



Capacity support for accession to and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in South Sudan

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10228

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Capacity support for accession to and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in South Sudan

Countries

South Sudan

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Ministry of Environment and Forestry/Department of Biodiversity

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Stakeholders, Capacity, Knowledge and Research

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

11/7/2019

Expected Implementation Start

6/1/2021

Expected Completion Date

6/30/2024

Duration

36In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

82,008.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-3-9	Further development of biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks through the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing	GET	863,242.00	6,450,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			863,242.00	6,450,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To strengthen national capacities to support the accession to the Nagoya Protocol and to establish a functioning national legal and institutional framework to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in South Sudan

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Strengthening policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks enabling accession to the Nagoya Protocol and compliance with the obligations arising from the Protocol	Technical Assistance	1.1 Existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks are reviewed and updated and operationalization of the Nagoya protocol initiated	1.1.1. Stocktaking and analysis of the existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks on ABS is undertaken and the report is accessed by key stakeholders	GET	220,900.00	2,217,224.00
			1.1.2 An analysis of the implications and gender responsive opportunities of accession to the Nagoya Protocol is conducted and the report is presented to and discussed key stakeholders.			
			1.1.3 Legal documents of accession to the Nagoya Protocol drafted, submitted for approval and deposited.			
			1.1.4 National ABS law and regulations drafted and submitted for approval to relevant authorities.			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Establishing institutional arrangements and administrative systems to implement the Nagoya Protocol	Technical Assistance	2.1 Strengthened institutional framework, and administrative procedures are made operational for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	2.1.1 Competent National Authorities (CNA) on ABS designated and their mandate, roles and responsibilities in line with ABS rules are set out.	GET	230,000.00	1,154,946.00
			2.1.2 Analysis and assessment of institutional frameworks and coordination to implement the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, including research institutes adding value to genetic resources; undertaken and a report shared with all key stakeholders.			
			2.1.3 Operational procedures and coordination mechanisms between CNA, National Focal Point and sectoral agencies facilitating access to genetic resources developed and validated for application.			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Awareness raising, and capacity building of all stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	Technical Assistance	<p>3.1 Key stakeholders are aware of the implication and opportunities of acceding to the Nagoya Protocol; have increased understanding and capacity for domesticating the Nagoya Protocol</p> <p>3.2.Capacity of key stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol built</p>	<p>3.1.1 Public awareness and communication materials on the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol for briefing targeting key stakeholders including parliamentarians, political decision makers, and government officials, developed, and distributed.</p> <p>3.1.2 Key stakeholders including IPLCs have been made aware of relevant information on the provisions and opportunities of the Nagoya protocol</p> <p>3.1.3 National ABS Action Plan on awareness raising, communication and capacity building for targeted stakeholders, including the production of materials on how to document TK associated with genetic resources</p>	GET	333,942.00	2,427,830.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	784,842.00	5,800,000.00

Project Management Cost (PMC)

	GET		78,400.00		650,000.00	
	Sub Total(\$)		78,400.00		650,000.00	
	Total Project Cost(\$)		863,242.00		6,450,000.00	

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,625,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Mnistry of Agriculture and Food Sceurity	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	900,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	900,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Central Equatoria State	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Eastern Equatoria State	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Other	University of Juba	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Alliance for Environment and Rural Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Eco-Peace Initiative, South Sudan	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Social Accountability, Peace and Access to Justice	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	South Sudan Development Organization	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	175,000.00
Civil Society Organization	South Sudan Nature Conservation Organization	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	South Sudan Wildlife Society	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Beneficiaries	Nyakriket Consortium	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				6,450,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investments for the Government of South Sudan were identified from the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget allocations for the contributing ministries. Civil Society and Community Based Organizations investments were identified from bilateral discussions.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNEP	GET	South Sudan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	863,242	82,008
Total Grant Resources(\$)					863,242.00	82,008.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **false**

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

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

Core Indicators

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,750	1,750		
Male	1,750	1,750		
Total	3500	3500	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1a. Project Description.

1.1. Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

South Sudan lies between latitudes 3° and 13° N, and longitudes 24° and 36° E. The country covers approximately an area of 644,329 sq. km and it is covered by extensive grasslands, wetlands and tropical forests. The landscape is generally plain-like, especially within the Sudd region which occupies an area of more than 100,000 sq. km. The country's elevation ranges from 450381 m along the White Nile River, to 900 m at the foot of southern mountains, rising to 3187 m at the top of the Imatong mountains. South Sudan is bordered by Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Kenya to the southeast, Uganda to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the southwest and the Central African Republic to the west. Administratively, the country is divided into three regions (the former historic provinces): Bahr el Ghazal in the northwest, Equatoria in the south and Greater Upper Nile in the northeast. South Sudan is divided into ten States namely Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Western Equatoria, Lakes, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Warrap and Western Bahr El Ghazal. Juba is the main administrative and capital city of South Sudan.

South Sudan has a tropical wet and dry climate with two rainy seasons and high humidity in the tropical wet region. Most of the country has a sub-humid climate, with Western Equatoria and the highland parts of Eastern Equatoria receiving rainfall of between 1,200 to 2,200 mm of rainfall annually. The lowland areas of Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Bahr el Ghazal receive 700 to 1,300 mm of rainfall annually, In the green belt; of Equatoria region, it ranges from 1300 mm to 1650 mm, while in the Arid Zone it may be as low as 300 mm per year. The green belt and parts of the Ironstone plateau have two wet seasons ? April to July (primary wet season) and August to December. The rest of the country tends to have a long, wet season that starts in May and ends in October/November. The southeastern tip of Eastern Equatoria receives the least rainfall, about 250 mm annually. Temperatures range from 25° to 35°C or higher, especially during the dry season, which lasts from January to April. Areas such as Malakal have been reported with temperatures of up to 42° C during the dry season.

South Sudan has a population of approximately of 13,091 million in 2017 of whom about 85% are living in rural areas. Jonglei is the most populous State with 16% of the total population while the least populous State is Western Bahr El Ghazal, with 4% of total population. South Sudan is inhabited by 64 different ethnic groups, the largest of which is the Dinka, a traditionally pastoralist people that makes up 36% of the population . The ethnic groups in the country are broadly categorized into nilotic, nilo-hamitic and the south-western Sudanic groups. The composition of these groups is as follows: (a) The nilotic group includes the Dinka, Nuer, Shilluk, Murle, Kachiopo, Jie, Anyuak, Acholi, Maban, Kuma, Lou (Jur), Bango, Bai, Ndogo, Gulu, Endri, Forgee, Chod (Jur), Khara, Ngorgule, Forugi, Siri, Benga, Agar, Pakam, Gok, Ciec, Aliap, Hopi, Guere, Atuot, Apaak, Lango, Pari, Otuho and Ajaa; (b) The nilo-hamitic group includes the Bari, Mundari, Kakwa, Pojulu, Nyangwara, Kuku, Latuko, Lokoya, Toposa, Buya, Lopit, Kuku, Kakwa, Nyabgwara, Tennen, Lopit and Didinga; and (c) the south-western Sudanic group includes the Kresh, Balanda, Banda, Ndogo, Zande, Madi, Olubo, Murus, Mundu, Baka, Avukaya and Makaraka.

The country's economy is fragile having only recently emerged from decades of a long civil war. The country's main exports are natural resources - oil and petroleum products, timber, metals (gold and silver) and foodstuffs. With the gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 2.904 billion in 2016, South Sudan is a low-income country. South Sudan is the most oil-dependent country in the world, with oil accounting for almost the totality of exports, and around 60% of its GDP. The population relies on rain-fed agriculture production, fishing, hunting and pastoralism which account for just around 15% of GDP. Larger scale mechanized farming is limited to the northern parts of Upper Nile, Unity and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states. Potential arable land in South Sudan covers 30% of the total land surface, while grazing land covers 40 %, forests 23 % and swamps and open water 7%. Of the total arable land of 30%, currently less than five per cent of the total land area is utilized for crop production (Agriculture Sector Policy Framework, 2012). The growing season is generally between 100 to 250 days depending on the agro-ecological zone. Almost all of the green belt and parts of the ironstone plateau agroecological zones have two cropping seasons, April-June and July-December. The northern dry areas have seasonal agriculturalists, pastoralist, fishermen's and hunters.

Despite an impressive endowment in natural resources, South Sudan's rich genetic resources are seriously threatened under several anthropogenic pressures that either reduce the number of species or degrade their natural habitats. These threats are further exacerbated by a weak policy, legal, institutional framework and lack of knowledge about the importance and benefits of biodiversity which are not adequate to bolster sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The specific problem that this project will address is the weak policy, legal and institutional framework and insufficient knowledge on ABS enabling the country to accede to the Nagoya Protocol and to implement its obligations as a Party to the Protocol. The current policy, legal, regulatory framework and institutional setting are not appropriate to facilitate the accession to the Nagoya Protocol, create enabling conditions for bioprospecting to develop commercially-valuable products and to ensure access to genetic resources and benefits sharing arising from the use of genetic resources. These challenges remain to be overcome in order to promote biodiversity sustainable use and conservation, the establishment of fair and equitable ABS agreements and partnerships between users and providers of genetic resources.

Although South Sudan has immense diversity of genetic resources, their accession and utilisation have virtually been poorly documented. Given the ever-increasing developmental challenges, the South Sudan government will need to address the issue of sustainable utilisation of this vast bounty of genetic resources. Destructive use of biodiversity by local communities will continue leading to loss of species and ecosystem services that are vital for human well-being, and especially for the poorest and most vulnerable local communities and populations (i.e. women and children; indigenous groups). The way in which genetic resources are accessed, and how the benefits of their use are shared, can create incentives for their conservation and sustainable use, and can contribute to the creation of a fairer and more equitable economy to support sustainable development. The indigenous people and specially the rural communities in South Sudan have rich indigenous/traditional knowledge, albeit poorly documented, by which they access and utilise genetic resources for food, medicine and livelihoods.

The Nagoya Protocol on ABS has the potential to reduce loss of biodiversity through access and benefit sharing arrangements that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. However, South Sudan is not yet a Party to the Nagoya Protocol, whose objective is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to the technologies. This implies that South Sudan may not access appropriate international funding that would contribute to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. South Sudan therefore urgently needs to fulfil all the requirements for accession to the Nagoya Protocol and proceed to its implementation and thereby contribute to improving livelihoods especially of local communities, secure human wellbeing, and promote conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of biodiversity.

1.2. Threats, root causes and barrier analysis

After years of civil war, South Sudan is facing serious environmental and natural resources challenges including loss of biodiversity and its natural habitat degradation. The diversity of species, genes and ecosystems, in South Sudan are threatened by a number of human pressures. These pressures affect the structure of natural habitat and local ecological communities may cause local extinctions of species, which in turn lead to reduced ecosystem goods and services, and human well-being. The threats to biodiversity include: 1) illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking and subsistence hunting carried out by local people and combatants of civil war that had decimated the population numbers of these wildlife. It was largely attributed to the high demand for products from wild animals, bush meat, and game trophies; 2) uncontrolled deforestation; and illegal logging of hardwoods, and growing charcoal's production; 3) overgrazing and rangeland degradation and loss and agricultural expansion, increasing population growth, extreme rural poverty and drought; 4) natural habitat fragmentation caused by road network expansion and the expansion of extractive industries (such as minerals mining and oil industry development); 5) adverse climate change impacts including increasing desertification and the delaying and shortening of rainy seasons and 6) human-wildlife conflicts especially with communities living near Protected Areas.

The key underlying drivers of the threat to biodiversity in South Sudan include 1) the political instability, especially the armed conflicts and high internally massive population displacements in the country that further exacerbated crimes against the wildlife and the war-related destruction and uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources, 2) conflict and disruption have eroded traditional indigenous knowledge that has historically guided pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in protecting and sustainably using the natural resources that underpin their livelihoods; 3) inadequate legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks for biodiversity management as well as limited government finance allocation; 4) inadequate public awareness on environmental policies, laws and environmental protection and failure to recognize the value of fragile ecosystems and protected areas. The long-term solution for the conservation of biological and genetic resources of South Sudan can be achieved by addressing the barriers described below.

