PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	UNEP-GEF Project for Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the BCH		
Country(ies):	Global (76 developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Please see list of eligible countries in Annex 1a)	GEF Project ID:[1]	5688
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	01241
Other Executing Partner(s):	UNEP-DELC and National Executing Agencies	Submission Date:	27 March 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	48 months
Name of parent program (if applicable): • For SFM/REDD+ ☐ • For SGP ☐	Biosafety Program	Agency Fee ($):	446470

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK[2]:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-financing ($)
(select) BD-3	GEFTF	4699684	9725680
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
Total Project Cost		4699684	9725680

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To provide support to eligible parties for GEF funding in order to sustain and build capacity for effective participation in the BCH in line with COP/MOP Decisions, specifically BS VI/5 para 2f.

Project Component	Grant Type[3]	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Cofinancing ($)
1. Global and Sub-Regional Networking and Knowledge Sharing of Information for effective Management of the BCH.	TA	(i) Improved institutional expertise in setting up national databases interoperable with the BCH at global, sub-regional and national levels. (ii) Streamlined knowledge exchange within & between national, regional/sub-	(i) BCH - NFPs trained in technical BCH responsibilities particularly to ensure common understanding of the requirements and to provide the necessary information to stakeholders; (ii) Networking among National Focal Points	GEFTF	531850	2029424

[1] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.
[2] Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area/LDCF/SCCF Results Framework when completing Table A.
[3] TA includes capacity building, and research and development.

		regional and international institutions and experts and regional and sub-regional institutions including national, regional and international expertise to assure the best use of the technologies and understanding of the needs. (iii) Increased effective regional networking for information sharing and using lessons learned by one country to enhance the systems in others.	(NFPs) including an effective understanding of capacity needs regionally and sub-regionally; (iii) Organize BCH forums and webinars for regional and global participation with key target stakeholders such as media, civil society, farmers and private sector			
2. Mainstreaming BCH education packages in all 6 UN languages for national education, academic, productive and general civil society sectors to ensure BCH capacity building and public awareness; to permit interaction and public understanding of the countries needs in protecting biological diversity whilst assuring economic sustainability beyond the Project duration.	TA	(i) Enhanced sustainability of BCH through stakeholders' continued involvement and capacity building after the completion of the project. (ii) Tertiary education, Academia, United Nations University and high level research institutions incorporate BCH education materials into their curricula. (iii) Ensure that civil society and other stakeholders can access the information provided within national and regional databases as well as the BCH.	(i) BCH e-learning environment instituted utilising online BCH courses, webinars and training packages for continuous learning that are either on, or where appropriate, placed on the central portal of the BCH. (ii) BCH e-learning modules and materials simplified for specific audiences to promote understanding and participation of all stakeholders. (iii) Formal academic training modules developed	GEFTF	210800	529424
3. Strengthening of BCH Regional Advisor system as a support to Parties for an effective participation in the BCH and in national and regional databases that are interoperable with the BCH and increasing their collaboration with individuals and organizations that have	TA	(i) Improved BCH training skills of Regional Advisors for better assisting countries to meet the requirements of Article 23 as well as the formal requirements of Article 20 of the Protocol (ii) RAs acquainted with new training methodologies (webinars, Virtual	(i) 20 - 25 Regional Advisors trained in a formal BCH training program for sustainable assistance to countries during and beyond the completion of the Project (5 per UN region); (ii) RAs trained to effectively use new online training methodologies (webinars, Virtual	GEFTF	279000	529424

knowledge or a stake in biological diversity protection		Learning Environments) whilst maintaining and improving access to ensure all who want to can get access.	Environment) and increasing the awareness of who should be 'targeted' and how this is best achieved.			
4. Assisting government officials, decision makers and key stakeholders to enhance their understanding of and where appropriate, appreciation of what should or must be placed in the BCH.	TA	(i) Improved national awareness, intersectoral coordination and institutional expertise in technical aspects of BCH for decision makers and other key stakeholders (ii) Enhanced party participation and quality of records on the BCH	(i) Government officials, decision makers, media, civil society, farmers and private sector and other key target stakeholders trained in identifying technical national BCH responsibilities, assuring that what is placed on the various BCH databases provides sufficient information (including meta-data) (ii) No.of National Records n the BCH increased by 70% at the end of the Project.	GEFTF	3124240	4829424
5. Sustainability and awareness of the BCH and national databases in coordination with UNEP-GEF Biosafety initiatives.	TA	(i) Sustainability of national BCH system enhanced through understanding and assuring that the requirements are in-built at an early stage of planning introductions of new products or even new regulation; (ii) National BCH training activities aligned with implementation of NBF. (ii) A global supportive mechanism put in place to assist in BCH activities at national and regional levels while overseeing a coordinated approach for capacity building on the BCH	(i) BCH and Biosafety e-learning training module available on the BCH Central Portal and on national and regional BCH systems and where appropriate, non-electronic materials to maintain understanding and acceptance by stakeholders (ii) BCH Sustainability and Training Plan developed in synergy with the NBF.	GEFTF	250000	529424
6. Project Monitoring and Evaluation	TA		Mid Term Evaluation Terminal Evaluation Lessons Learnt	GEFTF	80000	300000
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
		Subtotal			4475890	8747120

Project Management Cost (PMC)[4]		(select)	223794	978560
Total Project Cost			4699684	9725680

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, ($)

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount ($)
National Government	Per Country	In-kind	4,500,000
GEF Agency	UNEP in-kind contribution	In-kind	2635520
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	SCBD	In-kind	1090160
Others	Korea, ABN Network, others	In-kind	1500000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Cofinancing			9,725,680

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES ($) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY[1]

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount ($) (a)	Agency Fee ($) (b)[2]	Total ($) c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Biodiversity	Global	4699684	446470	5146154
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				4699684	446470	5146154

[1] In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

[2] Indicate fees related to this project.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)[5]

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

	Amount Requested ($)	Agency Fee for PPG ($)[6]
• No PPG required.	-- 0--	--0--
• (upto) $50k for projects up to & including $1 million		
• (upto)$100k for projects up to & including $3 million		
• (upto)$150k for projects up to & including $6 million	150,000	14,250
• (upto)$200k for projects up to & including $10 million		
• (upto)$300k for projects above $10 million		

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF ROJECT ONLY

Trust Fund	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in $)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b

[4] To be calculated as percent of subtotal.

[5] On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

[6] PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

GEF TF	UNEP	Biodiversity		150000	14250	164250
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total PPG Amount				**150000**	**14250**	**164250**

MFA: Multi-focal area projects; MTF: Multi-Trust Fund projects.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION[7]

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description. Briefly describe the project, including ; 1) the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline , the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

A.1 Project Description

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety places significant demands on Parties to assure that risk evaluations and management systems are put into place to assure the safe use of living modified organisms. One of the most important aspects of this, recognized in a vast range of COP/MOP decisions, is that the oversight is made transparent through placing information on the Biosafety Clearing House. At COP/MOP-4, Parties urged the GEF (decision BS-IV/2)"to extend and provide additional funding to the UNEP- GEF Project (BCH-1 Global Project) in its current form with a view of ensuring sustainability of national BCH nodes and providing more capacity-building support". to build further in-depth capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate effectively in the BCH, and to facilitate sustainbility of national BCH nodes. The UNEP-GEF Project for Continued Enhancement of Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the BCH (the BCH-II Global Project) was a direct response to this request, but was limited to 50 countries. At COP/MOP-5 , Decision BS-V/5 (d), called on the GEF to "Expand its support for capacity-building for effective participation in the BCH to all eligible Parties to the Protocol", and at COP/MOP-6 Parties once again requested the GEF to provide support to all eligible Parties for Capacity -building in the use of the BCH, based on experience and lessons learned from the BCH-II Global Project.

