



Budget neutral extension

GLOMIS Phase III is extended till December 2006

20th Meeting of GLOMIS Project Steering Committee was held in Ishigaki Island, Okinawa, Japan, on 22 June 2006. It was reported that the GLOMIS Phase III are progressing well, except for the two outputs, new GLOMIS software for data entry system, and the GLOMIS CD-ROM III, require extra time for completion. ISME requested for extension of the project till December 2006 without additional funding, and the request was accepted by ITTO accordingly.

Report from GLOMIS Workshop

GLOMIS Workshop was held on 23 June in Iriomote Island, Okinawa, Japan. The Workshop was participated by the Coordinator, representatives of GLOMIS Regional Centres, members of Board of GLOMIS, members the ISME Executive Committee and members of the GLOMIS Headquarters. The Workshop held an interactive discussion on the costs and benefits of GLOMIS, an analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of GLOMIS. The SWOT analysis is presented in Table 1 and the possible solutions, building on the strengths and opportunities of GLOMIS are presented in Table 2.

Table 1: SWOT Analysis of GLOMIS

| Strengths | Weaknesses | Opportunities | Threats |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1) Comprehensive and up to date, with current information on mangroves systems | 1) Relatively expensive (to setup/maintain) in terms of budget and skilled human capacity | 1) Well qualified and trained staff at the Regional Centers (RC) and the Headquarters (HQ) | 1) Non self-sustaining (updating requirements & manpower needs) |
| 2) Unique (no other current mangrove database with global coverage) | 2) Single source financing | 2) Change from ITTO to possible other sources could make GLOMIS flexible, e.g. advertising | 2) Lack of permanent funding, currently dependent on specific project funds |
| 3) User friendly -to i.e., searchers of mangrove information, (Web, CD-ROM) -to the project implementers | 3) Limited access to older materials available only in hard copy, and restricted distribution, such as Theses/books, proceedings . | 3) Stakeholder involvement and engagement/ Access to a wide range of stakeholders with different media | 3) Competitors (there are some organizations who have coverage on global biodiversity issues) |
| 4) Good coverage Most of the available mangrove information (currently over 8,500 data entries) | 4) Coverage will never be 100% GLOMIS will always be in the process of catching up on the available information | 4) Possible to link with donor wishes, in the crafting of project proposals as Mangroves cover, land and water, fresh water and marine as well as livelihood and poverty issues | 4) Lack of manpower, The staff needed to service GLOMIS are lacking without project funding |
| 5) Linkage with other sites there are a number of links on the current site which enables the visitor to chose the level of complexity i.e., from school children to researchers | 5) No library function Single copies of the material produced should be kept and then copied circulated to each regional centre. | 5) Possibility to link with other partners | 5) ISME is a relatively small organization and GLOMIS small project, it is possible another organization coming in, to take over the operation of the database would cause ITTO and ISME's hard work will be forgotten |
| 6) Content Apart from the database the web-site and the CDs produced have much additional content such as the (Newsletter, and the Electronic Journal) | 6). Limited content Very specific to one habitat type. | 6) Based on accurate content and easy to update | 6) Maintain High Standards Stakeholders have high expectations on the content of the database |

Table 2: Solutions to the Weaknesses

| Weakness | Possible Solution/ Action/Measure | Implication/Possible Risk |
|---|--|--|
| 1) Cost | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduce number of RCs from four to two 2) Relocation of HQ from Japan to less expensive place 3) Increase number of hits (to decrease cost/hit) 4) Reduction of project operation 5) "Hide" cost in other projects 6) Charge for use of GLOMIS 7) Start/stop operation (Note minimum US \$1,000/month required for server to operate, including Firewalls) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduction in quality of service 2) Loss in efficiency 3) none 4) Possible reduction of quality of output 5) Insufficient fund made available 6) Not affordable by Developing Countries 7) Reduction in efficiency |
| 2) Single source of funds | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) New source of donor funds: develop/submit more project proposals 2) Corporate funding -In country (Japan - advertise/ sponsor) -External (International) - (use member countries of ITTO e.g., Malaysia and Ghana) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Database projects are not "sexy" to donors, need to link with donor wishes (Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 2) Companies that provide funds may set conditionalities - Lack of governmental support for International Project |
| 3) <i>Ad hoc</i> Updating (| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve and formalize systems of up-dating 2) Make web based resources available to all RCs | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Better communications mean more money 2) Increased costs |
| 4) Limited Access to Non-journal Materials | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Need site visit to carry out data mining 2) Need good will | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Need Qualified staff to make visits, Increased Costs 2) None |
| 5) Limited content of database, i.e., citation only | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Add Abstract to database 2) Add PDF file to database | <p>These two options may make the database slower, causing difficulties for users with slower internet connection speeds, it may be simpler to just have links for each paper, or a page on the GLOMIS page listing organizations which give free access to journals.</p> |
| 6) No library function | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Need copyright permissions 2) Need postage and copy facilities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) This may become very staff intensive and the HQ, and Regional Centre may not be able to cope 2) Increased costs |

"GLObal Mangrove Database and Information System (GLOMIS)" is an International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)/International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) Project, PD 14/97 Rev.1(F). **GLOMIS** is based at ISME's Secretariat in Okinawa, Japan and supported by four regional centres located in Brazil, Fiji, Ghana and Malaysia

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GLOMIS is a tool that will be continually developing and growing. Input and contributions from users are essential in order for GLOMIS to increase the functionality and usefulness of this tool. Please visit <http://www.glomis.com>



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