Barrier 1: Weak policy, legal and regulatory framework to allow for implementation and compliance at the national level upon accession to the Nagoya Protocol. As at 18 May 2014, South Sudan is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity. South Sudan is not a Party to the Nagoya Protocol. The current legal and political setting in place is not aligned to the international norms on ABS prescribed by the Nagoya Protocol. By acceding to the Protocol, South Sudan will have to align its national legislative and institutional frameworks to the Protocol to successfully regulate ABS, the associated rights of users and providers and of the TK, and thus ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources within its territory. Ineffective legislation and weak institutions constitute a key barrier to fostering biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and the distribution of benefits that accrue from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. South Sudan has recently enacted a number of sectoral policies and laws with regard to its biological resources. While some policies and legal instruments are still pending approval, others need to be reviewed, updated and adopted by the legislative body to be consistent with the core obligations of the Nagoya Protocol with respect to access to genetic resources and benefit sharing principles. In addition, a number of sectorial biodiversity legal frameworks and policies enacted on the management of biological resources lack legal certainty and clarity for both providers and users of South Sudan's genetic resources. The absence of a functional adopted legal and policy framework, and coherent coordination at all levels in biodiversity management represent a significant barrier in acceding and implementing the Nagoya Protocol.

Barrier 2: Weak institutional capacity to implement the Nagoya Protocol. Although the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT) and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) are the designated institutions responsible for the implementation of laws and policies related to biodiversity, the Government of South Sudan lacks adequate technical staff with relevant experience, and training and limited coherent inter-institutional coordination between government entities to effectively implement laws, strategies and regulations in biodiversity conservation. An inadequate decentralization and

delegation of biodiversity management to the lowest levels of government within the framework of the decentralised biodiversity governance system has been also identified as a barrier to the ABS regime across a wide range of stakeholders. Strengthening institutional capacity is therefore needed, to ensure sustainable use of genetic resources and benefit sharing in South Sudan. In addition, the Government of South Sudan lacks adequate funding to review, and strengthen the existing sectorial biodiversity laws, policies and institutional framework to effectively develop and implement national ABS framework. The national customs and other border agencies lack capacity to facilitate, and coordinate their interventions relating the international trade, foreign investment and economic development. of genetic resources across the national borders.

Barrier 3: Limited capacity and awareness to implement the Nagoya Protocol. One of the critical barriers for sustainable management and use of biodiversity in South Sudan is the very limited information that exists on the threats to biodiversity and genetic resources in the country. This barrier is therefore exacerbated by the weak level of awareness relating to the importance of economic value of genetic resources and limited understanding regarding the ABS principles among decision makers, and national authorities, which in turn, limit political and technical support to accede and implement the Nagoya Protocol in South Sudan. At local and community levels, the lack of awareness among indigenous peoples and local communities about the importance of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and the benefits arising of their utilization limit sustainable use of biological resources in South Sudan. The indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) have limited understanding of ABS principles and the protection of associated traditional knowledge of genetic resources. As holders of traditional knowledge, IPLCs have weak knowledge of their right and benefits in the development of ABS related products such as pharmaceutical, cosmetic and foods products using associated traditional knowledge. Moreover, the lack of knowledge on the ABS strategy is exacerbated by the absence of educational, communication and promotional materials on biological and genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in local languages. The use of translated ABS-related promotional materials and disseminating during awareness raising campaigns will promote the effective implementation of the ABS regime in the country. The decision-makers and policymakers lack of solid and detailed information, such as the opportunities and obligations of becoming a Party to the Nagoya Protocol, on which to base their decisions regarding accession and the implementation of the ABS measures in the country.

1.3. Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

1.3.1. Baseline scenario

Although there is general consensus that South Sudan possesses diverse genetic resources and there is great potential for various opportunities for bioprospecting, the Government of South Sudan is not yet a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. South Sudan has identified the introduction of a national ABS framework consistent with the CBD's provisions as a priority and a key step in its overall programme to conserve biodiversity and promote access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in a manner that engenders benefit-sharing and protects those vital resources. In the absence of the GEF project, South Sudan would still consider the issue of accession to the Nagoya Protocol and continue to work towards the implementation of its obligation under Article 15 of the CBD; however, the degree of success in achieving the ABS objectives of the CBD would likely be limited. As a result, local communities, might not obtain benefits through the sharing of profits, information and/or technology, even though their genetic resources and traditional knowledge were being utilized. Through this project, South Sudan aims to ensure that all parties, including local communities, share fairly and equitably in such benefits. An effective national ABS regime that will contribute towards biodiversity conservation and encourage sustainable use of biological resources is recognized as a potential tool in the process of addressing threats of, inter alia, ecosystem degradation, species loss and land conversion.

South Sudan currently has a National Environmental Policy (2015) and Environmental Bill which is yet to be passed into law. There are no policies and guidelines for the biodiversity and genetic resources;

and no framework for access to and sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Although South Sudan ratified and is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the country lacks an institutional framework to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Moreover, there is a lack of coordination and management structures for implementing national ABS legislation when the country accedes to the Nagoya Protocol. The existing frameworks, policies, and laws do not adequately address ABS issues as well as their coordination and enforcement. Besides, existing institutional and personnel capacity to effectively implement the Nagoya protocol and national ABS regulations is weak. As a result, budgets for environmental protection, research, and policy development are largely insufficient. Lack of capacity is, therefore, a key constraint to the introduction of a national ABS regime across a wide range of stakeholders and at all levels – central, state and local governments. If resources are not available to support the level of capacity building needed to bring key authorities and other stakeholders to implementation readiness in the short term, local experience and information-sharing on the development of PIC, MAT and benefit-sharing will remain inadequate. Biotechnology development and the access to an use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge (aTK) will continue to be weakly regulated, leaving local communities at risk of losing out on these benefits and providing little incentive for improving the security of biological, genetic and traditional-knowledge resources at local level.

The above is also exacerbated by the poor awareness and understanding of ABS issues in the country. Levels of awareness among decision makers, sectoral agencies, the commercial sector and local communities, concerning the potential benefits of an effective ABS regime remains low under the baseline scenario. At the national level, there continues to be little understanding of ABS issues among most sectors, and even where understanding exists, the overall situation reflects a lack of consistency and shared vision and rationale as to the objectives and practices underlying ABS. This barrier continues to limit the ability of all stakeholders to understand the rights involved, to comprehend the impact of the procedures required, to fully understand the provisions and implications of such agreements, and to knowledgeably negotiate regarding benefit sharing. The project objective is to assist South Sudan to prepare all necessary documentation to accede to the Nagoya Protocol and subsequently to establish conditions for enabling South Sudan to fully implement its obligations as a Party to the Protocol. The above situation can be categorized into three major areas, which form the three component areas of intervention by this project.

Component 1: Strengthening legislative and policy framework enabling accession to the Nagoya Protocol and to comply with the obligations of the Protocol. This component is designed to carry out activities to support stocktaking and review of existing legislation, policies and regulations, in order to identify gaps and opportunities to enable the accession to the Nagoya Protocol. South Sudan currently has a National Environmental Policy (2015) and Environmental Bill which is yet to be passed into law. There are no policies and guidelines for the biodiversity and genetic resources; and no framework for access to and sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. To overcome the gaps identified, the project will support the development of the national law on ABS. The project will support analysis of the implications and opportunities of accession to the Nagoya Protocol, including drafting policies and regulatory framework on ABS to meet the provisions of the Protocol. The project will also support the analysis of opportunities and the implication of becoming a party to the legally binding international treaty of to the Nagoya Protocol. This component will support preparation of documentation for accession to international treaties including the Nagoya protocol. In addition, the project will also support the following activities: a) development of a national ABS strategy and action plan, which will be submitted to relevant stakeholders? groups for validation in coordinated participatory approaches.

Component 2. Establishing institutional arrangements and administrative systems to implement the Nagoya Protocol. The project will support establishment of an institutional framework to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This will include designation of the National Focal Point (NFP) as well as the establishment of the Competent National Authorities (CNA) on access and benefit-sharing and institutional agreements and administrative procedures of ABS and setting out their mandate, roles and responsibilities in line with ABS rules. The following activities will be supported: a) Analysis and assessment of institutional framework and needs to implement the provisions of the

Nagoya Protocol, including research institutes adding value to genetic resources; b) Operational procedures and coordination mechanisms between CNA, NFP and sectoral key agencies facilitating access to genetic resources developed, validated and tested/applied; c) Identification and designation of check points and customs for monitoring the access and utilization of genetic resources; d) Development of a ABS Clearing-House Mechanism (ABS-CH) using the existing guides and materials.

Component 3: Awareness raising, and capacity building of all stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This component will support awareness raising activities on provisions of the Nagoya Protocol and the economic importance of genetic resources as well as the legislation and regulations relating to ABS. It will also create awareness on intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. Furthermore, this component will also support consulting and awareness raising targeting key stakeholders including parliamentarians, political decision makers, and government officials to enhance understanding on the importance economic value of genetic resources and new businesses opportunities for the national economy as well as the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol. This component will build capacity of relevant stakeholders including staff of government agencies, academics institutions) for implementing the Nagoya Protocol and the national ABS measures. The following activities will be carried out: a) Development and use of public awareness materials on the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol for briefing targeting key stakeholders including parliamentarians, political decision makers, and government officials; b) production of a national ABS action plan on awareness raising, communication and capacity building and development for targeted stakeholders, including the production of materials on how to document TK associated with genetic resources; c) Training of trainers on awareness-raising and communication strategy for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to guide its national outreach activities; d) Training of key stakeholders groups, including staff of government agencies, , academics institutions, regarding their roles and responsibilities to facilitate the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

1.3.2. Associated baseline projects

ABS issues have not yet entered in the national development model, possibly since the Nagoya Protocol is relatively new; there are limited baseline initiatives for this project in South Sudan. This situation justifies the GEF increment as without GEF investment, the implementation of the Protocol will experience very little progress. The investment and implementation of the project can thus be a catalyst for the start of activities and future investment in Access and Benefit Sharing activities in the country. However, the proposed project will build upon some preliminary steps already taken by the country towards the implementation of the CBD activities and development of ABS team within the department of Biodiversity to work on the accession to the Nagoya Protocol. The country has shown its determination to advance the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and ABS by participating in various ABS capacity building workshops in Africa, but awareness raising and capacity building are now needed for a range of stakeholders.

This project is linked to the GEF project "National Biodiversity Planning to Support the implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan in South Sudan by development of the first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)". This project was aimed at integrating South Sudan's obligations under the CBD into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a participatory "biodiversity planning" and strategizing process, under the global guidance contained in the CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011-2020. The project is also linked to the GEF project on Capacity Development of 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2018-2019) which was implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry through the Department of Biodiversity. This USD 100,000 project resulted in the development of capacity among the staff of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism. The USD1,400,000 African Development Bank (AfDB) funded project "Good Governance and Capacity Building in Natural Resources (2016 - 2020)" is currently being implemented in all the ten States of South Sudan. The objective is to provide support to the evolution of inclusive policies and strategies for the sustainable management of forest resources in South Sudan through institutional capacity building sector management and information system development.

Other initiatives to which this project is linked to include the GEF/USAID funded "Conservation, Land and Natural Resources Management for Conflict Mitigation and Economic Growth in Boma-Jonglei-Equatoria Landscape" project (September - October 2012) implemented by the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) and Natural Resources Management Group (NRMG) to strengthen the institutional capacity of GOSS, State and local communities for sustainable land use planning, natural resources contributing to stabilization and economic growth in the landscapes. A similar project, funded by the GEF, "Capacity Development in Reducing Illegal Trade and Improving Protected Areas Management Effectiveness in South Sudan" and implemented by the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to improve protected areas management by developing institutional and legal frameworks. In the fisheries sector, the project is linked to the Canadian Government and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) funded "Upgrading Fisheries Sector in South Sudan (2014 - 2018)" project whose objective was to increase quantity of both fresh fish and fisheries products produced by fisher folk (dried) and be available for consumers in targeted State and Counties in very quality and satisfying manner. The "Strengthening the Capacity of Government and Communities in South Sudan to Adapt to Climate Change" project sought to increase the capacity of government and vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change in South Sudan at a cost of \$9,032,420. Among the challenges that were addressed was the degradation to, and a reduction in ecosystem goods and services from natural resources, especially forests and grazing land. This project will also address some capacity gaps that were identified by the "National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA, 2017)", including weak inter-institutional coordination across levels of government, weak policy and legal frameworks and low awareness. The "Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)" invested USD 12 million across 11 countries in Africa, including two Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in South Sudan (Kidepo plains and Imatong mountains for biodiversity assessments).