From UNEP's internal evaluation/analysis and interaction with partities, it has been recognized that the most viable approach to enhancing BCH participation and use is for national and regional Clearing Houses to be, insofar as it is possible, interoperable with the Central Portal of the BCH. These systems are mandated by Article 20 of the CPB, which defines the minimum set of information that must be placed on the BCH; other Articles of the CPB make it essential that all stakeholders (including consumers) have access to the information. In addition, the proposed project takes particular note of the terminal evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project for continued enhancement of building capacity for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCHII) and the mechanisms suggested here are designed with the recommendations of that report in focus. The key recommendations of the evaluation are highlighted below:

[To consolidate the achievements of previous BCH projects and to ensure the sustainability of the BCH system as a whole, at National, Regional, and Global levels an additional and final project phase is strongly recommended through the development of a BCH III project characterized by a strong, global dimension.

a. A BCH III project based on the BCH I and BCH II outputs and outcomes, considered as building-blocks of a sustainable BCH system at National, Regional and Global level should be developed. Therefore, future action should capitalize on: a- the training material / packages; b- the networking mechanisms in place, including technical platforms such as webinars; and c- the trained human resources, including trainers.

b. A new BCH capacity strengthening project has to promote, and where necessary to insure, the financial, human and institutional resources that would address the need for a balance between regional and global approach. Institutional arrangements conducive to regional and

[7] Part II should not be longer than 5 pages.

sub-regional partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including “Centres of Excellence”, have to be coupled with consolidated global vision and oversight capacity.

c. Regional Advisors (RAs) must be considered as a system and not as the sum or as a list of highly qualified experts. A BCH III project should create a discontinuity with previous BCH projects taking into account all issues related to the sustainability of the RA system by addressing financial and organizational requirements. For the RAs system, the turning point will have to be found in the new balance between regionalization and global oversight.

d. A BCH III project should promote robust and meaningful inclusiveness of all stakeholders both as an end and a means to achieve sustainability of the BCH system at National, Regional and Global level, fully operationalizing COP-MOP decisions.]

The proposed new project as per recommendation 1a in the terminal evaluation will capitalize on the training methods and materials and the networking mechanisms that were created for BCH II. It will promote the use of resources as indicated in Recommendation 1.b and will attempt to assure national, sub-regional and regional collaboration for effective implementation of the Protocol through the various databases that form the BCH. The project will ensure and develop resources so as to set up the RA as a systemic resource to provide support to parties beyond the project possibly as an integral part of the Roster of Experts.

The project is conceptualised as a follow up to that already accomplished with a new set of Parties to the Protocol. It attempts to provide capacity building experience at an early stage of product design or introduction so that the information placed in the BCH (national, regional or global) is simply and effectively generated. It will endeavor to promote regional and sub-regional collaboration, networking and exchange of experience for national and regional BCH management with the ultimate aim of ensuring sustainability in implementing the Protocol. It addresses the needs of those countries that did not participate in previous projects aimed at providing the underpinning necessary for the BCH to be fully effective.

The Project will be a four-year intervention targeted at the 76 eligible countries (see Annexes I & II) that were unable to participate in the BCH-II Project. It is understood that these countries are at very different stages in development of their capacity to implement the requirements of the CPB and install and use interoperable BCH systems. There are some that are already using modern biotechnology in their fields and laboratories and, in some cases, need to use their expertise to assure that stakeholders are aware of what is being done and ensure that detailed and as complete as possible data is provided for the BCH. There may be some countries where modern biotechnology is being used, but records and information may not be collected effectively or possible harm (or benefit) to the environment is not being addressed, and there are others that have not yet started their journey in using the BCH or allowing the import of LMOs for food or feed. The project needs to work with all of these, and to use expertise where it exists (including global and regional expertise) to assist the least prepared in developing the necessary information and technologies. It is designed to:

(i) assist countries to participate effectively in using the BCH including national databases that are interoperable with the BCH and which include all the necessary information including that which is considered important locally whilst not formally being required,

(ii) promote regional and sub-regional collaboration, networking and exchange of experience for national and regional BCH management,

(iii) promote internal interaction between and among stakeholders to identify that which is needed in the national BCH, and where appropriate to incorporate systems that make 'safety and protection of biological diversity by design' built in to introductions into the environment.

The project design takes into consideration the current use of the BCH Central Portal which requires deposition of law and regulation, risk assessment reports etc. Very little data has been placed on the central portal given that more than half of the entries have been submitted by 8 countries and that the system is hardly used by the more than 100 countries that are committed

to the Protocol. The development of national and regional databases that addresses local issues and understanding should make participation in the global portal more likely. The previous project, although it successfully raised the profile of the BCH and the need to be proactive in relation to the Protocol failed in that it does not really appear to have had an impact on the use of the BCH system.

1. Global Environment Problems, Root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

1. 1 Global Environmental Problems

Governments regularly consider important and emerging environmental issues of international significance and agree on policies and priorities at meetings of the intergovernmental bodies within and outside of the UN system and within governing bodies of Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). However, the gap between commitment and implementation remains a matter of concern. It is due, among other reasons, to the lack of capacity and a lack of understanding of the needs for cooperation that are built in to the Agreements. In the case of Biosafety, the UNEP's expert review report (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/INF/9) noted that 'capacity development is a long-term process …, especially in countries (with) low capacity baselines. The involvement of all stakeholders, particularly those that use LMOs is important in order to assure that systems are appropriate and effective. This is crucial in ensuring that 'promises' happen and sustainability is assured.

Many countries are providing the information identified in the CPB for the Biosafety Clearing House, but it is incomplete and does not meet the standards set for the common formats that have been designed and put in place on the central portal of the BCH. In order for the system to be effective and be used rather than simply be a depository of information that is then forgotten, it is essential that the data is robust and in a form that may be used as exemplars of how others might allow/do similar things. As an example, and on the basis of sources such as the BCH and the Second National Reports, as well as a preliminary assessment of the BCH using indicators of the Strategic Plan and the SCBD report (Operation and activities of the BCH, UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/3, 15/08/2012), the Secretariat noted that 245 risk assessment summaries (corresponding to 27% of the decisions under Articles 10 and 11 registered in the BCH), of which 83 are from Parties (corresponding to 22% of the decisions under Articles 10 and 11 registered by Parties in the BCH), are yet to be submitted.

There is no doubt that improving and raising Parties' participation in the BCH and their own databases will impact positively on their safe use of technologies as identified in the CPB and ensuring that the sharing mechanism of the Protocol provides for informed decision making. The adequate protection of biological diversity identified in the CBD and CPB from any potential adverse effects of LMOs is likely to be greatly enhanced with a better understanding and use of the BCH. This is in line with the mission of the Strategic plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020 to 'further strengthen global, regional & national action and capacity in ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health and specifically focusing on transboundary movements'.

The BCH is there to be used - countries need to know what else has happened to the same product or process and when and where it has happened. If they are instituting new regulatory systems, the BCH may provide examples of legislation or regulation from Parties with similar environments or legal systems that help enormously in the formulation of effective systems.

