



**Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic**

*Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Permanent Secretary Office*

**UNDP and FAO**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Project Report, 2012**

**July – September 2012**

**Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Lao PDR's Agricultural and Land  
Management Policies, Plans and Programmes (ABP)**

**“Agro-Biodiversity Project (ABP)”**

*Project ID: 00075435 / ATLAS Award ID 00060069*

1. Project Information and Resources

<b>Project number and title</b>	00075435 Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Lao PDR's Agricultural and Land Management Policies, Plans and Programmes (ABP) Project
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Permanent Secretary Office (PSO), MAF
<b>Responsible Parties (if applicable)</b>	FAO through Letter of Agreement- Department of Planning (DoP), MAF; National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), MAF and Department of Forestry, MAF through a proposed Executive Board
<b>Additional collaborating parties (as per project document)</b>	Department of Agriculture Promotion and Cooperatives (DAPCO), MAF Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) Department of Land, MoNRE, - Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Other GOL & MAF organizations and institutions Non Profit Organizations (NPOs), iNGOs, Mass Organizations, and Private Sector
<b>Donor/partner</b>	GEF (in-cash) UNDP (in-cash and in-kind) FAO (in-kind) SDC (in-kind, parallel <sup>1)</sup> )

Project Starting date		Project completion date	
Originally planned	Actual	Originally planned	Current estimate
11 April 2010	July 2011	10 April 2015	July 2016

<b>Period covered by this report</b>	1 July – 31 September 2012
<b>Date of annual review meeting</b>	December 2011 (last meeting and December 2012 for the next)

Total Budget	Original Budget (US\$)	Latest Signed Revision (USD)
2012	485,609	428,467
Quarter 3	236,237.61	236,237.61

Resources	Donor	Amount (USD)
	GEF	224,737.61
	UNDP	11,500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236,237.61</b>

## I. Purpose

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### 1. Main Objectives of the Project

#### A. ABPI long term solution and Objective

The long term solution of the project: Lao PDR's biodiversity, including agro-biodiversity, is maintained, protected and sustainably used as a key to poverty alleviation and adaptation to climate change impact. Within this solution the overall goal is conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources in agro-ecosystems in Lao PDR for the attainment of food security and sustainable economic development.

The project objective is: to provide farmers with the necessary incentives, capabilities and supporting institutional framework to conserve<sup>2</sup> agricultural biodiversity within farming systems of Lao PDR.

#### B. GEF Strategic objectives and Outcome

**GEF-4 Second Strategic Objective and Program (SO2):** To Mainstream Biodiversity in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors.

**GEF (Fourth) Strategic Program (SP-4):** Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework for Mainstreaming biodiversity (SP 4) [(GEF's 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Program (SP-5): *Fostering markets for biodiversity goods and services (SP 5) is not mentioned, but is also applicable for the project*].

**GEF Expected Outcome:** Policy and regulatory frameworks governing sectors outside the environment sector incorporate measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

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<sup>3</sup> In agriculture, in-situ includes in-nature and on-farm. Further, in-situ conservation means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

## 2. Project Performance and Results

### 1. Contribution to the strategic goals [To be completed in cooperation with UNDP Programme Analyst]

**UNDAF Outcome 1:** By 2011, the livelihoods of poor, vulnerable and food insecure populations are enhanced through sustainable development (within the MDG framework).

#### UNDP Country Programme Outcome

**UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome:** Expanding Access to Environmental and Energy Services to the Poor.

**Country Programme (CP) Outcome 1:** Improved and equitable access to land, markets and social and economic services, environmentally sustainable utilization of natural resources.

#### CPAP Output(s)

Output 1.2: The role of biodiversity, agro-biodiversity, land management and environment in general in the livelihoods improvements and poverty reduction strengthened through enhanced knowledge and management capacity.

Output 1.3: Enhanced management capacity of the Government in meeting its international environmental obligations through strengthened implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements and related national policies and legislation.

