

**Mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture and land management in the Lao
People's Democratic Republic**

UNDP/FAO/GEF/Government of Lao PDR

GEF Agency Project ID 2903

Project Preparation Phase

Inception Report

**Andrew Laurie
Lead Consultant and Biodiversity Expert
Vientiane, 17 November 2009**

Andrew Laurie
Tel. (Lao PDR): 020 715 7130
Email: andrew.laurie@yahoo.com

Background

The Project Identification Form (PIF) for this project was drafted in 2004 and then resuscitated, revised and submitted to GEFSEC in 2008. The project was admitted into the GEF Work Programme in 2009 and a Project Preparation Grant was awarded on 6 April, 2009. It is proposed that the GEF grant for the Full Sized Project (FSP) be split between FAO and UNDP and that both take part in the implementation. A team of six consultants¹ has been engaged to prepare the Full Sized Project Document for submission to GEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), UNDP and FAO.

Introduction

I arrived in Laos on 30 October and spent the first three days acclimatizing and meeting the other five members of the project preparation team and others closely involved at UNDP (Linda Norgrove), FAO (Ilari Sohlo) and The Agrobiodiversity Initiative (Iain Craig). Five of the team and Ilari (liaison officer appointed by FAO Vientiane) gathered on 5 November to begin to discuss a project rationale - what it should achieve and how, where and why. The full project preparation team was not able to meet together until Friday 6 November and then not again until 23 November so we took advantage of everyone's availability on the weekend 6-8 November to make a short field trip with Phiyasabai Khith Vorabouddato from the MAF Department of Planning (DoP) to Sangthong District about 65 km to the north-west of Vientiane to look at rice growing areas, and various small plantations and non-timber forest product based rural enterprises near the capital, Phialat. Ilari Sohlo joined us for the middle day. After an initial meeting with the Sangthong District government officials on the 6th we were accompanied in the field for a full day by Mr Bounngor from the District Water Resource and Environment Office on the 7th, and spent time en route discussing the scope of the project. On the last day the team sat down together to verify the threats to biodiversity as stated in the PIF, and to consolidate the outcomes (results) to be achieved under the proposed project.

Most of the first two weeks has been spent reading reports and listening to people. Jointly and severally, team members have met with a wide range of "stakeholders", including representatives of the major conservation NGOs, donors and donor funded initiatives in the thematic area of the project, and government officials. Inception reports by team members Ludo and Dietmar indicate well the range of partners with whom we have met already, and with whom we plan to meet, and the extent of the literature reviewed and to be reviewed.

Office and administrative support

The team is accommodated, by kind invitation of The Agrobiodiversity Initiative (TABI) in their offices, situated between the UNDP and the FAO HQ in Vientiane. It has taken a little time to get organized, but we now have wireless internet connection, office furniture, wireless access to the TABI printer and help whenever requested, from the project staff. We have access to the FAO photocopier next door when necessary, through Ilari Sohlo.

¹ Dietmar Braeutigam (Policy), Ludovic Pommier (Markets), Phengkhouane Manivong (Markets), Phoutsakhone Ounchith (Biodiversity), Siliothone Sackloklam (Farming Systems)

UNDP are still in the process of recruiting an administrative assistant and we look forward to the he or she being appointed and starting work.

Government counterpart support and coordination

Two DoP staff have been appointed as liaison officers, Ms Phiysabaikhith Vorabouddato who came with us to Sangthong, and Mr Somboun Joulasath (spelling?). It has been agreed that we have fortnightly meetings at the DoP to report on progress on the design.

Terms of reference (TOR)

I discussed my TOR and the general nature of the other consultants' TOR in September with Linda Norgrove, and made several points, particularly with respect to prioritization of tasks. TOR for each consultant define a large number of reports (some of them with overlapping contents) - to such an extent that the preparation of the project document is not given the emphasis that it should have. It would be better to focus all TOR much more sharply and deliberately on the production of the project document (Prodoc). Some of the preliminary reports requested might duplicate what appears to be already a substantial literature on "agrobiodiversity" and related government policy in Laos. I said that I would like the team to carry out critical review of previous work, to apply their personal knowledge and carry out interviews, and to come up with answers to specific questions that need answering as the Prodoc takes shape. This was agreed in principle, as long as each consultant is sure about what is expected of him or her. This informal arrangement has worked to a certain extent but some of the consultants would like to formalize changes in their TOR.

