

Management Response: Implementation Plan for Evaluation Recommendations

General Information

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Project Evaluation Title	Terminal Evaluation UNEP/ GEF Project "Multi Country Project to Strengthen Institutional Capacities on LMO Testing in Support of National Decision Making" (GEF ID 5283)
PIMS #	
GEF ID	5284
UNEP Sub-programme	SP4 – Environmental Governance, SP3 – Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
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Project Manager/ Task Manager	Alex Owusu-Biney
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Implementation Plan

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
1	The main challenge that led to this recommendation is the need to ensure continuity and consolidation of the progress achieved by the LMO project. Despite the successes achieved, ministries are faced with the challenge of maintaining and extending these achievements over time. One of the main problems is the complex nature of activities related to the management of LMO and biosafety. These	The ministries should expand on the achievements of the LMO project, continuing to maintain a high level of quality for infrastructures, promoting collaboration between laboratories, national exchange of experiences, facilitating participation in new training and further education opportunities and enhancing the number and quality of human resources currently	Important	Partners	Governments with UNEP and RAEIN-Africa Support	12 months	Partially Accepted	Though the recommendation is helpful, it will be extremely difficult for UNEP to fully monitor and support the maintenance of infrastructure, exchange of experiences and new training opportunities nor maintenance	Recommendation Plans shared with all the Participating Countries.

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	activities require not only advanced technical infrastructure and highly qualified personnel, but also collaboration and knowledge exchange between the various actors involved. However, the Ministries in the target countries are often constrained by a lack of resources and fragmented initiatives, which can slow down progress and limit the effectiveness of the actions undertaken. Consequently, the recommendation focuses on the importance of continuity of ministerial support to ensure that the positive results of the LMO project are not lost. It is essential to promote collaboration between laboratories and facilitate the exchange of experiences between them. In addition, it is necessary to provide new training and refresher training opportunities for existing staff to maintain and enhance their skills. This includes both specific technical training on GMO and biosafety issues and the development of soft skills, such as change management and leadership. Furthermore, to address the challenge of the shortage of skilled human resources, ministries need to focus on promoting initiatives to attract new talent and ensure the growth and development of those already working in the sector. This could include to improve and to operationalize scholarship programs, partnerships with academic institutions, and the creation of attractive career opportunities in biosafety	present and to be up to date in terms of equipment.						of human and institutional resources, which requires fiscal measures beyond the scope of UNEP-GEF responsibility. Uptake of this recommendation will vary from country to country.	

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	and LMO management. In addition, to address the rapidly evolving challenges in LMO detection, such as genome editing and artificial DNA, it is critical to incorporate the latest technological advancements in project planning (to adapt to technological progress by equipping laboratories with advanced detection tools like Digital PCR and sequencers). Ensuring that project designs account for such innovations will enhance the effectiveness of biosafety measures and maintain alignment with international standards in biosafety testing.								
2	The main challenge that led to this recommendation is the need to ensure a clear and uniform regulatory framework for the management of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) at both national and regional levels. Currently, some of the target countries, such as Angola and the DRC, have gaps in their legislation regarding LMOs, and there is a lack of regulatory harmonization among the various countries in the region. One of the primary challenges is also posed by the regulatory differences between countries, which can create uncertainties and hinder cross-border cooperation. This regulatory fragmentation can make it difficult for countries to develop effective policies and procedures for LMO management and biosafety. Additionally, regulatory gaps can weaken control and regulatory systems,	Angola, Madagascar and DRC should invest in the approval of a national legal framework and standardize the regional legal framework, that include a dedicate financial planning, supporting countries with regulatory gaps through increased cooperation.	Important	Partners	Governments with UNEP and RAEIN Support	12 months	Partially Accepted	The obligation for developing and implementing a national regulatory framework is the direct responsibility of the Party in meeting its Party Obligations	Recommendation Plans shared with all the Participating Countries. The lessons learnt and best practices was also discussed at the inception workshop of the new project GEF ID 10584

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	increasing the risk of negative impacts on human health and the environment. Another issue is the lack of resources and institutional capacity for the development and implementation of robust regulatory frameworks. Limited financial and human resources dedicated to creating and implementing laws and regulations regarding LMOs equally represent a challenge that must be overcome through the definition of a regular and comprehensive regulatory framework. Therefore, the recommendation focuses on the importance of investing in the approval of a national legal framework for GMO management, as well as the uniformity of the regional legal framework. This requires increased cooperation among countries to harmonize their legislation and develop common policies. Countries with regulatory gaps (Angola, DRC) should be supported through the sharing of experiences, technical assistance, and training (Mozambique, Lesotho and Malawi). Creating a clear and unified legal framework is crucial to provide legal certainty to the stakeholders involved in LMO management, including farmers, businesses/private sector, and research institutions. A robust regulatory framework can also facilitate the approval and commercialization process of LMOs, while ensuring food security,								

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	environmental protection, and public health.								
3	The recommendation stems from a crucial need to secure the financial, socio-political, and dissemination sustainability of the LMO project outcomes. A primary challenge identified was the difficulty in strategizing financial resources to ensure the continuity of project activities post-conclusion. Additionally, there was limited socio-political awareness about LMOs in the involved countries, which extended beyond the immediate project partners and institutions. This lack of awareness potentially hindered a comprehensive national understanding of the policies and regulations governing LMO management. Ineffectiveness in disseminating results post-project also impeded solidifying socio-political awareness. Therefore, the recommendation underscores the necessity of investing in a robust communication strategy that not only promotes financial and socio-political sustainability but also ensures broad outreach. This campaign should be meticulously designed to attract interest from potential donors, including other funding agencies and the private sector. Involving specific communication experts is essential for crafting and implementing this campaign effectively. By leveraging professional expertise in communication, the campaign will enhance	UNEP along with RAIEN-Africa/Lead Executing Agency (LEA) should disseminate the LMO project's results, ensuring broad visibility and understanding of its achievements and lessons learned.	Important	Project	UNEP and RAEIN-Africa Support	6 months	Accepted	30/06/2025	Recommendation Plans shared with all the Participating Countries. The lessons learnt and best practices was also discussed at the inception workshop of the new project GEF ID 10584

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	the visibility of the project's outcomes and foster the development of subsequent projects, ensuring that both the project's achievements and its ongoing needs are clearly communicated to a broad audience.								