under Outcome 3 (costed at US\$ 10 Million</p>	<p>The view of the EA/IA is that the indicators are sufficient for the purpose,</p>	

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
<p>USD) do not demonstrate enhanced conservation of agrobiodiversity in the targeted GIAHS. Outcome 3 has four groups of quantifiable indicators, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further decline in land conversion and land abandonment pressures on traditional farms. • Habitat networks surrounding traditional farms remain stable or increase compared to baseline levels. • No decline in the level of understanding and commitment of communities to GIAHS in the pilot sites • Number of traditional crops and varieties being cultivated remain stable or increase over baseline. 	<p>especially in terms of being appropriate, realistic, and measurable. Furthermore, this Outcome and its indicators concern mainstreaming conservation of agrobiodiversity for long term system viability, not increasing biodiversity <i>per se</i>. EA/IA welcomes UNEP's collaboration for elaborating additional indicators.</p> <p>No changes made to project document texts.</p>	
<p>The first indicator shows that the project does not plan to have interventions to increase the area within the project where diversity will be of concern, for example in China a baseline of only 461 ha will not be increased.</p>	<p>The objective of the project is to mitigate the threats not to expand systems that have resulted from hundreds if not thousands of years of conservation and adaptive management.</p> <p>The point about this indicator is to stop ongoing decline. The project objective has a target to identify 40 other potential GIAHS in accordance with internationally accepted criteria</p> <p>No changes made to project document texts.</p>	
<p>For the second indicator there is no baseline on land conversion pressures on surrounding habitats, thus the question arises on whether this threat exists.</p>	<p>Land conversion is a general trend in all of the traditional agricultural systems around the world and particularly in the GIAHS cases as described</p> <p>These pressures will be elucidated during the initial phase of the project; at a minimum such pressures which are known qualitatively to exist will be stabilised.</p> <p>No changes made to project document texts.</p>	
<p>For third indicator, according to the project document, 90% of the farmers are already observing management practices supportive of the conservation of agricultural biodiversity, it is not clear how creating a GIAHS will affect his percentage.</p>	<p>The indicator is not about a particular percentage of farmers engaged in maintaining agrobiodiversity (indeed it is expected to decrease) but about the retention of critical knowledge within the relevant section of the community.</p> <p>No changes made to project document texts.</p>	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	In terms of the fourth indicator, only a small number of the total crop diversity of the agricultural systems in partner countries, is being targeted. For example, only 20 rice varieties in China, only 4 rice varieties in the Philippines, only one variety of Ajo chilote in Chile.	The project stakeholders suggest that a start has to be made and the issue is about the GIAHS model as a new institutional approach, not the nominal quantity of varieties saved at this stage.	
4	Outcome 1 is primary promoting establishment of GIAHS Secretariat. It seems that the GIAHS concept is totally new instead of building up the proposed intervention on the existing experiences. This does not meet the basic GEF eligibility criteria related to the incremental cost. UNEP is concerned that promoting a new secretariat without considering previous and existing experiences might create overlapping and unneeded duplication of work. This will be a serious issue as far as financial sustainability is concerned, as the GIAHS Secretariat will compete for donors' funds with other agencies doing similar work.	The GIAHS Secretariat will be part of the existing Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture already housed in FAO. The cost of this Secretariat is already in the baseline and GEF incremental cost will allow the establishment of the GIAHS concept and sustainability of this work programme within an adequate framework and mandated UN agency. No changes made to project document texts.	
5	Outcome 1 and 4 are widely overlapping - both aiming at promoting the concept of GIAHS although from different perspectives.	These two outcomes are not overlapping but parallel and mutually supporting. Outcome 1 is exclusively targeted at setting up the necessary international framework for supporting and expanding GIAHS, whereas Outcome 4 is exclusively for monitoring impact and sharing lessons learnt. No changes made to project document texts.	
6	Outcome 2 seems overambitious "identification and implementation of specific measures" seems difficult in the light of the time required to produce legislative changes in some countries. Moreover, as it appears from the log-frame, the only laws taken into account are the land tenure (in some countries) and the protected areas laws in partner countries. This doesn't seem to be enough to create comparative advantages for local products. Laws on geographic origin, seed laws, decentralization and empowerment of local communities	Experience during the PDF-B phase has demonstrated that pilot GIAHS countries are already aware of the need for legislative and policy reforms and some have already mainstreaming CBD requirements. IA/EA therefore believe that Outcome 2 is eminently achievable. Examples of land tenure and protected area laws are given in the log-frame, and other issues suggested will be considered during the inception phase of the he full project. No changes made to project document texts.	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	and others should also be considered.		
7	There are very little references to capacity building. The proposal recognizes the lack of capacity but neither in the project brief nor in the log-frame there are country/project sites specific activities and indicators related to this component.	As a project designed under the guidance of the Strategic Priority 2, capacity building through mainstreaming is a central theme of the project (see Para. 58) and will be carried out at all levels: global, national and local, involving all main stakeholder sectors. Activities are clearly set out in various sections, not least Section IV, Part V of the proposal (Stakeholder Participation Plan), and the Project Objective Indicator: “Establishment of national enabling environments for GIAHS” described in Annex B. No changes made to project document texts.	
8	Description of project components in the alternative section does not provide clear detailed description of the ways on how the anticipated project objectives and outputs will be achieved. Instead it only lists the planned groups of activities.	The detailed description of working methods and implementation strategy beyond what is written in the project will be developed by all stakeholders in each country in a participatory way during the implementation of the project. No changes made to project document texts.	
9	No quantitative indicators are developed neither for monitoring the biodiversity nor the social and the environmental impact in the proposed GIAHS.	The UNEP reviewer has already provided examples of quantitative indicators at point 3(ii) and many others are set out in Annex B. No changes made to project document texts.	
