

ANNEX 6: FORMAT FOR HALF-YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT

January 1 to June 30, 2008

(Please attach a current inventory of outputs/Services when submitting this report)

1. Background Information

1.1 Project Number: GFL-2328-2715-

1.2 Project Title: Conservation and Sustainable Management of Below-Ground Biodiversity: Tranche II – India component

1.3 Division/Unit: UNEP/DGEF

**1.4 Coordinating Agency or Supporting Organization (if relevant):
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi**

**1.5 Reporting Period (the six months covered by this report):
January 1 to June 30, 2008**

1.6 Relevant UNEP Programme of Work (2002-2003) Subprogramme No:

1.7 Staffing Details of Cooperating Agency/ Supporting Organization (Applies to personnel / experts/ consultants paid by the project budget):

Functional Title	Nationality	Object of Expenditure (1101, 1102, 1201, 1301 etc..)
Project fellow (Information management) – Rohit Kumar	Indian	1101
Project fellow (soil biology) – Pradeep Kumar	Indian	1102
Project Scientist (Interdisciplinary) – Dr. Tunira Kumar	Indian	1103
Administrative support (project secretary) – Anuradha/Uma	Indian	1301

1.8 Sub-Contracts (if relevant):

Name and Address of the Sub-Contractee	Object of expenditure (2101, 2201, 2301 etc..)
Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peeche, Thrisoor, Kerala	2203
University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	2202
G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development	2201

2. Project Status

The status of work is given in the work plan (Appendix 1)

2.1 Information on the delivery of outputs/services

Sl. no	Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	Status (Complete/Ongoing)	Description of work undertaken during the reporting period	Description of problems encountered; Issues that need to be addressed; Decisions/Actions to be taken
1.	Assessment of symbiotic nitrogen fixing ability of cultivated legumes in Central Himalaya	Field and lab work completed but reporting needs further improvements	Largely laboratory analysis and organization of results	The report was reviewed by the National Coordinator and experts and presented by the participants in the National Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop cum Steering Committee meetings held in March and June, 2008. The authors were advised to recheck data in the meeting held in March 2008. Presentation made in the meeting held in June 2008 reflected substantial improvement (Appendix 2, 3). Suggestions and comments for further improvements were given and the authors were advised submit the final revised version by September 2008. The final version of the report will be placed in the National Steering Committee meeting to be held in September/October 2008 and will be circulated by putting it on the web. The final report will be submitted in the next semi annual report due in January, 2009.
2.	Spatio-temporal dynamics of diversity of traditional grain legumes in central Himalaya	Field work completed but reporting needs further improvement	Largely field data analysis and organization of results	The draft report was reviewed by the experts/national coordinators for improvement. Revised report is awaited. The final version of the authors will be placed in the National Steering Committee meeting to be held in February/March 2008 and will be

				circulated by putting on web. The final report will be submitted in the next semi annual report.
3.	Assessment of anthropogenic pressure, traditional rights and natural resource management issues: a case study from central Himalaya	Field work completed but reporting needs further improvement	Largely field data analysis and organization of results	The draft report was reviewed by the experts national coordinators for improvement in the preceding reporting period (July-December, 2007). The revised report was submitted in March 2008, which was again reviewed and authors were advised to make further improvement. The second revised version (Appendix 16) is being reviewed by the National Coordinators and the final version of the report will be submitted in the seminannual report due in January 2009.
4	Characterising land use diversity in village landscapes for sustainable mountain development: a case study from Indian Himalaya	Completed	The report was organized and revised based on the comments of independent experts by the national coordinators. This report is under consideration of publication in a journal. The manuscript submitted to the international journal Environmentalist was revised in response to the comments and suggestions of the referees. The paper is accepted and available online (appendix 25). While synthesizing the data collected it was possible to organize some dimensions of site characterization in the form of another paper published in Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (appendix 26).	No specific point to mention
5	University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore: Work related to second phase of the project			
6	University of	On going	The document submitted by UAS was	The revised version of the report was placed