I am focusing efforts on the outputs that are required for submission to GEF by the end of January, incorporating in my tasks the separate instructions received from Sameer Karki, the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordination Office in Bangkok shortly before I left for Laos. These instructions indicate that there is more to do in preparation for submission than is reflected in my TOR. For example, there is an additional document required (GEF CEO Endorsement/Approval Request). I have drafted new TOR that capture the priorities better and incorporate initial decisions taken on project design. Other members of the team should be given the flexibility to assist in a similarly focused way, and, as mentioned above, we have already initiated such an approach in practice. Two of the consultants (Ludo and Phengkhouane) are proposing changes in their TOR in their inception reports, and another (Dietmar) is taking steps to make sure that his deliverables are written in such a way that they feed smoothly into Prodoc preparation. Phoutsakhone (Khek) will suggest revisions to her TOR in her inception report too. She has just started work (16 November) on an analysis of the importance of agricultural land for globally threatened species, and collection of the best available data on genetic diversity of crops and livestock species.

Project Scope and Structure

The title of the project in the PIF is *Mainstreaming biodiversity in Lao PDR's agricultural and land management policies, plans and programmes*. The threats to be addressed are listed in the PIF as:

1. *Changing agricultural practices: Farmers are replacing their traditionally diverse agricultural practices with high-yielding varieties, mono-crops and high levels of chemical fertilizer and pesticide use.*
2. *Land use changes: Traditional agriculture and forest land are converting to "contract farming" of cash crops, including tree crops (e.g. rubber and Eucalyptus).*
3. *Over-exploitation of biodiversity in the agricultural landscape: Increased population pressure and use of unsustainable harvesting practices influence negatively on agro-biodiversity resources.*

The team verified the threats and discussed whether to include attention to other threats. It was decided to focus on the threats already identified, but to take into account some other threats, such as climate change where appropriate in the design. Taking into account the size of the GEF budget (2.2 million USD over 6 years) and the wide range of related projects and programmes in the fields of agriculture and land management, the team concluded that the GEF funded project would do best to work strategically with other partners. The basic project strategy will be to use the abundant results and experience available to ensure that biodiversity conservation is a key consideration in the routine day to day business of government across all sectors, to increase the involvement of the general public in biodiversity conservation in agricultural landscapes; and to ensure that policy and financial incentives are in place that will lead farmers and agri-businesses to operate in ways that contribute to biodiversity conservation.

In order to achieve this the team concluded that it should not establish itself heavily in project "sites" according to the standard model, but should work in a range of locations in collaboration with other partners, notably TABI. This decision was approved at a stakeholder meeting including MAF, UNDP, FAO, and TABI on 9 November (minutes attached), and the team is going ahead with design along those lines. A 16 November meeting with TABI (Iain Craig, Andreas Heinemann (CDE), Pheng Souvanthong) and the donor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) (Viengxong Chithavong) confirmed that this approach would complement their activities and that it is the most sensible both on technical grounds and on practical, budgetary considerations.

The proposed project structure down to the outcome level, drafted by the team on 8 November is shown on the next page, with the exception that a fifth outcome (**5. Wild relatives of cultivated crops are protected effectively *in situ***) has been omitted after advice from UNDP's GEF Regional Coordination Unit that a maximum of four outcomes (preferably three) should be planned, and after consideration that this component can be included as an "output" under one of the other "outcomes".

Terminology

The objective of **mainstreaming biodiversity**² is “to internalize the goals of biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources into economic sectors and development models, policies and programmes, and therefore into all human behaviour”. “Mainstreaming” is an extremely broad concept: it can take place at the level of national policy, or local government decision making, or in the everyday behaviour of the general public and commercial businesses.

The project is aimed at contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in a highly modified landscape – an anthropogenic habitat. The concept of **agrobiodiversity** is defined in the PIF³ and in the National Agrobiodiversity Strategy⁴. However, to encourage clear thinking in project development and implementation, and taking the lead from the project title in the PIF, we are looking at the following four discrete components:

- a) The diversity of wild species (plants, fungi, micro-organisms and animals) in agricultural landscapes⁵
- b) The diversity of modified habitats in agricultural landscapes
- c) The diversity of species of crops and livestock
- d) The diversity within species of crops and livestock: for example varieties of rice, and breeds of goats and chickens

It is not useful to group these components together always, as desired results and required actions are different according to the component being addressed. There are different dimensions to be considered when assessing the benefits to man of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes and the types of actions that are necessary to contribute to conservation of biodiversity there. These include species used directly by man, species that support ecosystem services (pollination and pest control, for example), physical and climatic characteristics, and socio-economic conditions and the human use of land and species that have shaped the agricultural landscape.

