



# REQUEST FOR CEO APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

For more information about GEF, visit [TheGEF.org](http://TheGEF.org)

## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project Title:</b> Enhancing livelihoods in rural communities of Armenia through mainstreaming and strengthening agricultural biodiversity conservation and utilization			
Country(ies):	Armenia	GEF Project ID:	5483
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01145
Other Executing Partner(s):	The Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, The Armenian National Agrarian University; Bioversity International	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration(Months)	36Months
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):	NA	Project Agency Fee (\$):	83,908
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>➤ For SGP <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>➤ For PPP <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>		

### A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
BD-2	<b>Outcome 2.1</b> Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation	An increase of land under agro-biodiversity-friendly management practices of 20%	GEF TF	354,862	1,982,016
	<b>Outcome 2.2</b> Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated into policy and regulatory framework practices.	National agricultural biodiversity strategy developed that takes account of unique diversity, ecosystem function and opportunities for sustainable intensification.  Agriculture and environment programmes adopt a participatory approach to include all relevant stakeholders for planning, implementation and management, and good practices are scaled-up to other locations.	GEF TF	528,380	2,870,447
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>883,242</b>	<b>4,852,463</b>

## B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

<b>Project Objective:</b> Enhanced conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity in Armenia, to support adaptation to environmental and agricultural challenges and improvement of rural livelihoods						
<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)</b>
<b>1. Improving national capacity and institutional framework to strengthen national cooperation and coordination for sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity.</b>	TA	Strengthened national coordination and cooperation for effective management of agricultural biodiversity through mainstreaming integrated approaches to agricultural biodiversity conservation and use into Armenia's policy framework	<p><b>1.1</b> National institutional arrangements in place and capacity developed to mainstream and promote agricultural biodiversity in relevant land use sectors.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> National agricultural biodiversity strategy developed that takes account of unique diversity, ecosystem function and opportunities for sustainable intensification.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Agriculture and environment programmes adopt a participatory approach to include all relevant stakeholders for planning, implementation and management.</p>	GEF TF	201,516	1,162,432
<b>2. Mainstreaming of diversified agricultural biodiversity - friendly practices and products</b>	TA	Increased area devoted to sustainably managed agricultural biodiversity through the mainstreaming of diversified practices and products.	<p><b>2.1</b> Participatory and sustainable management practices identified that support traditional crop varieties, crop wild relatives, medicinal species, pollinators and other beneficial insects, and developed to improve local diversity for marginal environments in the project site location.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Guidelines and standards for sustainably managing and harvesting priority plants and products are established and implemented in the project site locations.</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Farmers and local communities in the project pilot sites have enhanced skills and</p>	GEF TF	264,716	1,138,432

			capacity to undertake agricultural biodiversity friendly farming and other relevant agricultural biodiversity friendly practices, and community-based approaches for sustainable agricultural biodiversity conservation and utilization strategies are developed.			
<b>3. Improved market opportunities for agro-biodiversity and derived products</b>	TA	Increased availability of agricultural biodiversity friendly products in local and international markets that provide farmers with additional rewards and income.	<p><b>3.1</b> Guidelines developed for certification of biodiversity-friendly food products.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Marketing programmes for certified and non-certified (including organic and geographically identifiable agriculture products) agricultural biodiversity friendly products are in place and implemented through a supply chain approach.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> International and national marketing and promotional opportunities identified for key high value Armenian agricultural products and wild medicinal and food plant products.</p>	GEF TF	236,715	864,431
<b>4. Project monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management.</b>		Project implementation based on results based management and application of project lessons learned in future operations facilitated.	<p><b>4.1</b> Project monitoring system operating providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Midterm and final evaluation conducted.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Project-related “best-practices” and “lessons-learned” published.</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Website to share the experience and information</p>	GEF TF	100,000	781,010

		dissemination		
<b>Subtotal</b>			GEF TF	<b>802,947</b>
<b>Project Management</b>			GEF TF	<b>80,295</b>
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>883,242</b>
				<b>4,852,463</b>

**C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)**

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Nature Protection	In-kind	450,000
National Government	Ministry of Nature Protection	Cash	310,000
National Government	Armenian National Agrarian University	In-kind	453,970
National Government	Armenian National Agrarian University	Cash	322,540
CSO	Environmental Public Alliance	In-kind	736,540
CSO	Environmental Public Alliance	In-kind	157,460
Private Sector	“Agro X” Fund	Grant	772,540
Private Sector	“Agro X” Fund	In-kind	1,313,460
Other Multilateral Agency	Bioversity International	In-kind	153,095
Other Multilateral Agency	Bioversity International	Grant	82,858
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	100,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>4,852,463</b>

**D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Biodiversity	Armenia	883,242	83,908	967,150
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				<b>883,242</b>	<b>83,908</b>	<b>967,150</b>

**F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:**

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	148,415		148,415
National/Local Consultants	20,000		20,000

**G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? NO**

**PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

**A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF**

**A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.**

The original PIF outlined a number of the national plans and strategies to which the project would be aligned. No changes from PIF stage.