1.4. Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

The project will facilitate accession to and understanding of the Nagoya Protocol by the national legislative and key decision-makers. This will contribute significantly to the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in South Sudan. The project will therefore contribute significantly towards conservation and sustainable management of South Sudan's biological diversity; promote the conservation of traditional knowledge for the use and conservation of these resources. The project objective is to assist South Sudan to prepare all necessary documentation to accede to the Nagoya Protocol and subsequently to establish conditions for enabling South Sudan to fully implement its obligations as a Party to the Protocol. The project objective will be achieved through the key inputs under three targeted components: 1) Strengthening legislative and policy framework enabling accession to the Nagoya Protocol and to comply with the obligations of the Protocol; 2) Establishing institutional arrangements and administrative systems to implement the Nagoya Protocol; and 3) Awareness raising, and capacity building of all stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The three project components are inter-related and will lead to: a) accession to the Nagoya Protocol, b) appropriate institutional and administrative systems for improved capacity of decision makers, users and beneficiaries to manage genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, c) improved awareness and understanding of ABS principles, and enhanced capacity to promote legal certainty and sustainable use of the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in South Sudan.

Component 1: Strengthening legislative and policy framework enabling accession to the Nagoya Protocol and to comply with the obligations of the Protocol

Although there is general consensus that South Sudan possesses diverse genetic resources and there is great potential for various opportunities for bioprospecting, the Government of South Sudan is not yet a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of

Benefits Arising from their Utilization. In order to accede to the Nagoya Protocol, the Government of South Sudan will institute measures to facilitate accession, including strengthening the policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks. This component will provide support to the processes directed at developing policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks for accession to the Nagoya Protocol by the government of South Sudan, including relevant guidance to national and state governments in adoption and implementation of ABS mechanism through a comprehensive strategy and action plan. The outcomes and outputs of this component are designed to fulfil and comply with the Nagoya Protocol and Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, resulting into an ABS framework that will be fully functional under existing national law and policy. Given the number of ministries and departments whose activities and mandates cover various aspects of ABS, the component will focus significant attention on stakeholder involvement during development of the accession instruments, development of legal and regulatory frameworks as well as development and implementation strategy and action plan. This will ensure that the resultant ABS mechanisms are practically as well as conceptually functional. The component will consist of five outputs, which will be achieved as described below.

Outcome 1.1 Existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks are reviewed and updated and operationalization of the Nagoya protocol initiated

The project will support the review and updating of the policy, legal and regulatory framework to achieve, *inter alia*, the following: (i) fulfil South Sudan's legal requirements to accede to the Nagoya Protocol; (ii) develop a comprehensive ABS policy to ensure that access to and utilisation of South Sudan's genetic resources are legally carried out and the benefits fairly and equitably shared. The frameworks so developed will be fully compliant with the Nagoya Protocol, with necessary provisions including protection of associated traditional knowledge (aTK), mutually agreed terms (MAT) and prior informed consent (PIC). The outputs and activities proposed to achieve this outcome are described below.

Output 1.1.1: Stocktaking and analysis of the existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks on ABS undertaken and the report accessed by key stakeholders

- Desk review and analysis of existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks on ABS
- Stakeholder consultations for views, perceptions and recommendations on the policy, legal and regulatory frameworks
- Development and dissemination of the stocktaking report

Output 1.1.2: An analysis of the implications and opportunities of accession to the Nagoya Protocol conducted and the report presented to and discussed by key stakeholders

- The main activity to deliver this output will be an ex-ante study of the environmental, social, environmental and econometric implications of accession to the Nagoya Protocol i.e. cost-benefit analysis

Output 1.1.3: Legal documents of accession to the Nagoya Protocol drafted, submitted for approval and deposited

- Prepare, analyse and collect relevant documentation (esp. existing frameworks)
- Consult with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to agree on national level mechanisms for issuance of accession instruments
- Conduct national processes for accession to the Nagoya Protocol (e.g. judicial reviews and consultations with relevant states within South Sudan)
- Prepare a Declaration (explanatory statements/declaration, statements of compatibility with human rights or other supporting documents)
- Prepare and sign the Instrument of Accession (including Declaration)
- Lodge the legal documents (accession instrument, explanatory statements/declaration, etc) with the depository (UN Secretariat)

Output 1.1.4: National ABS law and regulations drafted and submitted for approval to relevant authorities

- Review relevant existing regulatory framework (policies, laws and regulations)

- National stakeholder consultations (Workshops, Key Informant Interviews, questionnaires)
- Identify and facilitate the establishment of necessary administrative structures
- Draft the regulations and law
- Facilitate the process for approval of the ABS law and regulations

Output 1.1.5: National ABS strategy and action plan developed, submitted and validated in a coordinated and participatory approach

- Formation and facilitation of a multisectoral planning team
- Stakeholder workshop to identify/clarify on specific issues for the ABS strategy and Action Plan
- Facilitate the data/information collection, analysis and statement of goals for each solution to the problems
- Stakeholder workshop to validate the action plan
- Stakeholder implementation of the action plan through streamlining specific actions in workplans
- Facilitate the process of approval of the Strategy and Action Plan
- Stakeholder implementation of the action plan through streamlining specific actions in workplans

Component 2: Establishing institutional arrangements and administrative systems to implement the Nagoya Protocol.

The focus of this component will be to support the establishment of an institutional framework to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Therefore, this component will facilitate the designation of the National Focal Point (NFP) and Competent National Authorities (CNA), as well as develop operational guidelines and coordination mechanisms for effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The following activities will be supported: a) Analysis and assessment of institutional framework and needs to implement the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, including research institutes adding value to genetic resources; b) Operational procedures and coordination mechanisms between CNA, NFP and sectoral key agencies facilitating access to genetic resources developed, validated and tested/applied; c) Identification and designation of check points and customs for monitoring the access and utilization of genetic resources; d) Development of a ABS Clearing-House Mechanism (ABS-CH) using the existing guides and materials.

Outcome 2.1: Strengthened institutional framework and administrative procedures are made operational for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

The activities outlined below are aimed at developing and operationalizing the required institutional framework for effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in South Sudan. The establishment of these institutional frameworks will be very essential for accession to the Protocol and further the effective implementation of the ABS in the country. Emphasis will be placed on the designation of competent national authorities (Output 2.1.1) to grant access or issue written evidence that access requirements have been met, and advise on procedures and requirements for PIC and MAT. The ABS regime in South Sudan will, no doubt, involve a diversity of stakeholders. A functional, organizational and risk assessment of the institutional frameworks for capacity to implement the national ABS regime will therefore be conducted (Output 2.1.2). This will identify the strengths and weaknesses/gaps, opportunities and threats in technical and institutional capacity of these frameworks to effectively enhance the implementation of the national ABS framework. Due to the multi-sectoral nature of ABS, this outcome also aims at developing operational procedures and coordination mechanisms (Output 2.1.3). This will enable the efficient and effective implementation of ABS across diverse stakeholder institutions.

Output 2.1.1: National Focal Point and Competent National Authorities on ABS designated and their mandate, roles and responsibilities in line with ABS rules set out

- Undertake consultations with relevant government authorities on the mandate, roles and responsibilities of the NFPs and CNAs
- Facilitate the preparation of a legal instrument for appointment of the NFP and CNA for ABS in accordance with the national law (with comprehensive oversight and decisional authority ? mandate and duties)
- Publish and disseminate the legal instrument for appointment of the NFP and CNA

Output 2.1.2: Analysis and assessment of institutional frameworks and coordination to implement the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, including research institutes adding value to genetic resources; undertaken and a report shared with all key stakeholders

- Stakeholder consultations to identify the current and desired context as well as needs of the institutions and agencies to implement the Nagoya Protocol
- Desk study (horizon scan) to develop understanding of the organisation context (present and required)
- Scoping mission to lay ground for the assessment
- Quantitative/qualitative assessment of ministries, institutions and agencies
- Stakeholder validation of the assessment report
- Dissemination of the assessment report to all relevant stakeholders

Output 2.1.3: Operational procedures and coordination mechanisms between CNA, National Focal Point and sectoral agencies facilitating access to genetic resources developed and validated for application

- Convene a multi-sectoral stakeholder workshop to set parameters, scope and process for development of operating procedures and coordination mechanisms
- Undertake stakeholder consultation to collect relevant information
- Develop an initial draft of the operational procedures and coordination mechanisms
- Conduct a validation meeting involving all stakeholders to reach consensus.
- Revise the draft after the validation workshop to reflect agreements and produce a final draft.
- Disseminate copies of the operational procedures and coordination mechanisms CNA, National Focal Point and sectoral agencies

Output 2.1.4: Check points/customs for monitoring the access and utilization of genetic resources identified and designated

- Facilitate the designation of check points to enforce compliance to the national ABS regulatory framework
- Designate check points through an appropriate legal instrument to collect/receive information related to PIC, the source and utilization of GRs, and MATs
- Facilitate the approval of the designated check points

Output 2.1.5: Relevant information and documents (laws, decrees, regulations) on ABS system populated through the ABS Clearing-House Mechanism (ABS-CH) of CBD Secretariat

- Facilitate the designation of a National Publishing Authority
- Engage various sectors to collate relevant documents for uploading onto the CHM
- Approval of all relevant information and documents by the competent government authorities and the National Publishing Authority
- Collation and publishing of the relevant documents on the ABS-CH
- Monitoring utilisation of genetic resources of South Sudan

Component 3: Awareness raising, and capacity building of all stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

The component addresses the need to increase public awareness and understanding on the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. Prior to the ratification of the Protocol extensive stakeholder consultations revealed that issues on ABS are not widely known or understood in South Sudan. Therefore, the project will carry out a suite of activities under this component to enhance understanding of ABS issues and the benefits associated with sharing information on the ABS and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

Outcome 3.1: Key stakeholders are aware of the implication and opportunities of acceding to the Nagoya Protocol; have increased understanding and capacity for domesticating the Nagoya Protocol

The activities described below will lead to increased public awareness and understanding on the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. This will be realised through (i) establishing the ABS Clearing-House (ABS-CH), (ii) training, (iii) developing and disseminating various communication, education and public awareness materials (e.g. posters, brochures, manuals, training modules), and (iv) developing a roster

of experts who will be called upon as and when necessary to backstop communities and government on issues of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol.

Output 3.1.1: Public awareness and communication materials on the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol for briefing targeting key stakeholders including parliamentarians, political decision makers, and government officials, developed, and distributed

- Undertake desk review of key documents and processes governing relevant aspects pertaining to awareness and communication in ABS.
- Develop various relevant ABS awareness and communication materials
- Print and disseminate the strategy and awareness materials to all stakeholders (government and non-government), including uploading a copy to the ABS Clearing House.

Output 3.1.2: Key stakeholders including IPLCs have been made aware of relevant information on the provisions and opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol

- Identify the goal and objectives of the awareness programme
- Develop the materials and aids for awareness creation
- Conduct active and passive awareness events for selected stakeholders (central, state and local government, and IPLCs)
- Evaluate the awareness programme for refining subsequent awareness events

Output 3.1.3: National ABS Action Plan on awareness raising, communication and capacity building for targeted stakeholders, including the production of materials on how to document TK associated with genetic resources developed and implemented

- Stakeholder identification, profiling and mapping
- National stakeholder workshop to collect views and inputs
- Individual stakeholder consultations at national, state and local levels
- National stakeholder workshop to validate the action plan
- Facilitate approval of the action plan
- Print and dissemination the action plan, including uploading it to the ABS CH

Output 3.1.4: Training of trainers? workshops on awareness-raising and communication strategy to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to guide its national outreach activities; for at least 50 qualified trainers (50% of women, 50 % of men) conducted

- Conduct a Training Needs Assessment and set learning objectives
- Select, sequence and prepare learning activities
- Develop/adapt training materials (with special attention to the content, process and delivery methodology vis-a-vis diversity of trainers and trainees)
- Conduct Training of Trainer workshops with full cognisance of gender relations and conflict management
- Document training workshop outcomes, best practices and lessons learnt

Outcome 3.2: Capacity of key stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol built

South Sudan will likely face various capacity constraints in implementing the Nagoya Protocol upon accession. The critical capacity needs include public education and awareness, information acquisition and management, as well as elaboration of roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The project will help to establish a capacity building programme to expedite implementation of the national ABS framework with a focus on strengthening the institutional capacity of the government and private sector agencies. Capacity building under this outcome will also include training individual staff and members of the IPLCs on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Output 3.2.1: Training on ABS procedures for approximately 50 representatives of key stakeholders? groups, including staff of government agencies, IPLCs, academics institutions, private sector regarding their roles and responsibilities to facilitate the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol conducted

In summary, the following activities will be carried out to achieve this output:

- Conduct a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) among the key stakeholders
- Conduct a Technical Capacity and Institutional Needs Assessment (TCINA) among the key stakeholders
- Develop a well-designed Training Programme (package) for selected key stakeholders
- Conduct a series of Training Workshops on ABS procedures to selected stakeholders

1.5. Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The proposed project is fully in line with the third objective of GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy for GEF 7: Strengthen biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks and falls within the focal area 'implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing'. The project will contribute to South Sudan's efforts to achieve its Aichi Targets 16 on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and implementing the three objectives of the CBD. The project will contribute to Aichi Target 18 to promote, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This project will also contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular the goals on Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Life below Water (SDG 14), and Life on Land (SDG 15). The project will, together with other biodiversity related projects, help to address the threat to biodiversity loss in South Sudan by promoting the economic value and ownership of genetic resources including protection of associated traditional knowledge through awareness raising and capacity building.