1.2 Root causes

1.2.1. Poor participation to the BCH

The BCH-II Global Project reported that countries that were unable to benefit from the Project were not as advanced as BCH-II participating countries with regard to the number of published

records, 39% vs. 61%, as well as the percentage of updated record, 27% vs. 73%. Besides, due to the revamped version of the BCH, only the 50 countries that participated in the BCH-II Global Project benefited from updates in relation to the effective use of the BCH. In order for the central portal of the BCH to be used effectively, and for national and regional systems to work there has to be an awareness amongst stakeholders of what should be available and a willingness of governments to provide both obligatory and non-obligatory data

1.2.2. Poor capacity to implement the Protocol

The Status Report of Implementation of the Action Plan of the Protocol indicated that information provided in the second national reports shows that many Parties, especially LDCs and SIDS, still lack the requisite capacity to effectively implement the Protocol. With regard to institutional capacity, the Secretariat noted (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/7) that 'it is evident from the second national reports that some progress has been made in terms of drafting national biosafety policy, legal and administrative frameworks. As of 30 May 2012, at least121 countries had prepared draft NBFs with support from the GEF. However, in a significant number of Parties relevant biosafety laws have not yet been enacted. Many Parties have also established administrative systems for decision-making regarding LMOs although they are not fully functional'.

It may be that countries have not legislated as they believe that the deployment of LMOs will not happen in their country. The use of LMOs in adjacent countries means that this is not a realistic presumption. In addition the import of LMOs for food and feed could result in the use of LMOs without permission, or impact on the biological diversity, hence a need for implementing the regulatory aspects of the CPB.

1.3 Barriers that need to be addressed

1.3.1 Effective participation to the BCH

Ten years after the entry into force of the Protocol, Parties still fail to comply with many of the obligations adversely impacting on the aims of the CBD and CPB. The main isssues that need to be addressed is to emphasise the "no reservation" obligation of article 38 and the need to see the BCH as a compliance issue. The project will continue to work with the BCH-IAC and the compliance committee and provide tools for all parties to assist in packaging the required information for the BCH.

1.3.2 National systems to gather, manage and upload information onto the BCH

Party's compliance to the terms of the CPB should not be limited solely to governmental institutions participation in the BCH. More national institutions and relevant stakeholders need to be involved directly or indirectly to encourage greater use of the national databases and the BCH and to facilitate effective use by relevant stakeholders. If the systems are to be robust and sustainable the use of LMOs requires planning throughout the process of introducing them into the environment and 'implementation by design' and involving all stakeholders in understanding the complex requirements of a set of databases incorporating all the elements of a biosafety clearing house.

1.3.3 Coordination and sharing of experiences through the BCH

Most Parties to the CPB have prepared draft biosafety frameworks for operating within the requirements (121 countries - May 2012), primarily associated with previous GEF funding or from national/bilateral sources, but many of the systems are not fully functional or not backed up by regulatory regimes. It is important that experience can be shared to make this step functional.

2. The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

2.1. Government-endorsed strategies and policies:

The second national reports showed that some progress has been made in terms of drafting national biosafety policy, legal and administrative frameworks. In the absence of support from

GEF, it is apparent that Biosafety Systems will not be fully implemented nor answer the demands expressed by countries or by stakeholders wanting to implement new technologies but hampered by the absence of systems that protect biological diversity and their interests in introducing new technologies into the environment.

2.2. Government announced investments in programs and infrastructure

It remains important that all the work put in to draft national biosafety frameworks is effectively implemented in a sustainable fashion and that knowledge about what is being done, and what can and cannot be done should be available. Information sharing, including the involvement of all who use the technology (and all who consume it) is necessary to maintain trust.

2.3. Legislative frameworks

The regulatory framework is there to maintain trust, but in many countries it is still not effective. The BCH (local, regional and global) should play an important role by providing exemplars of what may be done. Organizations that deploy LMOs will be reluctant to do so without appropriate provisions on the BCH obligations in the legislative/regulatory framework. Those concerned at the impact on the conservation and use of biodiversity also need certainty as to what is and is not allowed. Implementation of the CPB cannot be achieved in isolation, and interaction with other organizations that address problems in similar areas is important to provide an integrated approach to the sustainable use of biological diversity. The obligations that will have to be addressed, and the organizations that help implement these obligations include sanitary and phytosanitary requirements as well as an assurance that the systems in place do not present technical barriers to trade (WTO), the international treaty for plant genetic resources and the codex alimentarius (FAO), industrial uses of LMOs or plant crops (UNIDO) and others.

2.4. Transboundary accords, treaties and agreements

Many Parties are not fully compliant with CPB. In the absence of GEF support, these Parties are likely to continue to be non-compliant, delaying further its implementation at regional and global levels and importantly there may be an adverse impact on the safe deployment and transboundary movements of LMOs and on the safety of the environment .

2.5. International funding lines from bilateral and multilateral agencies.

Many developing country Parties have relied on external support to build their capacities in biosafety. It was reported that most of that support is through multilateral channels (39%), largely through the GEF. The rest is through bilateral (37%) and regional channels (23%). Therefore, the absence of GEF support will have a significant decreasing effect on BCH capacity building in the GEF eligible countries and regions and will impact on the 'safe' deployment or fail to permit the development of local skills and hence local varieties desperately needed for sustaining the food systems in many countries.

2.6 Contribution of the Biosafety Information Resource Center

Several organisations and private sector companies are developing product information on LMOs which are categorised on the Biosafety Information Resource Center (BIRC). These substantial information (http://bch.cbd.int/database/resources/) are a ready resource which would be made available during training and also linked to national databases especially where data originates from the participating parties or where such information will be useful for national decision making. The BIRC captures a comprehensive data on developments by private sector, academia, civil society and international organisations.

3. Proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project:

The Global Environment Benefit (GEB) from this Project is an increased compliance to Cartagena Protocol from Developing countries through enhanced national biosafety systems,

improved institutional capacities and public awareness and global and regional collaboration and an assurance of knowledge of the safe deployment where LMOs are released into the environment. This in turn will enhance the assurance of the safe use of biodiversity.

Without GEF support, participation in the BCH will most likely be limited to those countries that participated in the UNEP-GEF Project on Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks and other activities approved under UNEP's POW 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 in support for multilateral environmental agreements to a limited amount of countries.

Selection criteria for this project will be focused on Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition that are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:

i. That have developed DRAFT National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs); or

ii. That have initiated or completed NBF implementation or Demonstration Projects and or

iii. Utilised their own national resources to develop a functional national biosafety system;

The project will group small countries in the same region (eg. Caribbean and Pacific countries) together for economies of scale and to ensure an effective training program while recognizing the need for assertion of sovereignty (see Annex II).

The Project will ensure that Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition increase their participation to the BCH in order to comply with their obligations under the Protocol and to bring experts within the countries into an understanding of their obligations for the conservation and safe use of biodiversity and the protection of their environment. In addition, the project will ensure that countries with similar problems in relation to biodiversity and its protection are able to interact and learn from one another so that lessons learnt from implementing the requirements of the CPB and the necessary clearing house systems are utilized effectively and sustainably.

The Project will provide the eligible Parties with updated information on effective participation in the BCH through a Capacity building approach that takes into consideration the 5 key components of the BCH-II Global Project adjusted to integrate experiences and lessons learned with the 50 former participating countries. At the same time, the Project design will take into account advances in communication and information technologies including their impact on teaching and learning and incorporating several innovative uses of IT and state-of-the art pedagogical approaches, fostering the maximization of knowledge transfer and overall capacity building sustainability. The project will incorporate strategic approaches to capacity building recommended by the Secretariat to ensure that these countries network efficiently to share their experiences through the BCH [COPMOP6 (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/7)]. The project recognises that many in these countries do not have full access to modern technologies, and will provide alternative methods to ensure that all stakeholders can gain from the work done to provide access to information.

