

Project outline following logical steps proposed by John Hough

1. This is the GSBD

There are traditional and indigenous agricultural systems which contain Agricultural Biodiversity of Global Significance (ABGS). In the proposed project, we will apply the CBD definition of agricultural biodiversity. Building on articles 8j and 10c of the CBD, which recognise the importance of indigenous and traditional practices for the maintenance of GSDB, the proposed project will facilitate both international and national support for the continuity of the actual practices that support the maintenance and adaptation of ABGS.

By definition, ABGS has been domesticated, maintained and adapted in a process of co-evolution with human management systems, which include traditional knowledge systems and technologies, specific forms of social organisation, customary law and other cultural practices. The biodiversity can only be maintained within the bio-cultural systems that have created it. If the integrity of these systems is threatened the biodiversity will be lost. It is the need to address the growing number and range of threats that is the basis for the proposed project concept.

Globally important agricultural heritage systems (GIAHS) are a unique sub-set of ABGS. These GIAHS systems are defined by sharing the following three characteristics:

- The domestication, maintenance and adaptation of **the ABGS itself**
- **The ABGS is managed holistically.** This includes: (i) integration at the level of inter and intra-species dynamics; (ii) integration of different scales: genes, species, ecosystem and landscape; (iii) integration of the sustainable management of biotic and non-biotic natural resources (land and water); (iv) integration of the biodiversity and ecosystem characteristics with human needs, aspirations and cultural views and preferences; and (v) adaptive management
- **The ABGS has co-evolved** with these systems over centuries, even millennia

Because of these characteristics these systems should be regarded as priority areas for conservation of ABGS, since: (i) they contain significant ABGS, (ii) they have proved their sustainability and resilience over time, (iii) the knowledge systems and management institutions that can sustain the ABGS *in-situ* are in place.

We have thus far identified some 50 systems that meet these criteria, but believe there may be many more.

2. This is the problem

On a global scale, in the last decades, a new set of factors (root causes) has emerged that is increasingly leading to the erosion of customary practices and institutions that underpin the ABGS.

Root causes

- Globalisation and homogenisation of the agricultural sector
- population dynamics and land use changes
- Perverse national policies, economic incentives and legal frameworks (macro)

- Non recognition and substitution of traditional/indigenous governance and customary law for natural resources management (international / national)

These root causes in turn can be linked to the range of threats that are directly undermining ABGS.

Threats to the ABGS:

- Abandonment of the systems
- Land conversion
- Displacement of traditional varieties
- Introduction of invasive species and varieties
- Elimination/reduction of pollinators due to unsustainable intensification

3. This is the solution

Establishing a long term open-ended program for the global recognition and dynamic conservation of GIAHS and their ABGS (more than 50 systems). The GEF increment will serve to establish this programme through the full implementation of 10 of the most outstanding GIAHS systems. Similar programs such as the conservation of Cultural and Natural Heritages sites of the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO) will be used as model to create Agricultural Heritage Category and to ensure long term sustainability of GIAHS program.

4. These are the barriers to the solution

- Lack of international policy recognition of and incentives for the conservation of GIAHS and their ABGS
- Inadequate understanding of the importance of these systems and their ABGS by decision makers and the public
- Weakness of institutional capacity to deal with the issues of GIAHS
- Lack of inter-institutional co-ordination to deal with the issues of GIAHS
- Low community involvement in decision making and planning
- Insufficient knowledge, data and information

5. The proposed project components/activities and outcomes that address the barriers:

Long term goal: The conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS and their GSBD	
Project objective: To catalyse the establishment of a long term open-ended program for the global recognition and dynamic conservation of GIAHS and their GSBD	
Outcomes (<i>Overall Outcome: Basis established for a long term program</i>)	Activities
Outcome 1. Enhanced global recognition and support for GIAHS	International framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising • Establishing the scientific legitimacy of the concept and approach (workshops, papers, publications) • Establish the basis for formal international

	<p>recognition (policy/regulatory framework)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilising funding and institutional support for the long-term program
<p>Outcome 2. Basis established for creating enabling national policy, legal and incentive environments</p>	<p>Improving national policy environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising • Analysing national policy, legal and incentive frameworks (studies) • Participatory review of legal, policy and incentive arrangements (public fora)
<p>Outcome 3. Dynamic conservation of GSBD is assured in priority pilot systems</p>	<p><i>In-situ</i> dynamic conservation of pilot systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening local institutional arrangements and capacity building • Field trails and studies (analysis of functioning and threats, niche markets, technological innovation) • Formulation of long term management plans / regulatory frameworks • Creation of a legal status of pilots systems (national-local) • Development of field guides (workshops, publications)
<p>Outcome 4. Lessons learnt, disseminated results, adaptive management and M & E</p>	<p>Project management, M&E and information dissemination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management • M&E • Information dissemination (web-site, publications, etc.)

6. What is required to make the overall outcome sustainable?

- international policy recognition and support
- supportive institutional frameworks at international level
- sustainable funding
- scientific legitimacy and sound knowledge base

7. These are the indicators

Outcomes	Indicators
<p>Overall Outcome: Basis established for a long term program</p>	sum of all below
<p>Outcome 1. Enhanced global recognition and support for GIAHS</p>	a supportive policy declaration from an international governing body
<p>Outcome 2. Basis established for creating enabling national policy, legal and incentive environments</p>	Draft proposals for policy / legal reforms

Outcome 3. Dynamic conservation of GSBDD is assured in priority pilot systems	Ongoing implementation of management plans