

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Building Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Framework for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Thailand

Region

Thailand

GEF Project ID

11850

Country(ies)

Thailand

Type of Project

MSP

GEF Agency(ies):

UNDP

GEF Agency ID

10020

Executing Partner

BEDO, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Biodiversity

Submission Date

1/21/2025

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Indigenous Peoples, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Plant Genetic Resources, Species, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Capacity Development, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender results areas, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Awareness Raising, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, SMEs, Large corporations, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

48

GEF Project Grant: (a)

1,685,160.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

160,090.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

1,845,250.00

Total Co-financing

14,350,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

50,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

4,750.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

54,750.00

1,900,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The project aims to strengthen the national framework for ABS and scale up community-based ABS models in Thailand. This initiative is critical for addressing the incomplete ABS policy regulations and coordination frameworks, inadequate capacity for implementation of ABS at national and provincial levels, and low awareness and lack of ABS knowledge management as well as best practice dissemination mechanisms in the country. In this respect the project is envisaged to strengthen the foundations and facilitate further deliberations within Thailand towards the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. The project is structured around four components designed to tackle these barriers effectively. The first component focuses on strengthening the national ABS policy, operational framework, and capacity. This includes developing key ABS policies and operational procedures, guidelines and protocols for provincial governments and local communities, and ABS action plans for four target provinces. The second component supports community-based ABS models in four target provinces, which involves establishing community-based Biological Resources Management Units, extending the Community Biodiversity Database, providing ABS training and mentoring, and developing community-based ABS projects using innovative financial mechanisms. The third component addresses ABS knowledge management, awareness, and gender mainstreaming by launching outreach and awareness campaigns and documenting and disseminating gender-inclusive best practices. The fourth component is dedicated to monitoring and evaluation (M&E), ensuring effective adaptive management based on participatory and gender-sensitive M&E systems.

Key results expected from this project include improved national ABS policy and operational frameworks, increased involvement of local communities in ABS projects, and replication and scaling up of best ABS practices across Thailand. The project aims to directly benefit approximately 6,500 local people (50% women), by promoting equitable benefit-sharing and enhancing livelihoods through sustainable biodiversity management. Additionally, the project will contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of 62,662 ha of forest landscapes, that will result in avoided emission of 91,489 metric tons of CO₂e, support the development of biodiversity-based economic activities, and foster ABS partnerships between government agencies, local communities, private sector, and research institutions, with 6,500 direct beneficiaries (3,250 male and 3,250 female).

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

By 2030, to establish and implement a national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework in Thailand that strengthens legal and institutional capacities, engages at least 6,500 community members (50% women) in equitable ABS initiatives, improves the management of 62,662 ha of forest landscapes, and contributes to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and fair benefit-sharing, in alignment with the Nagoya Protocol and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Project Components

1. Strengthening national ABS policy, operational framework, and capacity based on the gap analysis and in accordance with Nagoya protocol

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
300,000.00	2,539,078.00

Outcome:

1. Policy recommendations and a framework for national-level ABS implementation, as indicated by:

- 4 ABS policy, operational procedures, guidelines and protocols approved by MNRE;

- 4 ABS Action Plans approved by provincial Government;

- 100 government and private sector stakeholders apply ABS skills in target provinces and demonstrate sufficient capacity to apply ABS (UNDP Capacity Scorecard)

Output:

1.1. National ABS policy and operational procedures are developed based on a comprehensive policy assessment;

1.2. ABS guidelines and protocols for provincial governments and local communities are developed;

1.3. ABS Action Plans are developed for four target provinces to support community-based projects on sustainable use of biodiversity;

1.4. ABS capacity building programs for provincial and local governments, and private sector are developed, tested and implemented in four target provinces

2. Supporting community-based ABS models in four target provinces

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
972,055.00	8,079,977.00

Outcome:

2. Increased involvement of local communities in ABS projects in Thailand, as indicated by:

- 62,662 ha of forest landscapes with improved management through implementation of community-based ABS projects;
- 30% of income increase for households involved in ABS projects;
- 5 ABS-type agreements signed between target communities, BEDO, and private sector;
- 6,500 local people (50% women) directly benefiting from ABS initiatives
- avoided emission of 91,489 metric tons of CO₂e

Output:

- 2.1. Four Community-based Biological Resources Management Units are established and operationalized in the target provinces to support local ABS initiatives and sustainable forest management;
- 2.2. Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank) for ABS implementation is extended to four target provinces and supported by ABS research;
- 2.3. Local communities in four target provinces are trained and mentored on ABS;
- 2.4. Local community-based ABS project are implemented using innovative financial mechanisms (aligned with the Thailand Biodiversity Finance Plan and Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)) and partnership with private sector

3. ABS knowledge management, awareness, and gender mainstreaming

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
180,000.00	1,495,307.00

Outcome:

3. Project ABS best practices and gender-inclusive models are replicated and scaled up in the target provinces and beyond, as indicated by:

- 50% of adult population of target villages demonstrate increased understanding and support of ABS concept (KAP survey);

- 5 best practices of the project shared regionally and internationally

Output:

3.1. ABS outreach and awareness campaign for decision-makers, communities and private sector;

3.2. Gender-inclusive ABS best practices and lessons learned by the project are shared for replication by other provinces, and shared regionally and internationally

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
80,000.00	937,896.00

Outcome:

4. Effective project Adaptive Management based on M&E, as indicated by:

- Participatory and gender sensitive M&E system established

- Adaptive management measures applied to adjust changing needs.

- MTR evaluation recommendations addressed effectively, in case an MTR is conducted

Output:

4.1. Participatory and gender sensitive M&E system to measure the project effectiveness, test the project Theory of Change, ensure achievement of GEBs and youth mainstreaming

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Strengthening national ABS policy, operational framework, and capacity based on the gap analysis and in accordance with Nagoya protocol	300,000.00	2,539,078.00
2. Supporting community-based ABS models in four target provinces	972,055.00	8,079,977.00
3. ABS knowledge management, awareness, and gender mainstreaming	180,000.00	1,495,307.00
M&E	80,000.00	937,896.00
Subtotal	1,532,055.00	13,052,258.00
Project Management Cost	153,105.00	1,297,742.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	1,685,160.00	14,350,000.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Thailand is one of the most biodiverse countries in Southeast Asia, ranking 20th globally, with over 15,000 plant species and 4,722 vertebrate species. The country's diverse ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, coastal areas, and marine environments, support a wealth of biodiversity and provide critical ecosystem services to local communities and the nation as a whole. According to Thailand's sixth national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the country's ecosystems are classified into seven types, with agriculture and forest ecosystems accounting for approximately 55.73% and 31.68% of the total land area, respectively^[1]. However, as many as 470 species around the country are facing the threat of extinction in the wild^[2].

[1] <https://www.undp.org/thailand/publications/progress-biodiversity-management-thailand>

[2] <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/stories/large-projects-in-thailand-2022/>

Rapid economic development, population growth, agricultural expansion and urbanization have put increasing pressure on these ecosystems and species, leading to habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation. Over the past few decades, the driving factors

have led to significant changes in land use, with adverse impacts on biodiversity. For example, the conversion of natural forests to monoculture plantations or farmland for rubber, oil palm, sugarcane, and cassava has reduced habitat connectivity and threatened the survival of many species. From 2002 to 2023, Thailand lost 136,000 ha of humid primary forest, making up 5.4% of its total tree cover loss in the same time period^[3]³. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Thailand's forest cover decreased from 53% in 1961 to about 31.6% in 2020^[4]⁴. In coastal areas, the growth of aquaculture, tourism, and industrial activities has degraded mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and coral reefs, which serve as critical nursery and feeding grounds for marine life. A study by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) reported that Thailand has lost about 67% of its original mangrove forests since 1961, largely due to aquaculture, tourism, and industrial activities. Additionally, it is estimated that 30% of Thailand's coral reefs are in poor or critical condition due to these same pressures^[5]⁵ exacerbated by unsustainable practices, such as illegal logging, overfishing, and the overexploitation of wild plants and animals for trade. These activities, driven by economic incentives and lack of awareness, have put many species at risk of extinction^[6]⁶.

To address these challenges, Thailand has made significant efforts to strengthen its Protected Area system, which currently covers approximately 18.55% of the country's land area and 4.37% of its marine and coastal areas (UNEP-WCMC, 2024). However, many important biodiversity areas and critical habitats remain outside the PAs, leaving them vulnerable to degradation and loss^[7]⁷.

One of the key tools that can protect biodiversity outside of Protected Areas in Thailand is the Nagoya Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), aimed at providing a transparent legal framework for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. In Thailand, the implementation and adherence to the Nagoya Protocol are guided by national regulations and frameworks (see details in the Baseline Activities section)^[8]⁸. Thailand has expressed an intention to ratify the Nagoya Protocol, although specific timelines have not been formally published yet.

System drivers, future trends and required transformative actions

System Drivers: the key system drivers of ecosystem degradation in Thailand can be summarized as a combination of socio-economic, environmental, and governance factors including the following:

- **Economic Expansion and Land Use Change:** Thailand's economy has historically relied on agriculture, leading to significant land conversion for crops such as rubber, oil palm, sugarcane, and cassava. This expansion has resulted in habitat loss and fragmentation, particularly affecting forested areas. Rapid urban growth and industrial development, especially in coastal regions, have further contributed to habitat degradation. The conversion of natural landscapes into urban areas and industrial zones has led to the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The growth of aquaculture, along with tourism and industrial activities, has severely impacted coastal ecosystems. Mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and coral reefs have been particularly affected. Overfishing, combined with pollution from both land-based and maritime activities, has degraded marine ecosystems.

- **Climate Change:** Climate change has led to more frequent and severe weather events in Thailand, exacerbating existing environmental challenges. Coastal ecosystems are particularly vulnerable, with rising sea levels and changes in precipitation patterns threatening mangrove forests, coral reefs, and associated marine life. Climate change is also affecting agricultural productivity, leading to increased pressure on natural resources as communities seek alternative means of livelihood. This shift often results in further degradation of ecosystems as land is converted for other uses.
- **Governance and Policy Challenges:** The lack of integration of ABS and other innovative conservation mechanisms into national and sectoral policies has limited the country's ability to effectively conserve biodiversity across diverse landscapes. Even where policies exist, enforcement is often weak, particularly in areas outside formal PAs. Limited capacity among government agencies, local communities, and the private sector hinders the effective management of these areas, leading to continued illegal activities such as logging and overfishing.
- **Socio-Economic Pressures:** Many communities in Thailand, particularly in rural areas, depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods. This dependence often drives unsustainable practices, such as illegal logging, hunting, and overfishing, which degrade ecosystems. The need for immediate economic returns often outweighs the long-term benefits of conservation. Economic incentives, such as the high demand for certain agricultural products, wood, and seafood, drive overexploitation of natural resources. This market-driven exploitation is often coupled with insufficient awareness of sustainable practices, further contributing to ecosystem degradation.

Addressing these drivers requires a multi-faceted approach that integrates conservation into national and sectoral policies, strengthens enforcement, builds capacity, and promotes sustainable livelihoods that align with the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. These drivers (that also provide a lot of opportunities for improvement) should be taken in account in the analysis of potential future trends in Thailand development.

Future Trends: there are **three potential simple future narrative scenarios** for Thailand to deal with the system drivers and also relevant to ABS mechanism are considered in the framework of this project concept:

- **Future Scenario 1: Sustainable Growth and Biodiversity Conservation.** In this scenario, Thailand successfully implements robust environmental policies and sustainable development practices. Economic growth continues at a steady pace, driven by green technologies and eco-friendly tourism. The government enforces strict regulations to curb habitat destruction and promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Public awareness campaigns lead to significant reductions in illegal logging, overfishing, and wildlife trade. Enhanced Protected Areas and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources, fostering community engagement in conservation efforts. As the outcomes of this scenario, biodiversity loss slows down, and endangered species populations stabilize or increase; ecosystem services improve, benefiting local communities with clean water, fertile soil, and ecotourism opportunities; Thailand becomes a model for biodiversity conservation in Southeast Asia, attracting international support and funding for further environmental initiatives.
- **Future Scenario 2: Economic Growth with Environmental Degradation.** Thailand experiences rapid economic growth driven by industrialization, urbanization, and intensive agriculture. However, this growth comes at the expense of the environment. Natural forests continue to be converted into monoculture plantations and urban areas, leading to significant habitat loss and fragmentation. Coastal ecosystems suffer from pollution, overfishing, and unchecked tourism development. Despite efforts to expand Protected Areas, enforcement remains weak, and illegal activities persist. The Nagoya Protocol's implementation is hampered by inadequate legal frameworks and limited community involvement. The key Outcomes of this scenario are the following: biodiversity declines sharply, with more species facing the threat of extinction; ecosystem services degrade, leading to increased vulnerability of local communities to natural disasters and climate change impacts; Thailand's global reputation suffers, and the country faces international pressure to adopt more sustainable practices.
- **Future Scenario 3: Climate Change and Socioeconomic Challenges.** Thailand faces significant challenges due to the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe weather events, rising sea levels, and changes in precipitation patterns. These changes exacerbate existing environmental and socioeconomic issues. Economic growth slows as the country grapples with the costs of disaster recovery and adaptation. Agricultural productivity declines, leading to food insecurity and increased pressure on natural resources. Coastal and marine ecosystems are particularly hard hit, with coral reefs and mangroves suffering

extensive damage. Efforts to implement the Nagoya Protocol and expand Protected Areas are hindered by limited financial and institutional capacity. The key Outcomes: biodiversity loss accelerates, with many species unable to adapt to the changing conditions; ecosystem services deteriorate, reducing the resilience of communities to climate impacts; Thailand becomes increasingly dependent on international aid and technical assistance to address its environmental and socioeconomic challenges.

Given these three scenarios, the country has to work hard to address the system drivers and ensure the **Future Scenario 1: Sustainable Growth and Biodiversity Conservation** as much as possible. These efforts include implementation of the Nagoya Protocol principles regarding fair and equitable access to and utilization of genetic resources and the ABS mechanism.