	Agricultural Sciences Bangalore: Meaning and methods of assessment of soil health		reviewed by experts/national coordinators and comments/ suggestions given for revision.	in the National Steering Committee meeting held in March 2008. The need of further improvement by the authors was expressed. In the National Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting, authors were asked to revise it again and give a final shape it. It was decided that the final version should be submitted latest by July 2008 and participating scientists should pay more attention to other components of the project, particularly the demonstrations. The final version of the manuscript will be submitted in the next seminannual report.
7	University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore: Indicators for loss of BGBD across a gradient of land use types in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve benchmark site, Western Ghats, Karnataka	On going	The document submitted by UAS was reviewed by experts/national coordinators and comments/ suggestions given for revision.	As in the status of report mentioned at Serial number 6
8	University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore: Meaning of soil biological quality and methods for characterizing demonstrations	On going	The document submitted by UAS was reviewed by experts/national coordinators and comments/ suggestions given for revision.	As in the status of the report mentioned at serial number 6 above
9	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore: Ex ante analysis of feasibility	On going	The document submitted by UAS was reviewed by experts/national coordinators and comments/ suggestions given for revision.	The revised document as well as the preliminary results of demonstration experiments were presented in National Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop cum

	and viability of selection options for demonstration/experimentation – improved soil organic matter management, crop management and composting technologies for enhanced soil microbial function			Steering Committee meeting in March and June 2008 (Appendices 2, 3). A need of improvement in presentation of results, statistical analysis and interpretations for improving the existing practices has been communicated to the investigators. National Coordinators have explained these needs in field. The improved versions are being prepared and will be again evaluated in the national monitoring workshops being planned in September and December 2008. Improvements are being attempted by organizing training workshops: one on macrofauna planned in July 2008 followed by training workshop on mesofauna in September 2008. National coordination office has also made efforts towards preparation of state of knowledge reports on soil quality and health (appendix 18 in the previous semiannual report) and land use intensification (appendix 18 in this annual report).
10	Kerala Forest Research Institute: Soil health analysis using earthworms as the indicator – possibilities and constraints	On going	The document submitted by KFRI was reviewed by experts/national coordinators and comments/ suggestions given for revision.	Status as in serial number 6 above.
11	Kerala Forest Research Institute: Land use transformation and loss of belowground biodiversity – an analysis	On going	The document submitted by KFRI was reviewed by experts/national coordinators and comments/ suggestions given for revision.	Status as in serial number 6 above.

12	Kerala Forest Research Institute: Litter decomposition as an ecosystem services	On going	The document submitted by KFRI was reviewed by experts/national coordinators and comments/ suggestions given for revision.	The final version of the authors will be placed in the National Steering Committee meeting to be held in February/March 2008 and will be circulated by putting on web. The revised document will be finalized and submitted in the next semi annual report.
13	Kerala Forest Research Institute: On-farm participatory activities for soil fertility improvement and belowground biodiversity conservation – an ex ante evaluation	On going	The document submitted by KFRI was reviewed by experts/national coordinators and comments/ suggestions given for revision.	The final version of the authors will be placed in the National Steering Committee meeting to be held in February/March 2008 and will be circulated by putting on web. The revised document will be finalized and submitted in the next semi annual report.
14	University of Agricultural Sciences – Synthesis report – Conservation and Sustainable Management of Belowground Diversity in the Karnataka part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve	Completed	The first draft of the document was reviewed by the national coordinators and some experts. Based on the comments and suggestions the document was revised by the PI. Still National coordinators feel the scope of improvement through efforts from the experts over the next two months.	The final version of the synthesis of workdone in phase I is given in appendix 11, 12, 13. While this version is expected to be further improved by the scientists of the participating institutions and the report will be uploaded on the project site for comments and suggestions from others, the participating scientists have been advised to make efforts to publish the results in journals.
15	Kerala Forest Research Institute – Synthesis report – Conservation and Sustainable Management of Belowground Diversity in the Kerala part of	Completed	The first draft of the document was reviewed by the national coordinators and some experts. Based on the comments and suggestions the document was revised by the PI. Still National coordinators feel the scope of improvement through efforts from the experts over the next two months.	Status as in serial number 14 above.