² Agreed by participants at the September 2004 Global Environment Facility (GEF) workshop on biodiversity held in Cape Town, South Africa

³ *Agricultural biodiversity 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 agricultural ecosystems, also named agro-ecosystems: 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* (COP decision V/5, appendix).

⁴ All components of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture, and all components of biodiversity that constitute the agro-ecosystem – the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms. Agricultural biological diversity is described at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels, and covers both cultivated and wild organisms (Lao PDR National Agrobiodiversity Strategy)

⁵ This includes, of course, keystone species that provide ecosystem services of value to agriculture

TITLE: Mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture and land management in the Lao PDR

Agricultural landscapes occupy around 30% [include more detail] of the (236,000 km²) Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, and about 78% of the (ca 6.0 million) population are engaged in agriculture. A vast range of crops are grown in a mosaic of small fields and forest patches that also support a wide range of wild plant and animal species, many of which are collected by farmers for food, medicine and other purposes. Lao PDR is the centre of diversity of rice: over 3,000 varieties have been recorded, although many of them are no longer grown, and 6 species of wild rice (*Oryza spp*) occur in the country. Crops such as aubergines (*Solanum melongena*) display enormous variation. Over 2,000 accessions of vegetable seeds have been collected for a gene bank and are under characterization. Changes in land use, in particular the intensification of farming and the spread of large scale cash crops, are leading to changes in agricultural practices that reduce crop species diversity, within crop genetic diversity, and the diversity of wild species. Many wild species are also threatened or reduced in distribution by over-exploitation, often driven by new commercial opportunities. The project will work strategically with other partners to ensure that biodiversity conservation is a key consideration in the routine day to day business of government across all sectors; to increase the involvement of the general public in biodiversity conservation in agricultural landscapes; and to ensure that market incentives for farmers and agri-businesses lead to changes that contribute to biodiversity conservation.

OBJECTIVE: To ensure that biodiversity conservation is considered consistently in government and private sector decision making and action in the agricultural landscape

OUTCOMES:

- 1. Biodiversity conservation incorporated into the policies and regulatory framework related to land management**
- 2. Members of government, and government staff in all sectors, integrate consideration of biodiversity conservation in their day to day work.**
- 3. The general public are involved in well-informed advocacy for the conservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes**
- 4. Policy and market incentives together lead farmers and agri-businesses to operate in ways that contribute to biodiversity conservation.**

This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in CPAP or CPD: Outcome 1: Improved access to land and sustainable use of natural resources
Country Programme Outcome Indicators: Capacities of government at central level and in selected provinces strengthened for the conserving agrobiodiversity and mainstreaming agrobiodiversity conservation into the attainment of food security and livelihoods improvement
Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area (same as that on the cover page, circle one): 1. <u>Mainstreaming environment and energy</u> OR 2. Catalyzing environmental finance OR 3. Promote climate change adaptation OR 4. Expanding access to environmental and energy services for the poor.
Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program: <u>Strategic Objective Two:</u> To Mainstream Biodiversity in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors <u>Strategic Program 4:</u> Strengthening the Policy and Regulatory Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity
Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes: Policy and regulatory frameworks governing sectors outside the environment sector incorporate measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity
Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators: The degree to which policies and regulations governing sectoral activities include measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity as measured through the GEF tracking tool

Findings

Over the initial two weeks the team has been careful to consider the context - the backdrop against which this new intervention to “conserve biodiversity” is to play out – and we have made several observations and conclusions.

