# Implementation of the National Biosafety Mechanism in the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

## Part I: Project Information

**GEF ID**
**10813**

**Project Type**
MSP

**Type of Trust Fund**
GET

**CBIT/NGI**
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

**Project Title**
Implementation of the National Biosafety Mechanism in the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

**Countries**
Kyrgyz Republic

**Agency(ies)**
FAO

**Other Executing Partner(s)**
Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision

**Executing Partner Type**
Government

**GEF Focal Area**
Biodiversity

**Taxonomy**

Biosafety, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Biodiversity, Focal Areas

**Sector**

**Rio Markers**
**Climate Change Mitigation**
Climate Change Mitigation 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**
Climate Change Adaptation 0

**Submission Date**
4/19/2021

**Expected Implementation Start**
8/1/2022

**Expected Completion Date**
7/31/2025

**Duration**
36In Months

**Agency Fee($)**
142,739.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

| Objectives/Programs | Focal Area Outcomes | Trust Fund | GEF Amount($) | Co-Fin Amount($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BD-3-8 | Further development of biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks through the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety | GET | 1,502,511.00 | 3,000,000.00 |
| | | **Total Project Cost($)** | **1,502,511.00** | **3,000,000.00** |

**B. Project description summary**

**Project Objective**

To provide technical guidance and assistance for the implementation of the regulatory framework on biosafety at the national level, including the establishment of administrative systems and institutional arrangements, such as laboratories for LMO detection and human resource capacities

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

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing($) | Confirmed Co-Financing($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Development and operationalization of biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework | Technical Assistance | 1.1. Policy and regulatory biosafety framework completed and aligned with the rights and obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety<br><br><u>Indicators:</u><br><br>- Established process to reconcile various biosafety draft laws with a view to adopting a national biosafety policy, inclusive of liability and redress issues<br><br>- National regulations and sectoral rules integrating and operationalizing biosafety principles and objectives<br><br>- Increased capacity for biosafety policy and regulatory implementation across relevant institutions, in line with national laws and policies | 1.1.1 National Policy Document on Biosafety drafted<br><br>1.1.2 Exploratory discussions on acceding to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress initiated<br><br>1.1.3 National biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines produced, in connection with existing national laws, including the law "On organic agricultural production in the Kyrgyz Republic" 2019<br><br>1.1.4 Training of relevant government officials involved in implementing the biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework carried out in accordance with gender | GET | 238,777.00 | 1,000,000.00 |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing($) | Confirmed Co-Financing($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. Development of national capacity for the operationalization of biosafety measures in compliance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety | Investment | 2.1 National capacity for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring enhanced<br><br>Indicators:<br><br>- Agreed risk assessment procedures and mechanisms developed | 2.1.1 Procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs developed and validated by the national authorities responsible for different uses of LMOs | GET | 894,856.00 | 900,000.00 |
| | | - Risk assessment, risk management and monitoring performed as required by the Cartagena Protocol<br><br>- Functioning risk assessment, risk management and monitoring institutional mechanisms, including functioning contingency protocols | 2.1.2 Mechanisms established for risk management and monitoring, including contingency protocols for emergency response in case of accidents involving LMOs | | | |
| | | 2.2. National capacity for LMO identification, detection and enforcement enhanced | 2.1.3 Specialized personnel trained to perform the tasks of risk assessment, risk management and monitoring, in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion | | | |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing($) | Confirmed Co-Financing($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. Knowledge sharing process | | 3.1 Gender-sensitive project monitoring system operational and providing systematic information on progress in meeting the project outcome and output targets<br><br>-<br><br><u>Indicators:</u><br><br>-<br><br>- Functioning M&E system and global environmental benefits and co-benefits established<br><br>3.2 Knowledge and results shared with relevant actors<br><br><u>Indicators:</u><br><br>- Timely reporting to the Cartagena Protocol<br><br>- Process to share knowledge arising from the project established | 3.1.1 Development of a performance framework (M&E plan) defining roles, responsibilities, and frequency for collecting and compiling data to assess project performance.<br><br>3.2.1 Outcomes of this project shared with inter alia, the CBD Secretariat, other Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, particularly from the region, and other stakeholders<br><br>3.2.2 Submission of National Reports on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety<br><br>3.2.3 Submission of project | GET | 160,478.00 | 775,000.00 |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing($) | Confirmed Co-Financing($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) | Technical Assistance | Project monitoring and evaluation | Project M&E is conducted regularly including mid-term and final evaluations | GET | 72,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| | | | | **Sub Total ($)** | **1,366,111.00** | **2,725,000.00** |
| **Project Management Cost (PMC)** | | | | | | |
| | | | | GET | 136,400.00 | 275,000.00 |
| | | | | **Sub Total($)** | **136,400.00** | **275,000.00** |
| | | | | **Total Project Cost($)** | **1,502,511.00** | **3,000,000.00** |

**Please provide justification**

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

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Amount($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Recipient Country Government | Ministry of Agriculture of the KR, MoA | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 750,000.00 |
| Recipient Country Government | Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the KR | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 450,000.00 |
| Recipient Country Government | Ministry of Finance of the KR | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 300,000.00 |
| Recipient Country Government | Ministry of Healthcare of the KR | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 300,000.00 |
| Recipient Country Government | State Inspection of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety under the MoA | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 300,000.00 |
| Recipient Country Government | Ministry of Emergency Situations of the KR | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 300,000.00 |
| Recipient Country Government | Institute of Biotechnology of the National Academy of Science of the KR | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 300,000.00 |
| GEF Agency | FAO | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 300,000.00 |
| | | | **Total Co-Financing($)** | **3,000,000.00** |

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

n/a

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

| Agency | Trust Fund | Country | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Amount($) | Fee($) | Total($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FAO | GET | Kyrgyz Republic | Biodiversity | BD STAR Allocation | 1,502,511 | 142,739 | 1,645,250.00 |
| | | | | **Total Grant Resources($)** | **1,502,511.00** | **142,739.00** | **1,645,250.00** |

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

---

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **true**

**PPG Amount ($)**

50,000

**PPG Agency Fee ($)**

4,750

| Agency | Trust Fund | Country | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Amount($) | Fee($) | Total($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FAO | GET | Kyrgyz Republic | Biodiversity | BD STAR Allocation | 50,000 | 4,750 | **54,750.00** |
| | | | | **Total Project Costs($)** | **50,000.00** | **4,750.00** | **54,750.00** |

## Core Indicators

**Indicator 11 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** | 300 | 300 | | |
| **Male** | 300 | 300 | | |
| **Total** | 600 | 600 | 0 | 0 |

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

The Project?s targets are relevant to the focal area of biodiversity. The Kyrgyz Republic, as a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), has obligations to implement in respect of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from biotechnology and modern biotechnology, respectively. The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, currently being negotiated by the CBD Parties and which sets out the implementation priorities over the next decade through specific goals and targets, contains a target that specifically addresses biosafety issues. The draft relevant target currently calls for Parties to ?establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement measures in all countries to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health, reducing the risk of these impacts.? The project is also relevant to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target #19 - Knowledge improved, shared and applied - and the draft relevant target in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which calls for knowledge to guide decision-making on biodiversity, as it will increase knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to agriculture and biodiversity. The project will meet these targets by its general commitment to increasing the amount and quality of biodiversity relevant information and technologies as well as to make better use of it in decision making as well as to include public engagement. UN Sustainable Development Goals: Goal #2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture: For Target #2.1, the project will contribute to ensuring safe GM food products that might enter the food chain in the country through established risk assessment procedures. Goal #5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls: For all targets in this goal as we have a comprehensive gender action plan to ensure access to knowledge and technology on biosafety-related issues to promote the empowerment of women. Goal #12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns: For Targets #12.7, #12.8 and #12.A. This project will promote public procurement

practices in accordance with national policies and priorities, including sharing of relevant information and awareness of food production practices and their sustainability status. This will be achieved by supporting the country to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to perform social-economic and risk-assessment analyses of food products that apply genetic engineering.

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

1.a Project Description

1) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

1.1) Background information and problem formulation

*Biodiversity in the Kyrgyz Republic:* The Kyrgyz Republic has a very rich wealth of biological diversity, and its unique biodiversity has a very high global significance. The Kyrgyz Republic is situated in the heart of Eurasia and is surrounded by arid and extra arid plains of Central Asia, with its natural habitat experiencing severe impacts of the desert zone extending in the Eastern hemisphere, from the Sahara to the Gobi Desert. Through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, a joint initiative that includes GEF, Conservation International determined that the mountains of Central Asia within the Kyrgyz Republic territory are biodiversity hotspots. The Mountains of Central Asia Hotspot cover almost the entire Kyrgyz territory and are crucial to the conservation of wild and domesticated biodiversity. Due to the high elevations, there is a wide range of species and ecosystems spread over a relatively small surface area. In addition, the region harbours genetic resources of the wild relatives of several domesticated plants, such as wheat, apples, pears, almonds, walnuts and pistachios, as well as animals, including sheep and goats. It is also a host to more than 30 distinct ecosystems (CEPF and Zo? Environment Network, 2017).

*Biodiversity status:* In general, the loss of biodiversity in the Kyrgyz Republic is occurring at the ecosystem level, with most ecosystems impacted by human activity. One of the major threats to biodiversity in the Mountains of Central Asia Hotspot is habitat change, as most of the land in the semi-desert lowlands and foot-hills has been converted for agricultural use, mainly for the cultivation of cotton, cereals and other crops. There are also pollution threats to the hotspot which come from several sources, such as current and past applications of agricultural chemicals. Kyrgyz waters, including its biological jewel and major tourist attraction Issyk-Kul Lake, are compromised by both agricultural and municipal runoff pollutants but also introduced fish species. Therefore, the Kyrgyz Republic?s biodiversity is at critical risk of erosion of its genetic resources. These genetic resources are extremely rich and varied, ranging from medicinal plants to wild crop relatives including valuable landraces and old local cultivars of peach, quince, cherry, pomegranate, persimmon and others.

*Agricultural sector:* The Kyrgyz Republic has a total area of close to 200 000 sq. km. About 1.5 million ha is arable land of which around 1 million ha is irrigated and nearly 10 million ha is natural grazing land. Agriculture is one of the country?s most important economic sectors, contributing to around 16% of GDP and employing about 30% of the country?s workforce. Around 60% of the territory is devoted to agriculture and in 2018 the major agricultural products were potatoes (1447 thousand tonnes), primary vegetables (1076 tt), sugar beet (773 tt), maize (693 tt), wheat (616 tt), primary fruits (460 tt) and barley 429 tt) (FAO, 2020). Most of the agricultural production is concentrated in small individual (family) farms (averaging 2.8 ha), with

an estimated number of peasant farms and individual entrepreneurs of around 429 000 in 2018. As such, the biggest share (87.4% in 2015) of all kinds of agricultural lands is owned and cultivated by peasant farmers (FAO, 2020). In 2018, the Kyrgyz Republic?s parliament announced plans to convert the country to an agricultural model that is completely organic, in 10 years. Currently, the country possesses 15 000 ha of certified organic land, which is a 0.1% share of organic agricultural production of the country?s total area. With regard to food imports, the country?s cereal imports dependency is low, about 17.8%, compared to its own cereal production.