With regard to the Aichi Targets, the project will contribute most directly to the Aichi Target 7 on sustainable management of areas under agriculture and to the maintenance of the diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically, as well as culturally valuable, species (Target 13). The project will also make material contributions to other targets through, for example, integrating biodiversity values into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies (Target 2).

<b>CBD Aichi 2020 Targets which the project will contribute to</b>	<b>How the project will support the achievement of each target – initial SMART indicators (to be further selected and refined at CEO submission)</b>
Target 2 (BD integrated in local and national poverty reduction strategies...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intergovernmental Coordination Committee on Agro-biodiversity set up by end of year 1.</li> <li>- National agricultural biodiversity strategy developed by the end of the project.</li> <li>- At least 2 policy briefing documents published by the end of the project.</li> <li>- Local-level cooperative/association established in each target District and engaged with Coordination Committee by end of the project.</li> </ul>
Target 7 (sustainable management of areas under agriculture..)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge gathered through surveys and participatory research about best practices for the management of cultivated and wild species available by end of year 2.</li> <li>- Guidelines for sustainable management and harvesting practices published by end of year 3.</li> <li>- Training provided to extension staff and farmers in target Districts.</li> <li>- Establishment of Young Generation Agricultural Clubs in each target District.</li> </ul>
Target 13 (maintenance of genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge gathered through surveys and participatory research about best practices for the management of cultivated and wild species available by end of year 2.</li> <li>- Guidelines for sustainable management and harvesting practices published by end of year 3.</li> <li>- Training provided to extension staff and farmers in target Districts.</li> <li>- Establishment of Young Generation Agricultural Clubs in each target District.</li> <li>- Development of marketing strategies and appropriate certification standards by the end of year 2.</li> </ul>

**A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.** No change

**A.3 The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage:** No change

**A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:**

The design of the Medium size Project proposal is in line with the original PIF proposal. However, following the recommendation of the Project partners, the expected outputs have been slightly revised, combined or moved to another location in the logframe in order to make them more consistent with the Project intervention logic.

Further, the project outputs in all technical components have been extensively reviewed by Project partners and revised to avoid potential overlaps and duplication, and basically to make them more specific, realistic and measurable. However they remain based on the original issues, constraints and subjects covered by all original outputs and follow the same underlying rationale and principles. The changes made can be summarised as follows:

1. Component 1, Expected Output (i) was revised to focus on the development of a national agricultural biodiversity strategy. The national agricultural biodiversity coordination mechanism mentioned in the original wording was

moved to Output (ii) as indicator of successful establishment of national institutional arrangements. The two Outputs were switched to provide a better logic.

2. Component 2, Expected Outputs (i), (ii), and (iii) were switched to provide a better logic and flow of activities.

3. Component 3, Expected Outputs (i) and (ii) were switched to provide a better logic and flow of activities. In addition, the new Output 3.1 was specified to cover wild 'food' products.

The proposed pilot sites for the project were confirmed, with higher priority given to Ararat and Sevan Districts as per the following assessment. Although the existing biodiversity in Zangezur region is high, the intensive copper and molybdenum mining operations in the region are thought to prohibit any meaningful agriculture-based interventions in the short duration of this project. The project will therefore carry out primary activities in the Ararat valley and Sevan Basin, and provide support such as capacity building, e.g., through exchange visits, to participants from Zangezur in an attempt to scale out the project's expected successes in the medium-term.

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Ararat Marz (Ararat valley):</b>	<b>Gegharkunik Marz (Sevan Basin):</b>	<b>Syunik Marz (Zangezur region):</b>
1. Geographically unique ABD product	High; different branches of agriculture are developed. Vegetation time is longer compared with other regions. Globally important agricultural products, e.g. (local) asparagus.	Medium	Low, mainly developed subtropical agricultural products.
2. Access to markets	High	Medium, has specific agricultural products.	Medium, has specific agricultural products.
3. Communities are interested/number of beneficiaries	High; higher population and more communities, more people engaged in agriculture.	Low	Low
4. Incremental benefit/other projects are active here	Medium	Medium	Medium

Information about the existing biodiversity in Armenia and a list of cultivated and wild plant genetic resources in the three priority Districts was reviewed during the PPG phase and yielded a list of potential priority species of interest for this project. This will be reviewed during the project activities in a participatory manner with project stakeholders to reach a short list of priority species and related management options:

<b>Ararat Marz (Ararat valley):</b>	<b>Gegharkunik Marz (Sevan Basin):</b>	<b>Syunik Marz (Zangezur region):</b>
<i>Armeniaca vulgaris</i> L. <i>Asparagus officinalis</i> L. <i>A. persicus</i> Baker <i>A. verticillatus</i> L. <i>Chaerophyllum bulbozum</i> L. <i>Chenopodium album</i> L. <i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i> L. <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> L. <i>E. orientalis</i> L. <i>Falcaria vulgaris</i> Bernh. <i>Malva silvestris</i> L. <i>Menta longifolia</i> L. <i>Morus alba</i> L. <i>M. nigra</i> L.	<i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i> L. <i>Heracleum pastinacifolium</i> K. Koch <i>Onobrychis antasiatica</i> Khin. <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.	<i>Actinidia sinensis</i> Planch. <i>Asparagus officinalis</i> L. <i>Chaerophyllum bulbozum</i> L. <i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i> L. <i>Diospyros kaki</i> (L.) Thumb <i>Falcaria vulgaris</i> Bernh. <i>Ficus carica</i> L. <i>Heracleum pastinacifolium</i> K. Koch <i>H. schlkovnikovi</i> Woronow <i>H. trachyloma</i> Boiss <i>Juglans regia</i> L. <i>Malva neglecta</i> Wallr. <i>Menta longifolia</i> L. <i>Morus alba</i> L.

<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L. <i>Psalliotia campestris</i> Quel. <i>Pyrus sosnovskyi</i> Fed. <i>P. turcomanica</i> Maleev <i>Rosa canina</i> L. <i>Rumex crispus</i> L. <i>R. acetosa</i> L. <i>Spinacia oleracea</i> L. <i>Teucrium polium</i> L. <i>Thymus serpyllum</i> L. <i>T. kotschyanus</i> Boiss et Hohen <i>Tragopogon major</i> L. <i>Urtica dioica</i> L. <i>Zizyphus jujuba</i> Mill.		<i>M. nigra</i> L. <i>M. rubra</i> L. <i>Prunus insitita</i> L. <i>Psalliotia campestris</i> Quel. <i>Punica granatum</i> L. <i>Pyrus caucasica</i> Fed. <i>Rosa canina</i> L. <i>Rumex crispus</i> L. <i>Thymus serpyllum</i> L. <i>T. kotschyanus</i> Boiss et Hohen <i>Urtica dioica</i> L.
---	--	--

**A. 5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning:** describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

**A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:**

The analysis of risks and proposed mitigation measures as listed in the PIF document was confirmed. Also several additional risks were identified and included in the table below:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>
Climate change or other environmental events remove diversity and lead to expansion of desert and arid zones in Armenia	M	Necessary mitigation measures and good practices of mitigation will be identified and included in the National Agricultural Biodiversity Strategy and national policies to be developed within framework of the project. Emphasis will be placed on the active participation of local communities in the identification and implementation of adaptation measures. This will help the proposed project design measures aimed at increasing the resilience and adaptability of important agroecosystems in Armenia.
The political and security environment deteriorates	L	Armenia has a stable government system in place.
There is failure of the private sector and NGOs to engage	M	Past experience has shown that it is difficult to engage the private sector in production of crops without, or little, monetary value. This might be aggravated by inadequately developed markets for potential agricultural biodiversity products. However, there is growing demand for products that can demonstrate a sustainable production base.
Communities and farmers do not wish to participate	L	Farmers and local communities will be involved in a participatory manner at all stages of project development so that there problems and concerns are realistically identified and

		measures are embedded to address these. Project implementation experiences from over 20 countries have shown this risk is overcome by adoption of appropriate participatory approaches during project planning and implementation phases
Commitment to in situ and on farm conservation of agricultural biodiversity may not be desirable to all farmers and communities.	M	To mitigate this, the project will explore the use of incentive measures to make this more attractive to farmers.
The national agriculture and environment sectors do not cooperate and do not demonstrate effective coordination	L	National stakeholders have expressed a strong desire for this project and project development will rely on significant representative partnerships comprised of stakeholders at all levels.
Lack of willingness of different government ministries to collaborate with each other and with non-governmental organizations, universities and private sector actors	L	Government agencies have expressed a strong interest in the project and will be integrated into the project activities at several levels and ensure the right policies are in place.
Opportunities for market development of agro-biodiversity exists in the country , but there is no willingness of private sector to collaborate or that consumers are not interested in proposed biodiversity-friendly products	L	The project will carry out awareness-raising activities and will engage with private sector and consumers at an early stage to react to possible concerns.
Certification procedures are not manageable and/or are detrimental to broad use of proposed product.	M	A thorough survey and close collaboration with standards-giving authority and other stakeholders will provide relevant information at an early stage. Certification will only be used as a tool in increased marketing if it is not detrimental to the overall objectives of this project.

