PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REQUEST FOR Council Work Program Inclusion
UNDER THE GEF Trust Fund

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 2127
IA/EXA'S PROJECT ID: 2050
COUNTRY: Global / Multiple (Chile, China, Algeria, Tunisia, Peru, Philippines)
PROJECT TITLE: Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)
GEF IA/EXA: FAO
OTHER PROJECT EXECUTING AGENCY(IES): **Algeria**: Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'environnement ; **Chile**: Centro de Tecnología y Educación /CET ; **China**: Ministry of Agriculture/MOA ; **Peru**: National Environmental Council /CONAMA ; **Philippines**: Department of Environment and Natural Resources /DENR ; **Tunisia**: Ministère de l'environnement et du développement durable.
DURATION: 6 YEARS
GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity
GEF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors
GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: OP 13 Agrobiodiversity
Pipeline Entry Date: June 2003
EXPECTED STARTING DATE: December 2007
EXPECTED CEO ENDORSEMENT: November 2007
IA/EX FEE: 10%

FINANCING PLAN ($)		
	PPG	Project*
GEF Total	725,000	3,500,000
Co-financing	(provide details in Section b: Co-financing))	
GEF IA/ExA	500,000	4,584,000
Government	280,000	1,400,000
Others	260,000	8,516,000
Co-financing Total	1,040,000	14,500,000
Total	1,765,000	18,000,000
Financing for Associated Activities If Any:		

** For multi-focal projects, indicate agreed split between focal area allocations

FOR JOINT PARTNERSHIP**		
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT ($)		
(Agency Name)	(Share)	(Fee)
(Agency Name)	(Share)	(Fee)
(Agency Name)	(Share)	(Fee)

*** Projects that are jointly implemented by more than one IA or ExA

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS IDENTIFIED IN THE FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES: The project will contribute to mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of globally important agro-biodiversity harbored in 112000 ha of productive landscape of traditional agricultural systems in six countries through policy and regulatory reforms, innovative market mechanisms and incentive schemes and support systemic and institutional capacity building of six countries demonstrating "local livelihood improvements – global environmental benefits linkages", through agro-ecosystem approaches across government agencies, local communities, indigenous peoples and private sector actors.

Approved on behalf of *FAO*. This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for work program inclusion.

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1. PROJECT SUMMARY

a) PROJECT RATIONALE, OBJECTIVE, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS/ACTIVITIES

Worldwide, specific agricultural systems and landscapes have been created, shaped and maintained by generations of farmers and herders based on diverse natural resources, using locally adapted management practices. Building on local knowledge and experience, these ingenious agricultural systems reflect the evolution of humankind, the diversity of its knowledge, and its profound relationship with nature. These systems have resulted not only in outstanding landscapes, maintenance and adaptation of globally significant agricultural biodiversity, indigenous knowledge and resilient ecosystems, but, above all, in the sustained provision of multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security and quality of life. However, the continued survival of these globally important agricultural heritage systems (GIAHS) is threatened by several factors such as the loss of customary institutions and forms of social organization that underpin management of these systems; abandonment of the traditional cultivation and farming systems; conversion of land and habitat in and around traditionally managed fields to alternative uses such as unsustainable intensive farming, plantations, housing; and the displacement of indigenous communities and dilution of traditional varieties by exotic varieties and invasive species cultivated in these systems.

In order to provide systematic support for the conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS, the project strategy is to make interventions at three distinct levels. First, at the global level, it will facilitate international recognition of the concept of GIAHS wherein globally significant agricultural biodiversity is harboured, and it will consolidate and disseminate lessons learned and best practices from project activities at the pilot country level. Second, at the national level in pilot countries, the project will ensure mainstreaming of the GIAHS concept in national sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies. Third, at the site-level in pilot countries, the project will address conservation and adaptive management of agro-ecosystems at the community level. It is expected that the project will also contribute to sustainable development through: (i) enhancing the benefits derived by local populations and indigenous peoples from the management, conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and natural resources; (ii) adding economic value and sharing derived benefits from these systems; (iii) enhancing food security and alleviating poverty. The project will be implemented in five pilot systems represented by 12 pilot sites in 6 countries: Chile, China, Tunisia, Algeria, Peru, and the Philippines. This GEF project will serve as basis for a long term program through which Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) of the world will be continuously identified, classified and internationally recognized and specific policies and actions programs will be devised for their conservation and adaptive management similar to UNESCO Man and biosphere Reserve (MAB) programme and World Heritage sites of UNESCO-World Heritage Commission.

Rationale

The biodiversity that underpins agricultural systems[1] spans a continuum from simple human use of wild species (whether directly for sustenance or indirectly for increasing yields from desired species) to the creation and intensive management of genetically modified organisms. Within this spectrum, "agricultural biodiversity" represents that group of organisms which has been domesticated, maintained and adapted in

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

a process of co-evolution with human management systems[2]. Thus, landraces and wild species of animals and plants as well as live organisms contained in soils and water, are the essential source of genetic variability for responding to biotic and abiotic stress through genetic adaptation. The agricultural biodiversity in any form can only be effectively maintained and adapted with the human management systems that have created it, including indigenous knowledge systems and technologies, specific forms of social organisation, customary or formal law and other cultural practices. Agricultural practices in many parts of the world have led to landscape-scale ecosystem variation, and provided mosaics of micro-habitats, that support associated plant and animal communities, which now depend largely on continued management of their viability. In many regions of the world, especially where natural conditions of climate, soil, accessibility and human presence militate against intensification, there still persist agro-ecosystems and landscapes that are maintained by traditional practices developed by generations of farmers and herders. Based on a high diversity of species and their interactions, the use of locally adapted, distinctive and often ingenious combinations of management practices and techniques, such agricultural systems testify to millennia of co-evolution of human societies with their natural environments. These systems often contain rich and globally unique agricultural biodiversity, within and between species but also at ecosystem and landscape level. Having been founded on ancient agricultural civilizations, certain of these systems are linked to important centres of origin and diversity of domesticated plant and animal species, the *in situ* conservation of which is of great importance and global value.

These indigenous and traditional agricultural systems (henceforth referred to as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems or GIAHS) have resulted not only in outstanding landscapes (some are recognised as World Heritage Sites), but, more importantly, in the perpetuation of globally significant agricultural biodiversity, maintenance of resilient ecosystems, and preservation of valuable traditional knowledge and cultural practices. Perhaps above all, though, they embody the principles for sustained provision of multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security, and a certain quality of life that keeps a close link with its natural environment. To date, over 100 systems world-wide have been identified under GEF-PDF resources that meet general selection criteria (Project Document. Section IV. Part III). Extant indigenous and traditional agricultural systems covered by the project are:

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

Pilot GIAHS	Globally Significant Agricultural biodiversity
Chile Chiloe Island	Agricultural biodiversity: Chiloe Island is one of the Vavilov centers of origin of crop diversity. It is a centre of origin of potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*), and a centre of mango (*Bromus moango*) and strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*). Some 200 documented varieties of native potatoes are still managed today, together with a variety of garlic (Ajo chilote) that is unique to the islands and its volcanic soils. The island supports an indigenous horse race, the hardy Caballo Chilote. Associated biodiversity: WWF has listed Chiloe Island as one of the 25 priority areas for ecosystem conservation in the world. Both primary and secondary temperate rainforest are found on Chiloe Island in the patchwork landscape shaped as a result of 10,000 years of co-evolution with human livelihoods. They hold a wide range of species including 15 rare to endangered bird species, 33 endemic species of amphibians (3 rare to endangered), 9 species of endemic mammals (all rare to endangered), and 4 species of vulnerable to endangered freshwater fish; Wild species provide fruit (8 species), dyes (9 species), ethno-medicines (41 species) and used for sculpture (5 species). Ecosystem functions: Field hedges and the adjacent forests support pollinators and pest predators. Seaweed and washed-up cuttlefish are used for soil improvement.
China	Agricultural biodiversity: Rice paddies (20 native rice varieties; many threatened), home gardens,

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

Rice-fish system, Lonxiang village, Zhejang Province	and livestock / poultry; Trees and field hedges; Numerous native vegetables and fruits including lotus roots, beans, taro, eggplant, Chinese plum (*Prunus simoni*), mulberry; 6 native breeds of carp. Associated biodiversity: 5 species of fish, and amphibians and snails in paddies; 7 species of wild vegetables collected in borders of fields; 62 forest species are used (21 as food); 53 medicinal plants. Ecosystem functions: Integrated use of forest (70% of water catchments) and managed rice-fish interactions for nutrient recycling, pest control and high quality protein production from organic waste material; Use of 4 species of *Azolla* for nitrogen fixation and protein rich fish food; Use of trees in field and hedges for pest control (ethno-pesticides or habitats for beneficial insects)
Oases of the Maghreb (**Algeria**: BéniIsguen, **Tunisia**: Gafsa)	Agricultural biodiversity: 50 date varieties in Gafsa, Tunisia; 100 in Beni, Algeria, several local varieties of vegetables, beans, medicinal plants, fruit trees and shrubs, local breeds of goat, sheep, etc. Associated biodiversity: Migratory birds, Gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri),*Fennec (*Vulpes zerda).* Ecosystem functions: The three tier system (palms; shrubs and fruit trees; ground crops) creates conditions suited for water conservation and micro-climate regulation; ingenious under ground irrigation systems called Fogara with traditional water rights and management system and unique blind fish in Fogaras, Management of inter- and intra-species interactions for pest and disease control and efficiency of water and nutrient uses; Efficient water-use and reduced land degradation
Peru Agriculture of Andes	Agricultural Biodiversity: Primary centre of origin of potatoes, quinoa, kañiwa, chilis, the chinchona tree, the coca shrub, oca, olluco), mashwa), amaranth, leguminous plants such as beans and lupins, and roots such as arracacha, yacón, mace and chagos; Extraordinarily polymorphic groups of the soft corn have been differentiated; Domestication of llamas, alpacas and guinea pigs. Baseline Caritamaya: Potatoes (28 varieties). Bitter potatoes (13 var.) Quinoa (43 var.), Kañiwa (8 var.), Oca, Olluco, Llamas, Alpacas (all 24 colors, 3 mayor breeds). Baseline Microcuenca de San José: Potatoes (80 var.), Mashua (14 var.), Olluco (18 var.), Kañiwa (12 var.) Oca (20 var.) Llamas, Alpacas . Baseline Cuenca de Lares: Potatoes (177 var.), Oca (20 var.), Olluco (11 var.), Mashua (17 var.), Maiz (23), Quinoa, Kañiwa, Lupins, Llamas, Alpcas, wild relatives Baseline Micro de Carmen: potatoes (105 var.), Oca (25 var.) Olluco (14 var.), Mashua (20 var.), Maiz (34), Quinoa, Kañiwa, Lupins, Llamas, Alpcas, wild relatives Associated biodiversity: Vicuña; Endemic grassland and wetland birds (including many North American migrants); Wild medicinal and food plants; Wild crop relatives Ecosystem functions: Climate regulation through water management (waru waru, qochas); Hedges for pest and disease control; Land degradation control through terracing; Efficient water-use through Inca and pre-Inca irrigation systems
Philippines Ifugao Rice Terraces	Agricultural biodiversity: Traditional rice varieties of high quality for rice wine production (4 endemic); Associated mudfish, snails, shrimps, and frogs in paddies, some of which are endemic; Managed forest re-growth (muyong) after shifting cultivation, with enhanced biodiversity (264 species, most indigenous, 47 endemic), including 171 tree species (112 species are used), 10 varieties of climbing rattan, 45 medicinal plant species, 20 plant species which are used as ethno-pesticides Associated biodiversity: 41 bird species, 6 indigenous mammal species and 2 endemic reptiles Ecosystem functions: The muyong have important functions for water regulation in the hydrological cycle (catching 320 cubic meters of water while primary forest catches 74.5 cubic meters), and provide habitat for pollinators and pest predators. The terraces provide reservoirs for excess water, reduce land degradation and erosion and catch nutrients and filter water for human consumption.

However, the continued survival of these globally important agricultural heritage systems (GIAHS) is threatened by several factors such as the loss of customary institutions and forms of social organization that underpin management of these systems; abandonment of the traditional cultivation and farming systems; conversion of land and habitat in and around traditionally managed fields to alternative uses such as unsustainable intensive farming, plantations, housing; and the displacement of indigenous communities and dilution of traditional varieties by exotic varieties and invasive species cultivated in

these systems (See Section IV. Part IV of the Project Document for analysis of the threats, root causes and barriers). These threats are leading to the erosion of GIAHS and consequently to a range of impacts on their agricultural biodiversity, associated natural ecosystems, and ecosystem functions, posing significant risks for the continued viability of unique and globally significant agricultural biodiversity and the associated knowledge and management systems that have co-evolved over numerous generations.

Under the baseline scenario, at the international level, some areas that meet the criteria of GIAHS are likely to be designated as special areas under existing international conventions, particularly the World Heritage Convention. Similarly, at the national level, some GIAHS are likely to receive support under existing national conservation or cultural heritage plans, but only secondarily (for example, a GIAHS system might receive some technical and financial support insofar as it might be an important element of the buffer zone of a protected area). However, these areas are likely to be few in number. Furthermore, even when such special attention is accorded, the emphasis is likely to be on conserving certain aspects of the system – for example the genetic resources or the cultural values – and not on each and every constituent component ranging from supportive national policies, to the customary institutions that underpin these systems, to the traditional practices and knowledge that ensure co-evolution. While baseline efforts by countries will include some disparate efforts to support these systems, these will not address critical barriers at the national level to secure sustainable management and continued evolution of GIAHS and the benefits of simultaneously addressing the conservation of GIAHS at local, national, and international levels will not be realized. GEF support can, thus, be catalytic in establishing a programme that successfully combines these three levels. The incremental cost benefit analysis for GEF support is in Section II, Part I of the Project Document (Incremental Cost Assessment).

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

Project strategy and approach

The GEF alternative will aim to redress the erosion of GIAHS, through addressing the key barriers related to awareness, policy, institutional capacity, community capacity and markets at global, national and local scales. It will be the first step in a long term programme of support. Replication on a wider scale, after the completion of the Full Project, is intended to be through continued sustainable baseline actions (financing from the national budgets and traditional ODA), sustainable financing and global recognition efforts.

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

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) represent a unique sub-set of agricultural systems, which exemplify customary use of globally significant agricultural biodiversity and merit to be recognised as a heritage of human kind within the national sovereignty jurisdictions. GIAHS may be defined as: Remarkable land use systems and landscapes which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development. GIAHS can thus be considered to have the following characteristics: (i) The domestication, maintenance and adaptation of the agricultural biodiversity of global significance (ABGS); (ii) The ABGS is managed holistically by optimising: integration at the level of inter and intra-species dynamics; integration of different scales of agricultural biodiversity: genetic resources, species, ecosystem and landscape; integration of the sustainable management of biotic and non-biotic natural resources (land and water); integration of the biodiversity and ecosystem characteristics with indigenous/traditional knowledge systems, technologies, with forms of social organisation and institutions for ecosystem management, with human needs and aspirations, as well as their cultural practices, views and preferences; and adaptive management; (iii) The ABGS has co-evolved with these systems and their associated cultures over centuries, even millennia, in a process of mutual adaptation; and (iv) The system still has full integrity: all the necessary elements to sustain the system are in place and can be reproduced.

To halt the rapid degradation of GIAHS their dynamic nature must first be recognized. Their resilience depends on their capacity to adapt to new challenges without loosing their biological and cultural wealth, and productive capacity. This requires continuous agro-ecological and social innovation combined with careful transfer of accumulated knowledge and experience across the generations. Trying to conserve GIAHS by "freezing them in time" would surely lead to their degradation and condemn their communities to poverty. The GIAHS approach will centre on the human management and knowledge systems, including their socio-organisational, economic and cultural features that underpin the conservation and adaptation processes in GIAHS without compromising their resilience, sustainability and integrity. The innovative feature of the project allows the integration of these local agricultural and livelihood systems to global environmental markets such as eco-libelling, carbon sequestration, eco-tourism and other payment for environmental services schemes thereby ensuring their sustainability without their fossilization.

Project goal, objective, outcomes/ outputs, and activities

The overall project **goal** is to "protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements" [cf. CBD: Article10(c)], specifically within agricultural systems. The project **objective** is to promote conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harboured in globally important agricultural heritage systems or GIAHS. This objective will be realized through four outcomes described below.

Outcome 1: An internationally accepted system for recognition of GIAHS is in place (Global) (Total: US$ 1,031,290; GEF request: US$ 300,890; Co-financing: US$ 730,400)

1.1 Public endorsement of the GIAHS concept, definition and criteria by key international institutions and pilot country governments.
1.2 Establishment of interim GIAHS Secretariat with a statutory mandate and Scientific Advisory Committee, as well as articulation of a process for designating agricultural systems as GIAHS. The Secretariat will initially be formed within the existing Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, under the auspices of FAO. Further institutional arrangements (e.g., structure, composition, ToRs, reporting lines) will be developed and agreed upon through an intergovernmental process to be completed by the end of the project. As part of this process feasibility studies and needs assessments will be undertaken.
1.3 Establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism and institutional support for consolidating and expanding the GIAHS approach as a long-term open-ended program.

Outcome 2: The conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harbored in GIAHS is mainstreamed in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies in pilot countries (National) (Total: US$ 1,650,100; GEF request: US$ 500,100; Co-financing: US$ 1,150,000)

2.1 Identification and implementation of specific measures through which sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and regulations can be improved to support conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS, for instance through official recognition of GIAHS in national policy documents.
2.2 Development of capacities of national-level institutions to mainstream GIAHS in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies.

Outcome 3: Globally significant agricultural biodiversity in pilot GIAHS is being managed and sustainably used by empowering local communities and harnessing evolving economic, social, and policy processes and by adaptation of appropriate new technologies that allow interaction between ecological and cultural processes (Local) (Total: US$ 8,840,174; GEF request: US$ 1,137,917; Co-financing: US$ 7,802,257)

The strategy for this outcome explicitly recognizes that change in "traditional" political, social and economic processes is inevitable; they cannot be frozen or re-created. Consequently, it adopts the “adaptive management” approach to explore and develop novel political, social and economic processes that strengthen the existing management systems, and which generate the same biodiversity outcomes – that is, maintain the same races, species and agroecosystems. Thus, the processes may be different and contain new and modern elements, but the way they interact with the biophysical world will maintain the values of these agroecosystems. The project has identified a range of different systems to test such new approaches on a case by case basis in a wide variety of settings. These pilot sites are: Chiloe Islands (Chile); Rice-fish system in Longxiang village of Zhejang Province (China); Béni Isguen, Tamegroute, Gafsa Oases in (Algeria, Tunisia respectively); Micro del Carmen in the Vilcanota valley and Cuenca de Lares, both in Cusco Department, and Micro Cuenca de San José and Comunidad de Caritamaya, Provincia Acora (bordering on the southern side of lake Titicaca) in Puno Department (Peru); and Ifugao Rice Terraces (Philippines). The outcome will address the obstacles for long-term sustainable management of GIAHS and will help the people living in and around GIAHS to establish strengthened socio-political (governance) and economic processes (markets and alternative livelihood opportunities) that help them address the challenges of today’s world (with all its modern pressures) and let them to take advantage of the opportunities of modern living, while at the same time maintaining the remarkable values (and co-evolving processes) of their agroecosystems.

3.1 Establishment of appropriate stakeholder set-ups at the site level that brings together customary, state and non-government institutions (including private sector actors) that will support local farmers to engage in collaborative management and promotion of GIAHS.