#### Progress towards achieving UNDP outcome

During this reporting period the project focuses its works on identifying the project pilot villages, local partners, possibility of FFS strategy and implementation plan. The first draft of Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) has been drafted by IUCN with support from the project. Lessons learnt on ABP Pilot interventions of TABI and other has been identified. Collaborating projects (e.g. TABI), GOL and other stakeholders are continuously improving the situation and the project overviews, proposes and integrates initiatives and interventions to local development plans and actions.

## 2. Progress towards achieving project outcomes

The project coordinates with stakeholders, exerts effort to study and learn from projects, institutions about activities implemented for management of biodiversity including policies, projects, and long term interventions initiatives as follows:

**Outcome 1: National policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable use, and in-situ conservation of biodiversity in agro-ecosystem**

- Partnership with IUCN and NCASAFU Project (another GEF/UNDP Project) has allowed the project to develop a Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for two province, Xiengkhoung and Attapeu Provinces. This PBSAs will directly serves as inputs to the draft 2<sup>nd</sup> National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans. In addition, A Pre-CTA ABP has provided technical inputs to review the draft 2<sup>nd</sup> NBSA to ensure that national policy, plan and strategy take into account of sustainable use of agriculture biodiversity.

**Outcome 2: Capacities and incentives to mainstream biodiversity especially agro-biodiversity, at the provincial, district and community levels**

- Through support TABI

**Component 3: Effective project management**

- Good coordination between field staffs and central staff in Vientiane has been maintained. Regular progress report has been used to maintain monitoring and identify any issues that need immediate response from the project.

## 2.1 Component/Outcome 1: Legal Framework Support

The mainstreaming of biodiversity into agricultural and land management legislation, includes the development and promotion of policies that encourage and support sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. It implies a primary focus on agriculture and natural resources and includes the legal framework related to environmental friendly management of terrestrial and aquatic resources supporting the livelihoods of rural people.

The project outcome one will be pursued under four thematic headings/outputs:

1. Integrating agro-biodiversity into policies
2. Promoting coordination on agro-biodiversity
3. Enhancing institutional capacity for agro-biodiversity
4. Increased understanding among key stakeholders of agro-biodiversity and its significance.

Draft NBSAP has been led by TABI, ABP has provided comments to update the draft. However, the revised version not yet shared with ABP and UNDP.

IUCN has recently sent the link file to download the PBSAP report to ABP team including UNDP. IUCN is currently waiting for input/ feedback from the local GoL to finalize the draft and will resend to all for feedback including the English version. Chitlatda will contact IUCN to ask them to send the draft reports both hard and soft copies to the project team. The NPM will conduct the performance evaluation of IUCN in early October 2012 and will then be submitted to UNDP as a reference for final payment.

Further, the ABP project is together with IUCN and the NCSA-FU supporting the local biodiversity priority formulation (Provincial Biodiversity (PBSAP) in Xiengkhouang and Attapeu provinces, including baseline data information. The IUCN report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Xieng Khouang, 11 May is provided.

Additionally interventions under the outcome/component one relates to awareness and capacity development activities and have included preparation of a drat project proposal for Northern Uplands Agriculture and Forestry College (NAFC) i.e. demo plots on medicinal plants & wild vegetables, curriculum development and improvements of students' practical skills,.

## 2.2 Local Agro-biodiversity Support

The Component two/outcome 2 focuses on the development of incentives and capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity with a focus on Community, District and Provincial levels.

In support of the component, six outputs/thematic areas will be pursued:

1. Strengthening the capacity of PAFO and DAFO to act on agro-biodiversity management and to adapt extension packages and services, including diversifying the seed supply system
2. Conducting Participatory Land Use Planning including the development and implementation of Participatory Natural Resources Management plans at village level in order to be able to identify products for sustainable use and niche marketing
3. Establishing in-situ<sup>3</sup> conservation areas for agro-biodiversity in order to be able to protect local biodiversity hotspots
4. Promotion of biodiversity-friendly farming approaches in two pilot sites such as organic farming and a reduction in pesticide and fertilizer use, while encouraging the use of important regional, national and local biodiversity to sustain fertility and land and water resources
5. Identification and development of market incentives for agro-biodiversity for farmers and agribusiness
6. Linking with the private and public sector through agro-biodiversity planning agreements.