10	Project Budget: (i) More than 50% of the total GEF funds requested (Outcome 1: US\$ 1,593,000 + Outcome 2: US\$1,801,800 = US\$3394800) are allocated to international agencies, organizations and international NGOs, leaving less that 50% of GEF funds for country components. This division is not visible from the information presented in the Project Executive Summary as no division of funds to countries is made in the Table 7: neither in Incremental Cost Matrix nor in Table 13 of the Full Project Brief. However, the Full Project Brief Part V: STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS (pages 71-100) shows that there are no national stakeholders identified for	The Outcomes 1 & 2 as well as other outcomes are also benefiting national and local levels and in particular GIAHS systems at ground level. Additionally, the international institutions are working also at national and local levels in additions to international levels. The same applies for stakeholders. No changes made to project document texts.	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	Outcomes 1 and 4, only international agencies.		
	(ii) It is also not clear if all funds under Outcomes 2 and 3 will be allocated to country components, thus the amounts of GEF Funds planned for national components could be even more limited.	As above No changes made to project document texts.	
11	Co-financing: (i) Actual confirmed cash co-funding is limited to US \$ 450,000;	This amount is yearly and for the six years duration of the project will amount US \$ 2,700,000. No changes made to project document texts.	
	(ii) All national country contributions are in kind – no cash co-funding from countries is envisaged;	These contributions are valuable and activities envisaged are very specific to project. No changes made to project document texts.	
	(iii) Contribution from FAO, the project executing agency is in-kind only and no cash co-funding envisaged;	This is incorrect statement. The letter of FAO contribution is attached. No changes made to project document texts.	
	(iv) Bilateral donors are still to be confirmed;	Several bilateral co-funding bodies are expected to confirm participation in the near future. However, the level of confirmed co-funding is already four times GEF funding and therefore greatly exceeds minimum leverage requirements. No changes made to project document texts.	
	(v) Table 5, page 12 of the Executive Summary shows that the Roman Forum has committed US \$ 6 Million cash and in-kind. However, the review of the letter from the Roman Forum states that the Forum has agreed to develop collaborative partnership with GIAHS, and aims to contribute to the activities...”. The letter does not state that these funds are available. Moreover, UNEP is concerned that a university in Italy has the capacity to raise US\$ 6 Million from the Italian government for a single project.	This matter has been clarified in a further letter from Roman Forum, now appended to the project document. New letter from Roman Forum attached to project document.	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	(vi) In total, out of the stated US\$ 18,000,000 (US\$ 7,374,000 cash and US\$ 10,626,000 in-kind) co-funding, only US\$ 450,000 cash is confirmed. Planned cash contribution of US\$ 924,000 (Bilateral) + US\$ 6 Million (Roman Forum) is not confirmed.	This statement is incorrect. All cash and kind co-funding are confirmed with letters of statements included. No changes made to project document texts.	
12	Although the project M&E plan describes all activities planned to monitor project execution performance and oversight of project implementation it does not provide information on the activities and budget planned to track achievement of project objectives using the logframe indicators.	The funds for monitoring the achievement of the project progress, using the logframe indicators are included in each outcome. The detailed budget planning will be undertaken in the inception stage of the project. No changes made to project document texts.	
13	UNEP is concerned that the project proposal doesn't have a conceptual framework to compare different sites in order to evaluate the implementation of local plans. As stated on page 7, Executive Summary the conceptual framework is to be developed by the Christensen foundation. This should have been developed during the PDF-B phase. UNEP wonders how the M&E strategy will be implemented without such a framework. This is even more important at the local level where most of the work shall focus. It is also not clear how community will benefit from this project as there is no conceptual framework developed for local plans.	The project has already presented a detailed conceptual framework which will be adopted by all countries and in each system. The Christiansen foundation will assist the dissemination. No changes made to project document texts.	
14	While project management and implementation arrangements at global level are very well described, little information is provided on the management and implementation arrangements at national and project site level. Not enough emphasis is given on local communities, organizations and institutions needed to achieve project objectives at national level.	IA/EA is happy that UNEP is pleased with the implementation arrangement at global level. The implementation arrangements at national and local levels differ in different countries and will be developed through a participatory process with concerned stakeholders during the inception stage of the project. No changes made to project document texts.	
15	UNEP is concerned as to how the institutional sustainability will be achieved without mentioning a capacity building component under the Sustainability section of the Brief. Concerning the financial	Explained in 7 and 10 above. No changes made to project document texts.	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	sustainability we remain doubtful about the capacity of the GIAHS Secretariat to generate funds while other organizations/programmes have been doing this for a long time. It is also very ambitious to have national budgetary support for something that can be interpreted in different ways by different countries (see assumptions and risks section of the project Brief and Executive Summary) and for which there is no theoretical framework.		
Additional remarks			
1	The Project Brief is not written in the standard GEF format for full size proposals.	IE/EA has used the new format for submission to GEF4. Changes were made to project document texts.	
2	The Work Plan is missing as a part of the mandatory Annex B: Logframe.	The Work Plan is not a mandatory requirement for WP entry. No changes made to project document texts.	
3	There is no letter of GEF focal point endorsement from the Philippines for the Full Project. The letter attached in the Annexes of the Full Project Brief from the Philippines is for endorsement of the PDF-B Phase of the project.	The letter of endorsement is attached No changes made to project document texts.	
4	The activity 2.1 “Identification and implementation of specific measures through which sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and regulations can be improved to support conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS, for instance through official recognition of GIAHS in national policy documents” overlaps with activity 3.2 “Identification and monitoring of political and socio-economic processes that impact biodiversity and cultural values in GIAHS in order to enhance positive effects and empower local communities with knowledge and tools to minimize negative effects” .	UNEP is invited to collaborate with the IE, EA and individual pilot countries to address these concerns. No changes made to project document texts.	
5	UNEP/FAO GEF full project proposal “Conservation and Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture, through an Ecosystem	Thank you for pointing this out. Text has been adjusted accordingly.	<u>Executive Summary</u> Part 5. Institutional coordination