Transformative Actions: effective addressing of the systemic drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in Thailand requires a transformative approach and the recognition of: (i) the critical role of Thailand's rich biodiversity, including its diverse ecosystems—forests, wetlands, coastal, and marine environments—in supporting local livelihoods and contributing to national economic development; (ii) the interconnectedness between ecological, cultural, and socio-economic systems across different landscape units, emphasizing the need for an integrated approach to biodiversity management; (iii) the importance of empowering local communities in managing their biological resources, which is vital for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity; (iv) the value of ABS mechanisms not only for ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources but also for enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and communities; and (v) the necessity of multi-stakeholder collaboration, including government agencies, local communities, private sector entities, and research institutions, to implement and scale ABS initiatives. As part of this effort, the ABS approach will promote community-based ABS models, strengthen national ABS policy frameworks, and advance the development of gender-inclusive ABS best practices. These actions will foster sustainable use of biodiversity, enhance local livelihoods, and contribute to Thailand's pledges under the Nagoya Protocol and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). ABS initiatives have a number of advantages, including:

- **Integrated Approach:** ABS interventions integrate ecological, economic, and social dimensions, providing a more comprehensive solution to environmental and climate challenges compared to single-focus interventions;
- **Long-term Benefits:** ABS interventions ensure long-term benefits by creating sustainable systems for resource use and benefit-sharing, whereas other options might provide only short-term solutions;
- **Local Ownership:** ABS processes inherently involve local communities, leading to greater ownership and sustainability of conservation efforts compared to top-down approaches;
- **Socio-ecological Fit:** ABS interventions are more contextually relevant as they consider the socio-ecological systems of local communities, unlike stand-alone environmental or economic solutions which may not always align with local needs and conditions;
- **Adaptive Capacity:** enhancing local capacity and knowledge allows for more flexible and adaptive responses to environmental and climate challenges compared to rigid stand-alone environmental or economic solutions.

Baseline activities (summary of the national efforts to address the key threats for biodiversity and ecosystems using the Nagoya Protocol)

Thailand signed the Nagoya Protocol on October 31, 2011, but has not yet ratified it. This means that while Thailand has expressed its intention to comply with the principles and obligations of the Nagoya Protocol, it has not yet legally committed to them through the formal ratification process. However, ABS national regulation and procedures are domestically applied under several relevant biodiversity-related laws whose responsible government agencies have enforced to protect genetic diversity and to enhance an access to biological resources for research and study. Thus, to comply with the Nagoya Protocol, Thailand has developed and enacted specific national legislation. The key legislative framework includes the Plant Variety Protection Act, the Protection and Promotion of Traditional Thai Medicinal Intelligence Act, and the National Environmental Quality Act. These laws collectively aim to regulate access to genetic resources and ensure that benefits are shared with the rightful holders. Furthermore, Thailand has implemented regulations such as the 'National Committee on Conservation and Utilization of Biological Diversity Regulation on the Criteria and Methods of the Access to Biological Resources and Sharing of Benefits Arising from Biological

Resources B.E. 2554 (2011). This regulation provides guidelines for accessing biological resources and sharing benefits, underscoring the country's commitment to equitable resource management. While these frameworks establish a foundation for ABS, the specific rights of local communities^{[9]⁹ in managing genetic resources are still not clearly defined and evolving. Additionally, in 2019, Thailand introduced a draft Biodiversity Act (not officially approved yet) designed to incorporate key aspects of the Nagoya Protocol, particularly concerning ABS. This proposed legislation emphasizes Prior Informed Consent (PIC): requiring users to obtain permission from the competent national authority and local communities before accessing genetic resources; and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT): establishing agreements between users and providers detailing the conditions of access and benefit-sharing.}

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) serves as the main competent national authority responsible for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Thailand. It coordinates efforts across various sectors to ensure compliance with ABS regulations. An ABS system in place is targeted as one of the priority national biodiversity targets for the 5th National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2027). The plan continues to develop and enforce national legislation to regulate ABS. The Plan also emphasizes development of clear mechanisms and procedures for obtaining Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and establishing mutually agreed terms (MAT) to ensure that local communities are compensated for the use of their knowledge and resources. The plan includes actions to build capacity among stakeholders and raise awareness about ABS.

The Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office, or BEDO is a government agency supervised by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and it plays a significant role in the country's efforts related to ABS. BEDO promotes the sustainable use of biological diversity by developing products and services based on Thailand's rich biodiversity. This includes supporting local communities and enterprises in creating value-added products from genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Also, BEDO acts as a facilitator between stakeholders, including local communities, researchers, and companies, to develop agreements that align with ABS principles. However, these agreements are not formal ABS agreements as defined by the Nagoya Protocol. These agreements ensure that benefits derived from the use of genetic resources are shared fairly with the providers, often local communities. BEDO currently works with 100 communities on these type of agreements. Additionally, BEDO provides training and resources to local communities and other stakeholders to enhance their understanding and capacity to engage in ABS processes and works with government agencies to develop and advocate for policies and regulations that support ABS. The Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), which operates under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), is the most significant partner of BEDO on ABS policy and regulation: ONEP is primarily responsible for formulating and coordinating national policies and strategies related to natural resources and environmental management, including those concerning biodiversity and ABS.

Community BioBank is an innovative approach which BEDO has initiated since 2019 to strengthen Thai local communities to appreciate *in-situ* biodiversity values for their living and wellbeing. Local communities have potential opportunities to create incomes while helping conserve biological resources in their village. BEDO concept is area-based, knowledge-based and focused to guide community. Community leaders and youth with expert assistance create bioeconomy products which deliver income for individuals and their community. Community enterprises can run local businesses to create income and learn about marketing and sale for their bioproducts. Consequently, vulnerable people; seniors, youth, and women, have home jobs for wellbeing. It supports reducing inequality in society to its end. Furthermore, Community BioBank helps local community to deposit and withdraw their biological resources assets and encourages them to maintain and update biological resources database. For example, researchers and private sector users can access the deposited resources for their research and development and further bioprospecting.

Currently, BEDO works with the above-mentioned communities and is in the process of creating up to 200 different products divided into four categories: (1) food and beverages; (2) skincare and beauty products; (3) health products; and (4) fabric & accessories. In this respect, BEDO creates opportunities for local communities and individuals and promotes sustainable use and conservation of natural resources simultaneously. Examples of the community-based projects supported by BEDO include developing value-added products from the unique pineapple varieties of Phuket, enhancing local incomes and promoting sustainable agricultural practices;

preservation and promotion of traditional Karen weaving techniques^[10]¹⁰ while providing economic benefits to local communities; Chiang Mai Herbal Products Initiative to utilize local herbal knowledge for the development of health and wellness products, ensuring benefits are shared with the community^[11]¹¹; mangrove crab farming in Samut Songkhram; etc.

Additionally, a collaborative initiative led by GIZ, BEDO, and ONEP organized a series of nationwide workshops in 2024 aimed at preparing Thai stakeholders for Nagoya Protocol ratification and implementation. These workshops were held across five regions—Chanthaburi, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Chiang Mai, and Kanchanaburi, and concluded with a public forum in Bangkok on 24 September 2024—focusing on legal gap analyses, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement in ABS processes.^[12]¹²

ABS initiatives hold a significant, though currently underutilized, position in Thailand's biodiversity investment landscape. The importance of ABS in promoting sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity is recognized, but various barriers (described above) have limited its full integration and effectiveness. ABS Initiatives have strong potential for integration with other biodiversity investments, including: **(1) Integration with Protected Areas and Conservation Programs:** ABS initiatives can complement protected area management by providing mechanisms for sustainable use of genetic resources found within these areas. By ensuring that benefits are shared with local communities, ABS can enhance the economic incentives for conservation. ABS is not yet fully integrated into the management plans of protected areas. Strengthening legal frameworks and capacity building can help integrate ABS more effectively. **(2) Synergy with Sustainable Development Projects:** ABS initiatives can support sustainable development by ensuring that communities derive economic benefits from biodiversity. This can reduce reliance on destructive practices and promote sustainable livelihoods. While some projects incorporate elements of ABS, the scale is still limited. Expanding ABS to more communities and ensuring that they have the capacity to participate can enhance this synergy. **(3) Contribution to Climate Change Adaptation:** ABS can contribute to climate change adaptation by promoting the sustainable use of genetic resources that enhance ecosystem resilience. Traditional knowledge associated with these resources can offer valuable insights for adaptation strategies. Currently ABS is not yet a central component of climate adaptation projects. Greater recognition of the role of genetic resources in adaptation is needed to integrate ABS more fully. **(4) Support for Biodiversity Research and Monitoring:** ABS initiatives can facilitate biodiversity research by providing access to genetic resources under fair terms. Benefit-sharing arrangements can fund further research and conservation activities, as the protocol was set up to promote research and innovation using genetic resources and traditional knowledge. Currently ABS is recognized in research agreements, but there is a need for clearer guidelines and better enforcement to ensure compliance and equitable benefit-sharing.

Suggested project area

The project is going to be implemented in four northern provinces of Thailand: Chiangrai, Chiangmai, Nan, Phrae (see Annex C: Project Area Map). These provinces have 1,769 villages, 1,680 community forest areas, and a total forested area of 125,325 ha under community management. The project will specifically focus on up to 442 local villages with total forest area under community management of 62,662 ha in the target provinces. The northern provinces are home to diverse ecosystems, including forests, mountains, and river systems. These areas host a wide variety of plant and animal species, many of which are endemic or rare. The rich biodiversity in these regions includes numerous genetic resources that are valuable for scientific research, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals, making them ideal for ABS initiatives. Potential ABS products in the provinces include:

- **Medicinal Plants:** the provinces are known for their diverse flora, many of which are used in traditional Thai and tribal medicine. Plants like Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) and other local herbs could be developed into pharmaceutical products under ABS agreements;

- **Natural Cosmetics and Skincare:** ingredients sourced from local biodiversity, such as essential oils, herbal extracts, and natural dyes, have high potential for use in natural and organic cosmetic products.
- **Traditional Textiles:** the provinces are famous for their unique textile patterns and techniques, often using natural dyes and fibers. Products could include clothing, accessories, and home decor items developed in partnership with local communities;
- **Agricultural Products:** Indigenous specialty crops such as tea, coffee, and fruit (like lychee and longan) from these provinces could be marketed with a premium as organic or sustainably harvested products under ABS frameworks^[13]¹³.

The provinces are inhabited by numerous ethnic communities (Karen, Hmong, Akha, Lahu, Lisu and other tribes)^[14]¹⁴ with rich cultural heritage and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity management and conservation. These communities have long-standing practices of sustainable resource use and conservation, which align well with the objectives of ABS projects. Despite their rich biodiversity, these provinces face significant threats from deforestation, land conversion, and unsustainable practices. Thus, deforestation rate in the Chiangmai province was at 6.8% of its total tree cover between 2002 and 2023; in Chiangrai and Nan – 3.0%; and in Phrae – 4.1% for the same period^[15]¹⁵. The average deforestation rate for four target provinces is 4.23% between 2002 and 2023, or 0.2% annually. Implementing ABS projects can help mitigate these threats by promoting sustainable use and conservation. These provinces offer significant opportunities for sustainable development through eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, and bioprospecting, all of which can be enhanced through ABS frameworks. Additionally, the northern provinces are strategically located featuring significant ecological connectivity to neighboring regions, which is enhancing the potential for regional biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, these provinces are accessible, making it feasible to implement and monitor ABS projects effectively. Currently, there aren't any ABS or similar initiatives in the target provinces.

Barriers to implement ABS in Thailand

Despite quite impressive national progress to implement Nagoya Protocol and ABS in Thailand there are a few barriers that impede the effective integration of ABS in the country's environmental and economic priorities. The barriers are the following:

Barrier 1: *Unsupportive policy, regulation, coordination frameworks and inadequate capacity for implementation of ABS at national and provincial levels.* The existing legal and institutional frameworks for ABS implementation in Thailand are still weak, fragmented, or poorly enforced. Thus, specific laws (e.g., Biodiversity Act including ABS clauses) should be developed to umbrella and regulate overall national ABS system for all biological and genetic resources effectively. There are still gaps in the national legislation that is not yet fully aligned with the Nagoya Protocol. This creates uncertainties and inefficiencies in the negotiation and enforcement of ABS agreements. ABS standard procedures are not yet fully developed, practiced, and implemented, in particular those at the local level. Effective ABS implementation requires coordinated efforts among various governmental agencies, including MNRE, ONEP, and BEDO. Lack of coordination and clear delineation of roles lead to overlaps and gaps in policy enforcement. Additionally, many institutions involved in ABS lack the necessary resources, expertise, and infrastructure to effectively implement and monitor ABS agreements, especially at provincial levels. This includes insufficient training for personnel and inadequate funding for enforcement activities.

Barrier 2: *Inadequate scale of ABS implementation by local communities.* Local communities and smaller enterprises in the country lack the capacity to engage effectively in ABS processes. That results in a small scale of the ABS-like projects initiated by BEDO and

lack of involvement of communities in actual ABS initiatives in Thailand. Thus, BEDO currently works with just a hundred local communities on the agreements similar to ABS, however, according to the Department of Provincial Administration, Thailand has over 70,000 villages, over 3,000 distinct ethnic communities, and around 8,000 registered community forests^[16]¹⁶. Many of these villages and communities are located in rural and forested areas where biodiversity is rich. Thus, a significant proportion of these villages could potentially engage in ABS activities, even a conservative estimate suggests that thousands of communities could be involved.

Barrier 3: Low awareness of key stakeholders about ABS and lack of ABS knowledge management and best practice dissemination mechanism in the country. This barrier is strongly connected with Barriers 1 and 2. There is a low level of awareness and understanding of ABS principles among decision-makers, local communities, researchers, and businesses. This lack of awareness results in poor compliance and lack of participation in ABS agreements. Local communities do not have the bargaining power and knowledge to negotiate fair terms on ABS agreements, and there are often disagreements over how benefits should be distributed. Additionally, effective ABS implementation requires robust systems for documenting genetic resources and traditional knowledge. This includes tracking the use of resources and ensuring compliance with ABS agreements. The lack of such systems hinders transparency and accountability of ABS process. Lack of effective knowledge management system for ABS impedes the progress of replication and scaling up the best ABS models in the country.