1. It is difficult to be sure of the actual total, but it is clear that there are and have been an extraordinary number of field based donor-funded investigations and interventions in the field of poverty alleviation and natural resource management (usually involving agriculture and biodiversity) in Lao PDR. See, for example, Figure 1 for distribution of 327 such interventions in northern Laos. Many of these interventions have the same rough objective: to improve livelihoods of farmers through changes in farming practices. They include attention to finding new markets for particular crops and for products of wild species (usually referred to as Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)) that occur in the agricultural landscape, cultivation of wild species, and promotion of organic and other premium products.
2. The outputs of these projects and programmes include huge numbers of written reports, most of them unpublished, and not widely read. There are some fora for exchange of information, notably LaoFAB and Lao Links, through the internet, but relatively little analysis has been done to benefit in an organized way from the wealth of valuable experience, the data, and the lessons learned from these numerous activities.
3. It is clear that the priority now is to make proper use of the results of interventions on the ground. It is clearly not a priority in the field of “mainstreaming biodiversity” to add another case-study or pilot site until the knowledge already accumulated has been properly digested and prepared for practical use. Some of the interventions may well be flawed in terms of conservation of biodiversity (donor-funded projects are quite capable of promoting activities that deplete biodiversity) so there will probably be practices to avoid as well as practices to promote. And as success or failure in conservation depends so often on local conditions robust analytical methods are required in order to make valid general conclusions.
4. TABI, which began implementation in May 2009, includes in its activities (Outcome 5) the assembly and collation and analysis of these data. They are currently looking at lessons learned from 80 initiatives in NTFPs for example, and plan eventually to shape their conclusions on these and others into policy recommendations. Discussions with TABI have led to agreement that there is a role for the GEF project in interpretation of field results for feeding into cross-cutting themes such as policy development, capacity strengthening, public involvement, and market and policy incentives that lead farmers and agri-businesses to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity. The Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture have approved this general approach.
5. There is research in progress on genetic diversity of crops and livestock in Laos, and much research has been completed, in particular on rice. Many data have been collected from various avenues of investigation (language, morphology, breeding experiments) but they still do not allow accurate, unequivocal estimates of the actual numbers of genetic varieties