The project is consistent with the eligibility criteria and priorities of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-TF) as it will support the Government of South Sudan to develop the national ABS framework and capacity to implement the Nagoya Protocol. It will also provide the Government of South Sudan with required capacity to regulate access to genetic resources (GR) and associated traditional knowledge (aTK), promote bio-prospecting, bio-products discovery and technology transfer with prior informed consent and on mutually agreed terms while ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits accrued. The ABS frameworks that will be developed by the project will be used by the Government of South Sudan to facilitate ABS agreements and handling issues under the Nagoya Protocol. This will make it possible to develop incentives for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components, which will contribute to efforts by the international community to halt the loss of biodiversity and avoid misappropriation of GR and associated TK.

1.6. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline

South Sudan is a non-Party to the Nagoya Protocol. The proposed project aims to address the needs, both financial and technical assistance, for the development of legal and regulatory frameworks as well as awareness raising, institutional capacity building regarding accession and effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization and its associated traditional knowledge. Under the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, the current National Environment Policy (2015), Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Bill (2015) and Agriculture Sector Policy Framework (2012-2017) have gaps and weaknesses in terms of ABS measures; however, they will be relevant for the development of the national legislation and policy framework for effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. In this regard, incremental financial support from GEF is necessary such that, effective changes can be capitalized in South Sudan's efforts and commitments in terms of conservation and sustainable use of biological and genetic resources. Current efforts done by the Government of South Sudan require support to reach a wider target audience and to ensure effective and inclusive implementation of ABS measures in the

country. GEF support will complement these efforts and will allow the country to increase its capacity to deal with ABS related matters in alignment to the Nagoya Protocol. Without the GEF funding support, South Sudan may be late to accede to the Nagoya Protocol and to benefit from the utilization of its genetic resources.

1.7. Global environmental benefits

South Sudan is one of the most biologically diverse countries in Africa. The country's remarkable and rich biological diversity, due to varying climatic patterns, diversified ecosystems and habitats is of global significance. South Sudan's wide range of habitats such as tropical forest, swamps, and grassland supports a diversity of both animals and plant species. South Sudan is home to one of the world's largest tropical wetlands[1], the Sudd, designated as a Ramsar site of international importance[2], hosts the world's second-largest land mammal migration with an estimated 1.3 million antelopes, including species of global importance such as the endemic and endangered Nile lechwe (*Kobus megaceros*) and Nile Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii*). Reptiles endemic to South Sudan include the Torit gracile blind snake (*Letheobia toritensis*) and the Mount Kinyetic chameleon (*Trioceros kinentensis*). Freshwater fish known exclusively from South Sudan include (*Barbus tongaensis*) and (*Labeo tongaensis*). Wildlife of South Sudan includes elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), buffalos (*Syncerus caffer*) and several other animal species such as the Mount Kinyeti Chameleon, freshwater fishes *Barbus tongaensis* and *Labeo tongaensis* and a recently discovered African climbing mouse (*Dendromus ruppi*) as well as lion, hippopotamus and a huge population of the Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*), a vulnerable bird species. South Sudan is known to be the only country in Africa with both species of eland: the common eland (*Taurotragus oryx*) and the Derby's (Giant) Eland (*Taurotragus derbianus*). Endemic fauna of South Sudan also includes *Barbus tongaensis*, *Chloroselas taposana*, and *Lepidochrysops nigritia*. Among the vascular plant species restricted to South Sudan are *Aloe diolii*, *Aloe macleayi*, *Panicum bambusiculme*, *Scilla chlorantha* and a cycad palm *Encephalartos mackenziei*[3]. The Imatong Forest is a major biodiversity hotspot supporting over 2,000 vascular plant and 500 bird species and is one of the largest intact Podocarpus forests in Africa.

The proposed project, therefore, will enable South Sudan to make its national contribution to the global environmental benefit of conserving biodiversity and sustainably using its components by acceding to the Nagoya Protocol and building national capacity to implement ABS. The establishment of a functioning robust, transparent National ABS mechanism in South Sudan will bring significant opportunities for research, technology development, innovation, products and processes with expected great economic and social returns. At the same time, adopting such green economic opportunities will provide durable incentives for biodiversity conservation. The consolidation of ABS will generate a wide variety of benefits, monetary and non-monetary, for providers of genetic resources and aTK, some of which will be reinvested in the biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The resulting benefits will also support scientific capacity development, economic growth and the consolidation of the South Sudan's biodiversity.

1.8. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

The proposed project is the first initiative in South Sudan to promote sustainable use of biodiversity, together with traditional knowledge associated to their uses by indigenous peoples and local communities. The project also will work with the private sector, state and lower local governments to establish a private-public partnership on ABS, the first of its kind in South Sudan, and it will establish the country's first framework for sustainable access to and utilization of genetic resources by the private sector. On the other hand, this project will empower indigenous peoples and local communities by recognizing their traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources, will also increase their intellectual property rights on associated traditional knowledge, and ensure full and active engagement in conservation and management of biological diversity and genetic resources by local communities and government agencies. The project will use the African Union Strategic and Practical Guidelines for the Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS (AU Guidelines), which were adopted

in 2015 by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and endorsed by the AU Summit. The project will adhere to the principles of sustainability through the following measures:

In the short term, the project will ensure institutional sustainability by successfully acceding to the Nagoya Protocol and developing relevant laws, regulations, policies and national institutions. The project has been designed to develop institutional capacity of South Sudan by designating National Focal Point office and the National Competent Authorities for the Nagoya Protocol to ensure there are check points nationally. In addition to the development of legal framework to facilitate the adoption of ABS laws, regulations and policies in line with the Nagoya Protocol, the project will aim to improve the capacity of key stakeholders involved in ABS related activities implementation in South Sudan, in particular with full engagement of indigenous and local communities which are currently not well-represented in decisions making process to effectively participate in the management of genetic resources and to ensure sharing of the benefits arising from their utilisation.

In the long-term, the financial sustainability of this project will be income generation and diversification through development, and commercialization of genetic resources through pharmaceutical, cosmetic, nutraceutical, industrial biotechnology, agricultural biotechnology, ornamental horticulture industries, foods and beverages products based on promising native genetic resources of South Sudan. In the long-term, by developing partnerships with private sector using South Sudanese genetic resources, royalties generated and other financial benefits to be accrued from bioprospection and commercial agreements using the Mutually Agreed Terms will acquire additional funds to South Sudan to promote sustainable use of its biological diversity and boost the economy. This project will also contribute to improve monetary and non-monetary benefits to local communities involved in harvest of genetic resources.

The project will work with several government agencies, such as, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, among others, to directly or indirectly contribute to environmental sustainability through: (i) promoting coordination within and between key sectoral agencies programs and regulatory systems; (ii) operationalization of the ABS policy, laws and regulatory frameworks; (iii) capacity development of key stakeholders who manage natural resources, including central government staff, local administration, private sector, communities, traditional authorities; and (iv) Sharing lessons learned and best practices on ABS management practices which enables adoption, replication and scaling out. It is the rationale of the project that the benefits that will be generated from the documentation and testing of biodiversity will stimulate innovations and motivation for increased private, community and Governmental investment in biodiversity conservation in line with the CBD and other international obligations.

Since independence, South Sudan has had its fair share of social and political turbulence which requires strategic planning during project design. The project will achieve socio-political sustainability through: (i) capacity development of key stakeholders, including government, local communities, research and academia, private sector as well as investors, on the benefits and processes of ABS implementation; (ii) gender equality and gender mainstreaming at institutional and community levels to ensure fair and equitable access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization; (iii) participatory approaches to ensure a sense of co-ownership of project outputs and benefits; and (iv) targeted awareness raising programmes for key stakeholders including parliamentarians, political decision makers, and government officials. The project will focus on ensuring long-term ownership of the project's outputs by institutionalizing ABS mechanisms at State, regional and local-level entities for effective implementation. During implementation, the project will carry out project-specific gender analysis, enabling the project to identify and support opportunities to include women in the project activities' implementation.

By developing and strengthening the legal, policy, and institutional capacities needed to develop national ABS frameworks in South Sudan, this project will facilitate documentation and sharing of experiences and lessons learned gathered from the project in neighbouring country in the region such as

Eritrea, Somalia (non-Parties to the Nagoya Protocol) facing similar challenges and opportunities relating to the biodiversity, genetic resources and protection of traditional knowledge.

The project exit strategy will be elaborated in more detail at project inception with full consultations of the stakeholders/partners. This will be facilitated by the PMU and PSC with the full backstopping from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry which will be the main executing entity. The exit strategy will be present during all implementation timeline in order to guarantee the needed resilience of the involved practices from all stakeholders and beneficiaries targeted, in the end of the project. The exit strategy will be mainly hinged on the capacity building, empowerment, as well as lessons and best-practices during the project life-time. Therefore, based on experience from project implementation, it is envisaged that the NFP and CNA will secure the secure the continuation of ABS activities in the country through government funding, public-private partnerships and community ownership. Public-private partnerships will be very relevant for the project's exit strategy as strategic activities can be supported if necessary. In particular, the private sector can be an engine for development in this regards as it can provide for sustainable income generating activities, e.g. partnership between communities and private sector.

In terms of scaling up, the project will develop and support a replication strategy to ensure the broader dissemination of the lessons learnt and results achieved during the implementation of the project. This will be achieved largely through an intensive monitoring, learning, outreach and evaluation process. A key element of its replication strategy that will serve both these objectives will be an awareness and results dissemination program. The specific activities for accession to the Nagoya Protocol will provide valuable lessons that will have applicability elsewhere in South Sudan, the region and globally. Successful replication will depend on whether mechanisms can be found to improve access to genetic resources and benefit sharing at the same time as enhancing biodiversity conservation. With guidance from the project, the constituent states of South Sudan will be responsible for drafting project documents (including objectives, activities and interventions, budget, timetable and terms of reference) for successful replication of the ABS projects, and to start mobilising their own required funding.

[1]Rebelo, L., Senay, G., & McCartney, M. (2012, February). Flood Pulsing in the Sudd Wetland: Analysis of Seasonal Variations in Inundation and Evaporation in South Sudan. American Meteorological Society (AMS), 16(1)

[2]<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/166911468194929501/pdf/E43480v20Easte000PUBLIC00Box379880B.pdf>

[3]South Sudan Profile at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ss/ss-nr-05-en.pdf>

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

1b. Project Map and Geo-Coordinates.

This is a national project that will be implemented in South Sudan, located in sub-Saharan East-Central Africa (see map below). South Sudan lies between latitudes 3° and 13° N, and longitudes 24° and 36° E.