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	<p>Approach”, submitted to GEFSEC for consideration at June 2006 Work Programme is incorrectly listed as UNEP-GEF Pollinators Initiative.. It is also incorrectly mentioned that this project is under implementation.</p>	<p>and support. Table 6</p> <p><u>Project Document.</u> Part III. Management Arrangements. Linkages with GEF Projects. Table 10</p>
6	<p>UNDP/GEF Project Participatory management of date palm genetic resources in the oases of the Maghreb region” listed in the project proposal as “Date Palm project –UNDP/GEF” under implementation was completed in 2005.</p>	<p>Thank you for pointing this out. Text has been adjusted accordingly.</p> <p><u>Executive Summary</u> Part 5. Institutional coordination and support. Table 6</p> <p><u>Project Document.</u> Part III. Management Arrangements. Linkages with GEF Projects. Table 10</p>
7	<p>UNEP-GEF PDF B proposal “Conservation and use of crop genetic diversity to improve ecosystem services in support of human welfare and well-being in the oases of Algeria and Tunisia” submitted to Pipeline 22 is not mentioned under the section Linkages with other GEF initiatives.</p>	<p>Thank you for pointing this out. Text has been adjusted accordingly.</p> <p><u>Executive Summary</u> Part 5. Institutional coordination and support. Table 6</p> <p><u>Project Document.</u> Part III. Management Arrangements. Linkages with GEF Projects. Table 10</p>

3. GEF Secretariat Review and Response

FSP: Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

1. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

Endorsement

April 9, 2007:

The GEF resources for the project will be pooled from country RAF allocations and a share of the global set-aside for the BD FA.

All countries but Morocco have committed RAF resources to the project. Please confirm that Morocco will not contribute RAF resources to the project.

The Moroccan GEF Operational Focal point had indicated that the re-endorsement letter, providing the level of expected contribution from Morocco's biodiversity allocation, would be forthcoming. As FAO had not received the letter by the time the document was to be submitted for Work Programme inclusion, Morocco has been removed from the list of participating countries and the budget adjusted accordingly.

3. FINANCING

Financing Plan

April 9, 2007:

The project is submitted under the BD FA, which is subject to the RAF. GEF resources in the amount of US\$3,6 million are requested. US\$2 478 107 is endorsed by the country FPs to be pooled from the country allocation for BD (except Morocco). There is US\$1 121 893 unaccounted for - please indicate where these GEF resources will come from. A table with the country endorsed BD allocations and the request for GEF funds from the global set-aside would be useful.

Following the removal of Morocco as one of the participating countries, the GEF allocation has been reduced from US\$3.6 million to US\$3.5 million. The total project cost is now US\$18 million, consisting of US\$3.5 million in GEF resources. The total cost of preparation (PDF-A, PDF-B and co-financing) amounted to US\$1.765 million.

A table with the country endorsed BD allocations and the requested amount for GEF funds from the global biodiversity window is provided below and in the Project Executive Summary.

GEF resources allocation (Country RAF and from the 5% global window)

Pilot Country	Amount (USD)	Status
Chile	600 000	Confirmed
China	500 000	Confirmed
Peru	600 000	Confirmed
Philippines	500 000	Confirmed
Algeria	200 000	Confirmed
Tunisia	100 000	Confirmed
Subtotal	2 500 000	
5% Global Biodiversity Fund	1 000 000	Confirmed
Total	3 500 000	

On the proposed financing plan for the project, the following issues need to be addressed:

1. More than 16 percent of the GEF resources go into the project management budget. Please indicate what will be covered with these funds. As a rough guide, on average about ten percent of the allocated GEF resources should be used for project management.

Response: The project was revised to reduce project management budget. The present GEF resources for management represent 12 percent that is slightly higher due to the **Global** nature of the project.

2. On the international consultants, the weekly salary is more than US\$2 300 (project management) and US\$2 900 (TA). Please indicate what is covered through this, e.g. travel and salary? Personnel for the TA component also show weekly costs of more than US\$2 900. Please provide more information on the composition of the project personnel.

Response: FAO does not work with staff-weeks but, for project personnel, uses the Annual Pro-forma Costs of International Experts – UNDP and Trust Fund Projects, which is standard for the UN system. In the case of international consultants, FAO uses an average rate of US\$350/day. The costs of the staff-weeks therefore may vary, depending on whether it is a project staff or consultants. In some cases, the fee of international consultants also included the cost of travel and DSA. These elements have now been separated and a standard international consultancy cost of US\$350 per day is utilized. The table c) Consultants working for technical assistance components has been amended, and the composition of the project personnel and consultants provided according to GEF standards.

3. The GEF share of the travel budget for project management is US\$140 000. Please be advised that GEF funding should be used for essential travel needs of the project management personnel only.

Response: Budget for travel is reduced and the table was amended.

4. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

Core Commitments and Linkages

April 7, 2007: FAO is now the sole GEF agency in this project. Some more substantive arguments should be added why FAO has the comparative advantage to be the GEF agency for this project, e.g. linked to the regular FAO work program on agriculture and food security.

Information on FAO's comparative advantage to serve as the sole GEF agency for this project have been added to the section "Core Commitments and Linkages" in both the Project Executive Summary and Project Brief. Additionally the project is a partnership initiative and will remain an international partnership with many agencies and institutions involved actively at steering committee, technical committees and implementing collaborators (including UNDP).

