

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	GEF ID.: 5744	SMA IPMR ID	28965
Project Short Title	Bahamas ABS	Grant ID	
		Umoja WBS	GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-005655
Project Title	Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in The Bahamas		
Project Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium Sized Project (MSP)	Duration months	<i>Planned</i> 36 <i>Age</i> 90.4 months
Parent Programme if child project		Completion Date	<i>Planned -original PCA</i> 1-Feb-19 <i>Revised - Current PCA</i> 31-Oct-23
GEF Focal Area(s)			
Project Scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National		
Region	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Latin America and the Caribbean	Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	23-Feb-16
Countries	Bahamas	UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	5-Nov-15
GEF financing amount	USD 1,900,000	Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	11-Apr-16
Co-financing amount	USD 2,042,292	Date of First Disbursement	19-May-16
		Date of Inception Workshop, if available	20-Jun-16
Total disbursement as of 30 June	USD 1,575,872	Midterm undertaken?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Total expenditure as of 30 June	USD 1,577,083	Actual Mid-term Date, if taken	14-Aug-21
		Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	
		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	1-Dec-23
		Expected Financial Closure Date	30-Apr-24

## 1.2 EA: Project description

The project Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in The Bahamas is designed to support the country in the adoption of national measures and mechanisms to meet the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. This is in line with target 16 of the CBD Strategic plan on Biodiversity and the project will not only help the Bahamas in meeting the third objective of the CBD but also the other two objectives. By setting sound ABS procedures and processes, monetary and non-monetary opportunities will trickle down to local and national levels, e.g., through access fees, payments of royalties, joint or shared ownership of intellectual property rights etc.; non-monetary benefits can encompass capacity development, improved recognition of traditional knowledge and use practices, or technology transfer. This will in turn create further incentives for biodiversity conservation that will result from the enhanced understanding of the opportunities that can be leveraged with the effective implementation of the Protocol. Additionally, these mechanisms will support the effective mainstreaming of biodiversity into broader development strategies and action plans at the national level which will create an appropriate environment for advancing broader sustainable development goals.

**Component 1: National Strategy on ABS and accession to the Nagoya Protocol**

## 1.3 Project Contact

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division	Executing Agency(ies)	Department of Environmental Planning and Protection
Name of co-implementing Agency		Names of Other Project Partners	Law Office of Pericles Maillis, German Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH), University
TM: UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Ersin Esin (OIC)	EA: Manager/Representative	Rhianna Neely - Murphy, PhD.
TM: UNEP Task Manager(s)	Christopher Cox	EA: Project Manager	Ma. Cecilia B. Colarina
TM: UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	George Saddimbah	EA: Finance Manager	Shenik Thompson
TM: UNEP Support/Assistant	Glortizel Frangakis	EA: Communications lead, if relevant	

## 2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN	TM: UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)	Nature action subprogramme iii. Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches	TM: UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)	Healthy and productive ecosystems
	TM: PoW Indicator(s)			
	EA: UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	2022-2026 UN MSDF in the Caribbean includes Outcome 6 'Caribbean countries manage natural resources & ecosystems strengthening their resilience & enhancing the resilience & prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them' which is relevant to the objectives under this project		
	EA: Link to relevant SDG Goals	SDG 15 - Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss	EA: Link to relevant SDG Targets	15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

2.2. GEF Core or Sub Indicators

TM: GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	

Implementation Status      2023      7th PIR

is & Risk

	PIR #	Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2023	7th PIR	S	HS	L
FY 2022	6th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2021	5th PIR	S	S	M
FY 2020	4th PIR	MS	MS	M
FY 2019	3rd PIR	U	U	S
FY 2018	2nd PIR	HU	HU	S
FY 2017	1st PIR	U	U	
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