1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

The key stakeholders have been consulted and their input has been incorporated into this proposal. Their expected engagement during the project implementation phase is described in the table below:

Table 5. Key Stakeholders? Roles in the Project Implementation

Stakeholder	Mandate in South Sudan	Roles in the project
National Government Institutions		
Ministry of Environment and Forestry	? Focal Ministry for the Multilateral Environmental Agreements UNCBD and Ramsar Convention ? In charge of all environmental programmes in the country	? Drafting regulation, laws, and policy for genetic resources. ? Coordinating the implementing the Nagoya Protocol regime in the country ? Coordinate and manage the ABS CHM, Competent national authority for the country
Directorate of Forestry (Ministry of Environment and Forestry)	? Management of National Forest Reserves (NFR)	? Provide technical guidance on issuance of permits (phytosanitary certificate) ? Facilitate in the management of plant Genetic Resources ? Drafting legislation, laws and policies for the forest genetic resources.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Protection of plants, seed management, and development of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Conservation and protection of South Sudan's genetic resources from GMOs ? Conservation and judicious utilization of plant genetic resources to enhance agricultural development.
Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Advise government on obligations and implications of environmental conventions, treaties and agreements ? Participate in negotiation and implementation of conventions, treaties, protocols, strategies ? Mobilization of financial and technical resources ? Management, protection and conservation of wildlife resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Provide technical guidance and support in the issuance of permits for research, import, export, translocation related or pertaining to genetic resource under the jurisdiction. ? The department of multilateral environmental agreements and protocols issues import and export of wildlife resources under CITES, CMS and AEW.
Ministry of Livestock and fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Guidance, regulation, promotion, and facilitation of increased production of livestock and fisheries sector ? Provisioning of permits, export and import of livestock products. ? Protection livestock and fisheries genetic resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Provide technical guidance and support in the issuance of permits for research, import, export ? Competence national authority
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Policy development ? Coordination of public-private partnership ? Development of small and medium-sized enterprises in compliance with industrial standards ? Promotion of export, entrepreneurship and innovation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Provide technical guidance and support in the issuance of permits for research, import, and export license of products which are of genetic resources.
Ministry of Justices and Constitutional Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Drafting legislation, regulations and policies ? Providing legal advice to government on various public transactions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Advise on the legal implications and domestication of the Nagoya Protocol in the country ? Assist in drafting of legislations, laws and policies for the ABS ? Facilitate the capacity building and awareness raising on patent and intellectual property rights on genetic resources ? Advise the country on access to justice in regards to genetic resources

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	? Assist in ratifications and accessions of Protocols ? Negotiation of treaties, protocols and conventions	? Facilitate the process of accession to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and depositing the instrument to the depository
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology	? Scientific Research	? Provide technical guidance and support in the issuance of permits for research purpose with bearing on access and utilization of genetic resources ? Promote awareness on ABS
Ministry of Interior, Directorate of Customs	? Enforcement of laws and regulations	? Enforce compliance with laws and regulations for the ABS specifically in the entry and exit border points
Ministry of Information, Telecommunication & Postal Service	? Create awareness raising	? Enhance visibility and awareness about ABS through their media channels ? Facilitate discussions around ABS and provide timely updates to the public
Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning	? Mobilization of financial resources for the country's programmes ? Development and implementation of financial and economic development policies	? Assist with the additional mobilization of resource for the implementations of the ABS
Committee for Environment, Forestry and Wildlife Conservation, National Legislative Assembly	? Policy and decision makers	? Review and approve the ABS legal frameworks presented to the parliament before enactment ? Promote awareness on ABS within the parliament and in their constituencies
Academia		
University of Juba, School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies	? Scientific Research	? Undertake research on plants and animal genetic resources and ensure issues of ABS are considered. ? Publish scientific papers on local technical knowledge and uses of genetic resources ? Collaborative Research for bio-prospecting
Upper Nile University, Faculty of Forest & Range Science	? Scientific Research	? Undertake research on plants and animal genetic resources and ensure issues of ABS are considered. ? Publish scientific papers on local technical knowledge and uses of genetic resources. ? Collaborative Research for bio-prospecting
Sub-National Government		

State Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries	? Protection livestock & Fisheries genetic resources	? Assist in drafting of legislations, laws and policies for the livestock & Fisheries genetic resources
State Ministries of Health and Environment	? Health and Sanitation	? Assist in drafting of legislations, laws and policies in the health and sanitation sector
CBOs, CSOs and IPLCS		
South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation (SSNCO)	? Development, advocacy, lobbying and awareness creation	? Participate in conducting awareness creation about ABS, Prior inform consent (PIC) and negotiations of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) on behalf of the IPLCs on access and use of genetic resources
South Sudan Wildlife Society (SSWS)	? Development, advocacy, lobbying and awareness creation	? Participate in conducting awareness creation about ABS, Prior inform consent (PIC) and negotiations of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) on behalf of the IPLCs on access and use of genetic resources
Community Development Support services (CDSS)	? Development, advocacy, lobbying and awareness creation	? Participate in conducting awareness creation about ABS, Prior inform consent (PIC) and negotiations of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) on behalf of the IPLCs on access and use of genetic resources
Social Accountability, Peace and Access to Justice	? Development, advocacy, lobbying and awareness creation	? Participate in conducting awareness creation about ABS, Prior inform consent (PIC) and negotiations of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) on behalf of the IPLCs on access and use of genetic resources
Community Organization for Peace Development Initiative (COPADI)	? Development, advocacy, lobbying and awareness creation	? Participate in conducting awareness creation about ABS, Prior inform consent (PIC) and negotiations of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) on behalf of the IPLCs on access and use of genetic resources
Nyakriaet Consortium	? Development, advocacy, lobbying and awareness creation	? Participate in conducting awareness creation about ABS, Prior inform consent (PIC) and negotiations of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) on behalf of the IPLCs on access and use of genetic resources

Eco-Peace Initiative	? Development, advocacy, lobbying and awareness creation	? Participate in conducting awareness creation about ABS, Prior informed consent (PIC) and negotiations of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) on behalf of the IPLCs on access and use of genetic resources
Donor agencies		
GIZ-ABS Capacity Building Initiative	? Establishment of functional ABS regimes ? Development and implementation of required ABS regulatory frameworks	? Review of the draft ABS frameworks ? ABS capacity building and awareness raising on patent and intellectual property rights on genetic resources

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

The project preparation phase was initiated by a virtual project inception workshop on 19th June 2020 on the background of the COVID-19 global pandemic. A total of thirteen (13) stakeholder organisations, including government ministries, universities, non-government organisations, IPLCs and representatives of UNEP, during which the outlines of the project were presented and discussed. Following the inception workshop, consultations were undertaken, including one-on-one meetings with key institutions and focus groups to identify the priorities and concerns of local communities. During project preparation, local communities were given the opportunity to express their needs, expectations and concerns regarding the project. The main conclusions of these consultations have been considered in the project document.

The project affects a wide range of stakeholders in South Sudan, ranging from Government authorities to communities living alongside genetic resources, and from researchers and scientists to the private sector. The project also has a far-reaching impact on stakeholders along value chains, from source to transit to consumer, which could include international stakeholders. It is planned that engagement of stakeholders, including project-affected groups, indigenous peoples, and local CSOs engagement will continue unabated during project implementation. This will be done to ensure that their views and concerns are made known and taken into account during the course of implementation. The PMU will ensure that the lead implementing partners will continue to hold consultations throughout project implementation as deemed necessary to address environmental and social impact assessment-related issues that affect them. To address this requirement and given the nature of the project, the stakeholder engagement plan is organized following the three components of the project.

The goal of the stakeholder engagement plan is to involve all project stakeholders, including the GEF, as early as possible in the implementation process and throughout the project, and to ensure that their

views and concerns are made known and taken into consideration. The plan will also help the project in ensuring effective communication channels and working relationships. The PMU and PSC will hold consultations with stakeholders throughout project implementation, through formal workshops, and informally as necessary. During implementation, the project's main stakeholders remain the same as the key providers/custodians of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, government agencies, agents of the judiciary and enforcement that play a role in ABS, as well as potential users of genetic resources and aTK. Participation of users and providers will continue to be stimulated through various workshops that will be focused on achieving accession to the Nagoya Protocol and developing the procedures, guidelines and other specifics for implementing the National ABS mechanism. The information acquired during this stage will be crucial for the implementation and functioning of the ABS system in South Sudan.

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

To ensure wide dissemination, all project information and capacity building materials and project reports will be made available through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) website and ABS-CH portal. In addition, links will be developed to the project through websites of various partners. The Department of Wetland and Biodiversity conservation in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry will be responsible for coordinating project execution. In as far as responsibilities are concerned, apart from MoEF, the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Industry, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of component 1 i.e. ensuring that South Sudan accedes to the Nagoya Protocol and strengthens the national regulatory and institutional framework for ABS. Components 2 (*establishment of institutional arrangements and administrative systems to implement the Nagoya Protocol*) and 3 (*awareness raising and capacity building*) will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in conjunction with state governments, University of Juba, Civil Society and Community Based Organisations. The PMU and PSC will ensure that resources for stakeholder engagement are allocated appropriately during project implementation.

Since the project is mainly concerned with the access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits arising from their utilization as well as associated traditional knowledge, it is likely that there may be some grievances, especially during negotiations and signing of agreements. The CNA will set up a process for monitoring, addressing and resolving any and all grievances. Instructions on grievance handling mechanism will be appropriately communicated to all stakeholders and also posted on the project web site. It will also be possible for any interested stakeholders to raise any grievance at all times to the PMU or CNA.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; No

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Describe The Role of Civil Society in The Project:

Civil society organizations work with the grass root communities who are the custodians of the genetic resources (GR) and its associated traditional knowledge (TK) embedded within their culture, traditions and norms as providers of genetic resources who are entitled to provide access to genetic resources and share the benefits resulting from their use.

The civil societies role is to organize the communities into user groups (Farmers groups, fisher folks, women group, youth groups and they are the entry point to the communities and will facilitate awareness raising campaigns and capacity building initiatives.

In this project, the civil society will contribute in component three on awareness raising and capacity building of all stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. They will help in activities aimed at increasing public awareness and understanding on the Nagoya Protocol on ABS especially on the principles of Prior Inform Consent (PIC), Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and Bio-cultural protocols among others.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

The project will will implement an awareness programme which will take due cognisance of gender issues and audiences outside the specific categories of stakeholders.

Targets for involving women in project activities were included in the Results Framework of the project. Women?s participation will be targeted in: i) the project steering committee; ii) training sessions and workshops; and iii) any meetings that will be convened during the implementation of the project. Project activities will be informed by socio-economic assessments that will include gender research into opportunities for accession to the Nagoya Protocol. Communication interventions will specifically be gender sensitive/dis-aggregated. Gender will be considered when public awareness

campaigns are designed and information materials are disseminated, and gender sensitivity will be incorporated into training topics so that: i) female participants are empowered to participate meaningfully in the trainings; and ii) all participants are made aware of their responsibility to respect the views of all of their colleagues during training workshops. For example, during the ToT workshops, a set of clear gender responsive learning objectives will be developed. The learning objectives will of necessity be measurable so that it will be possible to assess the training session at the end. An important aspect of the training (during the ToT workshop) will be gender relations and conflict management. Trainers will be required to have the skills and experience necessary to plan and facilitate gender-sensitive training. To ensure that the progress of gender mainstreaming can be monitored throughout the project, sex disaggregated targets will be developed and used to monitor indicators. In addition to gender awareness, the project will promote the requirements of other disadvantaged and more vulnerable groups including the elderly, children and the differently disabled persons.

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

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

This project will be implemented in a fully participatory manner. The private sector will be actively involved in dissemination of project activities thereby providing an opportunity: (a) to communicate and discuss project findings and recommendations, and; (b) for the exchange of success stories and lessons learned. In order to plan for the National ABS Strategy and Action Plan, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry will establish a national multisectoral planning team. The private sector will be a critical member of this team, to among other things, explore linkages between ABS and variety of themes including economics, health, agriculture, forestry, intellectual property rights and others; as well as facilitate dialogue amongst stakeholder groups, including communication, negotiation and resolution of potential conflicts (consensus-building). In the long-term, the outcome of this project will ultimately be income generation and diversification through development, and commercialization of genetic resources through pharmaceutical, cosmetic, nutraceutical, industrial biotechnology, agricultural biotechnology, ornamental horticulture industries, foods and beverages products based on promising native genetic resources of South Sudan. South Sudan therefore foresees a leading role and the need to develop partnerships with the private sector on the basis of the potential royalties and other benefits that will accrued from bioprospection and commercial agreements using the Mutually Agreed Terms from South Sudanese genetic resources.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

The project strategy, described in detail within the project document, identifies the following key risks. These risks and the mitigation measures will be continuously monitored and updated throughout the project.