3.2 Identification and monitoring of political and socio-economic processes that impact biodiversity and cultural values in GIAHS in order to enhance positive effects and empower local communities with knowledge and tools to minimise negative effects.
3.3 Screening, testing and deployment of environmentally friendly technologies and practices that improve the management and productive capacity of agroecosystems and their traditional crops, as well as new co-evolved races
3.4 Design and implementation of programmes for alternative and/or supplementary livelihoods to assist people meet the challenges of reduced opportunities for working directly on the land
3.5 Documentation and publishing of information about the case histories of establishment and management of GIAHS.

Outcome 4: Lessons learned and best practices from promoting effective management of pilot GIAHS are widely disseminated to support expansion and upscaling of the GIAHS in other areas/countries and creation of the GIAHS network (Global, National, Local)
(Total cost: US$ 5,305,936; GEF: US$ 1,238,593; Co-financing: US$ 4,067,343)

4.1 Implementation of the project's M&E plan at global and pilot-country levels and adapting project implementation according to the outcomes.
4.2 Preparation of a global publication on lessons learned and best practices emerging from the pilot countries on the identification, designation and participatory management of GIAHS.
4.3 Preparation of scientific reports and publications arising from project investigations and implementation.
4.4 Creation and maintenance of a web-based information management system that will include a database on existing and potential GIAHS, and will also be designed to serve as an electronic forum for sharing information and experiences across the various pilots.

b) KEY INDICATORS, ASSUMPTIONS, AND RISKS

Indicators

Indicators have been identified to measure progress in terms of achieving the project's objective and outcomes. These indicators, along with their baseline values, targets and means of verification, are listed in the Logical Framework Section II, Part II of the Project Document. Indicators and targets at the objective level are the following:

Table 2: Project Indicators at the Objective level and end of Project targets

Indicator	**End-of-Project Target**
Establishment of a global enabling environment for GIAHS	Accepted international policy formulated to recognise and promote the conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS and designate sites. Creation of an internationally recognised GIAHS interim Secretariat with a statutory mandate by the end of the project that will encourage formal recognition and designation of GIAHS worldwide. Establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism for the long term program
Establishment of national enabling environments for GIAHS	Project countries have all set up national contact points to promote the GIAHS concept and develop best practice for their designation and management Project countries have adopted GIAHS considerations in key policies and legislation

Improvement of GIAHS conservation and adaptive management	The key barriers to conservation and management in pilot sites are significantly reduced or removed. GIAHS operate without external financial assistance and key indicators for extent and biodiversity are achieved
Tracking tool BD 2	40 other potential GIAHS identified in accordance with internationally accepted criteria 120,000 ha or more of land managed in accordance with GIAHS definition and criteria

Assumptions and Risks

The project strategy is to make interventions at global, national and local scales in order to promote conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS. The successful implementation of this strategy, and by extension the achievement of the project's objective, rests on the following fundamental assumptions. First, even though the GIAHS project is based on a holistic conception of agricultural systems that takes many aspects, contexts and scales into account, its application and interpretation in each of the pilot systems still has to be tested in practice and this may lead to some risk of conflicting interpretations of the concept by different pilot systems. However, the likelihood of this risk compromising the achievement of the project objective is low, because country representatives for the pilot systems have been closely involved in PDF-B stage discussions to define GIAHS. Through this process, rigorous criteria have also been developed for identifying GIAHS sites. Nevertheless, to mitigate this risk, the project's global project implementation unit and international steering committee will, therefore, closely monitor and co-ordinate the development of the action plans in each pilot system, keeping a clear view of the main objectives, while allowing due space for local particularities. A conceptual framework that has been prepared through co-funding provided by The Christensen Fund will be used extensively in all of the participating countries to clarify issues and provide the scientific understanding that can make different case studies and pilot systems comparable.

Second, pilot countries are willing to designate, support and promote the GIAHS concept in their territories. The likelihood of this assumption holding is high, because pilot country stakeholders have been actively involved in PDF-B through several workshops and discussions about the concept and its importance. In addition, they have identified policy changes and action plans in each system to be implemented during the FSP and have defined site level activities, along with co-financing. The project, through its global level activities, will continue to advocate for the concept with the expectation that more countries will show interest in designating and promoting GIAHS in their territories.

Third, collaboration among the GIAHS secretariat, governments and other international stakeholders is achieved in order to create conducive international policy environment for GIAHS. Collaboration during the PDF-B has been highly effective, and this is expected to continue during project implementation. Thus this is considered a medium-to-low risk. Project implementation arrangements have been carefully devised to ensure that all key stakeholders at the national and international level are fully engaged in the process. See Logical Framework in Section II, Part II of the Project Document for assumptions that must hold in order to achieve individual project outcomes.

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

Table 3: Risks and risk mitigation measures

Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation Measure
Conflicting interpretation of the concept by different pilot systems	low	In-depth briefings of country representatives/national facilitators Close coordination and follow-up by project implementation unit and international steering committee.

		Clear conceptual framework elaborated by project implementation unit and adapted to local specificities.
Lack of interest for the GIAHS concept by countries	low	Active awareness raising and involvement of different stakeholders at country level at an early stage. Identification of potential changes in national policies which have a direct impact on GIAHS.
Lack of fruitful collaboration between GIAHS secretariat, governments and other international stakeholders	medium to low	Careful Identification and collaboration with key stakeholders in countries. Commitment and involving key stakeholders at an early stage. Definition of realistic implementation arrangements to ensure that key stakeholders are fully engaged in the process.
Attraction of inappropriate investments (particularly in tourism sectors) due to GIAHS consideration	medium	Development and implemention of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) guidelines and agreed criteria and procedures for GIAHS designation. Development of guidelines, action plans and redit schemes for investment in GIAHS sites (including impact assessments)
Overall Rating	**medium to low**	

2. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

a) COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

All six pilot countries (Chile, China, Algeria, Tunisia, Peru, Philippines) have ratified the CBD as listed below, and are eligible for receiving GEF assistance.

Table 4: CBD and CCD Ratification Status

Pilot country	Date of CBD ratification	Date of CCD ratification
Chile	9 September 1994	11 November 1997
China	5 January 1993	18 February 1997
Algeria	14 August 1995	22 May 1996
Tunisia	15 July 1993	11 October 1995
Peru	7 June 1993	09 November 1995
Philippines	8 October 1993	10 February 2000

b) COUNTRY DRIVENNESS

The project will contribute to national and international efforts to further the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly agricultural biodiversity work programme; sustainable use of biological diversity; and enhance the knowledge, innovations, and practices of traditional and indigenous communities. The project will also contribute to national and international efforts to implement integrated ecosystem approaches, support the implementation of the convention to the desertification (CCD) and climate change convention by including selected dry land agro-ecosystems (the Maghreb and the altiplano in Peru), which have also demonstrated outstanding resilience and

adaptation to extreme climate variability and are repositories of valuable traditional knowledge. In each country, the project will contribute to national actions to implement National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources of Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), the ongoing assessment of the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources (SoW-AnGR), and the preparation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. Detailed country information is presented in para. 84-91 of the Project Document.

3. PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

a) FIT TO GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND OPERATIONAL PROGRAM

The project addresses the objectives of OP 13, which are to promote the positive impacts and mitigate the negative impacts of agricultural systems and practices on biological diversity in agro-ecosystems and their interface with other ecosystems; the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of actual and potential value for food and agriculture; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources. It will use the "adaptive management" approach to explore and develop novel political, social and economic processes strengthening traditional management systems to interact with the biophysical world in order to maintain the biodiversity and cultural values of agroecosystems.

The project fully fits with the Strategic Objective 2 of the Biodiversity Focal Area: *Mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes/seascapes and sectors*. The project will address this priority by: contributing to mainstreaming through policy and regulatory reforms and support for systematic and institutional capacity building; (ii) conservation and sustainable management of 112,000 ha of outstanding traditional agricultural systems in six countries through conducive agricultural policies and regulatory reforms and support for integrated approach and institutional capacity building and empowerment of local communities; (iii) improving awareness and education among government agencies, local authorities and communities, and other stakeholders; (iv) demonstrating "local livelihood benefits – global environmental benefits linkages" through agro-ecosystem approaches across government agencies, local communities, indigenous peoples and private sector; and (v) disseminating key best practices and lessons learned between implementing agencies, recipient communities and countries - locally, regionally and on a global scale in order to enhance and sustain a significant overall impact.

The project contributes to the objectives of the 'Sustainable Land Management' programme (OP # 15) since the sustainable land management is the very essence of the conservation and adaptive management of agricultural heritage systems. All threats of land degradation such as unsustainable agricultural practices, soil erosion, overgrazing, deforestation, and the issues of prevention and control are duly addressed. By promoting the conservation of fragile ecosystems, such as in drylands and deserts, through the traditional GIAHS practices that have evolved over millennia in harmony with the human and natural resources assets in these regions, the project aims at preventing further land degradation and at ameliorating the situation for improved livelihood and human well being. GIAHS, through its integrated approach to biodiversity and non-biotic resources, provides multiple global benefits and thereby also contributes to the GEF Operational Program on 'Integrated Ecosystems Management' (OP#12). The holistic approach applied by the project shall contribute significantly to the Millennium Development Goals (1&7) of reducing by half the proportion of people impacted by poverty and hunger by 2015 and at the same time ensuring environmental security.

GIAHS with their range of co-evolved and locally managed races, species, and agroecosystems have outstanding significance within the scope of Article 10(c) of the CBD that requires parties to "protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements."

b) SUSTAINABILITY (INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)

Institutional sustainability: The GIAHS project has been prepared through the participation of key stakeholders (ranging from the local to national levels), and this approach will be used in project implementation to ensure sustainability and maintain ownership at pilot sites. Local communities and indigenous people will be involved in the further planning, development, and co-management of the GIAHS systems. The project will establish institutional mechanisms in pilot sites that bring together customary and state institutions for shared management of GIAHS (Outcome 3). National institutions have played, and will continue to play, a key and substantive role according to their respective specialities (research, policy-making, administration, extension, education, business development and so on). As described in the project implementation arrangements section (Section I, Part III of the Project Document), in each pilot country national institutions will be designated as focal points (see Stakeholder Involvement Plan in Section IV, Part V of the Project Document). Long-term institutional support will also be assured inasmuch as the project will integrate/ mainstream the GIAHS concept into national strategies for conservation, sustainable agriculture, and rural development. This will ensure that there are supportive government actions, both in terms of enabling environment, and in terms of support to national research and development agenda, that will contribute to institutional and financial sustainability of the project.

Financial sustainability: At the international level, long-term financial support will be mobilized from donors for GIAHS under Outcome 1. At the national level, the project will not only integrate GIAHS into existing national strategies for conservation, sustainable agriculture, and rural development, but also mobilize national budgetary resources to support the concept (target: by project end, at least 2 government staff per pilot country are dedicated and qualified to champion the concept of GIAHS). At the site level, the added economic value and generation of income for local communities through increased market access based on the appeal for the GIAHS "brand", eco-tourism and marketing under utilized crops, indigenous products and artefacts, and medicinal plants that will generate additional resources in the long-term for sustainability of these systems.

Social and ecological sustainability: GIAHS, by definition, provide outstanding ecological benefits (such as refuge for globally significant agricultural biodiversity, maintenance of resilient ecosystems) and socio-cultural benefits (such as preservation of valuable traditional knowledge and cultural practices, preserving a certain quality of life that keeps a close link with its natural environment). By promoting GIAHS as an adaptable response to change in economic, social and political processes, the project will promote social and ecological sustainability in pilot sites. At national and local levels critical importance will be given to the linkages between achieving rural development benefits for GIAHS populations (socio-economic sustainability) and conservation and sustainable use objectives (ecological sustainability.)

c) REPLICABILITY

Replicability is built into the programmatic concept. At the global level, replication will be promoted through international advocacy and mobilization of resources for GIAHS (Outcome 1). This will be supported by the systematization of the successful experiences generated by pilot countries and by building on the existing body of scientific evidence in social and environmental science of the critical linkages between biodiversity, cultural management practices, human well-being and agro-ecological sustainability (Outcome 4). By building information and exchange networks for the sharing of information and experience between communities and governmental, scientific, international and other institutions, the replicability of producers' and household technologies, management systems, enabling legal and policy environment and instruments, institutional settings as well as project methodologies will be taken advantage of. The project's goal is to designate at least 15 to 25 additional GIAHS by the end of the project, with financial commitments from the proponents to maintain these systems. Candidate systems and country interest have been received for the following systems/countries: Qanat of Kashan

(Iran), Hopi/Navajo/Tewa dryland agriculture (USA); WeWe systems (Sri Lanka), Saffron systems (India); Maasai rangeland management (Tanzania); Mananara vanilla/rice system (Madagascar); Home garden crop diversity in South West Ethiopia, Tapade Systems (Guinea); Corn-squash Milpa Systems (Mexico); and Sikkim, Himalaya (Nepal)[3].

At the national level, by mainstreaming GIAHS into policy frameworks and operational plans (Outcome 2), the project will remove systemic barriers to conservation of GIAHS thus enabling replication of the approach in other sites within the pilot countries. This replication will be facilitated by the tools and methodologies generated through the implementation of conservation and adaptive management of these systems at the farm level (Outcome 3). Though GIAHS focuses on the most remarkable systems of global heritage value, the resulting approaches and policies will have wider relevance to other traditional agricultural systems, which function along similar lines. In some instances principles derived from the management of GIAHS and even particular technologies or genetic resources may have relevance for sustainable agriculture in other areas. In those cases replication will take place on the basis of the full prior informed consent of the farming communities and under proper access and benefit sharing arrangements. Pilot Countries will also have a critical role in disseminating GIAHS lessons learnt through their regional networks. Replication Plan is presented in the Project Document.

d) STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

See Section IV, Part V of the Project Document for detailed Stakeholder Analysis and Participation Plan. Governments of the participating countries, through decentralized institutions, NGOs and local community based and farmers organisations, will implement the national demonstrations in close cooperation with stakeholders such as:

- Local and indigenous farming, herding, fisher folk and other communities;
- Representatives of governments and governmental agencies at national and local levels in different areas of work e.g. agriculture, development, environment and land use planning bodies and research/academic institutes;
- Representatives of producers' associations, indigenous peoples and their international networks, NGOs, relevant networks e.g. Plant Genetic Resources, and other civil society organisations; nature conservation and cultural heritage societies;
- International Agencies that are partners and provide support e.g. FAO, IFAD, UNESCO, UNDP, GEF, UNCCD, CBD Secretariat, and others;
- Private sector bodies interested in responsible trade and alternative economic activities, etc;
- Scientific partners including universities, research institutes, foundations and organisations.

e) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The detailed monitoring and evaluation process is elaborated in Section I, Part III of the Project Document and follows GEF requirements in this regard. Around 12% or US$862,500 of the total project cost will be dedicated to project technical coordination, US$625,000 will be allocated for monitoring and evaluation and feedback activities, which will be undertaken by project partners, independent experts and FAO including external reviews and meetings of the international steering committee and the technical advisory group. The remaining US$422,500 is allocated for administration. Objectively verifiable indicators have been identified at the objective and outcome levels to track progress.

[3] For additional GIAHS candidates please refer to http://www.fao.org/sd/giahs/

4. FINANCIAL MODALITY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

a) PROJECT COSTS

Project Components/Outcomes	Co-financing ($)	GEF ($)	Total ($)
1. An internationally accepted system for full recognition of GIAHS is in place(Global)	730,400	300,890	1,031,290
2. The conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harbored in GIAHS in six countries is mainstreamed in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies in pilot countries (National)	1,150,000	500,100	1,650,100
3. 11200 ha of productive landscape with numeros Globally significant agricultural biodiversity in pilot GIAHS is being managed and sustainably used by empowering local communities and harnessing evolving economic, social, and policy processes and by adaptation of appropriate new technologies that allow interaction between ecological and cultural processes (Local	7,802,257	1,137,917	8,840,174
4. Lessons learned and best practices from promoting effective management of pilot GIAHS are widely disseminated to support expansion and upscaling of the GIAHS in other areas/countries and creation of the GIAHS network (Global, National, Local)	4,067,343	1,238,593	5,305,936
5. Project Management Cost*	750,000	422,500	1,172,500
Total Project Costs	**14,500,000**	**3, 500,000**	**18,000,000**

*Project management cost includes technical project coordination and administration costs.

b) PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST[4]

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

Component	Estimated Staff weeks	GEF($)	Other Sources ($)	Project Total ($)
Personnel:				
Locally recruited personnel*	980	162,500	280,000	442,500
Internationally recruited consultants*	742	170,000	350,000	520,000
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications		20,000	5,000	25,000
Travel		70,000	115,000	185,000
Totals		**422, 500**	**750,000**	**1,172,500**

[4] Refers to administration cost and project technical coordination,

* Part time Budget/Financial Analyst

c) CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Estimated Staff Weeks	GEF ($)	Other Sources	Project Total
Personnel**	1125	380,000	520,000	900,000
Local Consultants***	1140	180,000	504,000	684,000
International Consultants	412	144,000	576,000	720,000
Total	2677	704,000	1,600,000	2,304,000

***Local Consultants: Estimated at 5% of the total project cost. Local consultants have been defined as all temporary and specialized personnel to be supported to assist national focal institutions. This includes, for example, trainers and other capacity building personnel. Details on the area of area of expertise for the consultancies are provided in Annex D.

International consultants: Estimated at 4% of the total project cost, the estimated weeks and corresponding professional fee is calculated at 350$/day (or 1,750$/wk).

d) CO-FINANCING SOURCES5 (EXPAND THE TABLE LINE ITEMS AS NECESSARY)

Name of Co-financier (source)	Classification	Type	Amount	Status
FAO	UN agency	in kind	3,220,000	Confirmed
FAO	UN agency	in cash	1,364,000	Confirmed
National Governments	Government	in kind	1,400,000	Awaiting confirmation
Germany/EU	Bilateral donor	in cash	2,000,000	Awaiting confirmation
HEADs	Foundation	in kind	50,000	Confirmed
HEADs	Foundation	in cash	100,000	Confirmed
TCF	Foundation	in cash	1,200,000	Confirmed
TCF	Foundation	in kind	600,000	Confirmed
IFAD	Multilat. Agency	in cash	200,000	Confirmed
Roman Forum	Foundation/CSO	in kind	366,000	Confirmed
Roman Forum	Foundation/CSO	in cash	4,000,000	Confirmed
Total Co-financing			**14,500,000**	

e) GEF RESOURCES ALLOCATION (COUNTRY RAF AND FROM THE 5% GLOBAL WINDOW)

Pilot Country	Amount (USD)	Status
Chile	600,000	Confirmed
China	500,000	Confirmed
Peru	600,000	Confirmed
Philippines	500,000	Confirmed
Algeria	200,000	Confirmed

** Personnel is composed of technical specialists and are only estimates, GIAHS invests in national government organizations, local government units, civil societies, NGOs and research institutions and academics.

5 Refer to the paper on Co-financing, GEF/C.206/Rev. 1

Tunisia	100,000	Confirmed
Subtotal	2,500,000	
5% Global Biodiversity Fund	1,000,000	
Total	**3,500,000**	

f) IN KIND CONTRIBUTION OF PILOT COUNTRIES

Pilot Country	Department/Agency	Amount (USD)	Status
Algeria	Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'environnement	200,000	Awaiting for confirmation
Chile	Centro de Tecnología y Educación	200,000	Awaiting for confirmation
China	Ministry of Agriculture	300,000	Awaiting for confirmation
Peru	National Environmental Council	300,000	Awaiting for confirmation
Philippines	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	300,000	Awaiting for confirmation
Tunisia	Ministère de l'environnement et du développement durable	100,000	Awaiting for confirmation
Total		**1,400,000**	

f) COST EFFECTIVENESS

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

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

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

5. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

a) CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES

FAO's mission is to alleviate poverty and hunger by promoting sustainable agricultural development, improved nutrition and food security, and the access of all people at all times to the food they need for an active and healthy life. To achieve this goal, the FAO Strategic Framework 2000-2015 gives importance to Corporate Strategy D "Supporting the conservation, improvement and sustainable use of natural

resources for food and agriculture" with important priority actions aiming promoting interdisciplinary efforts to address the integrated management of biological diversity for food and agriculture. The role of FAO in promoting biological diversity for food security is also highlighted in commitment No. 3 of the Rome Declaration on Food Security made at the World Food Summit that was held in Rome in 1996.

