



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

NGI

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, Biodiversity, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Private Sector, SMEs, Large corporations, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Partnership, Communications, Strategic Communications, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Education, Awareness Raising, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, Field Visit, Conference, Knowledge Generation, Innovation, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Duration

36 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

82,008

Submission Date

11/7/2019

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-3-9	GET	863,242	4,250,000
	Total Project Cost (\$)	863,242	4,250,000

B. Indicative 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	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 1. Strengthening policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks enabling accession to the Nagoya Protocol and compliance with the obligations arising from the Protocol	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1. Existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks are reviewed and updated and operationalization of the Nagoya protocol initiated	<p>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</p> <p>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 key stakeholders.</p> <p>1.3 Legal documents of accession to the Nagoya Protocol drafted, submitted for approval and deposited.</p> <p>1.4 National ABS law and regulations drafted and submitted for approval to relevant authorities.</p> <p>1.5 National ABS strategy and action plan developed, submitted and validated in a coordinated and participatory approach.</p>	GET	220,900	1,000,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 2. Establishing institutional arrangements and administrative systems to implement the Nagoya Protocol	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2. Strengthened institutional framework, and administrative procedures are made operational for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	<p>2.1. Competent National Authorities (CNA) on ABS designated and their mandate, roles and responsibilities in line with ABS rules are set out.</p> <p>2.2 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.</p> <p>2.3 Operational procedures and coordination mechanisms between CNA, National Focal Point and sectoral agencies facilitating access to genetic resources developed and validated for application.</p> <p>2.4 Check points/customs for monitoring the access and utilization of genetic resources identified and designated.</p> <p>2.5 Relevant information and documents (laws, decrees, regulations) on ABS system populated through the ABS Clearing-House Mechanism (ABS-CH) of CBD Secretariat</p>	GET	230,000	1,500,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 3. Awareness raising, and capacity building of all stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	Technical Assistance	<p>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</p> <p>Outcome 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 developed and implemented.</p> <p>3.1.4 Training of trainers workshops on awareness-raising and communication strategy conducted; to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to guide its national outreach activities; for at least 50 qualified trainers (50% of trainers)</p>	GET	333,942	1,000,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	784,842	3,500,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	78,400	750,000
				Sub Total(\$)	78,400	750,000
				Total Project Cost(\$)	863,242	4,250,000

C. Indicative 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(\$)
Government	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	800,000
Government	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	500,000
Government	Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000
Government	Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	400,000
Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000
Government	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Industry	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000
Government	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Industry	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	350,000
Government	Academia: University of Juba, Upper Nile University,	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000
Government	Academia: University of Juba, University, ,Upper Nile University,	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	50,000
CSO	South Sudan Wildlife Society (Wsoc)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000
CSO	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000
CSO	South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation (SSNCO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000
Government	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Industry	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	500,000
			Total Project Cost(\$)	4,250,000

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

“Investment Mobilized” was identified: for government institutions, investment to be mobilized was identified from the updated Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Budget for these entities. Investment to be mobilized for Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Universities, WCS, Wsoc, IUCN and GIZ was identified in preliminary bilateral discussions.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	South Sudan	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	863,242	82,008	945,250
Total GEF Resources(\$)					863,242	82,008	945,250

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

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

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			
Male	1,750			
Total	3500	0	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

A.1.1) The global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;

Geographical location The Republic of South Sudan is the newest nation in the world, politically having attained its independence in 2011, 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 approximately an area of 658,842 km² and it is covered by extensive grasslands, wetlands and tropical forests. 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 Republic of South Sudan has originally ten States with the capital in Juba in the State of Central Equatoria.

Population and economy: South Sudan has a population of approximately of 13,091 million in 2017[1]¹ of which about 83% are living in rural areas. South Sudan is inhabited by 64 different ethnic groups, the largest of which is the Dinka, a traditionally pastoralist people that makes up 36 per cent of the population[2]². 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[3]³. The populations rely on rain-fed agriculture production, fishing, hunting and pastoralism which account for just around 15% of GDP. 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.