	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve			
16	G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development – Synthesis report – Conservation and Sustainable Management of Belowground Diversity in and around Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve	Completed	The first draft of the document was reviewed by the national coordinators and some experts. Based on the comments and suggestions the document was revised by the PI. Still National coordinators feel the scope of improvement through efforts from the experts over the next two months.	Status as in serial number 14 above.
17	Demonstrations for sustainable management of below-ground biodiversity – Himalayan study area	Ongoing	Substantial amount of data has been collected. The writing on this component has been initiated (appendix 7). The delay in transfer of funds from GCO to NCO has been a significant factor for relatively slow progress in this activity as well as others during the January to June 2008.	The work was presented in the steering committee meeting held in June 2008. The comments and suggestion are being kept in mind for organizing the results in the form of report to be presented in the next semi-annual report. Early transfer of funds from GCO to NCO is requested.
18	Improving Soil Health for Sustainable Development of Agriculture in Himalaya – original manuscript of Prof. S.P. Sharma	Ongoing	Realizing the difficulties and an element of ambiguity in the concepts of soil health, soil quality and soil fertility, a senior agriculture scientist was requested to provide a working paper. National coordinators have reviewed and requested for revisions.	The manuscript has been revised (Appendix 27) and will be uploaded in July 2008 on the project site to the benefit of the participating scientists.
19	Soil quality and health: a review – National coordination office	Completed	The national coordinators took initiatives to prepare a review on soil quality and health so that the work on demonstration plots related to soil quality/ health is not delayed.	The final version of the authors is ready and will be placed in the National Steering Committee meeting to be held in February/March 2008. Experts in the Steering Committee have been requested to give a final

				touch to the manuscript to be uploaded on the project site (www.tsbsarnet.org) in August 2008 to the benefit of a larger community.
20	Ecosystem services – their measurement and valuation: a review – National coordination office	Ongoing	The national coordinators took initiatives to prepare a review on ecosystem services as a working document to avoid further delay in work related this component in the project.	The national efforts were expected to be augmented by the global efforts as decided in the Calicut meeting but concrete efforts from the GCO could not materialize. Under such a situation, more national efforts are being mobilised. Literature on the subject has been made available to a larger group of scientists (Appendix 6).
21	Eco-friendly hill specific, cost effective and appropriate technologies for sustainable rural development – A publication of G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development	Completed	The purposed of the publication was to bring out the BGBD mediated improvements in agricultural productivity and environmental conservation to a wider community.	Based on the comments and suggestions from different stakeholders, action/revisions required for further improvement are being worked out by the coordinators. The improved version of the document will be
22	A publication/ manual on the methodology on inventory and characterization of BGBD in hilly regions of India	Ongoing	Editing of manuscript completed.	The manuscript was submitted to an Indian publisher (Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehradun). The publisher felt a need of a change in the layout and copy editing which were agreed to. The publication is expected to be out by September 2008.
23	(a) Country synthesis report – macro-fauna (b) Country synthesis	Ongoing	Submissions of data from the participating scientists to the National coordination office and to the global coordination office and subsequent progress were discussed in the	The first draft of macro-fauna synthesis report submitted to the National coordinators is being reviewed. The manuscript will be finalized by August 2008 and the final version

<p>report – land use intensification – biodiversity – sustainable land use and livelihood linkages</p>		<p>national steering committee meeting held in March 2008. It was decided that the data collected by Indian scientists and already forwarded to the global coordination office can be used for synthesis on a global / international scale. At the same time national efforts should be made to bringout synthesis papers on a national scale. It was also felt that analysis of all groups at a time in relation to land use and livelihood is constrained by several factors. It will be more appropriate for the national synthesis efforts to start with specific groups of organisms and ecological themes and then synthesize these papers for holistic assessment of biodiversity – land use – livelihood linkages. The synthesis of work related to inventory of macro-fauna in relation to land use is presented in appendix 17 and land use intensification document in appendix 18. The work done on synthesis of biodiversity – land use – ecosystem properties – livelihood linkages could not be produced in the form an organized text. The workings on the data are presented in Appendix 19.</p>	<p>will be put on the project web site and submitted in the semi-annual report due in January 2009.</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2.2 If the project is not on track, provide reasons and details of remedial action to be taken:

Activity	Reasons and remedial action
Methods for characterization and evaluation of BGBD (role in provision of ecosystem services/processes) agreed	Delayed: The participants have reviewed literature but have not been able to finalize the methods. Some investigators expect a concept paper on standard methods from the GCO. While efforts towards estimation of services will be initiated with the establishment of demonstrations in September, 2007, national coordinators have taken up the task of comprehensive documentation of the methods. To accelerate the progress, frequency of monitoring and evaluation workshops has been increased and more experts involved in the process of data organization, synthesis and documentation.
Guidelines for economic evaluation of BGBD agreed	The difficulties in valuation of belowground biodiversity and associated ecosystem services were discussed in the Global Steering Committee/Project Advisory Committee meeting in Calicut in October 2007, leading to initiatives from the GCO for further advancement in valuation related tasks. In addition national coordinators themselves will take initiative to come up with the details of methodology. To accelerate the progress, frequency of monitoring and evaluation workshops has been increased and more experts involved in the process of data organization, synthesis and documentation.
Inventory of BGBD	Using the expertise from outside the group of scientists involved in the project, the presentation of data and its discussion in the reports submitted by the participating scientists are being improved. The final version of the received reports will be put upto the National Steering Committee meeting in February/March 2008 and the finalized reports will be submitted in the next semi annual report. In the case of UAS and KFRI where additional sampling is needed, the revised inventory documents will be finalized by June 2008. To accelerate the progress, frequency of monitoring and evaluation workshops has been increased and more experts involved in the process of data organization, synthesis and documentation.

