



Lessons learned and progress in UNEP-GEF
Projects from capacity building of National
Biosafety Frameworks

Coordination Meeting 18-20 Jan. 2006 Tromso, Norway



November 2000



GEF Council approved the "Initial Strategy for capacity building for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety".

MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. A project to assist in developing National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs)
2. A limited number of demonstration projects to assist in implementing the National Biosafety Frameworks;
3. Support for countries to participate in the Biosafety Clearing House
4. Coordination with other organizations to provide biosafety-related assistance
5. Enhancement of advice to GEF on biosafety issues

UNEP-GEF Biosafety Projects



1. Development of NBFs
*Up to 130 countries
developing an NBF*

2. BCH Project
*...Up to 139 countries to
help use and access BCH*

3. Implementation Projects
*... 8 demonstration
projects (out of 12) on
Implementation of NBF*

National Biosafety Frameworks

Five main components of NBF:

1. Biosafety Policy
2. Regulatory regime
3. System to handle requests (administrative, risk assessment & management, decision making, etc.)
4. Follow up activities (enforcement, monitoring for environmental effects, etc.)
5. Public Awareness and Participation

UNEP-GEF Development of NBFs

Dates:

Started June 2001 and ending December 2006

Duration:

National projects average 24 months

Total cost:

\$36 million from the GEF, plus co-financing of \$12 million from UNEP and participating countries.

Participants:

Up to 130 countries - Each country budget of between 100,000 to 200,000 US \$ plus 50% in additional co-financing from country

Lessons learned in Development Project I

1. Helpful to break down the project into manageable phases, goals and outcomes
2. Key components of a draft NBF agreed upon by world experts
3. Keeping needs of developing countries at centre of all efforts essential for success
4. Neutrality of UNEP is key to UNEP's relationship with countries
5. Adapting documents, procedures and systems to countries' needs was necessary to assist them

Lessons learned in Development Project II

1. 7 Regional Coordinators give daily support to countries, manage project and relationships well and provide technical advice in very specialized field
2. Toolkits have been useful to countries when they are complemented by RC support. All toolkits were revised and internationally peer reviewed by stakeholders
3. Use of National Coordinating Committee is key for ensuring consultation between ministries and all other stakeholders, so consensus can be reached
4. Success with countries is a result of global teamwork

Lessons learned in Development Project III

1. Set of 16 Workshops and continuing contact with RCs led to closer linkages and South-South cooperation
2. Networking and cooperation between countries has to be actively supported and platforms set up that can later lead on to more formal cooperation mechanisms
3. Countries need to implement NBFs before agreements can happen and formalizing regional cooperation
4. Best practices are being collected by UNEP
5. Information flow is key to meeting needs of countries and for helping with transparency.

Development of NBFs - Progress

- Status as of 1st June 2005:
 - 126 countries have endorsed the project
 - 122 national projects are approved
 - 121 national projects have started
 - 57 countries have completed draft NBFs (12 CEE, 20 Africa, 21 Asia, 4 Latin America)
 - 54 countries have draft NBFs and are eligible for GEF Implementation projects

UNEP-GEF Biosafety Projects



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BCH Project lessons



- Project developed as direct response to country needs for access and use of the BCH and developed with the SCBD;
- Expert meeting in 2004 advised UNEP to use a network of Regional Advisors, using call-down contracts, living and working in the same regions to deliver support
- Over 80 countries are now reviewing their nBCH plans and training and equipment needs with aid of the Regional Advisors

UNEP-GEF Implementation Projects



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Project Statistics



- All 8 UNEP-GEF countries were originally in the GEF Pilot phase
- All started in September 2002
- Duration: 3 years
- Budget: US\$ 500K-1.0 mil
- 3 completed by end of 2005

Lessons learned I



- Development of project in a consultative and inclusive process helps in sustainability
- Project team needs 4-6 persons to run work
- 3 to 6 yrs are needed to make an NBF operational
- Cost depends on governmental commitment, industry contribution, country size, population
- Estimated cost to set-up: 0.6-7.5 mil \$ US
- Estimated cost to maintain: 50 to 200 k US \$ p.a

Lessons learned II



- Sharing experiences, documents, etc both in-country and within region is essential for success
- Language and culture are barriers to sharing, so translation of many relevant documents essential
- Appreciation for UNEP's technical support and the training in administration and other areas
- Recommend longer country visits
- Recommend more frequent meetings for all NPCs
- Follow up strategy needed after implementation

Lessons learned III



- Toolkits and documents should be there at start of project
- Provide updates on Biosafety e.g. CPB, WTO, etc
- More regular technical discussion on country reports and performance
- Organize field visits to see biotech/biosafety
- Consider increasing financial support & contingency funding for currency fluctuation

Overall Assessment



Positive achievements of the project:

- ❖ Operational NBFs at end of project (3 countries by end 2005)
- ❖ Laws are enacted in countries
- ❖ Enhanced capacities achieved in human resources and laboratory facilities
- ❖ Improved public perception & change to more positive attitude

Overall Assessment (contd.)



Positive achievements of the project:

- ❖ Project has been fully incorporated into national plans and system
- ❖ Awareness has been created through websites, publications and databases
- ❖ Cooperation achieved between relevant Ministries and stakeholders
- ❖ Networking & information sharing between countries at regional & international levels

Challenges to face



- ❖ Bureaucracy in government and conflict of interest between Ministries
- ❖ Delays in enactment of Biosafety Law
- ❖ Harmonization of domestic laws with international obligations and other countries within region
- ❖ Change of project staff, and of Ministers and Ministries responsible for Biosafety

1. Plans for the future

Completion of Development Phase of NBFs

- Remaining 70 country NBFs due to be completed by end of 2006
- Last 6 countries involved in Development Project may finish after 2006
- BCH project rolls out for up to 139 countries with over 80 countries participating today
- Evaluation of all activities under "GEF Initial Strategy" completed by GEF OME with positive results on UNEP's performance

2. Plans for the future

New GEF Strategy includes more elements for regional and sub-regional cooperation

1. National projects complemented by sub-regional components and sub-regional cooperation
2. Enhanced sharing of information, experiences and resources at all levels
3. Identification and strengthening of regional centres of expertise in Biosafety
4. Cooperation with other projects, agencies, etc.

Revised GEF Strategy to be presented to GEF Council in June 2006

3. Plans for the future

Launch of full NBF Implementation Phase

- 54 countries eligible by December 2005
- 15 projects already submitted to GEF (*Cambodia, Czech Republic, DPR Korea, Estonia, Egypt, Lithuania, Mauritius, Tunisia, Liberia, Tanzania, Iran, Vietnam, Moldova, Slovakia, Latvia*)
- Czech Republic MSP endorsed and more expected
- Up to 100 more countries likely to request projects for implementation of NBFs
- Political will for regional harmonization is emerging spontaneously (e.g. ECOWAS, Caribbean, Pacific)

4. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Subregional NBF Implementation projects

- UNEP has submitted 5 sub-regional project concepts for 74 countries to GEF for review (CEECCA-16, ECOWAS-15, WA/NA-13, SADC-14, Caribbean-15)
- World Bank has had two multi-country concepts (Latin America-5 and West Africa-6) approved and projects will be presented to GEF by June 2006

5. COOPERATION



- Cooperation with other capacity building projects and organizations very active at national and international levels
- Other agencies (eg UNIDO, FAO, ADB) likely to become more involved in Biosafety under new GEF strategy
- Coordination takes up more time as number of organizations involved is increasing
- Coordination mechanism complements this active dialogue between players



United Nations
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Thank you