#### **A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives**

In addition to the projects and initiatives mentioned in the PIF document, links will be established with the UNDAF process in the country. In particular the project will contribute to the expected Outcome 4.1: “Armenia is better able to address key environmental challenges including climate change and natural resource management.” Through focusing on marketing options for biodiversity-friendly products, the project will also provide a contribution to expected Outcome 1.2: “Vulnerable groups, in particular women and youth, have greater access to economic (employment) opportunities in targeted regions of Armenia.”

### **B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:**

#### **B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.**

During the preparation phase, potential stakeholder’s involvement in the project was examined at different levels.

The project envisages to engage with the required policy-level stakeholders through an "Intergovernmental Coordination Committee on Agro-Biodiversity" (an intergovernmental policy-level multi-stakeholder platform) to be established during the project. This Coordination Committee will be composed of members of relevant line agencies (Ministries of Agriculture, Nature Protection, Economy), universities, non-governmental representatives and representatives of the newly formed Cooperatives (see below). Through a series of round-table meetings the



Coordination Committee will work towards developing a National Biodiversity Strategy. The Committee (or ad-hoc subgroups established by the Committee) will also be instrumental in the promotion of agricultural biodiversity in the relevant land-use sectors and related capacity-building activities. Through the Committee and its promotion and awareness activities, a large number of relevant stakeholders will be reached.

The project will operate at local and regional level with relevant selected communities. These will be engaged directly through the formation of a Cooperative at each pilot location, which will also be a prominent stakeholder in the assessment of current best practices, related exchange visits, additional research activities and demonstrations. A representative of the Cooperatives will have a seat at the Coordination Committee to allow for better linkages between national policy making and local implementation. There will be opportunities for farmer exchange visits to engage and to learn from their rich knowledge of management and use of their local biodiversity.

The private sector will be engaged in the project’s marketing component where project partners will work closely with members of food processing companies in the development of new certified or non-certified products. Supermarkets in Yerevan and District urban centers will be contacted to collaborate in the development of an appropriate marketing strategy for priority products.

The stakeholder mapping carried out during project preparation is presented in the table below, including their roles and participation in project implementation. Beyond this, local and community partners, farmers, processors and marketing experts will be engaged in the project implementation.

INSTITUTION	ROLE IN THE PROJECT
<b>GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS</b>	
<p><b>The Ministry of Nature Protection (MNP)</b></p> <p>The Republic of Armenia Ministry of Nature Protection is a republican body of executive authority, which elaborates and implements the policies of the Republic of Armenia Government in the areas of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>This Ministry is responsible for the management of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in Armenia. Several biodiversity conservation and use structures and departments are included in the organizational structure of MNP. The MNP also coordinates conservation activities in the following protected areas (PA): National Park “Sevan”, Erebuni, Dilijan, Khosrov, Shikahogh State Reserves. The Minister of Nature Protection is the GEF operational focal point. MNP is responsible for interministerial coordination on biodiversity conservation issues and international collaboration.</p>	<p>The <b>MNP</b> in close collaboration with the Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU) will ensure the <b>national coordination</b> of the project and strengthen linkages and coordination among relevant stakeholders. It will mainly <b>oversee budget according to work plan activities</b>, will approve expenditures, financial requests and reports including financial ones. The MNP in collaboration with ANAU will facilitate project national execution. It will provide <b>general oversight of project implementation</b> and will be involved in: training programs for policy makers, regional managers and personnel; selection of testing areas for monitoring; drafting of suitable materials for school and university educational programmes. Through its Information Analytic Center, which includes in it Aarhus Centers, MNP will contribute to information dissemination of PA materials and best practices to be used in other regions. Since MNP is the responsible agency for the management of biodiversity including agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in Armenia and is National Focal Point Agency for GEF and CBD it will <b>lead project components 1 and 4</b>. MNP in consultation with ANAU appoints National Project Coordinator (NPC) and MNP in cooperation with ANAU through NPC <b>leads component 5</b>.</p>
<p><b>The Armenian Agrarian University (ANAU)</b></p> <p>ANAU the main national scientific-educational institution with its scientific centers, laboratories and departments will contribute to the project particularly by its Chairs of Plant Cultivation and Vegetable-growing, Horticulture and Plant Protection, Agro-ecology, Forestry; Departments of Agronomy especially, Agribusiness and Marketing, Hydro Melioration, Land Management and Land Cadastre, Foodstuff Technologies, Information and Research Program;</p>	<p>The <b>ANAU</b> in close coordination with the MNP will host project implementation unit and will be <b>the main responsible national executing agency for organizing work plan activities</b>. ANAU in cooperation with MNP prepares work plan and budget. It prepares expenditures and sends financial requests for MNP approval. The Project Management Unit in cooperation with ANAU prepares financial requests and sends them for MNP/GEF focal point agency approval. ANAU is the main national agency responsible for scientific activities</p>