2.3 Implementation status

**EA:** Summary of status  
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The almost completion of the ABS project with a 98% completion rate, this project period had been focused on the monitoring of the enactment of the ABS Act of 2021 or better known as "The Biological Resources and Traditional Knowledge Protection and Sustainable Use Act" along with the full operationalization of the ABS centralized online Research Permitting Portal (launched on April 1, 2021); and the Bahamas Ratification (December 31, 2021) and entering into force (March 30, 2022) to the Nagoya Protocol. The ABS project vigorously moved forward as manifested by various achievements made or accomplished during this reporting period. As per approved workplan/ project results framework, 98% accomplishment of project targets. Part of the Satisfactory Rating can also be referenced from the results of the previous Mid Term Review as well as the Half Year Progress Report (HYPR). Sustained partnership built and the collaboration established within and among agencies will continue even after the course of the ABS project implementation through the ABS Committee. The system of coordination is already imbedded in the operationalization of the ABS centralized online research permitting portal. From the government's support and receptive response, particularly by the Ministry of Environment, these ABS measures and mechanisms are in a deliberate process towards the full institutionalization in the national planning and programs of the government. The accession of the Bahamas to the Nagoya Protocol, will paved the way in creating an environment in which access and benefit sharing can be given effect. The enforcement of the legislation will set to establish a fair and equitable ABS agreements and partnerships so as to strengthen the economic case as well as the financing required for the conservation and sustainable use of the country's genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The online research permitting portal established a system of control and regulations. There have been initial challenges and concerns in interfacing with the new ABS regulatory regime as expressed by some of stakeholders, primarily externally-based research organizations, however the DEPP remains in active engagement with these stakeholders, supported by the ABS Committee to address these challenges. Guidance on the application of the provisions of the Act is being strengthened to enhance awareness and facilitate compliance..."

2.4 Co-finance

**EA:** Planned Co-finance

\$2,042,292

**EA:** Actual to date:

\$2,162,292

**EA:** Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.

As reported from last PIR - \$2,398,895.80 or 117% (as of June 2022) from the total/ committed co-financing counterpart of \$2,042,292 for the entire duration of the project.

2.5 Stakeholder

**EA:** Date of project steering committee meeting

27-Jul-22

**EA:** Stakeholder engagement  
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The ABS project will continue to adhere and sustain the partnership established within and among the members of the Project Steering Committee. This is to ensure continued participation and strengthening of the institutionalized ABS Committee as mandated by the ABS Act of 2021. However, partnerships from collaborating institutions has not been disregarded as they are also periodically being consulted for some technical and academic matters, this included the University of the Bahamas and The Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS).

**The Legal Team** – The role of the legal team is to ensure the timely formulation and passage of the ABS Act serving as consultative avenue to address different issues that came out with respect to the enforcement of the ABS Act, more specifically in the dealing with users and permit application related to the ABS portal. This team is comprised of Lawyers from the University of The Bahamas (UB), Office of the Attorney General (AOG), and the project ABS International Legal Consultant.

**Research Permitting Team** – The new research permitting team is solely composed of environmental officers of the Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP). This team is formed out of the need to put a system in place considering that DEPP is the administrator of the ABS

**TM:** Does the project have a gender action plan?



No

2.6. Gender

**EA:** Gender mainstreaming  
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The entire course of the ABS project implementation is generally dominated by women starting from the legal team, research permitting team and even the law enforcement network wherein the lead agency which is the Bahamas Defense Force is also being represented by a woman. The gender dimension is well integrated into the various implementation aspects of the ABS project. It is noteworthy that a large number of women (81% or 17/21 – female-nominated focal persons) are part of the project steering committee. This large proportion of women in the project are holding vital government positions and exercising mandates that brought significant influence in the decision-making processes on behalf of their respective institutions. The legal team as it is being led by the Office of the Attorney General are a group of all women lawyers who until now is supporting the ABS in carrying out the provisions of the ABS Act. The same with the ABS Research Team – this is comprised by all women technical and environmental officers of DEPP who are designated for the general purpose of facilitating and filtering research application coming from both the local and international applicants.

The newly organized ABS Committee formed as mandated by the ABS Act of 2021 is also well represented by women. The gender distribution of the committee members from among the 16 agencies is: Female – 13 (81.25%) and Male – 3 (18.75%). These female leaders always ensured that the gender aspects are mainstreamed in various ABS related initiatives as manifested in the provisions of the legislation that clearly emphasized gender importance and inclusivity.