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS BY PROGRAM MANAGER

April 9, 2007:

The project documentation was submitted for inclusion into the June 2007 WP.

The following issues have been raised:

1. Please confirm that Morocco will not contribute RAF resources to the project.

Response: Morocco was removed from the list of pilot countries. Morocco will remain an associate partner with self funding and funding provided by other non GEF donors.

2. Please add a table with the country endorsed BD allocations and the request for GEF funds from the five percent set aside for global and regional activities.

Response: A table with the country endorsement is added.

3. Please clarify the activities paid under the project management and what the GEF resources will be used for.

Response: The tables are amended. Some notes and explanation are added below the tables to clarify the activities.

4. COMMENTS ON WORK PROGRAM (GEF/C.31/8) AND FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES PROGRAMMING FOR GEF-4 (GEF/C.31/10), GEF COUNCIL JUNE 2007

a) French Review of the Council Work Program of GEF/C31

Opinion: The project proposes to support agricultural production system having a significant impact on safeguard of natural resources (water, soils, biodiversity) while preserving livelihoods of local populations.

This project is an interesting example of development of agricultural practises with a positive impact on the environment.

The sustainability of these practises should be discussed. In particular, the possibility to put in place a system of certification for the products should be analysed.

Favorable opinion

Response:

The sustainability issues are discussed case by case in each pilot system and there are provisions for certification schemes already.

b) USG Technical Comments

- This is an appropriate project for FAO to serve as EA.
- The STAP Reviewer's comments are very informative and useful, and appear to have been taken onboard.

c) Swiss Review of the Council Work Program of GEF/C31

GENERAL COMMENTS

The overall project goal is to protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices, specifically within agricultural systems. The project objective is to promote conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harbored in globally important agricultural heritage systems (GIAHS).

The project is organized according to four outcomes: (i) establishment of a globally accepted system for the recognition of GIAHS; (ii) mainstreaming the conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harbored in GIAHS in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans at the national level; (iii) globally significant agricultural biodiversity in pilot GIAHS is being managed and sustainably used by empowering local communities; and (iv) extraction and dissemination in other areas/countries of lessons learned and best practices from promoting effective management of pilot GIAHS.

As far as available information allows for an overall assessment, the project seems basically consistent with the GEF operational principles and contributes to the implementation of CBD articles 10c and 8j. However, this is a very ambitious project, which targets the recognition of GIAHS at the international level, the development of novel political, social and economic processes at the national level, and, last but not least, the in-situ conservation of a high agro-biodiversity. We feel there is a high risk that the implementation of the project as described in the documents will face too diverse and too high challenges to be successfully overcome within the planned project period. Our concerns are summarized as follows:

MAIN CONCERNS

The global approach is too disperse and too ambitious

The project targets the establishment of GIAHS in five countries, on 12 sites, representing five different agro-ecosystems. The selected countries/sites are very diverse regarding their ecology, their socio-cultural background as well as regarding their economies. We cannot recognize a potential for the creation of synergies between the sites and/or between the countries.

In the same spirit, we miss an added value which would justify the global approach adopted.

Response:

We agree that the project might be ambitious and selected countries' ecology, socio-cultural background and economies too diverse. However, the challenge of environmental degradation, poverty and food insecurity needs ambitious goals commensurate with the scale of the problem. We have been witnessing the disappearance of traditional agricultural systems and with them the disappearance of livelihood systems, biological diversity, indigenous knowledge, cultural diversity and some time even the indigenous people and ethnic groups themselves all over the world. Some of the conventional agricultural policies and practices go against the noble goals and objectives of food security and

poverty alleviation and need to be reviewed urgently. An ambitious international instrument similar to the World Heritage Convention rooted practical examples of work in diverse but threatened agro-ecosystems in different regions is needed to create necessary awareness at policy and technical level. FAO is best placed to use already existing mechanisms such as Intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources and the International Treaty and CBD, and benefit from the experiences of WHC, UNESCO MAB programme, PLEC project etc. to achieve this goal. The selections of countries/systems where project will operate is based on prioritization by GIAHS International Steering Committee (cf. selection criteria, Part III, page 67 of the ProDoc) and country driven-ness. FAO recognizes the complexity and diversity of agricultural systems (cf. Section I Part I, background context, definition of agricultural systems), by establishment and recognition of initially 5 selected globally important agricultural heritage systems with socio-cultural diversity, economies and agro-ecosystems, representing different countries in various regions (with strong interest to the concept and commitment). However, no matter how diverse these systems and countries, commonalities exists between countries on how they approach (or ignore) viable traditional/ingenious systems and this is the main justification for a global approach. Further, within the country of the pilot/demonstration systems, the project will be able to link concrete actions on the ground, and lessons learnt from dynamic conservation of these systems, to activities at the national (inter-national/regional) and global level designed to increase understanding, recognition, and support for a long term GIAHS programme. Additionally, GIAHS project should not be seen only in the context of this GEF project but as a starting point for a long term programme institutionalized in FAO to be expanded to as many systems and countries as possible. During the preparatory phases, the initiative has created lot of enthusiasms and provoked interest from many local, national and international stakeholders. By recognizing and establishing GIAHS in these initial (or pilot) countries, it is hoped that the local agrobiodiversity and associated biodiversity (of global importance) and landscapes dependent to these systems will be conserved and used sustainably.

Due to the project's very weak scientific basis, measurable results cannot be expected

Table 1 of the project executive summary lists several hundreds of important varieties and breeds of global importance to agro-biodiversity. However, no information about the status of threat of these breeds and varieties is provided. Furthermore, the threats to the breeds and varieties are provided in only very general categories. The scientific basis on state and trends of the agro-biodiversity provided in the documents appears too weak to reveal measurable and significant impacts on agro-biodiversity by the project's end.