Biodiversity: 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 (Rebello, Senay, & McCartney, 2012)[4]⁴, the Sudd, designated as a Ramsar site of international importance[5]⁵, 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 kinetensis*). 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 *Barbustongaensis* and *Labeotongaensis* and a recently discovered African climbing mouse *Dendromusruppi* 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*). For plant species, 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. Endemic flora of South Sudan also includes *Barbustongaensis*, *Chloroselastaposana*, and *Lepidochrysopsnigritia*. Among the vascular plant species restricted to South Sudan are *Aloe diolii*, *Aloe macleayi*, a cycad palm *Encephalartosmackenziei*, *Scillachlorantha*, and *Panicumbambusiculme*[6]⁶.

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Threats: After years of civil war, South Sudan is facing urgent 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 and 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)[7]⁷; 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.

Underlying drivers: 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.

Problem: 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.

Long-term solution: The long-term vision to mitigate the severe on-going threat to biodiversity loss in South Sudan is providing key information to allow the legislative body and key stakeholders, including policy-makers to take informed decision on the implication and opportunities of acceding to the Nagoya Protocol, which in turn will permit the establishment of a national ABS policy, regulatory and institutional framework in the country. The long-term solution will raise awareness and build capacity to promote understanding of ABS principles, legal certainty, and sustainable use of national genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Raising awareness on the importance of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, increasing understanding to related ABS principles and enhancing institutional capacities are vital to create willingness to undertake national behavioural changes required to, sustainably use of native biodiversity, and generate benefits to South Sudan. The long-term solution to biodiversity loss in South Sudan will also promote sustainable development and reduce poverty so that direct pressures on ecosystems are reduced. Implementation of ABS in the country can help provide new value to genetic resources and traditional knowledge, generating additional revenue for communities and enabling and incentivizing them to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. This project will also create greater legal certainty, transparency and attractive environment for foreign investment (pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, industries and research community) and economic growth. Key barriers to achieving fair and equitable benefit sharing accruing from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge that supports conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity include the following:

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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 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 sectoral 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 sectoral 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 (IPCL) have limited understanding of ABS principles and the protection of associated traditional knowledge of genetic resources. As holders of traditional knowledge, IPCL 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.

A.1.2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

Environmental legislation and policy

South Sudan does not have legislative frameworks in place on ABS. South Sudan has an Environment Policy but doesn't have an environmental act/law governing the use of its natural resources despite heavy pollution due to oil production, charcoal burning, logging and unnecessary deforestation. The relevant national legislation promoting the biodiversity conservation and management, and ecologically sustainable development in South Sudan is the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan first signed in 2011 and amended in 2015, in its Article 173, paragraph 2 promotes the protection of the environment and biodiversity. The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan provides the baseline of the preparation of the draft Environmental Protection Bill 2015 (pending approval), when if adopted, will empower the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to supervise and co-ordinate all matters relating to the environment and to be the principal instrument of government in the implementation of all policies relating to the environment including biodiversity.

The National Environment Policy (2015) aims to ensure the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources of South Sudan without compromising the tenets of inter-generational equity. South Sudan has recently prepared its Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (April 2016), which clearly summarizes relevant policies, laws and plans that have acknowledged the importance of biodiversity and have therefore adequately integrated it in their plans and programmes. During the last decades, there are many sectorial biodiversity legislation and policies that have been developed in South Sudan, among others, the Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Bill (2015) that, provides not only the regulatory and administrative responsibilities relating to the management of forests resources, but also shows serious commitment to conserve biodiversity within protected areas and forests. In addition, the Agriculture Sector Policy Framework (2012-2017) is drafted to enhance the protection of plants, seed management, and development of plant genetic resources conservation programme and a biosafety framework. Despite the apparent lack of specific ABS measures addressed by the legislation, it is worth noting that the above instruments can be the foundation for development of ABS legal, policies and regulatory frameworks in South Sudan. With regards to natural

resources ownership and management, the customary law is recognized by the government of South Sudan^[8], and it plays a critical role in the biodiversity conservation, protection, and management in the country.

