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### **Documentation of Informed Consent Process for UIS-Colombia, GEF-Satoyama subgrant project:**

*Reconciling biodiversity conservation and agricultural production in agroforestry cultivation systems in the Colombian Andes: a model for Colombia's post conflict era*

The Social Science part of project requires the analysis of qualitative data gathered through a number of techniques including interviews, participant observation and recording of people's behavior in specific situations. Systematic observation is a basic research tool in this type of study, and can be used to obtain information about daily practices that volunteer participants might find difficult to express verbally. These methods are unobtrusive. In this type of field research of the project, **informed consent** plays a fundamental part. The proposed research cannot be properly conducted if informants do not consent to their participation. As the project team intend to ask them about the possibility to develop a biodiversity monitoring on their farms, as well as observe and interview them on their daily life and agricultural practices, this can only be done with their consent.

Because the project will not be developed with the involvement of concrete communities, but with individual families, a **Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Process** does not apply but rather **Informed Consent** will be signed individually, by each person directly involved in the project as participant or informant. In the case of minors under the age of 18, the team will ask for permission from their parents or those who are legally in charge of them. Additionally, an informed assent will be signed by the minor. The participants will be informed about the project by the project team in a group meeting with representatives of the families that will be included in the process. Participants who cannot be present during that meeting will be contacted personally. The project team will give to every participant in the project a leaflet that states the research objectives, the procedures to be conducted and the products to be fulfilled in simple terms. If the person cannot read, a member of the research team will read the content of the leaflet. In any case, the research team will encourage the participants to ask every question they have in mind in order to clarify any aspect of the project which remains unclear. Team members will make clear to participants that they can communicate their questions to the project team at any time, and that they may withdraw from the project whenever they wish to do so, without incurring any penalty.