During the early stages of the ABS project, its importance was not sufficiently translated down to the community level. But upon the conduct of various meetings and informal sessions with the local administrators, the project eventually recognized the critical role of community women who are considered healers and advocates of the traditional/bush medicines. While there is ongoing conventional research to explore and study the derivatives and medicinal properties of various endemic plants found in The Bahamas, these women healers reserve firm convictions about these plants, how are they being prepared, administered, and how they may be used to cure various illnesses. Almost all of the family islands are having these women healers who are known for their healing expertise and being patronized by most of the Bahamians, Haitians and Jamaicans. These women play a well-recognized role in the protection and conservation of these endemic species as well as sustaining the popularly practiced Traditional Knowledge (TK) of The Bahamas

2.7. ESSM

**TM:** Was the project classified as moderate/high risk at CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?



Yes

**TM:** If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?

The project will establish an M&E platform to measure environmental and social impacts

**TM:** Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?



No

**TM:** If yes, please describe the new risks, or changes

**TM & EA:** Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?



No

**TM & EA:** If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including

**EA: Environmental and social safeguards management**  
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The project has established a wide consultative and collaborating network to ensure stakeholder's inputs across all levels of the project. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that are being aired during the Ministry's advocacy campaigns are contributing to sustaining awareness in order to educate the general public and target commercial sectors in addition to senior policy makers about the work of the project and its intended benefit to the Bahamas. In addition to the The Bahamas government's priorities in bringing back the country back to its feet in terms of economic recovery after the global pandemic, it remains committed in realizing compliance with the committed environmental and social safeguards. In continuing the enactment and roll-out of the ABS Act various recommendations came into light. There are recommendations to put in details on the working guidelines on the permitting process through an amendment, with perhaps and option of developing a statutory instrument. The Department of Environmental Planning and Protection continue to be the focal point with respect to the country's accession to the Nagoya protocol ( Ratified- December 31, 2021 and came into force March 30, 2022). The ABS project had been maintaining its commitment to further ensure that environmental and social safeguards are being met as contained in the project design and through its delivery of outputs toward the desired result areas.

**EA: Knowledge activities and products**  
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

Development of a Public repository in The Bahamas – The Bahamas is an important focus of research attention. However, data on research conducted in The Bahamas is dispersed across multiple data providers of different types such as scientific publications, patents and DNA sequences. It is desirable to start to bring these resources together to support the research community working in The Bahamas and in allowing government agencies to gain a snapshot view of research and innovation that involves The Bahamas. The project has therefore constructed a public research repository that is accessible from the national research permit system portal and can be access online at:  
<https://oneworldanalytics.com/bahamasresearch/>

As explained in the research repository the data is drawn from three sources:

- Scientific publications that make reference to The Bahamas
- Patent publications that mention The Bahamas
- Nucleotide Sequence data from the European Nucleotide Authority (ENA) that lists The Bahamas as the country. ENA is a member of the INSDC group of databases including GenBank at the NCBI that provide access to the same sequence data.

-The repository will be periodically updated to reflect new publications and sequence data. The public data repository should be a useful resource for the research community, for government officers seeking to examine activity and for policy makers interested in trends in research activity.

*Please attach a copy of any products*

**EA: Main learning during the period**

One significant lesson during this reporting period is that, the government of The Bahamas especially the law makers are showing active response in terms of proposing or recommending changes on the ABS guidelines and protocols by virtue of the ABS Act of 2021. The leaders and policy makers already came to realize the importance of the ABS Act, and they are proposing timely and helpful amendments that will improve the ABS Act. Gearing closer towards the final phase of the ABS implementation, a gradual transition of the ABS management from the project management unit to the government through the DEPP of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, is in process. Commitments have been forged and partnerships established, as manifested in the sustained coordination of DEPP with other permitting Authorities, as well as the conduct of dialogues with individuals and research institutions. The government is now investing financially to support the continued administration and operationalization of the ABS online research permitting portal by hiring regular staff (Environmental Officers) who comprised the DEPP's Research Team as well as the employment of Desk Officers by other permitting agencies.