Response:

FAO disagrees with this comment that "due to the project's very weak scientific basis, measurable results cannot be expected". It may appear that Table 1 is not comprehensive nor contain a detailed state and trends of the agrobiodiversity, however, numerous research work and studies have been undertaken by many scientists from both developed and developing countries and a quick look at the website of the project (www.fao.org/sd/GIAHS) provide some of the most outstanding examples of such work. Additionally, the project has a Technical Group (Scientific Advisory Committee) composed of eminent scientists (technical practitioners, researchers and academician) to ensure that a coherent and flexible holistic methodology is developed on the basis of technical insights from a variety of disciplines and all perspectives are considered. Likewise, the coordinator and project staff are fully knowledgeable on the issues of agro-biodiversity. The current benchmarks are a preliminary gathering only to justify the initiative and recorded as indicative because of the page number limitation of project document. The detailed assessment of agrobiodiversity species or varieties and associated biodiversity harbored in each of the systems are also documented and is still on-going and shall be used as benchmarks indicators to measure the significant impacts of GIAHS dynamic conservation on agrobiodiversity by the project's end. More measurable and significant impacts are detailed at each pilot country framework.

Basic information regarding the adaptive management approach are not given

The adaptive management approach is a very attractive way to address the complex system of GIAHS. However, the project documents fail to provide information/data on which an adaptive management approach model should be based. Furthermore, information on strategies and priorities to implement

this approach is not provided. We recognize the risk that the chosen adaptive management approach could deteriorate into a “day-to-day” management, thus losing a clear focus.

Response:

The Project Document is prepared in a global context and does not contain basic description of the adaptive management approach as it will vary in different contexts. Due to the fact that the project is a global, participatory and community driven, it is difficult to describe a uniform management approach. Instead, the adaptive management approach, strategies and priorities are decided and agreed upon through participatory and multi-stakeholders’ approach at local and national level of each pilot system. The individual details of the adaptive management approach are presented in the individual Country Pilot Framework documents (available in FAO). These are complementary documents to the global GIAHS Project Document, and will be posted later on the GIAHS homepage. The adaptive management approach envisioned in each systems (or GIAHS) is based on sustainable livelihood framework with five rural assets: natural capital, social capital, human capital, physical capital and financial capital. Some background documents regarding conceptual and methodological frameworks of GIAHS are posted on the website (<http://www.fao.org/sd/giahs/documents.asp>). Rationale and principles of participation of stakeholders to achieve expected outcomes are provided in Section IV, Part V of the Full Scale Project Document. On the other hand, FAO Project Management and National Focal Point Institutions will closely monitor and co-ordinate the development of the action plans in each pilot system, keeping a clear view of the main objectives, while allowing due space for local particularities, through a focus on the development of global awareness and recognition, enabling environments at all levels, better methodologies and greater capacity of government and local communities for the achievement of the expected project outcomes.

Socio-economic implications at the site level are not sufficiently explored, thus jeopardizing sustainable results

The local farmers are key-stakeholders for the conservation of agro-biodiversity in GIAHS, as their very livelihood is built on the diversity to be conserved. Indeed, the support by the local communities for the establishment of GIAHS and the in-situ conservation of agro-biodiversity are a prerequisite to achieve sustainable results. However, the project documents provide neither sufficient information about the socio-economic constraints at the site level, nor information from which it can be assumed that the project benefits from a support of the local farmers or addresses the farmers' needs. The precondition for the achievement of sustainable results on the site level is therefore jeopardized.

Response:

The Project Document mainly described the *summary* of socio-economic context and cultural characteristics of the communities of the pilot countries, as well as summary of the trends and threats that confront GIAHS and its agrobiodiversity conservation. FAO agrees that there is indeed a greater need for a thorough analysis of the socio-economic constraints at the site/community level. The more detailed socio-economic analysis of the GIAHS community and local farmers beyond what is written in the Project Document exists among GIAHS documentation but also will be further developed by the National Focal Point Institution of the pilot country during the first year of full scale project implementation, including assessments and identification of alternative livelihoods of the population who nourishes and sustains agrobiodiversity and associated biodiversity conservation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We recognize and support the innovative approach of GIAHS, their huge potential for in-situ conservation of agro-biodiversity and their role in the synergistic implementation of various international conventions and treaties by countries establishing such systems. However, the present project is too ambitious and the scientific basis regarding the methodology and basic data as described in the documents is too weak, incomplete or vague.

We consider that it is necessary to address all these gaps in a satisfactory way during the further preparation of the project, otherwise no measurable outcomes and impacts on agro-biodiversity in GIAHS will be reached, and the GEF intervention would become rather questionable.

Although we support the approval of the project by GEF, we also request that the concerns outlined be considered and resolved satisfactorily in the final project preparation / the Project Appraisal Document (PAD).

FURTHER COMMENTARIES

- The project documents include definitions of agro-biodiversity by the FAO and the CBD. As these definitions do not correspond, please indicate which definition will serve as a base for the project and adjust the targeted biodiversity accordingly.

Response:

There is no confusion between FAO and CBD definition, the Project Document adopts FAO definition of *agricultural systems* while for the definition of *agricultural biological diversity*, it adopts CBD definition (cf. Section I Part 1). FAO definition of agrobiodiversity (shortened form of agricultural biodiversity) is a modified version of CBD “comprises the whole plant resource diversity that human societies use and manage for agriculture, food, healthcare, and livelihood. It includes the enormous diversity of crops and crop varieties that small-scale farmers conserve and cultivate, representing both the basis for their subsistence and a source of income. To some extent, it also embraces wild food and medicinal plants that rural populations use for nutrition, healthcare and livelihood purposes. The maintenance and use of agrobiodiversity relies on extensive indigenous knowledge systems, which address aspects such as cultivation practices, uses, and genetic resource management of such plant species”.