Risks	Level	Mitigation strategy
Lack of awareness and commitment to accede to the Nagoya Protocol	L	The proposed project was developed based on the demand of the Government of South Sudan, efforts will be made to provide substantive and detailed information to the policy-makers to illustrate the opportunities and benefit the country can derive from becoming a Party to the Nagoya Protocol.
Possible resumption of armed conflict	M	All project activities will be undertaken in Juba and other states which are not engulfed in the recent conflict.
Indigenous peoples and local communities may oppose regulations that restrict their activities relevant to ABS	M	The project will develop participative community consultation, educational and awareness programmes, and will use the partnership approach with indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure full involvement in the project.
The government is not fully committed to having enabling regulatory and institutional frameworks to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	L	The project will strengthen political commitment by raising awareness among decision-makers, institutions, and communities on ABS aspects of genetic resources, and how this can strengthen conservation, contribute to science, economy and to national research capacity more generally.
Lengthy legislative process, and slow adoption of ABS law and regulations	M	The project will support capacity building and awareness-raising activities to improve understanding of the whole ABS implementation process and knowledge for parliamentarians, decision makers and key stakeholders to facilitate the drafting of all relevant legislation.
High turnover at ministerial and government institutions level and partner agencies and loss of key staff initially involved and trained by the project	H	The project will support broad-based involvement of different government entities, NGO, CSO and the public. Capacity building and awareness-raising activities will be undertaken among all relevant government agencies staff and will not rely on individual staff. The project management unit will be able to inform new staff on the project objectives, progress and opportunities and benefits regarding ABS.
Uncontrolled exploitation of biological resources continues to negatively impact valuable genetic resources	M	Awareness-raising and capacity development on sustainable harvesting will provide all stakeholder groups with knowledge on the importance of economic value of genetic resources and the opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol reducing the anthropogenic pressure on the biological resources

Risks	Level	Mitigation strategy
Target audiences for training, awareness raising, and other capacity development activities are not fully committed to actively participate in project activities and affected adversely by internal conditions (e.g., re-organization, public officers' rotation, budget cuts, among others)	H	This risk will be minimized by constant complementary awareness-raising activities from the project, ensuring that its importance is perceived at all levels. The project implementation team will use adaptive management measures (e.g., annual work plan and budget revisions) to secure the necessary support and ensure project progress.
Unequal gender and social exclusion in access to project resources and benefits, limited decision-making power and mobility, particularly in rural areas thereby excluding.	M	There is Gender considerations will be mainstreamed in all project activities
Climate change is predicted to change rainfall patterns and exacerbate drought conditions, exacting an additional stress on the already vulnerable ecosystems	M	The project will strengthen the awareness and adaptive capacity of local communities in the project sites during the community trainings, meetings and communication/awareness materials which will be developed. The project will also coordinate with the meteorological authorities to provide the local authorities with up to date information on climate, short term forecasts, seasonal forecasts, long-term climate scenarios, environmental monitoring, early warnings of severe meteorological and climatic events, and other relevant data, all at a suitable spatial scale and packaged in a manner suitable for making on-farm and sector management decisions.
Force majeure or acts of nature, such as the new pandemic, COVID-19 may delay implementation of project activities.	L	The project will take the following actions to mitigate negative results arising from force majeure or acts of nature, such as COVID-19 or any other health related risk: a) Identify critical stakeholders the absence of whom can lead to unplanned delays, b) Consider legal and financial implications of the force majeure COVID-19 and develop a mitigation plan at the inception stage, c) Communicate any disruptions due to force majeure, such as COVID-19, to all stakeholders, including staff and UNEP, d) Conduct scenario analysis and consider alternative delivery methods, such as virtual or online meetings, radio programmes, recorded messages and guidelines, personal protective equipment or any other steps that will allow the project to be completed on time and on budget, even if it is delayed at some stages. This risk will also be mitigated by the conservation of genetic diversity, benefits for people for nature and sharing of benefits from genetic resources and traditional knowledge, directly contributing to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to provide nature-based solutions to pandemics and other acts of nature

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination.

The project will be implemented by UNEP and executed nationally by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF). UNEP ? through its GEF Task Manager (TM) and Funds Management Officer (FMO) - will monitor the implementation of the project, review progress in the realization of the project outputs, and ensure the proper use of GEF funds. The UNEP TM will be directly responsible for: (i) providing consistent and regular project oversight to ensure the achievement of project objectives; (ii) liaising between the project and the GEF Secretariat; (iii) ensuring that both GEF and UNEP policy requirements and standards are applied and met (i.e. reporting obligations, technical, fiduciary, M&E); (iv) approving budget revisions, certifying fund availability and transferring funds; (v) organizing mid- and end-term evaluations and reviewing project audits; (vi) providing technical, legal and administrative guidance if requested; and (vii) certifying project operational completion.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) will be the Executing Agency on behalf of the Government of South Sudan through the Directorate of Wetlands and Biodiversity (DoWB) and will provide overall coordination and supervision. The MoEF will be accountable to UNEP for the achievement of the project objective and outcomes, according to the approved overall project work plan. MoEF will implement the project in collaboration with project partners such as Central government institutions (Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Ministry of Wildlife Conservation & Tourism (MWC&T), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MA&FS), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Industry(MLF&I); State government institutions (Central Equatoria State-Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Eastern Equatoria State); Universities (University of Juba); Civil society institutions (South Sudanese Development Organization (SSDO), Eco-Peace Initiative, South Sudan Wildlife Society (SSWS), South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation (SSNCO), International Union for Conservation of Nature, Alliance for Environment and Rural Development (AERD), Social Accountability, Peace and Access to Justice (SAC-P-A2J)) and local community organisations (Nyakiriket Consortium). To expedite delivery of outputs, the MoEF will sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with project partners to implement specific activities of the project. These memoranda will clearly spell out the activities agreed upon and responsibilities of each party in the execution of the project. The mandate, expertise and competencies of the partners are some of the criteria that will be used in identifying activities to be implemented by project partners.

Internal structure

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established in the Department of Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and will comprise of the Project Manager, Project Assistant (Finance and Administration) and Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant. The PMU will be responsible for the daily management of the project and for ensuring efficient and timely implementation of the project annual work plans. The PMU will be hosted and supported technically by Department of Biodiversity who will allocate part-time experts according to the PMU needs as part of government co-financing. Memoranda of Understanding will also be developed with relevant partners if required for the coordination of some specific interventions of the project. The PMU will work in close collaboration with UNEP. The PMU will be responsible for:

- 1) Technically identify, plan, design and support all project activities;
- 2) Liaise with government agencies and regularly advocate on behalf of the project;

- 3) Prepare the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B) and monitoring plan, and submit them to UNEP and PSC for validation;
- 4) Play the role of the Secretariat of the PSC;
- 5) Organize regular meetings and workshops with the PSC;
- 6) Be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the project in line with the AWP;
- 7) Ensure a results-based approach to project implementation, including maintaining a focus on project results and impacts as defined by the results framework indicators;
- 8) Ensure close collaboration with baseline and partner project to maximize synergy and complementarity;
- 9) Ensure the submission of appropriate annual expenditure reports on the budget identified as co-financing by the baseline projects;
- 10) Prepare and submit bi-annual progress reports and contribute to the preparation of UNEP progress reports;
- 11) Monitor and evaluate continuously the project progress regarding the Results Framework Targets according to a specific plan validated by Department of Biodiversity and UNEP, and submit M&E reports regularly to UNEP and PSC;
- 12) Be responsible for the elaboration of UNEP Project Progress Reports (PPR) and the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); and
- 13) Facilitate and support the mid-term evaluation/review and final evaluation of the project. PMU staff will be supported by national and international consultants who will be recruited during project implementation as needed.

External structure

There will be Annual UNEP participatory monitoring and evaluation missions of the project to assess progress towards achievement of the targets and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving project objectives, outcomes and outputs and to discuss and agree on mechanisms to improve project performance. Findings and recommendations of this review will be instrumental in bringing improvement in the overall project design and execution strategy for the remaining period of the project's term if necessary.

Oversight mechanism

Project Steering Committee

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be constituted to serve as the project oversight, advisory and support body for the project. The final composition of the PSC will be determined at the Project Inception Workshop. The PSC will ensure that the project remains on course to deliver the desired outcomes of the required quality. The PSC will provide overall guidance and policy direction to the implementation of the project and advise on appropriate strategies for project sustainability. It will also advise on any conflicts within the project or to any problems with external bodies. The PSC will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluation by quality assuring the project processes and products. Specifically, the PSC will:

- 1) Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
- 2) Provide guidance on new project risks and agree on possible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risks;
- 3) Review the project progress and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
- 4) Appraise the project annual review report and make recommendations for the next annual work plan;
- 5) Provide strategic advice to the PMU for the implementation of project activities to ensure the integration of project activities with sustainable development objectives;
- 6) Oversee and ensure technical quality of outputs;
- 7) Ensure alignment of the activities and products with the project document;
- 8) Review the progress reports and financial reports;
- 9) Ensure close linkages between the project and other relevant ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project;
- 10) Ensure timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support;
- 11) Ensure effective coordination of government partner work under this project;

- 12) Modify, where needed, and validate Project Progress and Financial Reports, the Annual Work Plan and Budget;
- 13) Provide contributions to the mid-term evaluation/review and final evaluation, analyze the conclusions and formulate response plans; and
- 14) Facilitate the dissemination and integration of the results in national policies and programmes.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

UNEP will arrange for the Project's Mid-term, Project End M&E and Project Final Evaluation in consultation with Project Management Unit (PMU). The Project Mid-and Final M&E will, inter alia: a) Review the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; b) Analyze effectiveness of partnership arrangements; c) Identify issues requiring decisions and remedial actions; d) Propose any mid-course corrections and/or adjustments to the implementation strategy as necessary; and e) Describe the technical achievements and lessons learned derived from project design, implementation and management.

In-line with the GEF and UNEP Evaluation requirements, the project will be subject to an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE). The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office to feed into the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalised.

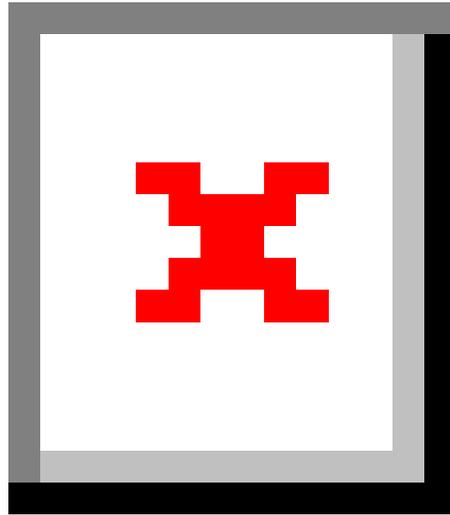
The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the project manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation, the reporting requirements and responsibilities have been proposed as follows:

M&E Component/Activity	Responsibility Assignment		Means of Assessment/Monitoring Data Source
	Institution	Project/Agency Officer	
Project Inception	PMU in consultation with UNEP,	Project Manager, Consultant	Inception report with detailed methodology
Steering Committee Meetings	PMU	Project Manager, UNEP Task Manager	Minutes of the meetings
Semi-annual M&E review meetings	PMU	Project Manager, UNEP Task Manager	Minutes of the meetings
Monitoring visits	PMU in collaboration with participating institutions	Project Manager, UNEP Task Manager	On site data collection Monitoring reports

Annual Review and Planning Meeting (ARPM)/Project Implementation Review (PIR)	UNEP in consultation with the PMU, and participating institutions/agencies and stakeholders	Project Manager, UNEP Task Manager	On site data collection PIR reports
Mid-Term external evaluation (MTR)	UNEP in consultation with the PMU, and participating institutions/agencies and stakeholders	Independent Consultant	On site data collection Consultant report
End of Project Terminal Evaluation	UNEP in consultation with the PMU, and participating institutions/agencies and stakeholders	Independent Consultant	On site data collection Consultant report

Organogram



The management structure, as shown above, will respond to the project's needs in terms of direction, management, control, and communication. As the project is cross-functional and involves various stakeholders, its structure will be flexible in order to adjust to ongoing changes in the context. Staff and consultants will be contracted according to the established rules and regulations of South Sudan and all financial transactions and agreements will similarly follow the same rules and regulations.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

7. Consistency with National Priorities

The proposed project is in line with the United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) for South Sudan Priority Area # 1: Building Peace and Strengthening Governance ; by contributing to the national efforts to engage with communities on the wise use of natural resources and promote dialogue, reconciliation, expand community interdependence, access and sustainable management of natural resources. The proposed project is fully consistent with South Sudan's national priorities as laid out in its Fifth National Report to the Convention of Biological Diversity 2015 and the Draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, in particular with its national target 13 together with 14 and 16 on conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources, addressing the reduction of biodiversity loss and improved sustainable use of the native biodiversity. In terms of women's empowerment, the project seeks similar outcomes like the the Gender Policy (2013) and South Sudan National Women's Strategy (2016) which emphasize the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in all policies and programmes of government, private sector and civil society in order achieve improved and sustainable livelihoods. Women face unequal access to production resources, limited decision-making power and mobility, particularly in rural areas. The project will also contribute to the implementation of the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA). This National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) project is part of the UNEP/GEF support to the Republic of South Sudan to strengthen the capacity of national, state and local institutions and communities to manage the environment and support processes for implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Capacity development needs will be assessed at the individual, institutional and systemic (policy and legislative framework) levels, including by assessing vertical (local & regional authorities ?national government) and horizontal (government ? NGOs/CBOs) coordination structures for planning and executing activities. The NCSA project focused in three phases, namely: (i) thematic situation analysis and capacity needs identification, (ii) identification of synergies among the MEAs, and (iii) the NCSA action plan process.

