

Budget Request for Consortium Board and Consortium Operations 2010

Prepared by the Alliance Office, 1 February 2010

Background

At its 2009 Business Meeting, the CGIAR reiterated its commitment to the CGIAR reform. Members approved a CGIAR Joint Declaration as the foundation of the reform, including the establishment of a new Consortium of the CGIAR Centers. The Consortium will provide a single entry point for the Fund to contract research products from the Centers and partners.

At their meetings in Washington prior to the Business Meeting, the Alliance provided additional commentary to the various reform documents and agreed to continue to move forward in implementing the elements of the reform it is directly responsible for (Consortium Board, Consortium Office, Strategy and Results Framework and portfolio of Mega Programs) as well as providing constructive input to the further development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, the Independent Evaluation Unit and other parts of the reform. The Alliance agreed on the next steps for further developing the Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) and the portfolio of Mega Programs derived from it.

The Consortium Board is now selected and Consortium establishment will continue over the course of 2010. The Consortium Board Chair and Vice-Chair have reviewed and commented on the 2010 workplan and budget for the Board and for the interim Consortium Office. This workplan is based on the articles in the Consortium Constitution that stipulate that international legal status will be obtained for the Consortium and that describe the functions and roles of the Consortium Board. When funded (see proposed budget below), the workplan will also ensure that the Consortium is fully operational, and that the Board has begun to increase the global sphere of influence of the CGIAR in agricultural research for development. The various milestones agreed upon during last ExCo and last Business Meeting are part of the Board workplan, including the finalization of the SRF and the development of the portfolio of Mega Programs.

Proposed Budget and Justification:

Consortium Board (\$665K)

The Alliance approved a transparent method for calculating the honoraria of Consortium Board members, based on a proposal from the HR Consultant (SpencerStuart) and the Search and Selection Committee. The calculation is based on the pro-rated average of the three highest annual base salaries of Centers' Directors General. The pro-rata varies with the functions of Board members. In 2010, the Board Chair is expected to devote from 25% to 40% of his time and the two Vice-Chairs 10 and 15% each to Consortium business. The remaining Board members are expected to contribute 10% of their time to the Consortium in 2010.

As outlined in the Consortium constitution there is a large workload for the Consortium Board in 2010 to establish the Consortium and take up its responsibilities. It is expected that the Consortium Board will meet virtually at least four times during the course of 2010 and will hold three and perhaps four face-to-face meetings. In addition, Board members will need to travel to the Centers to familiarize themselves with the work of the Centers. Consortium Board meetings will take place in developing countries as well as in Rome (least cost option at this stage). The Consortium Board Chair will attend the meetings of the Fund Council as a Standing observer, and the full Board is expected to attend the GCARD. Close interactions

will be needed between the Consortium Board and the Fund Council during 2010 to finalize a number of elements in the reform, including performance contracts, financing plans for system level expenses or the smooth transition of some system level functions from the CGIAR Secretariat to the Consortium Office. The 2010 travel budget of the Consortium Board reflects these 'once off' needs for extensive travel during this establishment phase. The Consortium Chair and Vice-Chairs have agreed that a communication budget is necessary and will be implemented through the interim Consortium Office in partnership with the Fund Office.

Consortium Implementation (\$1660K)

As 2010 begins, the three staff of the Alliance Office have taken up the responsibilities of supporting the Consortium Board in the establishment of the Consortium during 2010, as part of the interim Consortium Office. Their salaries and some operational costs are covered by the Alliance. Additional staff will be very rapidly required as the workload for the implementation is escalating. The first non-interim position to be filled will be the Consortium CEO and the budget reflects four months salary for this person in 2010 as the search and selection process will start at the first Consortium Board meeting in March 2010.

The estimation of number of other interim Consortium Office staff is based on the BCG report for the Consortium design and covers the basic functions required in implementing the Consortium, including administrative support to the Consortium Board Chair. In total for 2010, the budget is based on six interim staff on short-term contracts and hired sequentially (the CEO will initiate the search for the longer-term staff of the Consortium Office).

External consultants have also been budgeted for in 2010. The consultancies include, recruiting the CEO, legal counsel, start up of the shared services, recruitment of Consortium Office staff and securing international status and the headquarters agreement for the Consortium.

The Interim Consortium Office will incur operational costs to effectively support the Consortium Board's activities and the implementation of its decisions. Expected expenses include travel, meetings, communication and general office costs. Indirect costs will be levied by the CGIAR Center providing the 'legal umbrella' for the interim Consortium office. The estimate is based on the current indirect cost rate charged by Bioversity to the Alliance Office.

Strategy and Results Framework and Design of Mega Programs (\$3000K)

During its meetings in December 2009 in Washington DC, the Alliance agreed to implement a number of steps to produce a Strategy and Results Framework that has the buying in of the centres, stakeholders and is approved by the Consortium Board before it is submitted to the Fund Council.

The Alliance, through the Alliance Deputy Executive-Research and the Alliance Executive, will refine the SRF and agree on a portfolio of MPs. Then together with partners, Science Council members, Fund Council members the Consortium will have a series of consultations to discuss and increase the relevance of the portfolio of MPs. At the end of March at the GCARD, the Consortium will widen the dialogue with partners with the intent that the Consortium Board and the Fund Council will make a decision on the SRF and portfolio after the GCARD. The design of Mega Program business plans will take place over a period of

months, after this approval. The budget requested for the SRF and design of MPs covers consultations with partners, planning meetings, proposal development and a consultant for facilitating and coordinating the design and development of the MPs.

Proposed Budget 2010: Consortium Board and Consortium Operations

Consortium		Budget USD '000
Consortium Board		
	Honoraria for Board members	300
	Meetings	100
	Travel	250
	Communications	15
	<i>Subtotal</i>	665
Consortium Implementation		
	Personnel	750
	Consultancies	500
	Operational costs of the Interim Consortium Office	410
	<i>Subtotal</i>	1660
Strategy and Results Framework and Design of Mega Programs		
	Consultation with partners, planning meetings, proposal development, external consultant for design and development of the Mega Programs	3000
General Expenses		200
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 5,525