


Simplified Operational Completion Report (OCR)

(To be used for GEF-funded Enabling Activity technically completed by 31/12/2023)

Signatures

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1. Project Identification

GEF ID: 3768
Project Title: Development of the National Clearing House Mechanism- and Capacity Assessment for ABS and Taxonomy- Mozambique
Executing Agency: Environmental Management Authority
UNEP Division: Ecosystems Division
Country/Region: Mozambique
Actual Implementation Start Date (MM/YYYY): 03/2011
Actual Completion Date (MM/YYYY): 10/2014
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity
GEF Grant Amount: USD 261,000
Co-financing (if applicable): USD 30,000

2. Project Implementation

1. Brief description of activities, and its link to Convention obligations.

The project aimed to update Mozambique's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and develop a functional National Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), in line with obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The initiative responded to the need for improved biodiversity planning, capacity assessment, and information exchange, addressing gaps in taxonomy, access and benefit sharing (ABS), and incentive measures for sustainable use of biodiversity. The Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) executed the project, with technical support from UNEP.

Key Activities:

- **Revision and Updating of NBSAP:** Reviewed and updated the 1998 NBSAP, incorporating new information from the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) and other sources.
- **Capacity Assessments:** Conducted targeted assessments in three areas: taxonomy, access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (ABS), and incentive measures for sustainable use of biodiversity.
- **Development of CHM:** Established a national technical committee, designed the CHM, and developed databases and a website for biodiversity information exchange.
- **Stakeholder Consultations:** Organised national workshops and consultations to identify gaps, validate findings, and build consensus on NBSAP updates.

- **Public Awareness and Dissemination:** Produced newsletters and press releases to raise awareness among policymakers and the public.

Link to Convention Obligations:

The project directly supported national compliance with the CBD by:

- **Article 6:** The project updated Mozambique's NBSAP, fulfilling the requirement for national biodiversity planning.
- <https://www.cbd.int/convention/articles/default.shtml?a=cbd-06>
- **Article 17:** The development of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) supported the exchange of biodiversity information.
<https://www.cbd.int/convention/articles/default.shtml?a=cbd-17>
- **Article 18:** The CHM also facilitated technical and scientific cooperation among stakeholders. <https://www.cbd.int/convention/articles/default.shtml?a=cbd-18>
- **COP Decisions:** The project responded to several Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions, as specified in the source document:
 - COP III/ SBSTTA II/2: Capacity-building for taxonomy and making taxonomic information available.
 - <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=7042>
 - COP II/7, IV/1 D, V/9, VI/5, VI/8, VI/23, VI/24: Guidelines for additional funding, capacity assessment, incentive measures, access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, and mitigation of threats including invasive species.

2. Overview of implementation arrangements

The project was executed by the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA), with the National Programme for Environmental Management (PNGA) serving as the National Implementing Agency. The National CBD Focal Point acted as the Project Director, supported by the National Biodiversity Team (NBT), which included representatives from key government ministries, research institutions, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

Implementing Agency: UNEP served as the GEF Implementing Agency, providing overall technical guidance, fiduciary oversight, and ensuring compliance with GEF policies and procedures. UNEP was also responsible for reviewing project progress, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting to the GEF Secretariat. UNEP facilitated the mobilisation of international expertise, supported the hiring of consultants for technical assistance, and ensured that project outputs met the standards required for donor reporting and CBD obligations.

National Executing Agency: MICOA, together with the NBT, monitored project activities on a continuous basis. A dedicated project management team was established, consisting of a project manager, a national expert, and a secretary. The MICOA Coordination Council reviewed final documents, while the MICOA Technical Council was consulted as needed and kept informed of project progress.