## 2.9. Stories

**EA:** Stories to be shared  
(section to be shared with communication division/  
GEF communication)

Out of the success of the ABS in terms of policy development, a good practice story 'Sharing the wealth from Nature with the Custodians of Nature' A case study from The Bahamas on enhancing Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) through the sustainable use of marine resources under the Nagoya Protocol has been submitted to UNEP for consideration to publish as a web story; the review is still in progress – has been delayed. The passage of the ABS Act also opened an avenue to advance the partnership with other countries from the Caribbean region, primarily in order to extract lessons and success stories related to the implementation of ABS. The ABS Project also formed a systemic information management and coordination between agencies especially among permitting institutions. The installation of the ABS online permitting system addressed some issues about overlaps among permitting authorities and the fragmented approach to permitting. The establishment of a single and centralized permitting system facilitated compliance with the terms and conditions of the research protocol by the government of The Bahamas.





Increased understanding of the national benefits to be accrued through ABS	Awareness of international and national ABS strengthened	Very low level of awareness about the Nagoya Protocol and its implications among most stakeholders	Awareness strategy for ABS implementation and potential benefit is designed and first consultations are launched	At least 80% of researchers, local communities, relevant industry players (balanced by gender) targeted by the campaigns and consultations are aware of and understand the national ABS law and regulations as well as the CBD and NP provisions related to ABS and Traditional Knowledge (TK)	100%	2 workshops/Trainings are accomplished / conducted on May 27, 2022 led by the University of The Bahamas. 1. Briefing session with the government officials about the Nagoya Protocol; 2. Meeting with the law makers re: Status of The Bahamas Accession to the Nagoya Protocol	HS
<b>Outcome 2.2</b>							HS
National ABS Legal Framework adopted	National law and implementing regulations on ABS are prepared for adoption	No legislative, administrative and policy measures on ABS in place	National laws and implementing regulations are drafted	National laws are finalized and ready to be submitted for adoption to relevant authorities	100%	ABS Act 2021 or "The Biological Resources and Traditional Knowledge Protection and Sustainable Use Act" passed on February 18, 2021.	HS
<b>Outcome 2.3</b>							HS
Strengthened national capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework	One or more national competent authority identified, designated and capacitated to support the implementation of national law and regulations on ABS	The is no designated and fully capacitated national competent authority on ABS	National Competent Authority designated and capacitated	National Competent Authority in place and operational	100%	The Competent National Authority is the Ministry of Environment and the DEPP is the designated National Focal Point by virtue of the ABS Act 2021, under Part II – Re: Administration of the Act.	HS
	A well-functioning electronic system for ABS permits applications, administrations, monitoring and reporting is established.	Several government agencies issue different types of permits and there is no coordinated or centralized system for the issuance/ processing of permits.	Development of a one stop shop electronic permit system with input from all relevant sectoral agencies.	A single electronic permit system that makes it easy to apply for ABS related permits and that enables government authorities to effectively review and approve ABS related permit applications is in place and operational	100%	completed	HS
	Existence of mechanism for the protection of Traditional knowledge (TK) relating to genetic and biological resources	TK relating to genetic resources is not inventories nor protected	TK inventory is established	A system for protecting confidential and non-confidential TK is established	100%	The Mechanism is imbedded under the ABS Act with respect to the TK protection and Sustainable use. Please refer to the ABS Act 2021	S
<b>Outcome 3</b>							S
ABS principles applied to adjusted non-commercial research permits	Adjusted ABS contracts / agreements to include benefits	No agreement with PIC and MAT	Baseline and analyses for all 3 Pilots	Establishment of national depositories or database on: potential ABS agreements and value chains, users of genetic resources; ex situ collection of genetic and biochemical resources.	100%	Completion in the conduct of the population model, model validation analysis and the management plan. Submitted by PIMS on September 29, 2021	HS