FAO collaborates actively in a number of biological diversity-related agreements and instruments of relevance to food and agriculture, including the Convention on Biodiversity, and hosts the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). Through its global convening powers, FAO also provides intergovernmental fora where biodiversity-related policy is discussed and relevant agreements negotiated and adopted by member countries, such as the International Plant Protection Convention, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the International Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). The Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CBD recognized the "specific nature of agricultural biodiversity and its distinctive features and problems requiring distinctive solutions", and the leading role of FAO in agricultural biodiversity, including support to the multi-year work programme in agricultural biodiversity (DecisionV/5 Nairobi 2000). The cooperation between FAO and the CBD has fostered the development of joint and complementary policies and programmes of work, and has largely avoided duplication of activities, in a spirit of mutual respect for their respective mandates.

FAO has developed many initiatives that support agricultural biodiversity, genetic resources for food and agriculture and ecosystem services provided by traditional agricultural systems. Work is ongoing in the areas of international policy making and monitoring of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Treaty for Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). FAO's work include an initiative on the value of native crops for nutrition (with Bioversity International) and mitigating the impact on rural communities affected HIV/AIDS, the Pollinators Initiative (Global GEF-UNEP/FAO OP 13), gendered knowledge systems for agricultural biodiversity (the LINKS Project), payment for environmental services (PES), among others. FAO work also addresses legal and economic aspects of agricultural biodiversity, and seeks to capitalize on its in-house multidisciplinary expertise through an integrated approach to biodiversity and sustainable use. Other FAO programmes and initiatives of relevance to the GIAHS project include:

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme
- Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
- State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Roles of Agriculture (RoA) and Farming System Evaluation projects, which provide, *inter alia*, insights, tools and information to policy makers with which to analyse the various roles of agriculture in their societies and make informed policy decisions in pursuit of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)
- Programme on natural resources management particularly on crops, farming system and land and water resources
- FAO's work in support of Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). the Conventions on Biological Diversity, Desertification and Climate Change
- Land Degradation Assessment in Dryland (LADA) project
- Programme of work emanating from the Implementation of WSSD and World Food Summit Action plans and International Year of the Mountains
- FAO Focal Point Networking for Indigenous Peoples
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and
- FAO National Forest Action plans and Forest Resources Assessment (FAO facilitates country efforts to identify and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management).

FAO supports projects that enhance awareness, knowledge and understanding of crop-associated biological diversity providing ecosystem services to sustainable agricultural production by the expansion of the knowledge base, demonstration of methods for conservation, sustainable management, increasing public awareness and promotion of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in sectoral plans and policies.

FAO implements projects that test, demonstrate and promote appropriate technologies and methodologies and policy tools that could be replicated on a larger scale by other partners. In addition, FAO has coordinated an international liaison group on agricultural biodiversity to promote the conservation and sustained use of agriculture-related aspects of biodiversity, including plant and livestock diversity, soil biodiversity, biodiversity that mitigates pests and diseases, and pollinators. The GIAHS project will be able to engage other active contributors to collaborative work on conserving and using agricultural biodiversity, where appropriate. As an intergovernmental body, FAO facilitates the promotion of sustainable traditional agricultural practices to its member constituencies (such as ministries of agriculture, foresty and fisheries) in different fora through intergovernmental bodies, such as the Committees on Agriculture, Foresty and Fisheries and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

All six partner countries have a clear commitment to reversing the losses of agricultural biodiversity and associated biodiversity and landscapes, within their borders. National focal institutions and other local stakeholders have made appropriate linkages to a number of existing and planned projects of direct relevance to the proposed project.

Linkages with FAO Field Programmes and Activities in the six pilot countries are as follows.

Chile: GIAHS will build linkages and complementarities with the FAO major programmes and operationally active projects in the area of 1) agricultural policy support systems; 2) crop production systems management; 3) emergency response operations; 4) technical cooperation programme; 5) fisheries resources and aquaculture; 6) food and agriculture policy, 7) food security, poverty reduction and other development cooperation programmes; and 8) rural development. The project will also collaborate and build linkages and complementarities with other UN agency in program implementation related to conservation of agricultural landscapes and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and exchange data and lessons learnt on the management of areas of the landscape and traditional agricultural systems.

China: The GIAHS project will build linkages with ongoing FAO on rural development and crop production system and with several TeleFood activities. The proposed project will play a role in assisting the Government of China in realizing its Xiao Kang vision of all-round human development. Through project Outcome 2 “social and economic policies are developed and improved to be more scientifically based, human centered and sustainable”. GIAHS will also contribute to “Enabling environment for civil society participation and its effective engagement in Xiao Kang priority issues supported” through Outcome 3. The proposed project will assist China in achieving their target “By the end of 2010, more efficient management of natural resources and development of environmentally-friendly behavior in order to ensure environmental sustainability (with special focus on water, energy and land biodiversity)” and also in achieving goal 7 “Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is more effective”. Additionally, the project will play a significant role in the recent policy statement of China State Council “Active development of modern agriculture and solid promotion of socialist new countryside”. The new Chinese policy states modern agriculture in terms of agricultural product marketing and development of niche markets and agro-tourisms and other multi-functionalities and services of agriculture, of which the very foundation of all these functionalities and services are the traditional agricultural systems.

Algeria: Collaboration will be developed between the GIAHS project and the National Food Security Programme, as well as with several other ongoing projects, such as preparation of national strategies and action plan for forest resources, establishment of the African common market for basic food products, support to implementation of major African union policy and strategic initiatives on agriculture and environment. The project will contribute to strengthening national coordination among Maghreb countries and within the country with respect to Oasis systems, and development of capacity building of local farming. The project will have a key role in the establishment of a National Information Sharing Mechanism on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on PGRFA and the preparation of a country report on the state of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Links will also be developed between the GIAHS project and existing FAO Telefood activities on increasing biological/organic production of traditional crops, medicinal plants and aromatic plants targeting local farming communities.

Tunisia: The GIAHS project is highly relevant to the on-going Tunisian Country Cooperation Framework (2002-2006), in particular with relation to para 22 b) ii "ecosystem conservation", which is oriented towards biodiversity conservation in marginal areas. GIAHS is also closely linked to the 2002-2006 UNDAF in section 3 "Promotion of cultural heritage" which specifies: "given its rich cultural heritage, Tunisia has adopted a set of policies and programmes aiming at the preservation of such heritage. The preservation, restoration and conservation of such heritage – which in no way could be financed exclusively by State revenue – currently require an increased development of cultural tourism. Until now, the tourist industry has little relied on the promotion of the cultural heritage, whereas such heritage represents – with eco-tourism – the most promising source for the development of a harmonious and sustainable tourist industry, the economic impact of which could respond to the growing needs of the concerned local populations."

Peru: GIAHS will collaborate with the National Food Security Programme and several FAO technical cooperation programmes and operational activities relating to natural resources, biodiversity conservation and hunger eradication initiatives. GIAHS is in line with the National Strategy on Biodiversity, and its related Action Plan, to strengthen local conservation, production and marketing initiatives for traditional species from the Andes. It contributes to the operational plans to support employment opportunities in the activities related to breading lamas and other cameloids, and fits within the Master Plan for the Conservation of the Titicaca Lake. The Programme emphasizes the need for developing alliances between the private sector and local communities which will be developed in the GIAHS project on specific activities defined by local and indigenous communities, and emphasizes the need to develop eco-business which is part of the activities of the GIAHS Pilot Framework for Peru. GIAHS will also pay special attention to gender equity in line the Country Programme which highlights gender issues in sectoral approaches and in national programmes.

Philippines: The GIAHS project supports current national priority setting. The Ifugao Rice Terraces is inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1994, but ten years later it was put on the in Danger list, thus requiring the Philippine government to address the problems in the area. The conservation and master plan of the Ifugao Rice Terraces and the proposed GIAHS project activities will complement each other. On the national scale, the project will contribute to the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP 2005 to 2009), which is MDG-based and supports the empowerment of the poorest and most vulnerable by promoting and protecting their rights and creating an enabling environment to realize their full participation. GIAHS project is also fully in line with the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of the Republic Act 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997. Likewise, the Ifugao rice terraces is an indigenous communities, the project will assist in the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights (IPR) Act of 1997, section 9 (a) maintain ecological balance, to preserve, restore, and maintain a balanced ecology in the ancestral domain by protecting the flora and fauna, watershed areas, and other reserves; (b) restore denuded areas, to actively initiate, undertake and participate in the reforestation of denuded areas and other development programs and projects subject to just and reasonable remuneration. GIAHS is also in line with para 4.33 on "Energy and Environment for

Sustainable Development to strengthen the capacity of the key stakeholders to implement the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) framework road map for the next 10 years."

In addition, there are a number of GEF financed projects in the pilot countries that address issues that are closely linked to the GIAHS project (see Table below). Some of these projects are nearing completion and their lessons and experiences will be taken into account during implementation of the GIAHS project. Other projects are ongoing, and the national focal point institutions for the GIAHS project will maintain close contact with these project teams to share information and lessons.

Table 6: Linkage with GEF financed projects

Pilot country	**Other GEF-financed BD and/ or LD projects**
Global	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA): The GIAHS Project will build on the conceptual materials provided by the MA to understand systematic linkages between ecosystems management and human well-being. GIAHS will build on the reports and conceptual framework provided by the MA
	World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP) a UNDP initiative: MSP linking pastoral communities worldwide to exchange experience and practices for sustainable management of rangelands. The network and list server will be used to mobilize candidate systems and interest for replicating the GIAHS objectives in other sites and countries.
	PLEC Project (OP 13) The People, Land Management and Environmental Change – Global project on adaptive management of biodiversity and ecosystems. UNEP as implementing agency, UNU as executing agency. GIAHS will build on its case study materials and approaches.
	UNEP/GEF (OP 13) Conservation and Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture, through an Ecosystem Approach, submitted to GEFSEC for consideration in June 2006 Work Programme. If approved, GIAHS will collaborate on the lessons learnt in policy and practice on the management of pollinators populations in agricultural landscapes.
Chile	UNDP/GEF Bosque Modelo de Chiloe: MSP-BD on primary and secondary temperate rainforest conservation and sustainable use. The GIAHS will build linkages and complementarities with the institutional capacity built for the MSP and exchange data and lessons learnt on the management of areas of the landscape where traditional agriculture and forest concerns meet.
China	Conservation and sustainable utilization of wild relatives of crops UNDP/GEF project – this project will involve participation from local stakeholders in eight diverse provinces and autonomous regions to secure conservation of wild relatives of soybean, wheat, and rice, in their natural habitats. This will be achieved through a combination of actions aimed at establishing sustainable sources of financial and other incentives for conservation, modification to the legal framework, capacity building and awareness raising. GIAHS will collaborate with this project in relation to conservation of wild relatives of rice and explore the potential to apply the best practices in the GIAHS pilot system. The project will work closely with the "China Biodiversity Partnership Framework" (CBPF), an UNDP/GEF led programme that seeks to, develop a critical mass of support and activities for successfully addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss in China; and provide a strong platform for interactions and communications between international organisations and central government policy-makers and technical experts. GIAHS will participate in the platform of interaction as full partner in addressing the drivers of

	biodiversity loss.
Algeria	Participatory management of date palm genetic resources in the oases of the Maghreb region (OP 13) – UNDP/GEF (completed 2005). GIAHS will build on the field work, awareness raising and data collection developed by the project in the oasis systems. It will continue strengthening the work initiated on biodiversity conservation of date palm at national and local level. UNEP-GEF PDF B proposal "Conservation and use of crop genetic diversity to improve ecosystem services in support of human welfare and well-being in the oases of Algeria and Tunisia" submitted to Pipeline 22.
Tunisia	Participatory management of date palm genetic resources in the oases of the Maghreb region (OP 13) – UNDP/GEF (completed 2005). GIAHS will build on the field work, awareness raising and data collection developed by the project in the oasis systems. It will continue strengthening the work initiated on biodiversity conservation of date palm at national and local level. UNEP-GEF PDF B proposal "Conservation and use of crop genetic diversity to improve ecosystem services in support of human welfare and well-being in the oases of Algeria and Tunisia" submitted to Pipeline 22.
Peru	Project: "In situ conservation of Native Cultivars and Wild relatives" (OP 13). The project will exchange data on crop varieties relevant for the project sites and build on the lessons learned. GIAHS will build upon lessons learned from this project as the project which ended in 2005.
Philippines	UNDP/GEF Sustainable conservation and utilization of Philippine indigenous crops and wild relatives - The proposal which is PDF A phase aims to integrate biodiversity conservation in agricultural production systems across the Philippines by targeting factors affecting "on-farm" conservation of traditional varieties and the conservation of wild relatives in natural ecosystems. GIAHS will promote exchange of information and collaboration on the conservation of biodiversity (wild relatives and traditional varieties) in rice production systems and in the mountain forest that support rice terraces.

b) CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN IAS AND EXAS

FAO with its country offices in all of the pilot countries has a long experience with coordination and management of multi-country knowledge management and capacity building projects, and has strong linkages with the other relevant international organizations. FAO has worked closely with the World Bank/GEF through its Investment Centre, UNDP/GEF and UNEP/GEF on issues of agricultural biodiversity. Cooperation between UNDP, UNEP and the Executing Agencies (national partners and FAO) and stakeholders at all levels has ensured that the project is in line with the country's national priorities and recognition of farmers (smallholders, traditional and conventional farmers) and land managers as the stewards of agricultural biodiversity. The International Steering Committee of the project met three times (2002, 2004, and 2006) during the project development phase. In these meetings cum workshops, the criteria, methodological guidelines, and strategic framework for adaptive management of GIAHS for agricultural biodiversity conservation has been comprehensively discussed. These meetings were attended by National Focal Institutions and resource people from partner countries and other collaborating institutions to share experience in dynamic conservation and evolution of agricultural systems, to produce country specific GIAHS framework, for testing, adaptation and demonstration. In addition to international partners (UN systems and other international networks and NGOs), a number of international and research institutions/ academes have made commitments to continue advising the project on a technical level, including the Wageningen International, University of

Bonn (ZEF Bonn), University of California, Berkeley, Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen de Montpellier, United Nations University, University of Kent, and University of Tuscia.

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

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

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

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

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

c) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The GIAHS project will be implemented/executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As the GEF agency of the project, FAO will be responsible for overall project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF policies and procedures and will provide guidance on linkages with other GEF-funded activities. FAO shall also provide the overall global administration, co-ordination and technical backstopping of the project. In this capacity, FAO will be responsible for, *inter alia*, the overall financial management of the project, ensuring that the necessary human resources and inputs are provided in a timely manner to ensure smooth implementation of the project and delivery of project outcomes, and the submission of project progress and financial reports to GEF. FAO will facilitate

and ensure the sharing and flow of information and linkages, internationally, among and between regions, but also linking the proposed project activities with other major on-going initiatives within and outside FAO. In addition to ensuring linkages and information-flow between partners, FAO will ensure global co-ordination of the proposed project by providing technical assistance to partners, hosting international-level workshops, co-ordinating meetings of the International Steering Committee, visiting/evaluating specified sites of importance, and participating in regional meetings. FAO will provide technical support to the project in a very broad sense, tapping into the expertise from its programs on biodiversity, fisheries, forestry, land and water, sustainable development, market development, etc. FAO will also provide through its regional offices and country representations the administrative management and procurement of the national projects.

The project has established an International Steering Committee (ISC) as the umbrella policy body for the project. The ISC will be composed of FAO (Executing Agency), National Focal Point Institutions (NFPIs) from the participating countries, the national GEF Operational Focal Points, and representatives from co-financing bodies. Appropriate observers will be invited to attend meetings when required. Members of the ISC will be responsible for representing their country/partner institution at the technical and administrative levels. The ISC will be responsible for: (i) reviewing and approving the inception report and annual project work plans; (ii) assessing progress in the implementation of the project; (iii) recommending actions and measures for the smooth achievement of the project objectives; (iv) reviewing of the terms of reference (TOR) of the new National Focal Points; (v) advising on the legal and institutional frameworks that will be proposed and recommending steps to be taken for their adoption; (vi) providing strategic advice and assisting in the formal international recognition of GIAHS, including the mandate and legal framework of the institutional mechanism for supporting them prior to the World Conference on GIAHS; (vii) examining the recommendations of the Consultative Group and Technical Group; (viii) approving criteria for the identification and selection of new pilot sites; (ix) approving strategies for communication, partnerships and resource mobilization; (x) monitoring inputs of international and national partners, ensuring that project obligations are fulfilled in a timely and coordinated fashion; (xi) advising on the co-financing initiatives for the project; (xii) assisting in the mobilizing of co-financing (other donor and national support); (xiii) reviewing and endorsing the follow-up proposals for a long term open-ended programme for GIAHS; and (xiv) providing guidance to the Global Project Implementation Unit.

The ISC will review and approve its own ToRs prepared by the Project Coordinator/CTA on the occasion of its first meeting during implementation of the full project. It will meet annually, whenever possible in one of the sites on the occasion of yearly national workshops and other related meetings organized by the project. Regular communications and contacts will be maintained by e-mail and private web site; requests for comments/no objection will also be made by e-mail or facsimile as required for smooth and timely implementation of the project.

A Technical Group will be established and will be composed of eight to ten independent experienced experts (scientists, technical practitioners, researchers, academics), selected on the basis of their competence in ethno- and agro-ecosystems, indigenous matters, environment, land and natural resources, agro-biodiversity, social sciences, and economics. Additional experts will be invited as required. The Technical Group will provide independent opinions and advice on the technical reports produced by the project, including planned activities, as well as on the data collection of traditional knowledge to be developed as well as on the implementation of adaptive management of the pilot sites. The Technical Group will advise the Global Project Implementation Unit and the International Steering Committee on the risks and trends of impact of drivers of change from the technical and scientific perspective which are evidenced in the pilot systems as well as on the approaches and methodologies for identification, recognition and support of these ethno-ecosystems. It will also, to the extent possible, provide advice on criteria and selection of new pilot sites. The Global Project Implementation Unit will communicate electronically with the Technical Group; meetings will be organized as project resources may allow.

A Consultative Group will be established, comprising UNESCO, UNDP, World Bank, UNEP, CBD Secretariat, IPGRI, IUCN, and other key partners including International Indigenous Peoples' Networks, NGOs, CSOs, research institutes and the private sector. The Consultative Group will provide independent opinions and advice concerning stakeholder participation and consultation, and input on coordination with other related projects and programmes for the sharing of experience and management effectiveness (avoiding duplication, mutual support, etc). The Global Project Implementation Unit will communicate electronically with the Consultative Group; meetings will be organized as project resources may allow.

FAO will establish a Global Project Implementation Unit, (GPIU) which will be based in Rome. The GPIU will be responsible for day-to-day management of project and M&E. The GPIU will report to the FAO Project Coordinator/CTA and will be composed of a Technical Officer, and a Communication and Participation Officer. The Project Coordinator/CTA will be responsible for providing technical and administrative support to the project as well as for assisting in the management of the GEF resources. The Technical Officer will lead on, technical backstopping, conceptual and methodological development and support the efforts to international recognition for GIAHS and subsequent international and regional policy development, as well as the institutional mechanism for their long term support. An expert on Science and Methodology from the Technical Group will be employed as a consultant for assisting in the development of the project conceptual and methodological frameworks worldwide based on field data and will follow-up field activities in all countries. The Information and Communications officer will be responsible for development and implementation of the communication strategy, data collection and management, web-site maintenance and the overall outreach to all the stakeholders and target groups.