As mentioned in the last previous progress reports, the inception workshop and the follow-up field visits (among others) expressed strong local preference to participatory Forest and Land Use Planning (pFLUP) and Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Regarding pFLUP, TABI is taking the lead and the ABP district facilitators are assisting, facilitating and monitoring the process. Due to delays in LoA, the FFS consultancy has also been delayed.

Based on lessons learned of TABI sub-projects, SIDA Upland Research Programme and SADU (Small-scale Agro-enterprise Development in the Uplands of the Lao PDR), some 15 ABP sub-projects are being formulated. The above-mentioned lessons learned underlined the importance of pursuing bottom-up approach, working with only motivated target groups, assurance of regular technical support, and allowing sufficient preparation process including farmer-to-farmer visits. The importance of good and consistent technology transfer, monitoring & follow-up and sustainability issues (e.g. by having an exit strategy before starting) were also highlighted.

In Luang Prabang, a concept note (by PAFO) has been forwarded on fish conservation zones, in addition to draft proposals on chicken raising cum organic vegetable farming, and rattan domestication, agro-biodiversity school awareness, A/BD conservation and sustainable use, chilli (Phet Ki Nou), agro-ecology/intercropping, vegetable and fruit contamination analysis, medicinal plant demonstration site, A/BD capacity development, poultry raising and cattle disease protection. These are mainly the first rough drafts and some of them with only a few pages and have yet to be translated and discussed in details, except the A/BD capacity development. The translation and screening issues were discussed on 28 September 2012 at the 13<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. The proposed fish conservation zone in Nambor cluster seems doubtful and will require an assessment of specialists from Vientiane. In addition and not yet formulated are interventions related to domestication of medicinal plants, oyster mushrooms, IPM, and indigenous vegetables with expected start up during 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2012.

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In Xiengkhouang (Phoukhout district), a concept note on Conservation Agriculture has been received and the project proposals in relation to A/BD school awareness, bee-keeping, fish conservation zones and banana planting. The rice-indigenous fish cultivation, domestication of medicinal plants are currently being developed and the IPM are also expected to start-up this year.

In Vientiane, ABP received 2 sub-project proposals from partners of which LARReC/NAFRI -1 & PSO/MAF – 1. The translation of the sub-project concept notes and proposals will be done soon before the FAO CTA and other TAs are in place. The criteria for screening or selection of the sub-project proposals will be prepared/ drafted by UNDP and FAO in consultation with ABP team.

Follow TNA of district staff and surveyed on service suppliers. The recruitment of IC consultant (English teacher) for Phoukoud completed and the IC contract signed on 30 August 2012. The basic skill development in Phonexay (English & IT/computer) and Phoukoud (English) trainings started in early September 2012 and the PCM/ PCAP training is expected to start in mid-October 2012.

### 2.3 Project Management

The purpose of this component is to ensure that the project is implemented in a timely manner, well monitored and cost effective under the principles of adaptive management (plan-do-evaluate-adjust and learn), whereby lessons learned during its implementation as well as lessons from other initiatives/projects are fed into a refined project implementation. The project document underlines a general need for upgrading implementation capacities and special emphasis are being paid to enhancing national capacity building. There is only one Output under this component.

The two district facilitators continue assisting and facilitating the project key partners in development and formulation of the sub-project concept notes and proposals. Monthly work plans and budgets are timely forwarded as well as “weekly and monthly tasks forms” *see Annex 8*.