The project design is guided by a mix of five national and regional/global components to address issues from lessons learnt and the terminal evaluation of the BCH II Project (see Annexes II and III). The Components and expected outcomes are briefly described below

a. Global and Sub-Regional Networking and knowledge sharing of Information for effecive management of the BCH. This component is envisaged to provide an enchanced platform for interactive sharing, improved institutional expertise and measures to facilitate and support interoperability with the BCH at national, regional and global BCH.

b. Mainstreaming BCH education packages to support BCH capacity building and public awareness activities for academic institutions, productive and civil societies in the 6 UN languages. This component will provide supportive e-learning tools and training modules to support BCH capacity building interventions during and beyond the project cycle.

c. Strengthening the BCH Regional Advisor system. This component will provide additional

tools and training platfoms to strengthen the BCH system

d. Support to Paties to enhance understanding of BCH obligations. This component is a focused on national tasks to help improve awareness and build institutional expertise to support biosafety decision making in relation to BCH as an information resource and a Party obligation

e. Sustainability and coordination of BCH issues and national databases in the national biosafety systems. This component will focus on developing sustainability mechnisms and training strategies in synergy with ongoing national biosafety interventions. It will also develop a global supportive mechanism at national and regional level to coordinate and support BCH activities.

Based on the lessons learned from previous BCH projects and an understanding of what was expected and what was actually achieved, the 5 components of this project are designed to effectively involve all who contribute to their national and regional expertise in the technologies identified in the CPB and in the conservation and use of biodiversity in order to allow effective implementation of that embodied in the Protocol and where appropriate, in the sub-protocols. Annex III provides an explanation on how the results of the independent evaluation of the previous project will be incorporated in the new project.

It is important that lessons learnt across the spectrum are incorporated into the necessary procedures that countries adopt to implement the concepts that are the driving force of the protocol. One of the purposes of the global BCH is to provide exemplars of the legislation and procedures used by others; national and regional clearing houses should do the same. In addition, information from other organizations that have experience in these areas - UNIDO or FAO for example - must be incorporated. The companies and institutions that are involved in the provision of LMOs and the civil society organizations that have concerns at the introduction of the new technologies must also be involved so as to permit (so far as is possible) the joint ownership of decisions and information that is essential to the sustainability of the systems that the project will help to put in place.

The project will review and update training materials and prepare e-learning and self instructional tools on new formats and materials on the training section of the Central Portal of the BCH for follow use by Parties to the CPB. In addition, all materials from regional and global support activities shall be made available for all eligible parties through the Central Portol for use by parties.

4) Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing;

GEF support will improve compliance to the CPB by capacity building activities at national, regional and global levels, to strengthen regional coordination between Parties. This support will be achieved with the assistance of experienced Regional Advisors who will deliver on-site and online national, regional and global trainings, using a peer-reviewed set of Education Materials and Virtual Courses.

Whilst the baseline is providing information to the BCH as a "business as usual". The project will provide as an increment e-learning tools and platforms on how to access, package and retrieve information at the national level. In addition, it will provide a medium for sharing information at the regional levels. It will review and update training materials to be used not only by the 76 countries but all parties on the training section of the BCH. It will also provide exemplars for parties which are not meeting their obligation to learn from. It will also provide mechanisms for parties and regional institutions to provide research and relevant information on LMOs through national and regional databases to all parties. A global supportive and coordination mechanism would be set up in collaboration of the BCH-IAC and the SCBD to real time support and online forums on the BCH

5) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

The project will ensure enhanced coordination between National Biosafety systems at regional

and global level, through an interchange of experience and expertise of BCH-NFPs. Capacity building will focus on common needs and priorities regarding the exchange of information on BCH and harmonization of Biosafety initiatives at national and regional level.

Capacity building will be based on elaborated formal and online training packages and training workshops at national, regional and global levels, delivered and disseminated by professional Regional Advisors. New tools such as webinars will reinforce interchange of experiences in the region. This huge task is cost-effective when shared globally.

6) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Based on lessons learnt in the BCH-I and BCH-II projects, improved training and communication strategies will be utilised in the Project design to promote BCH capacity building sustainability. The Project design will make important improvements in terms of knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences. Budget optimization has been performed to balance distribution of resources. As per UNEP's internal evaluation and the Terminal Evaluation, the current project will devote two years for specific national training activities whist the other two years will be used to address specific regional training activities and global coordination and supportive activities utilising resources outside the country allocations as per recommendations of the Terminal evaluation.

The tools and methodologies used will be the state of the art in the academic and education sectors around the world taking into account the level of sophistication that may be used in each individual country, and provisions will be taken for easy and straightforward learning packages transfer to any education institution.

The inclusion of different virtual learning support systems is an innovative approach that (i) optimizes budget allocation, (ii) broadens target beneficiaries and (iii) promotes BCH capacity building sustainability.

Moreover, the Project's new capacity building strategy will customize national project component to actual country needs. This will provide more efficient services to countries according to their biosafety status. This new approach will also allow optimizing budgetary resources but, mainly, it will make better usage of available human and material resources in order to maximize their efficiency (see Annexes Ic, II).

Project design phase will take into account further sustainability considerations and ensure continuity. To ensure avoidance of duplication of capacity built, BCH III will also work with other MEA secretariats to coordinate national and regional workshops together for similar stakeholders.

BCH III is a unique project concept as its capacity building methodology is highly innovative and the substance matter clearly defined by the framework of the Cartagena Protocol. It does neither bare the risk of duplication in terms of project concept nor in terms of training content of Biosafety projects conducted by other bilateral and/or multilateral agencies. Countries support to BCH I and BCH II has been demonstrated throughout MOP1 to MOP5 culminating in decision BS-V/5 strongly recommending additional funding in order to provide more capacity building support for sustainability of the technical knowledge and expertise achieved.

A.2. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation:

The stakeholders in this area are everyone - from subsistence farmers to those living in the cities. This project must provide for individuals to become involved if they want to, but also provide for those experts in the field within countries to become involved in deploying biological diversity and in deploying modern technology to improve agriculture whilst protecting and sustaining the environment and culture. The involvement of academics is important as they design and implement new technologies. Non-governmental organizations that are opposed to the introduction of the new technologies are also important as they assist in providing the envelope in which changes can be made. The support of citizens is important if significant changes to agriculture might result in changes to culture and lifestyle even

where these are beneficial to the environment. All stakeholders need to be brought into the decision making process. Attempts will be made to involve as many different stakeholders as possible, including those designing and making new products, those importing the products, farmer and consumer organizations either supporting the use of LMOs in their environment or those opposing such use. The project cannot satisfy all, and the project will assist governments to identify and involve the key stakeholders.

Even though the BCH obligation is not gender dependant, the training programs will ensure a fair selection of participations (male and female) to the national and regional activities. The project will design mechanisms to collect gender disaggregated data ethrough its evaluation activities to ensure compliance. In addition, pictorial designs and schematic presentations will ensure an equitable representation of males, females and racial equality as a means of emphasising the BCH as a repository for all.

A.3 Risk. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable):

Potential risks identified in preparation of the concept and in the terminal evaluation (see Annex III & a Risk table in Annex IV) include the following:

(i) change in national Governments and officials occurring during the project that make continuity difficult;

(ii) lack of national consensus on the relevance of biosafety, including a difference in understanding or significance of decisions in relation to new technologies;

(iii) fast-moving progress in the private sector for the adoption of LMOs even in the absence of a regulatory framework.

(iv) the need to relate outputs to long term expected outcomes

(v). stronger institutional and public support and need for inclusiveness in meeting the BCH obligation

(vi). measures to ensure effective application of a holistic approach, integrating biosafety activities and mainstreaming into relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies and programmes.

Measures that will be taken to mitigate these risks include:

(i) ensuring political commitment through co-financing of the project and provisions of legally enforceable mechanisms and funding through the national biosafety regulatory frameworks;

(ii) dissemination training activities aimed at authorities and senior staff (decision-makers), as well as affected sectors;

(iii) contacts and collaborative relationships have already been established in the countries with the principal private stakeholders, and their involvement in the project may even include co-financing.