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

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

The international partners of the GIAHS Project and their respective roles, in addition to FAO, include:

UNESCO: during PDF-B UNESCO WHC expressed its willingness to explore the establishment of a new category of World Heritage for agricultural heritage systems under the WHC, concrete steps will be defined during the Full Scale Project; sharing methods, case studies and expertise with WHC and MAB

Bioversity International (formerly IPGRI) as co-conveyor of the Oasis Pilot System in Algeria, Tunisia and as technical advisor on *in situ* crop diversity

The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), as technical advisor and to co-ordinate case studies on heritage landscape management;

UNU/PLEC as a co-conveyor of the pilot system in China, as well as providing technical advise, sharing methodologies relevant for conservation and adaptive management of biodiversity and agro-ecosystems , as well as case studies

IFAD as a co-funding institution

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Government of The Netherlands as a donor

The International Agrarian Centre (IAC): providing technical services through co-funding of the Government of the Netherlands on participatory processes in pilot systems

The Christensen Fund as a donor

The German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) as a donor

The Roman Forum as a technical and strategic advisor on sustainable development issues

Expected partners include: UNESCO, CSD, UNDP, UNEP and the CBD secretariat, World Bank, UNFIP, International Indigenous Peoples' networks such as: IITC, the Tebtebba Foundation and Rigoberta Menchu Foundation; NGOs and CSO's working with local communities and producers on safeguarding and sustainable management of traditional agro-ecosystems, biodiversity and rural development such as ETC group, ITDG, Via Campesina, League for Pastoral Peoples, CARE and IUCN, WWF, IFAP, GRAIN and others as well as specialized scientific/research institutes such as CIRAD, ENGREF, NUFFIC; these could be potential members of the Consultative Group; and Other forthcoming donors.

Annexes:

Annex A. Incremental Costs Analysis

Annex B. Logical Framework

Annex C. Response to Project Reviews

Annex D. Terms of Reference of Staff and Consultants

Annex A: Incremental Cost Analysis

Development Objective

At the global level, biodiversity important to agriculture has received much attention through various international conventions, agreements and treaties. Notably, the CBD (Articles 8j and 10c), the CCD, the World Heritage Convention, the Man and the Biosphere Program of UNESCO, the Millennium Development Goals, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources take note of the particular contribution of indigenous and traditional peoples to the conservation of agricultural biological diversity. At the national level, as well, there is recognition of the importance of agrobiodiversity and the role of traditional people in conserving this biodiversity as described below.

Chile: At present, there is increased awareness among government and private sector of the need to invest resources in conservation of native flora and fauna, as well as in preserving cultural traditions that give to certain geographic zones an identity that makes them unique. The National Policy for Sustainable Development, which was approved by the Chilean government in 1998, gives priority to measures that involve biodiversity conservation, and particularly to those actions that directly involve the public participation in the resolution of environmental problems. In addition to the CBD, Chile is also signatory to the "Montreal Process", through which a group of twelve countries have developed and signed on to criteria and indicators for conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests (the "Santiago Declaration").

China: The importance of agrobiodiversity conservation has been noted in several national policy documents such as the Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (1994) and the two follow-up national reports of 1997 and 2001; Agriculture Biodiversity Action Plan (1993); and Regulations on the Protection of Wild Plants. In addition, it hosted and participated in the Conference on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources (Beijing, May 1999).

Oases of the Maghreb (Algeria and Tunisia): The 2 countries have ratified the CBD and have developed national strategies and national programs for the conservation of biodiversity. The populations of the oases regions in the 2 countries, estimated at 5 million, are custodians of a rich culture and indigenous knowledge that is responsible for conserving a unique oasis agroecosystem based on a three-tier canopy level system, which includes date palm (the highest tier), orchards (middle tier) and annual/perennial recurrent crops at the lowest tier. Management practices and agricultural techniques reflect the amazing skills of local populations in using biodiversity in a sustainable way so as to ensure continued economic productivity of these ecosystems. The 2 countries have developed programs and projects for in situ and ex situ conservation of the diversity of the oases, primarily focusing on the genetic diversity of date palm. In addition, the 2 countries have signed the FAO treaty on plant genetic resources important for food and agriculture.

Peru: The government committed to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by ratifying the CBD 1993. In 2004, the National Environment Council (CONAM) issued a report on implementing a national action plan for agricultural biodiversity within the context of the NBSAP, which contains an objective to establish a program of activities to promote the positive effects and to mitigate the negative effects of agricultural practices on biodiversity and also to promote the benefits of agricultural biodiversity for food security and income generation for producers. There is a strong presence of national and international NGOs investing in agricultural biodiversity and rural development in the Cusco and Puno districts.

Philippines: The government committed to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by ratifying the CBD 1993. A year after the ratification, the Philippine Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation (PSBDC) was formulated through the concerted efforts of the DENR-Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), and the members of the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development Committee on Conservation. The PSBDC identified the problems and issues confronting conservation in the Philippines and proposed strategies to address them. It later became the basis for the preparation of the

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NBSAP contains six strategies and action plans that have been integrated into broader national plans, such as the Philippine Agenda 21 for Sustainable Development (short-term, medium-term and long-term development plans). [How is agrobiodiversity conservation reflected in this process?]

Global Environmental Objective

The global environmental objective of the project is to ensure conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agrobiodiversity that is harbored in globally important agricultural heritage systems or GIAHS. The project will focus on 5 pilot systems represented by 12 pilot sites in 6 countries: Chile, China, Tunisia, Algeria, Peru, and the Philippines. The 5 systems and the associated globally significant agrobiodiversity are summarized in Table 1 of the Executive Summary.

Baseline scenario

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

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

Chile:

- Development of policies and laws related to biodiversity conservation (USD 10,000)
- INDAP/ SAG National Programme for Soil Fertilization and Management (USD 125,000)
- INDAP National Rural Development Programme (USD 300,000)
- Local government programmes on rural development and traditional fairs (USD 40,000)
- CONAF investment in Chiloe National Park (USD 70,000)
- ARCIS University Research Programme in Chiloe (USD 5,000)

China:

- Programmes of the local government, MOA (Qingtian County), MOA (China), National Natural Science Foundation, Zhejiang Association of Science and Technology on land tenure security; biological security; information and education campaigns (USD 90,000)
- Implementation of environmental impact assessment, expand investments in environmental improvement, development of inter-agency coordination mechanism, environmental education, by local government and EPA of Qingtian County (USD 68,000)

Oases of the Maghreb (Algeria and Tunisia):

- Water management in the oasis of Gafsa, Tunisia, by JICA and Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (USD 5,000,000)

- Programme to combat desertification in the oasis of Gafsa, Tunisia by Ministry of Agriculture (USD 300,000)

Peru:

Reconstruction of Waru Waru and irrigation systems in Puno district implemented by CARE (US$ 1,500,000)

- CRIBA project. *Ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation of roots and potatoes in farming communities in the Cusco area. University of Cusco and McKnight Foundation. (US$350,000)
- Conservation of native potatoes of the Sicuano, Cusco area. ITDG with the participation of the INIA-Cusco. (US$240,000)
- Baluarte to promote local potato varieties. Slow Food, en Pampa Corral, Lares. (US$6,000)
- Organic quinoa. Danish Cooperation DANIDA and Puno University. (US$60,000)
- Improving agriculture in the Altiplano in Peru and Bolivia, including local varieties. CIP with the support of ACDI, Canada. (US$8,000,000)
- Support to the production of colored quinoa in the altiplano of Puno. USAID. (US$ 50,000)
- Baluarte Kaniwa.Slow Food in the area of Ayaviri. Starting in 2006. (US$3,640)
- Baluarte bitter potatoes. Puno. support to variety and processing conservation. (US$3,640)

Philippines:

- Ifugao Rice Terraces Master Plan (2003-2012) developed by National government and UNESCO (USD 50,000)
- Advocacy for ratification of International Agreements/ Covenants that affect the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) by LGU, SITMO, NGOs (USD 6,700)
- Implementation of Ancestral Domains Sustainable Development and Protection Plan by DENR, LGU (USD 18,000)
- Implementaiton and monitoring of PAs in Ifugao Province by DENR (USD 18,000)
- Implementation of EIA system in Ifugao Province by DENR (USD 390,000)
- Agricultural zoning and identification of Key Production Areas and Strategic Agriculture and Fishery Development Zones by LGU and national government (USD 254,000)
- Organic farming and maintenance of traditional "tinawon" rice varieties by DA-PhilRice and NGOs (USD 40,771)
- Promotion of use of ethnopesticides by NGOs (USD 4,000)
- Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project Phase II (2003-2007) by World Bank (USD 430,000)

Alternative

The alternative strategy complements the sustainable development baseline at the international and national levels to provide technical and financial resources to secure conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity in GIAHS by removing barriers such as inadequate international attention to the concept of GIAHS that rests on the conservation of all constituent components of these unique systems, unsupportive sectoral policies, limited capacity of state institutions and communities to conserve GIAHS, and difficulty in accessing niche markets. It will help countries and local communities to capture environmental and socio-economic development benefits from their unique agricultural heritage. The alternative strategy is to take a three-pronged approach: First, at the global level, it will facilitate international recognition of the concept of GIAHS wherein globally significant agricultural biodiversity is harbored, and it will consolidate and disseminate lessons learned and best practices from project activities at the pilot country level. Second, at the national level in pilot countries, the project will ensure mainstreaming of the GIAHS concept in national sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies. Third, at the site-level in pilot countries, the project will address conservation and adaptive

management at the community level. (For further details on project outcomes see the logframe in Section II, Part II). Taking into account all contributions, the GEF alternative amounts to US$39,752,611.

The difference between the GEF alternative and the baseline amounts to US$ 18,000,000 which represents the incremental cost of achieving global agricultural biodiversity conservation benefits. Of this amount, the contribution from non-GEF sources amount to US$ 14,500,000. The GEF will provide US$ 3,500,000.

Table 7: IC matrix

Outcome	Cost Category	Cost, US$	Domestic Benefit	Global Benefit
Outcome 1: An internationally accepted system for recognition of GIAHS is in place (Global)	Baseline	400,000	There is limited support available for certain aspects of GIAHS through existing international conventions and agreements.	
	Alternative	1,431,290	Commitments of governments to conserve these systems are reinforced through international recognition and through capturing development benefits of ecosystem services conservation	Program for recognizing GIAHS all over the world ensures long term attention and support is dedicated to these systems by the international community.
	Increment	1,031,290	of which GEF: 300,890 co-finance:730,400	
Outcome 2: The conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harboured in GIAHS is mainstreamed in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies in pilot countries (National)	Baseline	825,814	Policies in the sectors of agriculture, environment, education, tourism, culture continue to marginalize GIAHS	
	Alternative	2,475,914	Better policy support for GIAHS in the pilot countries will ensure that these systems can continue to generate the myriad socio-economic and cultural benefits associated with them.	National policies mainstream GIAHS recognizing their important global biodiversity benefits.
	Increment	1,650,100	of which GEF: 500,100 co-finance: 1,150,000	
Outcome 3: Globally significant agricultural biodiversity in pilot GIAHS is being managed and sustainably used by empowering local	Baseline	22,197,283	Sectoral investments in agriculture, rural development, environment; There are a few ad hoc projects for conserving agricultural biodiversity in pilot sites, however these do not focus on all constituent components of the system ranging from the customary institutions that underpin them, to the genetic resources within the farms, to the surrounding natural habitat that supports the agricultural system.	

Outcome	Cost Category	Cost, US$	Domestic Benefit	Global Benefit
communities and harnessing evolving economic, social, and policy processes and by adaptation of appropriate new technologies that allow interaction between ecological and cultural processes (Local	Alternative	31,133,457	Improved management system that combines customary and state institutions and provides capacity development support as well as opportunities for income diversification based on the unique agricultural biodiversity heritage	Conservation of on farm agricultural biodiversity, associated biodiversity and critical ecosystem functions of these systems.
	Increment	8,840,917	of which GEF: 910,417 co-finance: 7,802,257	
Outcome 4: Lessons learned and best practices from promoting effective management of pilot GIAHS are widely disseminated to support expansion and upscaling of the GIAHS in other areas/countries and creation of the GIAHS network (Global, National, Local)	Baseline	6,014		
	Alternative	4,711,950		The national and international community can benefit from the experience and methods developed at the demonstration sites to conserve the agricultural biodiversity, associated biodiversity and ecosystem functions of GIAHS.
	Increment	5,305936	of which GEF: 1,238,593 co-finance: 4,067,343	
TOTAL COST	Baseline	23,429,111		
	Alternative	40,256,611		
	Increment	16,827,500		
	Project management (Technical coordination, Administration)	1,172,500	of which GEF: 422,500 co-finance: 750,000	
	Increment	18,000,000	Of which: GEF: 3,500,000 Co-finance: 14,500,000	

Annex B. Project Logical Framework

Project Strategy	**Objectively verifiable indicators**				
Goal	To "protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements" [cf. CBD: Article10(c)], specifically within agricultural systems				
	Indicator	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions and Risks**
<u>Project objective</u> To promote conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harbored in globally important agricultural heritage systems or GIAHS[6].	Establishment of a global enabling environment for GIAHS	CBD Articles 8(j) and 10(c), and the Cultural Landscape Category of World Heritage Convention, provide starting points for an international policy framework, implementation system and funding mechanism for GIAHS	Accepted international policy formulated to recognise and promote the conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS and designate sites. Creation of an internationally recognised GIAHS interim Secretariat with a statutory mandate by the end of the project that will encourage formal recognition and designation of GIAHS worldwide. Establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism for the long term program	Documentation from competent international bodies supporting GIAHS designation (CBD, UNESCO, FAO, IUCN, WWF etc). Existence of GIAHS Secretariat Audited accounts and reports from financial mechanism	GIAHS is based on a holistic concept of agricultural systems; this carries the risk that its application will be given different interpretations in each of the pilot systems. Pilot countries are willing to designate, support and promote GIAHS concept in their territories Collaboration among GIAHS secretariat, governments and other stakeholders is achieved in order to create an international policy environment conducive for GIAHS
	Establishment of national enabling environments for GIAHS	Ministries responsible for Environment, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development are involved in various aspects of implementation of CBD and NBSAPs with respect to agricultural biodiversity	Project countries have all set up national contact points to promote the GIAHS concept and develop best practice for their designation and management Project countries have adopted GIAHS considerations in key policies and legislation	Existence of national bodies and meeting reports Government publications National Reports to CBD Secretariat with respect to implementation of Article 10(c)	
	Improvement of GIAHS conservation and adaptive management	Project pilot sites face three key barriers for their conservation and sustainable management at present: (i) weak local institutions and stakeholder networks; (ii) acquiring new knowledge, methodologies and tools; and (iii) access to markets.	The key barriers to conservation and management in pilot sites are significantly reduced or removed. GIAHS operate without external financial assistance and key indicators for extent and biodiversity are achieved	Reports from M&E surveys Case history reports from Outcome 3 Scientific publications from Outcome 4	

[6] GIAHS are defined as remarkable land use systems and landscapes which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development

	Tracking tool BD 2	The 7 project pilot sites cover 120,000 ha of land having significant agricultural biodiversity value	40 other potential GIAHS identified in accordance with internationally accepted criteria Hectares of land managed in accordance with GIAHS definition and criteria: 120,000 ha or more.	Reports from M&E surveys National Reports to CBD Secretariat with respect to implementation of Article 10(c) Reports from GIAHS interim secretariat	
Outcome 1: An internationally accepted system for recognition of GIAHS is in place (Global)	Number of GIAHS systems receiving international recognition	Nil	At least 15 recognised	Project reports	International policy processes are influenced by many factors, and are generally very lengthy. Accordingly, not all international organisations may be able to provide the desired endorsements for GIAHS within the project period. It is assumed, however this will be achieved through the work programme and joint efforts of CBD, UNESCO and FAO.
	Official statements from FAO, UNESCO WHC, CBD CoP, CCD, IUCN endorsing the GIAHS concept, definition and identification criteria	Nil	By project end all identified institutions issue resolutions / statements supporting the GIAHS concept	Project reports Copy of the statements	
	Establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism and institutional support for consolidating and expanding the GIAHS approach as a long-term open-ended program	US$ 18 million [TBC] excluding Pilot countries' in kind contribution	Sustainable finance mechanism in place	Written commitments by Donors	

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

economic, social, and policy processes and by adaptation of appropriate new technologies that allow interaction between ecological and cultural processes (Local	Number of traditional crops and varieties being cultivated	Chile: 200 varieties of *Solanum tuberosum* 1 variety of *Ajo chilote* China: 20 native varieties of rice 6 native breeds of carp Algeria: 100 date varieties Tunisia 50 date varieties Peru: Baseline Caritamaya: Potatoes (28 varieties). Bitter potatoes (13 var.) Quinoa (43 var.), Kañiwa (8 var.), Oca, Olluco, Llamas, Alpacas (all 24 colors, 3 major breeds) Baseline Microcuenca de San José: Potatoes (80 var.), Mashua (14 var.), Olluco (18 var.), Kañiwa (12 var.) Oca (20 var.) Llamas, Alpacas Baseline Cuenca de Lares: Patatoes (177 var.), Oca (20 var.), Olluco (11 var.), Mashua (17 var.), Maiz (23), Quinoa, Kañiwa, Lupins, Llamas, Alpcas, wild relatives Baseline Micro de Carmen: patatoes (105 var.), Oca (25 var.) Olluco (14 var.), Mashua (20 var.), Maiz (34), Quinoa, Kañiwa, Lupins, Llamas, Alpcas, wild relatives Philippines: 4 endemic varieties of rice 264 indig tree species 10 varieties of climbing rattan 45 medicinal plant species 20 plant species used as ethnopesticides	By project end, numbers are stable or increase over baseline	Annual field surveys	GIAHS is based on a holistic concept of agricultural systems; this carries the risk that its application will be given different interpretations in each of the pilot systems. Pilot countries are willing to designate, support and promote GIAHS concept in their territories Collaboration among GIAHS secretariat, governments and other stakeholders is achieved in order to create an international policy environment conducive for GIAHS

Outcome 4: Lessons learned and best practices from promoting effective management of pilot GIAHS are widely disseminated to support expansion and upscaling of the GIAHS in other areas/countries and creation of the GIAHS network (Global, National, Local)	Expressions of interest from other GIAHS from around the world to apply the project approach, along with commitments to provide co-financing	Nil	At least 5 proposals by end of year 4 and 10 proposals by end of project	Project reports	Project outcomes are achieved and result in demand from other areas
	Interest from academic and research institutes in analyzing and further study of experience in pilot sites	Nil	At least 20 proposals/ scientific publications by project end	Project reports	
	Usage of electronic forum and database by interested stakeholders	Measure usage of website in year 1	Increase in usage by at least 100%	Web-site counter	

Annex C.1 STAP Roster Technical Review

1. STAP Roster Technical Review and Response
2. UNEP Review and Response
3. GEF Secretariat review

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

Project Title:	**Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)**
Reviewer:	Professor Michael Stocking STAP Roster Expert (Agrobiodiversity and Land Degradation) University of East Anglia, Norwich UK
Date:	17th March 2006
Contact:	Adriana Dinu, UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor for Biodiversity Europe and CIS, Tel.: +421 2 59337 332, email: adriana.dinu@undp.org

Reviewed documents: Project Document and Executive Summary

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This Report follows the generic Terms of Reference for STAP reviews prepared by the STAP Secretariat. This review focuses primarily on the requested GEF assistance component, which amounts to 27.2 % (US$6.725 million) of total project costs including PDF-A and B.

