



Fund

## **Fund Council**

**12<sup>th</sup> Meeting (FC12)—Brussels, Belgium**  
**November 4-5, 2014**

### ***WORKING DOCUMENT***

*Consortium Response, dated 22 Sept 2014*

Submitted by:  
*Consortium Office*

## WLE

WLE's totally re-written extension proposal addresses the key points raised by the CO and ISPC (green light).

In response to questions about the proposed structure in the initial extension proposal WLE revisited this structure and now proposes to have 5 flagships:

- integrating ecosystem solutions into policy and investments;
- sustainably increasing land and water productivity;
- regenerating degraded agricultural ecosystems;
- recovering and reusing resources in urbanized ecosystems;
- managing resource variability and competing use

and 3 'core themes' that integrate work across the flagships:

- ecosystem services and resilience
- gender, poverty and institutions;
- decision analysis and information systems

This new structure is more convincing than the previous one. The overall coherence of this structure is however still not totally clear, as irrigation systems and water management seem to be omnipresent compared to land and soils. We strongly recommend that WLE uses the 2 year extension to further work on its structure so it is more clearly appropriate to a program working on water, land and ecosystems and more clearly integrated.

During the extension period WLE will focus on:

- allocation of an 'innovation fund' created from W1-2 to competitive calls for collaborative research (national-international partners) on enhancing productivity, sustainability, efficiency, equity and governance and institutions in four focal areas (Nile, Volta/Niger, Greater Mekong, Ganges). The large range of topics, covering the totality of WLE's research agenda, is surprising in a call for relatively small research projects. The call for proposals emphasizes that research projects should address many if not all of the 5 dimensions (productivity to government and institutions) and this seems a very tall order for research projects. We hope that WLE will be able to select meaningful and relevant proposals, which do not attempt to cover too many issues in a lightweight manner but rather contribute a coherent set of robust research breakthroughs.
- revitalization of formal and informal irrigation systems to increase productivity and efficiency
- quantification of provisioning services, water related services, soil related services and biodiversity related services in landscapes requiring restoration and implementation of pilots for landscape restoration
- design of business models for safe recovery and reuse of waste water in densely populated areas
- design of collective action mechanisms for improved management of water/groundwater-hydroelectric power tradeoffs

Recommendation to approve