



**Procedures for Application and designation
of a
Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)**

Revised October 2012

Introduction

This information document is a summary of the procedures for application and designation of a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) site. The proposal – describing the system can be prepared through several ways such as formal gathering of data and information, informal or through secondary gathering of information. Formal gathering of data and information would require conduct of multi-stakeholders consultation to get direct information from the stakeholders while the other means would only require simple desk study assessments, or it is also possible to combine both ways to produce a proposal. However, preparation of a GIAHS proposal which uses the formal data gathering, it is to be noted that this process is only a preliminary part of the application process. Therefore, institutions/organizations wishes to submit an application are requested to pay attention not to create any misunderstanding about the concept of GIAHS as well as to avoid unnecessary funding expectations from the stakeholders particularly at the local level.

The information in this document summarizes only the key steps.

Submission of Application

I. Options and recommended guidelines in preparing a GIAHS proposal including action plan

Option I¹

Phase I

1. Identifying and characterizing a potential site/s and system

- (a) Assessment of an evolving traditional agricultural practices that exhibits remarkable characteristics i.e. food and livelihood security; high levels of agricultural biodiversity and associated biodiversity features; knowledge systems and adapted technologies; agri-culture (cultures, value systems and social organizations); and natural beauty of landscapes, land and water resources management features. Fill up the GIAHS template of proposal (Annex 1).

Characteristics to be discussed include the following:

General ecosystem characteristics

- *Global importance of the system*
- *Key species and their particularities*
- *Associated biodiversity*
- *Goods and services the system provides*

Description of the “holistic management” of the agricultural system:

- *provision of goods and services for the GIAHS population*
- *indigenous/traditional knowledge to manage the system*
- *social organisation, customs, laws and cultural practices for ecosystem management*

Problem assessment, vision and rationale for project intervention

- *assessment of natural and development threats to the GIAHS*
- *vision of a dynamically conserved GIAHS*

¹ This option can be formulated by an individual researcher and/or institution with or without involvement of various stakeholders provided that the requested information details are filled up. In case, the proposal is submitted to FAO without the national endorsement. Then the proposal will be considered a case study contributing to further development of the GIAHS Concept.

- *description of the issues that the Action Plan will address to achieve the vision*

2. Submission of the proposal to FAO through the appropriate ministry
 - (a) Review of the proposal and sending response to requesting institution/organization (this procedure should follow the in-country institutional procedure).
 - (b) Steps or procedure within the country is not covered within this guidelines.

Phase II

3. The formulation of the comprehensive Action plan. The formulation of an Action requires a participatory or Multi-stakeholder Processes (MSPs)² with active participation of local and national stakeholders. Designation can be awarded prior to this step, however, the implementation of the Comprehensive Action Plan is a mandatory requirement.

“During preparation of a Comprehensive Action Plan, it can be expected that there would be many sprouting ideas on what to conserve? GIAHS custodians should set the agenda while the non-direct custodians who in most cases grossly determine the idea of an action plan should not be allowed to happen. The Action Plan is to enable GIAHS communities to actively pursue their own development for better living in a sustainable fashion. The recognition of a GIAHS do not conserve GIAHS per se. Instead, it aims to help the GIAHS community to formulate and realize the aspirations for conserving and sustaining their GIAHS and its goods and services. Thus, the GIAHS community will carry out its programme, with certain mandates for local/national authorities, public and private partnerships and other relevant sectors who could provide support”.

Phase III

Adaptation of Action Plan, monitoring and assessment of progress.

Option II

Phase I and Phase II are combined

1. Following the procedure under Option 1 (a), preparation of “GIAHS Dynamic Conservation shall follow the Multi-Stakeholder Processes (MSPs) and applying the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)³ procedures and guidelines (if applicable). This phase process would require involvement of different stakeholders to ensure inclusion of their perspectives, knowledge and values. This will be done in accordance to the Principles of Engagement⁴.

² Multi-Stakeholder Processes (MSPs) are (i) processes that aim to involve stakeholders in improving situations that effect them; (ii) forms of social interaction that enable different individuals and groups, who are effected by an issue, to enter into dialogue, negotiation, learning, decision making and collective action; and (iii) about involving government staff, policy makers, community representatives, scientists, business people and NGO representatives to think and work together. For more information, pls refer to: <http://portals.wi.wur.nl/msp/>

³ The underlying principles of free, prior and informed consent can be summarized as follows: (i) information about and consultation on any proposed initiative and its likely impacts; (ii) meaningful participation of indigenous peoples; and, (iii) representative institutions (Reference: Commission on Human Rights, Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 22nd session, 19 -13 July 2004)

⁴ Dynamic conservation action plan is a plan developed through a participatory process and according to the Principles of Engagements - the human rights principles: participation, accountability, non-discrimination and attention to vulnerable groups (small farmers, women including youth), transparency,