*Biosafety & Biodiversity conservation efforts:* The Kyrgyz Republic ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1996 and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2005. The competent national authority is the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision.

Other ministries and national institutions have also been engaged in the work covered by the Protocol, such as the Ministry of Agriculture (State Seed Inspectorate, State Commission on Agricultural Crop Testing, State Commission on Plant Quarantine), the Ministry of Healthcare (Department of Disease Prevention, Sanitary and Epidemiological Control Service, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics), Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Science, State Inspectorate for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety, the Institute of Biotechnology of the National Academy of Sciences and the State Customs Service.

The lack of a centralized framework leads to existing governance of biosafety which is based on several discrete pieces of legislation, *inter alia*: Law on Seeds (1997), Law on Environmental Protection (1999), Government Resolution on Approving the Concept of Ecological Safety (2007), Technical Regulation on the Safety of Medicines for Medical Use (2011), Law on the Protection of Soil Fertility of Agricultural Lands (2012), Technical Regulation on Food Labelling (2013), Technical Regulation on the Safety of Veterinary Medicines (2013), Technical Regulation on the Safety of Medical Implants (2013), Technical Regulation on the Safety of Feed and Feed Additives (2014), Government Decree on the Approval of the National Controlled List of Controlled Products (2014), and Law on Organic Agricultural Production (2019)

Additionally, Decree No 506, 2007 defines environmental protection and rational environmental management for the country and Decree ? 599, 2011, which defines a set of measures for the country on environmental protection and management, provides the broader environmental protection goals for the country, while the Law on the Protection of the Health of Citizens (2005), the Law on Access to Information under the Jurisdiction of State and Local Government Bodies (2006) and the Law of on Food Security (2008) set out the overarching norms with regard to health protection, access to information, and for ensuring food security including for socially vulnerable groups, respectively. The Law on Access to Information is supplemented by the ratification by the Kyrgyz Republic of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in 2001.

More recently, following the rules applied to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), to which the country became a full member in 2015, the Kyrgyz Republic has applied various technical regulations, namely on Food Safety; Food Products regard Labeling; Fruit and Vegetable Juice Products; Fat and Oil Products; Safety of Certain Types of Specialized Food Products, Including Dietary Therapeutic and Dietary Preventative Nutrition; Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavourings and Technological Aids; Safety of Milk and Dairy Products; Safety of Meat and Meat Products, and Safety of Fish and Fish Products. These technical regulations collectively require, inter alia, state registration of GMOs of plant, animal or microbial origin that may be used as food (edible) raw materials in the production of food products; mandatory labeling for food products, food oil and fatty products obtained with the use of GMOs, including those that do not contain DNA and protein, with an exception for those products not manufactured with GMOs and containing GMOs below the 0.9% threshold level (the same as the European Union?s levels), and for food products obtained with the use of genetically modified microorganisms; and prohibitions on the use of food raw materials containing GMOs in the production of baby food or meat or fish products for baby food, as well as in food products for nursing and pregnant women, fruit and vegetable juice products for children?s nutrition, and specialised food products for child nutrition

However, a specific law on biosafety and all derivative regulations still need to be finalized and approved, together with the development of the national technical capacity to ensure enforcement of the new law and its regulation, as well as public awareness, in order to coherently address biosafety challenges. The Kyrgyz Republic therefore currently lacks a comprehensive and integrated policy, regulatory and institutional framework on biosafety as well as national technical capacity to implement it.

*Potential impacts on biodiversity*: The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is an international legally binding treaty that aims to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology. The potential risks include transgene flow to wild relatives, loss of genetic diversity, invasiveness, changes in agricultural practice that may be unsustainable, changes in ecosystem landscape and functions, among others. Therefore, the objective of the Protocol is to contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and focusing, in particular, on transboundary movements. The Protocol also establishes the right of Parties to take into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of LMOs on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous peoples and local communities. It establishes several mechanisms, such as the advance informed agreement (AIA) procedure for ensuring that Parties are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment, and a notification procedure in the event of unintentional transboundary movement. The Protocol contains a reference to the precautionary approach and reaffirms Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The precautionary approach is operationalised in the Protocol, and allows Parties, in the absence of scientific certainty due to insufficient relevant scientific information and knowledge regarding the extent of a potential adverse effect, to take a decision to avoid or minimize such potential adverse effects. The Protocol also establishes a *Biosafety Clearing-House* to facilitate the exchange of information on LMOs and to assist countries in the implementation of the Protocol. Without a legal and regulatory framework that fully implements the Protocol, important rights afforded to Parties, such as the AIA procedure, the ability to apply the precautionary approach and to take socio-economic considerations into account, will be circumvented, potentially threatening the Kyrgyz Republic?s biodiversity.

The Kyrgyz Republic has twenty-two classes of ecosystems and they are unevenly distributed throughout the country (Akimaliev et al. 2012). According to the Protocol, a risk assessment needs to be conducted in each receiving environment. Countries need to establish *a priori*, based on their national characteristics and biodiversity priority and specificities, risk assessment protocols to define which, if any, LMO can be introduced, and how it should be done to avoid damage to the environment, based on the precautionary approach. The lack of national standards and national capacity to perform a risk assessment and risk management poses a threat to the country?s biodiversity, as there is no data available on how an LMO will impact the biodiversity present in the Kyrgyz Republic?s specific environments.

Climate change is an urgent and pressing issue for the Kyrgyz Republic, with the vulnerability of mountain ecosystems a particular concern raised by the country at the relevant international fora. The Kyrgyz Republic is a mountainous state; more than 94% of the territory consists of vulnerable, fragile mountain ecosystems. Over the past hundred years, the average annual temperature in this country increased by 0.8 degrees C, which is higher than the global average. According to expert estimates, the area of glaciers in the country would be halved by 2050, and by 2100 they may disappear completely. The Kyrgyz Republic is concerned about the effects of global climate change on mountain ecosystems: the intensive melting of glaciers resulting in the reduction of water resources, rapidly increasing incidence of landslides, mudslides, floods with numerous casualties and extensive damage to the economy, reduction of biodiversity, land degradation and other negative consequences. In the long term, the change of the hydrological regime of mountain rivers in downward drainage will inevitably impact ecosystems, located in the

lower reaches, which is especially important for the Central Asian region with an arid climate and intense demographic growth.

Given these existential threats from climate change, any further risks posed to biodiversity by LMOs would exacerbate an already fragile and vulnerable situation. Implementation of a national biosafety framework in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety would therefore greatly assist the Kyrgyz Republic in addressing the potential risks posed by LMOs to biodiversity.

-

1.2) Threats

*Transboundary transport of LMOs:* The Kyrgyz Republic is a land-locked country with several transport routes including the Eurasian Land Bridge, also known as the New Silk Road and the Belt and Road Initiative (from 2013). These roads have been used by freight services that connect China to Europe. In this case, genetically modified grains spilt from moving trains or trucks could create a substantial impact on wild crop relatives, wildlife and protected areas. Therefore, the issue of LMOs in transit may be important to address specifically in the biosafety policy and law of the country, including determining the need to regulate the transport of LMOs through its territory.

*Importing of LMO food or other products for local consumption:* Production and global trade of LMOs are also rapidly increasing and are facilitated by trade agreements. For example, China currently grows 2.9 million hectares of genetically modified cotton and papaya. The Kyrgyz Republic?s food security and local industry context might result in the importation of some of these LMOs for direct consumption or for propagation under local conditions. Food safety and LMO food labelling issues will need to be addressed well, in coherence with the technical regulations prescribed by the EAEU. The Cartagena Protocol affords Parties the right to also take into account risks to human health, which is relevant to the consideration of LMOs imported for food purposes. Food produced by new LMO plant varieties or animals might have novel nutritional or compositional elements that may pose health risks to consumers. In other cases, food components might be similar to existing ones but provided in different concentrations in the LMO, and the acute or long-term exposure to those might also have health implications. Health effects may derive from the direct consumption of the LMO food or feed product but can also arise from exposure to handling, manipulating or growing these products such as farmers in the field or workers in the food industry sector. Such secondary exposure can be, for example, by inhalation or dermal contact.

*Environmental release of LMOs:* The environmental release of LMOs poses threats to biodiversity and agricultural biodiversity through *inter alia* transgene flow and contamination of sexually reproducible species leading to fitness advantages (loss of genetic diversity), negative impacts on non-target animal species feeding on transgenic crops, and impacts at an ecosystem level by potential weediness of transgenic crops competing with wild species in border areas and forest fragments. LMOs might be released into the environment either intentionally for growing or unintentionally, or even unauthorized. Currently, the country has no administrative measures or technical capacity to identify potential sources of such releases, to monitor and manage the risks posed by them and gather and share information on LMOs being commercialized and grown in the region. Given the rich and unique biodiversity of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the socio-economic structure of the agriculture sector in the country, comprising large numbers of small and family farmers (see later section), it is prudent for a strongly precautionary approach to be applied to LMO environmental release. This could include measures to restrict the environmental release of LMOs into the environment, ensuring robust monitoring procedures, including for unauthorised releases, and liability and redress measures in the case of damage caused by LMOs.

*Use of agrochemicals associated with LMOs:* Half of the world?s LMO production is herbicide-tolerant crops. The associated agrochemical is sprayed in the entire cultivation area several times

throughout the crop?s life cycle. The use of herbicide-tolerant crops in other countries has shown that the spread of herbicide-resistant weeds has brought about substantial increases in the number and volume of herbicides applied. As a consequence of the intensive use of such agrochemicals, farmers became dependent on them and lost important options for weed control in their fields. In the Kyrgyz Republic, FAOSTAT estimates that approximately 607 tonnes of pesticides were used, representing an approximately 70% increase in pesticide use since 2010 (350 tonnes). Therefore, the use of LMO herbicide-tolerant crops and their associated chemicals would add an extra burden to the country as increasing amounts of agrochemicals would generate even larger residues in the environment (e.g. soil), as well as on food with attendant human health risks. The Kyrgyz Republic has no experience and capacity in dealing with the potential impacts of such large-scale agrochemical use.

*Risks to small and family farmers, and organic farmers:* The agriculture sector in the Kyrgyz Republic is characterised by small and family farmers, who make up the majority of farmers in the country (87.4% in 2015). Most of the agricultural production is concentrated in small individual (family) farms (averaging 2.8 ha), with an estimated number of peasant farms and individual entrepreneurs of around 429 000 in 2018. Moreover, the country aims to convert to an organic agricultural model, with the requisite law already in place - Law No. 65 of 18 May 2019 on Organic Agricultural Production in the Kyrgyz Republic - that excludes the use of LMOs and products made of or with the help of LMOs. Therefore, the risks of the release of LMOs into the environment would have to be carefully evaluated and socio-economic considerations also taken into account in decision making, which is a right afforded under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. This is so that risks to vulnerable populations, particularly women, such as impacts on income, food security, farmer seed systems, public health and market access, including of organic markets, can be effectively mitigated.