<p>Laboratory of Plants Genofond and Selection, Laboratory of Ecology and Organic Agriculture, Laboratory of Genetics, Selection and Feeding of Agricultural Animals, Laboratory of Pesticides and Plant Protection, Scientific Center of Agrobiotechnology, Scientific Center of Viticulture, Fruit Growing and Wine Making, Scientific Center of Soil Science, Land-Reclamation Agrochemistry named after H. Petrosyan.</p>	<p>and organization of them mentioned in project work plan. Since in Armenia ANAU is the only scientific-educational institution in the area of agronomy that correspondingly has all capacities for agrobiodiversity conservation and use, it will <b>lead project components 2 and 3</b>. ANAU in consultation with MNP appoints the Project Assistant and ANAU in cooperation with MNP, through the Project Assistant facilitates component 5.</p>
<p><b>The Ministry of Agriculture (MA)</b></p> <p>The MA is a republican body of executive authority, which develops and implements RA government's policies in the field of agriculture and forestry management.</p> <p>The MA executes the governmental policy in the agriculture sector. MA is responsible for agricultural diversity conservation and administration. MA will contribute to project implementation through its several agricultural plant protection and use structures, which are: Division of Food Safety, Department of Agricultural Projects Development, Plant Production and Protection Development, Land Use and Land Melioration Department, Development of agro-processing Department, Agricultural Project Monitoring and Analysis Department, Food Safety Division and Legal Department.</p>	<p>The MA in close coordination with the ANAU will facilitate national execution of ANAU and <b>strengthening the linkages and coordination among relevant agrobiodiversity field stakeholders</b>. The MA through its structures in collaboration with other partners will be involved in: <b>evaluation</b> of the information to be disseminated and provided through Aarhus centers and extensions and enhancing agro marketing.</p> <p>The MA will contribute its expertise from various Departments as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Support in drafting legal acts</b> such as: charter of coordination body-Commission on agrobiodiversity conservation and use, procedures/standards for harvesting <i>in situ</i> management of natural resources (<i>Legal Department</i>);</li> <li>- <b>Providing materials on Armenia's policy framework</b> (reports, strategy and policy documents) for mainstreaming integrated approaches of agricultural biodiversity conservation and use into national policy (<i>Department of Agricultural Projects Development</i>) and results of studies of international markets for specific food products (<i>Department of agro-processing development</i>);</li> <li>- <b>Support in ensuring meeting of production quality to food safety standards</b> (<i>State Service of Food Safety</i>);</li> <li>- <b>Participation in meetings and policy dialogues</b> on strengthening national cooperation and coordination for sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional Governments</b></p> <p>The territory of the Republic of Armenia is composed of ten marzes (Provinces). Marz governors implement the regional policy of the government. They coordinate the activities of local branches of the executive authority, except as otherwise specified by law.</p> <p>Within the bounds of the authority they are vested with by law, marz governors carry on the government's regional policy in their respective marzes in the following areas: finance, urban development, housing and utilities, transport and road construction, agriculture and land use, education, healthcare, social security, culture and sports, nature and environmental protection, commerce, public catering, and services. Regional policy in the foregoing sectors is carried on by means of marz administrations, as well as through subordinate</p>	<p><b>Regional Governments</b> in close cooperation with MNP, MA and ANAU will participate in the development of <b>guidelines and policies</b> including strategies, <b>organization of trainings</b> and development of <b>regional training, educational and other awareness materials</b>. They will also participate in <b>breeding activities</b> and enhancing productivity as well in the development of <b>standards</b> for agro-certification.</p>