3. Discussion acknowledgment

Project Coordinator's General Comments/Observations	UNEP Project Management Officer's General Comments
Name: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____	Name: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

Attachment to Half-Yearly Progress Report: Format for Inventory of Outputs/Services

a) Meetings – participation of national coordinators

No	Meeting Type (note 4)	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	List attached Yes/No	Report issued as doc no	Language	Date
1.	Capacity building – policy dimensions	Consultative meeting on policy dimensions of conservation and sustainable management of below-ground biodiversity	Trivendrum	January 8, 2008	National Coordinators with support from Kerala State Biodiversity Board	National Coordinators	18	Yes. Appendix 4	Yes. Appendix 4	Eng	
2.	Monitoring and Evaluation	GEF biodiversity portfolio review meeting	New Delhi	January 17, 2008	Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India	Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India	20	No	Presentation made by the National Coordinator is given in Appendix 23	Eng	
3.	Capacity building	Orientation course for University and College teachers	Gorakhpur	March 18, 2008	Department of Botany, Gorakhpur University	Department of Botany, Gorakhpur University	30	No	No		
4	Capacity building	Interaction workshop on ecological modeling and valuation of ecosystem services	New Delhi	February 12-18, 2008	Department of Environmental Biology, University of Delhi	Department of Environmental Biology, University of Delhi	30	No	No		
5	Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitoring and evaluation and steering committee meeting	New Delhi	March 15-16, 2008	National Coordinators	National Coordinators	15	Yes. Appendix 2	Yes. Appendix 2	Eng	
6	Capacity building	Land use and ecosystem services – Planning an interdisciplinary bilateral programme (Australia – India)	New Delhi	March 28, 2009	Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad with support of TSBF - SARNET	TSBF - SARNET	15	No	No		
7	Capacity	Group Monitoring and	Banswa	April 17-	GBPIHED,	GBPIHED,	25	No	No		

	building	developing benchmark area activities	ra/Srinagar	19, 2008	Srinagar with support from NCO	Srinagar with support from NCO					
8	Planning and capacity building	field training workshop on participatory appraisal of land management	Banswara/Srinagar	May 9-13, 2008	NCO	NCO	10	No	No		
9	Planning and capacity building	Planning for organization of capacity building/ training workshop on soil fauna inventory	Solan	May 17-19, 2008	National Coordinators	National Coordinators	5	No	No		
10	Planning and capacity building	Workshop traditional knowledge based approaches to sustainable landscape management	Itanagar	May 27-30, 2008	UNESCO, New Delhi	North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Itanagar	30	No	No		
11	Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitoring, evaluation and capacity building of students in field – Karnataka study area	Bangalore/Kodagu	June 1-3, 2008	NCO	UAS	15	No	No		
12	Monitoring and evaluation	National monitoring and evaluation workshop and Steering committee Meeting	New Delhi	June 21-22, 2008	National Coordinators	National Coordinators	20	Yes. Appendix 3	Yes. Appendix 3	Eng	
13	Capacity building	Research planning and capacity building in the area of land use policy and development	New Delhi/Srinagar	June 27-30, 2008	National Coordinator Office with support from United Nations University	National Coordinator Office with support from United Nations University	10	No	No		

b) Printed Materials

No	Type (note 5)	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.							
2.							

c) Technical Information / Public Information

No	Description	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		

d) Technical Cooperation

No	Type (note 6)	Purpose	Venue	Duration	For Grants and Fellowships		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.							
2.							

e) Other Outputs/Services (e.g. Networking, Query-response, Participation in meetings etc.)

No	Description	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		

Note 4

Meeting types (Expert Group Meeting, Training Workshop/Seminar, CPC-Steering or advisory committee meeting, Stakeholder workshop, Planning meeting)

Note 5

Material types (Papers/Technical Publication, Technical Report, Reports to the National Steering or Advisory Committee meetings or other official body)

Note 6

Technical Cooperation Type (Grants received)