The 5<sup>th</sup> field visit to Luangprabang was taken place from 19 – 21 July. The aims were to follow-up on last visits action plan and in-depth discuss on the NAFC sub-project proposal. During the visit the team also met and discussed with the Head and Dep. Head of the provincial Medicinal Centre regarding existing activities under the centre and possible medicinal plants interventions supported by ABP, and as well as explored agro-biodiversity awareness activities with the General Director Pha Tad Ke Botanic Garden, meeting in Luang Prabang. Discussion of progress with District Facilitator and agreements were made regarding the follow-up of the Oyster mushrooms, basic skills development, A/BD school awareness, field surveys and other pending issues.<sup>9</sup>

The NPM, APM and Pre-CTA attended the medicinal plants workshop in Xiengkhouang on 26 July 2012. The objectives of the workshop were: 1) to get an overview of the importance of medicinal plants in Xiengkhouang in general and in Phoukhout in particular, 2) to identify stakeholders including other projects, 3) to identify suitable project sites, 4) to discuss and agree on technical aspects of site selection and proposals for planned activities in target areas, 5) to discuss roles and responsibilities of key players and implementation plan. The agreements were made on the project site and plan of action, roles and responsibilities of key partners and initial schedule for key activities. The workshop went well and served as the first important step for project identification. The workshop report finalized/ approved and distributed to all participants, *see Annex 9*

Continued efforts have been made to formalize the collaboration with TABI and in a meeting hosted by the Department of Planning, chaired by the vice-minister – collaboration elements under a common umbrella was discussed and led to a formulation of a draft “Collaboration Matrix” see minutes in previous progress report.

Monthly meetings with UNDP and FAO are working well and support day-to-day management issues. However, the overall governing bodies (Steering Committees, etc) are still to be formalized, among others pending the roles and responsibilities of MAF and the new MoNRE.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> extension contract of the Pre-CTA (Mr. Ole) was started on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 and ended as of 31 July 2012. Mr. Ole was a positive influence on the project, and was quick to offer advice and ideas in a constructive manner. Even though his contract was expired, he still worked for some extra days. The announcement of the FAO CTA through FAO website started from 10 to 18 July 2012 and the recruitment process conducted in mid-September 2012 and expected to be ready on board in late October 2012.

The re-organization of WREA and movement of some parts of Department of Forestry to the new Ministry of Natural Resources (MoNRE) are still creating uncertainties with regard to lead agency on biodiversity/agro-biodiversity and subsequently the ABP collaborating partners. This has also led to delayed decision on project governing bodies.