organizations.	
<p><b>Yerevan State University (YSU)</b></p> <p>This is the national university for natural science education through its faculty of Geography and Geology and faculty of Biology, YSU will contribute to project.</p>	<p>The YSU will be involved in the <b>training</b> activities and preparation of <b>educational materials</b>, regarding Biology and Geography.</p>
<p><b>The Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS)</b></p> <p>The Institute of Botany that includes in it Botanical Garden, is part of the structure of the NAS. They are responsible for conducting scientific research and collecting information on inventory, classification and monitoring of Armenian flora and vegetation, as well as development of methodological guidance on conservation and use of plant genetic resources.</p>	<p>The scientists from these institutions will participate in <b>the development of agrobiodiversity management documents</b>. They will be responsible for: collection of information on agrobiodiversity distribution, conservation status and threats, conducting inventory and monitoring of agrobiodiversity.</p>
<p><b>Elected Leaders of Target Communities in Project Sites (Local Self-Government)</b></p> <p>Elected community heads and community councils i.e. local/community self-government bodies are formed by citizens through direct and free elections. RA Constitution specifies that local self-government bodies are elected to solve communal problems and to manage the communal property, for a term of three years. The right to solve communal problems is only entitled to the local self-government bodies</p>	<p><b>Target Community Leaders</b> based on their community needs and purposes of this project in close cooperation with MNP, MA and ANAU will participate in the development of <b>guidelines and policies</b> including strategies, <b>organization of trainings</b> and development of <b>regional training, educational and other awareness materials</b>. Based on their community needs they will participate in <b>breeding activities</b> and enhancing productivity.</p>
<p><b>Newlyformed cooperatives-</b> groups of farmers united under the Project for the purpose of benefiting and implementing Project operations, sharing joint liabilities and benefits</p>	<p>The cooperatives are will serve as a proper tool for developing a better marketing value chains and Project implementation inputs. Having participatory role in the Project Coordination and being represented there the cooperatives will ensure the assessment of Project activities and improved networking and cooperation with similar units via experience and knowledge exchange.</p>
<p><b>Chamber of Commerce and Industry</b> -an institution aimed at the improvement of business environment, promotion of export and investments, support to small and medium enterprises, providing economic growth of the economy as a final result.</p>	<p>Based on their charter the Chamber will (i) promote competitive product manufacturing and enhancement of export potential (ii) provide services to member organizations (iii) to assist the establishment of cooperation between business organizations, and becoming bridge between business organization and state bodies (iv) organize business forums, exhibitions and fairs and contribute to the establishment and development of business promotion infrastructures and (v) exchange know-how with various international institutions</p>
<p><b>Private sector</b> including but not limited to supermarkets (Carrefour, Yerevan City and Star chain of Supermarkets ) and other consumer markets, processing companies (Avshar Food and Confectionery, Tamara Fruit, Grand Candy that uses dried fruits)- the potential market for the Project</p>	<p>Engagement of the private sector would promote the development of new certified and non-certified product based on market demand and via needs/market assessment and the development of market strategy for priority products.</p>
<b>NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
<p><b>Agricultural Assistance «Agro-X» Fund</b></p> <p>This organization is specialized in promotion and</p>	<p>This organization in close coordination with target Community Leaders and ANAU will participate in development and organization of trainings including</p>

development of organic agricultural productions, investment and promotion of new technologies and organization of trainings on agrobiodiversity. It also specialized in dissemination and organization of PA actions for best agrobiodiversity conservation and use practices.	regional trainings, development of educational and other awareness materials, dissemination and promotion of best practices
<b>"National Union of Farmers" NGO</b> It is a Union that includes under one consultative body all main farmers in Armenia which has responsibility for promotion and development of good practices in different regions of Armenia. As a union it is also specialized in the development of agricultural related standards.	This union as a joint body of key farmers in close coordination with target Community Leaders and ANAU will participate in development and organization of trainings, development and promotion of educational and awareness materials including promotion of best practices.  This union in close cooperation with MNP, MA, ANAU, Regional Governments and Community Leaders will participate in drafting and developing guidelines and other necessary documents and/or policies.
<b>Environmental Public Alliance that includes in it 50 ecological including agroecological NGOs, Green Lane and Farmers Union NGOs</b> These environmental NGOs are involved in the collection of information on plant conservation and use, taxonomy and forest inventory.	The NGOs will participate in the <b>project planning and implementation processes</b> and will participate in <b>information sharing and public awareness</b> activities in project regions including organization of trainings and seminars with local communities and schools surrounding protected areas and forests.
<b>COMMUNITIES</b>	
<b>Ararat Valley: Province Ararat “Nor Uxi (New Way)”, “Shaghap” and “Surenavan” Communities</b>	These are the key communities which will participate in all <b>activities to improve productivity</b> and based on best practices of the region, members of this community will participate in <b>information sharing</b> to other regions of the project. Being based on project activities, these communities will also participate in <b>organization of regional trainings</b> and seminars as well as development of <b>guidelines and policies</b> including strategies. At least one Youth Club will be developed.
<b>Sevan Basin: Province Gegharkunik: “Kalavan” and “Vardenik” Communities</b>	These communities will participate in all activities concerning agricultural production that have a focus on organizing organic agricultural production.  This community will participate in <b>seminars, trainings and meetings</b> that focus on organizing best agricultural practices that can be used in their community.  This community will participate in the process of <b>developing policies and guidelines</b> that are relevant to organic production.  At least one Youth Club will be developed.
<b>Zangezur Region: Province Syunik “Shaghat” Community</b>	Community members will be invited to training activities and exchange visits.
<b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
<b>Bioversity International</b> is a global research-for-development organization with a mandate to advance the conservation and use of genetic diversity for food and agriculture. The mission of the organisation is to deliver scientific evidence, management practices and policy options to use and safeguard agricultural and tree biodiversity to attain sustainable global food and	Bioversity international will serve as the leading project executing agency and be responsible for the overall coordination and execution of the project and will provide appropriate scientific support and technical expertise as required by the Ministry of Nature Protection, the Armenian National Agrarian University and other project partners, in accordance with the objectives and key activities detailed in the work plan

**B.2 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):**

Armenia is home to an invaluable resource of unique plant genetic resources, many of which are wild relatives of globally important staple crops, but also a host of hitherto under-utilized and under-researched plant species of significant potential for the future. This project aims to study and advocate their sustainable management and use, and thereby will provide a blueprint for the sustainable management of threatened plant genetic resources to other countries and regions and make a strong contribution to global efforts such as GEF Trust Fund and NPIF.