All three barriers identified—unsupportive policy and regulatory frameworks, inadequate capacity for ABS implementation, limited local community involvement, and low awareness of ABS principles—could significantly influence the future scenarios for Thailand and increase the likelihood of the Scenario 2: Economic Growth with Environmental Degradation and Scenario 3: Climate Change and Socioeconomic Challenges. In an environment of rapid economic growth and climate change, weak ABS frameworks will exacerbate the exploitation of genetic resources without fair benefit-sharing. This will lead to further degradation of biodiversity. Inefficiencies in ABS negotiations and enforcement will result in economic activities that prioritize short-term gains over long-term sustainability, accelerating environmental degradation. If local communities remain excluded from ABS processes, they will be more vulnerable to the negative impacts of economic growth and climate change. This can increase inequality and social tensions, as communities do not receive fair benefits from the exploitation of their genetic resources.

Thus, to avoid these negative consequences and increase the likelihood of the Scenario 1 Sustainable Growth and Biodiversity Conservation, it is necessary to remove the three barriers for enhancing the resilience of Thailand's biodiversity and ensuring sustainable development. Strengthening ABS policy and regulatory frameworks, enhancing the capacity and involvement of local communities, and increasing ABS awareness and knowledge management are essential steps to remove the barriers and create the enabling environment for mitigating the negative impacts.

Addressing the barriers related to ABS through specific interventions can provide a comprehensive approach to mitigate environmental degradation and climate vulnerabilities in Thailand that can be more effective compared to other potential options:

- **Strengthening ABS Policy and Regulatory Frameworks:** by developing comprehensive ABS policies and regulations, Thailand can ensure the sustainable use and protection of its biodiversity. Effective regulations can prevent overexploitation and ensure that genetic resources are used in a way that benefits both biodiversity and local communities. Strong ABS frameworks can include provisions for climate-resilient practices, ensuring that the use of genetic resources does not compromise the ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change. Improved coordination between agencies like MNRE, ONEP, and BEDO can lead to more integrated and holistic approaches to environmental management, addressing multiple drivers of degradation simultaneously.
- **Enhancing ABS Capacity of Local Communities:** enhancing the ABS capacity of local communities empowers them to engage in sustainable practices and conservation efforts. This local stewardship is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.

When communities have the capacity to engage in ABS processes, they can better manage their natural resources and develop adaptive strategies to cope with climate impacts. Effective ABS implementation can provide alternative livelihoods through the fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources. This reduces reliance on destructive activities like illegal logging and overfishing, thus mitigating environmental degradation.

- **Increasing ABS Awareness and Knowledge Management:** raising awareness about ABS principles among key stakeholders, including decision-makers, researchers, businesses, and local communities, can lead to more responsible behaviors and better compliance with sustainable practices. Knowledge management systems can provide stakeholders with the necessary information to make informed decisions that support biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation. Effective knowledge management enables the replication and scaling of successful ABS models. This widespread adoption of best practices can enhance overall environmental resilience and reduce vulnerabilities.

Key ABS Stakeholders

The implementation of the ABS strategies involves a diverse range of stakeholders: government agencies, private sector entities, and local communities, each playing crucial roles to ensure the successful delivery of the national environmental objectives per se as well as the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) associated with the ABS mechanism (see the section Expected Global Environmental Benefits of the project), adaptation benefits, and co-benefits. Thus, the key ABS realm stakeholders include:

- **Government Agencies:** MNRE, BEDO, ONEP with a role to develop and enforce national ABS regulations, ensure inter-agency coordination, and oversee the implementation of current ABS-like agreements; integrate ABS into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and ensure alignment with the Nagoya Protocol; facilitate ABS agreements with local communities, provide technical support, and promote bioprospecting and benefit-sharing initiatives.
- **Local Communities:** people of the villages and community forests, as the de-facto custodians of natural and genetic resources, with a key role to engage in ABS processes, implement sustainable practices, and participate in benefit-sharing arrangements; provide traditional knowledge for bioprospecting, negotiate fair ABS agreements, and ensure equitable distribution of benefits.
- **Research Institutions and Universities:** with a role to identify and document genetic resources and traditional knowledge, develop bioprospecting methodologies, and provide scientific inputs for ABS agreements as well as support science development behind ABS and retention of a knowledge repository around species and value.
- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** like Biothai and the Indigenous Peoples' Foundation for Education and Environment (IPF) to facilitate community engagement in ABS processes, provide capacity-building programs, and monitor compliance with ABS agreements.
- **Private Sector (Pharmaceutical, Biotech, and Cosmetic Companies):** to enter into fair ABS agreements, ensure benefit-sharing with local communities, and invest in sustainable bioprospecting practices.
- **International Organizations:** e.g., CBD Secretariat, GIZ, UNDP, and UNEP with a role to assist in aligning national ABS frameworks with the Nagoya Protocol and offer technical and resource mobilization support for ABS implementation.

[1] <https://www.undp.org/thailand/publications/progress-biodiversity-management-thailand>

[2] <https://reports.speciesconservation.org/stories/large-projects-in-thailand-2022/>

[3] <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/THA>

[4] <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/ac91b7b4-87eb-41eb-bdb1-d1c31fe249a8>

[5] <https://www.dmcg.go.th/detailLib/267>

[6] <https://bkktribune.com/thai-plants-and-animals-under-threat-from-habitat-loss-to-climate-change/>

[7] <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/protected-planet>

[8] <https://www.cbd.int/jbf/activities/thematicprogrammes/nagoyaprotocol.shtml>

[9] Thailand Constitution and legislation do not recognize any ethnic groups as indigenous, but some tribes may fall under indigenous people definition by 'UNDP and Indigenous Peoples: A Policy of Engagement' 2001

[10] Traditional Karen weaving techniques involve intricate, hand-loomed patterns using locally sourced, natural fibers, often characterized by vibrant colors and symbolic motifs that reflect the Karen culture and heritage

[11] The Chiang Mai Herbal Products Initiative aims to harness local herbal knowledge to develop health and wellness products, promoting sustainable economic growth and cultural heritage preservation

[12] https://www.thai-german-cooperation.info/en_US/giz-and-onep-join-forces-to-organise-nationwide-workshops-for-thailands-nagoya-protocol-implementation-and-ratification-readiness/

[13] Indigenous textiles derived from local plant fibers, as well as indigenous agricultural products, could potentially be subject to Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under the Nagoya Protocol. The protocol primarily covers *genetic resources* and associated *traditional knowledge*, aiming to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization

[14] Thailand Constitution and legislation do not recognize any ethnic groups as indigenous, but some tribes may fall under indigenous people definition by 'UNDP and Indigenous Peoples: A Policy of Engagement' 2001

[15] <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/THA>

[16] Information of the Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior; Royal Thai Forest Department; and National Statistical Office

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Project Description

Scenarios with and without GEF project

Given the system drivers of ecosystem degradation and simple future narrative scenarios described in the previous section, we consider three possible scenarios directly related to the project implementation in the uncertain environment:

Project Scenario 1 - Business-as-Usual (without the project intervention): In the absence of the proposed project intervention, Thailand's transition to sustainable biodiversity management will experience significant setbacks. The existing pressures on

terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems will continue unabated, leading to further degradation and loss of biodiversity. Economic development, driven by industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural expansion, will prioritize short-term gains over long-term environmental sustainability, resulting in the continued conversion of natural forests to monoculture plantations and urban areas. This will exacerbate habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas. As a result, critical ecosystems, including community-managed forests, will suffer from unsustainable practices such as illegal logging, overexploitation of resources, and poorly regulated tourism activities. The absence of a robust ABS framework will mean that local communities remain excluded from benefit-sharing arrangements, leading to their increased vulnerability to economic pressures and a continued reliance on destructive practices for survival. Without targeted capacity-building efforts and a cohesive ABS policy framework, the existing legal and institutional structures will remain fragmented and ineffective. This lack of coordination and enforcement will hinder the proper management and conservation of biodiversity, resulting in further degradation of ecosystems and the loss of species. Communities, particularly in rural and forested areas, will not have the necessary tools, knowledge, or incentives to engage in sustainable biodiversity management practices.

Project Scenario 2 - Project-Based Reality (without wide replication and scaling up beyond the project area): With the successful implementation of the project, transformative changes are expected across the targeted provinces. These changes will be driven by an integrated and inter-sectoral approach to biodiversity management, ensuring that the relationships and spatial dimensions within these landscapes are fully recognized and leveraged. The project will facilitate a holistic approach to conservation that extends beyond the boundaries of protected areas. Through the development and implementation of community-based ABS models, the project will empower local communities to manage their biological resources sustainably. This will lead to the conservation of forest landscapes outside protected areas, reducing habitat fragmentation and preserving critical ecosystems that support both biodiversity and local livelihoods.

Project Scenario 3 – Ideal Scenario (with effective replication across Thailand): In the ideal scenario, the successful implementation of the project in target provinces serves as a catalyst for the widespread replication of these practices across Thailand. The project's innovative approaches and demonstrated successes become a model for national and regional biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, leading to transformative changes at a larger scale. The community-based ABS models developed and tested in the project provinces are rapidly adopted and replicated across Thailand. Governments at the provincial and national levels recognize the effectiveness of these models in promoting sustainable biodiversity management and equitable benefit-sharing, leading to their integration into national policies and strategies. With the replication of the project's approaches, Thailand sees a comprehensive shift in how biodiversity is managed and conserved. The focus on integrating ABS principles into various sectors leads to the conservation of terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems throughout the country. Critical habitats, including those outside protected areas, are effectively managed, reducing biodiversity loss and preserving ecosystem services. The coordinated efforts across different landscapes ensure that the conservation of biodiversity becomes a national priority, leading to the protection of all key ecosystems.

Project Scenario 2 will be the most likely scenario given the limited investments available for this project. However, Project Scenario 3, presented as an ideal case scenario, is what the project will look up to and aspire to achieve by enhanced design during PPG and by robust implementation.

Lessons Learned from other ABS Initiatives

This project was developed based on the lessons learned from other ABS initiatives globally, including the following:

- **Importance of Legal and Institutional Frameworks:** Developing a robust legal framework with clear procedural guidelines can help ensure that genetic resources are accessed sustainably and benefits are shared equitably. For example, India implemented a comprehensive legal framework that not only regulates access to genetic resources but also includes detailed provisions on benefit-

sharing. The Biological Diversity Act (2002) of India has provisions for local Biodiversity Management Committees that prepare People's Biodiversity Registers, documenting local biodiversity and related traditional knowledge[1]¹⁷;

- **Community Engagement and Traditional Knowledge:** Formal agreements respecting traditional knowledge and ensuring community benefits can foster trust and cooperation between stakeholders. Thus, in Peru, the Quechua community entered into a partnership with a multinational company to use their traditional knowledge about medicinal plants. The agreement ensured a share of the profits returned to the community, funding education and health care[2]¹⁸;
- **Capacity Building for Local Communities:** Empowering communities through education and legal support is crucial for effective participation in ABS agreements. For example, South Africa's Rooibos Benefit-Sharing Agreement between local communities and companies using traditional knowledge related to rooibos tea includes capacity building, ensuring that communities understand legal rights and are equipped to negotiate fair terms[3]¹⁹;
- **Monitoring and Compliance:** A well-defined monitoring system can ensure compliance with ABS agreements and support the sustainable use of biodiversity. Thus, Costa Rica has established a system where bio-prospecting activities are monitored by the National Commission for Biodiversity Management. They issue research and bio-prospecting permits, ensuring that ABS agreements are adhered to[4]²⁰.

Project Theory of Change

Based on the background information provided in the Project Rationale section and Project Scenarios above, the following GEF project was proposed to address the three Barriers for effective ABS integration and implementation in Thailand and significantly contribute to the **Future Scenario 1: Sustainable Growth and Biodiversity Conservation** described in the previous section. The project **Theory of Change** is depicted on the Fig. 1 and described below:

The Project Objective is *by 2030, to establish and implement a national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework in Thailand that strengthens legal and institutional capacities, engages at least 6,500 community members (50% women) in equitable ABS initiatives, improves the management of 62,662 ha of forest landscapes, and contributes to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and fair benefit-sharing, in alignment with the Nagoya Protocol and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).*

Through the approaches further described below, the project is expected to enhance the foundations and facilitate further deliberations within Thailand towards the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol:

The Project Objective is expected to be achieved through implementation of the four project Strategies (**Components**), designed to overcome the **Barriers 1-3** for effective ABS implementation in Thailand in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and achieve the project **Outcomes** (systematic and transformative changes in ABS management and implementation in the country). The Strategies have been suggested based on the lessons learned from other GEF and non-GEF projects related to ABS in Thailand and abroad (see the section *Lessons Learned from Previous ABS Initiatives* above) to ensure their effectiveness. The suggested Strategies (Components) are based on the GEF8 Levers and will work in synergy with each other to establish a functional ABS model in the project area and replicate it in other provinces of Thailand. Thus, the Components are the following:

- **Component 1.** *Strengthening national ABS policy, operational framework, and capacity based on the gap analysis and in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol;*
- **Component 2.** *Supporting community-based ABS models in four target provinces;*
- **Component 3.** *ABS knowledge management, awareness, and gender mainstreaming; and*
- **Component 4.** *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).*

Thus, **Component 1.** *Strengthening national ABS policy, operational framework, and capacity based on the gap analysis and in accordance with Nagoya protocol* is designed to remove **Barrier 1: Unsupportive policy, regulation, coordination frameworks and inadequate capacity for implementation of ABS at national and provincial levels** and achieve **Outcome 1. Policy recommendations and a framework for national-level ABS implementation.** Outcome 1 is expected to be achieved through delivery of four project **Outputs:**

- **Output 1.1.** *National ABS policy and operational procedures are developed based on a comprehensive policy assessment;*
- **Output 1.2.** *ABS guidelines and protocols for provincial governments and local communities are developed and implemented;*
- **Output 1.3.** *ABS Action Plans are developed for four target provinces to support community-based projects on sustainable use of biodiversity;*
- **Output 1.4.** *ABS capacity building programs for provincial and local governments, and private sector are developed, tested and implemented in four target provinces.*

Achievement of the Outcome 1 is based on the following assumptions: (a) national and provincial governments are committed to supporting and prioritizing ABS policies and frameworks; (b) stakeholders, including local communities and private sector actors, are willing and motivated to engage in the development and implementation of ABS guidelines and protocols; (c) sufficient financial and human resources are available to develop, approve, and implement ABS policies, guidelines, protocols, action plans, and capacity-building programs. Under the Component, the project will collaborate with GIZ Thailand to promote ABS policy, operational procedures, benefit sharing at the community level and action plans for ratification and implementation of Nagoya Protocol in Thailand. Component 1 is based on the **GEF Lever 1 – Governance and Policy** and aims to embed the ABS policies, protocol, and planning into national and provincial governance.