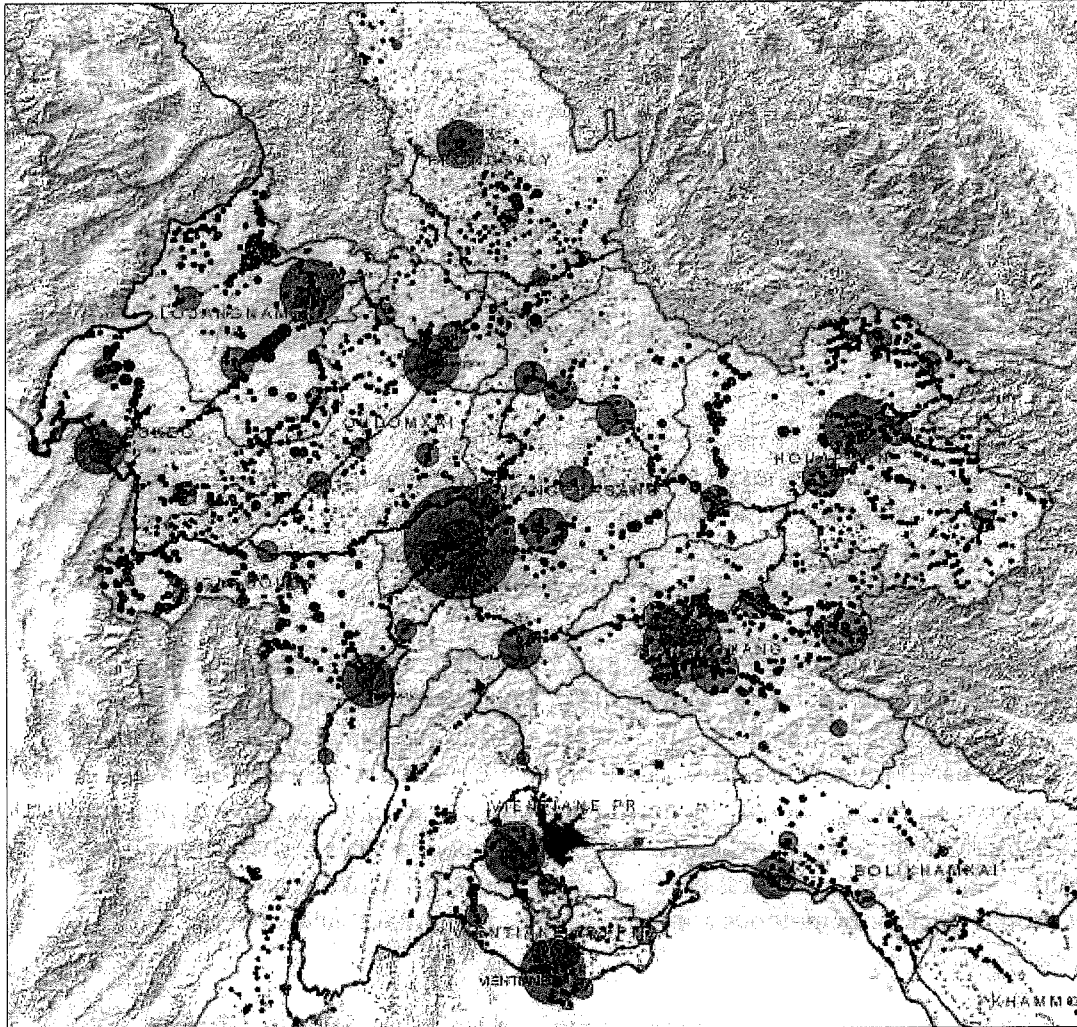


Figure 1. Interventions on poverty alleviation and natural resource management. Messerli/NCCR, 2009

of crops and livestock species. There are over 13,000 rice accessions collected between 1995 and 2000 preserved at the Genetic Resources Centre of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and over 2,000 vegetable accessions in a medium term vegetable gene bank under MAF's Horticulture Research Centre, but how many true genotypes as opposed to phenotypes or differently named varieties these comprise, is still under investigation through field trials.

6. The threat to intact ecosystems and farming livelihoods posed by increasing amounts of land being allocated for concessions for mono-crop rubber, *Eucalyptus*, *Jatropha* and others is widely acknowledged, and the illegality of many of the concessions is also acknowledged. There are huge sums of money being invested by environmentally rapacious companies many of them from other Asian countries, notably China, Vietnam, Korea and Thailand. It is held by some of our interlocutors that the management of parts of Northern Laos may soon

fall under a development plan drawn up with Chinese assistance that does not conform to national policy on agrobiodiversity.

7. Hydro-power development constitutes a separate threat to biodiversity in agriculture, one that has to be weighed carefully against the benefits. There is growing concern that sound decisions are not being made, most recently in connection with the Theun-Hinboun Expansion Project - a dam and water diversion project now in progress. Diversion of rivers in itself has huge biodiversity implications.

8. This GEF project has a clear advantage in being placed under the United Nations programmes (UNDP and FAO) in that the United Nations enjoys access at high level to policy and decision makers and members of the National Assembly. For example, we have been in discussions about working with the National Science Council at the Prime Minister's Office and with the National Assembly through the United Nations funded SELNA project (Support to an Effective Lao National Assembly). Project work with policy review is only half of the solution if the problem is that policy is not being followed. Work at the provincial level will be essential and will provide the meeting point for TABI and the GEF on policy, decision making and action in the agricultural environment.

Considerations for Project Design

Establishing common understanding

All too often projects fail because there are differing expectations from the "stakeholders". It is vital that all those involved should understand the scope, approach and expected results, and accept that all activities must contribute to the overall "vision" of the project. There are two versions: an inclusive one of where we are heading with the conservation of biodiversity in agriculture as a whole, and a more limited one of what the project itself will achieve within six years.

The wider all-inclusive vision is, in effect, management of land for agriculture and economic development without depleting natural resources or adversely affecting ecological processes, and ensuring the conservation in situ of important genetic resources of crops and livestock. This will be achieved through incorporation of biodiversity considerations into government policies and decision making, and through arousing people's interest and concern by contributing to their understanding of the ultimate effects of the current changes taking place in agriculture and land management, and the dangers of over-exploitation of biodiversity and the disruption of ecosystem services such as pollination.

Economic arguments

The biodiversity of Laos is of great interest and importance, and already 14% of the land has been allocated to national protected area status and there is additional 6% allocated at provincial and district levels. Protected areas, however, although important, are not sufficient alone to conserve the nation's biodiversity. It is essential that conservation is also integrated into man's treatment of the productive landscape. In order to convince government decision makers to give priority to conservation objectives the project will have to show that there are economic benefits in conservation. There is an opportunity here that is already being exploited to a certain extent, although not directly in the name of biodiversity conservation: an emphasis on quality rather than quantity in agricultural outputs – and higher prices for higher quality produce. In contrast to neighbouring Thailand, China and Vietnam, Laos already has somewhat of a name (deserved or otherwise) for agricultural produce that is less likely to contain harmful levels of agrochemicals. In

developing markets that put value on this, and also, no less important, on the biodiversity and the intact ecosystems of the country, a brand name reflecting a different approach to agriculture and land management might bring benefits that are sustainable far into the future.