-

1.3) Barriers

*A. Lack of coherent legal and regulatory framework:* Although several regulations relevant to biosafety have been adopted, these are sparse, not fully implemented and do not cover all aspects of the Cartagena Protocol. Under existing regulations, there is a need to fully operationalize LMO detection and identification as well as a risk assessment system throughout all sectoral competent authorities. Policy discussions are needed at an inter-ministerial level in order to facilitate a coherent national approach that identifies, understands and addresses priority biosafety issues, according to needs in terms of biodiversity protection, safeguarding human health and socio-economic considerations. The lack of an effective legal and regulatory framework and guidelines to conduct LMO identification, risk assessment and socio-economic assessment constitute major barriers to the implementation of a national biosafety framework.

*B. Limited institutional, technical and human resource capacities:* Despite political will and efforts to implement and operationalize the Cartagena Protocol in the Kyrgyz Republic, the lack of national capacity, including laboratories and human resources competence, hinders compliance with several provisions of the Cartagena Protocol. There are insufficient capacities for detection and identification of unauthorized LMOs and no risk assessment and risk management measures have been comprehensively established. Furthermore, there is a lack of capacity for socio-economic impact assessment, as well as for the development of gender-responsive biosafety policy and practice. There is also limited knowledge about biosafety and biotechnology by students and in the university, which limits the advancement of national competence.

*C. Lack of information and understanding regarding the economic, legal and social impacts of LMOs*: Countries have the right to take socio-economic considerations into account during the LMO decision-making process. The impacts of potential implications of the use of LMOs on local communities, small farmers and national food security, including the impact on the country?s policies and laws on organic agriculture, need to be better understood and integrated into the overall assessment process, alongside the risk assessment. Additional considerations may be

necessary for the light of geopolitics in the post-Soviet era and the potential impacts of current and future trading agreements for the import or export of LMO products.

1) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

The baseline scenario provides a solid basis for the planned activities and targets of this GEF/FAO project. Without GEF support, the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in the Kyrgyz Republic will remain insufficient, and the country will be unable to effectively address the rapid developments in modern biotechnology. While there have been past attempts to enact biosafety laws and regulations, these efforts have been stymied and are likely to continue to proceed at a slow pace. In the absence of GEF support, the government will not be able to strengthen technical and human resource capacities in biosafety, which are necessary to enable the country to safeguard its biodiversity and its vulnerable ecosystems from the potential risks of LMOs. This may result in the irreversible loss of biodiversity and ecosystems of regional and global significance.

Previous evaluation of the biodiversity-related project by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (Evaluation of GEF Support to Mainstreaming Biodiversity and The Biodiversity Focal Area Study Full Report 2018) have identified a number of lessons that should be taken into account and aligned to this project. First, these reports have recommended maximising the earliest possible availability of project lessons, experiences, and outputs. In addition, the emphasis on the need to double-check progress and on a regular basis thereafter. Second, it is relevant to recognize challenges in project implementation when there is an absence of preconditions such as a well-developed policy and regulatory framework for biosafety. It also highlighted the need to identify at early stages strong government champions who can cut across organizational silos. The evaluation also recommended stronger linkages and coordination between government and other stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels. Finally, these evaluations urged further inclusion of science-oriented conservation nongovernmental organizations in project activities to ensure the soundness of measures adopted, including the use of robust monitoring techniques.

The Kyrgyz Republic ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2005. Recognizing the importance of ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, the country committed itself to develop and implement this Protocol through a national biosafety framework based on sound science and the precautionary principle.

There had been an effort to implement a National Biosafety Framework in 2005 developed under the UNEP/GEF Project GF/2716-01-4319 ?Development of the National Biosafety Framework in the Kyrgyz Republic?. However, the draft Law on Biological Safety was not adopted by the Parliament. Subsequent attempts to enact a draft Law on Safety of Genetic Engineering Activities in 2013 and a draft Law on the Prohibition of the Cultivation, Production, Import and Sale of Products containing Genetically Modified Organisms in 2014 were unsuccessful due to the need to reconcile conflicting regulations on living modified organisms (LMOs) and the need to harmonize with obligations arising from the newly established Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). There is also institutional drift in the country to cope with the developments of modern biotechnology. Limited national institutional, technical and human resource competencies hinder the successful implementation of several provisions of the Cartagena Protocol.

The most recent attempt at enacting a biosafety law was in 2018, with the development of a draft Law on Restrictions on Cultivation, Production, Import and Sales in the Kyrgyz Republic of Products Containing Genetically Modified Organisms. At the end of 2018, after consideration of the draft Law, the Government recommended the adoption of the draft Law following appropriate

modifications. To date, the draft Law has not yet been adopted, however, it remains relevant and this process may well be expedited by the Project activities, which are designed to operationalise key biosafety measures that are in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

In the country, there are projects supporting the implementation of organic agriculture policies and increasing the capacities of farmers in the Kyrgyz Republic through support to establish the legal and institutional framework for organic farming in the Kyrgyz Republic. The main objectives of these projects are to support the establishment of the legal and institutional framework for organic farming production and organic certification system; and to strengthen the capacity of farmers in organic production and marketing.

Moreover, the project on Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Central Asian countries and Turkey is implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic. The project objective is to reduce persistent organic pollutants (POPs) released from obsolete pesticide stockpiles and contaminated sites and to strengthen the capacity for the sound management of pesticides. Specific objectives of this project are to safely destroy up to 900 tonnes of POPs and obsolete pesticides and remediate a pesticide-contaminated site; strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework for managing pesticides through their life cycle and increase the successful uptake of alternatives to chemical pesticides on key crops.

The Kyrgyz Republic has submitted two national reports since the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In these national reports, submitted in 2011 and 2015, the country states that it has partially established a national framework for conducting risk assessments prior to taking decisions regarding LMOs. However, it also describes that the current framework does not include procedures for identifying and/or training national experts to conduct risk assessments; and less than 10 people have been trained in risk assessment, monitoring, management and control of LMOs. In addition, the country states that it does not have the capacity to detect, identify, assess and/or monitor living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account risks to human health. And that predictable and reliable funding for building capacity for the effective implementation of the Protocol is also not available. According to the latest report submitted in 2015, the Kyrgyz Republic has never carried out a risk assessment procedure or made any decisions on the cultivation or import of LMOs.

Also, in 2018 the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) introduced additional requirements for labeling products containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs). New standards included in the Union technical regulations ?Food Products regarding their Labelling? will allow consumers to make a more informed and correct choice of food products. The transition process for countries to implement these new standards ended in 2020, but most of the member countries are still struggling with it, the Kyrgyz Republic among them. This new requirement has however created a political will for the government to move forward with the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

FAO comparative advantage:

FAO?s commitment to biosafety and biosecurity has to be seen within its wider mandate to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty in developing countries and economies in transition. Based on this, FAO biosafety activities aim at assisting countries in building human, institutional and policy development capacities within their main regulatory bodies in order to efficiently and effectively handle the products of modern biotechnology, including GMOs and processed products. Generally, all the FAO biosafety capacity-building projects ? at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels - revolve around a common axis: the training programme. Training touches on biosafety aspects of relevance to agricultural biotechnology and is shaped to meet specific capacity building needs. Based on countries? requests for assistance, national projects

may also include other components on policy development and formulation, regulatory aspects, GMO detection and monitoring; communication, participation and public awareness.

FAO?s corporate strategy on biosafety recognizes the potential benefits of biotechnology in ensuring:

- access of all people at all times to sufficient nutritionally adequate and safe food, ensuring that the number of chronically undernourished people is reduced;

- the continued contribution of sustainable agriculture and rural development, including fisheries and forestry, to economic and social progress and the well-being of all; and

- the conservation, improvement and sustainable utilization of natural resources, including land, water, forests, fisheries and genetic resources for food and agriculture.

It is acknowledged that the relationship between sustainable agriculture and biological diversity is complex, in terms of management of biological resources, and that agriculture may have a significant potential impact on biological diversity, including that associated with the use and release of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnologies.

FAO has an extensive implementation network and already has successful experience in a related area. Moreover, FAO has good experience to work with different development partners and donors funded projects and is well versed with their respective implementation modalities. This would be a comparative advantage for FAO to provide technical assistance in the implementation of biosafety related activities. The global network of FAO would also enable it to find experts in different areas very easily. Thus, FAO is best placed among others to execute and implement the project and deliver quality and timely results.

1) Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and the project?s Theory of Change

Through this project, critically important knowledge and capacity-development activities will be carried out, including a full-project implementation plan to support internal coordination, strengthen the policy, regulatory and institutional framework, and promote technical biosafety training. Also, through dedicated coordination, interventions and allocated resources can be adjusted to meet the most important national needs and priorities in a timely manner, efforts that would be otherwise difficult in the absence of GEF support.

The draft Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol and Capacity-Building Action Plan (2021-2030) that is expected to be adopted by Parties to the Protocol in 2022 are important existing initiatives and best practice documents that will inform this project. The Implementation Plan is a framework of broad desirable achievements and accomplishments to help guide Parties in their implementation of the Protocol and to measure progress in this regard for the period 2021-2030. It is designed to be anchored in and complementary to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which is also expected to be adopted by CBD Parties in 2022. The Capacity-Building Action Plan provides examples of capacity-building activities that can support the achievement of the goals and outcomes of the Implementation Plan. It is complementary to the CBD?s long-term strategic plan for capacity development.

The alternative scenario envisioned is to have in place a robust biosafety system in the Kyrgyz Republic, to support the coherent implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and biosafety policy in the country. Such implementation requires a functioning and effective biosafety institutional and policy framework to provide policy guidance, complemented by an enhanced capacity to conduct risk assessments, risk management, socio-economic assessment, and detection and identification of LMOs. With the right institutional and policy framework in place, biosafety capacity built, government officials and laboratory personnel adequately trained, and awareness raised on biosafety across all relevant sectors, the country will be in a better position to make informed decisions about LMO transboundary movement, transit handling and use.

As a result of the project activities the above, the alternative scenario envisages that the wealth of biodiversity in the Kyrgyz Republic will be better protected from any adverse effects posed by LMOs, while any potential risks to human health arising from the use of LMOs will be also addressed. In addition, consumers will be better informed and more aware of biosafety issues, while relevant stakeholders will be engaged in the country?s biosafety processes, all also contributing to better biosafety implementation and decision-making.

The project goal is therefore to support the establishment at the national level of a comprehensive and effective regulatory framework on biosafety in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Implementation Plan and to create technical capacity for the implementation and enforcement of the Protocol at the national level.