	Partnership with ex-situ collection established	Benefit Sharing is not for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity		Partnership collaboration agreements established with 2-3 ex situ collections	100%	Dialogue with ex situ collectors already conducted, and the AMMC remained to be the lead institution in dealing with the ex-situ collectors as well as other archeological related researches	S
	Adjusted ABS agreement to include monitoring			ABS agreements in place and signed by the government of the Bahamas and the commercial partner	80%	Dialogue about the commercial and non-commercial MAT engaging the government paved way as the government is on its way on determining appropriate mechanisms in order to establish formal engagement with commercial partners	S

For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

### 3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Output	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	EA: Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	TM: Progress rating
<b>Under Comp 1- National Strategy on ABS and accession to the Nagoya Protocol</b>					
<b>Output 1.1: Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for The Bahamas developed in a consultative process</b>	<b>30-Mar-21</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Final Output are all submitted – and made use as reference in the crafting of the ABS legislation - Done as manifested in the passage of the ABS Act Of 2021 - March 202</b>	<b>HS</b>
1.1.1.1. Conduct assessment on stakeholder roles and responsibilities in ABS, including stakeholder mapping and analysis	31 Sept. 2019	100%	100%	Completed	
1.1.1.2. Conduct an ABS capacity needs assessment to define key ABS strategic orientations/ goals	31 Sept. 2019	100%	100%	Completed	
1.1.1.3. Undertake consultations through workshops (7-family Islands) to get input on the draft ABS Strategy	31 Sept. 2021	100%	100%	Completed	
<b>1.1.2 Awareness among decision and lawmakers on opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol is raised.</b>	<b>30-Jun-21</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>The Bahamas had already been ratified on December 31, 2021 and came into force by 31st March 2022 – to the Nagoya Protocol</b>	<b>HS</b>
1.1.2.1. Development of awareness and outreach materials on the Nagoya Protocol for decision makers (Cabinet, Parliament, Senate)	30-Dec-21	100%	100%	Completed	
1.1.2.2. Sessions for government officials and decision makers / Organizing parliamentary briefings with key member of environmental related commission	30-Jun-21	100%	100%	Completed	
<b>1.1.3 Legal documents needed for ratification /accession are drafted</b>				<b>DONE</b>	<b>HS</b>
1.1.3.1. Undertaking a study on implications of accession, including cost benefit analysis and rationale	30-Jun-21	100%	100%	Completed	

1.1.3.2. Development of a manual on accession the Protocol including templates for briefing documents for high government officials	30-Jun-21	100%	100%	Completed	
<b>Under Comp 2 -National Enabling environment for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol</b>					
<b>2.1.1. Consultations and public awareness campaigns with relevant stakeholders (including consultations and awareness raising to increase understanding of issues of intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to ABS</b>	<b>30-Jun-21</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Completed - 30 June 2021</b>	<b>HS</b>
2.1.1.1. Development of toolkits to raise awareness of government officials and other stakeholders on ABS	30 Dec. 2020	100%	100%	Completed	
2.1.1.2 Organization of workshops for government officials and other stakeholders on thematic issues of relevance to ABS implementation	30 Sept. 2020	100%	100%	Completed	
2.1.1.3. Organization of workshops for journalists and other media and communication experts on ABS	30-Jun-21	100%	100%	Completed	
<b>2.2.1. Policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS drafted and submitted for approval by legislature, inclusive of appointment of National Focal Point and Competent National Authority</b>	<b>30 Sept. 2021</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>DONE - The briefing session was conducted on 27th March 2022.</b>	<b>HS</b>
2.2.1.1. Undertaking a comprehensive analysis (including gap analysis) of laws/regulations of relevance to ABS	30-Sep-20	100%	100%	Completed	
2.2.1.2. Organization of training sessions among law makers/drafters on the Nagoya Protocol	30-Jun-21	100%	100%	Completed	
2.2.1.3. Drafting of required legislation/ regulations	30-Sep-20	100%	100%	Completed	
2.2.1.4. Organization of consultative workshops to validate draft text before its official submission	30-Dec-20	100%	100%	Completed	
2.2.1.5. Organization of training workshops for relevant institutions (including the designated NCA on ABS and the Nagoya Protocol	30-Sep-21	100%	100%	Completed	
<b>2.3.1. (Online) administrative procedures for ABS Agreements with Prior Informed Consent [PIC], Mutually Agreed Terms [MAT], and Benefit Sharing approved and available for use. Monitoring system for research and bioprospecting permits, ABS Agreements developed and implemented.</b>	<b>30-Dec-21</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>DONE - The online permitting portal is fully operational – The DEPP along with the ABS permitting team are regularly in coordination in order to ensure proper maintenance for a more efficient and effective utilization of the portal</b>	<b>HS</b>
2.3.1.1. Develop a pilot permit system at an early stage (Year 1) accommodating the principles of agile development wherever possible	30-Mar-21	90%	100%	Completed	
2.3.1.2. Implement and continue the development of the system with regular periodic review by users	30-Dec-22	100%	100%	Completed	
2.3.1.3. Report on experience gained and future development plans and fine tune system (Year 2, Year 3)	31-Dec-22	100%	100%	Completed - There is still an on going Phase 4 Contract by Dr. Paul Oldham on the 1st year implementation of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the maintenance of the system. The Contract will end by December 30, 2023.	
<b>2.3.2. Capacity built within competent authorities for initiating and negotiating contracts/agreements</b>	<b>30-Dec-21</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Completed - This was conducted on May 27, 2022 led by the UB</b>	<b>HS</b>