Utilitarian and intrinsic values

Governments and the people must be persuaded that there is value in foregoing immediate profits in exchange for longer term stability and sustained profits. Biodiversity will not be saved in the region unless markets can be found for products that require the producers to keep that biodiversity intact. Policing will be required alongside community based activities, and conservation must be planned at the landscape level. In pushing the utilitarian rationale for conservation, however, we must not lose sight of the intrinsic value arguments. The utilitarian justification alone will not guarantee conservation and is not sufficient to achieve success. Unless people actually want a pleasant environment with diverse species and varieties it will not happen, so public involvement is important in both the economic and aesthetic arenas.

Social and Environmental Assessment

When formulating project outcomes, outputs and activities it is important to keep in mind the need to keep social and environmental impacts within acceptable limits and to give adequate consideration to biodiversity impacts. Later, too, in implementation, this will be important. It has often been the case in integrated conservation and development projects that project activities are not thought through sufficiently.

Sustainability

Whenever possible the project should work towards lasting institutional changes rather than one-off interventions, and we should ensure that the project's financial assistance is not the main benefit being supplied. Rather the emphasis should be on advice and ideas, technical skills, training, and perhaps small items of equipment difficult to find locally. Any direct funding should be in the form of contributions to larger funds raised by project beneficiaries.

Evidence based conservation

The project should be advocating and practicing evidence-based conservation. Uncoordinated and poorly thought out interventions should be avoided. We still need accurate and reliable information – initial enquiries show that the extent of the genetic diversity that we are dealing with is still not known (see above).

Link to good GIS

Sharing of information will be a vital part of the project's work, and some of this will be done web-based. Map-based information is crucial, and should be available for government, planners and developers and the general public to use. The project may not have its own GIS unit, but should at least find a partner who would take this on.

Public involvement

Empowering local residents with information is an essential aspect of mainstreaming. The project will work at central government level to make changes in policies and their implementation (see below) and will also invest in equipping local residents with the knowledge, skills and confidence to be in turn advocates for change in the way that government policies and actions affect land, agriculture and biodiversity. Facilitation of dialogue, and finding novel and effective ways for the target groups themselves to pass on the message within their own ranks is more important than one way information dissemination

Training

Before initiating training courses we must examine the impact of what has been done already. The subject matter should be of immediate relevance to all the trainees in their work. The best way to make sure of this is for training to be mainly on the job and linked to specific tasks and outputs. The emphasis should be on institutionalizing training whenever possible – for example in the various civil service training schools.

Links and partnerships

In order to be effective, it is essential that the project collaborates with other organizations involved in either biodiversity conservation or agricultural development or both. In some cases the project will further its objective by providing technical input regarding environmental and biodiversity impacts and sustainability to the work of other projects and programmes. In other cases we may be able to find partners to take on tasks essential for long term biodiversity conservation that lie outside this project's scope, but which are guided by the analysis of the information and experience on TABI and other programmes.

Potential partnerships identified already, apart from the major one with TABI (and through TABI to the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)), include Poverty and Environment Initiative (UNDP), SELNA, Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development Project (SUFORD) (World Bank and FINNIDA), Pha Tad Ke Botanic Garden⁶, Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Productivity Enhancement Project (ADB and IFAD), IUCN, WCS, WWF, and the Centre for International Migration and Development⁷, which may be able to supply suitably qualified technical experts to work on the project.

Risks

The following are some common risks that we should be aware of as we develop the project.

- Lack of common understanding of the project objective
- Flawed ideas on what constitute sound biodiversity conservation measures
- Partners pursuing narrow institutional targets rather than working together
- Lack of political will to tackle fundamental problems of governance
- Implementation arrangements that stymie project progress through impractical payment and reporting arrangements.

⁶ <http://www.pha-tad-ke.com/english/downloads/Pha-tad-ke-pressfile.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.cimonline.de/en/index.asp>

Technical Assistance

The project will be quite heavy on technical assistance, so in order to assist with the budget for this, an approach has been made to CIM (see above under Links and Partnerships).