(iv) Provision of incentives for Government, Industry and civil society to use (and expect use) of local, regional and global BCH databases and tools for interoperable national databases so that the information is used appropriately and also relevant national information beyond the BCH are consolidated in unified platforms

(v) ensure the involvement of organizations outside government who are involved in biotechnology and biosafety so as to ensure the needed continuity that is essential to an effective use of the BCH

(vi) Ensure the involvement of all actors beside government at the product design stage to ensure that information provision is generated and available

This is a keynote of the new project, building in inclusiveness at all levels of the project. It may make the project more expensive, in that the need to engage the public and industry stakeholders

requires involving many different actors, including farmers in these developing countries.

This project is trying to bring in all stakeholders needs at the design stage, and is less top-down than the previous project

A.4. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives:

The majority of the countries that will participate already have some level of national coordination mechanisms through the established BCH Task Forces (TF), national biosafety committees, technical advisory committees, and designated bisoafety institions (agencies, councils and authorities). A high degree of coordination will be sought from these national committees for the projects' national and regional integration into the wider context of Biosafety in general and the local, regional and global BCH in particular. The BCH project will seek a degree of coordination from the UNEP-GEF Biosafety Projects on Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks to ensure harmonization of the BCH knowledge sharing platforms on both regional and global levels. It will ensure synergy through the public awareness components of the NBF projects and ensure duplication is avoided.

In order to help Parties with their commitment to and sustainability strategy and maintenance of national nodes of the BCH addressed during earlier BCH projects, a strategy will be developed during the project development phase to address the maintenance of the regional knowledge and networking achieved during BCH II. It will also address coordination with other related activities, such as integration of existing training materials with those produced in other MEA capacity building programmes.

Regional knowledge acquired during BCH I is concentrated mainly within staff of the BCH Task Forces and more particularly amongst pertinent staff of respective NEAs. This knowledge has a direct benefit to sub-regional initiatives and projects on NBF Implementation and regional Biosafety coordination in general, such as e.g. ECOWAS. The work of BCH National Focal Points and BCH Task Force members is not limited to the BCH project solely. Moreover these professionals are directly involved with managing national components of regional projects. The project will have a direct positive impact on regional networking in Biosafety and assist in developing skills in setting up databases which are consistent relative to other countries and regions and across other needs identified in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In addition, the BCH project will provide a good platform for packaging information for the in relation to the Caribbean Regional Biosafety Project. The project plans to have a regional biosafety website to consolidate BCH information which will be used to support national decision making. The same repository will become the information hub of the proposed regional center of excellence on BCH in the Caribbean. Another coordinated activity which is the linkages to the Indian GMO database (http://www.igmoris.nic.in/) developed through its Biosafety Implementation project and its national BCH activities. Another example is the linkages between the Malaysian national BCH and the national biosafety implementation project activities (http://www.biosafety.nre.gov.my/)

B. **DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH**:

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

The NBSAPs of the Parties have provisions on Biosafety including generation and access to information on Biosafety (see Annex Ic). In addition, a review of the second national reports, highlights the BCH as one of the critical areas where Parties had requested for additional capacity building support (seehttp://bch.cbd.int/database/reports/) . National Biosafety Frameworks have already been developed in almost all of the countries and national laws on Biosafety already exist in many of the countries. The parties themselves have requested a

continuation of the project, hinting at greater congruency with national plans and/or priorities. One of the most important facets of the project is to permit interoperability across national, regional databases and the BCH and to assist in developing a consistent language when dealing with LMOs in the environment.

B.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:

The project is consistent with Strategic Objective 3 (BD) of the Biodiversity Focal Area Strategies - Building Capacity for the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. It is in line with the GEF Strategy for Financing Biosafety, and is also in line with decision BS VI/3 Annex 1 on "Framework for Capacity Building". Specifically, these key elements refer to: (i) Institutional capacity-building, with emphasis on increased coordination and technical, scientific and technological infrastructures; (ii) Human resources development and training, with emphasis on new areas such as border control; (iii) Awareness-raising and education at all levels, including decision makers, stakeholders and the general public; (iv) Information exchange and data management, including full participation in the BCH; (v) Exploring feasibility and options for collaboration at sub regional or regional levels; (vi) Identification of LMOs, including their detection; (vii) Implementation of documentation requirements under Article 18.2 of the Cartagena Protocol; (viii) Handling information relating to unintentional and/or illegal trans-boundary movements of LMOs, for the purpose of the BCH.

B.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project:

UNEP's comparative advantage for the GEF relates to it being the only United Nations organization with a mandate derived from the General Assembly to co-ordinate the work of the United Nations in the area of environment and whose core business is the environment. UNEP's comparative strength is in providing the GEF and countries with a range of relevant experiences, proof of concept, testing of ideas, and the best available science and knowledge upon which investments can be based. It also serves as the Secretariat to three MEAs for which GEF is the/a financial mechanism. UNEP's comparative advantage includes its ability to serve as a broker in multi-stakeholder consultations (see GEF/C.31/5, Annex H and I). UNEP has been recognized for its neutrality in the face of a contentious issue (biotechnology /biosafety /GMO commerce) and is regularly requested to provide direct technical assistance and facilitate multi-stakeholder involvement in biosafety. Over the past decade, UNEP has assisted more than 130 countries to develop National Biosafety Frameworks and to build national BCH capacity, as well as working with more than 40 countries on national and regional level implementation of their frameworks.

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

A. 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 template. For SGP, use this OFP endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*

B. 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 project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	**Signature**	**DATE** *(MM/dd/yyyy)*	**Project Contact Person**	**Telephone**	**Email Address**
Brennan Van Dyke Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		March 07, 2014	Alex Owusu-Biney Task Manager	+254207624066	Alex.Owusu-Biney@unep.org

Annex Ia – Eligible Parties

List of 76 Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition that are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to participate in the BCH II "add-on" project

1. Albania
2. Angola
3. Armenia
4. Azerbaijan
5. Bahamas
6. Bangladesh
7. Barbados
8. Belarus
9. Bolivia
10. Bosnia-Herzegovina
11. Botswana
12. Brazil
13. Burundi
14. Cameroon
15. Cape Verde
16. China
17. Colombia
18. Congo
19. Croatia
20. Djibouti
21. Dominica
22. Egypt
23. El Salvador
24. Eritrea
25. Fiji
26. Gabon
27. Gambia
28. Georgia
29. Grenada
30. Guinea-Bissau
31. Indonesia
32. Iran
33. Jamaica
34. Kazakhstan
35. Kenya
36. Kiribati
37. Korea DPR
38. Kyrgyz Republic
39. Macedonia
40. Malawi
41. Maldives
42. Mali
43. Marshall Islands
44. Mexico
45. Mongolia
46. Montenegro
47. Morocco
48. Mozambique
49. Myanmar
50. Namibia
51. Nauru
52. Nicaragua
53. Niue
54. Pakistan
55. Palau
56. Papua New Guinea
57. Paraguay
58. Rwanda
59. Samoa
60. Serbia
61. Seychelles
62. Solomon Islands
63. South Africa
64. Sri Lanka
65. Suriname
66. Tajikistan
67. Tanzania
68. Thailand
69. Trinidad and Tobago
70. Turkey
71. Turkmenistan
72. Uganda
73. Ukraine
74. Uruguay
75. Zambia
76. Zimbabwe