2.3.2.1. Development of explanatory notes on the different components of MAT and relevant actors	1-Jun-21	100%	100%	Completed	
2.3.2.2. Organization of trainings and orientation programmes on negotiation of MAT, including modules on technical and legal aspects	1-Sep-21	100%	100%	Completed	
2.3.2.3. Orientation programme on IPR-related issues of MATs	1-Sep-21	100%	100%	Completed	
2.3.2.4. Development of an operational manual on MAT, covering, inter alia, how to negotiate MAT and the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors	30-Dec-21	70%	100%	Completed	

#### Under Comp 3- Applied ABS arrangements in The Bahamas

<b>3.1.1. Pilot 1 - Adjusted ABS contracts/agreements for research permits to include monetary and on monetary benefit sharing provisions to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing at any stage of research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization</b>	<b>30-Jun-21</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Completed - October 27, 2021</b>	<b>HS</b>
3.1.1.1. Hands-on practical training for research host institutions in applying for access permits and testing the online application procedures to be developed under component 2	30-Jun-21	100%	100%	Completed on March 26, 2021 – A virtual training session about the drafted ABS Act was also presented with the same audience on November 25, 2020	
3.1.1.2. Conduct of KAP Survey – level of education and awareness survey on ABS	30-Jun-21	70%	100%	2 KAP Survey completed Re: Baseline Kap (July 14, 2022) ; Endline KAP (March 30, 2023)	
<b>3.1.2. Pilot 2. Adjusted partnerships with ex situ collections take up ABS policies</b>	<b>30-Jun-21</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Completed - October 2021</b>	<b>S</b>
3.1.2.1. Undertake study providing overview on Bahamian resources held in ex situ collection and analysis of existing ABS policies of ex- situ collections	30-Jun-21	100%	100%	Completed	
3.1.2.2. Partnership dialogues with selected ex-situ collections to discuss ABS policy for new utilizations of Bahamian genetic resources	30-Jun-21	100%	100%	Completed	
<b>3.1.3. Pilot 3. ABS agreement integrates monitoring system for BD and sustainable use</b>	<b>30-Apr-22</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>Completed - final reports uploaded in Anubis (3.1.3.1. , 3.1.3.2.; and 3.1.3.3</b>	<b>S</b>
3.1.3.1. Development of a population model	30-Dec-21	100%	100%	Completed	
3.1.3.2. Development of a management plan	30-Apr-22	100%	100%	Completed	
3.1.3.3. Undertake model validation/ analysis	30-Apr-22	100%	100%	Completed	
3.1.3.4. Workshops to bring together Partners to negotiate on terms and condition of the Agreement	1-Jun-23	80%	80%	A plan to bring together partners for a convergence meeting / workshop that will enhance or polish the provisions of the ABS Act particularly pertaining to research. This will also form part under the last engagement (Phase 5 Contract) with the ABS international legal consultant for the period September - October 2023.	