## Project Performance and Results - Progress towards achieving outcome

Annual outputs and indicators (as per Q1 Work plan)	Key activities completed during reporting period	Expenditures USD	Progress towards achieving outputs and targets achieved against indicators	Reasons if progress below target and response strategies <i>(If applicable, explore underlying factors and reasons for gaps in output and target)</i>
<p><b>Outcome 1.</b> National policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable use, and <i>in-situ</i> conservation of biodiversity in agro-ecosystems</p> <p><b>Revised Indicator 1:</b> <i>Number of new national plans, policies, laws, strategies, and guidelines with agro-biodiversity concerns (End Target: 6, 2012 target: 2)</i></p> <p><b>Output 1.1: Biodiversity conservation, including agro-biodiversity, incorporated into Government policies, laws and other legal instruments</b></p>				
<p><b>Revised indicator and target:</b></p>				
<p>1.1: Number of national workshops with biodiversity content (End Target: 10, 2012 Target: 4)</p> <p>Baseline: 1.1: Emphasis on agro-biodiversity in BD strategy and action plan (i.e. NABP) is weak.</p>	<p>Numerous comments on NBSAP “working in process document” is provided to consultant</p> <p>Two PBSAP workshops conducted in Xieng Khouang and Attapeu. First draft prepared (In Lao)</p> <p>IUCN sent link to download the PBSAP report to ABP team including UNDP. IUCN is currently waiting for input/feedback from the local GoL to finalize the draft and will resend to all for feedback including the English version.</p>	<p>USD17,270 (Payroll for project staff)</p>	<p>NBSAP and PBSAP expected finalization mid 2012.</p> <p>UNDP had informed about financial closure in the Atlas system and request all project to close PO in the system. The payment for IUCN could be done and the draft reports will be used as outputs for final payment.</p> <p>The ABP will evaluate the performance of IUCN and will send out the evaluation form to UNDP by early October. IUCN will send the draft reports both hard and soft copies to the project team.</p>	<p>The CBD focal point has moved from MAF (DoF) to MoNRE, which has slowed down the process. Overall responsibility for CBD and other Rio Conventions remains with MAF.</p> <p>Delay in getting comments/feedback from government officials and other key stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Output 1.2: Institutional coordination of agro-biodiversity enhanced at national level</b></p>				
<p><b>Revised indicator and target:</b></p>				
<p>1.2: Number of yearly agro-biodiversity inter-sectoral coordination meetings (End Target: 2, 2012 Target: 4)</p> <p>Baseline: 1.2: No formal coordination mechanism for agro biodiversity conservation.</p>		<p>No expenditures charged</p>	<p>Indications that GOL will revitalize the National Agro-Biodiversity Programme (NABP).</p> <p>Discussions on establishing a sub-working group on Agro-bio-diversity is being held at high level in MAF.</p>	<p>Project inquiries on MAF’ position pending.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.3: Institutional capacity of MAF to plan for, implement and effectively communicate on agro-biodiversity enhanced at national level</b></p>				
<p><b>Revised indicator and target:</b></p>				
<p>1.3: Number GOL officers participated</p>	<p>NBSAP Workshop for Northern</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>ABP – through IUCN is working</p>	<p>The NBSAP consultation meeting in the</p>

<p>in meetings where agro-biodiversity issues are discussed (End Target: 400, 2012 Target: 200)</p> <p>Baseline: 1.3: Institutional and staff capacities of MAF to mainstream biodiversity into agriculture and land use policies are low.</p>	<p>Region postponed to Q4).</p>	<p>closely with MAF and Xiengkhouang Province planners in preparing local ABD strategy &amp; Action Plan.</p>	<p>Northern provinces has not been confirmed by IUCN. Chitlatda will follow up with IUCN regarding the meeting schedule and agenda, etc.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.4 Key stakeholders understanding and capacity to respond to agro-biodiversity conservation and sustainable use enhanced</b></p>			
<p><b>Revised indicator and target:</b></p> <p>1.4: Number of tools developed to support and enhance incorporation of agro-biodiversity into national and institutional frameworks (End Target: 6, 2012 Target: 2)</p> <p>Baseline: 1.4: Existing tools such as training, extension, communication and mapping are not adequately used for wider stakeholder awareness or capacities to enable them to mainstream biodiversity into their work.</p>	<p>No expenditures</p>	<p>- Agro-biodiversity Awareness and curriculum support initiatives have been discussed with Northern Upland Agricultural and Forestry College (NAFC) in Luang Prabang and 1<sup>st</sup> draft of sub-project proposal has been prepared by NAFC.</p> <p>ABP Comments have been forwarded to NAFC.</p> <p>Project proposals on ABD curriculum/ students practice activities at primary &amp; secondary schools have been received.</p>	<p>Pending: Local awareness of the importance of biodiversity values has solid foundation. Various sub-project suggestions are being formulated (Agro-biodiversity awareness and curriculum improvement at primary and secondary schools and others being considered.</p> <p>Criteria for selection of pilot areas needs stronger focus at local level.</p>
<p><b>Annual outputs and indicators (as per Q1 Work plan)</b></p>	<p><b>Key activities completed during reporting period</b></p>	<p><b>Expenditures</b> USD</p>	<p><b>Progress towards achieving outputs and targets achieved against indicators</b></p>
<p><b>Outcome 2. Capacities and incentives to mainstream biodiversity, especially agro-biodiversity, at the Provincial, District and community levels</b></p>			
<p><b>Revised Indicator 2: Number of farmers adopting skills and techniques promoted through FFS and farmer field days</b> End target: 1,000, 2012 target: 120</p>			
<p><b>Output 2.1: Capacity and accountability of provincial and district governments to mainstream Biodiversity into agriculture increased</b></p>			
<p><b>Reasons if progress below target and response strategies [If applicable, explore underlying factors and reasons for gaps in output and target]</b></p>			