3. Delivery of outputs

1. Main output delivered (e.g., link to national reports, strategies).

The project delivered a set of strategic outputs designed to strengthen Mozambique's biodiversity planning and information management. These outputs addressed gaps identified in

the original NBSAP and responded to evolving national and international requirements under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Key Outputs:

- **Updated NBSAP:** The NBSAP was comprehensively revised, incorporating new findings from capacity assessments and the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) process. The updated document included action plans for taxonomy, ABS, and incentive measures, with detailed costing and implementation strategies.
- **Capacity Assessment Reports:** Targeted assessments were conducted in three critical areas: taxonomy, access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (ABS), and incentive measures for sustainable use of biodiversity. These reports identified gaps, proposed capacity-building actions, and informed the NBSAP update.
- **Functional National Clearing House Mechanism (CHM):** A national CHM was established, including a technical committee, databases, and a website to facilitate biodiversity information exchange. The CHM provided inventories of organisations, linkages to existing databases, and a reference bibliography of biodiversity publications.
- **Strategic Action Plans:** Action plans were developed for capacity building in taxonomy, ABS, and incentive measures. These plans outlined responsibilities, partnerships, and funding strategies for implementation.
- **Public Awareness and Dissemination Materials:** Newsletters, press releases, and other communication products were produced to raise awareness among policymakers and the public about biodiversity issues and project achievements.
- **Stakeholder Engagement Outputs:** National workshops and consultations were held to validate findings, build consensus, and ensure broad stakeholder participation in the NBSAP update and CHM development.

Link to National Strategies:

The updated NBSAP and the development of the Clearing House Mechanism were closely integrated with Mozambique's broader national strategies for environmental management and sustainable development. These outputs were designed to be mainstreamed into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies—such as the National Programme for Environmental Management, land, water, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and mining policies—ensuring that biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives were embedded within the country's legal and strategic frameworks. This alignment strengthened the coherence between biodiversity planning and national development priorities, supporting effective implementation and long-term sustainability.

2. Submission to Convention or integration into policy.

The NBSAP and CHM were submitted to the CBD Secretariat and integrated into Mozambique's national biodiversity governance framework. The CHM facilitated improved reporting and information exchange, supporting Mozambique's obligations under the Convention.

4. Project Outcome

Where applicable any project outcomes, as achieved short- or medium-term effects of outputs (*including unintended positive and negative outcomes*)

Key Outcomes Achieved:

- **Enhanced Biodiversity Planning:** Mozambique developed an updated, government-commissioned NBSAP, ready for use by stakeholders.
- **Improved Capacity:** Capacity needs for taxonomy, ABS, and incentive measures were identified, costed, and publicised, supporting future implementation.
- **Operational CHM:** A functional CHM was established, with at least 50 institutional users recorded by project end.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Increased participation and consensus among government, NGOs, and local communities in biodiversity planning.

Unintended Positive Outcomes

- Strengthened collaboration among institutions managing biodiversity information.
- Raised public and policymaker awareness of biodiversity issues through targeted communication.

Unintended Negative Outcomes

- Some delays in CHM development due to limited internet access for stakeholders, mitigated by alternative communication methods (e.g., printed materials, CDs).
- readiness for future reporting cycles and compliance with international obligations.

5. Stakeholders' involvement

Extent of stakeholder engagement and capacity developed

The project involved a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including government ministries, research institutes, NGOs, private sector actors, and local communities. Stakeholder engagement was facilitated through national workshops, technical committees, and validation meetings. Capacity-building activities improved technical skills in biodiversity data management, taxonomy, ABS, and policy integration. The participatory approach fostered national ownership and sustainability of project outputs.

6. Financial Summary

Source	(USD)
GEF Grant	S1-32GFL-000525
Final Date of Disbursement	25.02.2020
Cumulative Disbursement ¹² (as of final date of disbursement)	50,000.00

¹ For multi-Country EAs, provide a **compiled financial summary of resource utilization** along with a table providing links to the individual reports submitted to the relevant convention secretariat

² For Mult-Trust Fund (MTF) projects, list disbursement separately for each Fund.

Co-financing ³ , if applicable				
Name of Co-financier	Actual Grant at TE (USD)		Actual In-kind at TE (USD)	Total Co-financing (USD)
Ministry of Lands, Environment and Rural Development	11,000.00		11,000.00	11,000.00
Totals	11,000.00		11,000.00	11,000.00
Budget lines	Estimated Cost at Design	Actual Expenditure	Expenditure ratio (Actual/planned)	Available balance
IP DIRECT	175,200.00	50,000.00	0.29	125,200.00

6. Lessons Learned

Summarize key insights or recommendations for future Enabling Activities.