Component 2. *Supporting community-based ABS models in four target provinces* is expected to remove the **Barrier 2: Inadequate scale of ABS implementation by local communities** and lead to the **Outcome 2. Increased involvement of local communities in ABS projects in Thailand.** The Outcome 2 will be achieved through delivery of four Outputs:

- **Output 2.1.** *Four Community-based Biological Resources Management Units are established and operationalized in the target provinces to support local ABS initiatives and sustainable forest management;*
- **Output 2.2.** *Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank) for ABS implementation is extended to four target provinces and supported by ABS research;*
- **Output 2.3.** *Local communities in four target provinces are trained and mentored on ABS;*
- **Output 2.4.** *Local community-based ABS projects are implemented using innovative financial mechanisms (aligned with the Thailand Biodiversity Finance Plan and Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)) and partnership with private sector.*

Achievement of the Outcome 2 relies on the following assumptions: (a) local communities are willing to participate actively in ABS projects and initiatives, trust the processes, and see the value in engaging with ABS projects; (b) training programs are effective in building the necessary skills and knowledge among local communities and mentoring support is consistent and accessible to community members; (c) the private sector is willing to partner with local communities in ABS projects and sees the value and potential benefits of investing in and supporting community-based ABS projects. Component 2 is based on two GEF8 Levers: **Lever 2 – Financial Leverage** and **Lever 3 – Multi-Stakeholder Dialogs**.

Component 3. *ABS knowledge management, awareness, and gender mainstreaming* is suggested to remove **Barrier 3: Low awareness of key stakeholders about ABS and lack of ABS knowledge management and best practice dissemination mechanism in the country and achieve the **Outcome 3.** *Project ABS best practices and gender-inclusive models are replicated and scaled up in the target provinces and beyond.* Outcome 3 is expected to materialize via delivery of two **Outputs**:**

- **Output 3.1.** *ABS outreach and awareness campaign for decision-makers, communities and private sector;*
- **Output 3.2.** *Gender-inclusive ABS best practices and lessons learned by the project are made available for replication by other provinces, and shared regionally and internationally*

Achievement of the Outcome 3 has the following assumptions: (a) key stakeholders, including decision-makers, communities, and the private sector, are willing to participate in and engage with ABS awareness and outreach campaign; (b) there is active participation from women and other marginalized groups in ABS initiatives and knowledge dissemination activities; (c) provincial stakeholders are interested to replicate and scale up of ABS best practices and gender-inclusive models developed by the project. Component 3 is based on the **GEF Lever 4 – Innovation and Learning**.

To promote **gender-equitable participation** through all project Outputs, under Component 3 the project will integrate a structured Gender Mainstreaming Plan that will be developed at PPG stage and updated annually. This implementation plan will ensure active and equitable involvement of women in all project activities, including a 50% participation target for women in consultation processes. The project emphasizes capacity-building for project partners to support gender inclusion and develop strategies that empower women as active contributors to biodiversity management and conservation rather than merely beneficiaries. Additionally, gender-sensitive indicators will be established within the project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to track progress and impact on gender equity systematically, ensuring that goals are both monitored and achieved. In practice, the project will highlight gender-inclusive models within ABS initiatives, documenting and sharing best practices both regionally and internationally to encourage replication. The M&E system itself will be designed to be participatory and gender-sensitive, supporting adaptive management and aligning with the RBM approach of UNDP and GEF. Through community outreach, local women's groups will also receive targeted training and resources, enabling them to engage actively in ABS initiatives and local decision-making processes. By promoting inclusive practices, the project aims to not only foster gender equity but also enhance the overall effectiveness and sustainability of biodiversity conservation efforts.

Component 4. *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)* is designed to support Components 1-3 in effective delivery of the Outputs and achievement of the Outcomes 1-3. It will lead to **Outcome 4.** *Effective project Adaptive Management based on M&E* through delivery of the project **Output 4.1.** *Participatory and gender sensitive M&E system to measure the project effectiveness and tests the project Theory of Change.* The assumptions behind the achievement of the Outcome 4 are: (a) all stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and the private sector, are willing to participate actively in the M&E process; (b) sufficient capacity exists within the project team and stakeholders to conduct M&E activities effectively.

By achieving these four Outcomes, the project creates a comprehensive and robust ABS framework in Thailand (Project Objective). Improved policies and institutional capacities (Outcome 1) lay the groundwork for effective ABS implementation. Increased community involvement (Outcome 2) ensures equitable benefit-sharing and empowers local stakeholders. Replication and scaling up of best practices (Outcome 3) enhance the reach and sustainability of successful ABS models. Effective adaptive management (Outcome 4) ensures continuous improvement and alignment with international frameworks. The assumptions behind achievement

of the project Objective are: (a) there is sustained political will and commitment for ABS at all levels of government; (b) stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and the private sector, remain engaged and supportive on the long run; (c) adequate resources, including funding and technical expertise, are available throughout the project and after its completion. Achievement of the project Objective is supported by the following Impact Drivers: *High interest of Thailand Government to sustainable development and ABS; Interest of local communities to sustainable and profitable use of natural resources; High dependency of some economic sectors on healthy ecosystem, biological and genetic resources; National and regional commitments to CBD and Nagoya protocol.* Private sector companies in Thailand are assumed to support ABS activities because these initiatives secure access to valuable genetic resources within clear and fair legal frameworks, driving innovation, mitigating business risks, and enhancing market competitiveness.

The project is designed to increase the probability of **Future Scenario 1: Sustainable Growth and Biodiversity Conservation**. However, the project also is significant in terms of resilience for both negative scenarios considered in this proposal: **Future Scenario 2: Economic Growth with Environmental Degradation** and **Scenario 3: Climate Change and Socioeconomic Challenges**:

- **Resilience within Scenario 2. Economic Growth with Environmental Degradation:** The project design addresses this by (1) strengthening ABS frameworks to prevent overexploitation of genetic resources and ensure fair benefit-sharing, which can mitigate the environmental impacts of economic activities; (2) enhancing the capacity of local communities to engage in sustainable practices, reducing their reliance on activities that degrade the environment; (3) implementing ABS initiatives in critical areas (such as tropical forests), which can reduce deforestation rates and protect vulnerable ecosystems. Through these interventions, the project aims to create a buffer against the negative impacts of unchecked economic growth, promoting practices that balance economic development with environmental conservation.
- **Resilience within Scenario 3. Climate Change and Socioeconomic Challenges:** The project's resilience strategy includes: (1) incorporating climate risk assessments into project planning to identify vulnerable ecosystems and communities, ensuring that ABS initiatives are climate-resilient; (2) supporting diversification of livelihoods for local communities, reducing their dependence on climate-sensitive resources and increasing their resilience to climate impacts; (3) enhancing knowledge management and dissemination of best practices, which helps communities and stakeholders adapt to changing environmental conditions. The project's focus on building adaptive capacity within communities and strengthening institutional frameworks ensures that even in the face of climate change, the initiatives remain effective and beneficial.

As mentioned above, the project is going to be implemented in four northern provinces of Thailand: Chiangrai, Chiangmai, Nan, Phrae (see Annex C: Project Area Map). These provinces have 1,769 villages, 1,680 community forest areas, and a total forested area of 125,325 ha under community management. The project will specifically focus on up to 442 local villages with total forest area under community management of 62,662 ha in the target provinces.

Incremental Cost Reasoning

With GEF incremental support, the project will catalyze transformative change by developing Thailand's national ABS policy framework, enhancing capacity at all levels, and expanding community-based ABS initiatives in key biodiversity areas of Thailand. The project will (a) establish clear and enforceable ABS policies, operational procedures, and legal frameworks in line with the Nagoya Protocol; (b) build the capacity of government institutions, private sector stakeholders, and local communities to negotiate and implement ABS agreements; (c) support the development of Community-Based Biological Resources Management Units in four provinces to ensure local participation in ABS governance; and (d) scale up ABS knowledge management and awareness campaigns to enable replication of best practices at a national level. Through these interventions, the project will help conserve biodiversity, ensure equitable benefit-sharing, and contribute to sustainable economic growth in Thailand.

The Thai government and national agencies, including BEDO, ONEP, and the Royal Forest Department, have committed \$14 million in co-financing to support biodiversity conservation efforts in the project framework. These funds alone are insufficient to meet the full incremental costs required to achieve the global environmental benefits, as they provide parallel funding that supports baseline biodiversity management and routine regulatory functions, but not a transformative and innovative shift in ABS operationalization and implementation, policy coherence, and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms. Without GEF support, these efforts will remain localized and insufficient to drive systemic ABS adoption nationwide. The GEF contribution of \$1.685 million will fill critical funding gaps by financing ABS policy development, capacity-building programs, and pilot ABS initiatives in four target provinces. These investments will create a robust enabling environment, allowing Thailand to fully operationalize its ABS framework, engage communities in sustainable genetic resource management, and ensure long-term conservation benefits. The GEF increment will allow achieve a number of Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) in Thailand that are described below.

Expected Global Environmental Benefits of the project

The project will lead to the following **Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs)**, demonstrating high incremental value of this initiative:

-Improved Management of Landscapes for Biodiversity and Sustainable Production: 62,662 ha (excluding Protected Areas) through integration of ABS projects in the ecosystem and biodiversity management around selected local villages in 4 northern provinces of Thailand (Chiangrai, Chiangmai, Nan, Phrae) (GEF CI 4.1);

-Avoided emissions of carbon dioxide: introduction of ABS mechanism in the project area is expected to decrease deforestation rate and result in total avoided emission of 91,489 metric tons of CO₂e (GEF CI 6.5)

-Total number of direct project beneficiaries: ~6,500 local people (estimated 5% of total population of selected 442 forest villages (~300 people/village) calculated as 132,600), including 50% females benefiting from local ABS initiatives. This number includes people directly involved in the community-based ABS projects and receiving additional income as well as members of their families (GEF CI 11).

Expected Co-Benefits of the project

The project is expected to produce multiple co-benefits, including:

- **Livelihood Improvement and Economic Benefits:** the project will create jobs through community-based ABS initiatives and capacity-building programs, directly improving the economic status of local communities. Through sustainable use and management of biodiversity resources, communities can generate additional income, which will enhance their overall economic well-being. Development and implementation of financial mechanisms and partnerships with the private sector will attract investments, promoting economic growth at the local level;
- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Enhancement:** the project will provide ABS training and mentoring programs, enhancing the skills and knowledge of local communities, government officials, and private sector stakeholders. Extending a Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank) to four provinces and disseminating ABS best practices and lessons learned will improve knowledge management and foster innovation in biodiversity conservation;
- **Social and Gender Inclusivity:** the project will promote gender-inclusive ABS models, ensuring that women and marginalized groups are actively involved and benefit from ABS initiatives. By involving local communities in decision-making processes and ABS projects, the project will empower these communities, promoting social equity and inclusiveness;
- **Improved Governance and Policy Frameworks:** strengthening national ABS policies and operational frameworks will enhance governance structures, making them more supportive of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Capacity-building programs for provincial and local governments will improve institutional capacities to implement and manage ABS policies effectively;
- **Health and Well-being:** by promoting sustainable use of biodiversity resources, the project will contribute to better living conditions for local communities, including access to clean water, food security, and improved health outcomes. Strengthening community resilience through sustainable biodiversity management will reduce vulnerability to environmental and economic shocks.

[1] Biological Diversity Act, 2002

[2] <https://andesfiles.s3.sa-east-1.amazonaws.com/Publications/24+Asociacion+ANDES+Conserving+Indegenous+Biocultural+Heritage+in+Peru.pdf>

[3] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7065993/>

[4] <https://www.cbd.int/financial/bensharing/costarica-absinbio.pdf>

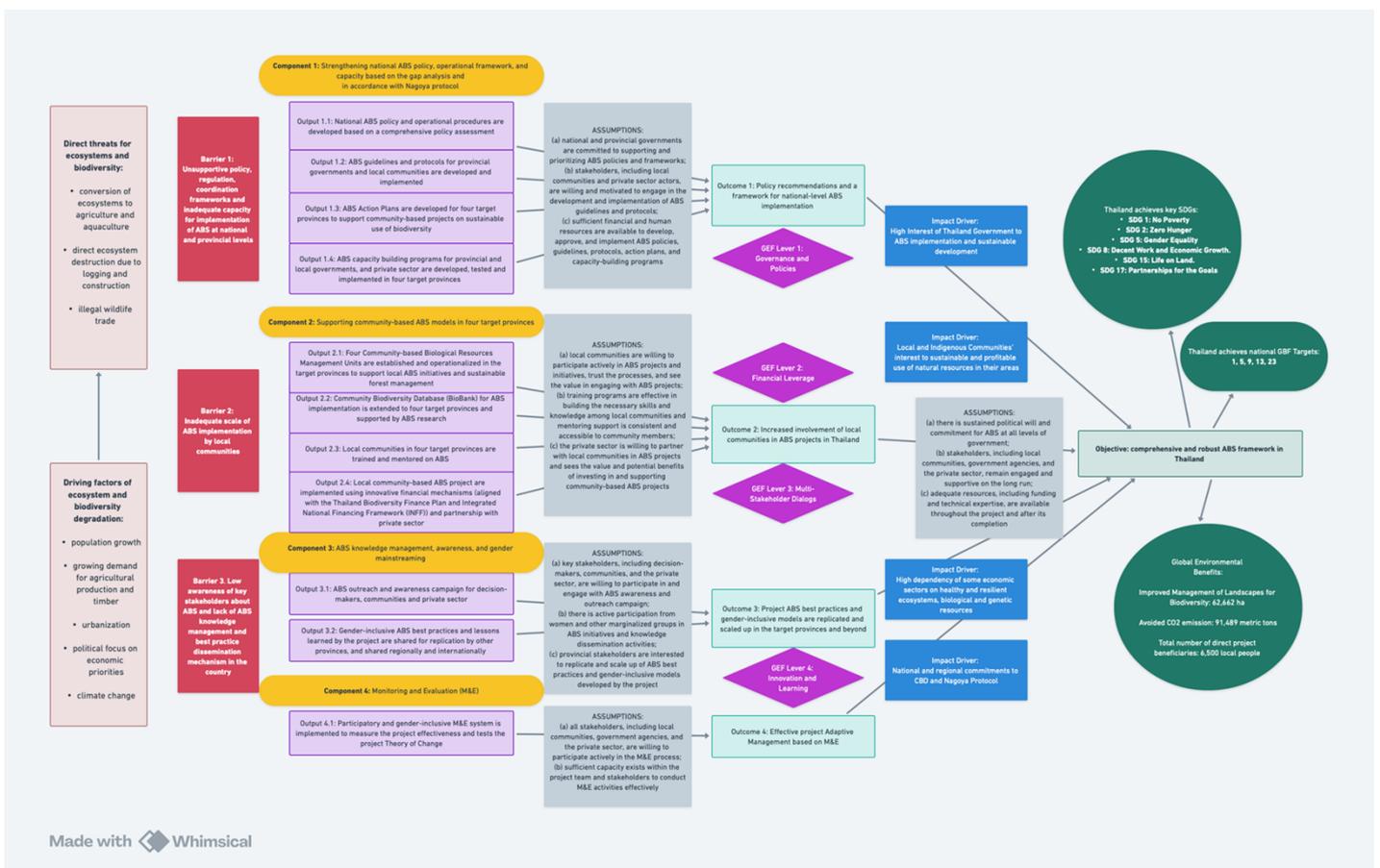


Figure 1. Project Theory of Change

Project Outputs (direct project products and services)