Project objectives are to provide technical guidance and assistance for the implementation of the regulatory framework on biosafety at the national level, including the establishment of administrative systems and institutional arrangements, such as laboratories for LMO detection and human resource capacities.

The GEF-funded alternative will enable the achievement of the project goal and objectives through the following three interlinked project components: (1) Development and operationalization of biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework; (2) Development of national capacity for the operationalization of biosafety measures in compliance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and (3) Knowledge sharing process.

These components are described in more detail below:

Component 1: Development and operationalization of biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework

Under this component, a policy and regulatory biosafety framework is expected to be completed and aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to support the establishment of sound decision-making processes and regulatory enforcement of biosafety.

*Outcome 1.1: Policy and regulatory biosafety framework completed and aligned with the rights and obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

Specific outputs to achieve this outcome will build on the previous efforts to put in place a national biosafety framework and draft biosafety law while leveraging the renewed political will of the government that is incentivised by the harmonization of biosafety relevant regulations under the EAEU. It will involve the drafting of a National Policy Document on Biosafety by an inter-ministerial working group, to guide coherent national biosafety implementation as well as the establishment of a cross-sectoral process to enable discussions on policy matters that reflect national needs and priorities, as well as to reconcile the various draft biosafety laws, with a view to finalizing a coherent national biosafety policy; enactment of national biosafety regulations in

line with existing national laws and building on existing processes to update, reconcile and synergize previous efforts to draft biosafety legislation; and the development of sectoral rules and/or guidelines for the transboundary movement, transit, handling, use, management and monitoring of LMOs, including socio-economic considerations and LMO labelling, with the latter applying the relevant technical regulations of the EAEU. These will help build the foundation for a coherent policy and regulatory framework, starting from an overarching national policy that sets the parameters, to national biosafety regulations that codify the policy, and sectoral rules addressing various key aspects of implementation.

*Output.1.1.1 National Policy Document on Biosafety drafted*

Given the current lack of a coherent approach to biosafety in the Kyrgyz Republic, it is critical that there is a policy process in place to guide the implementation of biosafety in the country. This will involve inter-ministerial consultations via an inter-ministerial working group, to identify national needs and priorities and review existing policies, culminating in the drafting and finalisation of a National Policy on Biosafety. An inception workshop will be organized together with governmental institutions for the start of the work under Component 1 during the first year of the project, while a final workshop will be held to validate the document.

*Output 1.1.2 Exploratory discussions on acceding to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress initiated*

At the same time, exploratory discussions on acceding to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress will be initiated, in order to assess the steps needed for Kyrgyzstan to become a Party to this Supplementary Protocol to the Cartagena Protocol, so as to be better able to address this important aspect of biosafety implementation. Liability and redress issues will be incorporated in the National Policy Document on Biosafety, as appropriate.

*Output 1.1.3 National biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines produced, in connection with existing national laws, including the law "On organic agricultural production in the Kyrgyz Republic" 2019*

In order to provide a comprehensive and robust framework for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, there will need to be a review of existing legislation relevant to biosafety and identification of gaps, so as to be able to draft and finalise any additional regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines that may be necessary. The inter-ministerial working group will meet regularly and it is expected that regular consultations and workshops will be needed with the relevant Ministries and agencies for this output.

*Output 1.1.4 Training of relevant government officials involved in implementing the biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework carried out in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles*

In all these processes, it will be crucial to train relevant government officials across different ministries and agencies that are involved in implementing the biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework, through a dedicated training program. This will involve fostering awareness, understanding and familiarity with the said framework. Where appropriate, efforts will also be made to include sub-national actors so as to help scale the project. The project will aim to conduct at least two such training for about 60 government officials each time, at the end of the 3-year period, with due consideration to gender equality and social inclusion principles. These courses will mostly deal with implementation issues of the biosafety policy and regulations across the relevant institutions in the country.

*Outcome 1.2 Administrative systems and institutional arrangements for biosafety implemented at the national level*

Under this outcome is the implementation of administrative systems and institutional arrangements for biosafety at the national level. Clear delineation of tasks and a defined workflow are necessary for the various government agencies to play their appropriate roles and to handle any applications for LMOs in a systematic manner that also brings certainty for LMO applicants.

*Output 1.2.1 Centralized administrative system and institutional arrangements established to handle differentiated applications for LMOs in transit, destined for contained use, intentional introduction into the environment, and for direct use as food or feed, or for processing*

A centralized administrative system will be developed and established to handle applications for all types of LMOs. Distinctions can be made between LMOs for research or in contained use, LMOs in transit, LMOs for release into the environment and LMOs intended for food, feed, or processing, in line with national circumstances and priorities. For example, it may be prudent to restrict LMO release into the environment given the rich biodiversity and socio-economic structure of the agriculture sector, while robustly evaluating LMOs imported for food, feed, or processing, in line with the relevant EAEU technical regulations, ensuring that there are no unintentional releases of LMOs in transit through stringent monitoring, and not impeding research on LMOs in contained use. As such, appropriate and proportionate institutional arrangements and procedures for biosafety regulation, risk assessment, risk management and monitoring, clear identification of LMO imports and decision-making will have to be designed and implemented. This will be complemented by the development of procedural guidelines set out the steps to take and agencies involved in the implementation of various biosafety functions. Lessons learnt and best practices from other Cartagena Protocol Parties will also help in the development of these activities.

*Output 1.2.2 National technical and decision-making bodies for biosafety constituted with appropriate multi-disciplinary membership and attention to gender and diversity issues*

National technical and decision-making bodies for biosafety will be constituted with appropriate multi-disciplinary membership, in order to ensure the smooth functioning of biosafety decision-making. Suitable members will be identified, and the bodies will have governance provisions for at least 30% of women/ youth/ ethnic minorities? representatives.

*Output 1.2.3 National biosafety website established to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on LMOs at the national level*

In addition, the collection, generation and sharing of up-to-date national biosafety information in a manner that will promote transparency and accountability in decision-making will be achieved through the establishment of a national biosafety website. Information to be available on the website include, among others, the decisions made for approval or rejection of LMO applications, guidance documents, relevant scientific literature, committee member names, LMO assessment framework, etc. This strengthened information management system will provide regulatory bodies and stakeholders with access to national information on biosafety. The national biosafety website will also contribute to the Component 2 outcome on public awareness, education and public participation, as well as the Component 3 outcome on knowledge sharing. A meeting will be organized towards the end of the project in order to launch the website and promote user training as part of the public awareness activities under Components 2 and 3.

Component 2: Development of national capacity for the operationalization of biosafety measures in compliance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

This component will focus on building national capacity in several areas of biosafety: LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring; LMO identification, detection and law enforcement; gender-sensitive public participation and socio-economic considerations in decision-making.

*Outcome 2.1 National capacity for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring enhanced*

Risk assessment, risk management and monitoring are core obligations of the Cartagena Protocol. National capacity in these areas is lacking, therefore there is a need to build capacity and competencies, which will be achieved through specific and targeted training programmes, as well as technical guidelines/guidance documents.

*Output 2.1.1 Procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs developed and validated by the national authorities responsible for different uses of LMOs*

As a first step, the procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs will need to be developed and validated by the national authorities responsible for different uses of LMOs, with suitable mechanisms, protocols and procedures established for risk assessment. Proportionate risk assessment procedures will be considered in order to differentiate LMO applications that are intended for environmental release. In such cases, socio-economic considerations may be taken in advance of a biological risk assessment procedure in order to ensure the possibility to restrict LMO environmental release *a priori*. This will allow robust, transparent and science-based analysis in decision-making consistent with international practices and standards. One guidance document will be developed based on the "Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms and Monitoring in the Context of Risk Assessment" written by Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment which is currently being used by many Parties to the Cartagena Protocol. This guidance will establish the organization of work and the required scientific information for the assessment of the LMO, such as to which documents should be provided by applicants.

*Output 2.1.2 Mechanisms established for risk management and monitoring, including contingency protocols for emergency response in case of accidents involving LMOs*

Risk management and monitoring procedures, including contingency protocols for emergency response in case of accidents involving LMOs, will also be developed through one specific guideline that includes mid and long-term assessment of LMO environmental approvals.

*Output 2.1.3 Specialized personnel trained to perform the tasks of risk assessment, risk management and monitoring, in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles*

The planned tasks will involve training of specialized personnel to conduct risk assessment, risk management and monitoring based on the Cartagena Protocol "Training Manual on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" which is already available in several languages, including Russian. This manual contains three modules that cover introductory sections explaining basic concepts in biosafety and an introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, assistance to risk assessors in setting the context for a risk assessment to be carried out in a scientifically sound and transparent manner, and on a case-by-case basis, and a final module that addresses the risk assessment methodology. There will be two training courses for 40 governmental officials to be conducted throughout the period of this project. Two follow up workshops will be also organized to follow up the activities after the training courses.

*Outcome 2.2 National capacity for LMO identification, detection and enforcement enhanced*

In the area of LMO identification, detection and law enforcement, it is critical to establish the necessary infrastructure, as well as institutional, technical and human capacities. The national capacity for LMO identification and law enforcement will be established through the activities of two operational analytical laboratories, which will be adapted and upgraded accordingly.

*Output 2.2.1 Existing laboratory facilities adapted for LMO detection, with requisite human resources and infrastructure to carry out analysis*

The laboratories are The Centre for Veterinarian Diagnostics and Expertise in the Northern Region (Bishkek City) and the same centre in the Southern Region (Osh City). These laboratories have been identified through a national survey during the PPG stage of this project and whose capacity needs to be improved to serve as central LMO biosafety laboratories fully equipped with state-of-the-art LMO detection equipment such as multiplex quantitative real-time PCR, ELISA readers, spectrophotometer for DNA quantification, gel imaging and documentation system and other tools for basic molecular biology procedures. The purpose of these laboratories is:

a. development and validation of methods for DNA detection and identification and provide these services for other partner institutions in biosafety implementation;

b. development of molecular characterization methods required for pre-market risk assessment and to serve as a backup service laboratory for DNA detection and identification (e.g. specific DNA extraction protocols or DNA amplification conditions, etc);

c. development of LMO monitoring methods required for post-release monitoring and monitoring of unauthorized LMOs;

d. development of training activities in biosafety, DNA detection and identification techniques to risk assessors and other competent authorities and provide technical resource persons for public awareness and outreach activities.

The laboratories? workflow will be established according to the existing Cartagena Protocol guideline called "Technical Tools and Guidance for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms" under the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms from the Cartagena Protocol. The proposed project will also help to establish sampling and analytical methodologies and procedures to identify and quantify LMOs, which will assist in establishing a scientific basis for resolving legal disputes on LMO labelling and non-compliance. A specific guideline for LMO detection and identification will also be developed.