- There are no outcomes defined that directly address the conservation of agro-biodiversity – please adjust the outcomes or explain.

Response:

Conservation of agrobiodiversity is addressed in Outcome 3 as follows:

<p>3. One-hundred twelve ha of productive landscape with numerous Globally significant agricultural biodiversity in pilot GIAHS is being managed and sustainably used by empowering local communities and harnessing evolving economic, social, and policy processes and by adaptation of appropriate new technologies that allow interaction between ecological and cultural processes (Local)</p>	<p>3.1 No further decline in land conversion and land abandonment pressures on traditional farming systems. 3.2 Decline in land conversion pressures on surrounding habitats. 3.3 Improved level of understanding and commitment of communities to GIAHS in the pilot sites 3.4 Number of traditional crops and varieties are being cultivated.</p>	<p>3.1 About 90% of farmers are estimated to observe management practices supportive of GIAHS criteria. 3.2 Habitat networks surrounding traditional farms remains stable or increase compared to baseline levels 3.3. No further decline in land conversion and land abandonment: Chiloe: 10,616 ha China: 451 ha Algeria: 500 ha Tunisia: 700 ha Peru: 30,798 ha Philippines: 68,416 ha 3.4 No decline in the number of traditional crops and varieties that are being cultivated.</p>
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- The co-financing of pilot countries is rather low, limited to in-kind contributions and so far not confirmed. We would expect a more substantial contribution by pilot countries. Further, we also request additional information on country drivenness.

Response:

FAO is working on increasing the co-financing contributions. As to the time of project submission for WPI, the amount indicated was only verbal commitment. The total confirmed commitment from the participating governments is now amounting to more than US\$4 990 000 for cash and in-kind contribution.

- Indicators on agro-biodiversity are very vague and not sufficiently specified. Indicators on the socio-economic conditions of the local communities, which are important to assess the sustainability of project activities on the site level, are lacking.

Response:

Agrobiodiversity indicators and socio-economic conditions beyond what is written in the Project will be further detailed in each of the pilot country framework.

FAO appreciates the Swiss Council Member comments for bringing up issues that have been overlooked in the project preparation. .

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT.

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ person week</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks</i>
For Project Management		
<i>Local, pilot level</i>		
Financial/Budget Specialist (Part-Time, 6 pilot countries at 1-month every year in 5 years)*	350	280
<i>International, global level</i>		
Financial/budget Specialist (Part-Time)	1 000	40
External Project Evaluator	1 750	25
Senior Advisor (FAO Retiree)	1 000	40
For Technical Assistance		
<i>Local*</i>		
Biodiversity Specialist	600	100
Agriculturist	600	150
Intellectual property rights/Traditional knowledge specialist	600	60
Communication/Knowledge Management specialist	600	85
Database/website developer	600	70
Institutional/capacity and community development specialist	600	70
Training/Workshop facilitator	600	80
Enterprise/market/ livelihood resources Specialist	600	85
Agricultural System-specific Specialist (water, soil, conservation, etc)	600	160
<i>International**</i>		
Socio-cultural-ecological specialist	1 750	13
Ecology-Biodiversity Specialist	1 750	39
International laws/policies and legal expert	1 750	21
Communication/Knowledge Management specialist	1 750	83
Webpage/network design language translation	1 750	40
Workshop/conference Facilitator	1 750	17
Agricultural Systems/land and water specialist	1 750	106

*Estimated cost of national consultant per week, depending on the country's standard salary rate for local, the cost indicated shall be adjusted but should not be higher than the amount reflected in this document.

**Estimated cost per day of international consultant is 350 USD: 1 750 USD per week (5-day) or 2 450 USD per week (7-day)

Tasks to be performed of local and international consultants including seasonal consultant for the project management²⁶:

Recruitment of local and International Consultants for the project will be on occasional basis and shall work only on a specified period of time and to provide technical advice, investigate and provide assessments and assist the GPIU and National Focal Points. Dispatch of international consultants to pilot countries/systems (if need be), should coincide with hiring of local consultants and shall work in tandem with the local consultants who shares the same terms of references at the local levels. Position titles and tasks to be performed are the same except the extent and coverage of duties are differ, the local would work on the designated local (system and country focus) while international consultant shall cover the international scope, all pilot systems and countries.

For Project Management:

Financial/Budget Specialist: Part-time consultant will be hired to work with the Chief Technical Advisor and Programme Officer, in preparation of project annual (and quarterly budget preparation, if need be) and monitoring of cash flows and expenditures. The consultant shall also fulfill budget reporting requirements of the project.

External Evaluator: To evaluate and verify ongoing and planned activities in accordance to the specified project objectives, point out the weaknesses and strengths of the management, and provide recommendation to further the implementation of the project and the attainment of its objectives and expected outcomes. This will assess and ensure supportive and collective measures at the international and national level (pilot countries).

Senior Advisor (national, international). To provide management and technical advice to GPIU in identification and facilitation of global GIAHS assessments needs and where and whenever necessary, formulate respective concept notes for potential donor-funding, and facilitate global process of GIAHS recognition and partnerships.