<p><b>Revised indicator and target:</b></p> <p>2.1: Number of Technical Service Centres in cluster villages with agro-biodiversity conservation and sustainable use activities (End Target: 4, 2012 Target: 2)</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 2.1: Existing tools such as training, extension, communication and mapping do not incorporate biodiversity conservation issues</p>	<p>In-depth follow-up discussions have been held with district offices and technical service centre (Nambor cluster village) resulting in more than 35 intervention ideas, of which some 15 will be pursued this year.</p> <p>Proposals for capacity development at district level have been developed and the recruitment of an Individual consultant (English teacher) completed.</p> <p>The basic skills development training in Phonexay (English &amp; IT/computer) and Phoukoud (English) have been started in mid-September 2012</p>	<p>USD9,829</p>	<p>Project identification has started with strong participation of district staff.</p> <p>Proposal for PCM/PCAP training for provincial and district technical staff have been developed and the training is expected in mid-October 2012</p> <p>The fifth field visit to LB conducted during 20 – 21 Jul. The aims were to follow-up on last visits action plan and to in-depth discuss sub-project proposal from NAFPC. Participants include Souk, Ole &amp; Khamsao.</p>	<p>Implementation arrangements at District and Village Cluster level (Kumban) not yet established.</p>
<p><b>Output 2.2: Participatory land use plans integrating agro-biodiversity developed</b></p>				
<p><b>Revised indicator and target:</b></p> <p>2.2: Number of cluster villages with pFLUP plans (End Target: 8, 2012 Target: 1)</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 2.2: Existing area with participatory land use plans and participatory NRM plans are low and do not include agro-biodiversity conservation</p>				
<p><b>Output 2.3: In-situ conservation for important agro-biodiversity</b></p>				
<p><b>Revised indicator and targets:</b></p> <p>2.3a: Number of districts with in-situ agro-biodiversity conservation plans (End target: 2, 2012 Target: 0)</p> <p>2.3b: Area of situ conservation for important agro-biodiversity established. (End target: 100,000 ha, 2012 Target: 0)</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 2.3: Currently there are no</p>	<p>Some targets are being added in Xieng Khouang PESAP.</p> <p>Domestication activities of medicinal plants are being pursued in Phoukhou &amp; Phonexay districts.</p> <p>Medicinal consultation workshop organized in Xiengkhuang on 26 July 2012. A total of 26 pax attended the</p>	<p>No expenditures yet</p>	<p>Activities being prepared</p>	<p>N/A</p>

existing allocations of land for in-situ conservation of agro-biodiversity.	workshop.				
<b>Output 2.4 Farmers in two pilot sites with the skills, knowledge and incentives necessary to undertake biodiversity-friendly farming</b>					
<b>Revised indicator and target:</b>					
2.4: Number of male and female farmers graduated from FFS (Target: 1,000), 2012 Target: 100)	Finalized TORs for FFS consultants is pending.	No expenditures yet	Pending		Delays recruitment of long-term CTA has slowed process for finalizing the TOR and recruitment of Inter/National Consultants to support this activity.
<b>Output 2.5 Value-chain research, studies and analyses used to identify, process, pack and market agro-biodiversity and biodiversity friendly</b>					
<b>Revised indicator and target:</b>					
2.5: Number of value added agro-biodiversity products marketed for local or international markets (Target 10, 2012 Target: 2)					
Baseline: 2.5: Existing market for agro-biodiversity and biodiversity friendly products are ineffective in promoting biodiversity friendly agro-ecosystems management.					
<b>Annual outputs and indicators (as per Q1 Work plan)</b>					
	Key activities completed during reporting period	Expenditures USD	Progress towards achieving outputs and targets achieved against indicators	Reasons if progress below target and response strategies (If applicable, explore underlying factors & reasons for gaps in output and target)	
<b>Outcome 3: Effective project management</b>					
Revised Indicator: Number of strategic recommendations from the Agro-biodiversity Steering Committee (Target: 6, 2012: 3)					
<b>Output 3.1: Improved capacity of IP for integrated planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of programmes</b>					