Institutional setting

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) is the executive body mandated to supervise and coordinate all matters relating to the environment and to be the principal instrument of government in the implementation of all policies relating to the environment including biodiversity. The Department of Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry is the focal point of the CBD and the designated institution where the national focal point of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS will be hosted. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry in coordination with the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT) and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) are responsible in the area of biodiversity and ecosystem protection, conservation and management and related ABS issues in South Sudan. Although, most of sectorial laws, policies, and institutional structures has been developed on biodiversity, no ABS legal, policies and institutional framework has been established in South Sudan for a variety of reasons including inadequate funding and limited capacity of the country.

Associated baseline projects

ABS issues have not yet entered in the national development model, possibly since the Nagoya Protocol being 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 to various ABS Initiative capacity building workshop in Africa, but awareness raising and capacity building are now needed for a range of stakeholders.

A 1.3 The proposed alternative scenario

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 will facilitate understanding of the Protocol provisions by the national legislative body and key decision-makers to facilitate accession to the Nagoya Protocol. The project will support the implementation of three components to overcome all above barriers related to the

conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and genetic resources identified in South Sudan. The first component aims at undertaking activities to accede to the Nagoya Protocol and to review and update existing legal, and consolidate policy framework related to ABS, to regulate the access to genetic resources and the fair and equal benefit sharing resulting from use in South Sudan, while the second component aims at establishing relevant institutions necessary for domesticating the Nagoya Protocol and the third component aims at increasing awareness and capacity building of relevant institutions and stakeholders to support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The outcomes of this project include:

- Existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks are reviewed and updated; and operationalization of the Nagoya protocol initiated
- Strengthened institutional framework, and administrative procedures are made operational for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol
- 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
- Capacity of key stakeholders to contribute to implementation of the Nagoya Protocol built

These results will be achieved through three components as described below:

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

The first component of the proposed project 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. 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 by becoming a party to the legally binding international treaty of 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, that 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 objective of this component is to support establishment of institutional framework to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This include designation of the National Focal Point (NFP) as well as the establishment 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 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.

A1.4. Alignment with GEF focal area

The project fits within the GEF 7 Biodiversity Focal area BD-3.9. The project will support the accession of South Sudan to the Nagoya Protocol, and the development and implementation of a strategy and action plan for the implementation of national ABS measures. In addition, the project will review the national legislation, policy, and regulatory framework governing biodiversity to identify gaps, make amendment to take access and benefit sharing into consideration and to comply with the Nagoya Protocol. The project will carry out awareness raising and capacity building activities to increase understanding and to strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders' groups in South Sudan to manage the use of genetic resources including traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources to enforce the Protocol. In line with the Article 13 of the Nagoya Protocol, the proposed project will designate a national focal point and also establish national competent authorities and check points to build institutional capacities of stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities in South Sudan to comply with the obligations of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing.

A1.5. The incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline

South Sudan is 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.

A1.6. Global environmental benefits

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 by 2020, 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.

A1.7. 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 is innovative in the way that it will aim to promote the importance of genetic resources as a source of generating economic benefit sharing for all stakeholders in South Sudan. 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 is sustainable as it was 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.

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.

[1]// <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/south-sudan-population/>

[2] <http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/25521>

[3] <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/southsudan/overview>

[4] See : 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)

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

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

[7]<https://www.africanindy.com/environment/illegal-logging-a-threat-to-south-sudans-forests-5075576>

[8]), A Study of Customary Law in Contemporary Southern Sudan”, World Vision International and the South Sudan Secretariat of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Jok, Aleu Akechak, Robert A Leitch and Carrie Vandewint (2004).