8. Knowledge Management

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

8. Knowledge Management.

This project has identified increased public awareness as an important element of the strategy to enhance the significance of accession and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. To this effect, the ABS-CH will be utilised as a platform for information sharing and knowledge management. Targeted communication and outreach to Parliamentarians, researchers, IPLCs, women and representatives from ABS line ministries and agencies will be conducted with the explicit purpose of building ABS capacity, as part of a broader objective to develop an ABS framework. Stakeholder public awareness, outreach and participation at the country and state level will include the participation of technical staff and women in workshops, training, and tools development; the facilitation of local project events and processes; the provision of data sources and technical expertise relevant for broader ABS policy formulation; the preparation and submission of accession instruments; and the institutionalization of project results and lessons learned to allow for upscaling, replication and sustainability. The project will make it possible to demonstrate ABS as an innovative financial mechanism. Lessons learnt will be documented and shared nationally and globally through print and electronic media. All on-going programmes and projects will be documented and networking will be established to avoid duplication but to promote synergies.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

9. Monitoring and Evaluation.

Project monitoring will be carried out by the Project Management Unit (PMU). Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception the results matrix will be reviewed to finalize identification of: i) outputs ii) indicators; and iii) missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception.

Specific reports that will be prepared under the M&E program are: (i) Project inception report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); (iii) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (iv) annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report. In addition, assessment of the GEF Monitoring Evaluation Tracking Tools against the baseline (completed during project preparation) will be required at midterm and final project evaluation:

a) **Project Inception Report:** The PMU will prepare a draft project inception report in consultation with other project partners. Elements of this report will be discussed during the Project Inception Workshop and the report subsequently finalized. The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that can affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B, a detailed project monitoring plan. The draft inception report will be circulated to the PSC for review and comments before its finalization, no later than one month after project start up.

b) **Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B):** The draft of the first AWP/B will be prepared by the PMU in consultation with the UNEP and reviewed at the project Inception Workshop. The Inception Workshop (IW) inputs will be incorporated and the PMU will prepare a final draft AWP/B within two weeks of the IW. For subsequent AWP/B, the PMU will organize a project progress review and planning meeting for its review. The AWP/B will be linked to the project's Results Framework indicators so that the project's work would be contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The AWP/B will include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs and output targets and will be divided into 3 monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for output indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The AWP/B will be approved by the PSC.

c) **Project Progress Reports (PPR):** PPRs will be prepared by the PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project's Results Framework. The purpose of the PPR will be to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that may impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. They will also report on projects risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan.

d) **Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR):** The PMU will prepare an annual PIR covering the project financial year to be submitted to GEF for review and approval. The UNEP will submit the PIR to the GEF Secretariat as part of the Annual Monitoring Review report.

e) **Technical Reports:** Technical reports will be prepared by national, international consultants (partner organizations under LOAs) as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned.

f) **Co-financing Reports:** The PMU will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document/CEO Request. The PMU will compile the information received from the executing partners.

g) **GEF Indicator Worksheet:** Following the GEF-7 policies and procedures, performance against the relevant indicators will be tracked and submitted at three moments: (i) with the project document at CEO endorsement; (ii) at the project's mid-term review/evaluation; and (iii) with the project's terminal evaluation or final completion report. The progress towards the performance against indicators will be tracked in close collaboration with the UNEP. They will be filled in by the PIU and made available for the mid-term review and again for the final evaluation.

h) **Terminal Report:** Within two months before the end date of the project, and one month before the Final Evaluation, the PIU will submit a draft Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report will be to give guidance on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the GEF with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report will, accordingly, be a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details.

i) **A Mid-Term Review** of the project activities will be undertaken at project mid-term to review progress and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving the project objectives, outcomes and outputs. Findings and recommendations of this review will be instrumental for bringing improvement in the overall project design and execution strategy for the remaining period of the project's term. The PMU will arrange for the mid-term review in consultation with the project partners. The evaluation will, inter alia:

- i). Review the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation;
- ii). Analyse effectiveness of partnership arrangements;
- iii). Identify issues requiring decisions and remedial actions;
- iv). Propose any mid-course corrections and/or adjustments to the implementation strategy as necessary; and
- v). Highlight technical achievements and lessons learned derived from project design, implementation and management.

j) **An independent Terminal Evaluation** will aim to identify the project impacts and sustainability of project results and the degree of achievement of long-term results. This evaluation will also have the purpose of indicating future actions needed to sustain project results and disseminate products and best-practices within South Sudan and to neighbouring countries.

10. Benefits

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

10. Benefits.

This project will enhance the capacity for implementation of a robust and transparent national legal, regulatory and institutional framework and the strong governance structure to manage an ABS regime to properly share, in a fair and equitable way, the benefits arising from the commercial and other uses of genetic resources in South Sudan. The strengthening of the ABS mechanism will contribute to the development of social inclusion and gender equality, foster clear and transparent provisions and strengthen the capacity for indigenous and local communities to benefit from the use of their traditional knowledge

associated with genetic resources, thereby generating opportunities benefit sharing while reinforcing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The benefits shared will, no doubt, be applied in biodiversity conservation actions and benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional small farmers, taking into account their organizations and including consideration of gender dimensions. Since the project is gender-oriented and socially inclusive, all activities related directly with the end beneficiaries, such as awareness activities, trainings, ABS laws and guidelines, PIC and MAT, will be carried out taking gender equality and social inclusion principles into consideration.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

The project will develop participative community consultation, educational and awareness programmes, and will use the partnership approach with indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure full involvement in the project. The project will strengthen political commitment by raising awareness among decision-makers, institutions, and communities on ABS aspects of genetic resources, and how this can strengthen conservation, contribute to science, economy and to national research capacity more generally. The project will support capacity building and awareness-raising activities to improve understanding of the whole ABS implementation process and knowledge for parliamentarians, decision makers and key stakeholders to facilitate the drafting of all relevant legislation. The project will support broad-based involvement of different government entities, NGO, CSO and the public. Capacity building and awareness-raising activities will be undertaken among all relevant government agencies staff and will not rely on individual staff. The project management unit will be able to inform new staff on the project objectives, progress and opportunities and benefits regarding ABS. Awareness-raising and capacity development on sustainable harvesting will provide all stakeholder groups with knowledge on the importance of economic value of genetic resources and the opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol reducing the anthropogenic pressure on the biological resources. This risk will be minimized by constant complementary awareness-raising activities from the project, ensuring that its importance is perceived at all levels. The project implementation team will use adaptive management

measures (e.g., annual work plan and budget revisions) to secure the necessary support and ensure project progress. There is Gender considerations will be mainstreamed in all project activities The project will strengthen the awareness and adaptive capacity of local communities in the project sites during the community trainings, meetings and communication/awareness materials which will be developed. The project will also coordinate with the meteorological authorities to provide the local authorities with up to date information on climate, short term forecasts, seasonal forecasts, long-term climate scenarios, environmental monitoring, early warnings of severe meteorological and climatic events, and other relevant data, all at a suitable spatial scale and packaged in a manner suitable for making on-farm and sector management decisions. The project will take the following actions to mitigate negative results arising from force majeure or acts of nature, such as COVID-19 or any other health related risk: a) Identify critical stakeholders the absence of whom can lead to unplanned delays, b) Consider legal and financial implications of the force majeure COVID-19 and develop a mitigation plan at the inception stage, c) Communicate any disruptions due to force majeure, such as COVID-19, to all stakeholders, including staff and UNEP, d) Conduct scenario analysis and consider alternative delivery methods, such as virtual or online meetings, radio programmes, recorded messages and guidelines, personal protective equipment or any other steps that will allow the project to be completed on time and on budget, even if it is delayed at some stages. This risk will also be mitigated by the conservation of genetic diversity, benefits for people for nature and sharing of benefits from genetic resources and traditional knowledge, directly contributing to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to provide nature-based solutions to pandemics and other acts of nature

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
SRIF South Sudan ABS MSP	CEO Endorsement ESS	

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

Annex A: Project Results Framework

Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target			
To accede to the Nagoya Protocol and establish conditions for enabling South Sudan to fully implement its obligations as a Party to the Protocol.	Accession to Nagoya Protocol and existence of an effective ABS regime	Nagoya Protocol not yet acceded to	Nagoya Protocol acceded to and operationalisation initiated	Nagoya Protocol under full implementation	Accession instruments ; Government gazette	<p>Assumptions: Government of South Sudan is fully committed to the conservation and sustainable use of the country's genetic resources and introduction of national ABS framework.</p> <p>Risks: - Potential delay in the approval of ABS policy, regulations</p>	-
	Existence of gender responsive policies, legal and regulatory frameworks for implementation of ABS in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol	No framework in place. Some individual policies, laws and regulations identify specific types of GR in ways that could be integrated into, a national ABS framework .	Existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks are reviewed and updated to align with the Nagoya Protocol	Draft gender responsive ABS policy under government approval processed; gender sensitive ABS regulations and guidelines are in place and operational	Updated regulatory framework documents, National ABS guidelines, ABS policy document, Progress reports		

	Existence of gender responsive institutional frameworks & administrative systems for implementation of ABS in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol	No specific ABS institutional framework in place. The CBD and ABS Focal Points are in place and operational	Existing institutional frameworks are reviewed and updated to align with the Nagoya Protocol	Gender responsive ABS Institutional frameworks and administrative systems are in place and operational	Revised institutional framework documents, ABS institutions (CNA, Checkpoints, Focal points, etc.); Progress reports	and guidelines would delay the development and operationalization of the regulatory and institutional framework - Lack of consensus of roles and responsibilities among stakeholders would delay implementation of ABS at district and local levels	
	Level of public awareness on issues and processes related to access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (ABS)	Only about 5% of the public are aware of issues & processes related to access to genetic resources and benefit sharing	At least 30% of the general public are aware of ABS issues and processes	At least 30% of the general public are aware of ABS issues and processes; South Sudan fulfils 70% of her required reporting under the Nagoya Protocol			
Project Outcomes	Outcome level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
			Mid-Point Target	End of project Target			
1.1. Existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks are reviewed and updated and operationaliz	Requisite instruments are available for accession to the Nagoya Protocol	Currently the country has not yet acceded to the Nagoya Protocol	Instruments for accession to the Nagoya Protocol endorsed and submitted to the UN	The Nagoya Protocol acceded to and under full implementation	Nagoya Protocol accession instruments ;	Assumptions Prerequisite competencies and political will are available for development	

ation of the Nagoya protocol initiated	Number of gender responsive existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks reviewed and updated	Existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks are not aligned to the NP	At least three relevant gender responsive policy, legal and regulatory frameworks reviewed and updated	All reviewed and updated relevant gender responsive policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in place and under use	ABS policy, ABS regulations; ABS Strategy & Action plan	of national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and instruments for accession to the Nagoya Protocol
	Extent of the operationalization of the Nagoya protocol	The Nagoya protocol is not operational yet	The Nagoya Protocol becomes fully operational after accession	ABS mainstreamed in access and utilization of genetic resources	Project reports; Workshop & meeting reports	Risks Competing priorities and emergencies arise and delay revision and update of legislative frameworks; Approval process may take very long and delay their implementation

Outputs

- 1.1.1. Stocktaking and analysis of the existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks on ABS is undertaken and the report is accessed by key stakeholders
- 1.1.2. An analysis of the implications and opportunities of accession to the Nagoya Protocol is conducted and the report is presented to and discussed by key stakeholders.
- 1.1.3. Legal documents of accession to the Nagoya Protocol drafted, submitted for approval and deposited.
- 1.1.4. National ABS law and regulations drafted and submitted for approval to relevant authorities.
- 1.1.5. National ABS strategy and action plan developed, submitted and validated in a coordinated and participatory approach.