Annex Ib: Eligibility criteria for participating in the BCH III project

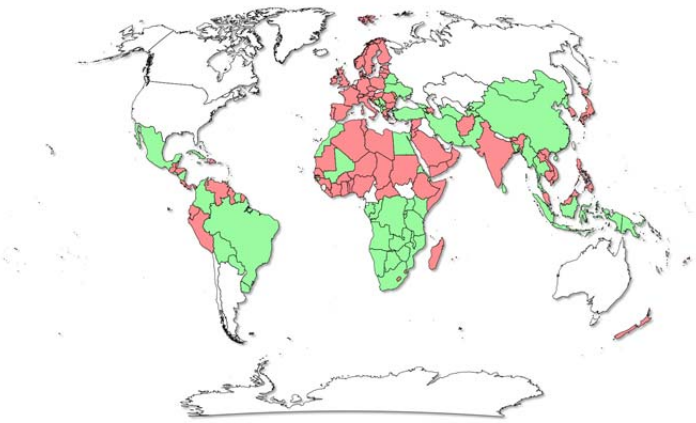
		BCH III Eligible Countries			
Region	**COUNTRY**	**Eligible CPB**	**Developed Draft NBF[8][9]**	**Implementation or Demonstration Projects[10]**	**Utilized National resources to develop functional biosafety system[11]**
CEE	Albania	X	X	X	
AFR	Angola	X			
CEE	Armenia	X	X		
CEE	Azerbaijan	X	X		
CAR	Bahamas	X	X	X	
ASIA	Bangladesh	X	X	X	
CAR	Barbados	X	X	X	
CEE	Belarus	X	X		
LA	Bolivia	X	X		
CEE	Bosnia and Herzegovina	X			X
AFR	Botswana	X	X		
LA	Brazil	X	X	X	X
AFR	Burundi	X	X		
AFR	Cameroon	X	X	X	
AFR	Cape Verde	X	X		
ASIA	China	X	X	X	
LA	Colombia	X		X	
AFR	Congo	X	X		
CEE	Croatia	X	X		X
AFR	Djibouti	X	X		
CAR	Dominica	X	X	X	
AFR	Egypt	X	X	X	
LA	El Salvador	X	X	X	
AFR	Eritrea	X	X		
PAC	Fiji	X	X		
AFR	Gabon	X	X		
AFR	Gambia	X	X		
CEE	Georgia	X	X		
CAR	Grenada	X	X	X	
AFR	Guinea-Bissau	X	X		
ASIA	Indonesia	X	X	X	
ASIA	Iran, Islamic Republic of	X	X	X	
CAR	Jamaica	X	X		
ASIA	Kazakhstan	X	X		X
AFR	Kenya	X		X	
PAC	Kiribati	X	X		
ASIA	Korea DPR	X	X		
ASIA	Kyrgyzstan	X	X		
CEE	Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of	X	X	X	

[8] Developed Draft NBF
[9] Blue highlight refers to Pilot Phase Projects
[10] Initiated or completed NBF implementation or demonstration Projects.
[11] Utilized their own national resources or bilateral support (eg. USAID-PBS, -SABP, ABNE etc) to develop a functional national biosafety system.

		BCH III Eligible Countries			
Region	**COUNTRY**	**Eligible CPB**	**Developed Draft NBF[89]**	**Implementation or Demonstration Projects[10]**	**Utilized National resources to develop functional biosafety system[11]**
AFR	Malawi	X	X		X
ASIA	Maldives	X	X		
AFR	Mali	X	X	X	
PAC	Marshall Islands	X	X		
LA	Mexico	X		X	
ASIA	Mongolia	X	X	X	
CEE	Montenegro	X	X		
AFR	Morocco	X	X		
AFR	Mozambique	X	X	X	
ASIA	Myanmar	X	X		
AFR	Namibia	X	X	X	
PAC	Nauru	X	X		
LA	Nicaragua	X	X		
PAC	Niue	X	X		
ASIA	Pakistan	X	X		
PAC	Palau	X	X		
PAC	Papua New Guinea	X	X		
LA	Paraguay	X	X		X
AFR	Rwanda	X	X	X	
PAC	Samoa	X	X		
CEE	Serbia	X	X		
AFR	Seychelles	X	X		
PAC	Solomon Islands	X	X		
AFR	South Africa	X			X
ASIA	Sri Lanka	X	X		
CAR	Suriname	X	X	X	
ASIA	Tajikistan	X	X	X	
AFR	Tanzania, United Republic of	X	X	X	
ASIA	Thailand	X	X		X
CAR	Trinidad and Tobago	X	X	X	
CEE	Turkey	X	X	X	
ASIA	Turkmenistan	X		X	
AFR	Uganda	X	X	X	
CEE	Ukraine	X	X		X
LA	Uruguay	X	X		
AFR	Zambia	X	X		X
AFR	Zimbabwe	X	X		
	Total Number:	76	67	29	10

Annex II

1. Targeted countries for this project are coloured green in the map below; other members of the CPB are in red. The range of population and country area is enormous, with Niue (population less than 10000 and an area of less than 260 km^2) and China (population approximately 1350 million and area of close to a million square kilometres). Population density varies enormously as well, with Bangladesh having over 1100 people/km^2 and Mongolia with fewer than 2 people/km^2.



The project will group small countries in the same region (eg. Caribbean) together for economies of scale and to ensure an effective training program while recognizing the need for assertion of sovereignty. The project envisages both national and regional training programs.

2. The Criteria for selection for participation in the project, as identified in the PIF itself, are only developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:
   i. That have developed DRAFT National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs); or
   ii. That have initiated or completed NBF implementation or Demonstration Projects and or
   iii. Utilised their own national resources to develop a functional national biosafety system;
3. At the eighth meeting of the informal advisory committee of the biosafety clearing-house in May 2013 it was noted that the BCH

   a) is guided by principles of inclusiveness, transparency and equity, and is open to all Governments;

   b) The BCH has built up its functions and activities in response to clear and identified demand, and based on available experience and resources; and

   c) There has been a clear improvement in the accuracy and quality of information submitted to and retrieved from the BCH.

   Nevertheless, the participation in the BCH is patchy, with a small number of countries providing a disproportionate set of information, and most countries not participating effectively.

   It is known that many countries have small or very small teams dealing with CBD issues. Where there is significant mobility in the government service, this means that expertise and know-how can be lost rapidly. It is the aim of this project to provide training and incentive to a wide variety of members of government, industry and civil society so that this problem is at least minimized.

4. The higher cost of this project per country is predicated on multiple factors, including
    i. The expectation that there is a need for involving civil society, companies within a country or region and government to make the use of the BCH as part of the expectation of transparency and understanding before use of LMOs within the environment
    ii. The large size and range of expertise and use of LMOs of many of the countries (China, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico) including the need for translation of much of the material that will be developed (eg into Chinese)
    iii. The possibility of regional interaction – for example in the SADC or East African Regions
    iv. The small size and lack of expertise of other countries, especially small island states, where assistance means regional collaboration where appropriate and new ways of addressing their problems. This includes the needs of trainers to work with those responsible in the small countries.
    v. As per UNEP's internal evaluation and the Terminal Evaluation BCH II , the need for specific and additional regional and global supportive activities besides the country allocations is an imperative to ensure broad stakeholder participation and uptake.

Annex III

Use made of the Terminal Evaluation of the BCH II Project

The Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project for Continued Enhancement of Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH II) produced a table (labeled Table 4) relating to the ratings and assessment of the BCHII project. That table is reproduced here; an extra column has been added identifying the manner in which BCHIII will attempt to improve on that achieved.