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The project will take place in the Republic of South Sudan located at 4° 51' 33.7068' N and 31° 34' 16.5036' E

PROGRAM/PROJECT MAP AND GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES



Source: <http://sudanreeves.org/2014/09/10/south-sudan-4/>

2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

N/A

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

Stakeholders	Sector	Roles and responsibilities
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Stakeholders	Sector	Roles and responsibilities
Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Public	The Ministry will contribute to developing ABS rules and regulations and ensuring trading partners adhere to the guidelines set out on genetic resources.
Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism	Public	The Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism will contribute to managing genetic resources in protected areas (national parks and game reserves) by facilitating access to genetic resources in the protected areas for research institutes, individual researchers and bio-prospectors
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Public	The Ministry will will promote farming systems and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources and implement policies on crop genetic resources. It will fulfill this role through the Directorate of Research and Training and the Directorate of Agriculture and Extension services.
Ministry of Finance and Planning	Public	The Ministry will be consulted on financial issues related to ABS during project preparation.
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries	Public	The Ministry will contribute to information relating to conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources. The Directorate of Veterinary Services is responsible for preparing and enforcing laws governing livestock genetic resources and the safety of food of animal origin.
Universities and other training institutions: University of Juba, , Upper Nile University, , Padak Fisheries Training Centre and the Kagelu Forestry	Public	They will be consulted on issues related to training of trainers, research, dissemination, information and data management (gene banks), capacity building and innovation in genetic resources conservation and management.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	Public	The Ministry is the political focal point for international environmental conventions and treaties. It will be responsible for preparation and submission of the accession instrument to the Nagoya Protocol.
Ministry of Health		The Ministry will be responsible for organizing the pharmaceutical and traditional medicine sector
Community Based Organisations (CBOs)	CSO	Under the National Environment Policy, CBOs are expected to play a pivotal role in advocacy on sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems through mobilizing and sensitizing local people and ensuring that the concerns of the underprivileged are integrated in to the national development plans. Under this project, CBOs will be consulted and involved in creating awareness within indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

South Sudan faces persistent gender inequality and it negatively affects women more than men. Women, who constitute 49% of the population, are in most cases marginalized in social and economic spheres and, therefore, are unable to contribute effectively to social, economic and political development [1]. Gender inequality in South Sudan is evident across several developmental indicators. For instance, in the area of health, education, country report showed that women and girls are more affected than men. Further, households headed by women experience striking levels of deprivation, and are more likely to be poor than men-headed households (83 vs. 73 percent respectively). Women may also be suffering greater food insecurity, as they pass on food within families, especially in women-headed households, where there are often more dependents[2].

The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan of 2011 and as amended (2015) grants equal rights to all regardless of gender. South Sudan ratified the international Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2014; and it also has ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. The Government adopted a National Gender Policy in 2012, which represents a reference framework for the promotion of equity and gender equality for mainstreaming gender issues into all areas of this project.

In traditional South Sudanese households, given that women and men use biological resources differently and to different extents to accomplish their defined social roles in many rural local communities, gender considerations will be taken into account during the project preparation as well as during its implementation phase. The role of women in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge will be identified and considered in the development of the national ABS system in order to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits for women and men. The proposed project will adhere to the "GEF Guidance on gender Equality" as guidelines for developing and implementing activities. Based on these orientations, priority will be placed on activities, such as the development ABS related alternative income generating activities, that have a strong impact on improving economic empowerment equity of marginalized and vulnerable social groups, for both women and men, which also create opportunities of equity leadership positions of both women and men in decision-making, access to opportunities for economic participation and natural resources management. Thus, gender-balanced will be integrated in all components of the project to meet local communities' interests and to enable women's full participation in ABS, as well as indicators to promote and measure the participation of men and women in the project. The project will work to support gender mainstreaming and facilitate access to communication and building of capacity to ensure adequate gender consideration on ABS issues, in line with the national gender policy. During the PPG phase, as well as throughout the project cycle, efforts will be put in place to collect gender specific data and sex-desegregate to ensure representation of women and men in the stakeholders engagement, consultative and analysis process.

[1] http://www.aho.afro.who.int/profiles_information/index.php/South_Sudan:MDG_Goal_3:_Promote_gender_equality_and_empower_women

[2] <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/rr-south-sudan-gender-analysis-060317-en.pdf>

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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The focus of the project is on operationalizing the Nagoya Protocol in South Sudan. Private sector involvement in the project will entail awareness raising and capacity building, if applicable.