*Output 2.2.2 Training of laboratory personnel for LMO identification and detection carried out, in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles*

The training of laboratory personnel for the detection and identification of LMOs will be performed through a capacity-building course for 20 staff to be held after the complete adaptation of infrastructure. The course will be carried out in a theoretical and practical framework inside one of the identified laboratories in the country. The training course will follow the format of the international capacity-building courses already established by the European Network of GMO laboratories together with the CBD Secretariat. The laboratories will also be involved in training and outreach activities on LMO food and feed safety assessments.

*Output 2.2.3 A roadmap for establishing a national training centre on identification and detection of LMOs is developed, in consultation with the relevant agencies*

A roadmap for establishing a national training centre will also be developed. This will create a critical mass of scientific and technical personnel who can sustain the national reference

laboratories and update the implementation of risk assessment, LMO detection and monitoring systems in future years. The roadmap will be developed with the two LMO laboratories together with relevant authorities.

*Output 2.2.4 Specialized personnel trained to perform the tasks of monitoring and detection of LMOs at, airports and customs checkpoints*

Specialized personnel will be also trained to perform the tasks of monitoring and detecting LMOs at airports and customs checkpoints. This will be done through a dedicated workshop on "Border control and LMO monitoring" since most of these border control personnel will be only collecting samples for the core LMO laboratories to perform LMO detection and identification. Border control officers from each checkpoint will be invited for a workshop after the proposed laboratory training course. Laboratory personnel will also be invited to this workshop in order to have a consistent workflow between border control and analytical activities.

*Outcome 2.3 Gender-sensitive public awareness, education and public participation in decision-making on biosafety enhanced*

This component will also enhance public awareness, education and public participation in decision-making on biosafety. These are core obligations under Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and are necessary for the sustainability of decision-making on issues that will affect the public.

*Output 2.3.1 Public awareness and participation strategy developed in accordance with obligations under the Aarhus Convention, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the law "On access to information under the jurisdiction of state bodies and local self-government bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic?, including a coordinated governmental system for public access to information on biosafety*

A gender-sensitive public awareness and participation strategy will be designed and implemented to promote awareness, participation and communication on biosafety issues. The strategy will draw on the rights and obligations in the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, as well as in the relevant national law. At the same time, to provide public access to information on biosafety, the national biosafety website will be established, as outlined in Component 1.

*Output 2.3.2 Targeted awareness-raising activities implemented in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles*

The project will implement targeted awareness-raising activities, including among policymakers, to establish the political will to incorporate biosafety into national development plans and programs, as well as with all relevant stakeholders such as government officials, researchers, farmers, NGOs, the private sector and the public in general. At least five awareness-raising sessions with stakeholders will be organised. Communication materials will also be produced, in Russian and local languages, and made publicly available in digital and printed formats.

*Output 2.3.3 Gaps in primary, secondary and university level education for biosafety identified and proposal for modification of curricula to include biosafety issues*

In addition, existing gaps in primary, secondary and university level education for biosafety will be identified, and a proposal developed to modify curricula accordingly.

*Output 2.3.4 Public gender-balanced participation mechanisms as part of the authorization process established*

In line with obligations under the Cartagena Protocol and the Aarhus Convention, the project will also seek to establish public participation mechanisms so as to be able to systematically collate inputs and take them into account in decision-making. These mechanisms should be incorporated into the policy process under Component 1 accordingly.

*Outcome 2.4 Ability to take into account socio-economic considerations in decision-making strengthened*

The issue of socio-economic considerations and gender are particularly important for a country like the Kyrgyz Republic, where small and family farmers, many of which are women, constitute the majority of farmers, and where a policy decision has already been taken to promote organic agriculture, which excludes the use of LMOs.

*Output 2.4.1 Capacity on socio-economic considerations built among relevant government agencies and ministries in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles*

An initial gender workshop will be held at the start of the project in order to discuss and update the Gender Action Plan, so as to be able to take into account evolving gender roles and adjust project activities accordingly. Capacity will need to be built among relevant government agencies and ministries to be able to take both gender and socio-economic considerations into account, which also need to be integrated into biosafety decision-making processes through clear procedures and guidelines. The project aims to conduct at least two trainings on this issue over the project time frame, involving 40 people each time, with due consideration to gender equality and social inclusion principles.

*Output 2.4.2 Socio-economic considerations, including gender-related considerations, integrated into biosafety decision-making processes through clear procedures and guidelines*

A technical guideline on taking socio-economic considerations into account will also be developed, following consultations with the relevant agencies and experts. Both the trainings and technical guideline will draw on the ?Guidance on the Assessment of Socio-Economic Considerations in the Context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?, developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-Economic Considerations and taken note of by Parties to the Protocol in 2018.

*Output 2.4.3 Labeling implemented for LMO food and feed, to enable adequate consideration of public choice and in alignment with the relevant EAEU technical regulations*

At the same time, given the obligations already existing within the Customs Union/Eurasian Economic Union, there is a need to apply the relevant technical regulations on labelling for LMO food and food products, in close coordination with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Healthcare and Ministry of Agriculture, while enhancing capacity in this area.

Component 3: Knowledge sharing process

The final component of the project will be important for knowledge sharing about biosafety and the results of the project. It will put in place the systems that are needed to ensure project management, resulting in robust monitoring of the project?s outcomes and outputs. The knowledge gained through the project will be shared with other stakeholders, both nationally and internationally.

*Outcome 3.1 Gender-sensitive project monitoring system operational and providing systematic information on progress in meeting the project outcome and output targets*

A project monitoring system will be put in place to ensure the effectiveness of the project management process and timely implementation of the planned activities, including regular reporting and the final evaluation.

*Output 3.1.1 Development of a performance framework (M&E plan) defining roles, responsibilities, and frequency for collecting and compiling data to assess project performance*

Project monitoring will be carried out through the development of a performance framework (M&E plan) defining roles, responsibilities, and frequency for collecting and compiling data to assess project performance, project progress reports every six months, and presentation and dissemination of the report to the steering committee and executing partners every six months.

*Outcome 3.2 Knowledge and results shared with relevant actors*

Knowledge sharing will be an important part of the project, so as to both learn from the lessons of other biosafety initiatives, as well as to share experiences that could be relevant. In addition, activities under Components 1 and 2 related to the development of a national biosafety website, and activities to implement public awareness, education and public participation are key elements of the knowledge sharing approach of the project.

*Output 3.2.1 Outcomes of this project shared with inter alia, the CBD Secretariat, other Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, particularly from the region, and other stakeholders*

Outcomes of this project will be shared with the CBD Secretariat, other Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, particularly from the region, and other stakeholders. Communication materials can be developed in this regard.

*Output 3.2.2 Submission of National Reports on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

The project will also assist the national technical personnel in preparing and submitting quality reports to the Cartagena Protocol, which includes the National Reports on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB-NR). These reporting obligations for Parties are important to contribute to the monitoring of measures implementing the Protocol, and to the review and assessment of the effectiveness of the Protocol. They will also provide the opportunity for the Kyrgyz Republic to share the progress, gap and challenges it faces in its national implementation.

*Output 3.2.3 Submission of project reports and other relevant information to the Biosafety Information Resource Centre*

Project reports, case studies and other relevant information will be periodically submitted to the Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BCH-BIRC) which is managed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and provides access to electronic catalogues of biosafety-related publications and information resources with the objective to increase accessibility to available biosafety information and resources developed by policymakers, educators, researchers and the general public.

2) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is designated as the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety under the CBD. The Cartagena Protocol?s objective is to help ensure an adequate level of

protection in the field of safe transfer, handling, and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, also taking into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements. Projects to support countries with Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety implementation and compliance are eligible for funding through the biodiversity STAR allocation.

The proposed project will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of Kyrgyz?s biodiversity of global significance through strengthening capacities to manage potential risks arising from LMOs. It is aligned with BD-3-8 ?Further development of biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks through the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety? as it will (i) help develop that National Policy on Biosafety and associated regulations to ensure its implementation, (ii) build relevant national capacity to support the implementation of the CPB, and (iii) build national capacity for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring. Implementing a robust policy, regulatory and institutional biosafety framework will allow the country to ensure that potential risks of LMOs are properly assessed and managed before environmental release, including restrictions in line with the precautionary approach if necessary, thereby generating significant global environmental benefits.

3) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

Despite being a Party to the Cartagena Protocol and biosafety being an important priority for the government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the implementation of the Protocol is still insufficient mostly because of a lack of enough funds to allow the country to initiate proper implementation. This project will act as the first concrete and coordinated funding instrument for the Protocol implementation. The country has low technical capacity and technical knowledge for implementation and operationalization of the Cartagena Protocol and, as a consequence, there is still a very limited number of capacitated human resources to implement it.

Component 1 will contribute to the mitigation of barriers 1 and 3, creating a coherent legal and regulatory framework. Policy proposals on the topic will be drafted, and national biosafety regulations produced, in connection with existing national laws. Also, a centralized administrative system on how to handle applications for LMOs in transit, destined for contained use, intentional introduction into the environment, and for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, will be established and technical and decision-making bodies for biosafety will be constituted. Risk assessment, risk management and monitoring, and clear identification of LMO imports will be put in place. And the national biosafety website will be established for better and more transparent information sharing. The incremental cost of this component is USD 1 000 000 mobilized by the GEF fund of USD 240 478, this is very relevant as it should the commitment from different governmental stakeholders to commit funds to policy changes.

Component 2 will contribute to the mitigation of barriers 2 and 3, by supporting the establishment of procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs, as well as of socio-economic impacts, risk assessment, management and monitoring, including contingency protocols, as well as training of relevant personnel. Also, the project will adjust existing laboratory facilities for LMO detection, training of laboratory personnel for LMO identification and detection, develop a public awareness and participation strategy and create a governmental system for public access to information on biosafety in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The incremental cost of this component is USD 900 000 mobilized by the GEF fund of USD 898 256, it can be perceived as low, but still, as per the topic and low awareness of the

importance of the biosafety impacts, the GEF funds could mobilize relevant funds for the implementation of it.

Component 3 will have incremental GEF funding to share knowledge, monitor and evaluate project progress and compliance with indicators, and final external evaluation, systematization of experiences and lessons learned, preparation of outreach and dissemination materials, and project outputs and results with dedicated activities for knowledge sharing and public participation. The project will also support the national technical personnel to prepare timely and quality reports for submission to the Cartagena Protocol Biosafety Clearing House and to meet reporting obligations under the Protocol. The incremental cost of this component is USD 775 000 mobilized by the GEF fund of USD 160 978, this shows the importance of the awareness-raising potential unlocked by this project and the relevant role knowledge sharing will play during the project implementation catalysing not only the results are national level, but also impacting the whole region.

4) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The proposed project is consistent with GEF focal area objective BD - 3-8: Further development of biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks through the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. It will also support the implementation of activities that are aligned with the COP guidance to the GEF, in particular the key elements in the post-2020 Implementation Plan and Capacity-Building Action Plan of the Cartagena Protocol, which is meant to be complementary to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and will be adopted at the next meeting of the Parties in 2022. This will be addressed through Components, Outcomes and Outputs designed in the project and will be achieved through building and enhancing individual and institutional capacities in operationalizing the system of risk assessment, risk management, risk communication and monitoring and detection of LMOs.