GEF financing is broadly to support the GEF focal area of biodiversity and Operational Program 13 (agricultural biodiversity) through addressing four planned Outcomes:

1. An internationally accepted **system for recognition of GIAHS** (global). To include public endorsement; a GIAHS Secretariat; and work to secure additional funding. (26% total main project costs; 25% of this Outcome's resources are to be contributed by GEF);
2. The conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agrobiodiversity harboured in GIAHS is **mainstreamed in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans** and policies in pilot countries (national) (20% total costs; 18% of this Outcome's resources are to be contributed by GEF);
3. Globally significant agrobiodiversity in pilot GIAHS is being **managed effectively by local communities** (local). To include local institutions; capacity-development, participatory plans, income generation activities; documentation. (47% total costs; 27% of this Outcome's resources are to be contributed by GEF)
4. Lessons learned and best practices from promoting effective management of pilot GIAHS are **widely disseminated** to support expansion of the GIAHS network (global). To include project management, publication and dissemination, web-site. (7% total costs; 30% of this Outcome's resources are to be contributed by GEF);

The GEF funding is requested to provide a contribution to the project goal of protecting and encouraging customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation and sustainable use requirements within agricultural systems [based on CBD Article

10(c)]. More specifically, the GEF funding is to meet the project objective of promoting conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harboured in GIAHS. These are important aims scientifically and technically. They help to counterbalance the emphasis to date on protected areas in favour of support for customary rights and recognition that indigenous people may own and manage globally important biodiversity.[7] Gender issues have recently been highlighted as closely related to these aims.[8, 9] The scientific aims also support the SBSTTA recommendations arising from various CBD-COPs, especially the programme priority area on domesticated biodiversity under threat.[10]

In order of total expenditures, both total funding and incremental GEF-funding are requested for (1) local-level management of GIAHS by local communities; (2) public endorsement and a GIAHS Secretariat; (3) mainstreaming GIAHS into national plans and policies; and (4) GIAHS dissemination and global networking. The importance accorded to working at the local level to secure GIAHS is entirely in accord with GEF-eligible priorities, and will support the wider objective and goal of the project. It will also potentially support the developmental aspects of Outcome 3 which will become very important as a demonstration of the viability of the GIAHS approach and its reproducibility – about which see more below.

This reviewer questions the prominence of Outcome 1 in total funding and GEF contribution. Potentially, the work of public endorsement must come with Outcome 4 as a result of the project, not a precursor to it. There would appear to be substantial overlap at Output level between Outcomes 1 and 4. Both Outcomes are essentially about promotion of the GIAHS concept, and both are specified at 'global' level. If Outcome 1 is primarily about securing a GIAHS Secretariat, then there must be some question as to its sustainability and continuity after the end of the 6-year project. Some attention to the balance of activities, sequencing of public interaction on GIAHS approaches, the duplication of promotional activities and the differentiation between what is intended in Outcomes 1 and 4 is recommended. [see final section of this review for recommendations]

In this review, I have especially looked at Annexes A and B as they provide the best overview of the project. The ICM (Annex A) for a large multi-national and multi-institutional project is difficult to construct. This review questions, first, the baseline scenario (p.18). It looks too modest. The baseline should be the current or recent activity in agricultural biodiversity in the respective countries *and its presentation as a concept and unique heritage* internationally. It is from this baseline that the project builds. It should be large. There has been a huge amount of research, development and implementation work undertaken, not just in the countries where the project will operate but in what might be loosely called generic promotion. Of course, it is difficult to trap all the relevant work. But there are some big

[7] See Colchester, M. 2004. Conservation policy and indigenous peoples. *Environmental Science and Policy* 7(3): 145-153. This review paper makes recommendations on how conservation agencies should change their ways if future conservation initiatives are not to create further poverty – an issue that this GIAHS project must also address.

[8] Rao, N. 2006. Land rights, gender equality and household food security: Exploring the conceptual links in the case of India. *Food Policy* 31(2): 180-193. This paper brings out the implications of the issue of land rights for women, with household food security on the one hand and gender equality on the other, each of which in turn are related to knowledge of the protection of agricultural biodiversity.

[9] But see later on greater attention to developmental issues such as gender, livelihoods and distribution of benefits arising from GIAHS protection.

[10] CBD. 2005 *Handbook of the Convention on Biological* Diversity. 3rd Edition. Section X, Decisions of the Conferences of Parties with relevant SBSTTA recommendations. Page 412 - http://www.biodiv.org/doc/handbook/cbd-hb-dec-en.pdf

international projects upon which GIAHS approaches will build – a few that this reviewer knows are listed here:

- Diversitas International new science agenda for agro-biodiversity: http://www.diversitas-international.org/docs/Inter.%20Diversitas.pdf
- CGIAR[11]: e.g. CIAT's Using Agrobiodiversity Through Biotechnology: http://www.ciat.cgiar.org/biotechnology/index.htm ; ICARDA's Promoting Community-Driven Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agrobiodiversity: http://www.icarda.org/Announcement/Agrobiodiversity_18-21April05.htm
- multi-lateral UN agencies: e.g. FAO's June 2002 'Treaty on agrobiodiversity': http://www.fao.org/ag/magazine/wfspdf/fao-ag08.pdf

and there are many, many more. It is important that GIAHS is not seen as a start-up initiative. It would not have been developed without the interest and excitement provoked by the many other national and international initiatives. This should be reflected in the baseline. So, in addition to the national projects listed in the baseline (which again are probably under-reported), there should also be the international promotion of agro-biodiversity as an important global environmental agenda item.

The alternative strategy (p.19 ICM) should not simply build on "the sustainable development baseline ….. to provide financial and technical resources." It needs to build on the science of sustainability and experiments and demonstrations that show the value of protecting biodiversity in land use systems. Outcome 1 will, for example, have to include activities that develop FAO's recent good work on showing how agrobiodiversity helps to tackle AIDS/HIV mitigation and food insecurity.[12] Outcomes 2 and 3 will need to build on the rich body of knowledge on how agrobiodiversity is managed by local communities.[13] Such prior work legitimises the rationale for undertaking this GIAHS project and should be recognised. The fact of such prior work *strengthens the project*, not weakens it.

In the IC Matrix itself (pp. 19-20) there are some questionable entries. The 'domestic benefit' ascribed to the alternative for Outcome 1 appears only to be a process of shaming governments into adopting GIAHS through international pressure. Surely, with the engagement of a wide range of participating institutions and individual scientists, GIAHS should be shown as bringing domestic or national advantage through the benefits to be gained – the 'carrot' rather than the 'stick'.

In the Logical Framework (Annex B) at Project Objective level, the indicators will be crucial in undertaking effective mid-term and final evaluations. This reviewer finds the indicators at this level somewhat limited to stereotypical measures of biodiversity, such as numbers of varieties. Surely, at this level where conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS is to be promoted, the indications should be primarily about policy up-take and institutional engagement. The indicators that do appear, if they are still required, should be at a much lower level in the framework – see below under 'global environmental benefits' for further comments on the structure of indicators in the logical framework..

[11] CGIAR involvement is not new. See the 1996 CGIAR statement via the World Bank newsletter on the importance attached to agricultural research in agrobiodiversity: http://www.worldbank.org/html/cgiar/newsletter/Mar96/4is.htm

[12] See http://www.fao.org/sd/2002/PE0104a_en.htm

[13] See, for example, the GEF-funded *People, land Management and Environmental Change* project - http://www.unu.edu/env/plec . Also see books that have emanated from pilot demonstrations: e.g. Kaihura, F. and Stocking, M. 2003. *Agricultural Biodiversity in Smallholder Farms of East Africa*. UNU Press, Tokyo - http://www.unu.edu/unupress/new/ab-agri-biodiversity.html

Partly reflecting this reviewer's problems with the construction of Outcome 1, the third indicator chosen is about financial resource commitments from international institutions. It would be more reasonable for this to be an indicator of the sustainability of the approach as developed by the project as part of Outcome 4. For Outcome 3 this review is concerned about the means of verification and appropriateness that there has been a decline in land conversion and land abandonment. "Annual field surveys" are specified, but are these budgeted and in control of the project? Why does the project not use existing LUCC tools?[14] And how will the project disaggregate the many other reasons and pressures for land conversion and land abandonment?

The draft version of the Brief (both ProDoc and ExecSum dated 12 March 2006) provided to this reviewer is generally well-presented and follows GEF guidelines for project proposals in the ExecSum and UNDP's own Project Document format for the main ProDoc.[15]

2. KEY ISSUES

Scientific and technical soundness of the project

As noted by FAO's Sustainable Development department, "Agrobiodiversity comprises the whole plant resource diversity that human societies use and manage for agriculture, food, healthcare, and livelihood. It includes the enormous diversity of crops and crop varieties that small-scale farmers conserve and cultivate, representing both the basis for their subsistence and a source of income. To some extent, it also embraces wild food and medicinal plants that rural populations use for nutrition, healthcare and livelihood purposes. The maintenance and use of agrobiodiversity relies on extensive indigenous knowledge systems, which address aspects such as cultivation practices, uses, and genetic resource management of such plant species."[16]

The ProDoc makes a reasonable case for the scientific rationale and soundness of the project. In terms of threats and root causes the ProDoc (page 11) identifies the loss of customary institutions, decline in traditional agricultural systems, land conversion, and displacement of traditional varieties. To these we could add the erosion of traditional knowledge of the *management* of agricultural biodiversity. The ProDoc is much less strong on the developmental rationale for GIAHS. The quote from FAO in the paragraph above recognises the contribution of agricultural biodiversity to nutrition, healthcare and livelihoods. We could add that barriers to GIAHS could also include conflicts, bad governance, excessive promotion of agricultural technologies, gender discrimination, loss of empowerment and many other social, cultural and political issues. It is disappointing and a little surprising that the project's proposers have not used their PDF-B surveys and work in order to set a strong social scientific and developmental justification for the project. Although not directly fundable under GEF rules, overcoming developmental barriers and supporting local livelihoods are legitimate co-finance activities that add and strengthen global environmental objectives. It is now recognised that unless a project can also become accepted and valued domestically, there is no chance of it being sustainable in the longer term. It is imperative that GIAHS develops a strong body of data and experience on the social and developmental benefits of the approach.

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[14] See http://www.geo.ucl.ac.be/LUCC/lucc.html

[15] It is understood that the Brief will receive further editing and completion of some small parts (especially data for Peru) before submission.

[16] Agrobiodiversity and indigenous knowledge - http://www.fao.org/sd/2002/PE0104a_en.htm

In association with this observation, there needs to be a better articulated justification for sites chosen (p.5 ProDoc and ExecSum; and pp.51 onwards of ProDoc Section IV, Part III) in terms of the social and developmental benefits to be gained by *this* sample. To some, the choice of the five pilot GIAHS sites (taking the Maghreb oases as one) may seem somewhat eclectic. There must have been some rational process for sampling that would have assessed not only the biodiversity conservation value but also the developmental value of these particular sites. Section IV, Part III of the ProDoc (page 51) does claim to present the criteria for prioritisation of systems[17], but this reviewer could not find the link between these 'criteria' and the Part B Site Description table on the following page. The last column of this table contains some wordy text, but this is more descriptive than analytical. We should be told how the sample was derived, what the criteria for selection were and how this was applied for the five sites. The ProDoc text states that 100 potential sites were identified during project preparation, but it is silent on how the five sites were chosen. It is recognised that there may have been logistical and personal reasons, but at the very least there should be a strong social and developmental; rationale in terms of critical value to livelihoods, food security and nutrition. This reviewer is worried that, without an open and explicit publication of the criteria and rationale for choice of sample, the project will be charged with being partial and hence ignored by countries with very different traditional agro-ecosystems that also deserve conservation and protection.

This review suggests that the ExecSum and ProDoc need strengthening in the interlinked natural and social scientific justification for this project. As a starting point, FAO itself has a 177-page training manual dealing with major issues supporting a focus on agrobiodiversity,[18] such as gender and local knowledge. So, for example, the manual usefully distinguishes between types of local knowledge, each of which is critical to understanding how agrobiodiversity may be conserved in project sites:

> **Common knowledge** is held by most people in a community; e.g. almost everyone knows how to cook rice (or the local staple food).
> **Shared knowledge** is held by many, but not all, community members; e.g. villagers who raise livestock will know more about basic animal husbandry than those without livestock.
> **Specialized knowledge** is held by a few people who might have had special training or an apprenticeship; e.g. only few villagers will become healers, midwives, or blacksmiths.

Showing a ready understanding and appreciation for such issues that are fundamental to the conservation of globally significant agrobiodiversity is important and needs to be demonstrated from the very start of the project. In the PDF-B phase of GIAHS, the project's proposers commissioned a review from Miguel Altieri that touched on some of these aspects,[19] but the benefits for development need systematising and presentation so that they are valued as much as the global environmental benefits. Professor Ramakrishnan's background paper develops the eco-cultural links, which are also important.[20] These

[17] In addition, the 'criteria' presented in Section IV are not quantified and present only a partial view as to what would be a valuable site to target now. Can we argue that these are the sites of highest priority in terms of threat to loss of biodiversity, loss of ecosystem services or decline in livelihoods and human well-being?

[18] FAO 2005. *Building on Gender, Agrobiodiversity and Local Knowledge*. Sustainable Development Department, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome - http://www.fao.org/sd/links/documents_download/Manual.pdf . This explores the interlinkages and identifies the mutual benefits to be derived from conservation of agrobiodiversity for some key social and nutritional indicators.

[19] http://www.fao.org/AG/agl/agll/giahs/documents/backgroundpapers_altieri.doc

[20] http://www.fao.org/AG/agl/agll/giahs/documents/backgroundpapers_ramankrishnan.doc

background papers as well as additional material from the literature[21] should be informing the full project. They should at the very least be cited at appropriate points of the Brief.

This review believes that the proposed activities in GIAHS are well rooted in good social and natural scientific reasons. The project has potentially a coherent and logical structure. However, there is inadequate social and scientific justification as to how and why GEF should fund this initiative. There is no lack of information in the literature, and even in the sponsoring organizations of this proposal, of such justification. If such information does not appear here in the full Brief[22], then there is a danger that the project will simply build an independent case for GIAHS promotion, duplicating much existing effort and neglecting a baseline that is much larger than presented in the ICM currently.

Identification of the global environmental benefits and/or drawbacks of the project

Identifying the incremental benefits and monitoring the success in achieving these benefits for biodiversity conservation in general and for OP13 Agrobiodiversity projects in particular has been the subject of much discussion inside and outside GEF. A clear and explicit identification of the global environmental benefits is necessary in the ProDoc in order to guide a suitable monitoring system for the project. In the negotiations for the Third Replenishment[23], it was not only recommended that all projects include provisions for monitoring the impact and output of projects, but also that:

> "…indicators should be designed with a view to assessing global environmental impacts achieved from the GEF resources. All projects must include clear and monitorable indicators, plans for monitoring and supervision … designed to improve quality at entry and to maximize impact. There should be a transparent system for the monitoring of these indicators and outcomes and for informing the Council on an annual basis" (GEF, 2002, p.52 – footnote 17 refers).

So, has GIAHS specified relevant and useful benefits that are expected to be gained against which we may assess whether the project is a good use of GEF funds? Annex A, the Incremental Cost Assessment, has a 5-line paragraph on the 'Global Environmental Objective' of the project while the ICM lists a number of Outcome-specific global benefits:

- greater global attention to agrobiodiversity
- mainstreaming into national policies
- on-farm conservation of agrobiodiversity
- lessons, experience and methods in protecting biodiversity through GIAHS

Further, Annex B, the Logical Framework, sets out Outcome-specific indicators and quantitative and measurable targets, including

- numbers of GIAHS receiving international recognition (target=15)
- additional financial resource commitments (target=USD50 m)
- land area under GIAHS stable or increasing (no targets, but baseline hectares identified)
- academic and research interest assessed by papers and new proposals (target=20)

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[21] IPGRI has, for example, published a number of papers on the social, economic and cultural aspects of the conservation of biodiversity. See: http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/themes/human/default.htm

[22] It is not suggested that there should be a detailed scientific discussion, but cross-referencing and citation need to be made with the sources that justify the approach and rationale.

[23] Global Environment Facility (GEF). 2002. "Summary of Negotiations on the Third Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund." Washington, DC: GEF Council Document GEF/C.20/4.

It is only at the project objective level that specific biodiversity indicators are used, such as:

- numbers of traditional crops and varieties being cultivated stable or increasing (no targets, but baseline numbers identified)
- populations of birds, indicator animals and plants stable or increasing (again no quantitative targets)

This review has already questioned whether the structure of verifiable indicators at the two levels of project objective and project outcomes is logical. It would be good to have a response as to why only biodiversity indicators are used at project objective level, whereas rather broader institutional and mainstreaming indicators are used at Outcome level.

In so far as the development and specification of appropriate monitoring systems for achievement of the global environmental targets, the ProDoc has little information. The Section I, Part IV M&E Plan (pp.30-34) is mainly describing institutional responsibilities and reporting schedules. Who will monitor the changes – both global environmental and developmental - induced by the project? How will the appropriate surveys of indicators be done? What scientific expertise will the project use? Activity 4.1 under Outcome 4 is for the implementation of the project's M&E plan, but there is no scientific information in the Brief on what will be done. However, it is good that scientific papers and new proposals are specified as targets for achievement, so there will be appropriate peer review of the quality of the outputs.

This reviewer has no doubt that the project targets crucially important global environmental benefits. The doubt, however, is whether these are sufficiently prominent in the Brief and whether the project will have a sufficient steer from the start towards collecting and identifying the actual benefits that have been achieved – both environmental and developmental.

How the project fits within the context of the goals of GEF

GEF's Operational Strategy relating to the focal area of biodiversity states that GEF's operations are to be in full conformity with the CBD.[24] The main strategic considerations guiding GEF-financed activities to secure global biodiversity benefits are: "(a) integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within national and, as appropriate, subregional and regional sustainable development plans and policies; (b) helping to protect and sustainably manage ecosystems through targeted and cost-effective interventions; (c) integration of efforts to achieve global benefits in other focal areas, where feasible, and in the cross-sectoral area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation; (d) development of a portfolio that encompasses representative ecosystems of global biodiversity significance; and (e) that GEF activities will be targeted and designed to help recipient countries achieve agreed biodiversity objectives in strategic and cost-effective ways." The GIAHS proposal is strong on several of these strategic considerations. It will directly support (d) and (e) above especially. Suggestions made elsewhere in this review about strengthening developmental benefit aspects of the project would assist (a). Through the GIAHS approach, other focal areas are also potentially strengthened (c above) especially land degradation but the Brief makes little reference to this important synergy.

The project is aimed principally at GEF Strategic Priority BD-2[25] – Mainstreaming biodiversity. The strong emphasis on mainstreaming the GIAHS approach into policies, plans and procedures throughout

[24] Chapter 2 of GEF Operational Strategy, 1996. http://www.gefweb.org/public/opstrat/ch2.htm#chapter2

[25] On the cover page of the ExecSum, this is presented as 'SP2', rather than 'BD-2'. Confusingly, some GEF documents do refer to SP2 – for example, 'Biodiversity Operational Strategy":

the proposal admirably supports this GEF priority. A similar claim could probably be made for Strategic Priority BD-4 – Generation and dissemination of best practices for addressing current and emerging biodiversity issues. Given the emphasis on developing a relatively innovative 'best-practice' approach for agrobiodiversity and the intention to disseminate widely, BD-4 would seem most appropriate.[26]

The project also accords well with CBD/COP guidance on mainstreaming agrobiodiversity conservation through demonstrating sustainable use and developing mechanisms for wider dissemination.[27] It is good to see that the Project Goal is rooted in CBD Article 10 (c), which mentions traditional cultural practices.