The project's long-term intention is to improve the livelihood of poor rural community members, including women, men and youth, through the sustainable management and commercialization of local biodiversity. This will be based on an assessment of local agricultural biodiversity and wild-harvested plants for their potential to be produced, processed and sold in the local and national market. Through the increasing international tourist activity in Armenia, in particular around Lake Sevan, the potential of such priority products for the tourist and thus international market will also be assessed. Specifically, the project will target young farmers and rural non-farming young people through the establishment of Youth Clubs, which will provide an entry point into targeted awareness raising of sustainable production and harvesting methods for wild plants. The project puts a specific gender lens onto rural development and focusses on disadvantaged groups, including women and young people. Activities will ensure that the specific needs of women and men are addressed when selecting priority species, best practices and products. As is detailed in Annex M (Environmental and Social Safeguards checklist), any expected impact on the environment and local people will be positive. Because processing activities have the potential for environmental pollution (e.g. waste, effluents), the project aims to identify best practices which will maintain strict environmental consideration.

Long-term benefits will accrue not only through the commercialization of wild plants and additional income that community members might raise, but also through increased awareness amongst broad sections of the society, rural and urban, of, e.g., the health benefits from the consumption of wild fruits, herbs and other crops which are currently outside of the agricultural mainstream. Health benefits are not easily measured, but it has been estimated by FAO and the World Health Organization in the past, that increase of consumption of fruits and vegetables can significantly increase a country's economic efficiency and thus GNP.

Whilst the expected socio-economic and health benefits will accrue in the long-term beyond the 3-year time frame of the project, it can be said that the project makes a direct contribution to global initiatives, including the SCCF. Although Armenia has a number of measures to address some of the effects of climate change at local level, man-made developments have exacerbated these effects, such as lowering of the ground water level, loss of genetic resources adapted to harsh environments and landslides. This project offers two crucial elements in a strategy to alleviate these effects and/or to increase rural peoples' resilience against suffering from them – (i) management of existing agrobiodiversity in a sustainable way so that its anticipated loss due to changed climate conditions can be reduced and even reversed, and (ii) increasing the awareness of alternative livelihood options, including the generation of additional income and the possibility to engage into alternative activities besides farming.

The value chain of conservation, use and commercialization of the existing plant biodiversity in Armenia has to be seen as one continuous path to increase the livelihoods of Armenia's rural poor, increase their resilience to future external shocks and at the same time, protect Armenia's globally important genetic resources for future generations. It can be expected that the commercialization activities will provide an effective way of addressing potential problems of over-harvesting and uncontrolled exploitation.

**B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:**

The project will strengthen the existing governmental and non-governmental structures in Armenia that are considered insufficient and too fragmented for the sustainable management of the national agrobiodiversity heritage. By making a very modest financial contribution, GEF will stimulate significant financial and in-kind contributions by the Armenian partners, which will result in big changes in attitude towards agricultural biodiversity. The project will set up a unique multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism which will be instrumental in the political cooperation amongst government agencies and the mainstreaming of sustainable management and

use of agricultural biodiversity in the country. Given the immeasurable richness of Armenian biodiversity, the cost of the project of \$3.74 million, to which a GEF contribution of \$883,242 is sought, is modest. The project will focus on three key areas which have been identified as promising most impact and triggering action outside and beyond this immediate project:

1. Focus on the policy framework (total budget of Component 1: US\$201,516) is seen as a particularly effective way to address the currently fragmented approach towards natural resource management in Armenia. The project seeks to establish a coordination mechanism to assist the Government of Armenia to develop and implement a coherent biodiversity strategy, spanning the environment, agriculture and trade sectors. The project will provide the relatively small initial investment into the establishment of such a mechanism which will continue to operate as a monitoring body and will cover the entire country beyond the immediate project pilot sites. The likelihood that this mechanism will be successful and sustainable is high, given the commitment of the Government of Armenia to natural resources management.