The project?s activities aim to develop a coherent biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework. Also, the project will build the technical capacity of 600 beneficiaries for the implementation of biosafety measures, such as risk assessment, risk management, monitoring, identification and detection, which will allow the country to ensure that the potential risks of LMOs are robustly assessed and managed. Other activities focused on public awareness, education and public participation, and knowledge sharing will enhance informed decision-making concerning LMOs. These biosafety measures are essential to minimising the adverse effects of LMOs on the conservation and sustainable use of Kyrgyzstan?s globally significant biodiversity, while also taking into account the risks to human health. In the absence of such measures, LMOs may enter the country indiscriminately, with potentially significant impacts on the country?s biodiversity.

The Project?s targets are relevant to the focal area of biodiversity. The Kyrgyz Republic, as a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), has obligations to implement respect for living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from biotechnology and modern biotechnology, respectively. The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, currently being negotiated by the CBD Parties and which sets out the implementation priorities over the next decade through specific goals and targets, contains a target that specifically addresses biosafety issues. The draft relevant target currently calls for Parties to ?establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement measures in all countries to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health, reducing the risk of these impacts.?

The project is also relevant to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target #19 - Knowledge improved, shared and applied - and the draft relevant target in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity

Framework, which calls for knowledge to guide decision-making on biodiversity, as it will increase knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to agriculture and biodiversity. The project will meet these targets by its general commitment to increasing the amount and quality of biodiversity relevant information and technologies as well as making better use of it in decision making as well as to include public engagement.

UN Sustainable Development Goals: Goal #2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture: For Target #2.1, the project will contribute to ensuring safe GM food products that might enter the food chain in the country through established risk assessment procedures. Goal #5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls: For all targets in this goal as we have a comprehensive gender action plan to ensure access to knowledge and technology on biosafety-related issues to promote the empowerment of women. Goal #12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns: For Targets #12.7, #12.8 and #12.A. This project will promote public procurement practices in accordance with national policies and priorities, including sharing of relevant information and awareness of food production practices and their sustainability status. This will be achieved by supporting the country to strengthen its scientific and technological capacity to perform social-economic and risk-assessment analyses of food products that apply genetic engineering.

The project will directly benefit 300 men and 300 women (Core Indicator 11).

5) Innovativeness, sustainability, potential for scaling up and capacity development[1] 1

The project will be the first of its kind in the region, focusing on the implementation of a national policy, regulatory and institutional biosafety framework in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The project can act as an example for the region and may be able to provide technical support to the regional counterparts once the experience is gained via the project.

The sustainability of the project is assured through the strong commitment of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, which is the national competent authority of the Cartagena Protocol. Strengthening of regulatory frameworks and enhancement of institutional and technical capacities of stakeholders including government officials, academics and the public, including public participation mechanisms, will additionally contribute to the sustainability of the project. Training and capacity building will be institutionalized through training of core staff in relevant authorities and also by the development of training material that will be used in further training courses. It is also expected that the training process will build a national biosafety network of competent staff which will be able to promote further exchange and update of knowledge.

Outreach campaigns to create awareness of the importance of biosafety will ensure continuous knowledge development maximizing the project?s long-term impacts on the country. In addition, training materials and guidelines that will be developed in Components 1 and 2 will be made available as a resource and will have a longer and more sustainable impact than previous efforts to implement a biosafety framework in the country which did not accomplish such initiatives.

It is relevant to highlight that despite the low co-financial commitment from the government, six different government agencies have committed to this project. This shows a strong political will for the full implementation of the Cartagena Protocol at the national level. During the PPG phase, the financial sustainability of the laboratories will be extensively discussed and which government agency should take over the responsibility for them will be defined later in accordance with those discussions.

There is potential for scaling up as the biosafety system in the country matures. The project will kick start activities, which will need continual development, enhancement and implementation. Regional cooperation with other Parties to the Cartagena Protocol in the region may also lead to further scaling-up. Also as this GEF project will be the first initiative in supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Kyrgyzstan, there are few co-financing opportunities available at this time. However, seven government agencies are committed to this project and will provide co-financing which demonstrates the wiliness of the government to the process and will allow a strong institutionalization of the process.

6) Summary of changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF

There are no significant changes from the PIF document. The number of laboratories has been scaled down, from three to two, as the national survey revealed that the two chosen laboratories are sufficient to carry on GMO analysis in the country. Regional laboratories have been also excluded from PIF as this seems to be too ambitious to be performed in the timeframe of this project. This project can be scaled up in the future to include regional laboratories.

No components or outcomes have been changed. However, the ambition in developing and establishing a National Biosafety Clearing House has been scaled down, bearing in mind that such a task would entail substantial financial resources and capacity, which would normally be the focus of a specific and separate project. Instead, the project will have a more modest aim of developing and establishing a national biosafety website, to facilitate information exchange and access to information, which can at a later stage be readily converted to a National Biosafety Clearing-House when more resources are available.

Several outputs have been streamlined to remove overlaps and redundancy, particularly where the planned activities can simultaneously achieve the stated outputs. Further clarity has been added in relation to the development of procedural/institutional and technical guidelines to ensure that these fall within the relevant components (Components 1 and 2, respectively) so as to avoid confusion.

---

[1] System-wide capacity development (CD) is essential to achieve more sustainable, country-driven and transformational results at scale as deepening country ownership, commitment and mutual accountability. Incorporating system-wide CD means empowering people, strengthening organizations and institutions as well as enhancing the enabling policy environment interdependently and based on an inclusive assessment of country needs and priorities.

? Country ownership, commitment and mutual accountability: Explain how the policy environment and the capacities of organizations, institutions and individuals involved will contribute to an enabling environment to achieve sustainable change

? Based on a participatory capacity assessment across people, organizations, institutions and the enabling policy environment describe what system-wide capacities are likely to exist (within the project, project partners and project context) to implement the project and contribute to effective management for results and mitigation of risks.

? Describe the project?s exit/sustainability strategy and related handover mechanism as appropriate

**1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

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

Coordinates: 41.5, 75 http://www.geonames.org/1527747/kyrgyz-republic.html


https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/kyrgyzstan The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