The proposal is in good conformity with the GEF Operational Program 13 *Agrobiodiversity*. OP13 was designed by GEF to address the focal area of biodiversity, by concentrating on the major portion of the earth's surface that is under land use and being managed in production landscapes. The project sensibly fits the overall program objectives of promoting "the positive impacts …. of agricultural systems and practices on biological diversity in agro-ecosystems and their interface with other ecosystems."[28] The GIAHS approach should provide a major boost to seeing traditional practices in a positive light not only as contributor to biodiversity conservation but also as providing goods and services required for human well-being and development..

Regional context

Not applicable – this is a global project. But see the recommendation for better specifying the criteria for selection of pilot sites in the six countries. This reviewer wonders whether the chosen pilot sites should not also act as regional hubs for more effective promotion of the GIAHS in adjacent countries.[29]

Replicability and sustainability of the project

Replicability and sustainability are taken together in this review as they largely involve the same issues of scope for successful continuation of project approaches and ability to upscale to more countries and more globally important agrobiodiversity situations. In other words, they both address the added value for the global environment in other areas.

Replicability or added value for the global environment beyond the countries and areas immediately involved should be well served, especially as dissemination and the publication of project lessons, approaches and experiences are well provided in the project design. The section of the ProDoc (pp.23-24) describing 'replicability' through an advocacy process is particularly relevant. However, this reviewer suggests this reinforces an earlier point in this review: that dissemination must be evidence-based and, therefore, the role of the project indicators to supply the evidence of benefits to be gained by GIAHS is crucially important – see 'identification of global environmental benefits' above.

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http://www.gefweb.org/projects/Focal_Areas/bio/bio_ops.html. To avoid confusion, it might be better to cite the Strategic Priority to conform with most GEF documentation.

[26] GEF's Strategic Business Plan highlights "support for demonstration projects that generate synergies between biodiversity and other focal areas" (http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_C21/C21.Inf.11-_Strategic_Business_Planning.pdf) . The GIAHS project has considerable potential to do this.

[27] SBSTTA-CBD, Tenth Meeting, Bangkok, February 2005 - http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-10/official/sbstta-10-14-en.doc

[28] Para 9, OP13, p.3 - http://www.gefweb.org/Operational_Policies/Operational_Programs/OP_13_English.pdf

[29] This approach was adopted in the GEF-UNEP-FAO global project on *Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands*. There would appear to be good scope in GIAHS to adopt a similar dissemination strategy in GIAHS.

Sustainability is set out in the ProDoc under sub-headings of institutional, financial, social and ecological sustainability. The GIAHS project design is intended to provide for continuation of institutional structures, while at the same time mobilising longer-term financial support. The section on 'social and ecological sustainability (para 74, page 23) is, however, insubstantial. The ProDoc admirably puts a case for the threats and root causes to agrobiodiversity in Section IV, Part IV of the ProDoc. These 'threats' are likely to intensify. This reviewer considers the statement that "by promoting GIAHS, the project will ensure social and ecological sustainability" to be somewhat complacent. Customary institutions are becoming rarer and local knowledge is continually diminishing in the face of 'modernization' and 'commercialization'. The argument made for social and ecological sustainability in the ProDoc is essentially that GIAHS will provide for such outstanding landscapes and ecological benefits that they will be safe – i.e. sustainable. These 'heritage systems' cannot simply be viewed as some sort of ethno-museum; there have to be systems and institutions in place that will protect key aspects, such as particular plants and varieties, and act as repositories of local knowledge. How will this happen?

One suggestion is that the project could deliberately build sustainability components, such as public-private participation forums, as seen in other GEF projects.[30] Other actions might include the 'greening-up' of culture, lifestyles and business.[31] A rather more deliberate engagement with processes towards ecological sustainability is requested.

3. SECONDARY ISSUES

Linkages to other focal areas

The project is in focal area biodiversity. Attention has already been drawn above to the potential linkages with other focal areas. Under the rationale for the project (ExecSum, p.2), mention could be made of the synergies with sustainable land management and contribution to carbon stocks, for example. This reviewer could find little explicit mention in the documentation to benefits in agendas in climate change[32] and land degradation. However, the project should be able to make a legitimate claim to bringing global environmental benefits in carbon sequestration and control of land degradation – and this should be included both in the project rationale and possibly also in the ICA with suitable 'health warnings' that the data are not necessarily reliable.

Linkages to other programmes and action plans at regional or sub-regional levels

The project has good national linkages through its stakeholders and management arrangements. The proposers clearly are active players in agrobiodiversity, not only in their own right in FAO, but also through in-country institutions.

Other beneficial or damaging environmental effects

The project is fundamentally 'environmental', seeking to build a sustainable basis for the protection of globally important agricultural systems that are, in themselves, environmentally friendly, employing techniques that have been handed down which are proven to be ecologically sound and financially beneficial.

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[30] See GEF 1998. Lessons and Notes: Encouraging private sector involvement in GEF projects. http://www.gefweb.org/M&E/pln2a.html

[31] See for example, some ideas of actions for ecological sustainability at http://www.green-innovations.asn.au/ecolsust.htm

[32] There is a brief mention of project conformity to the climate change focal area in para 18 of the ExecSum, but no explanation of how this is achieved (other than exception of 'more resilience'). Similarly, conformity with POPs and International Waters focal areas are claimed but not elaborated.

Degree of involvement of stakeholders in the project
GEF attaches the greatest importance to stakeholder involvement. The Stakeholder Involvement Plan available to this reviewer was incomplete, but already an impressive array of project partners, government institutes and NGOs has been lined up. It will be essential that farming communities, as those described for Peru, are well engaged with the project and interact with it fully at all stages. It is understood that the project in its PDF-B phase had extensive consultation and coordination to enhance stakeholder participation.

Capacity-building aspects
Capacity building is an integral part of the project at a number of levels. In Outcome 3, there is intention to develop local capacities; in Outcome 2, national capacities; while global capacity to value GIAHS and promote it further underlies the whole project. Local and national capacity building are the subjects of specific activity sets for the relevant Outcomes (2.2 and 3.2).

Innovativeness of the project
The innovation of this project primarily arises from its focus on 'agricultural heritages' as a mechanism for promoting biodiversity conservation. None of the methods or techniques are particularly innovative, but the project does build well in an actively-engaged way by promoting a relatively novel concept to a much wider audience of planners and policy-makers.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

The project rationale is soundly based on identified scientific criteria and needs. It is generally well written, contains sound argumentation and has objectives that are sensible. There is good evidence that the project offers possible long-term solutions for mainstreaming of agrobiodiversity through GIAHS promotion, immediately in the 7 pilot countries (5 GIAHS systems) and more widely to the target 15 individual GIAHS systems during the lifetime of the project.

The project proposal does need some scientific and technical strengthening as summarised below. The two issues that this reviewer sees as highest priority are to (1) build a more robust scientific rationale for the project based upon a fuller set of specified global environmental benefits, and (2) include developmental benefits, not only as justification for the project, but as a basis for the social and ecological sustainability of the GIAHS approach[33].

The proposers of the project are warmly commended for their project proposal on a subject that is of immense global importance. This STAP review commends the project to the GEF as an appropriate use of funds entrusted and an eminently suitable way to address pressing agrobiodiversity in key geographic areas of global environmental (and developmental) importance.

Summary Recommendations on Points that Could be Strengthened

1. *Introduction & Overview*

[33] The scientific underpinning of GIAHS and several other policy and technical papers were prepared and presented to an international forum organized by FAO in Rome in October 2006. A full set of all these documents and other information are available on www.fao.org/SD/GIAHS

- Further justification and substantiation of the proportion of the budget (26%) and activities devoted to outcome 1, on the grounds that promotion of GIAHS concept should come as an output of the project rather than a precursor. [ExecSum pp 4-5 & ProDoc]
- Reconsideration of the balance of budget and activities between Outcomes 1 and 4. This reviewer feels that Outcome 1 is possibly too large and Outcome 4 too small. There is a potential overlap in GIAHS promotional activities. [ExecSum p.4 and ICM; ProDoc]
- The ICM baseline appears to be too small. It needs a more effective and consistent sweep of both national and international efforts to promote agro-biodiversity. [ICM, p.18-19]
- Some details in Annexes A and B need to be reviewed in the light of comments on page 3 of this review. These include the appropriateness and relevance of the indicators in the logical framework and the construction of the alternative in the ICM analysis. Ideally, this should be done by someone experienced and engaged with logical frameworks and incremental costs and benefits! [see also Section II, Parts I and II of ProDoc where the logical framework and ICM are repeated]

2. *Scientific and technical soundness of the project.* .
- The ExecSum and ProDoc need strengthening in the interlinked natural and social scientific justification for this project. This reviewer would have liked to see more social scientific reference and independent evidence in the root cause analysis and in the rational for the project.
- The justification for the sample of five pilot sites needs to be shown. We should be told how the sample was derived and what the criteria for selection were. This could be achieved by strengthening Section IV, Part III of the ProDoc, and showing how the criteria are implemented in the specific sites chosen (Part B: Site description table on pp.52-55).

2. *Identification of the global environmental benefits.*
- Identification of global benefits requires appropriate indicators. Why are only biodiversity indicators used at project objective level, whereas rather broader institutional and mainstreaming indicators used at Outcome level?
- Development and specification of appropriate monitoring systems for achievement of the global environmental targets is important. Questions are asked in the review above as to who will undertake the scientific and technical aspects of the monitoring, and how they will be done so that achievement of global environmental (and developmental) benefits is properly monitored and the information is able to be used in outcome 4 for further promotion.

3. Fit within the context of the goals of GEF
- It is suggested that reference should be made to the synergistic benefits of the GIAHS approach, especially for land degradation, so that the project contributes to this important strategic objective of GEF.
- Consider inclusion of Strategic Priority BD-4 in view of the strengths of the project and the potential to achieve an innovative approach globally for agrobiodiversity.

4. Regional context and *replicability of the project.*
- Through the individual country pilot sites, the project has scope to play a regional role in showing how GIAHS approaches may be promoted and introduced. Could this be explicitly included as one of the mandate tasks of the chosen country institutions?

5. Replicability and Sustainability of the project.

- A rather more deliberate engagement with processes towards ecological sustainability is requested.

6. *Secondary Issues*.

- *Linkages to other focal areas.* The project should make a legitimate claim to bringing global environmental benefits in carbon sequestration and control of land degradation.

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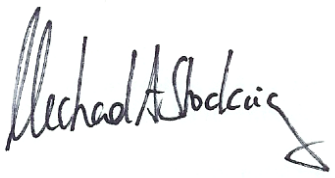
STAP Roster Expert (Agrobiodiversity and Land Degradation)
University of East Anglia, Norwich UK
17th March 2006

Postscript

I have reviewed the amendments made and am satisfied with the responses and, where appropriate, the changes made to the Project Brief.



23rd March 2006

Response to the STAP Review

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
1. Introduction and Overview		
This reviewer questions the prominence of Outcome 1 in total funding and GEF contribution. Potentially, the work of public endorsement must come with Outcome 4 as a result of the project, not a precursor to it. There would appear to be substantial overlap at Output level between Outcomes 1 and 4. Both Outcomes are essentially about promotion of the GIAHS concept, and both are specified at 'global' level. If Outcome 1 is primarily about securing a GIAHS Secretariat, then there must be some question as to its sustainability and continuity after the end of the 6-year project. • • Further justification and substantiation of the proportion of the budget (26%) and activities devoted to outcome 1, on the grounds that promotion of GIAHS concept should come as an output of the project rather than a precursor. [ExecSum pp 4-5 & ProDoc]	Outcomes 1 and 4 are parallel and mutually supportive. Outcome 1 is exclusively targeted at setting up the necessary international framework for supporting and expanding GIAHS, whereas Outcome 4 is exclusively for monitoring impact and sharing lessons learnt. The issue of the sustainability of Secretariat will be resolved in the long term by progressively mainstreaming GIAHS in FAO programme of Work and Budget approved by countries and ultimately reflected also in national policies of FAO member countries. No changes have been made here.	n/a
Reconsideration of the balance of budget and activities between Outcomes 1 and 4. This reviewer feels that Outcome 1 is possibly too large and Outcome 4 too small. There is a potential overlap in GIAHS promotional activities. [ExecSum p.4 and ICM; ProDoc]	International policy work is very costly. However, most costs are actually borne through (in-kind) co-funding rather by GEF. No further changes made here.	n/a

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
In this review, I have especially looked at Annexes A and B as they provide the best overview of the project. The ICM (Annex A) for a large multi-national and multi-institutional project is difficult to construct. This review questions, first, the baseline scenario (p.18). It looks too modest. The baseline should be the current or recent activity in agricultural biodiversity in the respective countries *and its presentation as a concept and unique heritage* internationally. It is from this baseline that the project builds. It should be large. There has been a huge amount of research, development and implementation work undertaken, not just in the countries where the project will operate but in what might be loosely called generic promotion. Of course, it is difficult to trap all the relevant work. But there are some big international projects upon which GIAHS approaches will build – a few that this reviewer knows are listed in the review and there are many, many more. It is important that GIAHS is not seen as a start-up initiative. It would not have been developed without the interest and excitement provoked by the many other national and international initiatives. This should be reflected in the baseline. So, in addition to the national projects listed in the baseline (which again are probably under-reported), there should also be the international promotion of agro-biodiversity as an important global environmental agenda item. **The ICM baseline appears to be too small. It needs a more effective and consistent sweep of both national and international efforts to promote agro-biodiversity. [ICM, p.18-19]**	The baseline description for Outcomes number 1 and 4 have been strengthened to include more substantial references to FAO's, the CGIAR's and other baselines both suggested by the STAP reviewer and otherwise. This has been done in the narratives of the Project Document and Executive summary and in the baseline calculation for Outcome 1 in the incremental cost matrix. There is a vast amount of potentially related baseline material both in research, conservation and development. We agree with the STAP review that it is difficult to trap all the relevant work	Executive Summary Annex A, table 7 Project Document Section II, Part I. Incremental Cost Analysis

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
Some details in Annexes A and B need to be reviewed in the light of comments on page 3 of this review. These include the appropriateness and relevance of the indicators in the logical framework and the construction of the alternative in the ICM analysis. Ideally, this should be done by someone experienced and engaged with logical frameworks and incremental costs and benefits! [see also Section II, Parts I and II of ProDoc where the logical framework and ICM are repeated]	The logical framework has been reviewed, with substantial changes made to the baselines, indicators and targets, especially for the project objective and Outcome 3.	Executive Summary Annex B. Logical Framework Project Document Section II, Part II Logical Framework
The alternative strategy (p.19 ICM) should not simply build on "the sustainable development baseline ….. to provide financial and technical resources." It needs to build on the science of sustainability and experiments and demonstrations that show the value of protecting biodiversity in land use systems. Outcome 1 will, for example, have to include activities that develop FAO's recent good work on showing how agrobiodiversity helps to tackle AIDS/HIV mitigation and food insecurity.[34] Outcomes 2 and 3 will need to build on the rich body of knowledge on how agrobiodiversity is managed by local communities.[35] Such prior work legitimizes the rationale for undertaking this GIAHS project and should be recognised. The fact of such prior work *strengthens the project*, not weakens it.	It is appreciated that the GIAHS concept could provide benefits for a wide range of ecosystem and socio-economic aspects that help local communities as well other interests. A new paragraph has been added in this regard, and the text and ICM strengthened in various places.	Executive Summary Annex A Incremental Cost Analysis Project Document see especially para. 9
In the IC Matrix itself (pp. 19-20) there are some questionable entries. The 'domestic benefit' ascribed to the alternative for Outcome 1 appears only to be a process of shaming governments into adopting GIAHS through international pressure. Surely, with the engagement of a wide range of participating institutions and individual scientists, GIAHS should be shown as bringing domestic or national advantage through the benefits to be gained – the 'carrot' rather than the 'stick'.	This has been adjusted in the Incremental Cost Assessment matrix.	Executive Summary Annex A Incremental Cost Analysis Project Document Section II Part 1

[34] See http://www.fao.org/sd/2002/PE0104a_en.htm

[35] See, for example, the GEF-funded *People, land Management and Environmental Change* project - http://www.unu.edu/env/plec . Also see books that have emanated from pilot demonstrations: e.g. Kaihura, F. and Stocking, M. 2003. *Agricultural Biodiversity in Smallholder Farms of East Africa*. UNU Press, Tokyo - http://www.unu.edu/unupress/new/ab-agri-biodiversity.html

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
In the Logical Framework (Annex B) at Project Objective level, the indicators will be crucial in undertaking effective mid-term and final evaluations. This reviewer finds the indicators at this level somewhat limited to stereotypical measures of biodiversity, such as numbers of varieties. Surely, at this level where conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS is to be promoted, the indications should be primarily about policy up-take and institutional engagement. The indicators that do appear, if they are still required, should be at a much lower level in the framework – see below under 'global environmental benefits' for further comments on the structure of indicators in the logical framework.	The logical framework has been reviewed, with substantial changes made to the baselines, indicators and targets, especially for the project objective and Outcome 3.	Executive Summary Annex B. Logical Framework Project Document Section II, Part II. Logical Framework
Partly reflecting this reviewer's problems with the construction of Outcome 1, the third indicator chosen is about financial resource commitments from international institutions. It would be more reasonable for this to be an indicator of the sustainability of the approach as developed by the project as part of Outcome 4.	The sustainable financing mechanism will be part of the institutional system for designation of GIAHS. We have now included its development as part of the project objective, and its implementation during the project under Outcome 1.	Executive Summary Annex B. Logical Framework Project Document Section II, Part II. Logical Framework
For Outcome 3 this review is concerned about the means of verification and appropriateness that there has been a decline in land conversion and land abandonment. "Annual field surveys" are specified, but are these budgeted and in control of the project? Why does the project not use existing LUCC tools?[36] And how will the project disaggregate the many other reasons and pressures for land conversion and land abandonment?	The logical framework has been reviewed, with substantial changes made to the baselines, indicators and targets in Outcome 3. Reference is also made to using land cover change tools in the surveys. Further, the project implementation structure will have a panel of scientific experts to advise on methodologies and other matters relating to rigorous analysis of the barriers to conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS.	Executive Summary Annex B. Logical Framework Project Document Section II, Part II Section IV, Part II
The draft version of the Brief (both ProDoc and ExecSum dated 12 March 2006) provided to this reviewer is generally well-presented and follows GEF guidelines for project proposals in the ExecSum and UNDP's own Project Document format for the main ProDoc.[37]		
2. Key Issues		
2.1. Assessment of scientific and technical soundness of the project.		

[36] See http://www.geo.ucl.ac.be/LUCC/lucc.html

[37] It is understood that the Brief will receive further editing and completion of some small parts (especially data for Peru) before submission.