2. Focus on mainstreaming the management of threatened biodiversity (total budget of Component 2: US\$264,716) will provide case studies and blueprints for application much broader than the immediate project sites. The project itself will operate at a comparable modest scale, focusing on two Districts with the aim to provide capacity building and awareness raising inputs to a third site. However, it is very likely that the procedures identified and tested during this project will be useful for a much broader stakeholder base. The project will develop guidelines and training materials which will be distributed through the project's website to a wide audience. The establishment of demonstration plots will provide information to a large audience and in particular the establishment of Youth Agricultural Clubs focusing specifically on biodiversity, modelled on the concept of Youth Clubs for particular activities in Armenia, is likely to be a particularly cost-effective way of informing the next generation of farmers of the value of their country's agricultural biodiversity. The establishment of a Cooperative at 'Marz' level will further contribute to sharing of resources and thus increasing the cost-effectiveness of the project.

3. Focus on improving market opportunities (total budget of Component 3: US\$236,716) will provide a direct benefit to the participating communities but the potential for benefitting large parts of the Armenian population is high. This is particularly so because the project has a focus on plants useful for nutrition and health and thus can provide specific benefit to the urban population, which often lacks access to nutritious food. Recent estimates state that 22 % of the population is undernourished (Baseline report, 2014). However, the introduction of new agricultural products into the market will not be easy in Armenia, not least because of the relatively small size of the domestic market and a focus on imported fruits and vegetables (with the exception of export fruits such as apricots, nuts, grapes, etc.). The potential for upscaling lessons learnt from this project, however, is immense. Currently about 38% of the population works in the agriculture sector, while 24% work in the food and beverage industry sector. Hence, far more than half the population is directly involved in sectors addressed by this project.

The project's management structure will also contribute to efficiency and effectiveness in its implementation. Individuals from the key partner agencies will work closely together, both within the project implementation and in the Steering Committee, and they will have sufficiently frequent access to each other to ensure the work will be carried out in a most efficient manner.

### **C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:**

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Substantive and financial project reporting requirements are summarized in Annex N. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP.

The project M&E plan is consistent with GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Annex A includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Annex G will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification and the costs associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators are also summarized in Annex H. Costed M&E Plan. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the Annex H and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.

The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the project management team but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to inform UNEP of any delays or

difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The Project Steering Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility to the Task Manager in UNEP-GEF. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and may establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.

At the time of project approval limited baseline data are available. Further baseline data collection, synthesis and gap analysis will be among the first activities undertaken during project implementation. It is expected that baseline data gaps will be addressed during the first year of project implementation, coordinated by the PMU, and will involve relevant government agencies, national level partners and international project partner organizations and institutions. A plan for collecting the necessary baseline data is presented as part of Annex F (Workplan and Timetable) and Annex G (Benchmarks and Deliverables). More specifically, necessary baseline data will be collected from the very beginning of the project under Component 1, Output 1.2 (National agricultural biodiversity strategy developed that takes account of unique diversity, ecosystem function and opportunities for sustainable intensification.), Component 2, Output 2.1 (Participatory and sustainable management practices identified that support traditional crop varieties, crop wild relatives, medicinal species, pollinators and other beneficial insects, and developed to improve local diversity for marginal environments in the project site location) and Component 3, Output 3.3 (International and national marketing and promotional opportunities identified for key high value Armenian agricultural products and wild medicinal and food plant products). The information gathered through these surveys will feed into the design of follow-on activities, specifically the development of a National Agricultural Biodiversity Strategy (Component 1, Output 1.2), of guidelines for the sustainable management and harvesting of priority agricultural biodiversity (Component 2, Output 2.2) and of targeted marketing programmes (Component 3, Output 3.2), respectively.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project that will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR process. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources. Monitoring will also include periodic assessments of the project's performance in relation to the environment and social safeguards put in place by GEF Implementing Agencies.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The EO will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

- (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
- (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e. correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the EO when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

The GEF tracking tools are attached as Annex P. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. The mid-term and terminal evaluations will verify the information of the tracking tool.

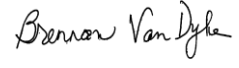
**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)**

- **RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):**  
**(PLEASE ATTACH THE OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT ENDORSEMENT LETTER(S) WITH THIS FORM. FOR SGP, USE THIS OFF ENDORSEMENT LETTER).**

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr. Aram Harutyunyan	Minister , GEF Operational and Political Focal Point	Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia	06/10/2013

**E. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan Vandyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		May 25, 2015	Marieta Sakalian, OiC, GEF Biodiversity/Land Degradation/Biosafety Unit, UNEP	+39 06570 55969	Marieta.Sakalian@unep.org

**ANNEX A. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK**

See attached

**ANNEX B. RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS** (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Not Any

**ANNEX C. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS**

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: USD \$30,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Baseline data collection	6,500	7,750	0
Stakeholder consultations	12,000	10,750	0
Feasibility analysis	7,500	7,500	0
M&E Mechanism	4,000	4,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS** (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A