- (a) Consensus building at Local levels (key stakeholders) to introduce the GIAHS concept and the potential of joining the GIAHS Partnership Initiative
- (b) Setting and agreeing on the vision, goals and objectives, and developing an action plan for dynamic conservation of GIAHS and its unique elements.
- (c) Validation, confirmation and finalization of the GIAHS proposal and its Dynamic Conservation Action plan.
- (d) Secure local and national endorsement of the GIAHS⁵ proposal

2. Securing the endorsement of the national ministry

- (a) Presentation of the proposal to the appropriate ministry (regional and/or national and other relevant government agencies) who will endorse the proposal to FAO GIAHS Secretariat
- (b) Endorsement of the GIAHS proposal to FAO

Phase III

Adaptation of Action Plan, monitoring and assessment of progress

- (a) knowledge management and interactive dissemination
- (b) Management and monitoring sustainability of GIAHS

II. FAO Proposal review process

- (a) Field visit (if needed) by an FAO evaluation team or commissioned organization to evaluate the proposed site/system
- (b) Requesting organization to present the proposal at the GIAHS Forum/Steering Committee Meeting (every 2 years).

III. Designation and listing as a GIAHS site

After fulfilling all the requirements and review process, FAO will send official communication informing the proponent about the acceptance of the proposal and for designation. The awarding or recognition shall be prepared by the proponent in consultation with FAO for the dates and other logistics.

IV. Challenges and Opportunities of designated GIAHS sites

- (a) Implementation of an action plan for dynamic conservation of GIAHS with proactive participation of local stakeholders
- (b) Support national (and international) enabling policy environment and institutional support for the recognition and adaptive management of agricultural heritage.
- (c) Networking and exchange of experiences regarding dynamic conservation between stakeholders at national and international levels
- (d) Improved knowledge and enhanced understanding of GIAHS and their unique ecosystem goods and services
- (e) Support database for information and interactive sharing of best practices in sustainable agriculture and rural development

human dignity, empowerment and rule of law. It is also suggested that the action plan should provide space for adopting new lessons learnt and experiences in implementing the dynamic conservation plan.

⁵ Local endorsement to national ministry vary depending on the hierarchy and on the prevailing institutional system specific in a country. Under Option II, it is expected that the responsible Ministry for endorsing the proposal is part of the consultation process at the very beginning.

- (f) Enhanced capacity of national and local institutions (government, customary institutions, civil societies)
- (g) Enhanced economic benefits through innovative initiatives (niche markets, ecotourism, payment for environmental services, etc)
- (h) Support to global key development agenda aiming for local, national and global benefits
- (i) Assistance in resources mobilization for countries eligible for funding⁶
- (j) Permission for the use of GIAHS logo, for promotion of GIAHS and its products

⁶ FAO provide technical assistance for countries eligible to receive funds. This is done through formulation of technical cooperation projects/grants using the GIAHS concept of the interested donors/sponsors. Or to tie up with existing FAO projects and other means to support the eligible countries.

Annex 1. Template for GIAHS Proposal

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Name/Title of the Agricultural Heritage System (local Name and Translation, if necessary):
Requesting Agency/Organization: Country/location/Site (please annex maps and geographical coordinates of the site)
Accessibility of the site to capital city or major cities:
Approximate Surface Area:
Agro-Ecological Zone/s:
Topographic features:
Climate Type: Approximate Population:
Main Source of Livelihoods:
Ethnicity/Indigenous population:
Summary Information of the Agricultural Heritage System (about 200-300 words)

DESCRIPTION OF THE AGRICULTURE HERITAGE SYSTEM

I. Characteristics of the proposed GIAHS

Global (or national) importance

Global (or national) importance is a composite criterion, under which the overall value is established of a traditional/historic agricultural system, represented by a particular site, as a heritage of human kind (or a country). It synthesises its overall Global (or National/local) “Public Good” value described under the five subsequent criteria. By summing up/combining the five criteria the complex relationships, and *positive connectivity* and linkages between the system’ elements are integrated as a holistic system.

A summary information of the global importance of the individual characteristics of the system/site, with its intrinsic resilience and capacity to strike a social-environmental balance, by its historic and contemporary relevance for human development and by whether the site is a unique or outstanding example of the agricultural system it represents and a testimonial to an agricultural tradition in comparison with similar systems and sites.

Summarise the outstanding features of the system in terms of their relevance to global concerns in sustainable development and ecosystems management and their *cultural* and *agricultural heritage* value. The **Five Criteria for the selection of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS)** represents the totality of the goods and services provided by the system. These criteria are, as follows:

1. Food and livelihood security

The proposed agriculture system should contribute to food and livelihood security of local communities (often indigenous), representing the majority of their livelihood provisions. This includes provisioning and exchange among local communities to create a relatively stable and resilient food and livelihood system.

2. Biodiversity and ecosystem function

Agricultural biodiversity and genetic resources (species, varieties & breeds), as well as other biodiversity such as wild relatives, pollinators and wildlife associated with the agricultural system and landscape. The system/ site should be endowed with globally (or nationally) significant biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture (e.g. endemic, rare, endangered species of crops and animals).

3. Knowledge systems and adapted technologies

Maintain invaluable knowledge, ingenious technology and management systems of natural resources, including biota, land, water; and social organisations and institutions, including customary institutions for agro-ecological management, normative arrangements for resource access and benefit sharing, etc.

4. Cultures, value systems and social organisations (Agri-Culture)

Cosmo-vision, value systems and agri-cultural practices associated with environment and agricultural calendar; festivities and rituals as knowledge transfer. Local institutions play a critical role in balancing environmental and socio-economic objectives, in creating resilience and in the reproduction of all elements and processes critical to the functioning of the agricultural system. Some may ensure conservation of and promote equity in the use and access to natural resources; some transmit traditional knowledge systems and critical values that promote custodianship of biodiversity, land and water; some facilitate planning, cooperation and innovation/adaptation. Such institutions may take the form of ceremonial and religious beliefs and practices, including taboos, ceremonies and festivities; of customary law and conflict resolution, including on resource tenure; of kinship, marriage and inheritance systems; of forms of leadership, decision-making and cooperation; of oral and written traditions; of games and other forms of education and instruction; of division of roles and distribution of labour, including gender roles and specialized functions; etc (intangibles).

5. Remarkable landscapes, land and water resources management features

Landscape features resulting from human management, that provide particularly ingenious or practical solutions to environmental or social constraints, such as land use mosaics, irrigation/water management systems, terraces, particular ecosystem adaptive architecture, which might provide for resource conservation/efficiency or provide habitats for valued

biodiversity, recreational values collective or non commercial valuable uses (aesthetic, artistic, educational, spiritual, and/or scientific values of ecosystems).

II. Other social and cultural characteristics pertinent to the management of the agricultural system (optional)

- Relevant structures: these tangibles values might have particular social or ecological functions in the management of the site. They might include environmentally sustainable and resource efficient housing, architecture of ceremonial/social significance to the management of the agricultural system or have particular functions such as seed storage, stables or otherwise (tangibles)
- Sacred/ceremonial sites. (tangible/intangible)
- Tools and technologies (material culture - tangible)
- Associated forms of cultural expression: culinary culture, festivities, art and music, etc (tangibles and intangibles).

III. Historic relevance

The contribution of the agricultural system/site to the domestication and development of agricultural biodiversity, the creation of valuable landscapes, the development of agricultural knowledge and technologies over generations, and to human, social and cultural development in general, constitutes its historic relevance. Additionally, the historic relevance is determined by whether the system/site has remained sustainable and has shown its resilience in the face of environmental and socio-economic changes over time.

IV. Contemporary relevance

The systems'/sites' contemporary relevance is established by its present and future capacity to provide food and livelihood security, to contribute to human well-being and quality of life, and to generate other local, national and global economic and environmental goods and services to its community and wider society. This criterion therefore relates to the relevance of an agricultural system/site to global or national policy and sustainable development challenges, most prominently achieving food security, human well-being and environmental goals, such as climate adaptation, carbon sequestration, water, land and biodiversity conservation. Under this criterion one should highlight particular lessons learnt or principles that can be derived from the system site, which might be applied elsewhere.

V. Threats and challenges

Identify and analyse threats and challenges, including social-economic pressures and environmental changes to the continued existence of the systems and/or to its sustainability and viability. Identify and analyse the local, national and/or global nature of these threats, paying particular attention to occurrences and trends of economic, social, environmental or political nature. Illustrate the changes in the human and ecological dynamics of the system and their effects on ecosystem health, resource endowments and human well-being.

VI. Practical considerations

- a) Ongoing efforts to promote GIAHS
- b) Potentials and opportunities for sustainability and management of GIAHS
- c) Expected impacts of GIAHS on society and ecology
- d) Motivation of the local community, the local/national authorities and other relevant stakeholders

SUGGESTED ANNEXES:

- location map of the system/site
- lists of agricultural biodiversity and associated biodiversity
- historical and archaeological description of the system or site, if there is
- photos

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**DYNAMIC CONSERVATION PLAN FOR GIAHS SELECTED SITE**

The proposal should include an outline of the “Dynamic Conservation Plan. The outline of the conservation plan should include the following:

- a baseline description of activities, policies and experiences, which are already ongoing in the area to promote GIAHS and that the new initiative could build upon.
- activities you would foresee necessary for dynamic conservation of the system (obtained through participatory approach and community drivenness)
- how these activities will respond to the threats as described in this proposal
- how these activities can be used to leverage funding or attract national funding (and international donors, in case of developing countries)
- institutional involvement and embeddedness (support and involvement of institutions that carry responsibility or are otherwise involved in this initiative, both local, regional and national levels)

N.B.

Do you agree on posting this information on the GIAHS website? Y/N