2.1. Strengthened institutional framework, and administrative procedures are made operational for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	Number of gender inclusive institutional frameworks and administrative systems in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol in place	The CBD National Focal Point is already designated and functional; There are no ABS CNAs designated at national/sub-national levels; No ABS checkpoints designated	At least 11 ABS CNAs designated at national and sub-national level; At least 15 checkpoints designated At least one set of administrative procedures and coordination mechanisms drafted	Gender inclusive institutional framework (11 ABS Competent authorities, 15 checkpoints, one set of administrative procedures and coordination mechanisms between CNA, NFP and sectoral agencies) in place	Meeting reports; Project reports; Official correspondences / government circulars;	Assumptions Government of South Sudan and the relevant stakeholders are able to support and operate the structures of the ABS institutional frameworks and administrative procedures required for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol
	Number of gender inclusive staff (personnel) recruited and trained to implement the Nagoya Protocol	The CBD National Focal Point is already functional; no staff yet recruited for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol pending accession	Personnel based on gender inclusiveness recruited for 11 ABS CNAs, 15 exit/entry check points	At least 11 ABS CNAs, 15 exit/entry checkpoints trained on procedures for effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	Recruitment records Training reports Meeting reports; Project reports; Government correspondences	Risks Staff turnover from the designated institutions for CNAs and checkpoints Designation and recruitment process may take very long and

	Number of gender responsive administrative procedures that are operational for implementation of the Nagoya protocol	The CBD National Focal Point is already operational . Administrative procedures for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol are not yet developed	Administrative procedures and coordination mechanisms for 11 gender responsive ABS CNAs and checkpoints operational	Nagoya protocol under full implementation through strong ABS institutional framework , administrative procedures and coordination mechanisms	Meeting reports; Project reports; Government correspondences ABS permits; National records in the ABS Clearing House Mechanism	delay their implementation	
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Outputs

- 2.1.1. Competent National Authorities (CNA) on ABS designated and their mandate, roles and responsibilities in line with ABS rules are set out.
- 2.1.2. Analysis and assessment of institutional frameworks and coordination to implement the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, including research institutes adding value to genetic resources; undertaken and a report shared with all key stakeholders.
- 2.1.3. Operational procedures and coordination mechanisms between CNA, National Focal Point and sectoral agencies facilitating access to genetic resources developed and validated for application.
- 2.1.4. Check points/customs for monitoring the access and utilization of genetic resources identified and designated.
- 2.1.5. Relevant information and documents (laws, decrees, regulations) on ABS system populated through the ABS Clearing-House Mechanism (ABS-CH) of CBD Secretariat

3.1. Key stakeholders are aware of the implications and opportunities of acceding to the Nagoya Protocol; have increased understanding and capacity for domesticating the Nagoya Protocol	Number of gender inclusive trainers who are able to create understanding among stakeholders of the implications and opportunities of acceding to the Nagoya Protocol	There is insufficient knowledge about the importance and benefits of acceding to the Nagoya Protocol among stakeholders	50 trainers (comprising 50% women and 50% men) trained to train others on the implications and opportunities for acceding to the Nagoya Protocol	At least 50 trainers (comprising 50% women and 50% men) are actively creating awareness of the implications and opportunities for acceding to the Nagoya Protocol	Project reports, Training reports, Course content, Course evaluation reports; Official correspondence, Technical reports	Assumptions The policy and regulatory environment is suitable, and awareness and information materials on ABS and the Nagoya Protocol are readily available and accessible to	
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	Number of gender inclusive stakeholders who demonstrate engagement in domestication to the Nagoya Protocol	Current capacity to domesticate the Nagoya Protocol is extremely limited as the subject is new.	At least 50,000 people (50% women) are made aware of and have capacity to domesticate the Nagoya Protocol on ABS through mass media	At least 100,000 people (50% women) are made aware of and have capacity to domesticate the Nagoya Protocol on ABS through mass media	TV and radio documentaries, newspaper articles newspaper pull outs, plays and songs	stakeholders Risks Procurement process may take long and delay the information dissemination Trained trainers may change job affiliations or even retire from service
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Outputs

3.1.1. Public awareness and communication materials on the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol developed, and distributed.

3.1.2. Key stakeholders including IPLCs have been made aware of relevant information on the provisions and opportunities of the Nagoya protocol

3.1.3. National ABS Action Plan on awareness raising, communication and capacity building for targeted stakeholders, including the production of materials on how to document TK associated with genetic resources developed and implemented

3.1.4. Training of trainers workshops on awareness-raising and communication strategy to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to guide its national outreach activities conducted

3.2. Capacity of key stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol built	Number of key stakeholders trained in the implementation of the Nagoya protocol	Current levels of stakeholder capacity is extremely low as the subject is new, with the possible exception of those already engaged in bio-exploitation initiatives.	At least 10 stakeholder institutions and 30 staff (50% of them women) of government agencies, IPLCs, research, academia and private sector trained on procedures, roles and responsibilities for implementation of the Nagoya protocol on ABS	At least 10 stakeholder institutions and 50 staff (50% of them women) from government, IPLCs, research, academia and private sector are able to implement the Nagoya protocol on ABS	Project reports, Training reports, Course content, Course evaluation reports; Official correspondence, Technical reports	Assumptions There is stability in the human resources within the institution that benefits from the capacity development activities Risks Participants may not utilize the knowledge and skills acquired from the training
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Output

3.2.1. Training on ABS procedures conducted for key stakeholders? groups regarding their roles and responsibilities to facilitate the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

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

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

Annex C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) (PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: \$50,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
International consultant as Project development expert	15,000	15,000	15,000
National Consultant as a national Team leader	4,000	3,000	1,000
National Consultant- legal, policy and institutional frameworks	4,000	4,000	-
National Consultant - capacity development, Education and awareness	3,000	3,000	-
National Consultant- Assistant team Leader	2,000	1,000	1,000
National Consultant- Finance and budgeting	1,000	1,000	-
TRAVELS	11,000	5,000	6,000

workshops/meetings	10,000	8,000	2,000
Total	50,000	20,000	30,000

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

Annex E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

The project will be implemented in the Republic of South Sudan, which is located in sub-Saharan East-Central Africa. South Sudan lies between latitudes 3° and 13° N, and longitudes 24° and 36° E. The country covers



Map of South Sudan

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

UNEP Budget Line		Expenditure by project component/activity					Expenditure by calendar year				
10 PERSONNEL COMPONENT		1	2	3	M&E	PMC	Total	2021	2022	2023	Total
1100	Project personnel										
1101	Project Manager	12,000	12,000	12,000		-	36,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	36,000
1102	Finance & Administration Assistant			-		12,000	12,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
1103	Monitoring & Evaluation Assitant			-	13,162	-	13,162	4,000	5,162	4,000	13,162
1104	Driver			-		9,400	9,400	3,000	3,200	3,200	9,400
1199	Sub-total	12,000	12,000	12,000	13,162	21,400	70,562	23,000	24,362	23,200	70,562
1200	Consultants										
1201	National legal expert on legal, policy and regulatory frameworks	20,000		5,000			25,000		25,000		25,000
1202	National expert on ABS awareness and outreach			10,000			10,000		10,000		10,000
1203	National environmental lawyer on ABS law/ regulations/ guidelines	15,000		5,000			20,000		20,000		20,000
1204	National ABS strategy and action plan development expert	10,000		4,000			14,000		14,000		14,000
1205	Natl expert on institutional framework and coordination mechanism development	8,000		2,000			10,000		10,000		10,000
1206	National expert on development ABS procedures	8,000		2,000			10,000		10,000		10,000
1207	National IT specialist for compilation of information on ABS-CH of CBD secretariat		6,000	4,000			10,000		10,000		10,000
1208	National expert on development of Public awareness and communication materials			20,000			20,000		20,000		20,000
1209	National expert on designation of check points		6,000	4,000			10,000		10,000		10,000
1210	International legal ABS expert	18,000		4,000			22,000	22,000			22,000
1210	International consultancy on accession to the Nagoya protocol	11,400	29,000	20,900	-		61,300	61,300	-		61,300
1211	Consultancies for cross cutting areas: gender mainstreaming, stakeholder engagement, private sector engagement, risks and social safeguards, sustainability	10,000	10,000	10,000	-		30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
1299	Sub-total	100,400	51,000	90,900	-	-	242,300	93,300	139,000	10,000	242,300
1300	Administrative Support										
	Sundry (bank charges)		-	-		1,000	1,000	300	300	400	1,000
1301	Audit					6,000	6,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
1399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	7,000	7,000	2,300	2,300	2,400	7,000
1600	Travel on official business										
1601	International travel		10,000	15,000			25,000	8,000	10,000	7,000	25,000
1602	National travel	10,000	5,000	5,000			20,000	6,000	8,000	6,000	20,000
1699	Sub-total	10,000	15,000	20,000	-	-	45,000	14,000	18,000	13,000	45,000
1999	Component total	122,400	78,000	122,900	13,162	28,400	364,862	132,600	183,662	48,600	364,862
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT										
2100	Sub-contracts (cooperating agencies)										
2101	Technical and legal expertise to support the implementation of the outcomes 1.1 & 2.1 by the Law	75,000	84,000	-			159,000	125,000	34,000		159,000
2199	Sub-total	75,000	84,000	-	-	-	159,000	125,000	34,000	-	159,000
2999	Component total	75,000	84,000	-	-	-	159,000	125,000	34,000	-	159,000
30	TRAINING COMPONENT										
3200	Group training										
3201	Training and development on ABS laws, regulations and guidelines	2,000		10,000			12,000	4,000.00	4,000	4,000	12,000
3202	Capacity development on ABS procedures for approximately 50 representatives of key stakeholders' groups including women groups			20,000			20,000	5,000.00	10,000	5,000	20,000
3299	Sub-total	2,000.00	-	30,000.00	-	-	32,000.00	9,000.00	14,000	9,000	32,000
3300	Meetings/Conferences										
3301	Project Inception Workshop	4,000	4,000	4,000	-		12,000	12,000			12,000
3302	Capacity development of awareness-raising on the NP. and ABS communication strategy (Training of trainers)	10,000	10,000	-			20,000			20,000	20,000
3303	Stakeholder consultation for existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks	5,000	10,000	-			15,000	15,000			15,000
3304	Consultation and validation of existing ABS policy, legal and regulatory frameworks		10,000	5,000			15,000	15,000			15,000
3305	High level policy dialogue and validation of national ABS laws, regulations & guidelines	5,000		10,000			15,000		15,000		15,000
3306	Consultation and validation of ABS strategy and action plan development	5,000	5,000	5,000			15,000		15,000		15,000
3307	Consultation, validation of institutional framework and constituting meeting of the Competent National Authorities on ABS		5,000	10,000			15,000		15,000		15,000
3308	Consultative workshop and validation on ABS Awareness materials and communication strategy & capacity building		5,000	10,000			15,000		15,000		15,000
3309	Conduct national stakeholder workshop on ABS Awareness, Communication and Capacity Building Action		10,000	5,000			15,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
3310	Project Steering Committee meetings	10,000	10,000	10,000	-		30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
3311	consultations on cross cutting areas: gender mainstreaming, stakeholder engagement, private sector engagement, risks and social safeguards, sustainability strategy	6,000	6,000	6,000	-		18,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	18,000
3399	Sub-total	45,000	75,000	65,000	-	-	185,000	63,000	81,000	41,000	185,000
3999	Component total	47,000	75,000	95,000	-	-	217,000	72,000	95,000	50,000	217,000
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT										
4100	Expendable equipment										
4101	Office supplies (stationery, cartridges, etc)		-	-		3,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
4199	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
4200	Non-expendable equipment										
4201	Vehicle to support national ABS outreach campaign and capacity building activities			-		44,000	44,000	44,000			44,000
4202	Office furniture and fittings	-	-	-		1,000	1,000	1,000			1,000
4203	Office equipment (computers, printers, photocopiers, etc)	-	-	-		1,000	1,000	1,000			1,000
4204	Solar lighting equipment/generator for office	-	-	-		1,000	1,000	1,000			1,000
4299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	47,000	47,000	47,000	-	-	47,000
4999	Component total	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	48,000	1,000	1,000	50,000
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT										
5100	Operation & maintenance of equipment										
5101	Vehicle maintenance and repair (Fleet management)	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
5102	Repair and service of office equipment (printers, etc)	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
5199	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5200	Reporting costs										
5201	Communication (Telephone, Radio, TV, Internet) costs	3,000	7,000	14,380			24,380	7,000	10,000	7,380	24,380
5202	Audio-visual and printing production costs	6,000.00	6,000	6,000			18,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	18,000

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

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

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

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