INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION
ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DEL CAFÉ
ORGANIZAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL DO CAFÉ
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU CAFÉ

WP **Board 1058/09**

26 August 2009
English only

E

Project/Common Fund

Executive Board/
International Coffee Council
22 – 25 September 2009
London, England

Coffee genetic resources conservation and sustainable use: global perspective

Project proposal

Background

1. The present document has been submitted by the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO), and contains the summary of a project proposal designed to build consensus on a realistic vision for conservation of coffee genetic resources and the use of these resources for the sustainable development of the global coffee industry and to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in coffee producing countries.

2. The proposal has been sent to the Virtual Screening Committee (VSC) for evaluation and will be examined by the Executive Board in September 2009. A copy of the full project proposal is available from the Secretariat upon request.

3. It is worth mentioning that the aims of this proposal include aspects of the following three proposals:

(a) *Characterization, enhanced utilization, and conservation of Coffea germplasm diversity* (Document WP-Board 1054/08) recently evaluated by the VSC and for consideration by the Executive Board and Council in September 2009.

(b) *Renovation of CATIE's international coffee collection* (Document WP-Board 1036/07) submitted by the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE) and **approved by the ICO** in September 2007.

(c) *Enhancing use of coffee germplasm – an African perspective* (Document WP-Board 880/00 Rev. 1) submitted by Bioversity (formerly IPGRI), **approved by the ICO** in May 2001 and considered by the CFC in July 2001 and July 2002. With regard to this proposal, the CFC observed that:

i) germplasm collection and conservation was a task that needed strong commitment from participating countries to ensure its sustainability and effective utilization;
ii) access to germplasm in Africa is often constrained by difficulties of transfer agreements; and
iii) CFC's result oriented approach would be better met by a project which promoted evaluation and dissemination of available improved varieties for immediate use of farmers rather than this version of the proposal.

Action

The Executive Board is requested to consider this proposal as well as the recommendations of the VSC and, if appropriate, recommend its approval by the Council.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title:	Coffee genetic resources conservation and sustainable use: global perspective
Duration:	One year
Location:	Ethiopia, Uganda, and others to be identified
Nature of the project:	The project will build consensus on a realistic vision for conservation of coffee genetic resources and the use of these resources through research and improvement of desirable traits (yield, quality, pest resistance, etc.) for long-term conservation and use of coffee germplasm.
Brief description:	Global coffee production and consumption are steadily increasing each year but are consistently challenged by a lack of improved varieties suited to each ecological niche; pest problems; climate change; and other challenges. To reduce constraints on coffee production and encourage sustainable improvements, high genetic diversity is essential. Without this, efforts to improve production are expensive, time-consuming and have limited success.
Estimated total cost:	US$472,563
Financing sought from the Fund:	US$472,563 (grant)
Project Executing Agency (PEA):	Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO), Bioversity International
Supervisory body:	International Coffee Organization (ICO)
Participating institutions:	National coffee research institutions in major coffee producing countries and other institutions affiliated to coffee research and development
Estimated starting date:	January 2010

Project objectives and justification

General objective:

The ultimate goal of this initiative is conserving existing coffee germplasm that is seriously threatened by genetic erosion, and efficiently utilizing the resources for the sustainable development of the global coffee industry and improvement of the livelihoods of poor smallholder farmers in coffee producing countries.

Specific objectives:

(i) To develop an effective strategy for coffee genetic resources conservation that would be able to capture the maximum amount of existing genetic diversity both *in situ* and *ex situ* and conserve it for present and future use;

(ii) to establish standard coffee germplasm characterization, documentation and evaluation protocols for efficient utilization of the genetic materials in breeding programmes for continuous development of improved varieties adaptable to local conditions to increase production, productivity and quality and thereby improve the livelihoods of poor smallholder coffee growers;

(iii) to establish legitimate property rights material exchange agreements that harmonize the interests of the users and suppliers of coffee genetic materials in order to facilitate international and regional collaboration, integration of activities and equitable benefit sharing; and

(iv) to develop a capacity-building proposal to upgrade two coffee research institutions, one for Arabica and one for Robusta, to qualify as centres of excellence in both skills and facilities for advanced coffee research and a viable conservation system.

Benefits and beneficiaries

The project will benefit coffee research institutions; countries of origin; biodiversity; coffee farmers; millions of workers employed in coffee production, processing and trade around the world; and governments. It will enhance the sustainable development of the global industry and the conservation of coffee genetic resources for present and future generations.

Project costs and financing

Component	Description	Estimated budget (US$)
Component 1	Development of a conservation strategy	203,868
Component 2	Development of germplasm characterization, evaluation and documentation protocols	14,700
Component 3	Formulation of legal framework for property rights and access to germplasm and equitable benefit sharing	42,000
Component 4	Development of capacity-building proposal for the two centres of excellence	21,000
Component 5	Project coordination, supervision and monitoring	190,995
Grand total		**472,563**