Brief description of the project Outputs is provided below:

Project Outputs (direct project products and services)

Brief description of the project Outputs is provided below:

Component 1. *Strengthening national ABS policy, operational framework, and capacity based on the gap analysis and in accordance with Nagoya protocol***Outcome 1.** *Policy recommendations and a framework for national-level ABS implementation***Output 1.1.** *National ABS policy and operational procedures are developed based on a comprehensive policy assessment*

Thailand still lacks a comprehensive national legislation and operational procedures that specifically address ABS in a holistic manner. So, under this Output the project will make a comprehensive analysis of the national policy and legislation that currently governs aspects of ABS in the country and will define the key gaps that have to be covered. Based on the analysis, the project will produce the most needed pieces of ABS policy, policy, and operational procedures that clearly defines the rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders (Mutually Agreed Terms and Prior Informed Consent), including providers and users of genetic resources. The updated policy and legal framework will ensure (1) clear and streamlined procedures for granting permits for access to genetic resources, including detailed guidelines on application, approval, and compliance processes; (2) defined benefit-sharing arrangements that ensure fair and equitable distribution of both monetary and non-monetary benefits to the local communities providing the genetic resources; (3) legal recognition and protection of traditional knowledge, ensuring that communities receive appropriate benefits from the use of their knowledge. For example, the project may support the process of finalizing the draft Biodiversity Act developed in 2019, which is designed to incorporate key aspects of the Nagoya Protocol regarding fair and equitable access to and utilization of genetic resources. This proposed legislation emphasizes Prior Informed Consent (PIC): requiring users to obtain permission from the competent national authority and local communities before accessing genetic resources; and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT): establishing agreements between users and providers detailing the conditions of access and benefit-sharing. The produced policy, legislation, and operational procedures will be discussed with key stakeholders, and approved by MNRE and the National Assembly (in case of legislation) for implementation. Additionally, the project will develop a national roadmap to guide Thailand's steps toward ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, ensuring alignment with international standards and strengthening the foundation for ABS practices in the country. This roadmap will outline specific actions, timelines, and responsible agencies to support Thailand's ratification efforts, thus reinforcing the project's commitment to a comprehensive, participatory, and globally aligned ABS framework. Gender will be mainstreamed in the output by ensuring the development of national ABS policy and operational procedures incorporates gender-responsive approaches, including consultations with both women and men, addressing gender-differentiated needs, and promoting women's active participation in policy-making and capacity-building activities.

Output 1.2. *ABS guidelines and protocols for provincial governments and local communities are developed and implemented*

Under this Output the project will produce ABS guidelines and protocols for provincial government and local communities (based on the national policy, legislation and operational procedures produced under Output 1.1) that are practical, culturally sensitive, and aligned with the Nagoya Protocol principles regarding fair and equitable access to and utilization of genetic resources. Regarding the guidelines, the project will develop clear, concise, and inclusive guidelines that outline the ABS processes, roles, and responsibilities of all stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, private sector, and research institutions. The guidelines will cover aspects of setting up of effective ABS projects with local communities. The protocols will specifically address the protection and inclusion of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, simplified access procedures, and benefit-sharing mechanisms. The project will ensure that these protocols recognize the rights of local communities and outline procedures for obtaining prior informed consent (PIC) and mutually agreed terms (MAT) for the use of traditional knowledge and biological resources. The ABS guidelines and protocols will be endorsed by MNRE and distributed among provincial and local governments and local communities in four target provinces. Additionally, under the Output 1.4 the project will provide required ABS trainings to the provincial governments on implementation of the developed ABS guidelines and protocols. Gender will be mainstreamed by developing ABS guidelines and protocols that are gender-responsive, ensuring equitable access to information and resources for both women and men, and promoting women's active participation in the design, implementation, and dissemination of these guidelines at provincial and community levels.

Output 1.3. *ABS Action Plans are developed for four target provinces to support community-based projects on sustainable use of biodiversity*

Under this Output the project will produce a template for a provincial ABS Action Plan, a guiding document for development of community-based ABS initiatives at provincial level. The Action Plan template will be approved by MNRE and provided to provincial governments for development and implementation. Additionally, the project will assist four target provinces to develop their ABS Action Plans, that should align with national ABS policy and legislation (supported under Output 1.1) and international agreements such as the Nagoya Protocol (regarding fair and equitable access to and utilization of genetic resources), define roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders, include necessary measures for capacity building and setting up ABS initiatives with local communities based on the guidelines and protocols produced under Output 1.2. The ABS Action Plans will guide delivery of the Outputs 1.4 and 2.1-2.4 in the target provinces. Gender will be mainstreamed by ensuring the development of ABS Action Plans for the four target provinces includes gender analysis, promotes equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes, and incorporates specific actions to address women's needs, roles, and contributions in community-based biodiversity projects.

Output 1.4. *ABS capacity building programs for provincial and local governments, and private sector are developed, tested and implemented in four target provinces.*

Under this output, the project will develop comprehensive capacity-building programs aimed at enhancing the understanding and implementation of ABS principles among provincial and local governments, as well as private sector stakeholders in four target provinces. The capacity-building programs will be tailored to address the specific needs and contexts of each province, ensuring relevance and effectiveness and will be based on the ABS policies, guidelines, and Action Plans developed under Outputs 1.1-1.3. The capacity building programs will be developed based on the thorough assessments to identify knowledge gaps and capacity-building needs among government officials and private sector representatives, tested, and delivered in the project framework. It is expected that the project will train at least 200 government officials and private sector representatives (50% women) that will be directly involved in coordination, development, and implementation of community-based ABS initiatives under support of the provincial Community-based Biological Resources Management Units (Output 2.1). Gender will be mainstreamed by designing and implementing ABS capacity-building programs that ensure equal access for women and men, address gender-specific needs, promote women's leadership, and include targeted outreach to empower women in provincial and local governments, the private sector, and community-based initiatives.

Component 2. *Supporting community-based ABS models in four target provinces*

Outcome 2. *Increased involvement of local communities in ABS projects in Thailand*

Output 2.1. *Four Community-based Biological Resources Management Units are established and operationalized in the target provinces to support local ABS initiatives and sustainable forest management*

Under this output, the ABS project will establish and operationalize four community-based Biological Resources Management Units (BRMUs) in the target provinces. These units will serve as the primary local entities (coordinated by BEDO) responsible for managing biological resources and facilitating ABS initiatives at the community level. Each BRMU will have at least four officers/staff supported by provincial government and a share of income from ABS initiatives. The BRMU staff will be trained by BEDO to implement coordination, technical support, and capacity building functions for local communities involved in ABS projects. BRMUs will directly work with local communities to plan and implement ABS projects (Outputs 2.3 and 2.4), develop partnerships with private sector and research organizations, develop and update the Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank) of biological and genetic resources (Output 2.2), and document and disseminate lessons learned from the community ABS projects (Output 3.2). Additionally, under this Output the project will work with research institutions and private sector companies to update the BioBank database based on the completed and on-going biological and genetic research related to ABS mechanism. Gender will be mainstreamed by ensuring that the establishment and operationalization of CBRMUs actively promote women's participation and leadership, provide equal opportunities for capacity-building, and address gender-specific roles and needs in the sustainable management of biological resources.

Output 2.2. *Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank) for ABS implementation is extended to four target provinces and supported by ABS research*

Leveraging BEDO experience in Thailand, the project will extend the Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank) to four target provinces. This initiative will facilitate the systematic documentation, management, and utilization of biological resources for ABS implementation. The BioBank Database will serve as a critical tool for supporting local ABS initiatives, promoting sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensuring equitable benefit-sharing. It will ensure seamless integration of the new biological and genetic data with the existing BEDO biodiversity database, enhancing the overall comprehensiveness and utility of the information, and will facilitate inter-provincial data connectivity to enable cross-provincial analysis and resource management in collaboration with ABS research. The provincial databases will be managed by BRMUs (Output 2.1). Gender will be mainstreamed by ensuring that the expansion of the Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank) incorporates sex-disaggregated data, promotes equal access to information for women and men, and engages women in data collection, management, and decision-making processes related to ABS implementation.

Output 2.3. *Local communities in four target provinces are trained and mentored on ABS*

Under this output, BEDO and BRMUs will deliver comprehensive training and mentoring programs to local communities as well as community enterprises that will be directly involved in ABS initiatives in four target provinces, enhancing their capacity to engage in ABS initiatives. Special attention in the training programs will be paid to PIC and MAT concepts. This support will empower communities to manage their biological resources sustainably, negotiate fair benefit-sharing agreements, and participate actively in biodiversity conservation efforts. The project will train at least 500 local people (50% are women) in the target communities. This Output will be delivered in coordination with Output 2.4 and will provide communities with necessary knowledge and skills for development and implementation of ABS projects with BEDO and BRMU support. Gender will be mainstreamed by designing and delivering ABS training and mentoring programs that ensure equal participation of women and men, address gender-specific capacity needs, promote women's leadership roles, and include tailored approaches to overcome barriers to women's full engagement in ABS-related activities.

Output 2.4. *Local community-based ABS projects are implemented using innovative financial mechanisms (aligned with the Thailand Biodiversity Finance Plan and Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)) and partnership with private sector*

Under this Output, the project will facilitate the development and implementation of specific ABS projects driven by local communities in four target provinces. The projects will be based on formal agreements between communities, BEDO and private sector entities or research organizations based on the Mutually Agreed Terms (MET) and supported by Prior Informed Consent (PIC) from local communities. These projects will leverage innovative financial mechanisms (aligned with the Thailand Biodiversity Finance Plan and Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)^[1]) and foster partnerships with the private sector to ensure sustainability, economic viability, and equitable benefit-sharing. These initiatives aim to promote biodiversity conservation while enhancing the livelihoods of local communities in the target provinces. Through the Output the BEDO and BRMUs will work with selected local villages to involve them in implementation of ABS initiatives on the forested area of 62,662 ha managed by communities. The key local ABS initiatives will be focused on (1) food and beverages; (2) skincare and beauty products; (3) health products; and (4) fabric & accessories, where BEDO has a lot of experience. Gender will be mainstreamed by ensuring that the design and implementation of local community-based ABS projects promote women's equal access to financial resources, enhance women's participation in decision-making processes, and address gender-specific economic needs and opportunities.

Component 3. *ABS knowledge management, awareness, and gender mainstreaming*

Outcome 3. *Project ABS best practices and gender-inclusive models are replicated and scaled up in the target provinces and beyond*

Output 3.1. *ABS outreach and awareness campaign for decision-makers, communities and private sector*

Under this output, the project will launch a comprehensive outreach and awareness campaign in four target provinces aimed at increasing understanding and engagement with ABS principles among decision-makers, local communities, and the private sector. The campaign will employ a variety of communication channels, including workshops, seminars, media broadcasts, and digital platforms, to disseminate information on the importance of ABS, its legal frameworks, and the benefits of participating in ABS initiatives. By fostering a deeper awareness and appreciation of ABS, the campaign will promote the sustainable use of biodiversity resources, equitable benefit-sharing, and collaborative efforts in biodiversity conservation. Gender will be mainstreamed by ensuring that the ABS outreach and awareness campaign is gender-responsive, promotes equitable access to information for women and men, addresses gender-specific knowledge gaps, and actively engages women as key stakeholders, leaders, and communicators in ABS-related initiatives.

Output 3.2. *Gender-inclusive ABS best practices and lessons learned by the project are made available for replication by other provinces, and shared regionally and internationally*

Under this output, the project will document and disseminate gender-inclusive best practices and lessons learned from ABS initiatives to facilitate their replication in other provinces and to share knowledge regionally and internationally. This involves compiling case studies, guidelines, and success stories that highlight the integration of gender perspectives in ABS projects. The materials will be made accessible through various platforms, including publications, online portals, and regional workshops, ensuring wide reach and applicability. By promoting these inclusive practices, the project aims to enhance the effectiveness and equity of ABS implementation, fostering broader participation and benefit-sharing in biodiversity conservation efforts. Gender will be mainstreamed by documenting and sharing gender-inclusive ABS best practices and lessons learned, ensuring women's perspectives and experiences are highlighted, and promoting the replication of models that enhance women's participation, leadership, and equitable benefit-sharing in ABS initiatives both regionally and internationally.