Technical Assistance:

1. Biodiversity specialist. The consultant shall assist the Global Project Implementation Unit in the following areas: (i) assessment and inventory of agricultural biodiversity and associated biodiversity, (ii) improving the design and conservation management of agricultural biodiversity and associated biodiversity, (iii) develop a biodiversity conservation training program for the pilot countries, which can be handed easily to relevant staff of the national governments, local government units, research institutions and academes, NGOs and local-based community organizations, particularly for GIAHS communities. The consultant will provide technical input to the GPIU in the development of intervention strategies, programs and activities for GIAHS biodiversity conservation. The consultant will also coordinate with the information/education and communication/knowledge management consultant on the development of multi-media information materials, design and operation of GIAHS projects with respect to dissemination of information materials, incorporation of educational displays, exhibits, and activities in planned conferences and international (or national meetings) for GIAHS.
2. Agriculturist. The consultant shall assist the national project team to providing technical assistance to farmers, fisherfolks, herders and pastoralists in improving their techniques and food production and post harvest management.
3. Intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge specialist. The consultant shall assist the GPIU in the review and design of measures and methods to promote and protect traditional knowledge. The consultant shall prepare a study that reviews relevant international and national policy and legal measures bearing upon the use of traditional knowledge of GIAHS communities
4. Communication/knowledge management specialist. The consultant shall assist the GPIU and national focal institutions in designing and implementing advocacy campaign to increase levels of awareness of GIAHS dynamic conservation and agricultural biodiversity conservation. Tasks to be performed shall include: 1) analysis of target groups and communication needs, 2) outline of communication activities and tools to communicate project objectives and experiences to other farming communities in each pilot countries and networks, 3) outline communication activities to ensure lessons learnt reach and impact on policy makers, 4) outline communication activities and tools to reach global policy makers and processes and enhance global recognition of GIAHS, 5) outline communication activities and tools.
5. Enterprise development/marketing specialist. The consultant shall assist the GPIU and the national focal point institutions in identifying, developing, and establishing enterprise/market and alternative livelihood opportunities for GIAHS communities (outcome 3).
6. Institutional/capacity and community development specialist. The consultant will assist the GPIU in assisting pilot countries in implementing adaptive management conservation of

GIAHS through strengthening the institutional capacity of the national focal points particularly the local stakeholders and farming communities of GIAHS. The consultant will also assist in the design, development of approaches and conduct of capacity building programs to strengthen decision-making, identification of enterprise/market potentials and alternative livelihoods for the local stakeholders.

7. Agricultural System/land and water management specialist. The consultant will assist the GPIU to provide technical advice and guidelines in conservation and management of specific and remarkable agro-ecosystem/traditional agricultural landscapes.
8. International laws/policy and development specialist. The consultant shall assist the GPIU in the review of international, national laws and policy and other multi-lateral instruments of relevance to GIAHS implementation, recognition and safeguarding of traditional agricultural practices. The consultant will draft procedural methods and develop options for global, national recognition and creation of a GIAHS category. The consultant will also assist GPIU in assisting the national focal points/institutions in activities related to policy reviews and creating enabling environments.
9. International laws/policy and development specialist. The consultant shall assist the GPIU in assessment of international, national laws and policy and other multi-lateral instruments of relevance to GIAHS implementation, recognition and safeguarding of traditional agricultural practices. The consultant will draft procedural methods for global, national recognition and creation of a GIAHS category. The consultant will also assist the GPIU in assisting the national focal points/institutions in activities related to policy reforms and advocacies and enabling environment.
10. Socio-cultural-ecological specialist. The consultant will assess and ensemble existing methodologies for strengthening the social and human capital and cultures of local farming communities and indigenous peoples. The consultant will also assist the GPIU in finalizing background studies of the rich socio-cultural-nature interaction and evolution of agricultural systems in the changing world.
11. Webpage/network and language translator. The consultant will be seasonally hired to provide updates and information on the GIAHS website (and database). Also, consultant for translation services shall be hired from time to time for translation of important materials for the target stakeholders and farming communities.
12. Workshop/conference facilitator. The consultant shall be hired on a seasonal basis, to facilitate and organize the event, and coordination of documentation and publication of conference proceedings.

ANNEX D: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

A. THE PDF (PPG) OBJECTIVES HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PDF(A&B) ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

The PDF (PPG) project was developed with the following objectives: (1) select through a consultative process, up to ten pilot demonstration systems and five - ten partner OP 13 projects (that are potentially GIAHS sites) for networking; (2) develop a methodological framework and a step by step approach for the participatory development and implementation models for a “dynamic conservation” through the site-specific “pilot Frameworks” in pilot systems; (3) establish participatory mechanisms and processes in each pilot system and country and design Pilot Frameworks for each pilot system through a full participatory process; (4) leverage global and national support and co-funding arrangements for the full scale project; (5) develop a communication strategy and plan; (6) develop the full scale project document. These objectives have been achieved through the activities undertaken and the outcomes are, as follows:

1. Pilot Systems for the full scale project implementation are selected(12 pilot Sites in six countries);
2. Liaison project are selected(;
3. Approach, methods and tools (guides and briefs) developed and disseminated for dynamic conservation of GIAHS to pilot countries and other interested stakeholders and governments;
4. Code of conduct for Full Project;
5. Indicators and M&E system are established;
6. Pilot Frameworks are developed for each pilot systems;
7. Collectively defined multi-stakeholder mechanisms in place in countries for the Full Scale Project implementation;
8. Awareness on GIAHS and capacity built on vulnerable stakeholders of GIAHS;
9. Functioning, main characteristics and resource endowments and global benefits of GIAHS have been primarily assessed;
10. Multi-lateral instruments, national and local policy, regulatory and incentive environments have been primarily assessed;
11. Lessons learned in each pilot systems and related initiatives have been integrated into international efforts and Full Scale Project Document;
12. Funding support are leveraged (and will continue to leverage) for the Full Scale Project implementation;
13. Global and national awareness of GIAHS have been started (and will continue);
14. Improved knowledge and understanding and networking among international policy makers and governments have been started;
15. Communication plan and strategy have been integrated into Full Scale Project design
16. Full Scale Project Document is developed

Background studies and other detailed information of the GIAHS, which are all outputs of the PDF, are posted at the FAO-GIAHS webpage: <http://www.fao.org/sd/giahs/>.