First draft of impact indicators, outputs and activities

Below (Annexes 1a and 1b) are first ideas for impact indicators (for objective and outcomes) and for the outputs and activities. These are all under review: they served at first to focus the discussion at the joint meeting between the project preparation team and TABI on 16 November. TABI have since shared their Annual Work Plan and Budget with us, so that we can see more clearly how the two projects can complement each other.

Immediate plans

It is planned to hold a small stakeholder meeting on 25 November when the Regional Technical Adviser from UNDP/GEF RCU is here from Bangkok. The following week, from 1st to 5th or 6th December, we will make a field visit to Luang Prabang provincial capital and Ponsai District to begin planning implementation.

Annex 1a Impact Indicators [There are more than we need, so scope to omit many of them]

Objective and Outcomes	Indicators (and some notes)
<p>Objective: To ensure that biodiversity conservation is considered consistently in government and private sector decision making and action in the agricultural landscape</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of special measures taken to protect biodiversity in the productive landscape near to or linking protected areas 2. Number of ha of land concessions assessed to lead to excessive damage to biodiversity [and sustainable livelihoods?] 3. Number of specific and effective measures taken to arrest (3a) the loss of crop diversity and (3b) protect wild crop relatives 4. [Rather than the above indicators that stress actions aimed at conservation switch to real impact indicators that reflect changes in biodiversity (wild and domesticated) Still looking for sources of verification that are cost effective on this]
<p>Outcome 1. Biodiversity conservation incorporated into the policies and regulatory framework [government policies and practice?] related to land management</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Proportion of sectoral annual plans that include sound and robust biodiversity considerations 6. Proportion of sectoral 5 yr strategies that include sound and robust biodiversity considerations 7. Number of sound improvements in consideration given to biodiversity conservation in the 8th 5 year NSEDP (compared with 7th) 8. Number of changes made to procedures for environmental assessment to adequately include consideration of biodiversity conservation in agricultural landscapes
<p>Outcome 2. Members of government, and government staff in all sectors, integrate consideration of biodiversity conservation in their day to day work.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Proportion of decisions on concessions that lessen biodiversity loss 10. Proportion of decisions on hydro-power that take into account biodiversity conservation adequately 11. Proportion of decisions on licensing of NTFP harvests that take into account adequately biodiversity conservation 12. Number [or proportion] of NAFES agricultural extension officers able to explain biodiversity considerations soundly

<p>Outcome 3. The general public are involved in well-informed advocacy for the conservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes</p>	<p>13. Number of the general public that take part in radio programmes concerning biodiversity 14. Number of people engaging in voluntary activities related to biodiversity conservation in the agricultural landscape 15. Number of CSOs active in promoting the conservation of biodiversity in the agricultural landscape 16. Number of meetings of mass organizations such as Lao Women's Union that include conservation of biodiversity in the agricultural landscape as a topic for discussion 17. Proportion of donor funded project activities, and new donor-funded projects and programmes that include sound consideration of biodiversity in interventions in the agricultural landscape 18. Proportions of official petitions, and unofficial call-ins to the National Assembly that reflect public concern with biodiversity in agriculture</p>
<p>Outcome 4. Policy and market incentives together lead farmers and agribusinesses to operate in ways that contribute to biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>19. Proportion of changes in farming systems and agribusinesses (sampling necessary) that benefit biodiversity conservation 20 Areas under sound farming systems 21 Volume of export or sale of biodiversity friendly products [will first need criteria for biodiversity friendly]</p>

Annex 1b Outputs and indicative activities [note that some fuzziness here in distinction between outputs and activities]

Outcome 1: Biodiversity conservation incorporated into the policies and regulatory framework [government policies and practice?] related to land management	
Outputs	Activities
Changes to 8 th Five year plan	Collection and analysis of data on development and conservation interventions in land management and agricultural ecosystems
Changes to Environmental Assessment procedures	Publication of results of data analysis and lessons learned, any generalizations that are possible
	Review of policy documents including annual plans and five year plans of each ministry
	Work with sectoral planning departments (Trade and Industry = planning division), National Science Council, Committee on Rural Development
Outcome 2: Members of government, and government staff in all sectors, integrate consideration of biodiversity conservation in their day to day work.	
Outputs	Activities
National Assembly Members advocating biodiversity conservation in agriculture to ministries and the general public	On-the-job training with sectoral planning departments to demonstrate the importance of biodiversity and the long term value
Inclusion of biodiversity in agriculture to the in-service and pre-service training syllabus of the party schools for civil servants	Presentations at interessionals from NSC and project staff
	Curriculum design

