UNEP-GEF PROJECT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORK OF KENYA.

OPERATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT: 1st July - 30th September 2005

a. Results of planned activities

General

The NCC members met once during the reporting period and planned for the activities of the remaining period of the project. A work plan for the remaining activities of the project was drawn (see Annex 46).

Four expert group meetings were held during the reporting period. Two meetings out of the four expert group meetings gave guidance on how the biotechnology awareness brochures, pamphlets and stickers will be reviewed and edited for publications. A guidance was given during the expert group meetings on how the relevant biotechnology awareness documents will be translated from English into Kiswahili language and finally how the User’s manual on Biosafety bill will be developed (see minutes of the expert group meetings in Annexes 47-50). Other two expert group meetings were held to plan for the training of field inspectors on deliberate release of GMOS.

The National project coordinator consulted the Project manager on how to conduct the training workshop for plant, animal and standard inspectors on regulatory issues on monitoring and inspection of GMOS on 27-29 July 2005 at Hilton, Hotel Nairobi.

Annexes
The minutes of the NCC meeting (Annex 46).
Minutes of the four expert group meetings (Annexes 47-50).

Policy

The approval of the policy on biotechnology by Cabinet is still being awaited so that Biosafety bill can be published.
Regulatory regime

- An expert group meeting was held. The meeting guided the development of the user’s manual on biosafety bill through consultancy (see attached minutes of annex 47).
- The editing of the administrative manuals was planned.

Monitoring and enforcement

The training course for plant, animal and standard inspectors on regulatory issues, monitoring and inspection of GMOS was held on 27-29 July 2005 where 37 participants attended (see attached workshop proceeding in annex 51). The workshop participants were drawn from the following institutions: Department of Veterinary services, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services, Public Health department, Kenya Bureau Standards and other relevant stakeholders provided participants for this course. An international resource person (Dr. Piet Van Wildt from the Netherlands) was sourced as a resource person and was being assisted by local resource persons.

KARI Biotechnology centre procured safety cabinets from the UNEP-GEF funds after they signed the Memorandum of understanding with the National executive Agency (NCST).

Two expert group meetings were held to plan for the training of field inspectors on deliberate release of GMOS (See the attached minutes of the meetings in annexes 48 and 49).

Public information

One expert group meeting was held to guide on how the stickers, brochures and pamphlets will be reviewed and edited through consultancy (see minutes of the meetings in annex 50). Editing of biotechnology awareness materials such as stickers, brochures and pamphlets was planned.

a. Constraints and suggested solutions.

The Biotechnology policy and Biosafety bill have not been approved and discussed respectively. A lot of time has been spent on strategising how the policy can be approved and the Biosafety bill discussed. The country has been involved in a constitution debate for the last three years. The debate made the policy and the bill get little attention.

The suppliers who won the tenders have yet to supply the five pieces of equipment for the laboratory.
Strategies are put in place to get request for the approval of the Biotechnology policy once the constitution debate is over.

The NCC will meet to advise on the way forward for the procurement of the remaining five equipment namely, two Gel cam cameras, two UV transilluminators and Dissecting microscopes.

**PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER.**

The NCC members will meet once between October-December to evaluate the progress of the few remaining project activities.

Two expert group meetings will be held to strategise on the translation of the relevant regulatory documents into Kiswahili language, the development of User's manual on biosafety and how the developed documents will be edited through consultancy before publication and dissemination to the stakeholders.

**Policy**

A workshop to inform various stakeholders (e.g. importers, exporters, researchers, traders, farmers, consumer groups) on the new biosafety bill and how it will affect their business will be held on December 2005. About 80 participants will attend the one-day meeting.

The developed biotechnology policy (when approved) will be edited through a consultancy service, in preparation for the publication and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders (see attached TOR for editors annex 52).

**Regulatory regime**

The proceedings for the workshop on the role of regulatory agencies on monitoring and inspection of GMOS held in February 2005 at Naru Moru River Lodge Nanyuki, will be edited in preparation for publication and dissemination to the relevant stakeholders (see attached TOR for editors annex 52).

The proceedings of the workshop for plant, animal and standard inspectors on regulatory issues held in July 2005 at Hilton Hotel, Nairobi will be edited in preparation for publication and dissemination to the relevant stakeholders (see attached TOR for editors annex 52).

The development of the users’ manual on biosafety will start soon through consultancy (see attached TOR in annex 53)
Handling requests

The administrative manual will be edited on consultancy in preparation for the publication and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders (see attached TOR for editors annex 52).
The proceedings for the workshop on handling request for National Biosafety Committee and Institutional Biosafety committee members held in August 2004 at Merica Hotel, Nakuru will be edited in preparation for publication and dissemination to the relevant stakeholders (see attached TOR for editors annex 52).

Monitoring and enforcement

The monitoring and inspection manuals will be edited through consultancy in preparation for the publication and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders.

Public information

The relevant Biotechnology awareness documents will be translated from English into Kiswahili languages and edited through consultancy in preparation for publication and dissemination to the relevant stakeholders (see attached TOR for editors annex 54).

The stickers, brochures and pamphlets will be reviewed and edited through consultancy in preparation for publication and dissemination to the relevant stakeholders (see attached TOR for editors annex 52).

The proceedings for the stakeholders’ workshop held in April 2003 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi will be edited in preparation for publication and dissemination to the relevant stakeholders (see attached TOR for editors annex 52).

Database development

New information is regularly being entered into the database of the National Biosafety Framework.