<p><b>Target 1:</b> Effective management structure in place (MAF), including relevant staffing, revised organogram, plans, budgets, M&amp;E indicators and reporting formats, to support integrated programmatic planning, management, monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1:</b> Number of MAF-organized cross project meetings (Target: 10, 2012: 4)</p> <p><b>Baseline 1:</b> Lack of programme management capacity in general and integrated programmatic approach in particular.</p>	<p>ToRs for international and national experts have been finalized and shared with UNDP CO. The Pre-CTA (Ole) 2<sup>nd</sup> extension contract has been expired by end of July 2012.</p> <p>The recruitment of FAO CTA through FAO website was carried out from 10 to 18 July 2012. The recruitment process was done and completed in late Sep. 2012. The FAO CTA is expected to be on board in mid-Oct. 2012.</p> <p>Planning, budgeting/advances procedures for district based project facilitators have been made.</p> <p>Monthly meetings with FAO and UNDP was regularly carried out</p> <p>The APM's SSA contract will be ended on 30 September 2012 and it was expected to be renewed in early October 2012. His new ToR will be revised – with more focus on technical aspects</p> <p>Urgent request for field equipments for ABP field offices in LPB &amp; XHK (2 Scanners and 2 Desk-phones), with one additional Camera for required the ABP Vientiane office.</p> <p>Several contacts and meetings with other development partners have been made</p>	<p>USD28,928</p>	<p>Monthly meetings with UNDP and FAO are regularly carried out.</p> <p>It was agreed to pursue common planning, share resources where possible (field, communication/ website, etc), but formal agreement still to be worked out.</p> <p>S-UNDP inquired about on the location purchased cameras in Vientiane and requested the cameras to be easy available for project staff and suggested these to be located in the project office.</p>	<p>Slow decision making (new project and unfamiliarity with UNDP procedures).</p> <p>Uncertainty regarding government restructuring, affecting the structure of Steering Committees.</p> <p>Delayed follow-up on Vice Minister's guidance on aligning work plans with TABI.</p> <p>"MAF Executive Coordination Board" of International Conventions related projects established in July 2011, has yet to convene.</p> <p>Draw out project driver recruitment process (use and maintenance of project vehicles, equipment, etc)</p> <p>Delay in procuring sufficient equipment for field staff to carry out the day-to-day operation</p> <p>Delay in decision making, preparing and submission of activity work plan and budget to UNDP</p> <p>Informal meetings with TABI have been carried out by the NPM &amp; Pre-CTA.</p> <p>Continuation of the efforts integration of the TABI &amp; ABP with one NPM and collaboration elements under a common umbrella were discussed</p>
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**2. Contribution to aid effectiveness, i.e. update on implementation of the Vientiane Declaration and its Action Plan, HACT, etc**

Resources management is more effective as the project has promoted the programmatic approach through working with other UNDP-GEF funded projects, and other development partners. Through this approach synergy is built and duplication of works between projects could be avoided. At the same time it promotes close coordination and collaboration between projects and development partners.