Component 4. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Outcome 4. *Effective project Adaptive Management based on M&E*

Output 4.1. *Participatory and gender sensitive M&E system to measure the project effectiveness, tests the project Theory of Change, ensures achievement of GEBs, and youth mainstreaming*

Under this Output the project will develop and implement a participatory and gender- and youth-inclusive M&E framework in accordance with the Results-Based Management (RBM) approach practiced by UNDP and GEF. For the M&E, the project will use Output, Outcome, and Impact Indicators monitored on a quarterly and annual basis. Additionally, the project will monitor Social and Environmental Risks that the project can produce in the project area and will establish a simple Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to respond to potential complaints of the local people. The M&E system will be applied to monitor the project effectiveness, check the project assumptions, and practice adaptive project management. Gender will be mainstreamed by establishing a participatory and gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system that includes sex-disaggregated data, tracks gender-specific outcomes, ensures women's active involvement in M&E processes, and assesses the project's effectiveness in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Key Stakeholders

The project Outputs are absolutely impossible to deliver without active stakeholder involvement. Thus, this project concept was developed using a transparent, open, and fully participatory approach with the involvement of different groups of stakeholders in Thailand and the project provinces (UNDP, National and Provincial Governments, BEDO, ONEP, Regional Forestry Offices, NGOs, private sector, academic and research institutions, community enterprises, and local communities, including indigenous peoples. Initial consultations were conducted during the PIF development during April-August 2024. The stakeholders group meeting was organized by BEDO on 16 August 2024. The consultation aimed to (1) inform all group of stakeholders on the project concept

preparation and allow them to participate in the concept development and share their concerns about the planned project; (2) identify key risks for the project development, implementation and sustainability of the Outputs and Outcomes, and develop indicative risk management measures; (3) identify potential project partners and clarify stakeholder roles in the project; and (4) obtain initial co-financing commitments for the project. As a result of the stakeholder consultations, the following groups of project stakeholders were identified for the project development and implementation Table 1):

Table 1. Key project stakeholders and their roles in the project

Stakeholder	Mandate/ Function	Role in the project development and implementation
Biodiversity-Based Economy Development Office (BEDO)	BEDO is mandated to promote the sustainable use and conservation of the country's biodiversity resources to drive economic development, including through ABS initiatives. BEDO facilitates the implementation of ABS frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge	Will manage the project development and implementation; Will be a Member of the PSC; Will be the Implementing Partner for the project Will provide direct support to delivery of all project Outputs
Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)	Developing national policies and strategies for the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, ensuring alignment with international agreements and national priorities. Coordinating the development and implementation of environmental plans and programs across various government agencies and sectors, promoting integrated and cohesive approaches.	Will participate in the project development and implementation; Will be a Member of the PSC Will assist the project in development of necessary ABS policies, operational procedures, and protocols under Component 1
Forestry Department: Forest Resources Management Offices No. 1 (Chiangmai province); Forest Resources Management Offices No. 2 (Chiangrai province); and Forest Resources Management Offices No. 3 (Phae and Nan provinces)	Responsible for managing forest resources in responsible provincial areas both in Protected areas and community forest areas in compliance with Forestry Act and Community Forest Act. Facilitate provincial committee on forest management and actions.	Will help coordinate local communities where the project will work with Will help provincial mechanisms to manage community forest areas with a support to local communities Will be members of the PSC. Will support BEDO to operate actions/activities in project areas Will provide part of the project co-financing
Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment (Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Phrae, Nan province)	Responsible for the management and conservation of natural resources and the environment within their respective provinces. <u>They work under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and collaborate on various environmental initiatives and policies</u>	Will assist local communities in management and conservation of natural resources (including biodiversity). Will collaborate with other local governments for biodiversity management.
Governments of Chiangrai, Chiangmai, Nan, Phrae provinces	Manages local economy and social-economic development, including environmental protection, climate adaptation, and ABS initiatives	Will participate in the project development and implementation; Will be a Member of the PSC;

		<p>Will assist the project in implementation of Components 1-4</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the project capacity building program</p>
Local and indigenous communities in target provinces ^[1]	Key project stakeholders and beneficiaries on the project areas involved in different economic sectors and nature resources management	<p>Key project stakeholders and beneficiaries;</p> <p>Will actively participate in developing, discussing and implementing of project activities, policies, plans, and ABS initiatives;</p> <p>Will share traditional knowledge and provide information for the Social and Environmental screening of the project;</p> <p>Will participate in the project M&E by actively providing feedback, sharing traditional knowledge, and engaging in community-led monitoring and evaluation activities</p>
<p>Indigenous People Organizations in the target Provinces, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) Network of Indigenous Peoples in Thailand (NIPT) Inter-Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT) 	Promoting and defending the rights of indigenous peoples in Thailand; education and cultural preservation of indigenous communities in Thailand's mountainous regions	<p>Will be represented as Members of the PSC;</p> <p>Will participate in the project M&E by actively providing feedback, sharing traditional knowledge, and engaging in community-led monitoring and evaluation activities</p>
Private sector (pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, agriculture and agribusiness companies, cosmetics and personal care industry, food and beverage industry, local MSMEs and community enterprises)	Rely on biological and genetic resources for implementation of their business models	<p>Will participate in the project development and implementation</p> <p>Will be involved in all project activities, especially in the Outcome 2 activities;</p>
Academic and Research Institutions	Scientific research of biological and genetic resources, development, and technical advice on the ecosystem conservation policies and approaches	<p>Will provide technical expertise and resources for ABS policy development and capacity building, development of ABS initiatives, and monitoring of project effectiveness (Components 1-4);</p> <p>Will participate in the project M&E by providing technical expertise and contributing to the specific monitoring of project outcomes and impacts</p>
Non-governmental environmental organizations (NGOs)	Possess knowledge and experience in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, capacity building, awareness raising, and environmental education for local communities and other groups of stakeholders	<p>Will be members of the PSC;</p> <p>Will actively participate in developing and discussing of project activities;</p>

		<p>Will be involved in all project activities, especially under Component 3;</p> <p>Will be involved in the project M&E by facilitating community engagement, providing independent assessments, and ensuring that monitoring and evaluation processes are inclusive and transparent.</p>
GIZ Thailand	Collaborative Initiative with BEDO and ONEP to prepare stakeholders of Thailand for the Nagoya Protocol ratification and implementation	<p>Will be involved in the full project development (PPG stage) and implementation of Component 1.</p> <p>Will potentially provide partial co-financing for the project</p>
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other UNDP/GEF projects	Assistance to sustainable development and biodiversity conservation programs in Thailand, including implementation of Nagoya Protocol principles regarding fair and equitable access to and utilization of genetic resources	GEF Implementing Agency. Oversight of the project management, coordination with other UNDP and GEF initiatives in Thailand, project Quality Assurance.
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Work to strengthen the capacity of Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand, to implement CBD provisions on ABS. It focuses on increasing stakeholder understanding of ABS issues and improving public awareness of ABS's contributions to biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.	Consultations and technical ABS guidance for the project development and implementation. Sharing lessons learned with the project.

[1] Thailand Constitution and legislation do not recognize any ethnic groups as indigenous, but some tribes may fall under indigenous people definition by 'UNDP and Indigenous Peoples: A Policy of Engagement' 2001

At the PPG Stage the project will produce a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the entire project lifetime to coordinate and manage stakeholders involvement in the project activities and empowerment. Project stakeholders and their roles in the project development and implementation will be explicitly described in the Plan. **The project design can be flexibly adjusted depending on consultations with Indigenous Peoples groups at PPG stage, and ONEP and UNDP will provide evidence of how project design has been adjusted based on consultation with Indigenous People groups for the GEF CEO Approval.** The stakeholder empowerment in the project framework will focus on the following aspects:

Empowerment of Local Communities: one of the core objectives of the project is to enhance the involvement and capacity of local communities in ABS initiatives. By establishing BRMUs in the target provinces, the project provides these communities with the necessary infrastructure and support to manage their biological resources sustainably. These units will facilitate the development and implementation of community-driven ABS projects, ensuring that local communities have a direct role in decision-making processes related to biodiversity conservation and the use of genetic resources. Additionally, the project will offer comprehensive training and mentoring programs to build the skills and knowledge of community members, enabling them to negotiate fair ABS agreements and engage effectively in biodiversity management. This capacity-building effort will empower approximately 6,500 local people, including a significant number of women, promoting social equity and inclusiveness in the conservation efforts;

Strengthening Institutional Capacities and Policy Frameworks: the project aims to strengthen the national ABS policy operational framework and capacity by developing key ABS policies, guidelines, action plans, and training programs. This will involve working closely with national and provincial governments, as well as other stakeholders, to create a robust legal and institutional framework that supports sustainable biodiversity management. By enhancing the capacity of government officials and private sector

stakeholders through targeted training programs, the project ensures that there is a well-informed and capable network of individuals who can implement and enforce ABS policies effectively. This institutional empowerment is crucial for creating an enabling environment where stakeholders at all levels can participate in and benefit from ABS initiatives, thereby fostering a collaborative approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Knowledge

Generating knowledge and lessons learned is a considerable part of the project: the project proposes Output 3.2 under Component 3 designed for the Knowledge Management and dissemination of ABS lessons and best practices. The following knowledge products will be produced by the project: knowledge management strategy, quarterly and annual project reports, best practices manual, technical briefs and policy papers, training programs and curricula, and media products. The project will create visibility for knowledge and lessons learned using the following tools: **Local Workshops and Trainings:** interactive sessions held in target provinces to engage local communities, share project progress, and gather feedback, including hands-on training and participatory planning exercises; **National and Regional Webinars:** online seminars to disseminate knowledge to a wider audience, including government officials, NGOs, and private sector representatives; **International Webinars:** sessions aimed at sharing the project's experiences and best practices with global audiences, particularly in the South East Asia Region; **Global Conferences:** participation in international fora such as the Nagoya Protocol conferences, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meetings, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) events; **Regional Platforms:** engagement with regional bodies like the ASEAN to share knowledge and collaborate on ABS initiatives; **Local and National Conferences:** participating in conferences within Thailand to present project findings and foster collaboration among local stakeholders.

Project contribution to the policy coherence

The proposed project aims to significantly enhance policy coherence in Thailand by integrating the principles of ABS and biodiversity conservation across various policy domains and levels of governance. This integration is critical for achieving the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) as outlined by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project contributes to policy coherence in the following ways:

- **Horizontal Policy Coherence:** The project promotes the integration of ABS principles into various sectors that rely on biodiversity and genetic resources by developing specific ABS policies, guidelines, and protocols, such as the Plant Variety Protection Act and the Protection and Promotion of Traditional Thai Medicinal Intelligence Act (Outputs 1.1-1.2). For instance, under the Plant Variety Protection Act, guidelines will be developed to ensure that local communities benefit from the commercial use of their native plant varieties (Output 1.2). Additionally, the project aligns with multiple SDGs, particularly SDG 15 (Life on Land), by promoting sustainable use and conservation of terrestrial ecosystems through these ABS mechanisms. The ABS policy framework, including the Protection and Promotion of Traditional Thai Medicinal Intelligence Act, will support SDG 1 (No Poverty) by ensuring that traditional knowledge holders receive fair compensation, SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by promoting the sustainable use of genetic resources in forestry and agriculture, leading to the development of improved crop varieties and agricultural practices that increase productivity and resilience, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting gender-inclusive ABS models and ensuring that women and marginalized groups are actively involved and benefit from ABS initiatives, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by fostering equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms that enhance local livelihoods through sustainable bioprospecting and the development of biodiversity-based economic activities, SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by ensuring that the benefits derived from genetic resources are distributed equitably among all stakeholders, particularly marginalized communities, and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by promoting sustainable practices in the use and conservation of biodiversity, thereby reducing overexploitation and ensuring the responsible management of natural resources. Finally, the project supports SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by fostering strong partnerships between government agencies, local communities, the private sector, and research institutions.
- **Vertical Policy Coherence:** The project enhances vertical policy coherence by ensuring that national ABS policies and protocols, such as those outlined in the Plant Variety Protection Act and the Protection and Promotion of Traditional Thai Medicinal Intelligence Act, are effectively implemented at provincial and local levels. This is achieved through the development of specific provincial ABS Action Plans (Output 1.3), tailored to local biodiversity and community needs, and the establishment of Community-based Biological

Resources Management Units (BRMUs) in provinces like Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Nan, and Phrae (Output 2.1). These units will facilitate the implementation of local ABS initiatives by providing technical support, capacity-building, and monitoring to ensure alignment with national policies and international commitments under the Nagoya Protocol, thereby bridging the gap between national strategies and grassroots actions.

By promoting policy coherence, the project minimizes negative spillovers such as habitat destruction due to conflicting land use policies. The development and implementation of comprehensive ABS framework will help mitigate activities that could undermine biodiversity conservation efforts, ensuring that positive impacts are not negated by incoherent policies.

Innovativeness, Potential for Transformation and Scaling Up

Innovativeness and Transformation Potential: The project introduces a pioneering approach to ABS in Thailand by establishing and implementing community-based ABS protocols based on the Mutually Agreed Terms (MET) and supported by Prior Informed Consent (PIC) from local communities fully in line with requirement of the Nagoya Protocol in up to 442 local villages across Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Nan, and Phrae provinces, covering 62,662 ha of forested area under community management. For example, the project will develop and implement ABS guidelines and protocols specifically tailored for provincial governments and local communities (Output 1.2) and establish Community-based Biological Resources Management Units (BRMUs) to support these initiatives (Output 2.1). Additionally, the project will extend the Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank) to these provinces, enabling systematic documentation and management of biological resources (Output 2.2). This initiative marks the first-ever implementation of local/community ABS protocols in the country, aligning with the Nagoya Protocol's principles and strengthening the national ABS framework. The project is innovative and transformative in its approach to empowering local communities to take ownership of their biological and genetic resources, fostering sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing, whilst part of this transformative potential is aimed at contributing for further enhancement and facilitation of deliberations, within Thailand, towards the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol.

Scaling Up: the project's success in the pilot communities will serve as a model for broader implementation across Thailand. The demonstrated results and best practices will provide a compelling case for scaling up community-based ABS protocols to other community forests and villages hosting biological and genetic resources. ABS awareness campaign will highlight the benefits of community-based ABS protocols and initiatives, garnering broader support and participation from various stakeholders. By pioneering an innovative, community-driven approach to ABS and providing a scalable model, the project aims to transform ABS practices in Thailand, ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biological and genetic resources, and contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the frame of Nagoya Protocol and beyond.

Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

To improve the gender equality in the context of the GEF project, appropriate gender and social measures will be fully considered in during PPG phase and will be tracked as part of the project M&E system. During the project development stages, the PPG team will try to involve as many women as possible in the consultation process (50% of women participation target). To implement gender mainstreaming, the project will develop and annually update the Gender Mainstreaming Plan. The Gender Mainstreaming Plan will guide project implementation to build project partner capacity to mainstream gender and bring along strategies that empower women as agents of positive change rather than as victims of environmental degradation and climate change. This plan will also facilitate a multi-stakeholder analysis of the gender issues with a clear set of measurable gender indicators. The total estimated budget the project will allocate to implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming plan is USD 197,316, including salary of Gender

and Safeguard Officer (half-time employment) - USD 28,800, and gender mainstreaming activities budget (~10% of project budget) - USD 168,516.

Private Sector involvement

The private sector will play a crucial role in the ABS project by providing financial investment, technical expertise, and market access essential for the successful implementation and sustainability of community-based ABS initiatives. Pharmaceutical, biotech, and cosmetic companies will engage in fair ABS agreements, ensuring that benefits derived from the use of genetic resources are shared equitably with local communities. These companies will invest in sustainable bioprospecting practices, funding the research and development of products that utilize Thailand's rich biodiversity while adhering to the principles of the Nagoya Protocol regarding fair and equitable access to and utilization of genetic resources. By partnering with local communities and government agencies, the private sector will facilitate the commercialization of bioproducts, enhancing the economic viability of ABS projects and creating new revenue streams for local communities. Private sector companies in Thailand will support ABS activities because these initiatives secure access to valuable genetic resources within clear and fair legal frameworks, driving innovation, mitigating business risks, and enhancing market competitiveness.

Moreover, the private sector will contribute to capacity-building efforts by providing technical support and training to local communities, enabling them to better manage their biological resources and engage in sustainable practices. Companies will collaborate with community-based Biological Resources Management Units (BRMUs) to develop and update the Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank), ensuring the accurate documentation and management of genetic resources. These partnerships will foster innovation in biodiversity conservation, promoting the development of value-added products that align with market demands while ensuring the conservation of Thailand's biodiversity. Through these collaborative efforts, the private sector will help bridge the gap between conservation and economic development, ensuring that biodiversity conservation initiatives are both environmentally sustainable and economically profitable. UNDP Policy on Due Diligence and Partnerships with the Private Sector guidelines^[3] will be followed to build collaboration with the private sector.

[1]<https://www.undp.org/thailand/publications/biodiversity-finance-plan>; <https://www.undp.org/thailand/press-releases/formulating-thailands-integrated-risk-informed-strategy-finance-sustainable-development>

[2] Thailand Constitution and legislation do not recognize any ethnic groups as indigenous, but some tribes may fall under indigenous people definition by 'UNDP and Indigenous Peoples: A Policy of Engagement' 2001

[3] <https://popp.undp.org/policy-page/policy-due-diligence-and-partnerships-private-sector>

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

No

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The project will be implemented in strong coordination and collaboration with other relevant programs and projects in the country and South-East Asia Region to ensure (1) **Resource Optimization**, including funding, expertise, and workforce, to avoid duplication of efforts and obtain co-financing; (2) **Knowledge and Experience Sharing** to enhance the effectiveness of each project, leading to more innovative and well-rounded solutions; and (3) **Synergy in objectives** to amplify their impact, making it

easier to achieve these shared objectives on a larger scale. Specifically, the project will directly collaborate with the following initiatives (Table 2):

Table 2. Coordination and collaboration with other relevant programs and projects

Project/Program	Objectives/Focus	Relevance to the ABS Project/Coordination
BEDO's Community BioBank Initiative, 2019 - ongoing	BEDO has initiated the Community BioBank project since 2019 to help local communities appreciate and utilize in-situ biodiversity values. This initiative encourages communities to create income-generating bio-economy products while conserving biological resources. BEDO works with over 100 communities, developing products across four categories: food and beverages, skincare and beauty, health products, and fabric & accessories.	The Community BioBank Initiative is directly relevant to the ABS project as it aligns with the project's goal of strengthening community-based ABS models and promoting biodiversity-based economic activities. The initiative will collaborate with the project by expanding the Community Biodiversity Database (BioBank) to the four target provinces, supporting community enterprises in developing value-added bio-economy products, and ensuring fair and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms for local communities, thereby enhancing sustainable use of Thailand's biological resources
GIZ Thailand Initiative to prepare Thailand for the Nagoya Protocol, 2024 - ongoing	The Initiative aims to prepare the country's experts, academics and relevant stakeholders for the implementation and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In 2024 GIZ in cooperation with BEDO and ONEP organized a series of nationwide workshops in 2024 aimed at preparing Thai stakeholders for Nagoya Protocol ratification and implementation	The GIZ Thailand Initiative is highly relevant to the ABS project as it directly supports the development of national ABS policies, operational frameworks, and capacity-building initiatives. The initiative will collaborate with the project by aligning ABS policy recommendations, guidelines, and action plans with the Nagoya Protocol, facilitating stakeholder engagement through workshops and training programs, and ensuring that government agencies, local communities, and private sector actors are well-prepared for Thailand's ABS implementation and future ratification of the Protocol
Community-based Projects of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), Eighth Operational Phase (GEF-8) 2023-Present	The GEF Small Grants Programme supports numerous community-based projects across Thailand. These projects often incorporate ABS principles by promoting sustainable use of biodiversity, enhancing local livelihoods, and ensuring that benefits are equitably shared.	The Community-based Projects of the GEF Small SGP are highly relevant to the ABS project as they support grassroots ABS-like initiatives and community-driven conservation efforts. The collaboration will focus on scaling up best ABS practices by integrating lessons from SGP-supported projects, providing technical and financial support for local ABS initiatives in the four target provinces, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods through biodiversity-based economic activities that align with the project's benefit-sharing mechanisms
Royal Forest Department Community Forest Development Program, 1991 - ongoing	Supported by the Royal Forest Department, this program encourages local communities to manage and protect community forests. It involves participatory forest management practices, capacity-building, and sustainable use of forest resources.	The RFD Community Forest Development Program is highly relevant to the ABS project as it promotes community-led forest management and sustainable resource use, aligning with the project's goal of integrating equal benefit sharing principles into local governance. Collaboration will focus on leveraging community-based Biological Resources Management Units (BRMUs) to enhance sustainable forest management, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing for local communities, and supporting capacity-building for biodiversity-based economic opportunities
UNDP/GBFF Project "Scaling up Capacities for Implementation of National	The project Objective: scaling up capacities for implementation of the national framework for ABS and associated traditional knowledge	The UNDP/GBFF Project in Philippines is relevant to the ABS project as both initiatives aim to strengthen ABS frameworks, promote equitable

Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of Genetic Resources Towards Inclusive Bioeconomy”, Philippines, 2022-2028	(aTK) and digital sequence information (DSI) between providers and users, to ensure gender responsive, fair and equitable share by indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), supporting the country’s transformation towards a bio-based economy, thereby protecting its significant biodiversity	benefit-sharing, and support bio-based economies. Collaboration will focus on knowledge exchange, sharing best practices, and lessons learned from ABS implementation in the Philippines, particularly regarding traditional knowledge (aTK), digital sequence information (DSI), and gender-responsive approaches to engaging Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)
UNDP/GBFF Project “Advancing ABS implementation in Cambodia”, 2024-2029	The project objective is to advance ABS implementation in Cambodia for conservation of biological diversity and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge	The UNDP/GBFF Project in Cambodia is relevant to the ABS project as both initiatives focus on strengthening ABS frameworks, conserving biodiversity, and ensuring equitable benefit-sharing from genetic resources and traditional knowledge. Collaboration will involve knowledge exchange, sharing best practices, and lessons learned from Cambodia’s ABS implementation, particularly in policy development, stakeholder engagement, and community-based ABS models
ROK-funded project on regional collaboration on ABS (2025)	The project’s objective is to support sharing best practices and knowledge on ABS implementation in Asia and includes Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Bhutan to advance the ABS’s agenda in the region	This is relevant to the project as might bring additional information to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Thailand, based on the experience from other countries, through a regional workshop, a policy brief on ABS in the region, etc.

Core Indicators

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
62662	0	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
62,662.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	91489	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	91,489			
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2026			
Duration of accounting	20			

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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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	3,250			
Male	3,250			
Total	6,500	0	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

CI 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (outside PAs): under the Outcome 2 the project will directly work with local communities in the Chiangrai, Chiangmai, Nan, Phrae provinces to introduce ABS initiatives on the 62,662 ha of forest ecosystems (including community forests) managed by the communities from 442 target villages.

CI 6. Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigated: the following data and assumptions were used for the initial estimates of the potential carbon gains by the ABS project: the area of the ABS initiatives (62,662 ha) represents 100% forested area; deforestation rate in the Chiangmai province was at 6.8% in terms of its total tree cover between 2002 and 2023; in Chiangrai and Nan – 3.0% for the same period; and in Phrae – 4.1% for the same period. The average deforestation rate for four target provinces was at 4.23% between 2002 and 2023, or 0.2% annually. It is assumed that without project the same deforestation rate would continue for the next 20 years, that will lead to the loss of 4% of the forest in the project area, or 2,507 ha. It is assumed based on experience of ABS projects in Chiapas, Mexico ; Kakamega Forest, Kenya ; and Western Ghats, India , that the deforestation rate in the project area is likely to decrease by 15% after four-years of ABS project implementation. Thus, in case of the ABS project in Thailand the deforestation rate may decrease by 0.17% annually. That will lead to loss of only 3.4% of forest, or 2,129 ha over the next 20 years if the rate stays stable. In the provinces of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Nan, and Phrae in Thailand, maize (corn) cultivation is the predominant agricultural activity following deforestation. Farmers often practice intensive tillage, involving plowing or turning the soil extensively before planting maize. The regular practice is minimal or negligible organic input. Commonly, farmers practice open burning of maize residues after harvest. The research conducted in northeastern Thailand's mountainous regions indicated that average maize yields were about 5.0 t/ha . These inputs were applied to the FAO Ex-Act Tool (v 9.3.3), which resulted in total avoided emissions of 91,489 metric tons of CO₂e (four years of the project implementation and 16 years of capitalization). See Annex H. FAO Ex-Act Tool.

CI 11. People directly benefiting from the GEF investment: ~6,500 local people (estimated 5% of total population of selected 442 forest villages (~300 people/village) calculated as 132,600), including 50% females benefiting from local ABS initiatives. This number includes people directly involved in the community-based ABS projects and receiving additional income as well as members of their families. The number of beneficiaries will be revisited and linked to specific project activities at the PPG stage.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	The risk associated with the climate category for the ABS project in Thailand involves the potential for adverse consequences of climate-related hazards. These hazards include

		<p>increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and storms, which could significantly impact project activities, biodiversity, and local communities. The interaction of these hazards with vulnerable ecosystems and communities could lead to disruptions in the project's execution, reduced effectiveness of biodiversity conservation efforts, and threats to the livelihoods and well-being of local populations. Mitigation Strategies: Conduct a climate vulnerability assessment to identify communities and ecosystems at risk and prioritize areas for resilience improvements. Collaborate with meteorological agencies to integrate advanced weather forecasting technologies and ensure communities have access to real-time weather updates. Integrate climate risk assessments into project planning and execution of the project Outputs. Support the diversification of livelihoods to reduce dependency on climate-sensitive resources for ABS.</p>
Environmental and Social	Substantial	<p>The environment and social risks for the ABS project in Thailand involve potential negative impacts due to environmental changes and social dynamics. These risks include biodiversity loss, soil degradation, water scarcity, demographic changes, and social exclusion. For example, continued habitat destruction and fragmentation could lead to further declines in biodiversity, undermining conservation goals and reducing the availability of genetic resources. Marginalized groups, including indigenous communities and women, may not fully benefit from ABS initiatives due to lack of representation and participation in decision-making processes. Mitigation Strategies: Empower local communities to manage natural resources sustainably through ABS projects. Ensure that marginalized groups, including women and indigenous peoples, are actively involved in ABS projects. This includes promoting their representation in decision-making processes and ensuring equitable benefit-sharing. Specific measures as Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of policies, plans, and protocols produced by the project; development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); establishing a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)</p>
Political and Governance	Moderate	<p>The political and governance risks for the ABS project in Thailand involve potential challenges arising from political instability, changes in government policies, governance issues, and security concerns. These risks can affect the preparation, implementation, and achievement of project outcomes by influencing the legal and institutional framework, stakeholder engagement, and resource allocation. For example, new government policies or shifts in priorities could affect the legal and regulatory framework for ABS, leading to delays or changes in project activities. Weak provincial or local governance, lack of transparency, and accountability issues could undermine the effectiveness of project implementation and monitoring. Mitigation Strategies: Work closely with policymakers and legal experts to draft and promote policy/comprehensive ABS legislation that is supported by a wide range of stakeholders. Engage a broad coalition of stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, NGOs, and the private sector, to build widespread support for the project and ensure continuity despite potential political changes. Implement governance training programs for</p>

		government officials, project staff, and community leaders to enhance their capacity for transparent and accountable project management.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	The institutional and policy risks for the ABS project in Thailand involve potential challenges arising from uncertainties related to the adoption and effectiveness of new policies, regulations, and institutional reforms. These risks include delays in policy implementation, resistance to institutional changes, and the uncertainty of achieving intended outcomes from new regulatory frameworks or institutional innovations. That includes: slow or ineffective implementation of new ABS policies and regulations can delay project activities and reduce the overall impact of the project; institutional inertia or resistance to changes can undermine efforts to establish effective ABS frameworks and governance structures. Mitigation Strategies: Conduct inclusive and participatory consultations to gather input and build consensus on new policies and institutional changes. Develop and deliver capacity-building programs tailored to the needs of different stakeholders, focusing on policy implementation and compliance. Implement pilot projects in target provinces to test new ABS policies and gather feedback for improvement.
Technological	Low	The technological risks for the ABS project in Thailand involve potential challenges related to the development, application, and success of technological innovations used to support ABS objectives. These risks include the failure of ABS technologies and approaches to achieve intended outcomes, lack of technical expertise, and the potential for new technologies to be untested or inappropriate for the specific context of the project. Mitigation Strategies: Implement pilot testing phases for technological tools, such as the BioBank database, and ABS models and gather feedback to refine and improve the systems. Organize training workshops and continuous learning opportunities for communities and other stakeholders focused on the operation, troubleshooting, and maintenance of technological systems (e.g., BioBank) and ABS models.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The financial and business model risks for the ABS project in Thailand involve potential challenges related to securing sustainable financing, mobilizing new funding sources, and engaging new financing partners to support project activities. These risks include uncertainty in funding availability, the effectiveness of financial mechanisms, and the sustainability of business models intended to deliver environmental benefits. Mitigation Strategies: Identify and approach multiple potential funding sources for co-financing, including grants, philanthropic contributions, and impact investments. Develop partnership agreements with private companies interested in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources. Design and pilot innovative financial models in collaboration with financial experts and stakeholders to ensure feasibility and effectiveness.