The experience of updating Mozambique's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and developing the Clearing House Mechanism provided several important lessons for future biodiversity enabling activities.

Stakeholder Engagement and Ownership: Early and continuous involvement of government agencies, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, and local communities was essential for building consensus and ensuring the relevance and sustainability of project outputs. The participatory approach fostered national ownership and facilitated the integration of biodiversity objectives into sectoral policies.

Targeted Capacity Assessments: Focused assessments in taxonomy, access and benefit sharing, and incentive measures allowed the project to identify specific gaps and needs that were not addressed by previous initiatives. This ensured that the updated strategy was evidence-based and responsive to current challenges.

Coordination and Synergy with Existing Initiatives: The project benefited from close coordination with the ongoing National Capacity Self-Assessment process, using shared working groups and technical committees to avoid duplication and maximise resource use. This synergy enabled efficient information exchange and continuity across related projects.

Adaptive Management and Mainstreaming: Biodiversity planning is inherently adaptive and cyclical. The project demonstrated the importance of regularly reviewing and updating strategies to reflect new scientific knowledge, emerging threats, and evolving policy contexts. Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into national development and sectoral strategies was critical for long-term impact.

³ Only for Enabling Activities which have a confirmed co-financing at CEO Approval/Endorsement
Provide a table with **Actual Sources of Co-financing, if available.**

Information Management and Accessibility: Establishing the Clearing House Mechanism improved access to biodiversity information and facilitated communication among institutions. However, challenges such as limited internet connectivity for some stakeholders underscored the need for alternative dissemination methods, such as printed materials and CDs, and ongoing investment in information and communications technology infrastructure.

Institutional Arrangements and Project Management: Clear definition of roles and responsibilities among the executing agency, implementing agency, and project management team contributed to effective oversight and accountability. Embedding monitoring and evaluation mechanisms from the outset enabled timely identification of issues and informed decision-making.

Sustainability and Resource Mobilisation: Planning for the long-term sustainability of the strategy and Clearing House Mechanism—including funding strategies, capacity building, and institutional support—was vital. The project highlighted the need for Mozambique to mobilise domestic resources and secure government commitment for continued implementation.

Policy Integration and Legal Frameworks: The project reinforced the importance of aligning biodiversity planning with existing national policies and legal instruments, such as environmental, land, forestry, and biosafety laws. This integration ensured coherence and supported the achievement of national and international biodiversity goals.

Conclusion

The project successfully achieved its core objectives despite implementation challenges and an extended timeframe. Between 2011 and 2014, a fully functional National CHM complete with website, databases, and a national technical committee. The project supported Mozambique's compliance with key articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (notably Articles 6, 17, and 18) and relevant COP decisions, while strengthening national capacity for biodiversity planning, information exchange, and scientific cooperation. The participatory process—engaging government ministries, research institutions, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities—ensured broad ownership and facilitated the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into sectoral policies and national development frameworks.

Although some activities experienced delays and certain budget lines remained under-utilised owing to administrative and logistical constraints, the project generated significant medium-term outcomes: enhanced institutional collaboration, increased awareness among policymakers and the public, and a solid foundation for ongoing CBD reporting and implementation. The establishment of an operational CHM with documented institutional users and the integration of the revised NBSAP into national governance structures represent lasting contributions to Mozambique's biodiversity agenda.

The lessons learned, particularly on stakeholder ownership, synergy with parallel processes, adaptive management, and the need for sustained investment in digital infrastructure and domestic resource mobilisation—provide valuable guidance for future enabling activities in Mozambique and elsewhere.

In summary, this project has meaningfully strengthened Mozambique's institutional and technical capacity to conserve and sustainably use its rich biological diversity, equipping the country to meet both current and emerging obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and to advance national sustainable development priorities for the benefit of present and future generations.