**1c. Child Project?**

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

n/a

**2. Stakeholders**

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

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

| STAKEHOLDERS | MANDATE (OR ACTIVITIES) | ROLE IN PROJECT | MEANS OF FUTURE ENGAGEMENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the KR (MNRETS) | MNRETS is the authorised state executive body responsible for the development and implementation of state policy and coordination in the areas of environmental protection, ecology and climate, geology and subsoil use, use and protection of natural resources, including bioresources, subsoil and water resources, except for irrigation and reclamation infrastructure, exercising state control and supervision over compliance.<br><br>MNRETS is the competent authority for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety | MNRETS will take part in project design and lead the process. Also, as a Chair of the PSC, they will control project task execution.<br><br>Organization and control of project task execution (project design and consultations).<br><br>Co-chairing of the Project Steering Committee. | They will co-chair the Project Steering Committee and will be involved in the project execution |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Agriculture of the KR (MoA)<br><br>**Including:**<br><br>Department for Agriculture Crop Expertise of the Ministry of Agriculture, of the Kyrgyz Republic | It is an authorized state body of executive authority implementing the state policy in the agro-industrial complex, including livestock breeding, fish farming (aquaculture), crop production, plant quarantine, land melioration, land, water resources, irrigation and melioration infrastructure, food and processing industry, as well as state regulation and control over production and turnover of ethyl alcohol and alcoholic products.<br><br>Control over variety and sowing qualities of seeds and planting material of agricultural and other plants.<br><br>Field inspection of seed sowings and plantings, ground control of seed batches.<br><br>The expertise in sowing qualities of seeds and plantings of agricultural | The MoA and specifically, the Department for Agriculture Crop Expertise and Department of Organic Agriculture, will be involved in the training, legal framework and overall project activities. | They will be part of the Project Steering Committee and will be involved in the project execution, particularly Components 1 and 2. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| State Inspection of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety under the MoA | It is a state body of executive authority, which exercises authority in veterinary and state supervision and control in the veterinary and phytosanitary safety. | It will be involved in the training and capacity building process and in the Component 2 implementation | They will be part of the organization and planning committee of Component 2 activities |
| Center for Veterinary Diagnostics and Expertise in the Southern Region of KR | It is an analytical laboratory that performs standardised and harmonized testing activities related to animal epidemiological surveillance, among other diagnostic activities according to the State Plan | They will also host practical training sessions in the laboratory under Component 2. | They will be part of the organization and planning committee of Component 2 activities |
| Center for Veterinary Diagnostics and Expertise in the Northern Region of KR | It is an analytical laboratory that performs standardised and harmonized testing activities related to animal epidemiological surveillance, among other diagnostic activities according to the State Plan | They will also host practical training sessions in the laboratory under Component 2. | They will be part of the organization and planning committee of Component 2 activities |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Center for registration and certification of veterinary medicines, animal feed and feed additives under the MoA | The Center is a subordinate organization of the MOA, the main objective of which is to ensure the quality, efficiency and safety of veterinary medicines, animal feed and feed additives. To achieve the objective, the Center performs state regulation of the production, export, and import of veterinary medicines, animal feed and feed additives, as well carries out certification, registration and maintenance of a state register of the above-mentioned goods. | They will take part in training activities under Components 1 and 2 of the project. | They will be part of the organization and planning committee of Component 2 activities |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kyrgyz Accreditation Center under the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic | It is the central body of executive authority, which carries out functions on development and implementation of the state policy in the macroeconomic, anti-monopoly, tariff, licensing, investment, foreign economic, fiscal policy, policy in the public-private partnership, state material reserves, economic and regional development, state property management, technical regulation and metrology, as well as in the development of Halal industry, trade, business development and optimization of the regulatory legal framework for business regulation, development of free economic zones.<br><br>Conducts the formulation and development of a national system of accreditation in accordance with international practice and standards;<br><br>provides services on accreditation with the purpose to create conditions for competence confirmation of bodies on conformity | They will help address the issues with the accreditation of laboratories where GMO analyses will be conducted. | They will be involved in training, development of the guidelines and standards and all actions related to the laboratories. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Finance of the KR (MoF)<br><br>**Including:**<br><br>State Customs Services under the Ministry of Finance of the KR | MoF is an authorised state executive body monitoring the fulfilment of obligations by the state bodies for the preparation and implementation of projects financed by international financial institutions and donor organizations.<br><br>It is the state administration body for customs affairs on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic, managing the activities of customs institutions of the republic in accordance with the customs legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, agreements on this matter with member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as other states.<br><br>Ensures the participation of customs authorities in the implementation of measures to protect the life and health of citizens, the environment, and | It will work on policy issues related to LMO/biosafety issues, project management and knowledge sharing.<br><br>It will be involved in addressing issues in the project related to LMO customs and border control issues, and be part of training activities | It will be involved in project implementation, training and development of guidelines, particularly with respect to customs and border control issues |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) of the Kyrgyz Republic | MES is an authorised state executive body responsible for the implementation of the policy and regulation of relations in the environmental protection, ensuring environmental safety and environmental management, as well as hunting, and protected natural areas. | It will work on regulations and requirements in relation to GMO/biosafety issues. | It will be involved in project implementation, training and development of guidelines, particularly with respect to regulation, and implementation of the regulations |
| State Intellectual Property and Innovation Service under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic | The State Intellectual Property and Innovation Service (Kyrgyzpatent) is an authorized state executive body implementing a unified state policy in the field of intellectual property protection and innovation development.<br><br>Develops and implements national intellectual property and innovation strategies and programmes | Discussion on any issues in the project relating to intellectual property issues | It will be involved in project implementation, training and development of guidelines, particularly with respect to potential impacts to IPR and other implications related to innovations and development of new technologies |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Department of Disease Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance under the Ministry of Healthcare of the KR | It is a government entity subordinate department under the Ministry of Healthcare of the Kyrgyz Republic, which aims to organize and implement preventive and anti-epidemic activities to combat infectious, parasitic and priority non-infectious diseases to ensure sanitary and epidemiological well-being, to assess the effectiveness of implemented programs and projects in public health, to provide supervision in sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population, the safety of goods, products, environmental facilities and conditions, prevention of harmful effects of environmental factors on human health. | GMO analysis and control. It maintains control over ensuring biosafety and bio-protection in laboratories of microbiological, and molecular genetic testing, as well as performs molecular genetic and sanitary and epidemiological expertise. | It will be involved in training and in Components 1 and 2 implementation |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Department of Medicines Provision under the Ministry of Healthcare of the KR | It is a government entity subordinate department of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Kyrgyz Republic whose purpose is:<br><br>regulation of circulation of medicines and medical devices through mechanisms provided by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic in medicines and medical products; conducts pharmaceutical inspections of pharmaceutical subjects for compliance with the requirements of the rules of proper pharmaceutical practices;<br><br>evaluates the quality of medicines and assesses the quality and safety of medical products;<br><br>carries out certification of authorized persons of medicine producers in accordance with the law of the Eurasian Economic Union;<br><br>exercises control and supervision over compliance with requirements in the circulation of medicines and medical products. | Discussion of the situation with import and export of medicines based on GMOs. | It will be involved in training and in Components 1 and 2 implementation |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Institute of Biotechnology of the National Academy of Sciences and Universities (Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic) | It is the central body of executive authority carrying out the state policy and carrying out management in education and science and state control over accessibility and quality of education, ensuring the constitutional right of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic to education. The main goal of the Ministry is the formulation of the state policy in education, science and science-technology activity. | Organization of an education center on the basis of the Institute of Biotechnology of the National Academy of Sciences and develop training programs for molecular genetic and diagnostic research for students, postgraduates and masters. | It will be involved in training, in Components 1 and 2 and support the knowledge management activities |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Business Development and Investment Council under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic | It is a consultative and<br><br>advisory body coordinated by the government of the Kyrgyz Republic, which ensures the development and preparation of recommendations and proposals for government bodies on improving the business environment and investment climate in the Kyrgyz Republic and the implementation of activities necessary to accelerate the socio-economic development of the country. | Advisory services on GMO related issues at the national and international levels for both private and public organizations. | It will be involved in the engagement activities of the private sector, training and capacity building activities |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Public Council for Transition to a Green Economy in the Kyrgyz Republic | This is a consultative and advisory body. The council is formed to monitor, evaluate and coordinate the implementation of the green economy concept in the Kyrgyz Republic; and to develop relevant recommendations on the basis of monitoring and evaluation, define the strategy, tactics and mechanisms of the Concept implementation that ensure economic modernization based on green and sustainable development principles. | Advisory services, as well as development and review of draft legislative and other statutory and regulatory acts of the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with priorities and principles of the Concept | It will be involved in training and in Components 1 and 2 implementations. Also will support knowledge management activities |
| **CIVIL SOCIETY, NGOS** | | | |
| Rural Development Fund | RDF supports initiatives based on local needs and is aimed at poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development. RDF actively engages local communities, government agencies, and donors to identify priority areas and ways to realize rural development goals | It will increase ecological awareness and literacy among stakeholders, in relation to LMO/biosafety issues, particularly among rural communities and local governments. | It will be involved in training and in Components 1 and 2 implementations and support the knowledge management activities |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aarhus Centre | Aarhus Centre Bishkek ensures public access to information and the decision-making system, in order to ensure the rights of citizens to a healthy environment. | Participation in the preparation and discussion of amendments to environmental legislation and support the awareness-raising for the members of the Parliament on the implementation of international conventions. | It will be involved in training and will be strongly involved in Component 1 and 2 implementation as well as the knowledge management activities |
| Agency Of Development Initiatives (ADI) | ADI helps to achieve social harmony, prosperity and the creation of a developed society by promoting and supporting local development initiatives | It will increase ecological awareness and literacy among stakeholders, in relation to LMO/biosafety issues, particularly among rural women, small-scale farmers, rural schools and youth. | It will be involved in training and will be the beneficiary of the knowledge management activities |
| "BIO-KG" Organic Movement Federations | BIO-KG promotes organic agriculture as the strategic trajectory of the Kyrgyz economy in compliance with principles of health, fairness, ecology and care | It will address LMO/biosafety issues in relation to organic agricultural production. | It will be involved in training and will be strongly involved in Components 1 and 2 implementation as well as the knowledge management activities |
| Green Alliance of Kyrgyzstan, Association of legal entities | The Alliance has developed partnership relations with state bodies working in the field of green economy and sustainable development, climate change and environmental protection. | It will increase ecological awareness and literacy among stakeholders, in relation to LMO/biosafety issues. | It will be involved in training and will be strongly involved in Components 1 and 2 implementation as well as the knowledge management activities |
| **Private sector** | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AgroLead Holding, Chamber of Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic | These 3 companies are the most active in the agriculture sector in Kyrgyzstan. | They will be involved in the discussions and any potential impact the new framework can create | They will be invited to consultations and discussions and to provide inputs in the discussion of the new framework |

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

A number of state and public institutions will be involved in the implementation of the project, and the main implementing body will be the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (MNRETS). Each will have its own clear area of responsibility and each will have financial responsibility for the implementation of its activities, with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (MNRETS) taking overall responsibility for oversight and coordination of the Project. Please find below the list of stakeholders involved in the project, their mandate, roles in the project and means of future engagement. ?

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;** Yes

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;**

**Co-financier;**

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

**Executor or co-executor;**

**Other (Please explain)**

**3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

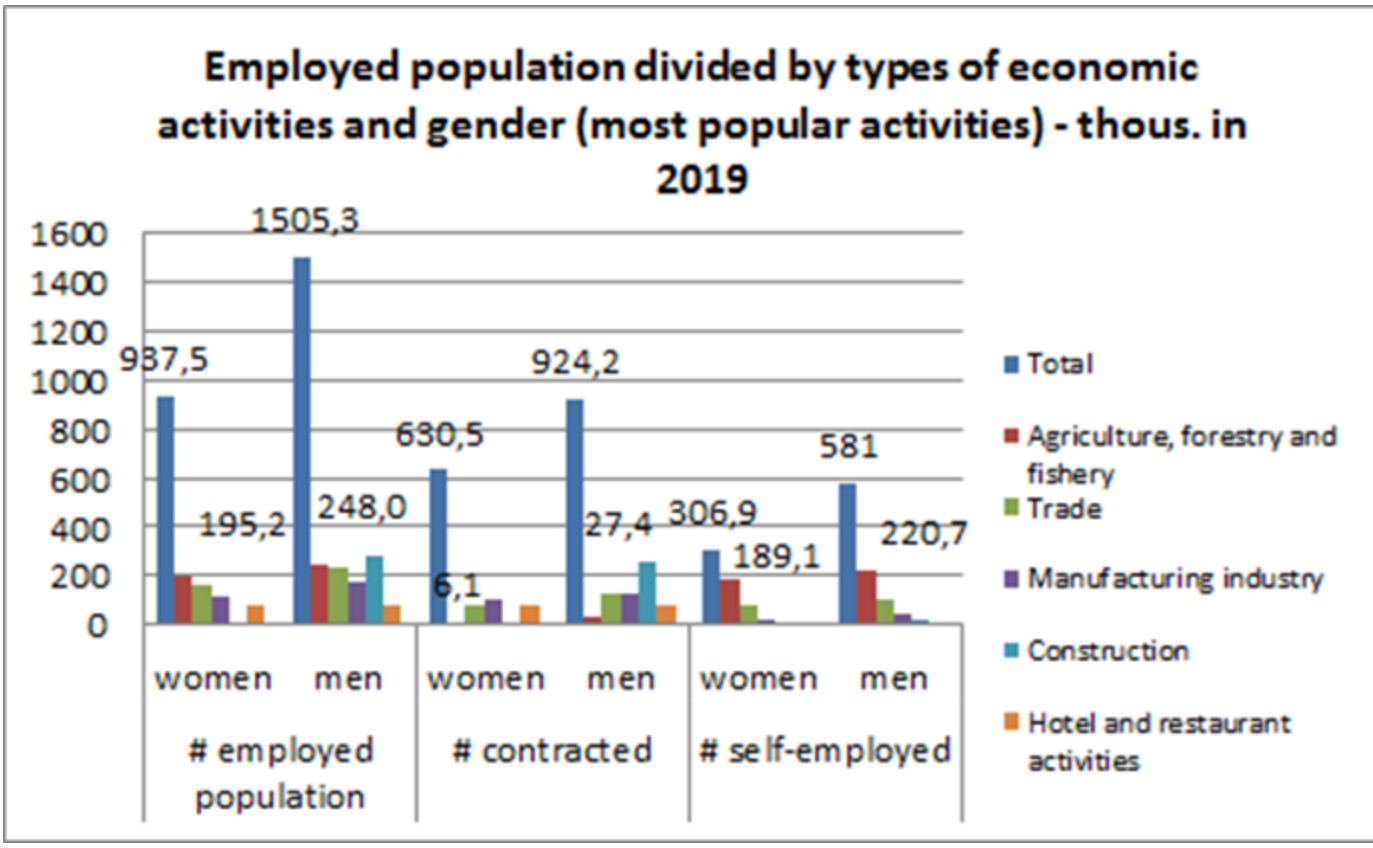
According to the "Human Development Report - 2019" Kyrgyzstan took 122nd place out of 189 countries in terms of human development.[1] According to the assessment there are three main dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. And the human development index (HDI) is based on four components: Inequality-adjusted development (IHDI); Gender development index (GDI); Gender Inequality Index; Multidimensional

poverty index. Just to illustrate how the components present a picture in the respective areas the example of the gender inequality index is illustrated below:

| HDI COMPONENT | DEFINITION | PLACE | THIS INDICATOR CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING FACTORS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gender Inequality Index | Built based on reproductive health indicators, capacity building and economic activity, which are analyzed by male and female genders | 87th out of 162 countries for this indicator with a value of 0.381 for 2018.<br><br>For comparison, neighboring Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are ahead of Kyrgyzstan, gaining 84th and 64th place respectively. | In Kyrgyzstan, 98.3% of women have secondary education compared to men (98.3%).<br><br>19.2% of parliamentary seats are held by women.<br><br>76 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.<br><br>32.8 teenage births per 1000 women aged 15-19 years.<br><br>48% participation of women in the labor market compared with 75.8% participation of men. |

The recent data on the status of employment of the population in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019 illustrates that 18% of the population is employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector (20.8% women and 16.5% men, out of which 61.6% of women and 38% men are self-employed, see Table 1 ).[2][2] In 2019, there was a decrease in the share of women employed in small enterprises, in comparison with 2015 it was reported that in most types of economic activities. The largest share of men employed in small businesses in 2019 accounted for the rural economy, forestry and fish farming - 81.3%, construction -80.4%, water supply, purification, waste treatment and receipt secondary raw materials - 72.3%[3][3].