Activity completion report on the use of PDF (PPG) funds are detailed in Annex E.

B. FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN AND OTHER CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

The project generates lot of interest from wide stakeholders in both local (pilot countries) and at international levels. The IA/EA is receiving GIAHS candidate proposals from many countries. Sustaining the interest of the wide stakeholders is fundamental; especially guardians of the systems who wish to participate in the recognition and valuation of their agricultural heritage systems. This challenge is considered in the project and the need for an innovative management structure in order not to loose the enthusiasm and to carry out the long term objective of the project. The establishment of a long term secretariat in FAO will allow creation of a mechanism to

respond on a sustainable basis to increasing government/organization requests. However, this may need additional financial resources and strengthening of policy and technical outcomes of the GIAHS through national designation of agricultural heritage systems and creation of voluntary or/and agreed legal instruments. Likewise, it will allow also a continuous process of GIAHS labeling focusing on the multitude of goods and services of GIAHS at national and global levels.

C. DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PDF-B ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

<i>Project Preparation Activities Approved</i>	<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>Amount Approved</i>	<i>GEF Amount (\$)*</i>			
			<i>Amount Spent to date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>	<i>Co-financing committed (\$)</i>	<i>Un-committed GEF funds</i>
1) 5-10 pilot systems and 5-10 liaison projects	Completed	65 250.00	68 641.12	68 641.12	72 608.88	0
2) Participatory approaches and methodologies for conservation of GIAHS developed and assessed.	Completed	65 250.00	70 944.17	70 944.17	109 305.83	0
3) Multi-stakeholder mechanisms in country established and Activity Plans in 5-10 selected Pilot Systems developed	Completed	479 300.00	487 934.79	487 934.79	481 565.21	0
4) Global and national institutional, financial and policy support for the Full Project leveraged	Completed	8 200.00	8 024.58	8 024.58	209 975.42	0
5) Communication strategy and plan developed	Completed	10 000.00	9 065.72	9 065.72	149 934.28	0
6) Full project Executive Summary and Document prepared	Completed	72 000.00	55 389.62	55 389.62	16 610.38	0
Total		700 000.00	700 000.00	700 000.00	1 040 000.00	

* The PDF-B approved grant is 700 000 USD.

ANNEX E. Activity Completion Report on the Use of GEF Project Preparation Grants (PDF-B) as of September 2007

Approved			Actuals			
Proposed activities at Approval	GEF financing (USD)	Co-financing (USD)	Completed Activities	GEF Financing committed (USD)	Co-financing committed (USD)	Uncommitted GEF funds
1) 5-10 pilot systems and 5-10 liaison projects	65 250	55 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of Pilot Systems (2 Steering Committee meetings) • Selection of 5 liaison OP 13 projects, and other sister projects 	68 641.12	72 608.88	0
2) Participatory approaches and methodologies for conservation of GIAHS developed and assessed.	65 250	55 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a methodological framework and step by step approach for the participatory development and implementation of Activity Plans • Background papers on various methodological aspects of GIAHS • Development of code of conduct for working with local and indigenous communities and populations • Technical workshops and seminars are conducted at the selected pilot systems/countries 	70 944.17	109 305.83	0

3) Multi-stakeholder mechanisms in country established and Activity Plans in 5-10 selected Pilot Systems developed	479 300	440 200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of participatory multi-stakeholder mechanisms and prior informed consent of farming communities • Capacity building of vulnerable stakeholders (training) • PRA of GIAHS (functioning, characteristics, threats, opportunities) • Assessment and fine tuning of participatory methods and tools for assessment and monitoring, and adaptive management of GIAHS pilot systems • Assessment of policy, regulatory and incentive environments affecting GIAHS at global, national and local policy • Collect baseline information to prepare detailed M&E indicators and system for the full project. • Development of Activity Plans for each pilot systems • Conducted workshops (list is attached) 	487 934.79	481 565.21	0
4) Global and national institutional, financial and policy support for the Full Project leveraged	8 200	209 800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising and networking (among int. policy makers/Gov.) • Information dissemination (among int. policy makers/Gov.) • Assessment of impact of int. policy and incentive structures (threats and good policies) • Exploration and possible establishment of a new (sub) category of World Heritage for Agricultural Heritage 	8 024.58	209 975.42	0

5) Communication strategy and plan developed	10 000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated project website (http://www.fao.org/sd/giahs/) Holding of International Forum on GIAHS (October 24-26, 2007) Presented GIAHS on Terra Madre –Slow Food Movement October Conference at Torino, Italy (2006) GIAHS in Latin America participated in FAO Telefood (2005-2006) GIAHS National Event and presentation for the “Chinese National Cultural Heritage Day” (June 9, 2007) GIAHS Symposium at EcoSummit Beijing 2007 	9 065.72	149 934.28	0
6) Full Project Executive Summary and Document prepared	72 000	149 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised GIAHS Project document (Executive Summary and Full Project Document) was submitted for GEF June 2007 Council Meeting 	55 389.62	16 610.38	0

Project Preparation Grant Management Budget

	Approved			Committed		
	Staff Weeks	GEF Financing (USD)*	Co- financing (USD)	Staff Weeks	GEF financing (USD)	Co- financing (USD)
Personnel			45 000	46		130 800
Local Consultants		454 600	70 000	160	462 504.65	94 500
International Consultants		179 650	80 000	168	107 926.71	185 600
Training/Workshops			35 000			224 500
Office Equipment						26 400
Travel		55 750	564 000		118 231.33	343 500
Miscellaneous		10 000	115 000		11 337.31	34 700
Total		700 000	909 000		700 000.00	1 040 000

*Approved PDF-B grant