5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

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 engulf 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 to 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, decisions 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
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.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The project will be executed by the Department of Biodiversity from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (through the Law Division of UNEP), and it will be involved in direct actions and identify partners and service providers, responsible for carrying out planned activities in the different project components. These partners may include national government entities, NGO and national and international consultants. The Project will have national ABS project steering committees bringing together diverse groups of relevant stakeholders interested in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use issues, including Government ministries or departments, academic institutions, indigenous people and local communities in the country. UNEP will be the GEF implementing agency of the project and it will provide support and orientation to the national project team for the implementation of the project.

South Sudan is currently involved in GEF funded projects and other donor initiatives that focus *inter alia* on:

- 1) *Capacity Development in Reducing Illegal Wildlife Trade and Improving Protected Area Management Effectiveness in South Sudan* (GEF ID 9551); which overall objective is to combat illegal wildlife trade by strengthening PA legislative and management systems through institutional strengthening, improved information management and monitoring, and community empowerment through both national and site level actions;
- 2) *Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD* (Africa I) (GEF ID 1578), which will provide financial and technical support to the country in the work to develop high quality, data driven sixth national reports (6NR); the information generated by the Sixth National Report process will improve national decision-making processes for biodiversity in general and for the development of an ABS regime in the country.
- 3) *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)* (GEF ID5631) which aims at integrating South Sudan's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a participative 'biodiversity planning' and strategizing process, in a manner that is in line with the global guidance contained in the CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011-2020.
- 4) *The 'Sustainable Agricultural Development through Strengthening Extension, Inputs Supply and Services'* funded by the European Union. The overall objective of this project is to enable rural producers in the greater Bahr el Ghazal to increase agricultural production and productivity, as well as agriculture-based incomes on an economically viable and environmentally sustainable basis by enhancing the capacity of agro dealers and private service providers to continuously deliver required inputs, equipment and services in good quality and at competitive prices.

The proposed project will build on the experiences collated, coordinate, and will seek collaboration and synergies with ongoing projects in order to strengthen legislation, policy framework and institutional capacity for the project implementation in South Sudan. The proposed project will use strategic communication, and institutional mechanism that other projects may have developed to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of the native genetic resources of South Sudan.

Additional collaboration will also be sought with other ABS projects such as the global and regional GEF projects: UNEP-GEF funded Project *Global Support for the Entry into Force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing*, (GEF ID 5172) and “*Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) for the member countries of the Central African Forests Commission*” (GEF ID5454), lessons learned, best practices, and experiences gained from these projects will be useful during the implementation of the proposed project in South Sudan. During the PPG phase, mechanisms for better coordination with on-going projects will be determined.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

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 [1], 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. 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.

[1] <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ss/ss-nr-05-en.pdf> also see page 87 of the Fifth National Report to the CBD

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

This project will include knowledge management approach under the implementation of all three components. The project will generate knowledge outputs to advance an understanding of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) principles, regulation and compliance with specific regard to prior informed consent (PIC), mutually agreed terms (MAT) and

access and benefit-sharing (ABS) agreements, increasing understanding of the importance of genetic resources as a source of innovation in the national economy as well as protection of traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources. Multiple approaches and methods will be utilized in the life of the project to capture, document, and share lessons and expertise generated during implementation. The project team will be guided on how to systematically capture, codify and published key knowledge outputs on the ABS Clearing-House. Lessons learned generated by the project will be built on existing learning materials and shared at national level, including through awareness raising campaigns and training sessions. The knowledge sharing materials will be tailored to capacity and level of targeted stakeholders' groups. The knowledge generated by the project will be disseminated in a user-friendly manner that will be easily accessible to general public, government agencies, and industries research organizations. UNEP is currently implementing number of GEF funded national ABS projects in Africa region, particularly ABS projects administered through UNEP in Gabon, DR Congo, and Kenya, and UNEP will play an active role in identifying opportunities and promoting knowledge sharing and synergies. The lessons learned and best practices that arise during the implementation of these national ABS projects will be shared between the proposed project and other stakeholders and countries.

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
M. David Batali Oliver	GEF Operational Focal Point /Director General for Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development	Ministry of Environment and forestry	10/28/2019

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

The project will take place in the Republic of South Sudan located at 4° 51' 33.7068' N and 31° 34' 16.5036' E