**3. Update on partnerships [Brief update on any achievement and/or problem in developing partnerships and inter-agency collaboration. It should also include strategies for south-south cooperation]**

Partnership with IUCN and NCSAFU project to develop the provincial biodiversity for Xiengkong and Attapue provinces. The PBSAP aims to provide a direction of the target and action plan for sustainable use of biodiversity and mainstream agro-biodiversity into the plan. A common project board and management between TABI and ABP is pending. Internal discussion between the two projects on the approach and mechanism to work together and how to establish a common board was taken a longer time than expected. As well known, TABI phase I was ended in March, and TABI phase II has been approved in July 2012. In the main time ABP and TABI teams could not decide on the concept of common board.

Continuously maintaining monthly meetings with FAO and UNDP provides an excellent entry point for contacts to other project and development partners and several contacts have been made.

Maintaining regular contacts with other upland development projects (NUDP, LEAF, CA, SARAFCO, etc) and participation in meetings have provided valuable contacts and networks.

**4. Update on gender mainstreaming [Brief update on any achievement and/or problem in terms of mainstreaming gender within the project activities. Strategy for the following period]**

ABP considers gender as an important issue during the project implementation. Women, more than half of rural dwellers are directly engaged in conservation and use of Biodiversity. ABP collected information and learnt to understand women status in the project target areas, developed some specific projects for them for instance, mushroom cultivation, home gardening, proper maintenance of village forests. n/a

**5. Update on the implementation of audit & Spot Check recommendations [Brief update on progress achieved and problems encountered. Actions planned for the following period]**

ABP kept records and filings according to last audit recommendation and following guides on NIM, there is n/a audit and Spot check at this quarter.

**6. List main challenges and issues (if any) faced during reporting period [as well as response strategies adopted]**

The challenges encountered are:

1. Late decision in responding to sub-projects is constraining field implementation and work at field level.
2. Delayed recruitment of CTA and other short-term TAs. This is critical with regard to the foreseen

preparation mission for Farmer Field Schools – which much depends on the cropping season – thus with the risk of up to one year delays in each missing.

### 7. Rating on progress towards results

<b>Output:</b> <i>[From table 1. Contribution to Strategic Goals]</i>		
Output 1.1-1.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Output 2.1-2.6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Output 3.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged

### 3. Additional Activities which Contribute to the Outcome and/ or Outputs

1. Provide information about any activities undertaken by the project that were NOT envisaged in the work plan but which contributed to the outcome and/or outputs? E.g. advocacy and policy dialogue.

1.  
n/a

## VI. FUTURE WORK PLAN

1. What are the priority actions planned for the following quarter to overcome constraints, build on achievements and partnership, and use of the lessons learned during the previous quarter?

1. Speeding up activities (process of sub-project proposals translation, comments, prioritization, screening, formulation and implementation, etc)
2. Follow-up on specific areas for close collaboration with TABI including aligned work plans
3. Formalize specific collaboration mechanism with other projects and professional institutions/agencies (depending on activity)
4. Agree on role and structure of governing bodies (MAF Coordination Board Versus national and provincial Steering Committees with TABI). Suggesting organizational setup.
5. Pursue concept of priority planning
6. Followed-up on the recruitment of FAO CTA and other TAs.
7. Maintain effective management of day to day works
8. Keep continue monitoring and lessons learned done upon activities

9. List major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.

1. Strategies not significantly changed
2. No outcomes have been changed
3. Few outputs have been slightly reformulated
4. Nearly all output indicators have been revised

5. Estimated budget required for next Q4 of 2012:

[REDACTED]

ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Combined Delivery Report conconsilation for Q2
- Annex 2: Fourth qualterly workplan/budget for 2012
- Annex 3: Project risks log for reporting period
- Annex 4: Project issues log for reporting period
- Annex 5: Lessons learned log
- Annex 6: Initial monitoring and communication plan
- Annex 7: Detailed monthly work plans – cum status, Vientiane and Weekly Programme Update, Monthly Report and Budget Plans from District Facilitators (PX & PK)
- Annex 8: Minutes of project monthly meeting (please make sure that you attached the sign version)
- Annex 9:Field visit reports

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Date: 03 OCT 2012

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Dr Boun Ay Nounouannavong, Board member .....  
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.....

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