

**Mid-Term Review
MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**

**FAO-GEF Project: Implementation of the
National Biosafety Framework in
accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on
Biosafety –
Sri LANKA
GCP/SRL/066/GFF**

GEF Project ID: 5720

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Sri Lanka, February 2021**

Response by recommendation

In this section, Management should address each recommendation, discussing them in the order presented in the executive summary of the evaluation report. This should be done in the format of the Management Response matrix below and include:

- a. The recommendation number and text copied from the evaluation report;
- b. Indication of whether the recommendation is accepted fully, partially, or rejected;
- c. Description of the actions to be taken, with comments as required on the conditions to be met during implementation, or on reasons leading to a partial acceptance or rejection of a recommendation;
- d. The responsible party or FAO unit for implementing the action/s;
- e. The time-frame for implementation and/or an implementation schedule, if required;
- f. Indication if further funding from FAO or a resource partner is required for implementing the recommendation.

Management response matrix¹

Management response to the [Title]					Date
Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) Accepted, Partially Accepted or Rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible unit (d)	Time frame (e)	Further funding required (Y or N) (f)
Recommendation 1: The Project Management Unit should either consider specific activities to support enactment of the National Biosafety Act or revise this output such that it can credibly be attained in the remaining project term (e.g. “bringing the draft National Biosafety Act to enactment-ready status”).	Accepted	<p>Make aware and train responsible officers at the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) on the Biosafety regulatory system in Sri Lanka and provisions of the draft Biosafety Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this matter during the project steering committee meeting, which is chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment • Request CEA to formulate a committee including a biotechnologist • Recruit a competent consultant to provide technical support to CEA • Conduct training sessions to CEA on the regulatory system of biosafety in Sri Lanka and on provisions of the Biosafety Act 	Project Management Unit (PMU)	Q1-Q3 2021	N
Recommendation 2: A 1-year, no cost extension – which would move the date	Accepted	Change the NTE in FPMIS	FAO	Jan 2021	N

¹ Each column is cross-referenced to the bullet letters above.

<p>of project conclusion to 31 December 2021 – is highly recommended; not only to allow for the recovery of time lost to Covid-19 restrictions, but also to enable the provision of support to the CEA which is set to assume the role of National Competent Authority. If the recommendation of a no-cost extension is implemented, it will need to be preceded by a budget revision to make appropriate provision for the activities needing to be undertaken during this extended period.</p>					
<p>Recommendation 3: A more targeted and integrated implementation of the projects’ communication and knowledge management strategy is recommended to more effectively accomplish public outreach, awareness,</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>As outlined in the draft Communication Strategy, public awareness activities on biosafety will be conducted through electronic (i.e. television, radio, websites) and print (i.e. newspapers, magazines, brochures, policy papers and briefs, booklets, comic books) media; social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube); and face-to-face (i.e. seminars, focus group dialogues, meetings, visits, hands-on engagements, conferences, roadshows, school visits, school competitions,</p>	<p>PMU</p>	<p>Q1-Q3 2021</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>education, participation and general interaction with existing knowledge products. The project should clearly identify, what, where, when and how to optimally reach the projects’ desired audience, utilising both traditional and social media channels. Project personnel are also encouraged to contribute to the creation of communications content and to re-publish/disseminate to enhance its reach.</p>		<p>public forum); and public materials (e.g. stickers, for instance on Tuk Tuk, T-shirts, caps, umbrella etc.). Some products will target the general public while the vast majority will be specific to particular focus groups of stakeholders, especially scientists; policymakers and regulators; politicians; the mass media; farmers; medical practitioners; religious scholars and leaders; industry (traders, millers, enterprises); and civil society. Considering the limitations on the movements of people and large gatherings due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, a greater emphasis will now be placed on above activities that can be conducted remotely and products that can be disseminated electronically..</p>			
<p>Recommendation 4: The project should retain, for those activities to which it is conducive, online trainings, to continue leveraging the enhanced reach and cost-efficiency of this modality over the remaining project term. It is further recommended to incorporate the Biosafety Clearing House into such trainings, to</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Now that the English version of Sri Lanka BCH is complete, upload Sinhala and Tamil versions to use this website as one-stop for information related to biosafety in Sri Lanka.</p>	<p>PMU</p>	<p>Q1 2021</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>proactively stimulate use of this important resource.</p>					
<p>Recommendation 5: As the Central Environmental Authority is set to replace the BDS as National Competent Authority; the project should conduct scenario forecasting, to determine what actions steps and adjustments to project implementation may be needed to facilitate capacitation and support to the Central Environmental Authority to ensure the continued successful attainment of project outcomes over the remaining project term.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>This matter was discussed during the project steering committee that was held on 31 December 2020. It was decided for CEA to form a small group of representatives to be responsible for the activities by CEA as the NCA. The project will strengthen this team (once formulated) through awareness and trainings.</p>	<p>CEA and PMU</p>	<p>Q1-Q3 2021</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: The project should leverage existing local expertise to</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>New translators will be selected considering the recommendations by the government counterpart (Ministry of Environment). Further, translations will be reviewed by the MoE prior to publication.</p>	<p>PMU and MoE</p>	<p>Q1-Q3 2021</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>translate technical jargon into lay-accessible language and ensure the availability of accurate translations in the most widely spoken local languages (Sinhalese and Tamil).</p>					
<p>Recommendation 7: The project should support integration of existing Sri Lankan scientific expertise on biotechnology and biosafety for enhanced sustainability of project outcomes.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Invite experts to project activities, especially for discussion during awareness and training program on biosafety.</p>	<p>PMU</p>	<p>Q1-Q3 2021</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: The project should more proactively collect gender disaggregated data, by means of activity assessments and surveys, to better understand its beneficiaries' gender-specific needs and to be</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Include gender in the registration form for project activities and update the existing database of stakeholders with gender information. Further, a question will be included in the evaluation forms (of project activities) to assess if the activities addressed the gender specific needs of beneficiaries. This will be discussed with the focal point for gender.</p>	<p>PMU</p>	<p>Q1-Q3 2021</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>able to conduct analysis of the project's gendered impacts.</p>					
<p>Recommendation 9: The project log frame should be reformulated because Output 1.2.2 (Guidelines developed to support the tasks of NCA and SCAs is reflected in Output 1.2.1 (Administrative and operational procedures for biosafety reviewed and updated) rendering the former obsolete.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The project log frame will be reformulated by removing Output 1.2.2 and re-phrasing Output 1.2.1 as Administrative and operational procedure for biosafety reviewed and updated including guidelines developed to support the tasks of NCA and SCA.</p>	<p>PMU</p>	<p>Q1-Q3 2021</p>	<p>N</p>