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating	BCH III What can we do?
A. Attainment of project objectives and results		MS Moderately Satisfactory	How do we do better?
1. Effectiveness (Paragraph 49-57)	Although a great number of activities and products have been carried out, and the expected Outputs met to some extent, the overall achievement of the main Outcome and Immediate Outcomes is limited due to lack of comprehensive National Capacity Building which in turn due to the project design that focused mainly on Outputs rather than on Outcomes.	MS Moderately Satisfactory	Incentivize Government, Industry and civil society to use (and expect use) of local, regional and global BCH databases so that the information is used appropriately
2. Relevance (Paragraph 47-48)	The BCH is an essential component of the NBFs, serves as the main sources of information sharing mechanism to make informed decisions while implementing CPB. The project is consistent with "Biosafety Strategic Program 6 of the Focal Areas Strategies and Strategic Planning for GEF-4 and GEF Strategy for Financing Biosafety, addressing "Key Elements Requiring Concrete Action" – COP-MOP-3.	HS Highly Satisfactory	Continue with the development of the National Biosafety Frameworks as indicated above to provide assurance of effective use of the various BCH records to assist evaluation of new products introduced into a particular environment
3. Efficiency (Paragraph 58-63)	All foreseen activities in the project have been implemented in 49 countries, except in few countries where the prevailing socio- political conditions are not very favorable. Project activities were also extended to some non-BCH II countries.	S Satisfactory	The project will be available to those countries that were not able to participate previously
B. Sustainability of project outcomes (Para 94-103)	Sustainability is explored and elaborated in a thorough and consistent way in the ProDoc, and an array of enabling conditions to ensure outcomes' sustainability beyond the project lifetime are explored, paying particular attention to the key issues of appropriate institutional arrangements and stakeholders' inclusiveness. Project did not contribute sufficiently for the sustainability of outcomes.	MU Moderately Unlikely	The involvement of organizations outside government should help in ensuring the continuity that is essential to an effective use of the BCH
1. Financial (Paragraph 94-96)	Although BCH II countries contributed financial resources in the form co-financing for the project (mainly in in-	MU Moderately Unlikely	Once again, the involvement of non-government actors and the concept of instituting

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating	BCH III What can we do?
	kind), the long-term sustainability of capacity building and BCH functioning may suffer due to lack adequate and separate allocation of national budgets for the BCH operations. In some countries, BCH FPs are currently playing dual roles, due to the fact that they lack adequate financial resources. Allocation of national budget for BCH does not exist in 21 countries and in another 23 countries it exists but can support partially. Lack of adequate financial resources		involvement of the BCH at product design should improve information availability
2. Socio-political (Paragraph 92-93)	Inclusiveness, "*building a broader public constituency*", is clearly identified and explored in the ProDoc, yet not translated into the operational part of the project design. During implementation, the BCH II project has been limited concerning inclusiveness, with negative consequences on sustainability.	MU Moderately Unlikely	This is a keynote of the new project, building in inclusiveness at all levels of the project. It may make the project more expensive, in that the need to engage the public and industry stakeholders requires involving many different actors, including farmers in these developing countries.
3. Institutional framework (Paragraph 97-101)	The Sustainability of the RAs system remains a major challenge. Regional and Sub-regional networking remained limited, failing to capitalize on by achieving partnerships with key international stakeholders. BCH II did not make much progress on appropriate institutional arrangements promoting inclusiveness and sustainability.	ML Moderately Likely	It will remain difficult to maintain the RA system, but the inclusivity should help in assuring some continuity in relation to cross border interaction and an understanding of the issues, responsibilities and needs
4. Environmental (Paragraph 102-103)	Environmental sustainability is at the core of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its "parental" Convention on Biological Biodiversity.	ML Moderately Likely	The Protocol and the CBD identify the need to use biodiversity in a sustainable manner – this project provides the tools to allow grass-roots understanding of the needs
C. Catalytic role (Paragraph 105-110)	Hands-on trainings during the national workshops, not only explained the various aspects of BCH to general audience but has been turned out to be useful for BCH FPs. Updating of substantial number of national records in the central BCH during and after the workshops is a noticeable change. Also the five regional workshops including the one organized by non-BCH II participating country (S. Korea) played catalytic role in sharing information and building regional networks.	S Satisfactory	This project will continue this effective work and attempt to improve through assuring that the introduction of LMOs involves using the BCH by design

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating	BCH III What can we do?
D. Stakeholders involvement (Paragraph 128-136)	Stakeholders' involvement has been limited, failing to address broader constituencies, according to COP-MOP Decisions on equitable inclusiveness. Major emphasis was given to traditional stakeholders (Public institutions) and non-public institutions representation in the national capacity building was marginal. Involvement of Farmer groups, Industry, NGOs, vulnerable groups, etc., in the capacity building activities are very limited, The ET deems that project's top-down approach to communication may largely reflect the project's isolation from the development sectors despite COP-MOP; BS-III/3, annex, § 3 (h) requirement to "*Apply a holistic approach, integrating biosafety activities with relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies and programmes*".	MS Moderately Satisfactory	This project is trying to bring in all stakeholders needs at the design stage, and is less top-down than the previous project
E. Country ownership / driven-ness (Paragraph 137-141)	The majority of the countries met their SSFA obligations and appointed BCH FPs. Although not all countries have created an enabling environment for efficient functioning of BCH, at least 65% of the BCH II countries are yet to come up with sustainability plans and demonstrate their driven-ness to attain full responsibility for all the BCH functioning after the project period is over.	S Satisfactory	This project will stress the importance of local (national), regional and the Global BCH so that information placed on the BCH by neighbours or countries with similar environments assists in legislation and decisions about the introduction of LMOs
F. Achievement of outputs and activities (Paragraph 45-46, Table 3)	The project has carried out a number of foreseen activities fewer than five components. Project has achieved by and large a number of Outputs such as Regional workshops for networking and knowledge sharing, training packages for various stakeholder groups, training of RAs on BCH updates, trained BCH FPs and other key Government officials, revised job descriptions of BCH FP, easily accessible training and reference materials in five UN languages through VLE. The level of attainment of the outputs has been uneven among the BCH II countries that may be attributed to variable base line situation.	S Satisfactory	Workshops will address the many issues raised under this heading
G. Preparation and readiness (Paragraph 111-118)	The project assessed the required infrastructure support for the implementing of identified project activities, entered into SSFA for the implementation of the proposed activities. Although, the ProDoc was not very realistic in assessing the project period for the completion of all activates	S Satisfactory	The manner in which the previous projects attained their objectives will assist in assuring that preparation and readiness are at least as good

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating	BCH III What can we do?
	in 24 months, the project was completed in 32 months with one extension. Five regional workshops and more than 140 national training workshops were carried benefitting 58 countries.		
H. Implementation approach (Paragraph 119-127)	A notable implementation approach is the establishment of collaboration with a non-BCH II country, Republic of Korea, in organizing an AP-CEE regional workshop in Korea that also attended by 7 non-BCH countries. No operational and functional linkages with relevant development sectors such as civil society and the private sector that are specifically envisaged in the COP-MOP 3 Decision (Annex § 2) and suggested by the previous reports have not been pursued during the project implementation.	MS Moderately Satisfactory	The approach has many similarities, but the major difference is the involvement of all stakeholders, using those who have been involved in the previous projects as templates for good (or bad?) design and building into the process use of the BCH at each stage of the introduction of LMOs
I. Financial planning and management (Paragraph 142-145)	Allocation of funds for each activity and each country was need based. RAs system was made available to all participating countries. Also uniform amount of (US$ 10,000) was allocated and made available for each of the participating country to organize national workshops. The ANUBIS system has been highly effective for transparent financial management of the project, all of them having been formally closed without any pending administrative issue.	HS Highly Satisfactory	The same approach will be used
J. Monitoring and Evaluation (151-156)		MS Moderately Satisfactory	
1. M&E Design (Paragraph 151-152)	The project design focused mainly on Outputs rather than on Outcomes, failing to give a comprehensive operational direction. The performance indicators, although successful in addressing each separate envisaged output, remain narrow and fragmented. The indicators are not conducive to an effective outcome-oriented management.	MS Moderately Satisfactory	This shortcoming is accepted, and the design will take into account both outcomes and outputs, as appropriate
2. M&E Plan Implementation (Paragraph 153-155)	Being a two-year project, no midterm evaluation/review was foreseen as per UNEP-GEF standard practice, through eventually the project period got extended to 32 months. Monitoring & evaluation largely relied on the internal PIRs and the Steering Committee. The project effectiveness in achieving main Outcome would have been more	MS Moderately Satisfactory	The project steering committee must be involved throughout the project