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
As noted by FAO's Sustainable Development department, "Agrobiodiversity comprises the whole plant resource diversity that human societies use and manage for agriculture, food, healthcare, and livelihood. It includes the enormous diversity of crops and crop varieties that small-scale farmers conserve and cultivate, representing both the basis for their subsistence and a source of income. To some extent, it also embraces wild food and medicinal plants that rural populations use for nutrition, healthcare and livelihood purposes. The maintenance and use of agrobiodiversity relies on extensive indigenous knowledge systems, which address aspects such as cultivation practices, uses, and genetic resource management of such plant species."[38]		
The ProDoc makes a reasonable case for the scientific rationale and soundness of the project. In terms of threats and root causes the ProDoc (page 11) identifies the loss of customary institutions, decline in traditional agricultural systems, land conversion, and displacement of traditional varieties. To these we could add the erosion of traditional knowledge of the *management* of agricultural biodiversity.	The text and Threat Analysis have been amended to take account of this comment.	Executive Summary Project Summary; para 3. Project Document para. 26 and Section IV, Part IV. Threat Analysis matrix
The ProDoc is much less strong on the developmental rationale for GIAHS. The quote from FAO in the paragraph above recognizes the contribution of agricultural biodiversity to nutrition, healthcare and livelihoods. We could add that barriers to GIAHS could also include conflicts, bad governance, excessive promotion of agricultural technologies, gender discrimination, loss of empowerment and many other social, cultural and political issues.	The barriers identified are nevertheless the most pertinent and immediate within the context of the BD-2/OP 13 thrust of the project; it cannot solve everything. No further changes made.	n/a
It is disappointing and a little surprising that the project's proposers have not used their PDF-B surveys and work in order to set a strong social scientific and developmental justification for the project. Although not directly fundable under GEF rules, overcoming developmental barriers and supporting local livelihoods are legitimate co-finance activities that add and strengthen global environmental objectives. It is now recognised that unless a project can also become accepted and valued domestically, there is no chance of it being sustainable in the longer term. It is imperative that GIAHS develops a strong body of data and experience on the social and developmental benefits of the approach.	We agree with reviewer on the importance of social and developmental justifications. Adjustments to clarify the context and reflect this comment have been made in the proposal, particularly in the sections on social context and sustainability.	Executive Summary Sustainability. Para 24 Project Document Part I. Situation Analysis. Socio-economic contex paras 11 and Part II. Strategy Sustainability; para 91.
In association with this observation, there needs to be a **better articulated justification for sites chosen** (p.5 ProDoc and ExecSum; and pp.51 onwards of ProDoc Section IV, Part III) in terms of the social and developmental benefits to be gained by *this* sample. To some, the choice of the five pilot GIAHS sites (taking the Maghreb oases as one) may seem somewhat	The selection process and justification for selection process has been explained. "At the start of the PDF-B, some 100 systems were identified through literature review. About 20 of these	Executive Summary Project Summary; para 2 Project

[38] Agrobiodiversity and indigenous knowledge - http://www.fao.org/sd/2002/PE0104a_en.htm

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
eclectic. There must have been some rational process for sampling that would have assessed not only the biodiversity conservation value but also the developmental value of these particular sites. Section IV, Part III of the ProDoc (page 51) does claim to present the criteria for prioritisation of systems[39], but this reviewer could not find the link between these 'criteria' and the Part B Site Description table on the following page. The last column of this table contains some wordy text, but this is more descriptive than analytical. We should be told how the sample was derived, what the criteria for selection were and how this was applied for the five sites. The ProDoc text states that 100 potential sites were identified during project preparation, but it is silent on how the five sites were chosen. It is recognised that there may have been logistical and personal reasons, but at the very least there should be a strong social and developmental; rationale in terms of critical value to livelihoods, food security and nutrition. This reviewer is worried that, without an open and explicit publication of the criteria and rationale for choice of sample, the project will be charged with being partial and hence ignored by countries with very different traditional agro-ecosystems that also deserve conservation and protection. **The justification for the sample of five pilot sites needs to be shown. We should be told how the sample was derived and what the criteria for selection were. This could be achieved by strengthening Section IV, Part III of the ProDoc, and showing how the criteria are implemented in the specific sites chosen (Part B: Site description table on pp.52-55).**	were actually presented by national proponents for consideration of the Steering Committee. These were evaluated and prioritized along the lines of the technical selection criteria set out above, in addition to country interests and the technical/institutional capacity of the leading institutions. As a result, the following 7 project pilot sites were selected".	Document Part. I Situation Analysis para. 6 Section IV, part III (b) – Pilot Systems – Selection Criteria
This review suggests that the ExecSum and ProDoc need **strengthening in the interlinked natural and social scientific justification for this project**. As a starting point, FAO itself has a 177-page training manual dealing with major issues supporting a focus on agrobiodiversity,[40] such as gender and local knowledge. So, for example, the manual usefully	It is true that the GIAHS concept could provide linkages among a wide range of ecosystem and socio-economic aspects. A new paragraph has been added in this regard, and the proposal text strengthened in various places reflect this.	Executive Summary Part. Project Summary. Para 5.

[39] In addition, the 'criteria' presented in Section IV are not quantified and present only a partial view as to what would be a valuable site to target now. Can we argue that these are the sites of highest priority in terms of threat to loss of biodiversity, loss of ecosystem services or decline in livelihoods and human well-being?

[40] FAO 2005. *Building on Gender, Agrobiodiversity and Local Knowledge*. Sustainable Development Department, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome - http://www.fao.org/sd/links/documents_download/Manual.pdf . This explores the interlinkages and identifies the mutual benefits to be derived from conservation of agrobiodiversity for some key social and nutritional indicators.

[41] http://www.fao.org/AG/agl/agll/giahs/documents/backgroundpapers_altieri.doc

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
distinguishes between types of local knowledge, each of which is critical to understanding how agrobiodiversity may be conserved in project sites…… Showing a ready understanding and appreciation for such issues that are fundamental to the conservation of globally significant agrobiodiversity is important and needs to be demonstrated from the very start of the project. In the PDF-B phase of GIAHS, the project's proposers commissioned a review from Miguel Altieri that touched on some of these aspects,[41] but the benefits for development need systematising and presentation so that they are valued as much as the global environmental benefits. Professor Ramakrishnan's background paper develops the eco-cultural links, which are also important.[42] These background papers as well as additional material from the literature[43] should be informing the full project. They should at the very least be cited at appropriate points of the Brief. **This reviewer would have liked to see more social scientific reference and independent evidence in the root cause analysis and in the rational for the project.**		Project Document Part I. Situation Analysis. Para 9
This review believes that the proposed activities in GIAHS are well rooted in good social and natural scientific reasons. The project has potentially a coherent and logical structure. However, there is inadequate social and scientific justification as to how and why GEF should fund this initiative. There is no lack of information in the literature, and even in the sponsoring organizations of this proposal, of such justification. If such information does not appear here in the full Brief[44], then there is a danger that the project will simply build an independent case for GIAHS promotion, duplicating much existing effort and neglecting a baseline that is much larger than presented in the ICM currently.	Appropriate cross-references to the underlying research and other relevant initiatives that lend support the GIAHS concept has been incorporated in the text throughout the document and therefore is difficult to give the exact reference.	pages 28,29,37, etc.
2.2. Evaluation of the identification of global environmental benefits and/or drawbacks and risks of the project.		
Identifying the incremental benefits and monitoring the success in achieving these benefits for biodiversity conservation in general and for OP13 Agrobiodiversity projects in particular has been the subject of much discussion inside and outside GEF. A clear and explicit identification of the global environmental benefits is necessary in the		

[42] http://www.fao.org/AG/agl/agll/giahs/documents/backgroundpapers_ramankrishnan.doc
[43] IPGRI has, for example, published a number of papers on the social, economic and cultural aspects of the conservation of biodiversity. See: http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/themes/human/default.htm
[44] It is not suggested that there should be a detailed scientific discussion, but cross-referencing and citation need to be made with the sources that justify the approach and rationale.

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
ProDoc in order to guide a suitable monitoring system for the project. In the negotiations for the Third Replenishment[45], it was not only recommended that all projects include provisions for monitoring the impact and output of projects, but also that: "…indicators should be designed with a view to assessing global environmental impacts achieved from the GEF resources. All projects must include clear and monitorable indicators, plans for monitoring and supervision … designed to improve quality at entry and to maximize impact. There should be a transparent system for the monitoring of these indicators and outcomes and for informing the Council on an annual basis" (GEF, 2002, p.52 – footnote 17 refers).		
So, has GIAHS specified relevant and useful benefits that are expected to be gained against which we may assess whether the project is a good use of GEF funds? Annex A, the Incremental Cost Assessment, has a 5-line paragraph on the 'Global Environmental Objective' of the project while the ICM lists a number of Outcome-specific global benefits: - greater global attention to agrobiodiversity - mainstreaming into national policies - on-farm conservation of agrobiodiversity - lessons, experience and methods in protecting biodiversity through GIAHS Further, Annex B, the Logical Framework, sets out Outcome-specific indicators and quantitative and measurable targets, including - numbers of GIAHS receiving international recognition (target=15) - additional financial resource commitments (target=USD50 m) - land area under GIAHS stable or increasing (no targets, but baseline hectares identified) - academic and research interest assessed by papers and new proposals (target=20) It is only at the project objective level that specific biodiversity indicators are used, such as: - numbers of traditional crops and varieties being cultivated stable or increasing (no targets, but baseline numbers identified) - populations of birds, indicator animals and plants stable or increasing (again no quantitative targets) This review has already questioned whether the structure of verifiable indicators at the two levels of project objective and project outcomes is logical. It would be good to have a response as to **why only biodiversity indicators are used at project objective level, whereas rather broader institutional and mainstreaming indicators are used at Outcome level**.	The logical framework has been reviewed, with substantial changes made to the baselines, indicators and targets, especially for the project objective and Outcome 3, in order to accommodate these remarks as well as those from other reviewers. The ICM has also been revised and broadened.	Executive Summary Annex B Logical Framework Project Document Section II, Parts I and II Logical Framework
In so far as the development and specification of	The text on M&E has been revised	Executive

[45] Global Environment Facility (GEF). 2002. "Summary of Negotiations on the Third Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund." Washington, DC: GEF Council Document GEF/C.20/4.

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
appropriate monitoring systems for achievement of the global environmental targets, the ProDoc has little information. The Section I, Part IV M&E Plan (pp.30-34) is mainly describing institutional responsibilities and reporting schedules. Who will monitor the changes – both global environmental and developmental - induced by the project? How will the appropriate surveys of indicators be done? What scientific expertise will the project use? Activity 4.1 under Outcome 4 is for the implementation of the project's M&E plan, but there is no scientific information in the Brief on what will be done. However, it is good that scientific papers and new proposals are specified as targets for achievement, so there will be appropriate peer review of the quality of the outputs.	and brought in line with similar arrangements agreed between FAO and UNDP for other GEF projects. The new text clarifies the implementation and review arrangements.	Summary Project Implementation Arrangements Para 47 - 57 Project Document Section I, Part IV
This reviewer has no doubt that the project targets crucially important global environmental benefits. The doubt, however, is whether these are sufficiently prominent in the Brief and whether the project will have a sufficient steer from the start towards collecting and identifying the actual benefits that have been achieved – both environmental and developmental. **Development and specification of appropriate monitoring systems for achievement of the global environmental targets is important. Questions are asked in the review above as to who will undertake the scientific and technical aspects of the monitoring, and how they will be done so that achievement of global environmental (and developmental) benefits is properly monitored and the information is able to be used in outcome 4 for further promotion.**	The project implementation structure has provision for a Technical Group that includes a panel of scientific experts to advise on methodologies and other matters relating to rigorous analysis of the barriers to conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS.	Executive Summary Annex B Project Document Section II, Part II
2.3. Evaluation of the project's compliance or fulfilment of the goals of GEF.		
GEF's Operational Strategy relating to the focal area of biodiversity states that GEF's operations are to be in full conformity with the CBD.[46] The main strategic considerations guiding GEF-financed activities to secure global biodiversity benefits are: "(a) integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within national and, as appropriate, subregional and regional sustainable development plans and policies; (b) helping to protect and sustainably manage ecosystems through targeted and cost-effective interventions; (c) integration of efforts to achieve global benefits in other focal areas, where feasible, and in the cross-sectoral area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation; (d) development of a portfolio that encompasses representative ecosystems of global biodiversity significance; and (e) that GEF activities will be targeted and designed to help recipient countries achieve agreed biodiversity objectives in strategic and cost-effective ways."		
The GIAHS proposal is strong on several of these strategic considerations. It will directly support (d) and (e) above especially. Suggestions made elsewhere in this review about strengthening developmental benefit aspects of the project would assist (a). Through the GIAHS approach, other focal areas are also potentially strengthened (c above) especially land degradation but the Brief makes little reference to this important synergy. **It is suggested that reference should be made to the synergistic benefits of the GIAHS approach,**	The proposal text has been strengthened in various places to reflect this. Close technical and operational links between GIAHS and LADA project both funded by GEF and executed by FAO addresses this issue	Executive Summary Para 20 Project Document Para 59 - 60

[46] Chapter 2 of GEF Operational Strategy, 1996. http://www.gefweb.org/public/opstrat/ch2.htm#chapter2

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
especially for land degradation, so that the project contributes to this important strategic objective of GEF.		
The project is aimed principally at GEF Strategic Priority BD-2[47] – Mainstreaming biodiversity. The strong emphasis on mainstreaming the GIAHS approach into policies, plans and procedures throughout the proposal admirably supports this GEF priority. A similar claim could probably be made for Strategic Priority BD-4 – Generation and dissemination of best practices for addressing current and emerging biodiversity issues. Given the emphasis on developing a relatively innovative 'best-practice' approach for agrobiodiversity and the intention to disseminate widely, BD-4 would seem most appropriate.[48] **Consider inclusion of Strategic Priority BD-4 in view of the strengths of the project and the potential to achieve an innovative approach globally for agrobiodiversity.**	BD-4 targets mainly the dissemination of lessons learnt. Since the lessons from this Project will only be available in later stages of the implementation, it will focus on BD-2 alone at this stage but will include BD4 at a later stage.	n/a
The project also accords well with CBD/COP guidance on mainstreaming agrobiodiversity conservation through demonstrating sustainable use and developing mechanisms for wider dissemination.[49] It is good to see that the Project Goal is rooted in CBD Article 10 (c), which mentions traditional cultural practices.		
The proposal is in good conformity with the GEF Operational Program 13 *Agrobiodiversity*. OP13 was designed by GEF to address the focal area of biodiversity, by concentrating on the major portion of the earth's surface that is under land use and being managed in production landscapes. The project sensibly fits the overall program objectives of promoting "the positive impacts …. of agricultural systems and practices on biological diversity in agro-ecosystems and their interface with other ecosystems."[50] The GIAHS approach should provide a major boost to seeing traditional practices in a positive light not only as contributor to biodiversity conservation but also as providing goods and services required for human well-being and development.		
2.4. Assessment of how the project fits within its regional context.		
Not applicable – this is a global project. But see the recommendation for better specifying the criteria for selection of pilot sites in the six countries. This reviewer wonders whether the chosen pilot sites should not also act as regional hubs for more effective promotion of the GIAHS in adjacent countries.[51] **Through the individual country pilot sites, the**	This aspect has been included as a task in the proposal.	Executive Summary Project Document para. 96 and Sect.IV Part V

[47] On the cover page of the ExecSum, this is presented as 'SP2', rather than 'BD-2'. Confusingly, some GEF documents do refer to SP2 – for example, 'Biodiversity Operational Strategy": http://www.gefweb.org/projects/Focal_Areas/bio/bio_ops.html. To avoid confusion, it might be better to cite the Strategic Priority to conform with most GEF documentation.

[48] GEF's Strategic Business Plan highlights "support for demonstration projects that generate synergies between biodiversity and other focal areas" (http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_C21/C21.Inf.11-_Strategic_Business_Planning.pdf) . The GIAHS project has considerable potential to do this.

[49] SBSTTA-CBD, Tenth Meeting, Bangkok, February 2005 - http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-10/official/sbstta-10-14-en.doc

[50] Para 9, OP13, p.3 - http://www.gefweb.org/Operational_Policies/Operational_Programs/OP_13_English.pdf

[51] This approach was adopted in the GEF-UNEP-FAO global project on *Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands*. There would appear to be good scope in GIAHS to adopt a similar dissemination strategy in GIAHS.

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
project has scope to play a regional role in showing how GIAHS approaches may be promoted and introduced. Could this be explicitly included as one of the mandate tasks of the chosen country institutions?		
2.5 and 2.6. Evaluation of the replicability and sustainability of the project.		
Replicability and sustainability are taken together in this review as they largely involve the same issues of scope for successful continuation of project approaches and ability to upscale to more countries and more globally important agrobiodiversity situations. In other words, they both address the added value for the global environment in other areas.		
Replicability or added value for the global environment beyond the countries and areas immediately involved should be well served, especially as dissemination and the publication of project lessons, approaches and experiences are well provided in the project design. The section of the ProDoc (pp.23-24) describing 'replicability' through an advocacy process is particularly relevant. However, this reviewer suggests this reinforces an earlier point in this review: that dissemination must be evidence-based and, therefore, the role of the project indicators to supply the evidence of benefits to be gained by GIAHS is crucially important – see 'identification of global environmental benefits' above.	See previous response on logical framework revision.	Executive Summary Project Document
Sustainability is set out in the ProDoc under sub-headings of institutional, financial, social and ecological sustainability. The GIAHS project design is intended to provide for continuation of institutional structures, while at the same time mobilising longer-term financial support. The section on 'social and ecological sustainability (para 74, page 23) is, however, insubstantial. The ProDoc admirably puts a case for the threats and root causes to agrobiodiversity in Section IV, Part IV of the ProDoc. These 'threats' are likely to intensify. This reviewer considers the statement that "by promoting GIAHS, the project will ensure social and ecological sustainability" to be somewhat complacent. Customary institutions are becoming rarer and local knowledge is continually diminishing in the face of 'modernization' and 'commercialization'. The argument made for social and ecological sustainability in the ProDoc is essentially that GIAHS will provide for such outstanding landscapes and ecological benefits that they will be safe – i.e. sustainable. These 'heritage systems' cannot simply be viewed as some sort of ethno-museum; there have to be systems and institutions in place that will protect key aspects, such as particular plants and varieties, and act as repositories of local knowledge. How will this happen? One suggestion is that the project could deliberately	The text strengthened in various places to reflect this comment. The sections on stakeholder analysis and involvement have also been expanded to present the full engagement of all sectors – government, private enterprise and civic society.	Project Document Section I, Part I, B. Baseline Course of Action Section IV, Part V. Stakeholder Analysis and Participation Plan

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
build sustainability components, such as public-private participation forums, as seen in other GEF projects.[52] Other actions might include the 'greening-up' of culture, lifestyles and business.[53] **A rather more deliberate engagement with processes towards ecological sustainability is requested.**		
3. <u>Secondary issues:</u> **3.1. Evaluation of linkages to other focal areas (international waters, climate change, etc…).**		
The project is in focal area biodiversity. Attention has already been drawn above to the potential linkages with other focal areas. Under the rationale for the project (ExecSum, p.2), mention could be made of the synergies with sustainable land management and contribution to carbon stocks, for example. This reviewer could find little explicit mention in the documentation to benefits in agendas in climate change[54] and land degradation. However, the project should be able to make a legitimate claim to bringing global environmental benefits in carbon sequestration and control of land degradation – and this should be included both in the project rationale and possibly also in the ICA with suitable 'health warnings' that the data are not necessarily reliable. **The project should make a legitimate claim to bringing global environmental benefits in carbon sequestration and control of land degradation.**	It is true that the GIAHS concept could provide linkages among a wide range of ecosystem and socio-economic aspects. The proposal text has been strengthened in various places to reflect this.	<u>Executive Summary</u> Para 20 <u>Project Document</u> Para 59 - 60
3.2. Evaluation of linkages to other programs and action plans at the regional and sub-regional level.		
The project has good national linkages through its stakeholders and management arrangements. The proposers clearly are active players in agrobiodiversity, not only in their own right in FAO, but also through in-country institutions.		
3.3. Assessment of other beneficial or damaging environmental effects.		
The project is fundamentally 'environmental', seeking to build a sustainable basis for the protection of globally important agricultural systems that are, in themselves, environmentally friendly, employing techniques that have been handed down which are proven to be ecologically sound and financially beneficial.		
3.4. EVALUATION OF THE DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PROJECT.		
GEF attaches the greatest importance to stakeholder involvement. The Stakeholder Involvement Plan available to this reviewer was incomplete, but already an impressive array of project partners, government institutes and NGOs has been lined up. It will be essential that farming communities, as those described for Peru, are well engaged with the project and interact with it fully at all stages. It is understood that the project in its PDF-B phase had extensive consultation and coordination to enhance stakeholder participation.	The sections on stakeholder analysis and involvement have been expanded to present the full engagement of all sectors – government, private enterprise and civic society.	<u>Project Document</u> Section I, Part I, B. Section IV, Part V. Stakeholder Analysis and Participation Plan

[52] See GEF 1998. Lessons and Notes: Encouraging private sector involvement in GEF projects. http://www.gefweb.org/M&E/pln2a.html

[53] See for example, some ideas of actions for ecological sustainability at http://www.green-innovations.asn.au/ecolsust.htm

[54] There is a brief mention of project conformity to the climate change focal area in para 18 of the ExecSum, but no explanation of how this is achieved (other than exception of 'more resilience'). Similarly, conformity with POPs and International Waters focal areas are claimed but not elaborated.

COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
3.5. Assessment of the capacity building aspects.		
Capacity building is an integral part of the project at a number of levels. In Outcome 3, there is intention to develop local capacities; in Outcome 2, national capacities; while global capacity to value GIAHS and promote it further underlies the whole project. Local and national capacity building are the subjects of specific activity sets for the relevant Outcomes (2.2 and 3.2).		
3.6. Innovativeness of the project.		
The innovation of this project primarily arises from its focus on 'agricultural heritages' as a mechanism for promoting biodiversity conservation. None of the methods or techniques are particularly innovative, but the project does build well in an actively-engaged way by promoting a relatively novel concept to a much wider audience of planners and policy-makers.		
4. Concluding remarks		
The project rationale is soundly based on identified scientific criteria and needs. It is generally well written, contains sound argumentation and has objectives that are sensible. There is good evidence that the project offers possible long-term solutions for mainstreaming of agrobiodiversity through GIAHS promotion, immediately in the 7 pilot countries (5 GIAHS systems) and more widely to the target 15 individual GIAHS systems during the lifetime of the project. The project proposal does need some scientific and technical strengthening as summarised below. The two issues that this reviewer sees as highest priority are to (1) build a more robust scientific rationale for the project based upon a fuller set of specified global environmental benefits[55], and (2) include developmental benefits, not only as justification for the project, but as a basis for the social and ecological sustainability of the GIAHS approach. The proposers of the project are warmly commended for their project proposal on a subject that is of immense global importance. This STAP review commends the project to the GEF as an appropriate use of funds entrusted and an eminently suitable way to address pressing agrobiodiversity in key geographic areas of global environmental (and developmental) importance.		

[55] The scientific underpinning of GIAHS and several other policy and technical papers were prepared and presented to an international forum organized by FAO in Rome in October 2006. A full set of all these documents and other information are available on www.fao.org/SD/GIAHS

UNEP Review of 11 April 2006 and Response

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

	COMMENT	RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	Chile: Chiloe Island. The Chiloe Island is not a Vavilov center of origin, nor a center of origin of potatoes as incorrectly stated in the project document. The Chiloe Island has diversity of potato varieties, however it is not a center of origin of potatoes. Other inaccuracy in the site description is that the strawberry variety listed is the Fragaria chilensis and not Fragaria chiloensis as wrongly written in the project document. In addition, this particular island has been the focus of research and development work by numerous international environmental, agricultural research and development agencies. UNEP remains dubious that new funds are needed to ensure the continued existence of these potato varieties and one single variety of Ajo chilote.	The Vavilov centre of origin although an important criteria for GIAHS selection and applied to some of them, is not the only criteria for the recognition of the importance of agro-biodiversity. Additionally, GIAHS do not merely address a single agro-biodiversity species or variety but specific agro-biodiversity of global significance in a globally important agricultural system. The importance of the Chiloe Island agricultural system is in harboring several unique varies of Potato, Ajo Chilote, *Fragaria chiloensis* and several other domesticated and wild relatives and other species as well as landscape diversity, in combination with the Chiloe adaptive management systems developed by indigenous communities provide sufficient justification to be classified as GIAHS. The scientific name of *Fragaria chiloensis* is correctly stated (*chilensis* is a redundant synonym). **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	China Very small area of diversity and number of varieties conserved compared to major areas of diversity in China. The total area in China that project is working in according to these indicators is one village of 461 ha. This area will not be increased during the project. In addition, the project proposes to be concerned with 20 local rice varieties. Given that the number of locally grown rice varieties existing in production systems in China is over 1000 and that there are over 50,000 accessions of rice landraces held in gene banks in China, a very small amount of diversity and land area is targeted by the proposed project to justify the global benefits of the proposed GEF intervention. The targeted area is of low ethnic diversity compared to areas of China with high diversity of indigenous people - the village chosen in China is in an area of low ethnic diversity. This is combined with the fact that the rice-fish farmers within this region of China (near the economically rich area Shanghai) have higher incomes compared to farmers who grow only rice varieties without	The objective of GIAHS **is not only** the conservation of one or more biodiversity elements of global importance but **also** conservation and adaptive management of these systems as a whole. The traditional Rice-Fish system of China is unique in the world and *in situ* conservation of the rice, fish and other species in the system will be achieved by the conservation and sustainable management of the whole system. Ethnic diversity is not a criterion of GIAHS selection. In this case the sustainability and economic viability of the system as well country driven-ness have been the main criteria for selection. GIAHS objectives are conservation through adaptive management and searching for economic viability of the system.	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	harvesting fish products. It is therefore difficult to understand the need for GEF funds to conserve these areas.	**No changes made to project document texts.**	
	<u>Philippines</u> Very small number of rice varieties (4) conserved. Only four endemic varieties of rice are targeted in 68,416 ha of land area. The Philippines is a center of high rice diversity and rice is a main staple crop, thus it is surprising that over an area of 68,416 ha only four varieties are part of the system? Moreover, the rice varieties to be conserved are those used for making wine and thus have a higher market price and use value, so it is not expected that these varieties would disappear.	As rightly stated by UNEP there are many other rice varieties in the Ifugao system but 4 of them are endemic and all are contained in this agricultural system. The system as a whole is threatened along with these varities. As evidenced in the project document, the comparative data clearly show that the Ifugao rice system has been disappearing at an accelerating rate along with many of the rice varieties contained in the system. In fact, the high economic value of these rice varieties is a chief reason for the sustainability of the system **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	<u>Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) Oases</u> Only a small number of date palm varieties targeted as an indicator for global significance for Outcome 3. As UNDP has already carried out a GEF Project concerned with the conservation of Date Palm in the Oases of the Maghreb that ended in 2005 it raises the question what new conservation benefits will this project bring if the only indicator for effective management of globally significant agrobiodiversity is that the number of date palm varieties will not be reduced.	The same comments as above apply to the Oasis systems. The project seeks to conserve date palms and other species within the Oasis apicultural system through the adaptive management of the system as a whole. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	<u>Peru</u> Lack of reference to earlier initiatives of conservation in the Andean region of Peru. The project document does not refer to numerous other initiatives to conserve Andean roots and tubers In particular the inputs of Swiss government (SDC) to the on-farm conservation of Andean and Tuber.	FAO is aware of many efforts by SDC and others in the Peruvian Andes and indeed has been associated with many of them including FAO's own efforts. However, the lengthy description of these past works is neither required nor possible within the specified page limit of the project documents. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	(ii) The indicators listed under Outcome 3 (costed at US$ 10 Million USD) do not demonstrate enhanced conservation of agrobiodiversity in the targeted GIAHS. Outcome 3 has four groups of quantifiable indicators, which are: • No further decline in land conversion and	The view of the EA/IA is that the indicators are sufficient for the purpose, especially in terms of being appropriate, realistic, and measurable. Furthermore, this Outcome and its indicators concern mainstreaming conservation of agrobiodiversity for long term system	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	land abandonment pressures on traditional farms. • Habitat networks surrounding traditional farms remain stable or increase compared to baseline levels. • No decline in the level of understanding and commitment of communities to GIAHS in the pilot sites • Number of traditional crops and varieties being cultivated remain stable or increase over baseline.	viability, not increasing biodiversity *per se*. EA/IA welcomes UNEP's collaboration for elaborating additional indicators. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	The first indicator shows that the project does not plan to have interventions to increase the area within the project where diversity will be of concern, for example in China a baseline of only 461 ha will not be increased.	The objective of the project is to mitigate the threats not to expand systems that have resulted from hundreds if not thousands of years of conservation and adaptive management. The point about this indicator is to stop ongoing decline. The project objective has a target to identify 40 other potential GIAHS in accordance with internationally accepted criteria **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	For the second indicator there is no baseline on land conversion pressures on surrounding habitats, thus the question arises on whether this threat exists.	Land conversion is a general trend in all of the traditional agricultural systems around the world and particularly in the GIAHS cases as described These pressures will be elucidated during the initial phase of the project; at a minimum such pressures which are known qualitatively to exist will be stabilised. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	For third indicator, according to the project document, 90% of the farmers are already observing management practices supportive of the conservation of agricultural biodiversity, it is not clear how creating a GIAHS will affect his percentage.	The indicator is not about a particular percentage of farmers engaged in maintaining agrobiodiversity (indeed it is expected to decrease) but about the retention of critical knowledge within the relevant section of the community. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	In terms of the fourth indicator, only a small number of the total crop diversity of the agricultural systems in partner counties, is being targeted. For example, only 20 rice varieties in China, only 4 rice varieties in the Philippines, only one variety of Ajo chilote in Chile.	The project stakeholders suggest that a start has to be made and the issue is about the GIAHS model as a new institutional approach, not the nominal quantity of varieties saved at this stage.	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
4	Outcome 1 is primary promoting establishment of GIAHS Secretariat. It seems that the GIAHS concept is totally new instead of building up the proposed intervention on the existing experiences. This does not meet the basic GEF eligibility criteria related to the incremental cost. UNEP is concerned that promoting a new secretariat without considering previous and existing experiences might create overlapping and unneeded duplication of work. This will be a serious issue as far as financial sustainability is concerned, as the GIAHS Secretariat will compete for donors' funds with other agencies doing similar work.	The GIAHS Secretariat will be part of the existing Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture already housed in FAO. The cost of this Secretariat is already in the baseline and GEF incremental cost will allow the establishment of the GIAHS concept and sustainability of this work programme within an adequate framework and mandated UN agency. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
5	Outcome 1 and 4 are widely overlapping - both aiming at promoting the concept of GIAHS although from different perspectives.	These two outcomes are not overlapping but parallel and mutually supporting. Outcome 1 is exclusively targeted at setting up the necessary international framework for supporting and expanding GIAHS, whereas Outcome 4 is exclusively for monitoring impact and sharing lessons learnt. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
6	Outcome 2 seems overambitious "identification and implementation of specific measures" seems difficult in the light of the time required to produce legislative changes in some countries. Moreover, as it appears from the log-frame, the only laws taken into account are the land tenure (in some countries) and the protected areas laws in partner countries. This doesn't seem to be enough to create comparative advantages for local products. Laws on geographic origin, seed laws, decentralization and empowerment of local communities and others should also be considered.	Experience during the PDF-B phase has demonstrated that pilot GIAHS countries are already aware of the need for legislative and policy reforms and some have already mainstreaming CBD requirements. IA/EA therefore believe that Outcome 2 is eminently achievable. Examples of land tenure and protected area laws are given in the log-frame, and other issues suggested will be considered during the inception phase of the he full project. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
7	There are very little references to capacity building. The proposal recognizes the lack of capacity but neither in the project brief nor in the log-frame there are country/project sites specific activities and indicators related to this component.	As a project designed under the guidance of the Strategic Priority 2, capacity building through mainstreaming is a central theme of the project (see Para. 58) and will be carried out at all levels: global, national and local, involving all main stakeholder sectors. Activities are clearly set out in various sections, not least Section IV, Part V of the proposal (Stakeholder	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
		Participation Plan), and the Project Objective Indicator: "Establishment of national enabling environments for GIAHS" described in Annex B. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
8	Description of project components in the alternative section does not provide clear detailed description of the ways on how the anticipated project objectives and outputs will be achieved. Instead it only lists the planned groups of activities.	The detailed description of working methods and implementation strategy beyond what is written in the project will be developed by all stakeholders in each country in a participatory way during the implementation of the project. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
9	No quantitative indicators are developed neither for monitoring the biodiversity nor the social and the environmental impact in the proposed GIAHS.	The UNEP reviewer has already provided examples of quantitative indicators at point 3(ii) and many others are set out in Annex B. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
10	Project Budget: (i) More than 50% of the total GEF funds requested (Outcome 1: US$ 1,593,000 + Outcome 2: US$1,801,800 = US$3394800) are allocated to international agencies, organizations and international NGOs, leaving less that 50% of GEF funds for country components. This division is not visible from the information presented in the Project Executive Summary as no division of funds to countries is made in the Table 7: neither in Incremental Cost Matrix nor in Table 13 of the Full Project Brief. However, the Full Project Brief Part V: STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS (pages 71-100) shows that there are no national stakeholders identified for Outcomes 1 and 4, only international agencies.	The Outcomes 1 & 2 as well as other outcomes are also benefiting national and local levels and in particular GIAHS systems at ground level. Additionally, the international institutions are working also at national and local levels in additions to international levels. The same applies for stakeholders**.** **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	(ii) It is also not clear if all funds under Outcomes 2 and 3 will be allocated to country components, thus the amounts of GEF Funds planned for national components could be even more limited.	As above **No changes made to project document texts.**	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
11	Co-financing: (i) Actual confirmed cash co-funding is limited to US $ 450,000;	This amount is yearly and for the six years duration of the project will amount US $ 2,700,000. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	(ii) All national country contributions are in kind – no cash co-funding from countries is envisaged;	These contributions are valuable and activities envisaged are very specific to project. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	(iii) Contribution from FAO, the project executing agency is in-kind only and no cash co-funding envisaged;	This is incorrect statement. The letter of FAO contribution is attached. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	(iv) Bilateral donors are still to be confirmed;	Several bilateral co-funding bodies are expected to confirm participation in the near future. However, the level of confirmed co-funding is already four times GEF funding and therefore greatly exceeds minimum leverage requirements. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
	(v) Table 5, page 12 of the Executive Summary shows that the Roman Forum has committed US $ 6 Million cash and in-kind. However, the review of the letter from the Roman Forum states that the Forum has agreed to develop collaborative partnership with GIAHS, and aims to contribute to the activities…". The letter does not state that these funds are available. Moreover, UNEP is concerned that a university in Italy has the capacity to raise US$ 6 Million from the Italian government for a single project.	This matter has been clarified in a further letter from Roman Forum, now appended to the project document. **New letter from Roman Forum attached to project document.**	
	(vi) In total, out of the stated US$ 18,000,000 (US$ 7,374,000 cash and US$ 10,626,000 in-kind) co-funding, only US$ 450,000 cash is confirmed. Planned cash contribution of US$ 924,000 (Bilateral) + US$ 6 Million (Roman Forum) is not confirmed.	This statement is incorrect. All cash and kind co-funding are confirmed with letters of statements included. **No changes made to project document texts.**	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
12	Although the project M&E plan describes all activities planned to monitor project execution performance and oversight of project implementation it does not provide information on the activities and budget planned to track achievement of project objectives using the logframe indicators.	The funds for monitoring the achievement of the project progress, using the logframe indicators are included in each outcome. The detailed budget planning will be undertaken in the inception stage of the project. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
13	UNEP is concerned that the project proposal doesn't have a conceptual framework to compare different sites in order to evaluate the implementation of local plans. As stated on page 7, Executive Summary the conceptual framework is to be developed by the Christensen foundation. This should have been developed during the PDF-B phase. UNEP wonders how the M&E strategy will be implemented without such a framework. This is even more important at the local level where most of the work shall focus. It is also not clear how community will benefit from this project as there is no conceptual framework developed for local plans.	The project has already presented a detailed conceptual framework which will be adopted by all countries and in each system. The Christiansen foundation will assist the dissemination. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
14	While project management and implementation arrangements at global level are very well described, little information is provided on the management and implementation arrangements at national and project site level. Not enough emphasis is given on local communities, organizations and institutions needed to achieve project objectives at national level.	IA/EA is happy that UNEP is pleased with the implementation arrangement at global level. The implementation arrangements at national and local levels differ in different countries and will be developed through a participatory process with concerned stakeholders during the inception stage of the project. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
15	UNEP is concerned as to how the institutional sustainability will be achieved without mentioning a capacity building component under the Sustainability section of the Brief. Concerning the financial sustainability we remain doubtful about the capacity of the GIAHS Secretariat to generate funds while other organizations/programmes have been doing this for a long time. It is also very ambitious to have national budgetary support for something that can be interpreted in different ways by different countries (see assumptions and risks section of the project Brief and	Explained in 7 and 10 above. **No changes made to project document texts.**	

COMMENT		RESPONSE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
	Executive Summary) and for which there is no theoretical framework.		
Additional remarks			
1	The Project Brief is not written in the standard GEF format for full size proposals.	IE/EA have used the new format for submission to GEF4. **Changes were made to project document texts.**	
2	The Work Plan is missing as a part of the mandatory Annex B: Logframe.	The Work Plan is not a mandatory requirement for WP entry. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
3	There is no letter of GEF focal point endorsement from the Philippines for the Full Project. The letter attached in the Annexes of the Full Project Brief from the Philippines is for endorsement of the PDF-B Phase of the project.	The letter of endorsement is attached **No changes made to project document texts.**	
4	The activity 2.1"Identification and implementation of specific measures through which sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and regulations can be improved to support conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS, for instance through official recognition of GIAHS in national policy documents" overlaps with activity 3.2 "Identification and monitoring of political and socio-economic processes that impact biodiversity and cultural values in GIAHS in order to enhance positive effects and empower local communities with knowledge and tools to minimize negative effects" .	UNEP is invited to collaborate with the IE, EA and individual pilot countries to address these concerns. **No changes made to project document texts.**	
5	UNEP/FAO GEF full project proposal "Conservation and Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture, through an Ecosystem Approach", submitted to GEFSEC for consideration at June 2006 Work Programme is incorrectly listed as UNEP-GEF Pollinators Initiative.. It is also incorrectly mentioned that this project is under implementation.	Thank you for pointing this out. Text has been adjusted accordingly.	Executive Summary Part 5. Institutional coordination and support. Table 6 Project Document. Part III.

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

GEF Secretariat Review and Response

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

1. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP
Endorsement

April 9, 2007:
The GEF resources for the project will be pooled from country RAF allocations and a share of the global set-aside for the BD FA.

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

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

3. FINANCING
Financing Plan

April 9, 2007:
The project is submitted under the BD FA, which is subject to the RAF. GEF resources in the amount of US$3,6 million are requested. US$ 2,478,107 are endorsed by the country FPs to be pooled from the country allocation for BD (except Morocco). There is US$1,121,893 unaccounted for - please indicate where these GEF resources will come from. A table with the country endorsed BD allocations and the request for GEF funds from the global set-aside would be useful.

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

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

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

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

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

1. More than 16% of the GEF resources go into the project management budget. Please indicate what will be covered with these funds. As a rough guide, on average about 10% of the allocated GEF resources should be used for project management.

The project was revised to reduce and cost-share project management costs.

2. On the international consultants, the weekly salary is more than US$2300 (project management) and US$2900 (TA). Please indicate what is covered through this, e.g. travel and salary? Personnel for the TA component also shows weekly costs of more than US$2900. Please provide more information on the composition of the project personnel.

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

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

Budget for travel is reduced and the table was amended.

4. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

Core Commitments and Linkages

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

Information on FAO's comparative advantage to serve as the GEF agency for this project have been added to the section "Core Commitments and Linkages" in both the Project Executive Summary and Project Brief.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS BY PROGRAM MANAGER

April 9, 2007:
The project documentation was submitted for inclusion into the June 2007 WP.

The following issues have been raised:

1. Please confirm that Morocco will not contribute RAF resources to the project.
Morocco was removed from the list of pilot countries.

2. Please add a table with the country endorsed BD allocations and the request for GEF funds from the 5% set aside for global and regional activities.

Done.

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

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

Annex D Letters of Endorsement

Annex D. Co-financing Commitment Letters