	Seminar series given by visiting lecturers – high profile with exciting topics
Outcome 3: The general public are involved in well-informed advocacy for the conservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes	
Outputs	Activities
A hard-hitting film addressing the current threats to biodiversity (and ecological processes) in agricultural landscapes	Advocacy through the provincial constituency offices via the National Assembly members
Farmers meetings organized outside the project to discuss biodiversity	Support to newly formed CSOs
Radio debates and call-ins	On-the-job training with Lao Women's Union and other mass organizations
Involvement of volunteers in biodiversity conservation – eg volunteers for plant collections for new survey of Lao Flora	Support to Pha Tad Ke Botanic Garden in Luang Prabang and its plant survey work with the National Herbarium
	Technical support to public to participate in environmental assessment
	Advocacy with agribusiness, developers, donors in agriculture and forestry, and embassies of countries with companies heavily involved in natural resource extraction in Laos
Outcome 4: Policy and market incentives together lead farmers and agri-businesses to operate in ways that contribute to biodiversity conservation	
Outputs	Activities
Policy recommendations for safeguards on changes in farming systems and proposals for exploitation of wild species whether from the wild or in situ cultivation or breeding	Knowledge capitalization on a wide range of pilots from Laos and neighbouring countries

Feedback into action on current development projects and into planning of future projects		Analysis and publication
A Laos "brand" or reputation for biodiversity friendly production?		Review of new proposals for marketing as they come in
		Links to land tenure questions

Annex 2: Duties and Responsibilities Lead Consultant and Biodiversity Expert (proposed revision to TOR)

Be primarily responsible for project design and the writing of the Project Document and the GEF CEO Endorsement/Approval Request:

- Assess importance, context, feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the project concept
- Consult with partners both individually in joint meetings
- Collect relevant information,
- Conduct field visits as required
- Guide other project preparation consultants in their individual tasks of
 - collecting and analyzing data and writing required reports
 - engaging stakeholders around the project proposal
 - participating in consultation processes
 - commenting on reports and publications
 - producing specific reports as required
 - contributing directly to the writing of the Project Document and the CEO Endorsement/Approval Request

Deliverables

Lead responsibility for a draft UNDP Full Sized Project Document and a draft GEF CEO Endorsement/Approval Document including (but not limited to) the following components:

Project Document:

1. Analysis of the importance and feasibility of the project
2. Detailed description of project outcomes, outputs and activities, with summary of local, national and global biodiversity benefits of project and incremental reasoning, and analysis of sustainability and replicability
3. Project results framework
4. Total Budget and Workplan
5. Management Arrangements
6. Monitoring Framework and Evaluation
7. Analysis of project risks and corresponding mitigation measures

CEO Endorsement/Approval Request

1. Details of cofinancing
2. Project justification and responses to reviewers, including GEF Council, GEF Secretariat, STAP, GEF Agencies and CBD Secretariat
3. Alignment with the PIF

Reporting Requirements

1. Inception Report summarizing initial conclusions on design: 18 November
2. Mid term Report summarizing progress to date: 15 December
3. Draft Final Report including draft Project Document and CEO Request: 15 January
4. Final Report with responses to comments on the draft documents: 26 January

Three days at home base and two missions to Lao PDR: 30 October to 15 December 2009 and 2-26 January 2010.

Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CDE	Centre for Development and Environment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CIM	Centre for International Migration and Development
COP	Conference of Parties
DoP	Department of Planning
FAO	Food and Agriculture of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEFSEC	GEF Secretariat
HQ	Headquarters
IUCN	World Conservation Union
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
PDR	Peoples Democratic Republic
PIF	Project Identification Form
RCO	Regional Coordination Office
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SELNA	Support to an Effective Lao National Assembly
STAP	Scientific and Technical Assessment Panel
SUFORD	Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Productivity Enhancement Project
TABI	The Agrobiodiversity Initiative
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD	United States Dollars
WCS	The Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature