



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10812

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Support to the Development of Legal and Institutional Frameworks on Access to Genetic Resources and related Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge in line with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol in Venezuela

Countries

Venezuela

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Ministry of People's Power for Ecosocialism ? Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ecosocialismo (MINEC)
UN Development Programme (UNDP) will act as Fund Management Agency

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Sector

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Species, Plant Genetic Resources, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Awareness Raising, Access to benefits and services, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Learning

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

No Contribution 0

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

No Contribution 0

Submission Date

4/30/2023

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2024

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2027

Duration

48In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

168,766.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-3-9	Further development of biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks through the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing	GET	1,776,484.00	14,000,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			1,776,484.00	14,000,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To improve local capacities for the implementation of access to genetic resources (GRs) and traditional knowledge (TK) regimes in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
--------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Developing an interinstitutional and coordinated ABS framework consistent with the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA	Technical Assistance	1.1 National ABS regime rendered operational in a coordinated manner, incorporating monitoring actions and in alignment with the CBD, the NP and the ITPRFA	<p>1.1.1. ABS Strategy for Venezuela based on a consultative process.</p> <p>1.1.2. Updated and operational ABS legal and institutional framework, including clear ABS procedures, checkpoints and monitoring, facilitates the application of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA.</p> <p>1.1.3. Online ABS administrative system, includes communication with the ABS-CH and tracking systems for access permits.</p> <p>1.1.4. Biocultural</p>	GET	755,654.00	5,863,142.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			Community Protocols (BCPs) as regulatory mechanisms for access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities.			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Increasing awareness and capacity of all relevant stakeholders in advancing ABS	Technical Assistance	<p>2.1. Stakeholders from various sectors (government, academic, scientific, private and indigenous peoples) empowered to negotiate, evaluate and process ABS contracts that embrace equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge</p> <p>GEF Core indicator 11:</p> <p># of direct beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender.</p> <p>Total: 990</p>	<p>2.1.1. National Action Plan on Capacity-Building for ABS (including sustainability elements).</p> <p>2.1.2. Multi-stakeholder capacity on ABS among providers, negotiators, evaluators and users:</p> <p>-Three Interactive training modules on ABS targeting government officials, academic researchers and entrepreneurs developed and delivered.</p> <p>2.1.3. Capacity building program for indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to</p>	GET	611,235.00	4,779,622.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		Female 535 (54%) Male 455 (46%)	ABS and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.			
			2.1.4. Action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and pilot activities focused on cocoa.			
			2.1.5. Policy briefs based on a national assessment of historic and current bioprospecting activities, and duly socialized with stakeholders.			
			2.1.6. Awareness raising campaign on ABS.			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Leveraging ABS knowledge and experiences at the regional level	Technical Assistance	3.1. ABS management in Venezuela improved through regional networking and lessons sharing	<p>3.1.1. Project website for the exchange of experiences and training at an international level.</p> <p>3.1.2. At least three regional dialogues to facilitate interaction, and sharing of lessons with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on the implementation of ABS systems.</p> <p>3.1.3. Technical report on socio-economic, and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela and the LAC region.</p> <p>3.1.4. Side event at COP-MOP</p>	GET	170,578.00	1,473,604.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			on Venezuela's ABS experience.			
Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance			GET	77,519.00	610,909.00
Sub Total (\$)					1,614,986.00	12,727,277.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
	GET				161,498.00	1,272,723.00
Sub Total(\$)					161,498.00	1,272,723.00
Total Project Cost(\$)					1,776,484.00	14,000,000.00

Please provide justification

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Unidad Territorial Ecosocialista del estado Amazonas (UTECAmazonas)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Unidad Territorial Ecosocialista del estado Amazonas (UTECAmazonas)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Other	Agronomy Faculty of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV-FAGRO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,300,000.00
Other	Agronomy Faculty of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV-FAGRO)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	700,000.00
Private Sector	GAITM-PHYNATURA-Communities alliance	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	800,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Ecosocialism (MINEC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Ecosocialism (MINEC)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3,100,000.00
Private Sector	Finca Santa Cruz	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	RedSur	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				14,000,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Public Investment of the Unidad Territorial Ecosocialista del estado Amazonas (UTECAmazonas): research programmes, technical studies, capacity development, infrastructure and acquired equipment (USD 500,000). Public Investment of Agronomy Faculty of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV-FAGRO): research programmes, technical studies, capacity development, infrastructure and acquired equipment (USD

700,000) Public Investment Ministry of Ecosocialism (MINEC): research programs, technical studies, capacity building, infrastructure and equipment purchased (USD 3,100,000) During the PPG new partners, such as Phynatur or RedSur, have joined the project as key players contributing with a very generous in kind cofinancing. Other partners previously identified at PIF have not been able to express their commitment to project at the moment of CEO Endorsement with specific cofinancing, but there are high probabilities that they will cofinance the project during its implementation, which will be duly updated in the appropriate reporting mechanism.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Venezuela	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,776,484	168,766	1,945,250.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					1,776,484.00	168,766.00	1,945,250.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Venezuela	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	50,000	4,750	54,750.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	6,536	535		
Male	6,280	455		
Total	12816	990	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

The number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender from the original PIF has been thoroughly revised and considerably reduced during the PPG. This is due to the fact that the original number of direct beneficiaries included in the PIF represented the total population of the local communities where the specific activities for the conservation and sustainable use of creole cocoa were going to take place. The original indicator was 12,816 population (51% women and 49% men) (?Results by federal entity and municipalities of the Aragua State?. National census of population and housing 2011. INE. December 2014. Retrieved on October 21, 2018). During the PPG the number of direct beneficiaries was established as 990 (535 female or 54%, and 455 male or 46%), reflecting the reality and specificity of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) as a subject matter and the project?s type of trainings and capacity building activities. This new figure is the result of the information obtained from the different stakeholders, in particular the research institutions involved in the project, and in the estimation of participants based on the type of capacity building activities that will be organized and conducted under the project, following established practice under national ABS GEF funded projects.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;

The final project design is aligned with the original PIF; it preserves its main objective, strategy and structure. However, some adjustments were made to the project framework based on analyses and discussions with project partners and key stakeholders during the PPG, aiming to improve its precision in relation to outputs and indicators so as to best achieve the outcomes and the overall objective.

Venezuela is ranked the ninth country in the world for biodiversity, as it is home to 650 types of vegetation, 15,820 species of vascular plants, 27 climate zones, 23 types of relief and over 137,000 animal species. It is also ranked fourth for the number of species of amphibians, sixth for birds, eighth for mammals and ninth for reptiles. The country possesses 5,309 species of vertebrates; 1,464 birds, 386 mammals, 377 reptiles, 342 amphibians, 1860 freshwater fish and 880 marine fish. The number of endemic species known in Venezuela amounts to 19 mammals, 49 birds, 16 reptiles, 157 amphibians and 37 freshwater fish. The number of invertebrate species is estimated at approximately 110,000, of which the majority have not been identified taxonomically.

Ethnic and cultural diversity in Venezuela is the product of multiple elements, and the human population of the country is made up of three main groups: the indigenous, the Hispanic, and the Afro-descendants. There are 52 recognized indigenous peoples, who form about 2,6% of the total population and are predominantly located in ten states: Zulia, Amazonas, Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, Anzoátegui, Apure, Monagas, Sucre, Mérida and Trujillo. The largest group are the Wayuu, representing 58 percent of the total indigenous population, followed by the Warao (7 percent), the Kariñas (5 percent), the Pemones (4 percent), with the other ethnic groups accounting for 3 percent or less of the total. According to the National Census 2011, 49.5 percent of the indigenous population were women and the percent of Afro-descendants in the population was 0.7. Despite the relatively low percentage of the indigenous population, they play a significant role in the management of natural resources as they are the custodians of a significant part of the entire territory.

Venezuela is privileged due to its rich biodiversity and the valuable patrimony of its traditional knowledge and development of folklore as a result of the intellectual and cultural contribution of indigenous peoples, as well as its relation to the new cultures that arrived from Europe, Asia, and Africa.

In terms of agricultural biodiversity the country has a great geographical and agroecological diversity, due to its status as a Caribbean, Andean, llanera and Amazonian country. Its geographical location gives the country good potential for tropical agriculture, being able to obtain high yields in permanent crops such as coffee, cocoa, oil palms and fruit trees, or semi-permanent crops such as sugar cane, bananas, plantains and cassava.

Venezuelan agricultural production covers about 50 main crops grouped into seven lines, in addition to a set of fruit trees and vegetables that are not listed in official statistics. The main crops are identified below in the following table.

Table of contents: Main lines and items of commercial production in Venezuela.

Cereals	Legumes	Textiles and Oilseeds	Roots and tubers	Fruit trees	Vegetables	Tropical crops
Rice	Bean	Oil palm	Potato	Banana	Onion	Sugarcane
Corn	Frijol	Coconut	Yucca	Oranje	Carrot	Coff?
Sorghum	Quinchoncho	Soy	Apio	Pl?tano	Tomato	Cocoa
	Vetch	sunflower	sweet potato	Pineapple	Peppers	Tobacco
		Cotton	Mapuey	Mango	Cabbage	
		Sisal	?ame	Avocado	lettuce	
		Sesame	Ocumo	Grape	Beet	
		Peanut		watermelon	Cucumber	
				Papaya	Garlic	
				melon	Eggplant	
					Cauliflower	
					Green bean	
leading crops						

Source: FEDEAGRO (2007), INIA/CENIAP (2008).

Ongoing and future basic and applied research will rely on the availability (both in situ and ex situ) of genetic resources of these crops and animals. In some cases, Traditional Knowledge (TK) may serve to guide and orient initial phases of research processes. As such, national regulations on Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable Sharing of the Benefits derived from their utilization (shortened to Access and Benefit Sharing, ABS) and TK will need to be complied with by researchers, companies and any actor accessing and using these resources. Whether for basic, taxonomic or evolutionary studies or more advanced Research and Development (R&D) for commercial or industrial purposes, ABS frameworks will come into play and shape research possibilities.

The main threats to this globally-significant biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge in Venezuela are (1) the fragmented institutional capacities, and (2) the weak stakeholder knowledge on

access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. These threats prevent a unified approach to tackling the loss and unsustainable use of biodiversity that contemplates the fair and equitable distribution of benefits.

The long term solution proposed by this project is to support conservation of Venezuela's genetic resources through the improved functioning of an ABS regime that could offer better possibilities for research and development, economic growth, biodiversity valuation, and sharing of benefits from their utilization. However, the country faces a number of key barriers to achieving this objective, including:

- ? Weak legal and institutional framework to manage ABS in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol (NP) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) (to be addressed by Component 1)
- ? Scarce knowledge and limited capacities of relevant right-holders and stakeholders on access and utilization of Genetic Resources (GR) and associated traditional knowledge and fair benefit sharing (to be addressed by Component 2)
- ? Lack of regional cooperation and information sharing on ABS (to be addressed by Component 3)

Legal and institutional framework to manage ABS is poorly coordinated, insufficiently aligned to the CBD and NP, and constrained by insufficient regulations, tools, guidelines: Venezuela has a long history of involvement in ABS issues, and the country has developed important capacities to safeguard and manage its genetic resources through various legislative instruments, resources and institutions. However, substantive gaps remain that prevent the country from applying proper ABS measures. The legislative and administrative framework for ABS issues in Venezuela is fragmented, with various pieces of legislation governing environmental issues among which ABS elements are included. The fragmented nature of environmental legislation leads to inefficiencies, dispersed and unclear authority, and a general lack of monitoring and enforcement of existing legislative provisions. In addition, there is no overarching policy or ABS strategy in the country, and existing regulations and processes have yet to be fully aligned with the Nagoya Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Venezuela ratified the NP in September 2018 and became Party to it in January 2019[1]. Despite the country's experience in signing access contracts, these have been done under a fragmented system, which has resulted in contracts that do not necessarily incorporate all the elements that should be present as per the recommendations of the NP (i.e. elements on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and the distribution of benefits). Furthermore, the existing procedure for setting up access contracts has numerous administrative steps that produce significant operational expenses in resources and time, thereby dis-incentivizing researchers from working on ABS related projects, and even prompting some parties to go ahead with programs without legal authorization. The absence of monitoring elements (i.e. checkpoints) hinders the ability of local authorities to check on compliance, and the lack of guidelines and templates for local authorities and communities (including indigenous groups) limits the willingness of local authorities to permit Research and Development. The ban/restriction that went into effect in 2004 on approving permits is a reflection of the authorities being uncomfortable with existing mechanisms to ensure that local biodiversity is being protected. Finally, both owners and potential users of genetic resources and traditional knowledge are struggling to find ways to cooperate and comply with national laws and regulations due to the lack of a transparent and easily accessible system for applying for access contracts or monitoring their approval status and implementation steps.

Insufficient knowledge, capacity and practical experience among relevant stakeholders on processes for access and utilization of GR, fair and equitable benefit sharing, and ABS negotiation techniques: Unlike many Latin American countries, Venezuela is still to make concerted progress on the development of its ABS regime. Besides, Venezuela has not benefited from concerted interaction with biodiversity-rich countries in the region nor knowledge sharing efforts on ABS thus far. There is a need for national stakeholders in Venezuela to better understand various issues surrounding ABS, including basic concepts and understanding of ABS, GR and TK as well as the Nagoya Protocol and national laws and policies. Of particular importance is the understanding of strategies and procedures for negotiating benefit sharing between users and providers. The authorities need to engage with providers and users based on a more cohesive ABS strategy, and ensure that both parties understand the importance of sharing of potential benefits, but also the nature of both monetary and non-monetary benefits that might suit individual circumstances. Even if there is not a standard approach to define the benefits or their nature, the country will benefit from having experience in supporting negotiation processes that could eventually be used as examples of how to share benefits. In addition, a better understanding is needed of existing bioprospecting activities and their successes and failures, and outreach needs to be made to encourage the participation of more ABS stakeholders. For example, the history of access contracts in Venezuela does not reflect the reality of local research on genetic resources in the country, since the majority of signed contracts have been limited to academic research, while pharmaceutical companies and other commercial bioprospectors have yet to sign any contracts. There is also very little practical experience in the country on managing requests oriented towards the use of traditional knowledge and the potential benefits deriving from it, and thus few models that local authorities and communities can use in trying to develop agreements based on TK.

- Lack of regional cooperation and information sharing on ABS: South-south cooperation on ABS-related matters could immensely benefit Venezuela's ability to deal with ABS issues at a national level. However, the lack of resources to secure these cooperation / networking opportunities greatly limits the country's possibility to learn from others and improve its own capacities. Many lessons have been learned in other countries of the region (for example, Biocultural Protocols prepared by indigenous peoples in Honduras), and Venezuela could gain from their experiences as it ventures towards establishing the necessary policy, legislation and administrative frameworks for ABS and the protection of associated TK. Consequently, there is a need for direct exchange and sharing of experiences with countries in the region regarding the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. There is also a need to bring countries together in a regional forum to discuss and identify common transboundary and other issues related to ABS and the corresponding challenges at the national level. Since many of Venezuela's conservation landscapes and areas of high biodiversity stretch into Brazil and Colombia, and with some regional endemic species found in these areas, and possibly traditional knowledge spanning across the nations, some mechanism for coordination is needed and an understanding reached on access and benefit sharing of such resources. A cost-effective way of information exchange and networking is required among these countries.

Venezuela is prioritizing the safeguarding of this globally-significant biodiversity and its associated traditional knowledge and requests GEF support to strengthen and test the legal and institutional framework to ensure effective and efficient Access and Benefit-Sharing mechanisms to fully comply with the Nagoya Protocol and related instruments.

2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects:

The baseline scenario and core challenges identified during project preparation are basically the same as those identified in the original PIF. In general, the baseline scenario with regards to access to genetic resources in Venezuela is the absence of a clear legal framework regulating public policy on the matter. A good example of this situation is the current lack of an access permit for the commercial utilization of a genetic resource (Sarrapia) by the cosmetic industry, which has been identified during the PPG and it has been incorporated into the project. Similar cases may be taking place in the country and the project will provide a unique opportunity to identify them and study their potential for regularization.

ABS Legislation and Activity in Venezuela

Venezuela became a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1994. Since then, the greatest attention has been directed to the first two objectives of the CBD: the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components. The third objective of the CBD, the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources, has traditionally received less attention. However, the country's policy and legal framework have established a certain direction in relation to the use of genetic resources and the distribution of benefits, including addressing the aspect of traditional knowledge. The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (G.O. No 5.453, 03/24/2000) establishes the sovereignty of the Republic over genetic resources, derived products and intangible components. Articles of the Law of Management of Biological Diversity (GO No. 39.070, 01/12/2008) establish provisions for the management of biological diversity in its various components, including natural or manipulated genomes, genetic material and its derivatives, species, populations, communities and ecosystems present in continental, insular, lake and river areas, territorial sea, inland maritime areas and the ground, subsoil and aerial spaces thereof, in guarantee of the security and sovereignty of the Nation. Title IX of this same Law establishes a specific Article to regulate access to genetic resources. On the other hand, in the Organic Law of Indigenous Peoples and Communities (GO 38,344, 12/27/2005), the Venezuelan State recognizes and protects the existence of indigenous peoples and communities as original peoples; the Law defines the rights of peoples and indigenous communities and points out that the State will promote and develop coordinated and systematic actions that guarantee the effective participation of indigenous peoples, communities and organizations in national, regional and local affairs; and in Chapter 2, it indicates that any activity likely to directly or indirectly affect indigenous peoples and communities must be supported by prior informed consultation. Furthermore, the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation (GO 39.575, 12/16/2010) defines guidelines for research policies and strategies in science, technology and innovation, including the valuation and protection of traditional knowledge and the principles of bioethics. Recently, the country published the resolution by which the Nagoya Protocol was adopted (GO 41.476, 06/09/2018), by means of which the text of the Protocol *in extenso* is published in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

Upon the entry into force in Venezuela of Decision 391 of the Cartagena Agreement on common rules for access to genetic resources (Official Gazette of the Cartagena Agreement, Year XII number 213,

07/17/1996), the former Ministry of People's Power for the Environment (MINAMB) was the Competent National Authority, with its departments or associated entities, and thereby responsible for processing access/presentation requests according to their competencies for the management of the genetic resource and the area where it will be collected. With the enactment of the Biological Diversity Management Law in 2008, MINAMB assumed the responsibility of formulating, coordinating and executing policies related to the environment and natural resources, including access to genetic resources and benefits derived from them. In 2015, the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism and Waters was created (MINEC, GO 40.634, Presidential Decree 1701 dated 07/04/2018) and took over the functions of the former MINAMB that include regulating and controlling access and use of genetic resources in general, as well as defining, eliminating and auditing compliance with regulations and procedures related to the analysis and evaluation of risks, and the mitigation of impacts on biological diversity and the environment. Within the MINEC, the General Directorate of Biological Diversity (DGDB) is the entity responsible for the formulation, coordination and execution of policies related to access to genetic resources and the distribution of the benefits derived from their use. One of the country's first institutional steps in terms of ABS was the creation of the Commission for Access to Genetic Resources (CIARG) (Resolution No. 54, OG 36.172, 03/24/97), with the mission of advising the Ministry (MINAMB / MINEC) in the formulation and execution of policies related to access to genetic resources.

MINEC is the national environmental authority responsible for the application of the Law on Management of Biological Diversity in Venezuela, and as such has an annual budget assigned to various programs on biological diversity, including resources to guarantee the defense, conservation and sustainable use of the national biological diversity, through the implementation of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity 2010-2020 and its National Action Plan.

In regard to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, Venezuela is a Party to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) since 2005. Venezuela submitted in 2018 its first national report on the implementation of the Treaty, but had before submitted a very comprehensive study as its Second National Report on the State of Plant Genetic Resources to the FAO (2008). The latter was the result of the participation of Venezuela in the project "Assistance to Latin American countries for the establishment of a National Mechanism for the exchange of information on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the preparation of the National Report on PGRFA", which allowed the involvement and linking of public institutions, private companies, universities and various actors in the field of conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), in an unprecedented task in the country.

With the 1999 Constitution, agriculture, food security and rural development acquired constitutional status. Articles 305 to 308 define the orientation of public policies in agriculture, rural development and land redistribution. This central regulation is implemented by a set of laws, among which the Law on

Land and Agrarian Development, the Organic Law on Food Security and Sovereignty, the Law on Comprehensive Agricultural Health, stand out.

One of the main concerns of the State has been food security and sovereignty, promulgating new legal instruments that aim to facilitate the transition towards the rescue of agriculture and integral rural development. This has been accompanied by reforms and transformations in the institutional sector, under approaches of territoriality, citizen participation, equity and social inclusion of all sectors of the population, especially the levels most dispossessed of possibilities and socioeconomic alternatives. Key priorities at the governmental level have been established to guarantee access to food for vulnerable groups, improving their food and nutritional security, and to avoid increases in poverty levels, given the increase in the prices of the basic food basket products, through mechanisms to facilitate the availability and access to food, which are tangible signs of the decisions promoted by on going public plans and policies.

The actions promoted to resume the productive capacity of the primary sector engaged in agriculture, in addition to the constitutional mandates, have established a policy framework aimed at promoting national agri-food production. Among these initiatives, agricultural development plans stand out, which include:

1. Legal instruments such as the laws of Biological and Organic Diversity of the Environment, Food Safety, and Agricultural Health.
2. Improvement of the infrastructure for the provision of plant and animal health, irrigation and road services
3. Support and accompaniment services for the organization and participation of rural communities under agroecological sustainability approaches
4. Promotion of local organizations such as community councils, endogenous development nuclei (community-based groups that focus on social, productive or educational development) and socialist production companies (public companies that allocate profits equally among associates).
5. Solidarity access and distribution programs for foods mostly processed in the country, under the program called Local Supply and Production Committee (CLAP) created in 2016.
6. Adhesion and commitment to international treaties and conventions related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including the ITPGRFA.

MINEC is also the National Focal Point for the ITPGRFA, which will ensure the harmonized and mutually supportiveness in the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Popular Power for Indigenous Peoples (MPPI), is the governing body responsible for facilitating and promoting the strengthening of the ancestral indigenous community in Venezuela, as a means of disseminating policies created collectively from the base, with the aim of strengthening native peoples, as well as multi-ethnic and pluricultural peoples. Venezuela is home to about 38 indigenous peoples located in the states of: Amazonas, Anzoátegui, Apure, Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, Monagas, Sucre, Mérida, Trujillo and Zulia, 28 of which traditionally inhabit Venezuelan territory and 10 come from or are located in neighboring countries such as Brazil, Colombia and Guyana (see distribution map below).

During 1996-2004, 39 requests for access to genetic resources as per the local regulations were received and 16 resulted in Access Contracts. All of these contracts have since expired. Since 2004, requests for access to genetic resources have been restricted due to (i) the system being under review with the aim of simplifying it, as well as reducing red tape, cost and time, which dis-incentivized researchers working on the subject at country level; (ii) lack of adequate instruments for protecting traditional knowledge; (iii) restructuring of the Intraministerial Commission for Access to Genetic Resources; (iv) Venezuela ceased to be part of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), thus abolishing in effect Decision 391 of the Cartagena Agreement, which in turn led to an absence of legal framework regulating public policy on the matter. Furthermore, since 2003, framework contracts for access to genetic resources have been negotiated with the aim of approving research projects related to the use of the accessed genetic resources for commercial purposes, none of which materialized.

This project will build on the initiatives and investments of various actors to implement ABS measures. Over the past twenty years, Venezuela has been investing in ABS, starting from the implementation of Decision 391 of the CAN, and evolving to the revision and drafting of new legal and policy instruments that were meant to cover ABS related matters. In this context, various actors play a key role and the local investment in this respect covers actions from various sectors, including the work of the Commission for Access to Genetic Resources, which has an estimated budget for the next four years of USD 800,000 (consisting of the work of nine units that each designate two persons -principal and alternate- to take part in the process of reviewing access requests). The national competent authority on ABS, MINEC, is expected to invest approximately USD 3,000,000 in ABS related activities through the operation of its Division of Biological Diversity, which has six staff members who work at least part time on ABS, as well as expenditures related to the processing and analysis of access requests. This baseline figure also includes the costs incurred by MINEC to fulfill coordination functions related to ABS matters, including networking and cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental bodies. The estimated contribution over the next four years of other actors, such as the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA), totals approximately USD 4,000,000. In addition, research and academic institutions, notably the agronomy faculty (FAGRO) at the Central University of Venezuela (UCV), have been involved in research activities that have led to the submission of access requests to local authorities. The latter have, in some instances, been managed under framework contracts between these research

institutions and local authorities. Along these lines, the UCV plays a key role not only in the country's bioprospecting activities, but also as an experienced user of the current system (despite its limitations), and therefore will be an instrumental partner in assessing current ABS procedures and how they can be improved. The university's investment in research activities related to ABS is estimated at USD 800,000 annually.

The baseline and opportunities for strengthening the national situation can be divided into three themes. The first deals with legal and institutional framework as they relate to current national regulations versus the vision, measures and procedures of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA. The second relates to the degree of capacity to support and advance access management. The third relates to the exchanges of experiences at the regional level. The baseline investment for this project consists of approximately US \$ 14,000,000.

3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project,

The alternative scenario proposed through this project is aimed at improving local capacities for the implementation of access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA. The project will strengthen capacities in two areas: 1) technical and administrative capacities to enable a functioning national ABS framework that will allow Venezuela to effectively implement the provisions and obligations set out in its national legislation, the Nagoya Protocol (NP) and the ITPGRFA; and 2) awareness raising to secure the buy-in and support of all stakeholders that have a role to play in Access and Benefit Sharing (i.e. local authorities, private sector, academia, indigenous peoples and local communities, etc.). Through this approach, the project will seek to tackle the lack of a clear framework to assess the potential value of the country's genetic resources for its economy and development. Furthermore, the project will facilitate better understanding of the value of traditional knowledge associated with the use of genetic resources and the key role it could play for indigenous peoples and local communities livelihoods and the country in general. Targeted sharing of ABS knowledge and experiences at the regional level will further strengthen institutional capacity building and support efforts to develop a national ABS regime with clear and flexible processes. All activities will be carried out through a gender-sensitive approach.

The project Theory of Change is illustrated in Figure 1 below and the project components described in more detail.

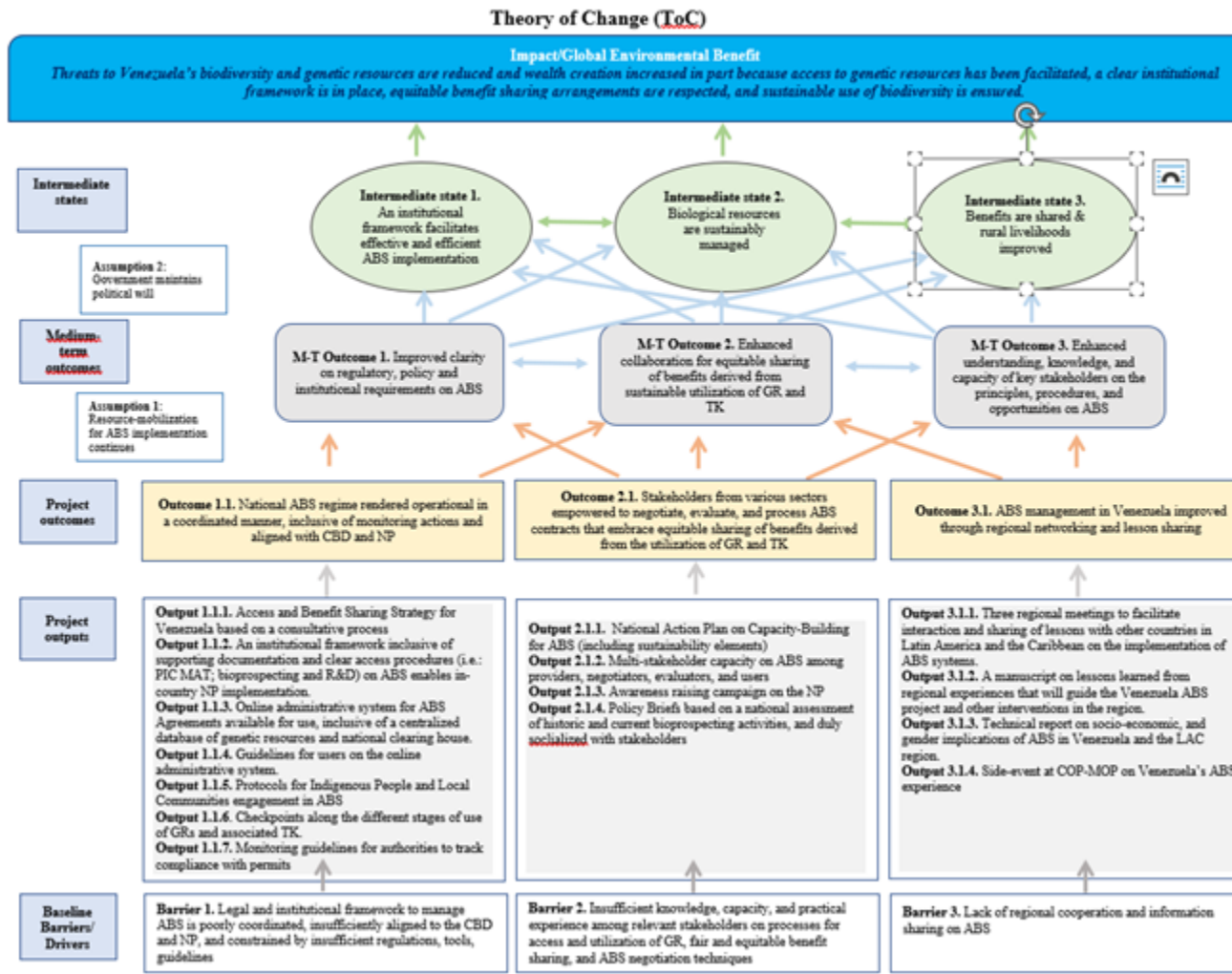


Figure 1. Project theory of change

Component 1: Developing an interinstitutional and coordinated ABS framework consistent with the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol (NP) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Outcome 1.1 National ABS regime rendered operational in a coordinated manner, incorporating monitoring actions and in alignment with the CBD, the NP and the ITPGRFA

The project will undertake a review of national ABS policy and legislation, tools and capacities through stakeholder mapping and engagement, gap-analysis and a stocktaking/needs assessment of the policy and legislative framework. This will also include a review of current procedures and documents used in the past to process access requests. This diagnosis of the current status of ABS in the country will include the identification and assessment of the research and biotechnology capacities of the country to place research at the centre of the ABS Strategy, where researchers are key players to access and put in value the genetic resources of the country and at the same time are also crucial in channelling capacity and

biotechnology benefits back to the country. In that respect, the Strategy will identify the specific situation of the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, both in situ and ex situ, with particular emphasis on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and promote a virtuous circle between the three objectives of the CBD and the ITPGRFA.

The process for the elaboration of the ABS Strategy will start with an international Seminar on ABS that will be followed by a workshop in each of the 8 biogeographic regions of the country. This process will benefit from the review of regional lessons learned that will be undertaken in parallel under Output 3.1.2, as well as the assessment of historic and current bioprospecting activities under Output 2.1.5. This process will also inform the preparation of the action plan on capacity building under Output 2.1.1 and the mapping and identification of the status of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) for the support to the development of Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) under Output 1.1.4. Based on all this comprehensive information, the project will develop a harmonized ABS Strategy for Venezuela, which will serve as a single tool to define the country's position on ABS as well as the governing bodies and instruments.

The project will review the current ABS legal framework against the new approach and obligations established by the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA with a view of simplifying the system into a leaner and more efficient mechanism that is able to automatically follow the utilization of the genetic resource and associated traditional knowledge from the moment of access through their different forms of utilization along the value chain. In particular, the project will support the implementation of the NP and the ITPGRFA through their integration into national legislation and administrative systems and introducing, at least, one checkpoint. Based on the stocktaking/needs assessment, the project will develop a legal instrument or instruments specifically dealing with ABS to bring together all the different elements of ABS legislation, if possible, into one legal instrument (ideally a regulation). Administrative changes will also be addressed as needed by the legal instrument and implemented by the project as far as funding allows.

Based on the aforementioned activities, the project will also update or create new tools that could be used by local authorities to carry out ABS procedures. Among the tools to be developed are Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) templates to ensure primary users and stewards of biodiversity directly benefit from bioprospecting activities, which will be based on existing templates but tailored to Venezuela's system. Protocols for users and providers of genetic resources will also be produced using available materials developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), among others.

The project will support the development of Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to articulate their rights regarding access to their traditional knowledge and associated genetic resources, with a gender-responsive approach and providing visibility to the specific role of indigenous women. Venezuela has a well established and consolidated national legislation that articulates the prior consultation to indigenous peoples and local communities, however the rights and obligations established under the Nagoya Protocol go beyond the simple consultation as IPLCs, and are identified as the holders of the traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources and correspond to them to provide the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and negotiate the ABS conditions on mutually agreed terms (MATs). The development of BCPs heavily relies on the awareness and capacities of the IPLCs on ABS and it will be conducted in a coordinated manner with the implementation of other outputs of the project, in particular Output 2.1.3.

The project will develop a single, automated ABS online system, which would lead to more efficiency and help reduce confusion among relevant agencies and applicants. Based on this, an interinstitutional online administrative system will be developed to become a national ABS management tool inclusive of a centralized database of available information on national genetic resources as well as acting as national

ABS clearing house. The functions of this system will be to facilitate information for users on the process to request access to GR, and to support the work of national authorities on ABS by serving as a repository of information and as an interactive platform for processing requests. The platform will serve as a single access point for universities, researchers, research institutes, entrepreneurs, the general public and any other actors with regard to access to genetic resources, sharing of benefits, bioprospecting, research and development, etc. The online administrative system would include creating an applicant's portal that gives clear information on the progress of applications in the procedure, provides the name and contact details of the relevant person at each stage of the procedure, and generates automatic emails notifying applicants when a stage in the procedure has been approved or providing written information on issues requiring resolution. Guidelines on the use of the online administrative system targeting the potential users of the system will be produced and training provided. The online administrative system will also integrate the functions to monitor the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and the notification of the information generated by the checkpoints to the ABS-CH.

In relation to the monitoring of ABS activities, the project will establish checkpoints along the different stages of use of GRs and TK, and develop monitoring guidelines for national authorities. During the PPG phase the interaction with the Autonomous Service of Intellectual Property (SAPI) generated interest to properly explore during the implementation of the project, in particular the outputs under Component 1, the possibility of becoming a checkpoint of the Nagoya Protocol at the national level. Intellectual property requests were identified as a potential checkpoint and the national authority represented through SAPI was identified as a key partner for the development of the first national checkpoint of the NP in the country, and also for the articulation of instruments related to the protection of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. During the implementation of the project, interaction with other countries (through Component 3) will allow Venezuela to learn from successful regional experiences (i.e. Peru on how it is establishing checkpoints through another GEF project, Ecuador, Dominican Republic or Panama) in order to identify other potential checkpoints. Guidance on the establishment of checkpoints will form part of the ABS strategy and the legal instrument or instruments to operationalize the national ABS system. The activities to deliver Outcome 1.1 at the output level are summarized in the table below.

Activities to Deliver Outcome 1.1

Output	Activities
1.1.1 Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for Venezuela based on a consultative process.	1.1.1.1 Organize and celebrate an International Seminar on access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and fair and equitable benefit sharing (ABS), including plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
	1.1.1.2 Organize and hold a workshop on ABS in each of the 8 bioregions of Venezuela
	1.1.1.3 Prepare a draft National ABS Strategy based on the results of the International ABS Seminar and on the interaction with stakeholders
	1.1.1.4 Disseminate the Strategy through technical workshops
	1.1.1.5 Promote the formal adoption of the Strategy

1.1.2 Updated and operational ABS legal and institutional framework, including clear ABS procedures, checkpoints and monitoring, facilitates the application of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA	1.1.2.1 Conduct a legal study with a diagnosis of the situation of the ABS system in Venezuela, particularly in relation to compliance with the obligations established by the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPRFA, and with recommendations for their improvement and full compliance, including the identification of checkpoints and options to regularize and/or sanction situations of illegal access
	1.1.2.2 Socialize the results of the study and prepare a proposal that articulates the legal and institutional ABS procedures, including checkpoints and monitoring measures
	1.1.2.3 Promote the approval of the necessary instrument or instruments for the establishment of a comprehensive, inclusive and efficient national ABS system, in line with the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA
	1.1.2.4 Evaluate the offers and hire the software and/or support services that facilitate the identification of cases of illegal access and use of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with Venezuelan genetic resources
1.1.3 Online ABS administrative system, includes communication with the ABS-CH and tracking systems for access permits	1.1.3.1 Develop the ABS online system in parallel with the development of the revised ABS institutional and legal framework described in point 1.1.2
	1.1.3.2 Develop monitoring guidelines for authorities to track compliance with permits
	1.1.3.3 Develop guidelines for users on the online administrative system
1.1.4 Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) as regulatory mechanisms for access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities system	1.1.4.1 Identify 2 communities in each of the country's regions (West, South and East) that are interested in developing their BCPs for access to their genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and provide them with the necessary technical support for their development
	1.1.4.2 Prepare guidelines for the development of BCPs based on the experiences carried out in Venezuela and other countries in the region

Component 2: Increasing awareness and capacity of all relevant stakeholders in advancing ABS

Outcome 2.1 Stakeholders from various sectors (government, academic, scientific, private, and indigenous peoples) empowered to negotiate, evaluate and process ABS contracts that embrace equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilization of GR and TK.

Under this component the project will develop a National Action Plan on Capacity-Building for ABS, which will serve as a guide for capacity building actions (beyond the outputs of this component) that the Government and local stakeholders can utilize in order to ensure the sustainability of results that will be produced under the project. Likewise, the Action Plan will serve to ensure that ABS elements are captured in other initiatives that will lead to future opportunities to gain expertise or to improve the management of ABS related issues. The development of the National Action Plan on Capacity-Building

for ABS will rely and benefit from the articulated process to develop and approve the National ABS Strategy.

As the first steps under the National Action Plan on Capacity Building for ABS, the project will foster the development of a training program composed of interactive modules on ABS related issues, which will cover aspects of national and international legislation, how to process access requests under the revised system, as well as key practices and the importance of GR and TK. The target audiences for these trainings will be government officials, researchers and entrepreneurs. Each module will be developed for a particular target group so as to cover the information needs of that particular sector. The material will also be gender sensitive, ensuring that when the importance of genetic resources is discussed, it is also linked to the important gender differences that can emerge from their access and utilization.

The project will also provide assistance through workshops and field activities to users and providers of genetic resources and traditional knowledge by strengthening their ABS awareness, capacities and negotiation techniques to ensure that future access contracts take into account the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilization. The workshops will target possible users, such as organisations involved in research and development (i.e. Central University of Venezuela, National Institute for Agricultural Research, and private sector companies such as Finca Santa Cruz, which have been identified as key players of the project during the PPG) as well as providers, such as representatives of government institutions as well as IPLCs representatives where they have rights over the land and resources. Using materials and examples gathered from previous access contracts in and outside the country, the project will facilitate the identification of key elements that could lead the negotiation for sharing of benefits, based on the activities proposed for the use of the genetic resources (i.e. research or commercial purposes, sectoral, etc.). In selecting the examples that will be used to advance the negotiation skills of the target audiences, the project will take into account gender differences and will therefore highlight the need for benefits that could suit both women and men as per their different uses of GR and possession of TK.

The project will support the development of a specific action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and also the implementation of different pilot activities focused on cocoa. Cocoa is a flagship crop for Venezuela as it is the centre of origin for Creole Cocoa. In recent years, organic cocoa production has been boosted in many regions of the country, given the high demand for this type of product in the main European markets, together with the improvement of the benefit processes, which exalt the high quality of fine aroma or Creole Cocoa, mostly produced in the country. The importance of Venezuelan cocoa lies in its contribution of 8.5% to international markets of fine cocoa, taking into account that it only contributes one percent to the total world production. The paradigm shift in the production model towards sustainable agriculture includes the generation of environmentally friendly technologies where the conservation and use of biodiversity and the genetic component is essential to face the challenges of diversifying production systems and mitigating climate change.

The institutions selected to increase the technical capacities and implement the pilot projects are the INIA CEPIAN and the Centre for Biotechnology of the Agronomy Faculty of the Central University of Venezuela (FAGRO- UCV). They have been selected for being in charge of this competence at the national level (INIA-CEPIAN) and also the capacity to replicate and scale up the lessons learned from the pilots. The private sector, represented by Finca Santa Cruz that gathers the local producers of cocoa from the Cumboto sector, also plays also an important role in the implementation of the project, as an example of ecological production conserving local varieties and experimenting to improve the quality and quantity of the production. They are also seeking to obtain a better margin in the market connecting producers with manufacturers, dealing directly with the European producers of chocolate.

The project will generate policy briefs based on a national assessment of historic and current bioprospecting activities. During the design of the project a case has been identified where the private

company *Grupo Industrial Tierra Mágica* is seeking to obtain the ABS permit to access *Sarrapia (Diphysa punctata)* in the area of Pijiguaos for its utilization by an international cosmetic company (Mane). Additionally, access and utilization of this genetic resource is an integral element of the conservation agreement *Tum? Aj?* that the private company *Phynatur* is promoting. The company will support the project documenting this case as an example of the intricacies and inefficiencies of the current ABS system in Venezuela that is currently blocking this access permit. The lessons learned provided by this case will be used under Output 1.1.2 to inform the necessary adjustments to convert the ABS procedures into a fully operational and efficient system where access requests are processed in due time, with method for calculating royalties due to government and indigenous peoples clearly defined in said permits.

In summary, the project seeks to strengthen the capacity of key actors (government officials, academics, researchers, IPLCs and the private sector (Finca Santa Cruz)) in relation to access to genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge, in addition to developing skills in the use of procedures and tools of the national ABS system. In the case of the public sector and national authorities, the capacity building efforts will focus on increasing the understanding of the Nagoya Protocol and the IPGRFA, as well as on the proper application of national regulations. The project will also offer support to take advantage of previous experiences and offer technical support to strengthen negotiation skills to conclude ABS agreements.

The project will also develop and implement an ABS awareness raising campaign, which will (whenever possible) make use of existing informative materials on ABS, and develop additional materials tailored for the national and local needs, when needed. The awareness campaign will be directed to a wide range of stakeholders in the ABS process, including the scientific community, public and private sectors, technical specialists, the general public and IPLCs and other owners of TK. This intervention will be based on the use of diverse communication media, including radio-spots, brochures, information sheets, e-news, open forums, etc. The campaign will also be gender sensitive, taking into account the different roles that men and women could have in the use of GR and TK. The activities to deliver Outcome 2.1 at the output level are summarized in the table below.

Activities to Deliver Outcome 2.1

Output	Activities
2.1.1 National Action Plan on Capacity-Building for ABS (including sustainability elements)	2.1.1.1 Identify the ABS needs of relevant government officials, researchers, IPLCs and the private sector through activities 1 and 2 under output 1.1.1
	2.1.1.2 Prepare a draft National Action Plan on Capacity Building for ABS
	2.1.1.3 Socialize and approve the National Action Plan on Capacity Building for ABS
2.1.2 Multi-stakeholder capacity on ABS among providers, negotiators, evaluators and users: -Three Interactive training modules on ABS targeting government officials, academic researchers and entrepreneurs developed and delivered	2.1.2.1 Develop a training program on ABS (structure, methodology, materials and thematic modules)
	2.1.2.2 Establish alliances with the academy for the development and implementation of the program
	2.1.2.3 Design the Virtual Platform for the ABS training program as part of the ABS online system
	2.1.2.4 Design 3 specific modules for government officials, researchers and the private sector

	2.1.2.5 Integrate a gender sensitive approach in the training program and prioritize the participation and training of women
	2.1.2.6 Make visible the role of women in each of the groups (government, researchers and private sector)
	2.1.2.7 Launch online and/or face-to-face trainings for the sectors
2.1.3 Capacity building program for indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to ABS and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources	2.1.3.1 Design the specific training program aimed at indigenous peoples and local communities on ABS
	2.1.3.2 Establish alliances with key organizations for the implementation of the training program
	2.1.3.3 Integrate a gender sensitive approach in the training program and prioritize the participation and training of women
	2.1.3.4 Make visible the role of indigenous women
	2.1.3.5 Carry out 3 training sessions, one in each region of the country (East, South, West), for indigenous peoples and local communities, on ABS and traditional knowledge associated with the genetic resources of indigenous peoples and local communities
	2.1.3.6 Support training actions on ABS aimed at local Afro-descendant communities, with special emphasis on the management of their traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources
	2.1.3.7 Develop and apply surveys to measure the impact of training on indigenous peoples and local communities
2.1.4 Action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and pilot activities focused on cocoa	2.1.4.1 Develop an action plan based on the needs of ex situ collections and germplasm banks
	2.1.4.2 Consolidate and improve the technological and scientific capacities of the Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (UCRFG) from INIA-CENIAP
	2.1.4.3 Carry out training activities and support for the conservation of in situ materials of Criollo cocoa in the Cumboto sector
	2.1.4.4 Promote the rescue and multiplication of autochthonous cocoa (<i>Theobroma cacao L.</i>) germplasm stored in three germplasm banks located in the central region of Venezuela
	2.1.4.5 Develop a study of genetic diversity in the Cumboto sector to identify the different varieties of cocoa for their conservation and to increase the quality and productivity of the crop
2.1.5 Policy briefs based on a national assessment of historic and current bioprospecting activities, and duly socialized with stakeholders	2.1.5.1 Document and analyze the case of the use of Sarrapia (<i>Diphysa punctata</i>) in the Tum? Aj? Conservation Agreement (Pijiguaos, Venezuela)
	2.1.5.2 Identify, analyze and document other possible agreements for the use of genetic resources in Venezuela

2.1.6 Awareness raising campaign on ABS	2.1.6.1 Design the awareness and communication strategy on ABS
	2.1.6.2 Design the image of the project (logo, slogan, etc.)
	2.1.6.3 Integrate a gender sensitive approach into the ABS awareness campaign
	2.1.6.4 Make visible the role of women in the awareness campaign on ABS, particularly indigenous women
	2.1.6.5 Develop materials for the dissemination campaign (banners, brochures, infographics, videos or radio spots)
	2.1.6.6 Design awareness campaigns aimed at researchers, indigenous peoples and the private sector, including tools to measure their impact (surveys)
	2.1.6.7 Organize events to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and ABS

Component 3: Leveraging ABS knowledge and experiences at a regional level

Outcome 3.1: ABS management in Venezuela improved through regional networking and lessons sharing.

This component will improve Venezuela's capacities to manage ABS by fostering networking opportunities with other countries of the region and sharing lessons learned. The project will facilitate at least three regional dialogues to discuss ABS related issues with countries of the LAC region and in particular with those who are also undertaking projects on ABS (GEF or non-GEF) with a view to strengthen South-South Cooperation on ABS matters, which could lead to a productive exchange of information, good practices, experiences, etc. These activities will be coordinated with the support of UNEP so as to benefit from the agency's experience with other GEF-funded ABS projects. UNEP has a long history of supporting CBD processes and of working with CBD Parties to develop and implement biodiversity policies and regulatory frameworks, including those related to ABS. As the GEF agency in this project, and in line with its own mandate and Mid-Term Strategy, UNEP brings its valuable experience, knowledge and networks to this national effort, which include other GEF-funded ABS projects in the region as well as the exploration of innovative fields of work relating to digital transformation, intellectual property rights, indigenous peoples and bioprospecting.

Venezuela is interested in learning from two sets of countries. On the one hand, Central American countries such as Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Panama that are biodiversity rich and have demonstrated progress, albeit at different levels, in developing their national ABS regimes as of late. On the other hand, the prospect of learning from countries such as Brazil and Colombia with whom Venezuela shares transboundary ecosystems of high-biodiversity level, as well as indigenous groups with shared traditional knowledge. The project will also seek to benefit from experiences obtained by The Bahamas which has new ABS Law inclusive of an online multi-institutional platform for the processing of permits for accessing genetic resources. Because ABS is an issue that could include access to resources that are present in more than one country, coordination with neighbouring countries will be key to understanding how access permits will be managed and how to carry out overall monitoring of access. The main exchange of information will be conducted through the website of the project that will serve as a repository of the key products available at the regional level and/or produced during the implementation of the project. During the PPG an opportunity was identified to rebuild at the regional level the network initiated by the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project (2017-2021) of the Global ABS Community as an opportunity to share information and experiences and to network with government officials, researchers, IPLCs or private sector actors from other countries in the region through this information exchange and networking opportunity. Virtual exchanges will be explored and a knowledge

dissemination platform at the project website to ensure a broad audience has access to South-South knowledge sharing efforts will be contemplated. The project will also develop briefings on lessons learned by countries of the region (those participating in the regional meeting hosted by Venezuela) that will be beneficial for the development of Venezuela's ABS system as well as those of other countries.

Socio-economic considerations and gender issues related to ABS will also be assessed and discussed during the regional fora, resulting in a technical report on the socio-economic and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela and the LAC region that will be incorporated into the products of Component 1 (ABS strategy and tools).

To further the component's focus on knowledge sharing, a side event will be coordinated by the project at the COP-MOP meeting (likely the one to take place in the last quarter of 2026). This event will be aimed at sharing Venezuela's experience in ABS related matters and will include a summary of the challenges faced to implement a functional national ABS system, the needs identified and the pathways that the country has taken to address some of those needs. This event will offer not only the possibility for Venezuela to share its experience, but also an opportunity for other countries and partners to share their experiences while enabling discussion of the topic. Inputs from this event will also support Venezuela's efforts towards implementing ABS measures and defining the best approach for the country. The activities to deliver Outcome 3.1 at the output level are summarized in the table below.

Activities to Deliver Outcome 3.1

Output	Activities
3.1.1 Project website for the exchange of experiences and training at an international level interaction, and sharing of lessons with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on the implementation of ABS system	3.1.1.1 Design, launch and maintain the project website
	3.1.1.2 Establish and launch the social networks of the project
3.1.2 At least three regional dialogues to facilitate interaction, and sharing of lessons with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on the implementation of ABS systems	3.1.2.1 Organize and prepare at least 3 dialogues at the regional level on topics that are especially relevant to Venezuela and the LAC region in terms of ABS
	3.1.2.2 Elaborate briefings with the key lessons learned from regional exchange of experiences that will guide the Venezuela ABS project and other interventions in the region and make them available through the website of the project
	3.1.2.3 Facilitate the participation of the different national stakeholders in meetings and trainings at the regional or international level to reinforce the capacities of all the stakeholders in the field of ABS (i.a. workshops, trainings or international fairs)
3.1.3 Technical report on socio-economic, and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela and the LAC region	3.1.3.1 Establish common methodological bases for carrying out the study of socioeconomic and gender implications with other interested countries in the region
	3.1.3.2 Prepare a technical report on the socioeconomic and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela
	3.1.3.3 Collect contributions from other countries in the region interested in being part of the study

3.1.4 Side event at COP-MOP on Venezuela's ABS experience

3.1.4.1 Organize and prepare a side event during the COP-MOP to present Venezuela's experience on ABS

4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact Program strategies;

The project is directly aligned to the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area strategy, in particular to BD-3-9 ?Further development of biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks through the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and benefit sharing,? and directly relates to the core activities that the GEF will support as mentioned in the strategy: (i) Stocktaking and assessment; (ii) Development and implementation of a strategy and action plan for the implementation of ABS measures; (iii) Development (or revision) of national measures to implement and enforce the Protocol; and (iv) Building capacity among stakeholders (including indigenous and local communities, especially women) to negotiate between providers and users of genetic resources. The project will also contribute directly to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework target 13 and also to targets 22 and 23. The introduction of strategic support to conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources also aligns with BD-1-5.

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

In the baseline scenario, Venezuela will continue to strive to improve existing ABS instruments, and through the work of the Commission for Access to Genetic Resources and MINEC, to support users and providers in the processing of applications and in carrying out negotiations. However, despite the importance of these initiatives, the current fragmentation and outdated provisions in the ABS regulatory framework means they will not result in a comprehensive and effective national ABS regime that can unleash the potential of Venezuela's genetic resources, ensure that monetary and non-monetary benefits derived from these resources are shared equitably, and conserve the biodiversity associated with the country's biological and genetic resources.

With the incremental support of the GEF, Venezuela will be able to complement its own efforts with new initiatives to strengthen legal, regulatory and policy frameworks by tackling overlaps and redundancies and bringing them into alignment with the CBD, NP and ITPGRFA; to improve institutional capacity and expertise in dealing with access and benefit sharing; to involve and build the capacity of ?untapped? ABS stakeholders to participate in access contracts, most notably IPLCs; and to ensure the harmonized application of ABS measures at the national level. The changes expected from this project will improve the baseline and will have an effective and positive impact on the implementation of ABS principles in Venezuela, in accordance with the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA.

In addition, Component 3 of the project has been designed to facilitate the sharing of experiences between Venezuela and other countries of the region. This is expected to be cost-effective since important information can be shared during networking opportunities, and Venezuela will implement this project with a solid understanding of challenges and/or successful experiences from other countries, which will add to the incrementality of this intervention. Component 3 activities will specifically engage countries undertaking other GEF and non-GEF ABS projects, thereby ensuring that Venezuela's investment through this project will not be a stand-alone effort; it will both complement national actions towards the establishment of an ABS regime and build-in regional experiences and complementary investments of the GEF and other countries.

The incremental costs and benefits of the proposed project are summarized in the following incremental cost matrix. The incremental cost of the project, USD\$15,776,484, is required to achieve the project's global environmental benefits. Of this amount USD\$1,776,484 (representing 11.26%) is being requested

from GEF. The remaining amount of USD\$14,000,000 (88.74%) of the total cost will come from the Government of Venezuela and other national and international partners. The figure includes both in-kind and cash contributions. A further elaboration of the incremental cost reasoning for the project is presented in the Incremental Cost Matrix in the table below.

Component	Baseline Scenario (B)	Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B) (Excluding PM and M&E costs)
<p><u>Outcome 1.1:</u> National ABS regime rendered operational in a coordinated manner, incorporating monitoring actions and in alignment with the CBD, the NP and the ITPRFA.</p>	<p>The baseline scenario with regards to access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (ABS) in Venezuela is the absence of a clear legal framework regulating public policy on the matter that impedes the processing and granting of access permits and, consequently, impedes the regular flow of benefits back to the country for the benefit of their peoples and for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p>	<p>An articulated and coordinated National ABS System will enable efficient implementation, including effective procedures to obtain access permits and contracts, as well as adequate checkpoints and monitoring procedures and mechanisms to control the utilization of Venezuelan Genetic Resources and associated Traditional Knowledge in order to ensure that benefits are fairly and equitably shared with Venezuela and their right-holders and stakeholders.</p> <p>GEF resources will also support the development of Biocultural Community Protocols of certain pilot local communities in the different regions of the country, as their governance instruments to access their traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.</p>	<p>Updated comprehensive national ABS system, including a National ABS Strategy, a reviewed and efficient legal instrument for ABS, incorporating new documentation and procedures established in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol (including PIC and MAT) and the ITPGRFA, including guides for users and providers; information exchange through the national ABS online system; checkpoints established.</p> <p>Inter-institutional coordination is strengthened or created and in full operation.</p> <p>Selected Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities developing their Biocultural Community Protocols to articulate their rights over their Traditional Knowledge and associated Genetic Resources are supported, as an example for other IPLCs to follow. Methodological guidelines for the development of BCPs are developed and made available.</p> <p>Total Cost: Cost to GEF: 755,654</p> <p>Co-financing: 5,863,142</p>

<p><u>Outcome 2.1:</u> Stakeholders from various sectors (government, academic, scientific, private and indigenous peoples) empowered to negotiate, evaluate and process ABS contracts that embrace equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.</p>	<p>Without the GEF intervention, relevant actors will not fully understand the critical legal, institutional and capacity development steps that must be fulfilled to ensure proper access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge, and benefit-sharing.</p> <p>Without key awareness raising and training interventions, staff of key institutions, researchers, scientists, and indigenous peoples will continue to lack the level of awareness/capacity required to facilitate their participation for successful ABS implementation.</p>	<p>Support to develop a National Action Plan for Capacity Building for ABS will facilitate and provide support for the different stakeholders in the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>The implementation of a series of awareness raising interventions on the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA will bridge the awareness and knowledge gaps of stakeholders that are crucial to successful ABS implementation, including government officials, academics, researchers, civil society, communicators and general public. These interventions include media campaigns.</p> <p>Capacity to manage and access genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge will be generated by interactive training modules designed for specific target groups.</p> <p>Conservation and sustainable use of local biodiversity, in particular plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, is improved through interventions that will lead to a better and more efficient application of ABS measures in the country.</p> <p>The project will also seek to strengthen the capacity of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to better understand and articulate their rights over their traditional knowledge and associated genetic resources., in particular it will give visibility to the specific role that indigenous women play, addressing their specific needs.</p> <p>It will also increase the capacities of local producers of cocoa to conserve and</p>	<p>A National Action Plan for Capacity Building for ABS, which facilitates to address the needs of the different right-holders and stakeholders in an integrated and systemic way, is developed and adopted.</p> <p>Knowledge gap of relevant stakeholders regarding the legal, institutional and capacity needs for effective implementation of the NP and the ITPGRFA is addressed.</p> <p>Online trainings for government officials, researchers and the private sector are developed and implemented, allowing them to fully implement the national ABS system.</p> <p>A specific program for indigenous peoples and local communities that allows them to fully understand and articulate their rights over their traditional knowledge and associated genetic resources is developed and implemented.</p> <p>The conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are addressed. Pilot projects that can be scaled up or replicated in other areas of the country on the conservation of creole cocoa are carried out.</p> <p>Total Cost: Cost to GEF: 611,235</p> <p>Co-financing: 4,779,662</p>
--	---	---	--

		<p>sustainable use local varieties, but also to increase the value of their product along the value chain strengthening their sustainable production practices.</p>	
--	--	---	--

<p>Outcome 3.1: ABS management in Venezuela improved through regional networking and lessons sharing.</p>	<p>Venezuela has not benefited from concerted interaction with biodiversity-rich countries in the region nor knowledge sharing efforts on ABS thus far. This impedes to learn from positive and negative lessons of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA in order to make operational and effective its national ABS system.</p>	<p>GEF funds will promote a dynamic interaction with neighbouring countries and exchanges with other countries at the regional level that will facilitate key lessons in order to renew the national ABS system in Venezuela.</p> <p>The regional exchange will benefit not only government officials in the design and development of the renewed national ABS system in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA, but also all the different right-holders (IPLCs) and stakeholders (researchers and private sector), reducing considerably the learning curve and the times for an effective and efficient implementation of the system.</p> <p>GEF resources will support access to those lessons and experiences benefiting also other countries through the development and implementation of a knowledge management plan to guide information exchange and best practice dissemination.</p>	<p>Regional dialogues on key issues on ABS are held benefiting not only the update and revision of the national ABS system in Venezuela but the awareness and capacity of all the right-holders and stakeholders.</p> <p>A technical report on the socioeconomic and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela and the region is elaborated.</p> <p>A side event at the COP-MOP of the Nagoya Protocol is organized to show the Venezuelan cooperative process to revisit and convert its ABS national into a reference at the regional level.</p> <p>Total Cost: Cost to GEF: 170,578 Co-financing: 1,473,604</p>
--	---	---	---

6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (CLDCF/SCCF);

The project will complement Venezuela's efforts to maintain and preserve its genetic resources. In particular, through a properly-working ABS regime, the project will help to emphasize the value and importance of genetic resources. This is particularly relevant for megadiverse countries, which have the responsibility of being depositories of the most important gene banks on the planet. In this context, an effective and efficient access regime to genetic resources and equitable benefit sharing will promote research and development along with biodiversity conservation.

By creating a more effective and clear administrative system for ABS, the country will foster the engagement of users and providers of genetic resources in a transparent and effective manner. This will create a suitable environment for genetic resource protection and conservation, as well as their utilization, which is key to obtain global benefits in areas such as environmental, health and nutritional issues. A

more conscious / coordinated use of the same, and the proper sharing of benefits, will improve the environmental conditions in Venezuela.

Moreover, through an improved ABS system and greater knowledge and awareness of the importance of the proper use of GR and associated TK, monetary and non-monetary benefits will be obtained in various sectors, recognizing that bioprospecting can contribute to both development and biodiversity conservation. Thus, by promoting proper access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits, the global environment will benefit from the safeguarding of natural resources and associated TK, and from 'building a case' for the value of biodiversity in a megadiverse country such as Venezuela. Likewise, advances in the implementation of the CBD's third objective favour the global environment by upholding the notion that biodiversity benefits should flow in support of those that conserve it.

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovativeness

The establishment and/or strengthening of an ABS system is on its own not innovative, since it is a global phenomenon. However, the current project attempts to be innovative for Venezuela in promoting an integrated cost-effective approach to manage ABS. Venezuela has already made significant progress in establishing a national ABS system, first through Resolution 391 of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), and eventually through a more tailored system for the country. Venezuela now faces the challenge of simplifying its ABS processes in a way that fulfils national requirements while also ensuring alignment with the Nagoya Protocol. The innovative approach for Venezuela will be to expand the range of stakeholders involved in ABS issues (e.g. to include more indigenous peoples and local communities, local authorities, and private sector partners), while at the same time providing hands-on training/learning opportunities for users and providers on how to use the local ABS tools, such as access contract templates, the new ABS information platform, etc. The knowledge management activities of Component 3 are also innovative for the country, since they will open dialogue and sharing of experiences with other countries in the region and enable Venezuela to consider good practices or lessons learned by other countries. The regional networking will also enable the establishment of synergies that will support the country to implement ABS in a cooperative way and learn from the experiences of others.

Sustainability

The local investment in ABS in previous years as well as the co-financing committed to this project shows the interest of proponents in ensuring project success and continuity of results. The information platform that will be hosted by MINEC is an example of how the project results (i.e. streamlining of processes) will be sustained over time. In addition, the interactive training modules will be made available on the ABS- CH, thereby ensuring their continuous use after the life of the project by many other possible interested parties or trainees. The project has also earmarked resources for knowledge management as a strategy to ensure that the importance of the project and its results are widely understood by key stakeholders at all levels, thereby contributing to sustainability. There is an explicit commitment to sustain the administrative systems needed to run the NP after the project. As stipulated in the Law on Management of Biological Diversity (GO 39.070 of 01/12/2018), MINEC, in its capacity as national environmental authority, has provisions in its budget to maintain ABS-related matters. Furthermore, MINEC executes the integrated application project of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress and the Convention on Biological Diversity, among other actions related to ABS and TK.

Scaling Up

In terms of replication and possibility for scaling up, the project will improve the local ABS system in Venezuela with a view towards implementing the Nagoya Protocol and can be seen as the basis or first step for further developments which could include issues such as improved monitoring, links to the ABS clearing house of the CBD, etc. The ABS strategy that will be developed under this project will also

constitute one of the first building blocks for additional ABS actions in the country, considering that it will provide information on what is needed, what can be done, with whom should the country network, and how ABS can be better linked with other thematic areas and the operations of relevant authorities. Once the authorities have put into practice the knowledge and tools gained through this project, there will be an opportunity for more specific ABS interventions and resolutions such as those dealing not only with research permits but also with commercial applications derived from the use of genetic resources. The application of the ABS regime to support cocoa and Sarrapia enterprise development under this project aims to demonstrate the commercial value an ABS framework can potentially bring to other commodities, thereby enhancing the prospects for scaling up investment in the framework itself, since it incentivizes direct beneficiaries and the entrepreneurs to engage.

[1] <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=2>

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

The project has two aspects: one that allows the entire country to benefit from the project, as the development of legal and institutional frameworks on access to genetic resources will positively influence the entire country, but also because the trainings and most of the activities of the project will aim to cover the entire geography of the country (8 workshops, one in each of the 8 bioregions of the country and 3 physical trainings for IPLCS, one in each of the regions of the country (West, Central and East) show that clear commitment of the project to be a truly national project. In addition, there will be some specific pilot activities that will take place in the communities of La Trilla, Aponte, Cumboto and Cuyagua (map 2) and in the context of the Tum? Aj? Conservation Agreement (map 3).

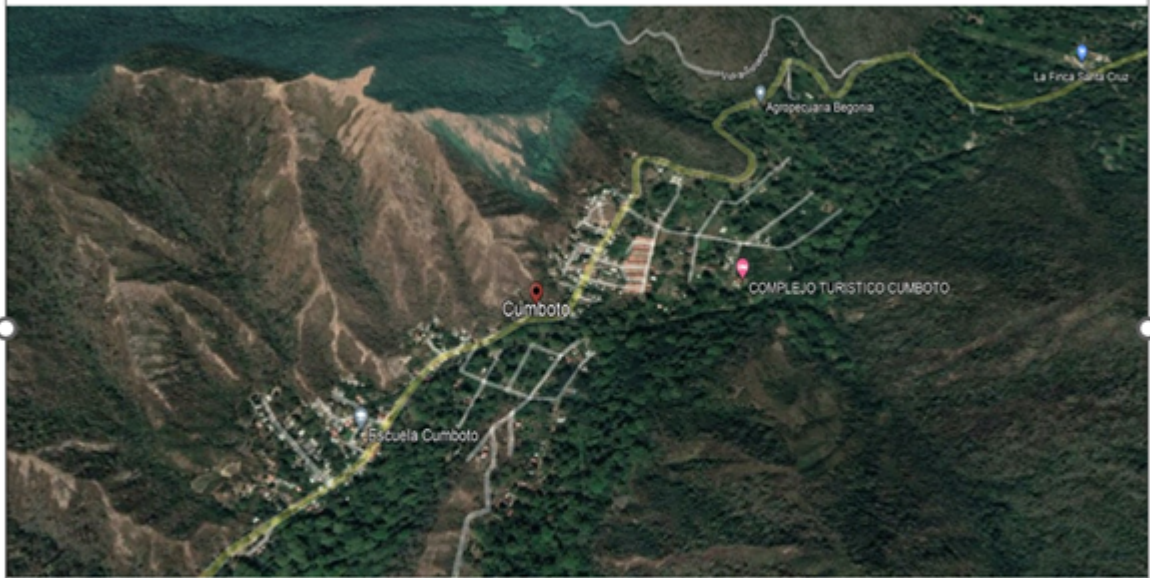


Map 1: Map of Venezuela: the entire country will benefit from ABS legal and institutional frameworks



Map 2: Location of La Trilla, Aponte, Cumboto and Cuyagua, Aragua state

Spatial image of the productive units of the Cumboto sector, Ocumare Municipality of the Gold Coast, Aragua state.



UTM -REGVEN coordinates		
zone	North	East
19	8847429,10	739528,20

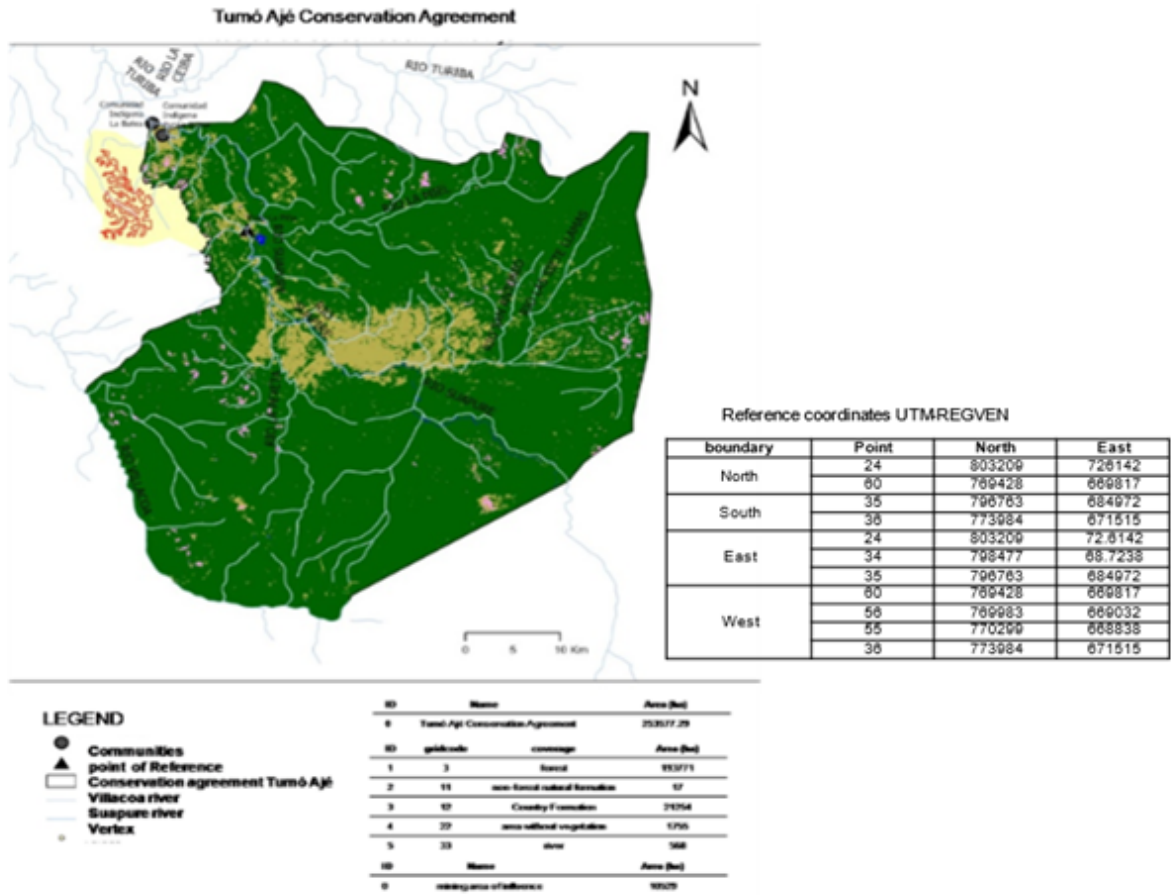
Localización



Estado Bolívar
Municipio Cedeño
Sector Chivapure
Área: 156.593 ha



Map 3: Area of the Tum? Aj? conservation agreement



1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Throughout the project development process, stakeholders from national government, academia, indigenous communities, the private sector and others have been actively engaged. This is evidenced by

the overall consensus reached during the consultations that were held as well as the level of co-financing secured. Stakeholders' participation will continue to be a top priority for the project and will be sustained throughout implementation. The formulation of the stakeholder engagement plan aims to: (a) identify the basic roles and responsibilities of the Project partners and stakeholders in relation to the three components of the Project; (b) ensure their participation in project activities; and (c) build strong partnerships and collaboration to maximize their knowledge and skills to achieve measurable results. Ultimately, the stakeholder engagement plan aims to ensure long-term sustainability of the project achievements, based on transparency and the effective participation of the key stakeholders. The stakeholder engagement plan will place particular attention on indigenous peoples, women and youth as marginalized and vulnerable groups, but especially as project beneficiaries together with research institutions and the private sector. As rights-holders as well as stakeholders, these groups have a strong influence on project outcomes and the uptake of ABS measures.

Several government institutions provide important support, as described in the table below, to the implementation of the project, in particular the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA) (dependent from the Ministry of Popular Power for Agriculture and Land), the Ministry of Popular Power for Indigenous Peoples (MPPPI) and the Autonomous Service for Intellectual Property (SAPI) dependent from the Ministry of Popular Power for National Trade. The consultations with INIA and other research institutions related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture have led to the full integration of this matter and the compliance with the ITPGRFA as an integral element of the project and of the revisited national ABS system. This will be a unique opportunity for the harmonized implementation and the mutual supportiveness of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA at the national level in Venezuela through the revised national ABS system. The consultations have also served to mobilized the interest of the MPPPI, a key partner to reach the communities and fully articulate the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities into the renewed ABS national system. The interaction with SAPI has provided important information about the initiatives that are taking place at the national level on matters related to intellectual property rights and the protection of traditional knowledge held by indigenous peoples and local communities. It has also raised interest from SAPI to explore the possible establishment of the first national checkpoint of the Nagoya Protocol, as part of the national ABS system, in the requests to obtain intellectual property rights.

Research institutions will be engaged to work with and benefit from the project's support to research as well as capacity building activities, communication, education and public awareness for the implementation of the national ABS framework to ascertain that their respective policies, plans, strategies, and programs involving genetic resources are fully integrated in the national policy and compliant with the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA. The Faculty of Agronomy of the Central University of Venezuela (FAGRO-UCV) is the central research institution for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the country with INIA. Its Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center (CIBA) and its Institute of Genetics are the reference laboratory for the application of molecular markers for the improvement of different crops. The teams of FAGRO-UCV will not only be targeted audience for the trainings on the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA, but also will conduct important pilot projects related to the improvement of the capacity for in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The support and

commitment of UCV- FAGRO to the project is also confirmed through its in kind cofinancing and mobilization of investment of USD 3,000,000.

The Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (IVIC) is another relevant institute in regard the utilization of genetic resources. Numerous of its different department access and utilize genetic resources and therefore they will be a key target group to generate awareness and ensure the necessary compliance with the national ABS system. The Development Studies Center of the Central University of Venezuela (CENDES-UCV), shares with the project its objective to "promote and encourage the application of techniques capable of stimulating the development of the country?". With more than 60 years of experience on development studies the center will be a target for the trainings of the project with the potential to support and expand them with the direct involvement of its team, but also to support the development of specific studies and research, in particular at the legal level supporting the development of the new legal instrument to implement the Nagoya Protocol, as well as in training workshops, training courses, extension and expansion of knowledge.

Civil society's active participation will be key as it serves as a link with local populations and raises public awareness regarding the economic opportunities of ABS and positive social impacts. It is also expected to enrich and contribute to the design and implementation of a coherent legal framework. In particular, the proponents have identified the Network of Indigenous Women for Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean (RMIB-LAC) and RedSur -as its partner association in Venezuela- as key partners in the implementation of the project with a dual role of beneficiary and executor, not only at the community level, but also in ensuring that the rights of IPLCs, in particular women, and the protection of their TK are adequately addressed in the different instrument to be developed under the national ABS system. The relevance of their role in the implementation of the project is confirmed with their commitment to cofinance the project with USD 1,500,000 and their participation as a member of the Project Steering Committee.

The mapping and identification of key indigenous peoples and local communities under the project will be conducted during the first year of the project with the initial International Seminar and the workshops that will be conducted in each of the 8 bioregions of the country (1 per bioregion). These activities will serve to identify the status of the stakeholders and right-holders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in regard to access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and benefit sharing, with special emphasis on their needs. That information will be key to develop the national ABS Strategy and the Action Plan on Capacity Building, as well as to update the ABS legal framework. It will also provide the necessary information on the communities that are more advanced and willing to work in developing their Biocultural Community Protocols, as the local governance instruments to regulate access to their traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. In Venezuela, despite the different legal instruments that recognize and regulate the prior consultation to indigenous peoples, none of the indigenous peoples had a particular model that indicated a specific method of Prior, Free and Informed Consultation, adjusted to the uses and customs of each one. In that sense, the project aims to support at least 6 indigenous communities (2 per region) in the development of their Biocultural Community Protocols and generate methodological guidelines on the development of these instruments based on their experiences (output 1.1.4). There are indications that in 2018 two indigenous peoples from the Venezuelan Amazon made significant progress in their processes of building specific models for

Free, Prior and Informed Consultation about projects that they intend to be carried out within their territories. The Uwott?ja indigenous people of the Autana Municipality (Amazonas state) completed the process of workshops and conferences on methodological development, revisions and translation of their own Protocol, culminating in a general assembly approving it. Likewise, the Yanomami people of the Parima sector have advanced in the same process. This information is very promising and the status of these developments will be confirmed with those communities during the initial workshops of the project in each bioregion. Other promising communities that have been preliminary identified are the following:

? West: Wayuu indigenous people, Zulia state, successful experiences with the use of a type of early bean and corn seeds, adapted to the geographical environment with the traditional knowledge of the Wayuu people, characterized by being resilient to climate change.

? South: Bar? indigenous people, Amazonas state, enhancement of the items obtained from forestry such as Cacao, Copoaz?, T?piro, Pijiguao, for the production of healthy and nutritious food, processed by indigenous women.

? East: Chaima indigenous people, Monagas state, indigenous and non-indigenous women take advantage of the Curagua plant for the processing of artisanal and other utilitarian products in studies. This cultural manifestation has a UNESCO declaration as a world heritage site. It is well documented.

Finally, the role of the private sector is also important and ensured in the implementation of the project. Private sector will not only be beneficiaries of the project, like the Finca Santa Cruz, but they will be again a key partner in the implementation of specific activities, such as the documentation of the Sarrapia case study in the conservation agreement *Tum? Aj?* that the private company *Phynatur* is promoting. The commitment of the private sector is well exemplified with the mobilization of USD 1,800,000 to the project as co-financing. The relevance of their role in the implementation of the project is confirmed with their participation of *Phynatur* as a member of the Project Steering Committee.

All these stakeholders will also participate in reviewing existing policies, formulating harmonized rules and regulations as well as procedures, protocols and guidelines for bioprospecting, and creating structures, processes, mechanisms, and financing to facilitate the implementation and compliance of the renewed ABS framework.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The following table indicates the various stakeholders involved in the project and their respective roles:

Stakeholders	Description	Implementation Role
--------------	-------------	---------------------

<p>Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism and Water (MINEC)</p>	<p>MINEC is the national focal point for the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA.</p>	<p>MINEC will also drive, facilitate and coordinate project implementation among all involved entities. MINEC will serve as project executing agency.</p>
<p>General Directorate for Biological Diversity (through the National Center for the Conservation of Genetic Resources)</p>		<p>The General Directorate for Biological Diversity will be the specific department within MINEC in charge of the execution of project activities.</p>
<p>National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA) (dependent from the Ministry of Popular Power for Agriculture and Land)</p>	<p>NIA is the most important reference center for plant and animal health in the country, contributing as an advisory body to the national executive on phytosanitary issues. One of its strategic projects is aimed at promoting technology for sustainable agriculture, its objective is to develop, validate and socialize alternative technologies and ethnotechnologies in order to expand the level of use of genetic resources with emphasis on the native ones existing in the Venezuelan agroecosystems, including the conservation and valuation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>INIA has developed activities for the conservation of phylogenetic resources linked to improvement programs, forming collections of germplasm of crops of agricultural interest.</p> <p>Key role in the integration, in a harmonized and mutually supportive manner, the rights and obligations of the ITPGRFA into the national ABS system (ABS Strategy, Action Plan on Capacity Building and ABS legal instruments).</p> <p>In charge of the implementation of output 2.1.4 that focuses on the development of an action plan for the conservation and sustainable use for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.</p>
<p>Ministry of Popular Power for Indigenous Peoples (MPPPI)</p>	<p>MPPPI is the governing body of government policies for the indigenous sphere that facilitates and promotes the strengthening of the indigenous communal ancestral, as a way for the dissemination of collectively created policies.</p>	<p>Key role in the project in ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples are adequately reflected in the national ABS system and to promote the protection of the traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by indigenous peoples.</p>
<p>Autonomous Service for Intellectual Property (SAPI) (dependent from the Ministry of Popular Power for National Trade)</p>	<p>SAPI designs, plans, coordinates and executes activities related to intellectual property in accordance with the provisions of laws, decrees, regulations, resolutions, international treaties, and other legal provisions related to the matter, including traditional knowledge.</p>	<p>It is expected that Intellectual Property could become the first checkpoint of the Nagoya Protocol at the national level within the national ABS system.</p> <p>SAPI will also support the protection of traditional knowledge through the IP system.</p>

<p>Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities</p>	<p>There are 52 recognized indigenous peoples, who form about 2,6% of the total population and are predominantly located in ten states: Zulia, Amazonas, Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, Anzoátegui, Apure, Monagas, Sucre, Mérida and Trujillo. The largest group are the Wayuu, representing 58 percent of the total indigenous population, followed by the Warao (7 percent), the Kariñas (5 percent), the Pemones (4 percent), with the other ethnic groups accounting for 3 percent or less of the total.</p> <p>Despite the relatively low percentage of the indigenous population, they play a significant role in the management of natural resources as they are the custodians of a significant part of the entire territory.</p>	<p>The indigenous peoples and local communities are the key ABS right-holders of the project, as custodians of biodiversity, in regard access to their Traditional Knowledge and associated genetic resources. They will be directly involved in all the outputs of the project, but some of them will be specifically focused on the articulation of their rights and participation in the system, being particularly relevant for them outputs 1.1.4 and 2.1.3.</p>
<p>Network of Indigenous Women for Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean (RMIB-LAC)</p>	<p>The RMIB-LAC is a network of indigenous organizations that works to promote the participation of indigenous women in the issues of biodiversity, natural resources and climate change. It was founded in 1998 and from that time to date it has carried out numerous initiatives and activities to promote the participation of indigenous women in decision-making processes at the local, regional and international level.</p> <p>Concerned about the loss of biological diversity and their knowledge, they work to strengthen indigenous peoples, especially women, promoting the recovery and transmission of traditional knowledge.</p>	<p>They will be relevant in the implementation of the project through its national partner RedSur, a member of the Project Steering Committee.</p>

<p>Faculty of Agronomy (FAGR O-UCV) and Center for Research in Agricultural Biotechnology (CIBA), Central University of Venezuela (UCV)</p>	<p>The Faculty of Agronomy of the Central University of Venezuela is a higher education institution whose fundamental purpose is to contribute to agro-environmental development, through the comprehensive and specialized training of ethical professionals, with a democratic, critical and creative spirit, capable of interacting in society.</p> <p>For the design and improvement of the agro-environmental production systems and their associated chains, the Faculty develops lines of research relevant to the environmental conditions of the country, which considers the local, regional, national and international socioeconomic scenarios; the handling, transformation, commercialization and consumption of products and continuous improvement of the productive capacity and the environmental functions of the country's agro-ecosystems.</p>	<p>Support in execution of certain training and sensitizing activities in universities and public institutions. Source of experts for capacity building activities. Implementation of a pilot project under output 2.1.4.</p>
<p>Development Studies Center of the Central University of Venezuela (CENDES-UCV)</p>	<p>CENDES contributes to the development of the country through research, postgraduate teaching, dissemination and extension in the field of development sciences and planning. One of its main objectives is to promote and encourage the application of techniques capable of stimulating development.</p>	<p>Support in execution of certain training and sensitizing activities in universities and public institutions. Source of experts for capacity building activities in particular for outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 3.1.3.</p>

<p>Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (IVIC), autonomous body attached to the Ministry of Popular Power for Science and Technology</p>	<p>IVIC's mission is to generate knowledge through basic and applied scientific research, technological development and the training of high-level human talent in Venezuela. For more than fifty years it has served as a source of information collection in the area and is recognized, nationally and internationally, as an important center of advice, consultation and facilitator of services in the branches of physical, chemical, biological, medical, mathematical sciences, social sciences, among others. Currently, it develops more than 300 research projects and provides more than 100 specialized services to public and private companies, individuals, universities and public bodies.</p>	<p>Support in execution of certain training and sensitizing activities in universities and public institutions. Source of experts for capacity building activities.</p>
<p>Local Communities (La Trilla, Aponte, Cumboto and Cuyagua)</p>		<p>The project will network with the communities and they will be part of the activities related to Outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4</p>
<p>Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) (communal councils in Trilla, Cumboto and Cuyagua).</p>		<p>CSOs will play an active role in liaising with local populations and raising public awareness with regard to ABS economic opportunities and positive social impacts. They are also expected to enrich and contribute to the design and implementation of a coherent legal framework</p>

<p>Private Sector (Finca Santa Cruz)</p>	<p>Finca Santa Cruz is a small cocoa producing private enterprise. Located in a ranch in the Las Vegas area of Cumboto, Aragua state, Finca Santa Cruz cocoa production extends over 4 hectares. The ranch has 10 years of field work experience that began as a project to produce organic food for the owners and quickly became a space to honor their cocoa production heritage. The Finca carries out genetic material verification in collaboration of entities such as the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC), National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA), the National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health (INSAI) and the Central University of Venezuela (UCV-FAGRO).</p>	<p>As a key partner, the private sector, most notably through leading and committed representatives, will be involved in all project milestones ? contributing to awareness-raising within the private sector, identifying suitable genetic resources, resource providers and value chains. Finca Santa Cruz (previously known as Finca Las Bromelias) will provide support and also participate in this project?s training activities as well as the hands-on experiences described under Output 2.1. They may become a potential user of genetic resources in the future since they are currently active in the use of some biological material that could eventually turn into the use of genetic resources for research and development.</p>
<p>Private sector (Phynatur)</p>	<p>Phynatura is an organization that, since 2005, has been executing and promoting programs and projects in order to promote community participation and organization in the formulation of socio-productive alternatives dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity.</p> <p>A job that has led them to have extensive experience with projects for the sustainable management of natural resources and agroforestry systems in Creole and indigenous communities in the country.</p>	<p>Leading role in the articulation of the conservation agreement <i>Tum? Aj?</i> that will utilize Sarrapia for cosmetic purposes with the potential of becoming the first ABS commercial permit in the country and the first Internationally Recognised Certificate of Compliance of Venezuela under the Nagoya Protocol at the ABS-CH</p>
<p>Providers of genetic resources: local / rural communities, indigenous population, farmers, women?s cooperatives</p>		<p>Facilitate and contribute to the compilation and assessment of ABS-related traditional knowledge, raise awareness of local indigenous communities involved in ABS matters, and spread necessary capacities through training of trainers modalities.</p>

UNEP	UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Panama, will provide support and project oversight.	UNEP will be the GEF implementing agency of the project and will provide overall technical support and supervision of project activities, as well as approving the cash advances, taking part in the Project Steering Committee, and addressing monitoring and evaluation issues. UNEP will also liaise with UNDP to seek ways for the project to contribute to relevant UN processes taking place in Venezuela, such as Common Country Analyses (CCAs) or the design or updating of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, as needed.
UNDP ? Venezuela Country Office	UNDP has physical presence in Venezuela through its Country Office and Resident Coordinator, and ensures (through the UN Country Team) overall coordination of UN agencies operating in the country.	UNDP will act as Fund Management Agency, thus operating through an exclusive operational and fiduciary role with no technical bearing on the project. Given the macroeconomic context in Venezuela, UNDP is one of the few development organizations with systems in place to hedge against severe exchange fluctuations.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

In 2021, Venezuela ranked 91 out of 156 countries on the Gender Gap Index in terms of economic participation and opportunity. However, Venezuela lost 24 places in the ranking compared to 2020. The country's Gender Development Index (GDI) is 0.983, which ranks Venezuela in group 1 (the highest group and comprises countries with high equality between women and men: absolute deviation of less

than 2.5 percent). The Gender Inequality Index (GII) is 0.492, and ranks Venezuela 123 out of 170, which shows that while the country has performed well in women's development, there is still work to be done in closing the inequality gap.

Most women in the country are unable to participate in the formal economy because they lack access to education or work experience. Besides, in Venezuelan society, women are expected to play a fundamental role in raising children and managing the household. The socio-economic situation the country has been engulfed in has had a disproportionately negative impact on women, enhancing their social, economic and political vulnerability. This reality restricts women's ability to act autonomously and actively participate in public life. It further exposes women to a higher risk of gender-based violence, human trafficking, and smuggling. Venezuela has a dedicated Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality that promotes measures to curb gender inequalities. Despite the historic increase in women's access to the labour market over the past several decades, and active participation of women in local political life through local community councils, gender inequality remains a palpable issue. Most notably on what concerns access to education, health services and employment.

The project will promote capacity building and exchange of information (women-men) on the use of traditional knowledge on cocoa whilst being mindful of gender roles associated with the capture and transmission of this knowledge. Women's knowledge is more associated with plant characteristics and cocoa by-products. Men's knowledge relates more prominently to harvesting techniques. Still, in many localities, women are increasingly involved in different parts of the cocoa harvesting cycle from the drying of cocoa fruits, to the post-harvest process, to packaging for sale at local and informal markets. Male migration from rural areas has been contributing to this trend. In rural areas, gender gaps (women-men) related to access to decision-making and financial resources are accentuated.

The project aims to carry out a detailed diagnosis of the reality on gender roles and gender gaps in the field. It will strive to work with women's or mixed organizations and have a clear focus on reducing these gaps. The project will also ensure that there is a good representation of women during project implementation and will critically consider the impact of project activities on them. Indeed, the key core indicator of the project (the number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment) reflect a larger number of women (54%) than men (46%) as co-benefit of GEF investment.

The project will be fully compliant with the GEF and UNEP's Gender Policy. In this regard, the project will have to be genuinely gender mainstreamed through-out implementation and impact evaluation. The project will seek to institutionalize gender mainstreaming at all levels of intervention and operation of the project. In its efforts to fully integrate gender mainstreaming, the project will be guided by the principles that gender elements are important drivers and incentives for achieving global environmental benefits, and in ensuring gender equity and social inclusion. The project also embraces the fact that the needs, interests, and capabilities of women are contextually different from those of men, in relation to the access, use, and management of biodiversity resources within project intervention areas, and thus, must be given special consideration in ensuring equal access to the resources and services of the project.

Some examples of how gender mainstreaming will be incorporated in the project include:

The project's institutional capacity building, stakeholder training efforts (output 2.1.2), capacity building of indigenous peoples and local communities (output 2.1.3) and communication and awareness campaign (output 2.1.6) will be gender sensitive, taking into account the different roles that men and women could have in the use of GR and TK. This means that awareness materials and key messages will be structured in a way that they can highlight the benefit of ABS systems for both men and women, and in particular with emphasis on the importance of fair benefit sharing among community members. These outputs will provide special visibility to the specific role that women play in the management of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Under Component 3, a technical report on socio-economic, and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela and the LAC region will be developed (output 3.1.3). This is expected to highlight the differentiated roles that men and women may have on ABS, and to integrate these considerations into the development of the country's ABS strategy and tools.

GENDER ACTION PLAN

Outputs	Project Activities	Gender Approach	Indicators & Targets	Timeline
Component 1: Developing an interinstitutional and coordinated ABS framework consistent with the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA				
Outcome 1.1: National ABS regime rendered operational in a coordinated manner, incorporating monitoring actions and in alignment with the CBD, the NP and the ITPRFA				

<p>Output 1.1.1: ABS Strategy for Venezuela based on a consultative process</p>	<p>1.1.1.1. Organize and celebrate an International Seminar on access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and fair and equitable benefit sharing (ABS), including plant genetic resources for food and agriculture</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p> <p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans or technical tools are gender sensitive</p>	<p>Year 1</p>
---	---	--	--	---------------

<p>1.1.1.2. Organize and hold a workshop on ABS in each of the 8 bioregions of Venezuela</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p> <p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans or technical tools are gender sensitive</p>	<p>Year 1</p>
<p>1.1.1.3. Prepare a draft National ABS Strategy based on the results of the International ABS Seminar and on the interaction with stakeholders</p>	<p>The proposals for reform or new regulations will be made from the perspective of gender, interculturality and vulnerability (?Safeguards Approach?) of the Project.</p>	<p>Indicator: % of policies evaluated with a gender approach.</p>	<p>Year 1 and 2</p>
<p>1.1.1.4. Disseminate the Strategy through technical workshops</p>	<p>Incorporate and ensure the inclusion of the gender perspective as an integral</p>	<p>Target: 100% of the</p>	

	1.1.1.5. Promote the formal adoption of the Strategy	part of the concept of sustainability	policies evaluated with gender approach	
<p><u>Output 1.1.2:</u> Updated and operational ABS legal and institutional framework, including clear ABS procedures, checkpoints and monitoring, facilitates the application of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA</p>	1.1.2.1. Conduct a legal study with a diagnosis of the situation of the ABS system in Venezuela, particularly in relation to compliance with the obligations established by the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPRFA, and with recommendations for their improvement and full compliance, including the identification of checkpoints and options to regularize and/or sanction situations of illegal access	The proposals for reform or new regulations will be made from the perspective of gender, interculturality and vulnerability (?Safeguards Approach?) of the Project.	Indicator: % of policies evaluated with gender approach.	Year 1 and 2
	1.1.2.2. Socialize the results of the study and prepare a proposal that articulates the legal and institutional ABS procedures, including checkpoints and monitoring measures			
	1.1.2.3. Promote the approval of the necessary instrument or instruments for the establishment of a comprehensive, inclusive and efficient national ABS system, in line with the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA	Incorporate and ensure the inclusion of the gender perspective as an integral part of the concept of sustainability	Target: 100% of the policies evaluated with gender approach	
	1.1.2.4. Evaluate the offers and hire the software and/or support services that facilitate the identification of cases of illegal access and use of genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with Venezuelan genetic resources			

<p><u>Output 1.1.3:</u> Online ABS administrative system, includes communication with the ABS-CH and tracking systems for access permits</p>	<p>1.1.3.1. Develop the ABS online system in parallel with the development of the revised ABS institutional and legal framework described under output 1.1.2</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
	<p>1.1.3.2. Develop monitoring guidelines for authorities to track compliance with permits</p>			
	<p>1.1.3.3. Develop guidelines for users on the online administrative system</p>			
<p><u>Output 1.1.4:</u> Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) as regulatory mechanisms for access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities</p>	<p>1.1.4.1. Identify 2 communities in each of the country's regions (West, South and East) that are interested in developing their BCPs for access to their genetic resources or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and provide them with the necessary technical support for their development</p>	<p>Ensure the participation of women in the design of Biocultural Community Protocols and strengthen their role in participatory community processes</p>	<p>Indicator: % of Biocultural Protocols designed with a gender approach.</p>	<p>Year 3</p>
			<p>Target: 100% of the Biocultural Protocols designed with a gender approach</p>	

	1.1.4.2. Prepare guidelines for the development of BCPs based on the experiences carried out in Venezuela and other countries in the region	Ensure that the methodological guidelines for the development of BCPs integrate a gender approach	Indicator: % of guidelines for the development of BCPs integrate a gender approach. Target: 100% of guidelines for the development of BCPs integrate a gender approach	Year 3 and 4
Component 2: Increasing awareness and capacity of all relevant stakeholders in advancing ABS				
<u>Outcome 2.1:</u> Stakeholders from various sectors (government, academic, scientific, private and indigenous peoples) empowered to negotiate, evaluate and process ABS contracts that embrace equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.				
Output 2.1.1: National Action Plan on Capacity-Building for ABS (including sustainability elements)	2.1.1.1. Identify the ABS needs of relevant government officials, researchers, IPLCs and the private sector through activities 1 and 2 under Output 1.1.1	Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project	Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and	Year 1 to 2
	2.1.1.2. Prepare a draft National Action Plan on Capacity Building for ABS			

	2.1.1.3. Socialize and approve the National Action Plan on Capacity Building for ABS		safeguards approach. Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach	
<u>Output 2.1.2:</u> Multi-stakeholder capacity on ABS among providers, negotiators, evaluators and users:	2.1.2.1. Develop a training program on ABS (structure, methodology, materials and thematic modules)	Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities. Implement the gender approach and safeguards in	Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops.	Year 2 to 3
	2.1.2.2. Establish alliances with the academy for the development and implementation of the program			

<p>-Three Interactive training modules on ABS targeting government officials, academic researchers and entrepreneurs developed and delivered</p>	<p>2.1.2.3. Design the Virtual Platform for the ABS training program as part of the ABS online system</p>	<p>the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans or technical tools are gender sensitive</p>	
	<p>2.1.2.4. Design 3 specific modules for government officials, researchers and the private sector</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans or technical tools are gender sensitive</p>	

	2.1.2.5. Integrate a gender sensitive approach in the training program and prioritize the participation and training of women	Activity with a gender focus		
	2.1.2.6. Make visible the role of women in each of the groups (government, researchers and private sector)	Activity with a gender focus		
	2.1.2.7. Launch online and/or face-to-face trainings for the sectors	Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.	Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops. Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.	Year 3
Output 2.1.3: Capacity building program for indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to ABS and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources	2.1.3.1. Design the specific training program aimed at indigenous peoples and local communities on ABS	Integrate women's traditional knowledge and train them to undertake participatory monitoring activities, etc.	Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops. Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops	Year 2 and 3
	2.1.3.2. Establish alliances with key organizations for the implementation of the training program			
	2.1.3.3. Integrate a gender sensitive approach in the training program and prioritize the participation and training of women	Activity with a gender focus		Year 2
	2.1.3.4. Make visible the role of indigenous women	Activity with a gender focus		Year 2

<p>2.1.3.5. Carry out 3 training sessions, one in each region of the country (East, South, West), for indigenous peoples and local communities, on ABS and traditional knowledge associated with the genetic resources of indigenous peoples and local communities</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p>	<p>Year 3</p>
<p>2.1.3.6. Support training actions on ABS aimed at local Afro-descendant communities, with special emphasis on the management of their traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>

	<p>2.1.3.7. Develop and apply surveys to measure the impact of training on indigenous peoples and local communities</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p>	<p>Year 2 and 3</p>
<p><u>Output 2.1.4:</u></p> <p>Action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and pilot activities focused on cocoa.</p>	<p>2.1.4.1. Develop an action plan based on the needs of ex situ collections and germplasm banks</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	<p>Year 1 and 2</p>

<p>2.1.4.2. Consolidate and improve the technological and scientific capacities of the Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (UCRFG) from INIA-CENIAP</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p> <p>Incorporate and ensure the inclusion of the gender perspective as an integral part of the concept of sustainability</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops in agroforestry and land degradation.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops in agroforestry and land degradation.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
---	--	---	---------------

<p>2.1.4.3. Carry out training activities and support for the conservation of in situ materials of Criollo cocoa in the Cumboto sector</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p> <p>Incorporate and ensure the inclusion of the gender perspective as an integral part of the concept of sustainability</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops in agroforestry and land degradation.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops in agroforestry and land degradation.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
--	--	---	---------------

<p>2.1.4.4. Promote the rescue and multiplication of autochthonous cocoa (<i>Theobroma cacao L.</i>) germplasm stored in three germplasm banks located in the central region of Venezuela</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p> <p>Incorporate and ensure the inclusion of the gender perspective as an integral part of the concept of sustainability</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops in agroforestry and land degradation.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops in agroforestry and land degradation.</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
<p>2.1.4.5. Develop a study of genetic diversity in the Cumboto sector to identify the different varieties of cocoa for their conservation and to increase the quality and productivity of the crop</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	<p>Year 1 and 2</p>

<p><u>Output 2.1.5:</u></p> <p>Policy briefs based on a national assessment of historic and current bioprospecting activities, and duly socialized with stakeholders</p>	<p>2.1.5.1. Document and analyze the case of the use of Sarrapia (<i>Diphysa punctata</i>) in the Tum? Aj? Conservation Agreement (Pijiguaos, Venezuela)</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	<p>Year 1</p>
	<p>2.1.5.2. Identify, analyze and document other possible agreements for the use of genetic resources in Venezuela</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	<p>Years 1 to 4</p>

<p><u>Output 2.1.6:</u></p> <p>Awareness raising campaign on ABS</p>	<p>2.1.6.1. Design the awareness and communication strategy on ABS</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
	<p>2.1.6.2. Design the image of the project (logo, slogan, etc.)</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	<p>Year 1</p>

2.1.6.3. Integrate a gender sensitive approach into the ABS awareness campaign	Activity with a gender focus		Year 2
2.1.6.4. Make visible the role of women in the awareness campaign on ABS, particularly indigenous women	Activity with a gender focus		Year 2
2.1.6.5. Develop materials for the dissemination campaign (banners, brochures, infographics, videos or radio spots)	Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	Years 2 to 4

<p>2.1.6.6. Design awareness campaigns aimed at researchers, indigenous peoples and the private sector, including tools to measure their impact (surveys)</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
<p>2.1.6.7. Organize events to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and ABS</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p>	<p>Years 2 to 4</p>
<p>Component 3: Leveraging ABS knowledge and experiences at the regional level</p>			
<p><u>Outcome 3.1</u>: ABS management in Venezuela improved through regional networking and lessons sharing</p>			

<p><u>Output 3.1.1:</u></p> <p>Project website for the exchange of experiences and training at an international level</p>	<p>3.1.1.1. Design, launch and maintain the project website</p>	<p>Evaluate modalities to create added value in the visibility of project activities or shared experiences for their contribution to gender equity on ABS</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of Project activities or shared experiences that make visible the role of women on ABS.</p> <p>Target: 3 Project activities or shares experiences that make visible the role of women on ABS</p>	<p>Years 1 to 4</p>
	<p>3.1.1.2. Establish and launch the social networks of the project</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the communication strategy of the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	<p>Years 1 to 4</p>

<p><u>Output 3.1.2:</u></p> <p>At least three regional dialogues to facilitate interaction, and sharing of lessons with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on the implementation of ABS systems</p>	<p>3.1.2.1. Organize and prepare at least 3 dialogues at the regional level on topics that are especially relevant to Venezuela and the LAC region in terms of ABS</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p>	<p>Years 2 to 4</p>
	<p>3.1.2.2. Elaborate briefings with the key lessons learned from regional exchange of experiences that will guide the Venezuela ABS project and other interventions in the region and make them available through the website of the project</p>	<p>Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project</p>	<p>Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach.</p> <p>Target: 100% of the Project's plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p>	<p>Years 1 to 4</p>

	3.1.2.3. Facilitate the participation of the different national stakeholders in meetings and trainings at the regional or international level to reinforce the capacities of all the stakeholders in the field of ABS (i.a. workshops, trainings or international fairs)	Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.	Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops. Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.	Years 1 to 4
<u>Output 3.1.3:</u> Technical report on socio-economic, and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela and the LAC region	3.1.3.1. Establish common methodological bases for carrying out the study of socioeconomic and gender implications with other interested countries in the region	Implement the gender approach and safeguards in the plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others for the Project	Indicator: % of plans, technical guidelines, tools, or others of the Project prepared with a gender and safeguards approach. Target: 100% of the Project's plans or technical tools are gender sensitive	Year 3 and 4
	3.1.3.2. Prepare a technical report on the socioeconomic and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela			
	3.1.3.3. Collect contributions from other countries in the region interested in being part of the study			

<p><u>Output 3.1.4:</u> Side event at COP-MOP on Venezuela's ABS experience</p> <p>-</p>	<p>3.1.4.1. Organize and prepare a side event during the COP-MOP to present Venezuela's experience on ABS</p>	<p>Implement minimum quotas and/or implement additional efforts to promote the participation of women in all the Project's capacity-building workshops, according to their interests and possibilities.</p>	<p>Indicator: % of participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Target: ? 50% participation of women in capacity building workshops.</p>	<p>Year 3</p>
--	---	---	---	---------------

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

Finca Santa Cruz (previously known as Finca Las Bromelias) is a small cocoa producing private enterprise. Located in a ranch in the Las Vegas area of Cumboto, Aragua state, Finca Santa Cruz cocoa production extends over 4 hectares. The ranch has 10 years of field work experience that began as a project to produce organic food for the owners and quickly became a space to honor their cocoa production heritage. The Finca now serves as a productive research center, carrying out research related to improving the national production of cocoa, taking into account the traditional knowledge of communities to increase the production of crops based on the selection of trees according to their phenotypic characteristics. The Finca carries out genetic material verification in collaboration with entities such as the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC), National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA), the National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health (INSAI) and the Central University of Venezuela (UCV-FAGRO). The unique characteristics of Ocumare-61 cocoa from Finca Santa Cruz were certified by the Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center (CIBA) of the

Faculty of Agronomy of the UCV with the support of MINEC's technical staff, who granted a Certification of Genetic Origin to the Finca-produced cocoa in 2016.

The project will foster public-private collaboration to identify the genetic origin (access to genetic resources) of selected trees based on local producer experience (associated traditional knowledge) from the following communities: La Trilla, Aponte, Cumboto and Cuyagua. Furthermore, it will work with these local communities to train them on the rescue and conservation of local varieties conserved in situ and on traditional knowledge and fair and equitable distribution of the benefits arising from its use among academic and private actors who use these resources (users) and the country that provides them (provider).

During the design of the project a case has been identified where the private company *Grupo Industrial Tierra Mágica* is seeking to obtain the ABS permit to access Sarrapia (*Diphysa punctata*) in the area of Pijiguaos for its utilization by an international cosmetic company (Mane) (output 2.1.5). Additionally, access and utilization of this genetic resource is an integral element of the conservation agreement *Tum? Aj?* that the private company *Phynatur* is promoting covering an initial extension of 156,593 Ha. The company will support the project documenting this case as an example of the intricacies and inefficiencies of the current ABS system in Venezuela. This initiative contemplates the following short-term ecological results:

? Maintenance of key fauna species populations: *Pipile cumanensis*, *Ortalis ruficauda*, ??*Crax alector*, *Tapirus terrestrials*, *Priodontes maximus*, *Panthera onca*, *Pteronura brasiliensis*, *Piaractus brachypomus*, *Hydrolycus armatus*, *Cichla intermedia*, *Crocodylus intermedius* and *Podocnemis expansa*.

? Reforestation of 2 ha/year with sarrapia, azai and others in an agroforestry system.

? At the economic level: 1. Average annual production 8 t of sarrapia and 15 t Aza?. 2. Minimum fair price of sarrapia 3 USD/kg, 1+ per collection. 3. Short-term increase in average household income per month from 52.4 to 100 USD. 4. Strengthening of the sustainable production of non-timber plants as the 2nd predominant economic activity.

? At the social level: 1. Direct beneficiaries of more than 200 indigenous families, and 8 indigenous communities Uwotujja, E?epa, Mapoyo and Hoti. 2. Indirect benefits to 80 families with contributions to health, education and culture. 3. Development of capacities and ventures in ways and means of sustainable livelihood: agroecology, fishing and pisciculture, raising small animals and crafts.

The lessons learned provided by this case will be used under Output 1.1.2 to inform the necessary adjustments to convert the ABS procedures into a fully operational and efficient system where access requests are processed in due time, with a method for calculating royalties due to government and indigenous peoples clearly defined in said permits.

In summary, the project seeks to strengthen the capacity of key actors (government officials, academics, researchers, IPLCs and the private sector, through Finca Santa Cruz and *Phynatur*) in relation to access to genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge, in addition to developing skills in the use of procedures and tools of the national ABS system. In the case of the public sector and national authorities, the capacity building efforts will focus on increasing the understanding of the Nagoya Protocol and the IPGRFA, as well as on the proper application of national regulations. The project will also offer support to take advantage of previous experiences and offer technical support to strengthen negotiation skills to conclude ABS agreements.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risk	Risk Category	Mitigation measure
Lack of coordination between the various actors to effectively participate in the project due to the fact that not all of them have the same capacities (technical, financial and operational)	Medium	Relevant authorities will be integrated from the design phase of the project through to the end in order to establish their respective roles and responsibilities and secure their commitment and participation through formal mechanisms. Moreover, benefits associated with active participation in the project and fulfilment of relevant ABS roles and responsibilities will be pointed out to different actors as a strategy to ensure buy-in and support to the project. An awareness-raising campaign started during the PPG phase to inform all relevant actors and authorities about the importance of the project.
Staff participating in the project may be transferred to other positions, resulting in a loss of effective capacity to implement the ABS system in Venezuela.	Medium	Participation of technical personnel with fixed positions will be ensured in MINEC, the Executing Agency, as well as in other relevant Ministries, with the purpose of maintaining institutional memory and the capacity to execute the project. Representatives to the Steering Committee from the various institutions will be fixed-term staff in relevant organisations. In addition, the website of the project and the use of UNEP? ANUBIS system, as a project management tool, will serve as a repository of project information and contribute to institutional memory in the case of staff turnover in both local partners and UNEP.

Decision-making is centralized by a few government staff/ institution	Medium	Different levels of commitment / involvement will be established within the project structure, in an attempt to minimize centralization of information on a single person or department. To do this, support structures, advisory groups, work committees, etc. will be created. This will be complemented with the generation of training tools and sessions to share the project information.
Socio-economic changes in the country constrain or hamper project achievements	Medium	To avoid any risk associated with possible changes in the socio-economic conditions in the country, the project is contemplating a tri-partite mechanism for its implementation, which will allow flexibility of operations and management of the project resources in an efficient way. In this sense, MINEC will be the overall responsible for the project's execution and delivery of results, but it will share the financial and administrative duties with a third party who will act as fund management agency (UNDP Country Office).[2]
Lack of support for the project due to the difficulty some stakeholders may have in understanding complex ABS issues.	Medium	The project will carry out a communication strategy that will target various stakeholders. This strategy will be developed and rolled out during the second year of implementation, to secure support of and effective involvement of all relevant actors. In addition, during the PPG phase, face to face meetings with key actors took place, in order to explain the project, secure their support and ensure their needs are contemplated in project activities.

<p>COVID-19 Pandemic impacts the start of participatory activities as well as project implementation overall.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>A key risk of the still ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is prolonged social distancing measures and recurring or itinerant national quarantine measures across the country. There is also the risk that a new sanitary crisis (national or global) arises during the life of the project. To guarantee the continuation of the project despite sanitary and social distancing requirements, project meetings and the engagement processes could transition on-line or a combination of in-person and virtual participants to minimize contagion risks. Remote technological infrastructure would be used to facilitate this type of engagement including easily accessible videoconferencing services. For those who cannot participate remotely and to ensure effective engagement of small-holders from indigenous groups and local communities, in-person meetings could be held with a reduced number of participants and holding social distancing and hygiene best. The development of the current or future crisis will be closely monitored, and creative responses will be explored and implemented along the way focused on advancing project outcomes through alternative forms of engagement, and flexibility in case meetings and field visits must be rescheduled. Similarly, innovative ways of ensuring that co-financing funds can be effectively deployed may also have to be explored. The project will exercise extreme caution in ensuring that its activities do not increase the risk of transmission and spread.</p> <p>COVID-19 or a new sanitary crisis may affect the physical availability of technical expertise to provide in-situ support due to travel restrictions and limitations on physical gatherings imposed by the authorities. As suggested above, virtual means of delivery will be used in such cases and required adjustments to the timeline to accommodate the effects of the pandemic will be given due consideration during the project's annual planning processes.</p>
<p>Climate-related hazards (e.g. drought, excessive or lack of rainfall, floods and hurricanes) disrupt project operations and slow achievement of results.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>This risk is on the rise everywhere, and will need to be carefully monitored in order to facilitate opportune responses and adaptive management in order to minimize the potential impact on the project. Working with government entities, universities, the private sector, indigenous communities and UNDP will allow the project to harness their collective preparedness and response capacity in order to climate-proof project operations. Mitigation measures that can be taken include (but are not limited to): (i) selection of pilot activities and interventions areas that are least prone to climate hazards; (ii) monitoring for early warning signs in order to protect project staff, physical assets, activities and information from potential damage or disruptions, and from indirect repercussions (e.g. migration); and (iii) data management systems that safeguard project information from disruptions in communications or electricity services, or structural damage to infrastructure. Adaptive management will be key for this risk to remain within manageable limits.</p>

[1] This tri-partite mechanism is currently being implemented in an effective and successful manner under the GEF project "Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework in Venezuela in Accordance to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" (GEF ID: 5290). The UNDP Country Office also offers fund management services on other projects.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

This project will be operated under the supervision of UNEP as GEF Implementing Agency (IA), and MINEC as Executing Agency (EA) with guidance and inputs from the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Advisory Group, as depicted in the project's governance structure below.

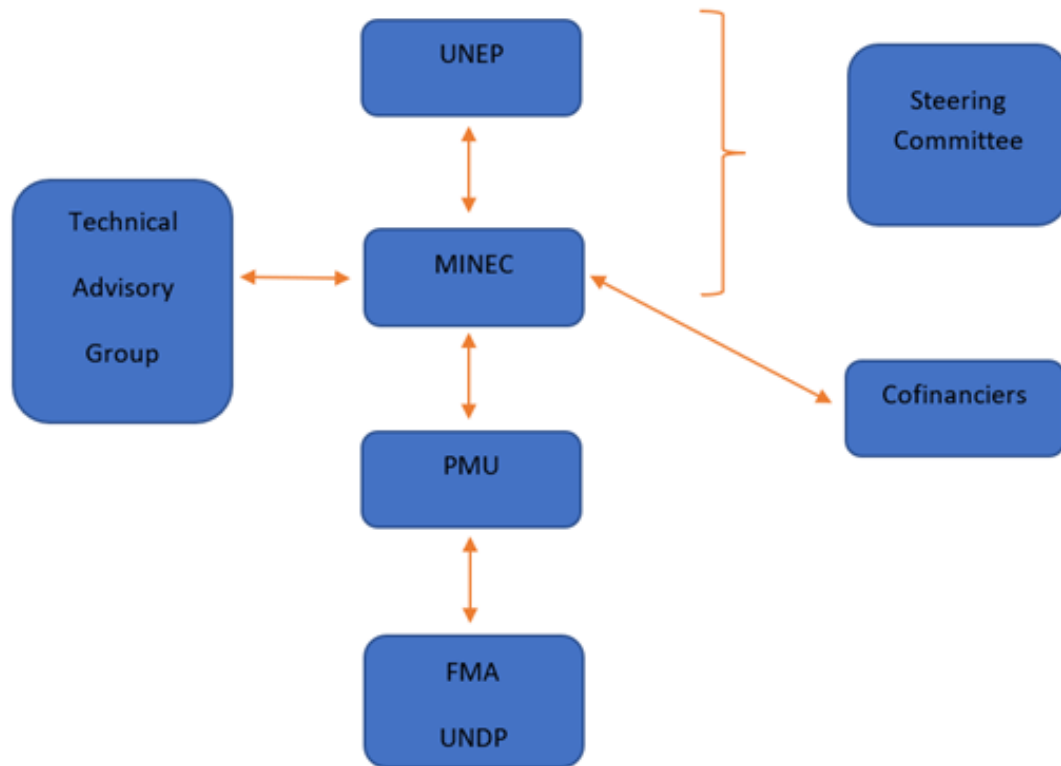


Fig. Project organization arrangements.

Roles and responsibilities of each institution:

UNEP's Ecosystem Division

Provide consistent and regular Project oversight to ensure the achievement of Project objectives

Liaise between the Project and the GEF Secretariat,

Ensure that both GEF and UNEP policy requirements and standards are applied to and are met (reporting obligations, technical, fiduciary, M&E)

Ensure timely disbursement/sub-allotment of funds to the Fund Management Agency (FMA) ? UNDP (EA), based on the agreed legal documents

Approve budget revision, certify fund availability and transfer funds

Organize mid- and end-term evaluations and audits

Provide technical support and assessment of the execution of the Project

Provide guidance if requested to main TORs/MOUs and subcontracts issued by the Project

Follow-up with EA for progress, equipment, financial and audit reports

Certify project operational completion

Member of the Project Steering Committee (PSC)

Liaisons with, and inputs to, other UN agencies to support relevant UN country processes

MINEC ? General Directorate of Biological Diversity (DGDB):

MINEC will assign from its staff a National Project Director (DNP) to perform the following functions on its behalf:

Oversee Project execution in accordance with the project results framework and budget, the agreed work plan and reporting tasks.

Support the Project Management Unit (PMU) in coordinating project activities at national and local levels.

Provide technical expertise through its personnel and networks.

Ensure technical quality of products, outputs and deliverables, including reports to UNEP.

Provide guidance and coordination to the PMU and Venezuelan stakeholders.

Facilitate access to sites and locations.

Support logistical issues, e.g. through organization of meetings and provision of relevant facilities.

Support the PMU in regular Project reporting, incl. progress, financial and audit reporting to IA.

Chair the project steering committee.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be located at MINEC and will consist of:

The National Project Coordinator (NPC)

Technical Specialist Administrative and Financial Assistant (AFA)

MINEC staff ABS-Team

In addition, a representative from the fund management agency (FMA), UNDP, will be located at the UNDP office.

PMU roles comprise:

Ensure Project execution, including all technical aspects

Ensure Project governance and oversight of the financial resources from the GEF investment in collaboration with the third party who will manage the project funds locally (UNDP)

Provide staff time and expertise in guiding and advancing the project. (at least one person half- time staff dedicated to the project and administrative support)

Provide Project reporting according to the supervision plan in collaboration with the FMA

Share all achievements and products of the project with all relevant stakeholders

Ensure that consultants and project partner organizations deliver against their contracts and in time (including the Gender Specialist and a Socioeconomic Consultant mentioned in Annex M and Q)

Organize the Steering Committee meetings and serve as its secretariat

Overall management and implementation of the Project M&E framework to evaluate project performance

Management of the flow of information from the field to the Project collaborators, and producing periodic monitoring reports

Monitor implementation of the gender action plan

Monitor potential climate hazards to ensure timely adaptive management.

Fund Management Agency ? FMA (UNDP):

Prepare and manage ToR, in collaboration with PMU and UNEP, contracts and MoU with consultants and project partners using appropriate legal instruments. ToR and selection process will be done in consultation with the PMU (clearance), and according with the project's work plan and budget. ToRs will be cleared by UNEP as well.

Do all payments related to the project as per request and coordination with the EA and the project work plan and approved budget.

Provide data for the project expenditure reports as per UNEP templates, and provide support to the National Project Coordinator in the elaboration of periodic expenditure reports.

Undertake procurement of goods and services for the project and keep an updated inventory as per UNEP templates

Ensure that consultants and project partner organizations deliver against their contracts and in time (in collaboration with PMU)

Provide support to the Project M&E activities relating to financial matters (e.g. audits, tracking expenditures, suggesting relevant experts, etc.).

Participate in the Project Steering Committee meetings.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

Its mission is to assess compliance with the objectives and results of the project, orienting toward sustainability thereof.

In practical terms the PSC is responsible for ensuring that the project meets goals announced in the Project Result Framework by helping to balance conflicting priorities and resources. Conclusions and recommendations produced by the PSC will be taken into consideration by UNEP and the PMU to improve implementation strategies, annual work plans and resources allocation budget and, when necessary, to adjust the project's Result Framework. This committee will meet every six months, either physically or virtually.

Overall coordination of the PSC will be the responsibility of MINEC and will involve representatives from the:

1. Office of Integration and International Affairs (OIAI) as a representative of the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC);
2. UNEP Task Manager;
3. GEF National Operational Focal Point;
4. National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA), Ministry of People's Power for Productive Agriculture and Land (MPPATP);
5. Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC), Ministry of Popular Power for Science and Technology (MPPCT);
6. Ministry of Popular Power for Indigenous Peoples (MPPPI);
7. Central University of Venezuela (UCV), Ministry of Popular Power for University Education;

8. Autonomous Service of Intellectual Property (SAPI), Ministry of Popular Power for National Commerce (MPPCN);
9. Network of Indigenous Women for Biodiversity of Latin America and the Caribbean (RMIBALC);
10. private company Phynatur;
11. Ecosocialist Territorial Unit (UTEC) of the Amazon state, MINEC.

The first meeting of the PSC will serve to define the specific details of the rules of procedure of the Committee.

This will be reflected in a regulation or guideline that establishes criteria and procedures related to the internal functioning of the committee, including the definition of the rules under which group decision-making and actions to be carried out will be governed. This could include the following:

Formal designation of the main and alternate representatives of each Institution.

Approval of the functions and duties that the members of the Committee may have regarding the work to be done.

The number of sessions to be held per year, with MINEC as the responsible institution to take the lead in calling for and establishing the time/dates of such meetings.

Consider active any session which has the presence of half plus one of the members or alternates.

The decision will be made by voting. In case of a tie, the President will have the deciding vote.

The detailed rules and procedures will be established in coordination with UNEP at project start.

Technical Advisory Group

The project will establish a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG will be a permanent structure within the project structure, made up of the technical teams of the project executing agencies. The TAG will meet at least four times per year or as often as necessary to provide technical guidance to project implementation activities, including review of reports to be submitted to PSC and UNEP.

The technical team will be made up of a representative of the General Directorate of the OIAI-MINEC, a representative of INIA-MPPAPT, a representative of IVIC-MPPCT, a representative of MPPPI, a representative of UCV, a representative of SAPI, a representative of Network of Indigenous Women for Biodiversity of Latin America and the Caribbean and a representative of UTEC-Amazonas.

Other entities may be invited to take part in the TAG, based on specific themes or execution needs. For example, the Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality for the review and recommendations of how to advance gender issues.

The TAG will be responsible for providing detailed technical advice related to the implementation of project activities to inform the PSC's technical guidance, supervision, and decision-making instructions.

Co-financing entities

Assist in the implementation of the project according to its thematic areas and products and activities identified in the PRODOC.

Project Headquarters

The project headquarters will be located in the Ministry of Ecosocialism (MINEC)

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The project supports Venezuela's National Plan 2019-2025 ("Third Socialist Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Nation of Venezuela"), which is a medium-term plan for the period 2019-2025 (with a view to a time horizon of 2030), which contains similar objectives to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Organization. In particular the plan in its goal 5 states that will contribute to the preservation of the planet based on a harmonic relationship between man and nature, guaranteeing rational, optimal and sustainable use and exploitation of natural resources. Access and benefit sharing speaks directly to this goal, particularly to optimal use of genetic resources. The project is completely aligned with the Objective 5.2 of the National Plan (Protect and defend the permanent sovereignty of the State over its patrimony and natural resources for the supreme benefit of our People, which will be its main guarantor, as well as a contribution to life on the planet) and with the action line 5.1.3.5. that promotes "the sustainable, fair and equitable use of the biological diversity, guaranteeing its conservation and the sovereignty of the State over its natural resources."

The project is also aligned with the Sector Plan for Indigenous Peoples, Programmatic Agenda for Indigenous Peoples in the 7 Strategic Lines of Action of the 2025 Plan for the Country, in particular with the following strategies:

Survey and ongoing assessment of the needs of indigenous communities.

Strengthen the integrated action of State institutions together with Popular Power to address all attention areas in indigenous communities such as: health, food, education, production, social protection, among others.

Provide direct attention to the indigenous population according to particular requirements.

Preserve and promote the rescue of ancestral indigenous values ??in the different towns and communities.

Preserve the customs and traditions of the different indigenous peoples and communities.

Increase regional food production levels while preserving ancestral patterns.

Promote the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the framework of agreements and events.

Provide work tools for socio-productive activities.

Additionally, the project is aligned with the National Strategy for Conservation of Biodiversity 2010-2020 and its National Action Plan, in the sense that it adopts a multidisciplinary approach to establish legal frameworks and regulations, as well as administrative procedures that allow access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, in conformity with the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. Specifically, the strategy discusses under Principle #2 issues related with the use of genetic resources, the right of indigenous peoples to grant access to genetic resources and the importance of the country's biodiversity (and genetic resources) for research and development (reference to items 2.1 and 2.2 of Principle 2). The project also is consistent with eligibility criteria and the Fund's priorities, since it will help the Government of Venezuela in preparing to implement the dispositions and obligations defined in the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. Moreover, the project will facilitate private sector participation and related initiatives focused on investing in conservation, sustainable use of genetic resources in situ, and support for the means of subsistence of communities.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

The knowledge management approach for this project is a learning-by-doing approach combined with the learning from the ABS experiences of other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The improvement of the current ABS capacities will require new skills and certain level of familiarity with the tools and modifications to the system that will be developed and implemented. In addition, the community engagement, in particular for issues related to traditional knowledge, will provide the various stakeholders (indigenous communities, local authorities, providers and users of GR, etc.) the opportunity to learn about various issues and gain experience in negotiation techniques and the sharing of benefits derived from the use of GR. The project will also develop a communication and awareness raising strategy, which is considered key to get the buy-in of relevant stakeholders who will play a key role on ABS issues, but who may not be

fully aware of what this implies. An entire component has been dedicated to this as part of the project's knowledge management strategy.

Communications under the project will follow a gender-responsive approach that goes beyond collecting and reporting sex disaggregated data for meetings and workshops. Some of the gender-responsive approaches that can be used, and that will be considered at project inception based on feasibility and appropriateness, include: (i) Use of male and female developers for knowledge products, communications, and public education materials, as well as male and female reviewers of these deliverables; (ii) Use of gender-sensitive language and gender-balanced images (women not presented as victims but as agents of change); and (iii) Referring to national or international policy framework, policies, strategies, and plans, when applicable and appropriate. Systematization of information and lessons learned will be done throughout the project implementation period, and in particular through activities under Component 3, where the project will open up opportunities for regional networking and sharing of lessons learnt.

Members of the steering committee and all institutions and organizations with responsibilities relevant to the sustainable use of GR and TK in the country will be given reports and key information. Likewise, the executing agency (MINEC) will have the support of UNEP for the dissemination of information and communication related issues. This support will be provided not only by the Task Manager, who has technical knowledge on ABS, but also through the support of other UN Environment staff based at the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean who are engaged in ABS matters in this region.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Substantive and financial project reporting requirements are summarized in Annexes K (Costed M&E Plan) and L (Reporting requirements) of this document. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP.

The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Annex A of this document includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Annex J of will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification and the costs associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators are summarized in Appendix 6. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the Costed M&E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.

The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the project management team but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the National Project Coordinator (NPC) to inform UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The project Steering Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility to the Task Manager in UNEP-GEF. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-?-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

A mid-term management review or evaluation will take place in the first quarter of Year 3 of the project as indicated in the project milestones. The review will include all parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office for terminal evaluations. The review will be carried out using a participatory approach whereby parties that may benefit or be affected by the project will be consulted. Such parties were identified during the stakeholder analysis (see section 5 of the Project Document). The project Steering Committee will participate in the mid-term review and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented.

An independent terminal evaluation will take place at the end of project implementation. The Evaluation and Oversight Unit (EOU) of UNEP will manage the terminal evaluation process. A review of the quality of the evaluation report will be done by EOU and submitted along with the report to the GEF Evaluation Office not later than 6 months after the completion of the evaluation.

The indicative Monitoring and Evaluation Work Plan is provided in the table below.

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Time Frame
Inception Workshop	? NPC, Project Team, Project Steering Committee, UNEP	8,000	40,000	Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	? NPC		2,000	1 month after project inception meeting

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Time Frame
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools and gender action plan) including baseline data collection	? NPC& Project Management Unit (PMU)	4,000	36,000	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/performance indicators: annually
Semi-annual Progress / Operational reports to UN Environment	? NPC		23,000	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 Jan. and 31 Jul.
Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings + advisory technical group	? NPC(secretary) ? A representative of UNEP Implementing Agency ? Project Steering Committee Members	8,000	25,000	Once a year minimum, planned for quarterly
Reports of PSC meetings	? NPC		2,000	Annually
Project Implementation Review (PIR)	? NPC; UNEP		10,000	Annually, part of reporting routine
Mid Term Review/ Evaluation	? NPCPMU ? External consultant(s) ? UNEP	25,000	50,000	At mid-point of project implementation (*Note: If a Mid-Term review is not required for this MSP, these resources will be applied to the Terminal Evaluation)
Terminal Evaluation	? UNEP EO	30,000	70,000	Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Financial Audits	? NPCand Administrative /Finance Staff (at UNDP and MINEC)		47,909	Annually
Final meeting	? NPC	1,519	90,000	
Closing event	? NPC	1,000	90,000	
Project Final Report	? NPC		2,500	Within 2 months of the project completion date

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Budget (USD)	Co-finance (USD)	Time Frame
Co-financing report	? NPC and Administrative /Finance Staff		2,500	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	? NPC and Consultants for lessons learnt evaluation		120,000	Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Total M&E Plan cost		77,519	610,909	

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The project is expected to generate a number of socioeconomic benefits. To begin with, the project will promote the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, of particular importance to Venezuela as a megadiverse country and center of origin and diversification of native breeds and cultivars. The strengthening of the ABS mechanism will contribute to the development of social inclusion and gender equality, foster clear and transparent provisions and strengthen the capacity for indigenous and local communities to benefit from the use of their traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, thereby generating opportunities benefit-sharing while reinforcing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The benefits shared will be applied in biodiversity conservation actions and benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional small farmers, taking into account their organizations and including consideration of gender dimensions. All activities such as awareness creation on ABS, formulation of biocultural protocols, ABS laws and guidelines, and training on PIC and MAT, will be carried out with due consideration of gender equality and social inclusion principles.

Most of the Venezuela's potential regarding the utilization of its genetic resources is still unknown. Most of its genetic resources probably remain undiscovered, others are yet to be thoroughly studied and large numbers remain under-utilized. Most of the utilization that is taking place at the moment using genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge originated in Venezuela is also unknown for the country. As a megadiverse country Venezuela has considerable untapped wealth which can be generated from sustainable management of its rich genetic resources. The project will seek to change these patterns, by streamlining the current regulations, generating transparent information, strengthening the research capacities of the country, empowering indigenous peoples and local communities to manage their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and demonstrating successful benefit sharing utilizing in situ conservation measures. In summary, gaining governance over their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as an instrument for the sustainable development of the country.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approva I	MTR	TE
Low	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:64400baf-f616-3bf6-b4f6-6e8694833614>

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex P - Safeguard Risk Identification Form-ABS-Venezuela-280423_CLEAN	CEO Endorsement ESS	
SRIF CRC VEN ABS_2021 01 13	Project PIF ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Project objective: Improve local capacities for the implementation of access to genetic resources (GRs) and traditional knowledge (TK) regimes in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol.						
Project component 1: Developing an interinstitutional and coordinated ABS framework consistent with the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA						
Outcome	Indicators	Baseline conditions	Mid-term targets	End of Project targets	Means of verification	Assumptions

1.1 National ABS regime rendered operational in a coordinated manner, incorporating monitoring actions and in alignment with the CBD, the NP and the ITPRFA	<p># of legal ABS mechanism established to articulate and monitor ABS</p> <p>% of ABS mechanisms evaluated with a gender approach</p> <p># of technical ABS interinstitutional coordination mechanism established to articulate and monitor ABS</p> <p># of guidelines (for authorities to track compliance with permits and for users on the ABS online system)</p> <p>% of guidelines prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p> <p># of Biocultural Community Protocols adopted by indigenous peoples and local communities</p> <p>% of Biocultural Protocols designed with a gender approach</p>	<p>0 mechanism</p> <p>0 mechanism</p> <p>0 guidelines</p> <p>0 BCPs</p>	<p>1 mechanism (National ABS Strategy)</p> <p>0 mechanism</p> <p>0 guidelines</p> <p>0 BCPs</p>	<p>2 mechanisms (National ABS Strategy + ABS Regulation)</p> <p>100% of the ABS mechanisms evaluated with a gender approach</p> <p>1 online ABS administrative system</p> <p>2 guidelines</p> <p>100% of guidelines are prepared with a gender and safeguards approach</p> <p>3 BCPs + 1 Guideline on the methodology for the elaboration of BCPs in Venezuela</p> <p>100% of the Biocultural Protocols designed with a gender approach</p>	<p>National Registry in ABS-CH</p> <p>National Registry in ABS-CH with link to the online system</p> <p>Documents elaborated under the project and ABS-CH</p> <p>Documents elaborated under the project. Communities may upload their BCPs to the ABS-CH</p>	<p>All ABS competent authorities are willing to collaborate in an effort to streamline processes and monitor legal and illegal access.</p> <p>Negotiations are plausible within the established timeframes</p> <p>Publishing Authority updates ABS-CH</p> <p>Indigenous peoples and local communities are motivated to articulate their rights through the development of BCPs</p>
	# of check points established and registered in ABS-CHM	0 check points	1 check points	1 check points	National Registry in ABS-CH	Institutions interested in serving as check point

- Outputs for Component 1:

1.1.1. ABS Strategy for Venezuela based on a consultative process

1.1.2. Updated and operational ABS legal and institutional framework, including clear ABS procedures, checkpoints and monitoring, facilitates the application of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA

1.1.3. Online ABS administrative system, includes communication with the ABS-CH and tracking systems for access permits.

1.1.4. Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) as regulatory mechanisms for access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Project component 2: Increasing awareness and capacity of all relevant stakeholders in advancing ABS

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline conditions	Mid-term targets	End of Project targets	Means of verification	Assumptions
2.1. Stakeholders from various sectors (government, academic, scientific, private and indigenous peoples) empowered to negotiate, evaluate and process ABS contracts that embrace equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge	<p># of instruments that identify national capacity-building needs for ABS</p> <p># of specific training programs for key ABS stakeholders</p> <p># of trained government officials, researchers and entrepreneurs, disaggregated by gender</p> <p># in situ trainings on ABS for indigenous peoples and local communities</p> <p># of trained indigenous peoples and local communities, disaggregated by gender</p>	<p>0 instruments</p> <p>0 training programs</p> <p>0 persons</p> <p>0 trainings</p> <p>0 persons</p>	<p>1 instrument</p> <p>2 training programs + 3 online modules</p> <p>150 (90 women and 60 men)</p> <p>3 trainings</p> <p>180 (100 women and 80 men)</p>	<p>1 instrument</p> <p>2 training programs + 3 online modules</p> <p>270 (150 women and 120 men)</p> <p>3 trainings</p> <p>500 (265 women and 235 men)</p>	<p>National Registry in ABS-CH</p> <p>Training material and modules.</p> <p>Minutes/reports of events</p> <p>Participant list disaggregated by gender and target group</p>	<p>Stakeholders, government officials, indigenous peoples and local communities, and academic institutions actively engaged in the project</p> <p>Stability of personnel to retain ABS capacity.</p> <p>Equal gender distribution among target groups.</p>

% of participants in online course and interactive modules disaggregated by gender achieving the minimum mark in the capacity survey	0	80% per module	80% per module	List of participants Agendas from training events Surveys of capacities	Interest and demand for training by stakeholders. Stability of personnel to retain ABS capacity.
# national instruments for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture # pilot activities for the conservation of in situ and ex situ materials of criollo cocoa # researchers from ex situ collections and germplasm banks trained on ABS # cocoa producers trained on ABS GEF Core Indicator 11: # direct beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender (sum of indicators in bold)	0 instrument 0 pilot activities 0 trained researchers 0 producers trained	1 instrument 3 pilot activities 110 trained researchers (75 women and 35 men) 30 producers trained (10 women and 20 men) 470 beneficiaries (275 women and 195 men)	1 instrument 3 pilot activities 180 trained researchers (110 women and 70 men) 40 producers trained (10 women and 30 men) 990 beneficiaries (535 women and 455 men)	Documents of the project Minutes from events List of participants disaggregated by gender Training material and modules	Interest and involvement of researchers

	# documented ABS cases	0 ABS cases	1 ABS documented	1 ABS documented	Documents of the project	Engagement of private sector and indigenous peoples involved in the cases
	# events held to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and ABS	0 events	3 events	6 events	Minutes from events	

- Outputs for component 2:

- 2.1.1. National Action Plan on Capacity-Building for ABS (including sustainability elements).
2.1.2. Multi-stakeholder capacity on ABS among providers, negotiators, evaluators and users:
-Three Interactive training modules on ABS targeting government officials, academic researchers and entrepreneurs developed and delivered.
2.1.3. Capacity building program for indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to ABS and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.
2.1.4. Action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and pilot activities focused on cocoa.
2.1.5. Policy briefs based on a national assessment of historic and current bioprospecting activities, and duly socialized with stakeholders.
2.1.6. Awareness raising campaign on ABS

Project component 3: Leveraging ABS knowledge and experiences at the regional level

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline conditions	Mid-term targets	End of Project targets	Means of verification	Assumptions
3.1. ABS management in Venezuela improved through regional networking and lessons sharing.	# dialogues held at the regional level on ABS topics particularly relevant for Venezuela and the LAC region	0 dialogues	2 dialogues	3 dialogues	Minutes from events Briefings with the key lessons learned from regional exchange	Interest from other countries to exchange experiences with Venezuela on ABS
	# regional or international ABS meetings or workshops attended by Venezuelan stakeholders to reinforce their capacities	0 participants	3 participants	6 participants	Minutes from events and list of participants	Interest and involvement of Venezuelan stakeholders to participate in regional or international ABS networks
	# technical reports on socio-economic and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela and the LAC region	0 technical reports	0 technical reports	1 technical report	Documents of the project	

- Outputs for component 3:

3.1.1. Project website for the exchange of experiences and training at an international level.

3.1.2. At least three regional dialogues to facilitate interaction, and sharing of lessons with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on the implementation of ABS systems.

3.1.3. Technical report on socio-economic, and gender implications of ABS in Venezuela and the LAC region.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEFSec Comments	Agency Responses at PIF	Agency Responses at CEO Endorsement
-----------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------------

April 20, 2021:

Component three is not justified from a design imperative perspective and is very costly compared to the overall budget from GEF and cofinance accounting for nearly 1/3 of the overall investment.

Please revise the proposal provided a clearer rationale for the regional component to this project and identify which countries will be part of this collaboration specifically and with what other government agencies the collaboration will take place. Finally, all of this regional exchange should be moved to online and virtual platforms to drastically reduce the costs of this interaction and reduce the costs of component three dramatically. We have learned that virtual interaction is very effective during the COVID-19 pandemic and this will also reduce the carbon footprint of the project caused by unnecessary travel. Move the budget savings from component three into investments that will take place in-country on ABS policy development and implementation.

Response 15/06/2022:

The budget for Component 3 has been reduced from USD 496,415 to USD 196,416 to capture a renewed focus on South-South exchanges that will, for the most part, take place virtually. The bulk of outstanding resources has been channelled to Component 2 and additional funds have equally been attributed to Component 1. Co-financing amounts have been rebalanced across components. Overall Language on output 3.1.1 has been revised: (i) reference to meetings has been replaced by dialogues with the purpose of both capturing the mostly virtual shape in which these exchanges will take place as well as an intent to establish a continued virtual conversation between countries as opposed to a one-off trip; (ii) explicit reference to target countries from which Venezuela wishes to learn from in regional exchanges Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Panama has been included. Text on the selection of countries and virtual modality has been added under the alternative scenario description of Component 3 on page 13 of the PIF. Namely: Venezuela is interested in learning from two sets of countries. On the one hand, Central American countries such as Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Panama that are biodiversity rich and have demonstrated progress, albeit at different levels, in developing their national ABS regimes as of late. On the other hand, the prospect of learning from countries such as Brazil and Colombia with whom Venezuela shares transboundary ecosystems of high-biodiversity level, as well as indigenous groups with shared traditional knowledge. A final settlement of the host of countries with advanced ABS systems and/or experience in the region will be identified and contacted during the PPG phase to request their support in participating in the knowledge management activities of this project. Virtual exchanges will be mostly explored and a knowledge dissemination platform at MINEC's website to ensure a broad audience has access to South-South knowledge sharing efforts will be contemplated.

The actual budget for component 3 is USD 170,578. The website of the project will serve as the main platform for the regional exchange, although some expert meetings will be face to face.

The topics and the experiences from countries for the 3 regional dialogues will be selected based on the key needs or gaps detected during the initial stage of the project, after the International Seminar and the workshops in each of the 8 bioregions take place under outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2.

<p><u>April 20, 2021:</u></p> <p>In-kind contributions should be labelled recurrent expenditures. Grants should be labelled investment mobilized. Please revise.</p> <p>Please revise the project management costs borne by GEF and cofinance to be in line with the overall proportion of GEF to cofinance for the project.</p>	<p><u>Response15/06/2022:</u></p> <p>Co-financing denominations have been revised and a clearer justification included. PMC co-financing amounts have been revisited.</p>	<p>The figures have been thoroughly revised to be in line with the overall proportion of GEF funds and co-financing for the project.</p>
<p><u>April 20, 2021:</u></p> <p>No core indicators easily translate to the ABS policy development and implementation thus only indicator 11 is identified. Cleared at PIF.</p> <p>During project design evaluate whether improved management of hectares in production landscapes could be a possible additional indicator.</p>	<p><u>Response15/06/2022:</u></p> <p>The prospect of including improved management in production landscapes as a core indicator will be examined during PPG</p>	<p>During the PPG some outcomes (2.1) and outputs (2.1.4) of the project related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture have been strengthened, which more clearly aligns the project with GEF Focal Area and Program Strategy BD 1-5. An additional indicator on improved management of hectares in production landscapes has not been incorporated into the project, due to the limited extension of the pilot project on cocoa and the limited preliminary information obtained during the PPG. In case there is additional information during the project implementation that justifies the incorporation of this additional indicator it would be included in the opportune annual or mid-term report. In addition, partners from the private sector will be invited to explore the development of new projects that could also cover that indicator.</p>

<p><u>April 20, 2021:</u></p> <p>As noted above, please provide a clearer justification on how component three addresses a barrier to ABS implementation in Venezuela.</p>	<p><u>Response15/06/2022:</u></p> <p>Text has been added under: ?The description of barriers on page 8 of the PIF: Unlike many Latin American countries, Venezuela is still to make concerted progress on the development of its ABS regime. Besides, Venezuela has not benefited from concerted interaction with biodiversity-rich countries in the region nor knowledge sharing efforts on ABS thus far.? ?The description of the alternative scenario on page 13 of the PIF: Venezuela is interested in learning from two sets of countries. On the one hand, Central American countries such as Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Panama that are biodiversity rich and have demonstrated progress, albeit at different levels, in developing their national ABS regimes as of late. On the other hand, the prospect of learning from countries such as Brazil and Colombia with whom Venezuela shares transboundary ecosystems of high-biodiversity level, as well as indigenous groups with shared traditional knowledge.</p> <p>A final settlement of the host of countries with advanced ABS systems and/or experience in the region will be identified and contacted during the PPG phase to request their support in participating in the knowledge management activities of this project</p>	<p>The revised version of the PIF already addressed in a comprehensive manner this matter. During the PPG the project has incorporated key entry points to establish and strengthen those regional collaborations and networks, such as the identification of the Network of Indigenous Women for Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean (RMIB-LAC) and its partner at the national level, RedSur, to profit from well-established initiatives at the regional level. The exchange of experiences of indigenous peoples and local communities at the regional level in the articulation of their rights over genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, with special emphasis in promoting the visibility of the role of women, will help their collective empowerment and it will help Venezuela in the development of national instruments. These organizations have established a strong support and commitment with the project expressed through the cofinance of USD 1,500,000 to the project. This mutual supportiveness and the relevance of these organizations is also expressed with their recognition as a member of the Project Steering Committee.</p>
<p><u>April 20, 2021:</u></p> <p>Please note in the map that given the nature of the project the entire country will benefit from a functioning ABS framework and policy.</p>	<p><u>Response15/06/2022:</u></p> <p>Reference has been included on Map 1: Map of Venezuela: the entire country will benefit from ABS legal and institutional frameworks on page 22 of the PIF.</p>	<p>The general geographic scope of the project covers the entire country, while specific areas are the focus of pilot projects for the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular creole cocoa. This has been adequately reflected in the maps of the project and in the narrative.</p>

April 20, 2021:

The PIF mentions a number of stakeholders who have been consulted thus far, such as indigenous peoples and local communities, but provides no discussion on these consultations to date. Please provide a summary of all consultations.

Response 15/06/2022:

Text has been added in the Stakeholders section, pp. 16 of the PIF: The rationale for this project and PIF has been premised on the following stakeholder consultations contracted by MINEC between 2015-2020:

- ? Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Investigations (IVIC): has conducted 8 consultations with communities in M?rida, Gu?rico, Cojedes, Portuguesa, Bajo rio Caura, Maracaibo, Isla de Margarita y Apure
- ? Simon Bolivar University: 10 consultations with communities in Edos, Zulia, Falc?n, Carabobo, Aragua, Miranda, Dtto. Capital, Anzoategui, Apure, Bolivar, Delta Amacuro, Nueva Esparta.
- ? La Salle Foundation: 1 consultation with the communities of Barrancas del rio Orinoco
- ? Individual contracts: 2 consultations in the communities of: 1) Los Olivitos, Zulia state and 2) Adjacent to the Piaroa de Betania de Topocho community, Ature Municipality. Edo. Amazon. San Jos? de Kayam, Municipality of Cede?o, Bol?var State

Further consultations will be undertaken during PPG and project inception phases.

Section 2 (Stakeholders) (pp. 26-31) of the CEO Endorsement document details the engagement and strong commitment of the different partners that will be involved in the implementation of the project, covering from civil society?s organizations, research institutions, private sector and different government departments.

The mapping and identification of key indigenous peoples and local communities under the project will be conducted during the first year of the project with the initial International Seminar and the workshops that will be conducted in each of the 8 bioregions of the country (1 per bioregion). These activities will serve to identify the status of the stakeholders and right-holders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in regard to access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and benefit sharing, with special emphasis on their needs.

April 20, 2021:

Please elaborate on this section more comprehensively as currently it is inadequate and indicates very little consideration of the gender context.

Response 15/06/2022:

Text has been added to the gender section (pp. 17 and pp. 18 of the PIF) with the view of elaborating on broader context elements and the project's approach to gender. In 2021, Venezuela ranked 91 out of 156 countries on the Gender Gap Index in terms of economic participation and opportunity. Most women in the country are unable to participate in the formal economy because they lack access to education or work experience. Besides, in Venezuelan society, women are expected to play a fundamental role in raising children and managing the household. The socio-economic situation the country has been engulfed in has had a disproportionately negative impact on women, enhancing their social, economic and political vulnerability. This reality restricts women's ability to act autonomously and actively participate in public life. It further exposes women to a higher risk of gender-based violence, human trafficking, and smuggling. Venezuela has a dedicated Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality that promotes measures to curb gender inequalities. Despite the historic increase in women's access to the labour market over the past several decades, and active participation of women in local political life through local community councils, gender inequality remains a palpable issue, most notably in access to education, health services and employment. The project will promote capacity building and exchange of information (women-men) on the use of traditional knowledge on cocoa whilst being mindful of gender roles associated with the capture and transmission of this knowledge. Women's knowledge are more associated with plant characteristics and cocoa by-products. Men's knowledge relate more prominently to harvesting techniques. Still, in many localities, women are increasingly involved in different parts of the cocoa harvesting cycle from the drying of cocoa fruits, to the post-harvest process, to packaging for sale at local and informal markets. Male migration from rural areas has been contributing to this trend. In rural areas, gender gaps (women-men) related to access to decision-making and financial resources are accentuated.

The CEO Endorsement document has incorporated a Gender Action Plan under section 3 (Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment) (pp. 32-42) with specific indicators and targets. The workplan of the project has been thoroughly reviewed to ensure a gender-responsive approach throughout the design and implementation of all the activities of the project. The following key outputs have introduced specific activities to ensure a gender responsive approach and to make visible the role of women:

? Training program on ABS for government officials, researchers and the private sector (output 2.1.2);

? Training program for IPLCs (output 2.1.3);

? Awareness raising campaign (output 2.1.6).

The project aims to carry out a detailed diagnosis of the reality on gender roles and gender gaps in the field. It will strive to work with women's or mixed organizations and have a clear focus on reducing these gaps. The project will also ensure that there is a good representation of women during project implementation and will critically consider the impact of project activities on them.

The project will be fully compliant with the GEF and UNEP's Gender Policy. In this regard, the project will have to be genuinely gender mainstreamed throughout implementation and impact evaluation.

The Project will seek to institutionalize gender mainstreaming at all levels of intervention and operation of the project. In its efforts to fully integrate gender mainstreaming, the Project will be guided by the principles that gender elements are important drivers and incentives for achieving global environmental benefits, and in ensuring gender equity and social inclusion. The Project also embraces the fact that the needs, interests, and capabilities of women are contextually different from those of men, in relation to the access, use, and management of biodiversity resources within project intervention areas, and thus, must be given special consideration in ensuring equal access to the resources and services of the Project. A comprehensive Gender Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming and Action Plan will be developed for the project during the PPG phase.

April 20, 2021:

The analysis of COVID-19 risk is inadequate, thus please revise this considerably given the current state of transmission in the region and the slow rollout globally of vaccines. This will impact the design phase as well as early implementation most likely and the PIF does not discuss this sufficiently.

Response 15/06/2022:

While the Covid-19 scenario has evolved since the PIF was first submitted, there are still material risks to successful PPG and project execution. The COVID-19 risk session has been thoroughly revised with the purpose of better acknowledging these risks (pp. 19-20 of the PIF). A key risk of COVID-19 is prolonged social distancing measures and recurring national quarantine measures across the country. To guarantee the continuation of the project despite prolonged social distancing requirements, project meetings and the engagement processes could transition on-line or a combination of in-person and virtual participants to minimize contagion risks. Remote technological infrastructure would be used to facilitate this type of engagement including easily accessible videoconferencing services. For those who cannot participate remotely and to ensure effective engagement of small-holders from indigenous groups and local communities, in-person meetings could be held with a reduced number of participants and holding social distancing and hygiene best. The development of the crisis will be closely monitored, and creative responses will be explored and implemented along the way focused on advancing project outcomes through alternative forms of engagement, and flexibility in case meetings and field visits must be rescheduled. Similarly, innovative ways of ensuring co-financing funds can be effectively deployed under a COVID-19 risk scenario may also have to be explored. The project will exercise extreme caution in ensuring that its activities do not increase the risk of transmission and spread. COVID-19 may affect the physical availability of technical expertise to provide in-situ support due to travel restrictions and limitations on physical gatherings imposed by the authorities. As suggested above, virtual means of delivery will be used in such cases and required adjustments to the timeline to accommodate the effects of the pandemic will be given due consideration during the project's annual planning processes.

The positive evolution of COVID has not required a revision of this part of the project document. The project team will be permanently monitoring the situation of COVID in the country and/or in the region to adopt the necessary precautionary measures and protocols in case the situation requires additional measures with particular care in the protection of indigenous peoples and local communities.

<p><u>April 20, 2021:</u></p> <p>Please elaborate on how UNEP will oversee and ensure quality project design and implementation is on track given the absence of an office in the country and the current operational implementation environment in the country</p>	<p><u>Response15/06/2022:</u></p> <p>The Ministry of Ministry of People's Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC) will act as the Executing Agency and the UNDP Country Office will act as Fund Management Agency having a mandate exclusively circumscribed to operational and financial management. Providing fund management services to other non-resident UN agencies is a central part of UNDP's mandate. This is the same model UNEP uses in MSPs in Venezuela and Cuba, where there is an overall paucity of locally based actors capable of administering GEF projects in dollars. Given the macroeconomic context in Venezuela, UNDP is one of the few development organizations with systems in place to hedge against severe exchange fluctuations. UNEP has an on-going biosafety GEF project in Venezuela premised on this modus-operandi and it provides proof of concept that this model can work while not affecting MINEC's leading role on execution. Initial provisions had been made for UNOPS to play this role, but it was later brought to light that the financial onus for such a small project would be considerably disadvantageous. Plus, the few UNOPS' staff based in Venezuela are placed in the UNDP Country Office and use their infrastructure. Changes to the PIF have been made on pages 1, 17 and 19 to denote this arrangement.</p>	<p>This issue is duly covered under section 6 (Institutional Arrangement and Coordination) (pp. 45-48) of the CEO Endorsement document.</p>
---	---	---

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status
in the table below:**

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 50,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Expert assessment on ABS and project development/KM	36,500	31,000	2,700
International and national travel	6,000	2,000	3,300
Validation workshop and consultation process	7,500	7,000	0
Total	50,000	40,000	6,000

If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake exclusively preparation activities up to one year of CEO

Endorsement/approval date. No later than one year from CEO endorsement/approval date. Agencies should report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

The project has two aspects: one that allows the entire country to benefit from the project, as the development of legal and institutional frameworks on access to genetic resources will positively influence the entire country, but also because the trainings and most of the activities of the project will aim to cover the entire geography of the country (8 workshops, one in each of the 8 bioregions of the country and 3 physical trainings for IPLCS, one in each of the regions of the country (West, Central and East) show that clear commitment of the project to be a truly national project. In addition, there will be some specific pilot activities that will take place in the community of La Trilla, Aponte, Cumboto and Cuyagua (map 2) and in the context of the Tum? Aj? Conservation Agreement (map 3).

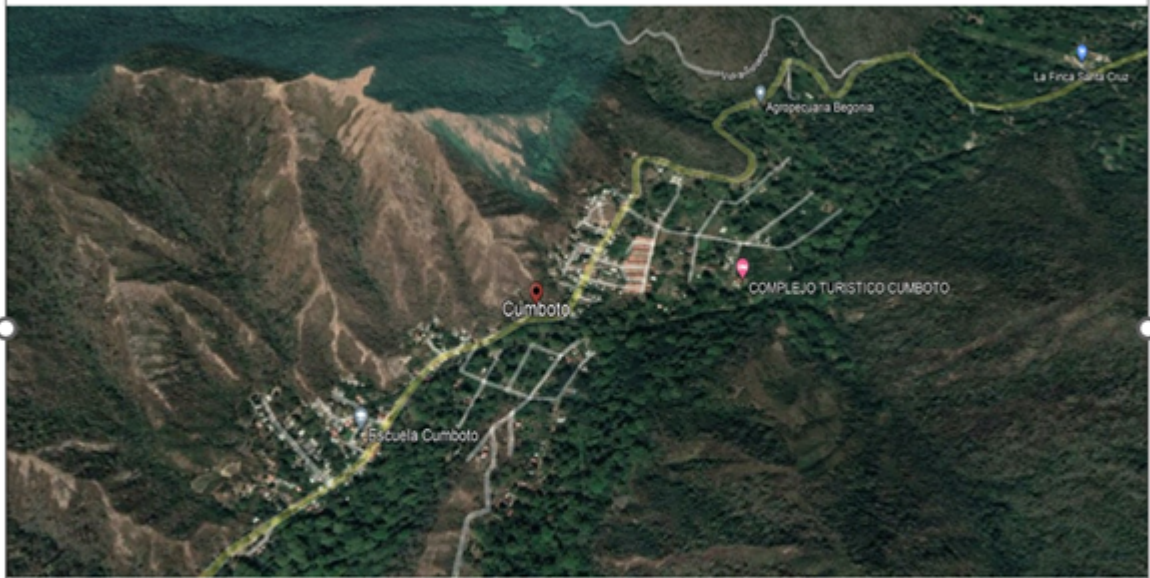


Map 1: Map of Venezuela: the entire country will benefit from ABS legal and institutional frameworks



Map 2: Location of La Trilla, Aponte, Cumboto and Cuyagua, Aragua state

Spatial image of the productive units of the Cumboto sector, Ocumare Municipality of the Gold Coast, Aragua state.



UTM -REGVEN coordinates		
zone	North	East
19	8847429,10	739528,20

Localización

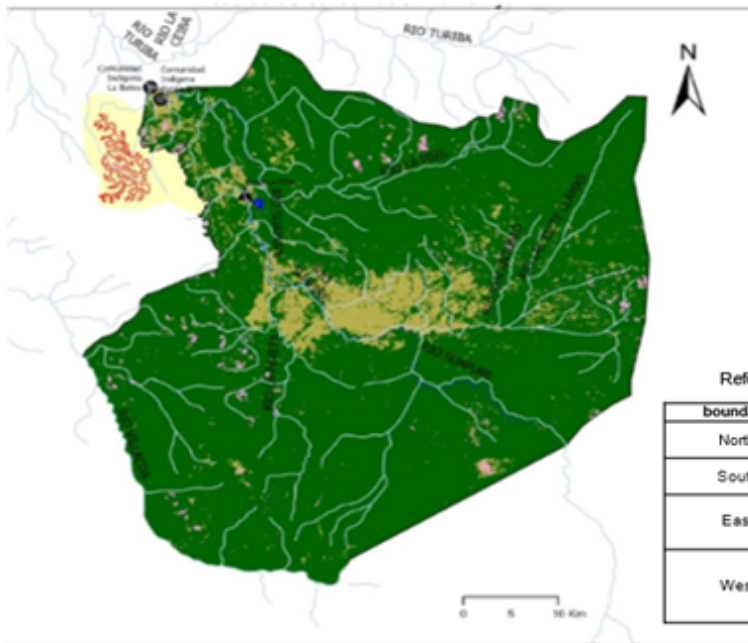


Estado Bolívar
Municipio Cedeño
Sector Chivapure
Área: 156.593 ha



Map 3: Area of the Tum? Aj? conservation agreement

Tumó Ajé Conservation Agreement



Reference coordinates UTMREGVEN

boundary	Point	North	East
North	24	803209	726142
	60	789428	689817
South	35	796763	684972
	36	773984	671515
East	24	803209	726142
	34	798477	687238
	35	796763	684972
West	60	789428	689817
	56	789983	689032
	55	770299	688838
	36	773984	671515

LEGEND

- Communities
- ▲ point of Reference
- Conservation agreement Tumó Ajé
- Villacoa river
- Susupe river
- Vertex

ID	Name	Area (ha)
6	Tumó Ajé Conservation Agreement	252677.29
ID	category	Area (ha)
1	3 forest	93371
2	11 semi forest natural formation	57
3	12 Country Foundation	21754
4	22 semi natural vegetation	1795
5	23 other	568
ID	Name	Area (ha)
9	existing area of influence	16579

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

GEF ID 10812 - Support to the Development of Legal and Institutional Frameworks on Access to Genetic Resources and related Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge in line with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol in Venezuela

Annex H-1: Indicative GEF Project Budget

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	COMPONENT (USDeq.)			Sub-Total	M&E	PMC	Total (USD)	Responsible Entity
		COMP 1	COMP 2	COMP 3					
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 3.1					
Works									
Goods									
	Software for identification of illegal access to genetic resources	5,000			5,000		5,000	MINEC	
	Technological and scientific equipment for the Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (UCRFG) from INIA-CENIAP	60,000			60,000		60,000	MINEC	
	Desktop Computers	5,000	5,000		10,000		10,000	MINEC	
	Laptop Computers	5,000	5,000		10,000		10,000	MINEC	
	Printers	1,000	1,000		2,000		2,000	MINEC	
	Filing Cabinets	1,000	1,000		2,000		2,000	MINEC	
	Desks & Chairs	2,500	2,500		5,000		5,000	MINEC	
Vehicles									
Grants/Sub-grants									
Sub-contract to Executing Entity									
Contractual Services - Individual									
Contractual Services - Company									
International Consultants									
	Technical support services for software to detect illegal access to genetic	30,000			30,000		30,000	MINEC	
	Develop the ABS online system	30,000			30,000		30,000	MINEC	
	Design the Virtual Platform for the ABS training program as part of the ABS online system	30,000			30,000		30,000	MINEC	
National Consultants									
	Prepare a draft National ABS Strategy based on the results of the International ABS Seminar and on the interaction with stakeholders	45,000			45,000		45,000	MINEC	
	Conduct a legal study with a diagnosis of the situation of the ABS system in Venezuela	30,000			30,000		30,000	MINEC	
	Develop monitoring guidelines for authorities to track compliance with permits	15,000			15,000		15,000	MINEC	
	Develop guidelines for users on the online administrative system	15,000			15,000		15,000	MINEC	
	Identify 2 communities in each of the country's regions (West, South and East) that are interested in developing their BCPs for access to their genetic resources or traditional knowledge	15,000			15,000		15,000	MINEC	
	Prepare guidelines for the development of BCPs based on the experiences carried out in Venezuela and other countries in the region	15,000			15,000		15,000	MINEC	
	Identify the ABS needs of relevant government officials, researchers, IPLCs and the private sector		5,000		5,000		5,000	MINEC	
	Prepare a draft National Action Plan on Capacity Building for ABS		20,000		20,000		20,000	MINEC	
	Develop a training program on ABS (structure, methodology, materials and thematic modules)		20,000		20,000		20,000	MINEC	
	Design 3 specific modules for government officials, researchers and the private sector		15,000		15,000		15,000	MINEC	
	Integrate a gender sensitive approach in the training program and prioritize the participation and training of women (providers, negotiators, evaluators and users)		5,000		5,000		5,000	MINEC	
	Design the specific training program aimed at indigenous peoples and local communities on ABS		15,000		15,000		15,000	MINEC	
	Integrate a gender sensitive approach in the training program and prioritize the participation and training of women (indigenous peoples and local communities)		5,000		5,000		5,000	MINEC	
	Develop and apply surveys to measure the impact of training on indigenous peoples and local communities		10,000		10,000		10,000	MINEC	
	Develop an action plan based on the needs of ex situ collections and germplasm banks		15,000		15,000		15,000	MINEC	
	Develop a study of genetic diversity in the Cumbuto sector to identify the different varieties of cocoa		25,000		25,000		25,000	MINEC	
	Document and analyze the case of the use of Sarapiá (<i>Diphysa punctata</i>) in the Turmú Ajé Conservation Agreement (Pijiguao, Venezuela)		20,000		20,000		20,000	MINEC	
	Identify, analyze and document other possible agreements for the use of genetic resources in Venezuela		20,000		20,000		20,000	MINEC	
	Design the awareness and								

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).