EXECUTION

Capacity	Moderate	The capacity for implementation risks for the ABS project in Thailand involve potential challenges related to the ability of executing entities and key actors to carry out project activities effectively. These risks include insufficient organizational processes, inadequate skills and knowledge among staff, reliance on third-party providers, coordination challenges, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation resources. Mitigation Strategies: Conduct a capacity needs assessment to identify gaps and design targeted training programs. Establish a technical support team and mentorship program to provide continuous guidance and assistance to different groups of stakeholders. Implement M&E training programs and deploy advanced M&E tools and software.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Fiduciary risks for the ABS project in Thailand involve potential challenges related to financial management and procurement processes. These risks include mismanagement of funds, procurement delays or irregularities, non-compliance with financial policies, and insufficient skilled staff to handle fiduciary responsibilities. Mitigation Strategies: Develop and implement a comprehensive financial management manual detailing procedures, controls, and reporting requirements for PMU and project partners. Organize workshops and training sessions for project staff and partners on financial management and procurement best practices. Conduct regular audits and spot checks to ensure compliance with financial policies and identify areas for improvement.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Stakeholder risks for the ABS project in Thailand involve potential challenges related to the inadequate participation, engagement, and inclusion of stakeholders. These risks include insufficient country ownership, lack of civil society and community involvement, and limited private sector engagement. Mitigation Strategies: Perform comprehensive stakeholder mapping and analysis to identify key stakeholders, their interests, influence, and potential contributions to the project. Conduct inclusive and participatory consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, local communities, and the private sector. Provide capacity-building programs for stakeholders, particularly local communities and civil society organizations, to enhance their ability to participate effectively in the project.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	That means that the project should be monitored quarterly by PMU, MNRE and UNDP at all stages (PPG and implementation) and practice corrective action in case of one or more risks above tend to turn into a real threat for the project development and implementation.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project's comprehensive approach, which integrates ABS into policy and community-based biodiversity management is well-aligned with the Objective 2 of GEF-8 BD FA, GBF Targets, SDGs, and country development priorities:

Alignment with the Biodiversity Objectives

GEF8 FA	FA Objective	Contribution to the Objective
Biodiversity	Objective 2. To effectively implement the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols	The project significantly contributes to BDFA Objective 2 (BD-2-2) by strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks necessary for the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

Contribution to the GBF Targets

GBF Target	Input to the target
1:Participatory and Inclusive Spatial Planning	The project strengthens national ABS policies and capacities of key stakeholders, including local communities, to implement participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive management processes based on ABS approach.
5:Sustainable, Safe, and Legal Use of Wild Species	The project contributes to Target 5 by establishing comprehensive frameworks and practices that ensure the sustainable, safe, and legal use, harvesting, and trade of wild species
9:Sustainable Management of Wild Species for Social, Economic, and Environmental Benefits	The project contributes to Target 9 by ensuring that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic, and environmental benefits, particularly for vulnerable communities dependent on biodiversity.
13:Equitable Benefit Sharing from Genetic Resources	The project directly contributes to Target 13 by taking comprehensive legal, policy, administrative, and capacity-building measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.
23:Gender Equality	The project contributes to Target 23 by incorporating a gender-responsive approach to ensure that all women and girls have equal opportunities and capacity to contribute to the Convention's three objectives: conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing of biodiversity.

Contribution to SDGs

SDG	Direct contribution
SDG 1 (No Poverty)	By promoting sustainable use of genetic resources and ensuring fair benefit-sharing, the project creates economic opportunities for local communities, thus helping to alleviate poverty
SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)	The project supports the community-based conservation of genetic resources crucial for food security

SDG 5 (Gender Equality)	The project incorporates gender-responsive strategies, ensuring women have equal opportunities and capacity to engage in and benefit from biodiversity conservation and ABS activities
SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)	By fostering partnerships with the private sector and promoting sustainable bioprospecting and biodiversity-based businesses, the project generates decent work opportunities and supports inclusive economic growth
SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)	By ensuring that the benefits derived from genetic resources are distributed equitably among all stakeholders, particularly marginalized communities;
SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)	By promoting sustainable practices in the use and conservation of biodiversity, thereby reducing overexploitation and ensuring the responsible management of natural resources
SDG 15 (Life on Land)	The project directly supports the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems through community-based ABS initiatives
SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)	The project builds strong partnerships between government agencies, local communities, private sector, research institutions, and international organizations to develop and implement strong ABS framework

Contribution to the national environmental and development priorities

Priorities	Contribution
NBSAP 2023-2027	The project supports Thailand's NBSAP by developing and implementing ABS policies that facilitate the sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources
Thailand's 20-Year National Strategy (2018-2037)	The project contributes to the strategy's goals of sustainable economic growth and rural development by promoting biodiversity-based economic activities.
Nagoya Protocol	The project significantly contributes to CBD and the Nagoya Protocol by establishing a robust legal and institutional framework and implementation mechanism for ABS.
Thailand NDC (2021)	The project contributes to NDC by promoting sustainable use of biodiversity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through avoided deforestation via implementation of community ABS projects

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Key stakeholders involved in PIF development

Name of the expert/ institute	Description of the consultations	Date
<p>Continuous consultations for the PIF development between the National expert (Dr. Vithet Srinetr), and Deputy Executive Directors of the Biodiversity-based Development Office (Dr. Tanit and Mr. Suwee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide guidance on project objectives, components and expected outputs and outcomes of the Project; - Discuss with national expert drafts of the PIF to meet needs and provide comments to improve the PIF; - Seek for co-financing from different government agencies to be partners for the project; - Discuss with BEDO Zero draft of PIF by May 2024, then follow up a revision for 1st draft to submit for UNDP by June 2024; - Discuss the draft PIF with international expert (Dr. Mikhail Paltsyn) to finalize the PIF by August 2024; - Assist BEDO to organize stakeholder meeting to inform, discuss and collect stakeholders' views and comments on 16 August 2024, then summarize and encourage for stakeholders' agreement and contribution. 	<p>15 April- 31 August 2024</p>
<p>Presentation of the final PIF to the key stakeholders:</p> <p>National expert (Dr. Vithet Srinetr), Deputy Director General of the Biodiversity-based Development Office (Dr. Tanit and Mr. Suwee),</p> <p>Representatives from Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP),</p> <p>Representatives from Forest Resources Management Offices No. 1 (Chiangmai province),</p> <p>Representatives from Forest Resources Management Offices No. 2 (Chiangrai province),</p> <p>Representatives from Forest Resources Management Offices No. 3 (Phrae and Nan provinces),</p> <p>Representatives from Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment (Chiangmai),</p> <p>Representatives from Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment (Chiangrai province),</p> <p>Representatives from Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment (Phrae province),</p>	<p>Presentation of the ABS PIF to the key national and provincial stakeholders. Collecting comments on the planned project Outputs.</p> <p>Local and Indigenous Communities participated in discussion on the proposed project . Discussions focused on how ABS frameworks could support community-driven conservation and livelihood improvement. Communities provided insights into biodiversity-based economic activities, emphasizing the role of community enterprises in conserving local biological resources. Their efforts focus on collecting plant species, conducting biodiversity surveys, and developing potential products derived from biodiversity.</p> <p>However, some IPLC representative expressed concerns regarding their limited understanding of access and benefit-sharing mechanisms. This highlights the necessity of implementing this project to strengthen local capacity, enhance awareness, and ensure fair and sustainable benefit-sharing from biodiversity and genetic resources.</p>	<p>16 August 2024</p>

<p>Representatives from Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment (Nan province)</p> <p>Local and Indigenous Communities:</p> <p>Representative from The Herbal Village and Tourism, Muang Kued Village, Chiang Mai Province.</p> <p>Private sector: The Community Enterprise for Chinese Malay Apple Processing, Ban Kok, Nan Province.</p>	<p>The consultation included discussions with a private sector on the sustainable use of plant species, traditional processing techniques, and how ABS mechanisms can support equitable benefit-sharing among community members.</p>	
<p>Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)</p>	<p>Presentation of the ABS PIF; discussion how to support research and development activities related to the implementation of ABS mechanisms in Thailand.</p>	<p>2 October 2024</p>

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
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High or Substantial

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNDP	GET	Thailand	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-2	Grant	1,685,160.00	160,090.00	1,845,250.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						1,685,160.00	160,090.00	1,845,250.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4750

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
UNDP	GET	Thailand	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-2	Grant	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
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		Regional/ Global			
UNDP	GET	Thailand	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,900,000.00
Total GEF Resources					1,900,000.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-2-2	GET	1,685,160.00	14350000
Total Project Cost		1,685,160.00	14,350,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office (BEDO)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	5000000
Recipient Country Government	Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office (BEDO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5000000
Recipient Country Government	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	500000
Recipient Country Government	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Recipient Country Government	Royal Forest Department (RFD)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	500000
Recipient Country Government	Royal Forest Department (RFD)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Others	Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1500000
Others	Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Others	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	30000
Others	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Grant	Investment mobilized	20000

GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	50000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250000
Total Co-financing				14,350,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

- **BEDO: US\$ 10,000,000.** BEDO has planned to allocate funding for implementing the Nagoya Protocol principles related to fair and equitable access to and utilization of genetic resources and ABS projects scheduled for 2026–2030. This includes in-kind co financing (recurrent expenditure) on staff salaries, office space etc. (USD 5,000,000) and operational activities (public investment/investment mobilised) for supporting the implementation of ABS policies and facilitating local community participation in ABS agreements (USD 5,000,000);
- **ONEP: US\$ 1,000,000.** ONEP has planned to allocate funding to support the integration of ABS mechanisms into Thailand's environmental policy framework (2026–2030). This includes in-kind co-financing (recurrent expenditure) on ONEP staff salaries and operational expenses directly related to project implementation (USD 500,000) and operational activities (public investment/investment mobilised) for supporting the implementation of the ABS mechanism, including the provision of technical expertise, institutional support, and access to relevant policy platforms necessary for mainstreaming ABS mechanism (USD 500,000);
- **RFD: US\$ 1,000,000.** RFD has planned to allocate funding to support forest conservation and biodiversity management activities (Community Forest) in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Nan, and Phrae, which are the project's areas. This includes in-kind co-financing (recurrent expenditure) on staff salaries, operational expenses, and costs for managing community forests and forests Landscape, ensuring alignment with ABS mechanisms (USD 500,000) and operational activities (public investment/investment mobilised) for supporting the implementation of ABS in the participating areas (USD 500,000).
- **ARDA: US\$ 2,000,000.** This research institute has planned to allocate funding to support research and development (R&D) activities directly related to implementing ABS mechanisms in Thailand. This includes in-kind co-financing (recurrent expenditure) on staff salaries, office space etc. (USD 500,000) and operational activities (public investment/investment mobilised) for supporting the scientific research, innovation initiatives, and capacity-building programs to enhance the sustainable use of genetic resources, knowledge-sharing platforms, and facilitation of partnerships among local communities, research institutions, and the private sector, and the development of bio-based economic activities related to ABS initiatives. (USD 1,500,000).
- **GIZ: US\$ 50,000.** GIZ has planned to allocate funding to support policy development, capacity building, and technical assistance related to the implementation of ABS mechanisms in Thailand from 2026 to 2030. GIZ's contribution will focus on strengthening national ABS policies and operational frameworks, facilitating stakeholder consultations, and enhancing the capacity of government officials and local communities in the Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Nan, and Phrae Provinces. This includes in-kind co-financing (recurrent expenditure) on staff salaries, office space etc. (USD 30,000) and operational activities (public investment/investment mobilised) for supporting advisory services, stakeholder engagement facilitation, and policy dialogue support to strengthen Thailand's ABS framework (USD 20,000).
- **UNDP: US\$ 300,000.** UNDP has planned to allocate funding to support project management, capacity building, and knowledge-sharing activities related to implementing ABS mechanisms in Thailand from 2026 to 2030. UNDP Thailand's contribution will facilitate stakeholder engagement, develop community-based ABS models, and promote gender-inclusive and equitable benefit-sharing practices in the Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Nan, and Phrae Provinces. This includes in-kind co-financing (recurrent expenditure) on staff salaries, office space etc. (USD 250,000) and operational activities (public investment/investment mobilised) for supporting project coordination, the organization of awareness campaigns, and knowledge-sharing activities including the dissemination of best practices to enhance local and national capacities for sustainable use of genetic resources (USD 50,000).

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Nancy Bennet, Executive Coordinator	1/14/2025	Nancy Bennet, Executive Coordinator		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Solene Le Doze	1/14/2025	Solene Le Doze		solene.le.doze@undp.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Jatuporn Buruspat	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Thailand GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	1/14/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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



Map 1. Project Provinces (Chiangrai, Chiangmai, Nan, and Phrae)

Brief information on the project areas

Province of Thailand	Latitude/Longitude	# of project villages	# of selected Community forests	Total forested area that will be under ABS community-based projects
Chiangrai	19.9072N, 99.8308E	137	121	11,942
Chiangmai	18.7883N, 98.9853S	132	132	31,495
Nan	18.7756N, 100.7730S	75	75	7,506
Phrae	18.1446N, 100.1403S	98	92	11,719
TOTAL		442	420	62,662

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

In separate file