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

#### 4 Risk Rating

##### 4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA's Rating	TM's Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Moderate: Well developed, stable Management Structure and Roles/responsibilities are clearly defined/understood. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	Moderate: Well developed, stable Management Structure and Roles/responsibilities are clearly defined/understood. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Moderate: Steering Committee and/or other project bodies meet at least once a year and Active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC provides direction/inputs. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	Moderate: Steering Committee and/or other project bodies meet at least once a year and Active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC provides direction/inputs. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
3 Implementation schedule	Low : Project progressing according to original work planned Adaptive management is practiced and regular monitoring. Low likelihood of	Low : Project progressing according to original work plan and Adaptive management is practiced and regular monitoring. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the
4 Budget	Low : Activities are progressing within planned budget and Balanced budget utilization including PMC. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	Low : Activities are progressing within planned budget and Balanced budget utilisation including PMC. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
5 Financial Management	Low : Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and Audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds.	Low : Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and Audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative
6 Reporting	Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and	Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and implementation issues. Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low : Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before	Low : Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

##### 4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

7th PIR

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risk	Risk affecting:								Variation respect to last rating	
	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	PIR 6	PIR 7	Δ	Justification
Uncertainty due to government shifts in priorities and policy changes. Political will to have regulatory and institutional arrangements /structures to effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol in the Bahamas	M			M		M	M	M	=	
Limited legal, political and institutional capacity. Risk of staff turnover. Limited institutional and community interest in ABS. Balancing threats to marine and terrestrial ecosystems with the benefits of a successfully implemented ABS policy and system										
Willingness among institutions to share knowledge and coordinate their activities to ensure the effectiveness of a centralized permitting mechanisms	M			M	M	M	M	L	↓	
Slow processes for adoption and promulgation of texts	H			M	M	L	L	L	=	
Ex-situ collections in the US and in the EU refuse to change/adopt ABS policies due to the lack of domestic legal requirements to do so	H			M	M	L	L	L	=	

Consolidated project risk		M			M	M	L	L		L		This section focuses on the variation. The overall rating is discussed in section 2.3.
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**4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks**

List here only risks from Table A and B above that have a risk rating of M or higher in the current PIR

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIR-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom
Uncertainty due to government shifts in priorities and policy changes. Political will to have regulatory and institutional arrangements /structures to effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol in the Bahamas	The DEPP Continues to be the National Focal Point for the Nagoya Protocol and the Ministry of Environment is the National Competent Authority as being represented by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary and the DEPP Director.	Continued system enhancements as well as sustained legal advice provided guidance in both the operationalization of the ABS portal as well as the effective enforcement of the ABS Act.	<input type="checkbox"/> Continued legal guidance on matters pertaining to PIC and MAT, and the IPR <input type="checkbox"/> Sustained enhancement and maintenance of the ABS online permitting portal <input type="checkbox"/> Continued coordination / strengthened partnership with the members of the ABS Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying for government support onward full institutionalization of ABS initiatives <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic briefing / updating sessions be conducted for both the members of the Cabinet and the Senate <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage greater participation from key leaders who will be considered champions in the development of useful mechanisms for sustainability	December 30, 2023	DEPP
Limited legal, political and institutional capacity. Limited institutional and community interest in ABS. Balancing threats to marine and terrestrial ecosystems with the benefits of a successfully implemented ABS policy and system	The recommendation to do an amendment or develop an statutory instrument of the ABS Act of 2021 is already within the discretion of the members of the ABS Committee but led by the DEPP through the Ministry of The Environment. The recommendation is still pending following the stipulated provision that a preferential amendment shall be done after 3 years of the ABS execution.	Meeting and briefing sessions - DEPP is being represented by the Director and issues pertaining to the ABS Act and the permitting portal is appropriately being addressed by the Minister and the Director. The sustainability of the ABS initiatives are gradually manifesting through the present management and leadership of the DEPP. The management of the ABS Project is now being transitioned into a national leadership led by DEPP as part of the institutionalization process.	Continued negotiations with key stakeholders who are directly involved in the legal process of determining appropriate amendments as it pertains to the ABS Act.	December 2024 - this is three years after the ABS Act had been enforced, wherein a preferential amendment can be conducted after 3 years.	DEPP . Ministry of Environment , OAG

