



UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2023

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	5290	SMA IPMR ID	34663
Project Short Title	Venezuela Biosafety	Grant ID	S1-32GFL-000618/ P1-33GFL-001151
		Umoja WBS	GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-008055
Project Title	Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework in Venezuela in accordance to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety		
Project Type	Medium-sized Project	Duration months	Planned 48
Parent Programme if child project			Age 74.2 months
GEF Focal Area(s)	Biodiversity	Completion Date	Planned -original PCA April 2021
Project Scope	National		Revised - Current PCA March 2023
Region	Latin America and Caribbean	Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	24-Feb-17
Countries	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	10-Jul-17
GEF financing amount	USD 1,914,714	Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	9-Aug-17
Co-financing amount	USD 2,072,000	Date of First Disbursement	13-Sep-17
		Date of Inception Workshop, if available	23-Nov-17
Total disbursement as of 30 June	USD 1,560,788.15	Midterm undertaken?	Yes
Total expenditure as of 30 June	USD 1,062,479.28	Actual Mid-term Date, if taken	12-May-21
		Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	
		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	1-Jan-25
		Expected Financial Closure Date	31-Oct- 2024

1.2 EA: Project description

Project Objective: Establish a platform of legislative, regulatory, social and infrastructure to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of biotechnology in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in order to contribute to the global conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

1.3 Project Contact

Division(s) Implementing the project

UNEP, GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Unit Ecosystem Division

Executing Agency(ies)

The People's Power Ministry of Environment

Name of co-implementing Agency

N/A

Names of Other Project Partners

TM: UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)

Ersin Esen

EA: Manager/Representative

Miguel Serrano

TM: UNEP Task Manager(s)

Tea Garcia-Huidobro

EA: Project Manager

Miguel Serrano/Carliz Díaz

TM: UNEP Budget/Finance Officer

Rachel Kagiri

EA: Finance Manager

Miguel Serrano/Carliz Díaz

TM: UNEP Support/Assistant

Gloritzel Frangakis

EA: Communications lead, if relevant

2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

TM: UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)

Thematic: Nature Action
Foundational: Environmental governance

TM: UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)

3: Healthy and productive ecosystems
4: Environmental Governance

TM: PoW Indicator(s)

Nature Action: Outcome 2A/
Output 2.9/ indicator (i)
Environmental Governance:
indicator (ii)

EA: UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages

Note: 1st UNSDCF currently under preparation and expected in 2022
Venezuela UNDAF 2015-2019
Cooperation area 6: Environment, electric energy, risk management
Result 6.1 By 2019, the UN System will have contributed to the implementation of public policies aimed at the conservation and sustainable management of natural ecosystems and efficient environmental management in urban and rural areas, comprehensive risk management, efficient and diversified use and production of electricity

2.1 UNEP PoW

EA: Link to relevant SDG Goals

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

EA: Link to relevant SDG Targets

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

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			Materialised to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	

Implementation Status 2023 6th PIR (same as FY 2023)

EA

	PIR #	Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2023	6th PIR	MS	MS	S
FY 2022	5th PIR	MU	MU	H
FY 2021	4th PIR	MS	MU	S
FY 2020	3rd PIR	MS	MU	M

2.3 Implementation status & Risk

FY 2019	2nd PIR	✓	MU	✓	MU	✓	S
FY 2018	1st PIR	✓	MS	✓	MS	✓	M
FY 2017		✓		✓		✓	
FY 2016		✓		✓		✓	
FY 2015		✓		✓		✓	

There was no implementation of GEF funds for a good part of the reporting period (July 2022 to June 2023). Execution was strongly affected by a change of operating system within UNDP, called QUANTUM. In Venezuela, the shift to this new standardized internal administrative management system took a very long time. In the previous period, the project also went through a long process of modification of the legal instrument that supported the execution, and as a result, for an extended period of time, was not in a position to disburse resources and little progress was made. Government co-financing allowed for the continuation of some activities. The fourth disbursement was received on 1 Dec 2022, while the previous disbursement had been 2 and half years before. There was practically no execution of project funds in the period between June and December 2022, 15,429.39 USD were executed and it concluded with the fourth disbursement of 435,494.22 USD. Another no-cost extension will be requested. The MTR completed at the beginning of the reporting period should guide the way forward.

Within the framework of **Component 1** and **Component 2**, the project participated in 02 dissemination activities of the project activities aimed at organized producers and national legislators, in order to publicize the results of the applicability of the Cartagena Protocol in biosafety activities in the agricultural inputs that were used by agricultural producers in the 2022 planting season. The activities were carried out in the states of Guárico (July) and the capital district (November), with the participation of Venezuelan authorities and producers, achieving a participation of 120 people in both activities. The progress of the project in legal material was presented and the participants were trained in the processes of detection of GMOs in the field through the use of lateral flow strips.

In **Component 2**, the practical guide for the detection of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) produced in the previous reporting period through methods based on immunoassays and protocols for the standardization and validation of the detection of GMOs was implemented. Progress was made in the administrative and technical forms for GMOs. Applications on the project website (August-2022).

Within the framework of **Component 3**, available on the website at: <https://ovm.3dimensional.agency/>, a training workshop was held with officials of the General Directorate of Biological Diversity for the adaptation of the Virtual Classroom in the Biofield included in the page (September 2022).

Within **Component 4**, progress was made in technical work for the procurement needed to adapt the infrastructure belonging and purchase reagents for the reference laboratory for the detection of GMOs, which was finally achieved and paid out at the start of 2023. There was also a preventive maintenance program for existing equipment at the Reference Laboratory for the detection of genetically modified organisms (LRDOMG) and a proposal for standardization and validation protocols of methodologies for the detection of genetically modified organisms. Training activities are also being carried out with recently acquired personnel at LRDOMG (July-December 2022).

Challenges: No disbursement of GEF funds from August 2021 to November 2022, as it took a long time to complete all the necessary steps for the extension of the project (legal instrument) and for UNDP to migrate to a new operating system.

Main achievements: Laboratory equipment purchased in the 2020-2021 last reporting period contributed to scientific research work carried out at the Central University of Venezuela.

Overall Risk Rating: Significant Risk

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

2.4 Co-finance

EA: Planned Co-finance

USD 2,072,000

EA: Actual to date:

USD 1,484,485

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

To date, 83.6% of programmed co-financing has been deployed. USD 67,900 were mobilized under the current reporting period. This project is largely co-financed by the government of Venezuela, with most of the PMU being financed by public funds.

2.5. Stakeholder

EA: Date of project steering committee meeting

7/23/2023

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

During this period, government funded (co-finance) allowed for the organization of two national events with agricultural producers in order to raise awareness of biosafety and the Cartagena Protocol in the national agricultural productive system. The project has been working closely with producer groups, universities, agronomy centres and other private sector actors. Competent authorities have also been involved, especially with dissemination activities aimed at organized producer groups and national legislators, in order to publicize the results of applying the Cartagena Protocol and carrying out biosafety tests on the agricultural inputs that were used by agricultural producers in the 2022 planting season. The activities were carried out in the states of Guárico (July) and the capital district (November), with the participation of Venezuelan authorities and producers, achieving a participation of 120 people in both activities. Participants were trained in the processes of detection of GMOs in the field through the use of lateral flow strips. This was a useful experience for producers to see biosafety in action in the field. Universities are also involved, mobilizing expertise and the scientific community to assist and advise of biosafety tasks.

2.6. Gender

TM: Does the project have a gender action plan?

No

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

In this period, the project has tracked female/male participation in the activities it has supported. A summary table of the training and dissemination activities carried out in this period is presented below: July-2022: 50 (41.60%) 70 (58,40%) total:120. September 2022: 80 (66.60%) 40 (33.40%) total: 120. November-2022: 4 (57.14%), 3(42.86%), total: 7. June 2023: 8 (50%), 8 (50%), total:16.

2.7. ESSM

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

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

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

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 the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken.

N/A

2.8. KM/Learning

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

While the work on biosafety is essentially about detection and management of environmental and social risks associated with GMOs, this is an essentially normative project designed several years ago with no direct safeguards management activities.

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

The knowledge activities to be carried out are the following: Workshop "Action Plan on Strategies for the Regulation and Prohibition of activities with genetically modified organisms: transfer, transport, handling, use, safe release and biosafety conditions" and workshop: "Measures of Biosafety for risk assessment and decision-making in permit applications for: pilot program, experimental release and commercial release of GMOs". The forum "Use of certified and future agricultural biotechnology seed in Venezuela". These activities were carried out with the education sector, national authorities of the competent ministries, civil society, non-governmental organizations, legislators, national prosecutors and productive advice.

Please attach a copy of any products

EA: Main learning during the period

It is considered that the Project Board of Directors and the project assistants have been working in a harmonious and coordinated manner, overcoming many of the lessons learned during the coordination of the first, second workshops and procurement plans.

2.9. Stories

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

Component 1: The proposed Biosafety Regulation for Venezuela is under review by the legal counsel of the Ministry of Ecosocialism, for its final discussion with the group of experts who participated together with the Competent National Authorities as advisors in the preparation of the document. Desk presentations on the integrated implementation of the Cartagena protocol on biosafety, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur supplementary protocol on liability and compensation, and the agreement on biological diversity. Component 2: The practical guide for the detection of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) by methods based on immunoassays has been used in training and education activities. The effectiveness of this technique for the detection of genetically modified organisms in leaf tissue, grains and corn seeds (*Z. mays* L.) was verified and it is proposed as a technique to be used in the main airports, ports (La Guaira and Puerto Cabello) and border areas of the country by the National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health. Component 3: The project website was designed, available at: (<http://bioseguridad.minec.gob.ve/>) It has informative materials on biosafety and the project has developed: questions and answers and the first online course on the e-learning platform: Genetically Modified Organisms and biosafety. Component 4: There is a preventive maintenance program for the existing equipment in the "Reference Laboratory for the Detection of Genetically Modified Organisms (RLDGMO) and the terms of reference for the adequacy of some areas of the laboratory. An important contribution of the project, the consultants have provided advice in the areas of legislation, institutional capacities, citizen participation, laboratory equipment and technical assistance for the implementation and use of the digital tool platform for the promotion, training and exchange of knowledge of the project. , in the face of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the development of an e-learning platform for the formation of Projects.

3. RATING PROJECT PERFORMANCE

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Development Objectives: DO)

EA		EA						
Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	EA: Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	TM: Progress rating	
Objective: Finalize and put into operation the legal framework on biosafety.								
Outcome 1								
<p>Outcome 1: 1.1 The biosafety regulatory framework is completed, adopted and integrated into the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity 2010-2020 and its National Action Plan in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol</p>	<p>Biosafety framework integrated and supported by binding documents (Policy, NCA). The biosafety framework takes into account the main considerations of CPB.</p>	<p>1. PC was ratified in 2003. 2. CNBio is not currently operational. 3. There are 7 competent national authorities in Venezuela. 4. There is a diagnosis of the legal framework that needs to be updated. 5. Need to generate national laws (for example, executive orders or administrative resolutions) of a more specific nature. 6. Guidelines should be generated for the analysis of requests.</p>	<p>1.1.1 The first draft of the biosafety policy must be completed and ready to be shared with the main actors and eventually presented to the competent authorities. 1.1.2 National biosafety regulation elaborated 1.1.3 Designation of competent national authorities in biosafety matters. 1.1.4 Development of guidelines, protocols, sectoral and technical regulations for the management of GMOs.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Socialization of the biosafety policy with the interested parties and subject to national approval. 1.1.2 Final document of biosafety standards presented to authorities. 1.1.3 National biosafety authorities have the necessary personnel to deal with matters related to CPB and biosafety. 1.1.4 Guidelines, protocols, sectoral and technical regulations for the management of GMOs in the country (GMOs in transit, confined trials, risk assessment of emergency measures) completed and</p>	90%	<p>An online consultation was carried out on the Biosafety Regulation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, other consultations are expected to be carried out in the last quarter of 2021. The consultation on sectoral regulations of the ANC on biosafety was carried out, in participation in the first National Congress of field producers. November 2022. Place: Caracas.</p>	MS	
Objective: Develop the appropriate institutional and human capacity for decision-making and regulatory compliance in biosafety.								
Outcome 2								
2.1. The institutional and administrative framework		Currently there is no system in place to process GMO related applications.	Administrative system to handle applications with GMOs designed and socialized with main	Administrative system to handle applications approved by NCAs and under implementation.		As part of the institutional and administrative strengthening of the project, its website (http://bioseguridad.minec.eob.ve/) was		

<p>is reinforced to provide effective responses to GMO applications and communicate decisions in line with the CPB.</p>	<p>Country with capacity to process GMO applications.</p>	<p>NCAs are those related to biosafety issues, but there is a lack of a clear structure or system for biosafety issues</p>	<p>stakeholders and NCAs. National Biosafety Committee is operational</p>	<p>National Biosafety Committee is operational.</p>	<p>85%</p>	<p>officially launched, with institutional support when it was published on the official site of the Ministry of Ecosocialism, whose scope will be beyond the project, since it will serve as BCH Nacional.</p>	<p>MS</p>
<p>2.2. There is greater human capacity, clarity, scientific and technological bases to make decisions regarding GMOs</p>	<p>NCA can process applications and fulfil CPB requirements through technically qualified personnel. Risk assessment can take place. Technical recommendations from biosafety committee support decision-making.</p>	<p>Currently there is limited capacity in NCA personnel in terms of technical biosafety knowledge, which is an obstacle to review possible applications and issue recommendations for decision-making. Few personnel have been trained formally on biosafety and there is a need for hands-on training experiences. There are no personnel technically trained to conform the biosafety committee.</p>	<p>Personnel from NCAs trained in biosafety matters (risk assessment and decision-making). At least 2 training activities have allowed discussion of biosafety gender related issues. Proposal on how to issue technical recommendations for decision-making developed.</p>	<p>Personnel from NCAs trained in biosafety matters (risk assessment and decision-making). At least 3 training activities have allowed discussion of biosafety gender related issues Proposal on how to issue technical recommendations for decision-making socialized and approved by authorities.</p>	<p>85%</p>	<p>The practice of the guide for the detection of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) was evaluated using methods based on immunoassays and protocol reports for the standardization and validation of methodologies for the detection of genetically modified organisms, specifically for the detection of transgenic protein in leaf . tissue, grains, seeds and flour. In addition, the consultation with the ANC begins on a guide for the evaluation and analysis of GMO risk, aimed at personnel in land ports, airports and customs control ports for activities of transfer, use, safe release, handling and transport of GMOs . The designated actors are expected to become the focal points of liaison to initiate the activities of the National Biosafety Commission.</p>	<p>MU</p>
<p>2.3. There is greater human capacity, clarity, scientific and technology to control / monitor activities with GMOs in the country.</p>	<p>GMO monitoring activities take place at various points (sea ports, airports and customs checkpoints). There is capacity to react on biosafety emergency cases.</p>	<p>Monitoring capacity is very limited or null. The country imports goods that may contain GMOs for food, feed and processing but nowadays there is no mechanism to confirm what is coming in as an import. Customs personnel are not aware of biosafety, not of possible monitoring measures in this respect. There is a need for technical capacity as well as for sensitization of involved actors.</p>	<p>Identification of mechanisms for risk control and management, including technology and methods for GMO traceability/ detection. Contingency protocols for emergency response drafted. Personnel from control points sensitized about biosafety and trained in the use of the monitoring techniques and protocols.</p>	<p>Analysis of main gaps to cover. Memos and minutes of meetings with customs authorities and representatives of other control points. Purchase of equipment Training activities</p>	<p>85%</p>	<p>The personnel from Venezuelan Bolivians, inspectors from the National Integrated Service of Customs Administration and Taxation (SENIAT), inspectors from the National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health (INSAI), personnel from the National Commission of Semillas (CONASEM), technical personnel from the Ministry People's Power for Agriculture and Productive Lands, Ministry of People's Power for Health, Ministry of People's Power for Food, National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) and staff of the Directorate of Inspection of the Ministry of People's Power for Ecosocialism among capacity building.</p>	<p>MS</p>

Objective 3: Develop the appropriate capacities for public participation in decision-making.
Outcome 3

<p>3.1. Increase the level of public understanding of biosafety through operations based on participatory diagnosis.</p>	<p>Better understanding of biosafety at various levels (general public, NCA's personnel, related institutions).</p>	<p>Biosafety is not a subject included in technical or formal training programs, and there are currently no official campaigns to sensitize the general public and /or other actors on biosafety related issues. There is no formal study on the actual knowledge of biosafety on various society groups. However there is a need to socialize the issue in order to obtain support for the operation of the biosafety system</p>	<p>Surveys for various actors designed and applied to at least 2 of the target groups</p> <p>Biosafety and biotechnology communication strategy drafted and approved by the EA.</p> <p>Discussion forums have taken place</p> <p>National BCH updated</p> <p>Project website developed and online by PY1</p> <p>Development of informative materials</p>	<p>Surveys for various actors applied to at least 4 target groups.</p> <p>National BCH updated.</p> <p>Development of informative materials</p> <p>Discussion forums have taken place</p>	<p>85%</p>	<p>The official launch of the project's website was achieved (https://www.instagram.com/p/CSP_bMANPc_/?utm_medium=copy_link), whose institutional support has been provided to the project by hosting the project's page on the project's portal. Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (http://bioseguridad.minec.gob.ve/), with this support and being hosted on the official site of the ANE, it is expected that the project will reach greater diffusion and increase the levels of public participation.</p>	<p>MU</p>
<p>3.2. Public participation in decision-making processes on GMOs is promoted and systematized.</p>	<p>Better understanding of biosafety at various levels (general public, NCA's personnel, related institutions). Public participation mechanisms in place. Better understanding of biosafety.</p>	<p>Currently there are no public participation mechanisms in place since there is actually no biosafety operation system established.</p>	<p>Participation structures and mechanisms as part of authorization process of GMOs, including a Claims Desk and Question and Answers system designed and socialized for NCA's feedback.</p>	<p>Participation structures and mechanisms as part of authorization process of GMOs, including a Claims Desk and Question and Answers system established.</p>	<p>85%</p>	<p>In the framework of the training workshops, the dissemination of the project website has begun, promoting the use of the website in general and the use of surveys, which will allow MINEC to learn about the knowledge of GMOs in the NCAs.</p>	<p>MS</p>
<p>3.3. A coordinated governmental system for public access to information on biosafety is supported in accordance with Article</p>	<p>National BCH website is updated and shares important biosafety information.</p>	<p>The BCH needs to be updated.</p>	<p>BCH is revised and information is updated, including the new outputs of the project, country decisions and news, as well as any other relevant information.</p>	<p>BCH is re-revised and updated to include new project products.</p>	<p>80%</p>	<p>Available at the BCH national information update in matter biosafety (http://bioseguridad.minec.gob.ve/)</p>	<p>MU</p>

Objective 4: Strengthen the infrastructure for the detection and management of GMOs.
Outcome 4

<p>4.1. Equip and operate the Reference Laboratory for Detection of GMOs of the Ministry of Popular Power for the Environment, the lead agency for Biosafety in Venezuela, responsible for supervision and control of GMO's in the country.</p>	<p>GMO detection capacity improved and supports countries' fulfilment of CPB requirements.</p>	<p>Nowadays the country has no GMO detection capacity that could serve as a national reference laboratory. The infrastructure of existing labs that are link to the NCAs is</p>	<p>List of laboratory equipment revised and updated (by PY1).</p> <p>Purchase of equipment commence (by PY2).</p>	<p>Laboratory equipment received and installed.</p> <p>Equipment test and setup.</p>	<p>80%</p>	<p>A large procurement order for laboratory equipment was processed number case: 402401 for a sum of 180,244.80\$ for the purchase of laboratory equipment and laboratory reagents.</p> <p>Technical progress has been made in completing the internal adaptation of the</p>	<p>MS</p>
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		basic and requires improvements to undertake on regular basis GMO detection.	Laboratory improvements for operations begin (by PY2).	Laboratory improved and ready to operate.	completing the implementation of the laboratory, so that it meets with biosafety standards
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For joint projects with other agencies, and where applicable, ratings should also be discussed with the UNEP Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

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

Output	Expected completion date (according to latest Workplan)	EA Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	EA 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
Under Comp 1					
Output 1.1.1: National Policy Document on Biosafety					MS
Activity 1.1.1 (a) Consultancy for the revision of existing NBF	Mar-20	100	100		MS
Activity 1.1.1 (b) Consultancy for drafting a national BS policy	Mar-20	100	100		MS
Activity 1.1.1 (d) Publication of the national BS policy	Jan-23	50	100		MU
Output 1.1.2 National biosafety legislation in connection with existing laws					MS
Activity 1.1.2. (a) Consultancy for drafting BS regulation	Nov-20	100	100		MS
Activity 1.1.2. (b) and Activity 1.1.1 (c) (4) Consultation meetings, (2) high level political meeting for lobbying	Mar-23	50	50	During this period, the consultation process at the senior political level remained the same.	MU
Activity 1.1.2. (c) Publication of the BS act	Mar-23	50	75	The BCH - Nacional has been completely updated, in the present period information was collected to upload on the BCH CBD page	MS
Output 1.1.3: Sectorial rules/ resolutions and guidelines for the management of GMOs					MS
Activity 1.1.3.(a) Consultancy to develop sectorial rules and regulations	Jan-23	90	100		MS
Activity 1.1.3.(b) Consultancy to develop technical guidelines and protocols (transit, confined field trial, emergency measures, risk assessment).	Aug-22	100	100		MS
Activity 1.1.3.(c) Meetings (3) for the process of drafting guidelines as per point (e).	Feb-23	100	100		MS
Activity 1.1.3. (d) Consultancy for the assessment of the impact of GMOS on the environment and its components	Jul-22				
Output 1.1.4. Guidelines and procedural manuals for LMO users, including importers / exporters, producers, processing industry and researchers					S
Activity 1.1.4. (a) Consultancy to develop guidelines and procedures as per output 1.1.4	Dec-19	100	100		S
Output 1.1.5 Administrative and technical forms for LMO applications					MS
Activity 1.1.5.(a) Consultancy for development of administrative and technical forms for LMOs applications	Nov-20	100	100		S
Activity 1.1.5.(b) Meetings to socialize forms to NCA	Mar-23	0	0		U
Under Comp 2					
Output 2.1.1. Centralized administrative system to handle applications with LMOs including a "single-centralized window"					MS

Activity 2.1.1.(a) Consultancy for the development of an administrative system	Dec-20	100	100		S
Activity 2.1.1. (b) Subcontract for the development of a digital system to process GMO applications	Dec-20	20	75	Currently, an administrative methodology for the entry of seeds into the agricultural system is found on the website.	MS
Output 2.1.2. Technical Secretariat of the National Biosafety Committee created with specialized technical personnel					U
Activity 2.1.2. (a) Meetings (4) to discuss the confirmation of the Biosafety committee and to validate proposal in national policy and law	Mar-23	25	50	in this period there was no meeting of the Technical Committee.	U
Output 2.2.1. Evaluation processes of environmental and health risks validated by the national authorities responsible for different uses of LMOs					MS
Activity 2.2.1.(a) (4) training workshops on biosafety risk assessment and management (cost: subcontract 60 + local arrangements 20)	Mar-23	75	85	The consultation on sectoral regulations of the ANC on biosafety was carried out, in participation in the first National Congress of field producers. November 2022. Place: Caracas.	S
Activity 2.2.1.(b) (4) fellowships for NCA's personnel to be trained abroad	Dec-22	25	60	Consultations continued with the ANC on a guide for the evaluation and risk analysis of GMOs, aimed at personnel at land ports, airports, and customs control ports for activities of transfer, use, safe release, handling, and transportation of GMOs.	MU
Activity 2.2.1.(c) Mock exercise to validate the operation of the biosafety system	Mar-23	50	75	In this period, a practical activity was carried out on updating protocols, complementing the 3 international training internships (from last reporting period).	MS
Output 2.3.1. Specialized personnel trained to perform the tasks of monitoring and detection of LMOs at sea ports, airports and customs checkpoints					MS
Activity 2.3.1.(a) (4) Training workshops on biosafety monitoring and detection techniques for custom officers and personnel at control points	Mar-23	100	100		MS
Output 2.3.2. Mechanisms established for risk control and management, including technology and methods for LMO traceability/ detection, and contingency protocols for emergency response in case of accidents involving LMOs					S
Activity 2.3.2.(a) Consultancy to develop monitoring and detection mechanisms including: methods for LMO traceability/ detection, and contingency protocols for emergency response in case of accidents involving LMOs	Mar-23	100	100		S
Activity 2.3.2.(b) Meetings to discuss the product of consultancy and validation of the mechanisms	Mar-23	100	100	In the present period, in training activities carried out in the second semester of 2022, the forms that will be used for the validation of mechanisms were discussed.	S
Activity 2.3.2.(c) Purchase of equipment related to monitoring in control points	Dec-22	67	85	At the beginning of the year 2023, the purchase of all the laboratory equipment was achieved.	S
Under Comp 3					
Output 3.1.1. Surveys and trend analysis on the level of information, awareness and changes in public opinion about biotechnology, biosafety and LMOs					MS

Activity 3.1.1.(a) Consultancy to develop survey forms, application of surveys and analysis of collected data. (2 phases before and sensitization activities)	Aug-21	100	100		S
Activity 3.1.1.(b) Publication of results (print and online).	Mar-23	40	75	Regarding publication of results more widely, some of the results of the consultations have been published on the project website, in summary form. All TOR reports are in digital format (in draft version). In printed format, there is now a poster where procedures carried out in the laboratory are set out as a dissemination strategy for the project.	MU
Activity 3.1.1.(c) Meetings (2) to discuss survey results	Feb-23	0	0	Results of consultations (instead of survey) are not linked to specific meetings.	U
Output 3.1.2. National Public Awareness and Information on LMOs and biotechnology including dissemination through websites					MS
Activity 3.1.2.(a) Consultancy collection of biosafety related data for public awareness materials, and proposal on how to use/make available this information	Jul-21	50	90	01 Meeting with the Project Director for the digital dissemination of biosafety material, within the framework of the dissemination activity and information for raising public awareness about GMOs. In this period, a virtual meeting was held to discuss the results of the project with a view to presenting the results in a scientific event called IX Venezuelan Congress of Genetic Improvement, which will take place in July 2023.	MS
Activity 3.1.2.(b) Update of BCH with relevant biosafety information and project products on regular basis	Mar-23	100	100		S
Activity 3.1.2.(c) Consultancy for the development of the project website	Aug-21	100	100		S
Activity 3.1.2.(d) Subcontract to a firm for publication and printing of informative materials (brochures, banners, etc.)	May-21	0	60	Printed poster documents for the dissemination of laboratory procedures in diffusion activities.	MU
Output 3.2.1. Participation structures and mechanisms as part of authorization process of LMOs, including a Claims Desk and Question and Answers system					S

Activity 3.2.1.(a) Consultancy for the development of a Q&A system and portal for public opinion on the NCA's website		100	100		S
Activity 3.2.1.(b) Workshop for validation of the project Q&A system, in order to improve public participation in decision-making over GMOs	Jun-18	100	100		S
Output 3.2.2. Discussion forums with the private sector to exchange views and queries					MU
Activity 3.2.2.(a) (6) discussion forums	Jan-23	100	100	Discussion forums continued to be held according to the needs identified in the project, in some cases face-to-face meetings have even been held in the Laboratory to identify requirements and needs, the private sector participated.	MU
Output 3.3.1. Up to date sectorial information regarding GMOs presented and/or authorized by the country					MS
Activity 3.3.1.(a) Coupled with Activity 3.1.2 b (update of the BCH)	Feb-23	100	100		MS
Under Comp 4					
Output 4.1.1. An operational laboratory that has the necessary infrastructure to carry out analysis and detection of LMOs, which allows Venezuela to meet its obligations under the CPB					MS
Activity 4.1.1.(a) Consultancy for assessing the real need in terms of equipment at the moment of project implementation	Dec-20	100	100		MS
Activity 4.1.1.(b) Purchase of laboratory equipment, supplies, other materials for improvement of infrastructure (electric and plumbing connections, lab tables, etc)	Aug-22	40	80	Follow up on the large purchase of laboratory equipment, inputs, and other materials for the improvement of the infrastructure (electrical and sanitary connections, laboratory tables, etc.) was made and the purchase finally paid and delivered between Q4 of 2022 and Q1 of 2023. Technical progress was made in completing the internal adaptation of the laboratory, so that it meets with biosafety standards	MS
Activity 4.1.1.(c) Installation of equipment and tests	Aug-22	50	80	There is a technical report for civil and biosafety adaptations for the laboratory.	MS
Activity 4.1.1.(d) Consultancy Validation of detection protocols developed under component 2	Mar-20	100	100		S
Activity 4.1.1.(e) development of MoU between the selected lab and the NCAs for operation	Feb-23	70	90	A joint research activity was carried out within the framework of the agreement signed with the Faculty of Agronomy of the UCV, for the training of Laboratory personnel and for the validation of GMO detection protocols.	MS
Activity 4.4.4.(f) Consultancy for the evaluation of procurement and procurement plan for the acquisition of laboratory equipment, materials and supplies.	Jul-22				
Under Comp 5					
Output 5.1.1. Project inception and closure workshops, SC meetings, MTR and TE					MS
Activity 5.1.1.(a) Coordination and hosting of the workshops	Jan-23	100	100	It is expected to continue with meetings, to meet project needs and for project planning.	MS
Activity 5.1.1.(b) Coordination and hosting of the meetings	Mar-23	100	100	It is expected to continue with meetings, to meet project needs and for project planning.	MS
Activity 5.1.1.(c) Coordination and participation in the evaluations	Mar-23	100	100	The activities of coordination and participation in the evaluations will take place for the Terminal Evaluation	S

The UNEP 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.	Low : Well developed, stable Management Structure and Roles/responsibilities are clearly defined/understood. Low 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	Moderate: Project progressing according to work plan and Adaptive management and regular monitoring. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	High: Major delays or changes in work plan or method of implementation and No measures taken and no adaptive management. High likelihood of negative impact on the project delivery.
4 Budget	Moderate: Activities are progressing within planned budget and Balanced budget utilisation including PMC. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	Moderate: Activities are progressing within planned budget and Balanced budget utilisation including PMC. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
5 Financial Management	Substantial: Financial reporting slow or deficient or Audit reports are not provided or indicate minor issues in the use of funds. Significant likelihood of negative impact on the project delivery.	Substantial: Financial reporting slow or deficient or Audit reports are not provided or indicate minor issues in the use of funds. Significant likelihood of negative impact on the project delivery.
6 Reporting	Moderate: Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and implementation issues. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	Moderate: Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and implementation issues. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
7 Capacity to deliver	Moderate: Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	Moderate: Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.

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)

6th PIR automatic formula!

EA: Insert ALL the risks identified at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous PIRs (1, 2, 3, etc), current PIR, and MTR. Use the last row to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risk	Risk affecting:	Risk Rating						Variation respect to last rating		
	Outcome / outputs	CLOED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	PIR 6	Δ	Justification
Lack of coordination between the various NCAs to effectively participate in the project due to the fact that not all of them have the same capacities (technically, financially and operationally).	All	M	N/A	H	H	H	H	H	=	This risk has continued to figure as High as National Biosafety Commission has not been convened and Steering Committee meetings are not regular.

Possibility of rotation of staff participating in the project.	All	M	N/A	M	M	L	L	L	=	This risk has continued to figure as Low. The PMU and senior management in charge of the project have been consistently stable. The participation of technical personnel with a fixed position in the MINEC as the executing agency of the project, as well as in other relevant Ministries, has been guaranteed in order to maintain the institutional memory and the execution capacity of the project, even in changing political scenarios.	
Loss of qualified human resources	All	M	N/A	M	M	L	L	L	=	This risk has continued to figure as Low.	
Political situation	All	H	N/A	H	M	M	M	M	=	The risk has continued to figure as Medium	
Administrative issues	All	H	N/A	H	M	H	H	H	=	The risk has continued to figure as high. The project took almost the entire reporting period to process an extension. Even considering the extended execution period, the project will need to retain a dynamic execution rate going forward.	
Economic and commercial blockade	All	N/A	N/A	N/A	M	H	H	H	=	The risk has been maintained as high. The economic and commercial blockade imposed on Venezuela directly affects the purchase of supplies and equipment in international markets, the cost of shipments is expensive and late, which delays the arrival of the equipment to the laboratory, therefore is a risk to project delivery and results.	
Consolidated project risk			N/A	N/A	S	M	S	S	S	=	This section focuses on the variation. The overall rating is discussed in section 2.3.

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
Lack of coordination between the various NCAs to effectively participate in the project due to the fact that not all of them have the same capacities (technically, financially and operationally).	Letters sent to NCAs for more direct engagement in project activities and preparations for a 1st Steering Committee meeting	Proposed: 1. Organize systematic Steering Committee meetings in which a roadmap for inter-institutional collaboration is agreed upon and implemented. 2. Mobilize the National Biosafety Commission. 3. Observe MTR recommendations	Maintain same actions as before	Jul 2022 until end of project	GEF OFP National Project Coordinator
Political situation	To mitigate the risks related to political issues, basically rotation of high-level personnel in the different NCAs and in the MINEC itself, the project created an internal structure that is based at the National Coordination and Direction of the Project. This has continued to protect the project from external risks	Proposed. Continue to sustain efforts to protect the PMU from external volatility	Maintain same actions as before	Jul 2022 until end of project	GEF OFP National Project Coordinator
Administrative issues	More regular contact with UNDP as fund management agency to try to mitigate long delays in procurement processes	Proposed: 1. Ensure reporting is done in a timely manner. 2. Enhance coordination between MINEC, UNEP and UNDP These measures were dwarfed by a change of operating system in UNDP. The roll-out of the Quantum platform took a long time and had the project paralysed for months. This risk is not within the control of the project team	Continue close liaisons and coordination with UNDP and ensure preparatory admin activities are expedited in the MINEC to allow more time for UNDP procurements	Jul 2022 until end of project	PMU, UNEP, UNDP

Economic and comercial blockade	Attempts to strengthen consultations with local and regional suppliers and incorporate new companies to UNDP's list of suppliers to access a wider range of services.	Proposed: 1. Promote consultation meetings. 2. Promote national and regional procurement. 3. Increase the roster of suppliers in UNDP to guarantee shorter delivery times.	Maintain same actions as before	Jul 2022 until end of project	MINEC-UNDP
Governance structure - Oversight		Closer contacts and collaboration with competent authorities, to give a sense of ownership of biosafety tasks. Stronger role fo Steering Committee is still needed.	Follow actions for Risk 1 (Lack of coordination...)	Jul 2022 until end of project	MINEC-UNEP
Implementation schedule		Significant delays have accrued as a result of very slow fund managemenr and procurement processes, and bureaucratic administration. The previous reporting period had very low execution due to UNDP's change of operating system precluding the use of GEF project funds.	No-cost extension will be requested and key activities prioritized in order to finalise in 2024	Jul 2022 - Oct 2023	MINEC-UNEP
Budget		Budget revisions have been necessary to prioritise budget for the more critical activities that remain	Maintain same actions as before	as part of No-Cost Extension	MINEC-UNEP
Financial Management		UNDP has encountered internal errors (double charging) which have been duly redressed after swift action and collaboration from UNEP to confirm actual charges.	Carry out cross checks with UNEP to verify UNDP expenditure log, during reporting exercises.	Jul 2022 until end of project	PMU, UNEP, UNDP
Reporting		Backing up information and keeping files in order has helped in preparing reports to UNEP.	Ensure progress with activities and results is regularly recorded throughout the year for easier compiling of nformation when reporting	Jul 2022 until end of project	PMU, UNEP
Capacity to deliver		Capacity gaps are continually being filled, with different sectoral groups.	Maintain same actions as before	Jul 2022 until end of project	MINEC

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
Results framework	No
Components and cost	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements	No
Financial management	No
Implementation schedule	Explain in table B
Executing Entity	No
Executing Entity Category	No
Minor project objective change	No
Safeguards	No
Risk analysis	No
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	No
Co-financing	No
Location of project activity	No
Other	No

Minor amendments

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

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP
Original Legal Instrument		
Amendment 1	Revision	
Extension 1	Extension	28-Mar-22

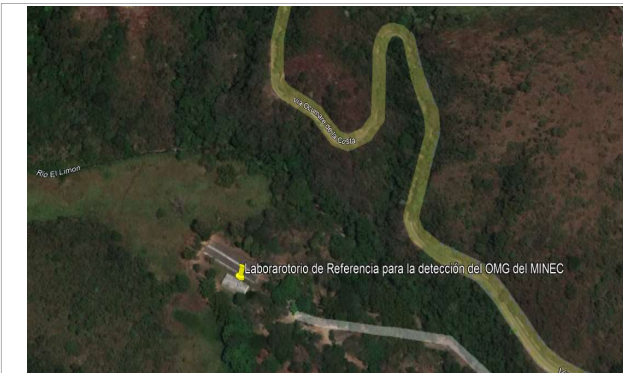
Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
12-apr-2022	30-Sep-23	30-month no-cost extension. New technical completion date: 31-mar-2023

GEO Location Information: (EA)

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>) or GeoNames(<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>
Reference Laboratory for the Detection of Genetically Modified Organisms of the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism	103,181	-676,505	-	Laboratory technical operations	GMO detection
Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism	10,502,686	-66,916,072	-	Project administrative operations	Administrative activities

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



[* Annex any linked geospatial file]

Reference Laboratory for the Detection of Genetically Modified Organisms of the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism. Address: National Center for the Conservation of Genetic Resources. Maracay-Ocumare de la Costa National Highway. Km 0. El Limón Sector. Mario Briceño Iragorri Municipality. Aragua State. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.