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating	BCH III What can we do?
	provided the project management was proactive in taking guidance by organizing Project Steering Committee meetings on a regular basis. The PSC met just once during the entire project period of 32 months.		
3. Budgeting and funding for M&E activities (Paragraph 156)	Sufficient funds were made available for the purpose of project monitoring and evaluation.	S Satisfactory	
K. UNEP Supervision and backstopping		HS Highly Satisfactory	
1. UNEP (Paragraph 146-150)	The UNEP, Nairobi office has provided all necessary backstopping Excellent technical and administrative support provided by the Project Manager, Task Manager and Fund Management Officer was evident from the participants responses and survey results. All the BCH FPs who took part in the regional and national workshops has acknowledged the full support and cooperation that they received from the UNEP-DELC and UNEP-DEPI. The Anubis system of UNEP also played important role in backstopping the project. Also SCBD provided guidance and support throughout the project period.	HS Highly Satisfactory	This will continue

The review had 2 recommendations:

Recommendation 1

To consolidate the achievements of previous BCH projects and to ensure the sustainability of the BCH system as a whole, at National, Regional, and Global levels an additional and final project phase is strongly recommended through the development of a BCH III project characterized by a strong, global dimension.

a. A BCH III project based on the BCH I and BCH II outputs and outcomes, considered as building-blocks of a sustainable BCH system at National, Regional and Global level should be developed. Therefore, future action should capitalize on: a- the training material / packages; b- the networking mechanisms in place, including technical platforms as webinars; and c- the trained human resources, including trainers.

b. A new BCH capacity strengthening project has to promote, and where necessary to insure, the financial, human and institutional resources that would address the need for a balance between regional and global approach. Institutional arrangements conducive to regional and sub-regional partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including "*Centres of Excellence*", have to be coupled with consolidated global vision and oversight capacity.

c. RAs must be considered as a system and not as the sum or as a list of highly qualified experts. A BCH III project should create a discontinuity with previous BCH projects taking into account all issues related to the sustainability of the RA system by addressing financial and organizational requirements.

For the RAs system, the turning point will have to be found in the new balance between regionalization and global oversight.

d. A BCH III project should promote robust and meaningful inclusiveness of all stakeholders both as an end and a means to achieve sustainability of the BCH system at National, Regional and Global level, fully operationalizing COP-MOP decisions.

This new project is to be the BCH III project recommended in 1.a. The new project will capitalize on the training methods and materials and the networking mechanisms that were created for BCH II. It will promote the resources as indicated in Recommendation 1.b and will attempt to assure national, sub-regional and regional collaboration for effective implementation of the Protocol through the various databases that form the BCH. The need to ensure that the RAs are not a list of experts, but as a generalized systemic resource is important in ensuring the success of this project (1.c). 1.d is the basis of this new project design.

Annex IV: Risk Identification and Mitigation Table

RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN.

Potential risks to the project	Measures to mitigate the risks
External:	
1. Change in national Governments and officials occurring during the project that make continuity difficult;	1.1. Ensuring political commitment through co-financing of the project and provisions of legally enforceable mechanisms and funding through the national biosafety regulatory frameworks; 1.2. Involving all stakeholders within a country, particularly those with a commercial or environmental *investment* means that pressure to assure decisions remains on government
2. Lack of national consensus on the relevance of biosafety, including a difference in understanding or significance of decisions in relation to new technologies;	2.1 Dissemination training activities aimed at authorities and senior staff (decision-makers), as well as affected sectors; 2.2 Bringing disparate views on the use of LMOs within a country makes it possible to consider how to get agreement on dissemination even where there is disagreement on what should be allowed.
3. Fast-moving progress in the private sector for the adoption of LMOs even in the absence of a regulatory framework.	3.1 Contacts and collaborative relationships have already been established in the countries with the principal private stakeholders, and their involvement in the project may even include co-financing. 3.2 We wish to involve the private sector, NGOs and the academic sector in the decision making process to minimize the risks of conflict in relation to the use and import of LMOs through effective use of the BCH
4. The need to relate outputs to long term expected outcomes	4.1 Provision of incentives for Government, Industry and civil society to use (and expect use) of local, regional and global BCH databases and tools for interoperable national databases so that the information is used appropriately and also relevant national information beyond the BCH are consolidated in unified platforms
5. Stronger institutional and public support and need for inclusiveness in meeting the BCH obligation	5.1 Ensure the involvement of organizations outside government who are involved in biotechnology and biosafety so as to provide the needed continuity that is essential to an effective use of the BCH
6. Measures to ensure effective application of a holistic approach, integrating biosafety activities and mainstreaming into relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies and programmes.	6.1 Ensure the involvement of all actors beside government at the product design stage to ensure that information provision is generated and available
7. Political unrest in countries may affect the implementation of the project.	7.1 Virtual training assistance was effectively used during BCH II to countries facing political unrest.

8. Harsh environmental conditions in countries affect timeline to implement the project.	8.1 The purpose of the project is to address the use of the BCH as an effective too in decision-making. Deployment of LMOs is not the issue
Internal	
Project Management	
9. Unclear responsibilities or overlapping functions which lead to management problems.	9.1 The executing agency, UNEP-DELC has experience successfully implementing the BCH II project.
10. Steering Committee members lack of commitment and fulfilment of their terms of reference.	10.1 Annual face to face meeting planned coupled with periodic and effective direction/inputs provided by UNEP to encourage participation.
11. A substantial part of pledged co-financing may not materialize.	11.1 Raise awareness with countries and make it part of the SSFA Annexes to sign with countries.
12. Project duration may be insufficient for effective implementation in 76 countries if project initiation and internalization processes prove slow-moving. It is also expected that it will be very time-consuming to get all 76 countries to sign and submit their Small Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) - UNEP's legal instrument for the execution of national-level activities falling within the thresholds for small scale funding;	12.1 Take advantage of any international biosafety meeting, such as the COP/MOP7 to meet country representatives face-to-face and collect signed SSFAs. 12.2 Ensure that the SSFA is not unduly complicated and therefore not too difficult for countries to prepare; 12.3 UNEP experience preparing a legal instruments for BCH II activities will be a familiar experience.
13. Private sector not interested to provide support and collaboration to the project.	13.1 Unlikely, unless the private sector believe that the deployment of *imported* LMOs into the country can proceed without regulatory involvement that in the long term is likely to be counter-productive. 13.2 Research institutes in each country that are involved in producing LMOs themselves will have the incentive of easier export of their developments if an effective BCH is in place
14. Organisations that wish to disrupt deployment of LMOs whether for cultivation or for food, feed or processing choosing not to be involved or actively working against achievement of the project goals	14.1 The project attempts to involve even those groups most directly anti the use of LMOs through providing channels for information as to what is happening and providing a forum for agreement on the BCH, rather than on active use of LMOs