**High Risk (H):** There is a probability of greater than 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.  
**Significant Risk (S):** There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.  
**Moderate Risk (M):** There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.  
**Low Risk (L):** There is a probability of up to 25% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.



## Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate.

**5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)**

Minor amendments	Changes	Minor amendments
Results framework		Project no-cost extensions
Components and cost		
Institutional and implementation arrangements		
Financial management		
Implementation schedule	<b>Explain in table B</b>	
Executing Entity		
Executing Entity Category		
Minor project objective change		
Safeguards		
Risk analysis		
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%		
Co-financing		
Location of project activity		
Other		

**5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)**

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original Legal Instrument		11-Apr-16	6-May-16	28-Feb-20	
Amendment 1	Extension	16-Oct-19	24-Oct-19	23-Feb-23	Extended timeframe; COVID19 pandemic-related. No changes to project
Amendment 2	Extension	14-Jul-22	14-Jul-22	30-Apr-24	Extended timeframe; continued fall-out from COVID19 pandemic-related delays. No changes to project

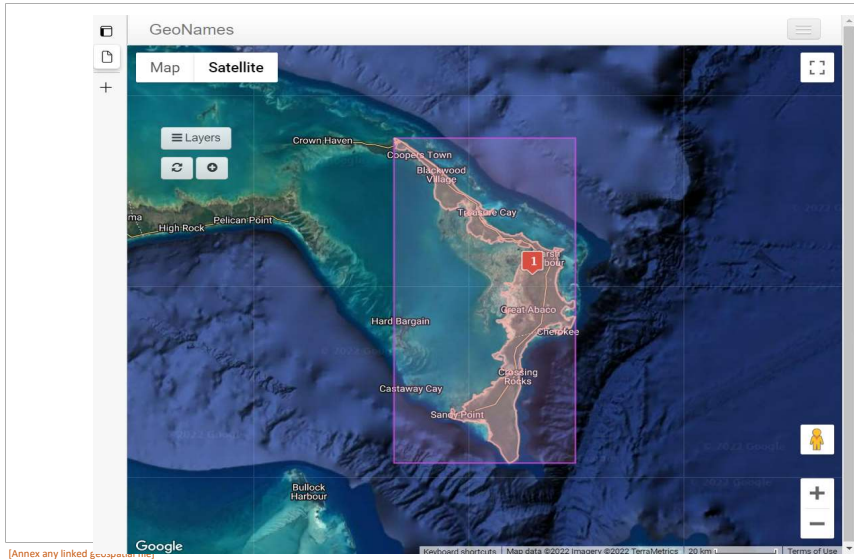
## GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=4/21.84/82.79) (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=4/21.84/82.79>) or [GeoNames](http://www.geonames.org/) (<http://www.geonames.org/>) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here (<https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/assets/general/Geocoding%20User%20Guide.docx>)

Location Name <small>Required field</small>	Latitude <small>Required field</small>	Longitude <small>Required field</small>	Geo Name ID <small>Required field if the location is not an exact site</small>	Location Description <small>Optional text field</small>	Activity Description <small>Optional text field</small>
Abaco Island, Bahamas	26.465	-77.134444	<a href="https://www.geonames.org/3572947/abaco-island.html">https://www.geonames.org/3572947/abaco-island.html</a>	Abaco Island ca. -1 m 3572947	This is the area where the sampling and assessment of the sea whip had been conducted by the Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS) with respect to the conduct of the Population Model.

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. \*





[Annex any linked [GeoNames](#) map]