***TABLE 1***




Women in Kyrgyzstan face numerous threats and insecurities, in different spheres of their lives from economic and political marginalization and experiencing different forms of gender-based violence (domestic violence, bride theft). Also, they are underrepresented in most of the decision-making processes and have limited access to infrastructure developments that affect their health and ability to have equal access to national resources. As it was reported in the latest report on Beijing+25 despite measures taken to advance women?s leadership and participation in the decision making processes in Kyrgyzstan, the percentage of female MPs decreased to 15.8% in 2018 against 20% in 2015. Similarly, the percentage of women in local legislative bodies decreased from 19% in 2016 to 11% in 2018[4][4].

Little statistical data is available on gender and biodiversity in Kyrgyzstan. However, there is a number of small scale or qualitative research that can offer some information about the differences in how women and men access and use forest resources and in their knowledge about biodiversity. Women tend to have less access to forest land[5][5], but at the same time women have a great deal of knowledge about traditional techniques for preserving biodiversity and it knowledge is especially important for conservation and sustaining the biodiversity of Kyrgyzstan?s forests[6][6].

The CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry showed that women and young people are more available to learn about and engage in innovation processes in agriculture and natural resource management than men[7][7]. Women in rural Kyrgyzstan need to be equally and actively involved in processes to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity because they play critical roles as primary land managers and resource users, and they face disproportionate impacts both from biodiversity loss and gender-blind conservation measures. While women are taking on responsibility for managing small-scale agriculture, they do not have an equivalent voice in decision-making related to land use, nor equal access to needed resources. Biodiversity loss also poses a disproportionate burden for women and girls by increasing the time required to obtain necessary resources such as water, fuelwood, and medicinal plants, which reduces the time they can spend on income-generating activities and education.

The proposed project will pay special attention to the involvement of women in decision-making, policy planning and formulating them in a gender-sensitive way, and capacity building. Adequate gender screening of the project will take place in the preparation phase in order to ensure equal benefits for both men and women. The project will make every effort possible to ensure women participate in all project activities, including data collection and analysis, policy development and planning, and awareness-raising activities. This includes:

**Component 1:**
? gender expertise for policies and regulations to be produced in the area of national biosafety regulations
? assisting government officials and relevant organizations to develop research methodologies that assess socio-economic dimensions in a participatory way with the inclusion of gender experts
? include gender-related provisions to the technical guidelines and manuals on risk assessment, risk management and monitoring, with the emergency response plans that ensure women?s participation at the decision-making levels and other related gender indicators

**Component 2:**
? national capacity for LMO will ensure a gender-sensitive approach: in the training for the specialized and laboratory personnel and mechanisms, that include contingency protocols
? public awareness will be tailored to the specific needs of men and women, as well as the participation and decision-making will ensure inclusive and equal representation
? gender balance will be ensured in the public monitoring and relevant gender-related indicators will be ensured within the process of this monitoring

**Component 3:**
? the project in its Component 3 will ensure that the monitoring system and reports of the project are gender-sensitive and ensure all relevant data to be disaggregated by sex and gender-related qualitative data is available where appropriate.

Further detail on the gender actions proposed for the project outputs is set out in the annexed Gender Action Plan. The project contribution to GEF results areas in gender equality is summarized below:

| GEF RESULTS AREA | PROJECT CONTRIBUTION |
|---|---|
| Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources | Gender-responsive public awareness campaign to ensure women and men can make informed choices about LMO production/ processing or handling/ consumption.<br><br>Include potential benefits to gender equality as an assessment criterion for LMOs. |
| Improving women?s participation and decision making | Gender-responsive public awareness campaign to ensure women and men can make informed choices about LMO production/ processing or handling/ consumption.<br><br>Gender-responsive policy and regulations formulation:<br><br>? Review this GAP at the start of project implementation with key stakeholders to ensure relevance/ update as needed<br><br>? Include government bodies with a gender mandate, gender experts, and CSO with a gender focus in policy formulation, supported by related capacity-building<br><br>? Biosafety legislation to reflect women?s/ men?s different needs and priorities and address their different risks. |
| Generating socioeconomic benefits or services for women. | Include potential benefits to gender equality as an assessment criterion for LMOs. |

[1]https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/1/hdr-2019--kyrgyzstan-takes-122nd-place-in-terms-of-human-develop.html

[2] http://www.stat.kg/ru/publications/sbornik-zhenshiny-i-muzhchiny-kyrgyzskoj-respubliki/

[3] Ibid

[4] Beijing+25: National-Level Review of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action. Progress and Challenges. May 15, 2019

[5] Undeland, A. 2007. Women and Pastures in Chong Alai Valley of the Kyrgyz Republic. Case Study. Bishkek, Rural Development Fund.

[6] Ibid

[7] Elias, M.*, Elmirst, R.*, Ibraeva, G., Sijapati Basnett, B., Ablezova, M., Siscawati, M. (2018). Understanding gendered innovation processes in forest landscapes: Case studies from Indonesia and Kyrgyz Republic. GENNOVATE Report to the CGIAR Research Programs on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA). Bioversity International, Rome. Available at https://pilresearch.com/bioversity-international/

**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.**

The regulation of the LMOs in the country and the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol will have a direct impact on the private sector involved in the importation and transportation of products that may contain LMO as well as potential new regulations.

The main private sector players (AgroLead Holding, AgroWay, Chamber of Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic) have been invited to attend the consultation process during the project and provide inputs to it, as well as have expressed interest in being involved in the project implementation, they were consulted regarding the potential impact complacent with the Cartagena protocol can generate to private sector.

The project didn?t get much attention from the private sector partially due to a lack of awareness of potential impact on the compliance with the Cartagena Protocol can generate to their businesses. During the project implementation, they will continually be invited and informed about the project progress, project impacts and potential areas of partnership. They will be welcome to engage during project implementation.

Also, based on previous experiences ? including some funded by GEF ? the engagement of the private sector in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol tends to be low, as there is no direct positive impact of the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in most of the countries - the exception applies only for big GMO producers, which is not the case.

Finally, it is relevant to recall that Article 22(1) of the Protocol sections agrees to ?facilitating private sector involvement?. The private sector involvement was facilitated during the PIF and PPG phases, and it will continue as stipulated in the stakeholder engagement plan table and in complacence with the Cartagena Protocol guidance.

**5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

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

| RISK | RATING | MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---|---|---|
| Political instability Since 2010, there have been frequent changes in government, with significant turnover in senior policy roles, including prime ministers, ministers of the economy, and ministers of finance, creating great uncertainty. At a minimum, it is critical to ensure that new governments do not go back on commitments made by previous ones as this leads to costly arbitration and drags down the perception of the country. | Moderate | This risk will be mitigated under Component 1 of the project that will strengthen the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism to enhance cooperation on biosafety among all respective ministries, as well as build biosafety awareness and capacity of relevant officials. |
| Lack of sufficient financial and technical support for the laboratories | Low | This risk will be mitigated under Component 2 under item 2.2. National capacity for LMO identification, detection and enforcement will be enhanced and the co-financing strategy will assist in ensuring sustained financial support. |
| Challenges that have prevented the previous biosafety law from being enacted persist. | Low | This risk will be mitigated under Components 1 and 2 of the project. The dedicated and specific focus on a coherent and functional biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework, and capacity building in biosafety implementation will be built into the project outcomes. This will be complemented by the renewed political will of the government in implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Trade agreements which may oblige harmonization of biosafety regulations with trading partners that are not Party to the Cartagena Protocol, risking a lower standard of protection | Moderate | This risk will be mitigated under Component 1 of the project that will strengthen the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism to enhance cooperation on biosafety, in particular with the Ministry of Trade, as well as build biosafety awareness and capacity of relevant officials. |
| Lack of close cooperation between key institutional stakeholders, such as Environment, Agriculture, etc. | Moderate | This risk will be mitigated under Component 1 of the project that will strengthen the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism to enhance cooperation on biosafety. Form agreement such as Memorandum of Understanding, if appropriate. |
| Potential conflicts between the private sector and government agencies | Low | This risk will be mitigated under Component 2 of the project, particularly in relation to public awareness, education and public participation, so that misunderstandings or concerns about the project and the national biosafety approach can be sufficiently addressed. |
| Low technical capacity in operationalizing biosafety policy halting the project?s progress | Low | Capacity development for biosafety will be provided under Components 1 and 2, which will mitigate the risk. |
| Climate change | | Since the current project does not have any field interventions, there are no essential risks for the proposed activities. However, climate change and biological processes have a tight bond. In this regard, even the interventions at the institutional level should take into account the climate change impact, mitigation and adaptation measures. The detailed information can be found in the additional document ?Climate change screening? |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| COVID-19:<br><br>(i) Restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic may lead to reduced ability of the project to organize trainings and meetings.<br><br>(ii) COVID-19 may affect the availability of co-financing, in particular the resource allocations from Government. | Moderate | (i) The project may not be able to organize face-to-face meetings and trainings, which may impact participation. If restrictions continue during implementation, the project would use alternative means for consultations, meetings and trainings, such as virtual meetings. Project implementation may be slightly delayed, but overall project delivery is not expected to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will use biosecure implementation such as webinars and online sessions used in lieu of face-to-face training.<br><br>(ii) It is not anticipated that the availability of co-financing will be significantly affected by COVID-19. |

**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.**

All project decisions will be taken by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic as the lead agency. FAO will act as Implementing Agency, and as such will provide technical backstopping to the Executing Agency. Also, FAO will provide partial execution support for the project under the guidance of the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ecology and Technical Supervision.

In light of the complex mix of stakeholders and the project?s intent to effect change across different sectors, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established and led by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision and be composed of representatives of key agencies and initiatives that share interests with the proposed project. The following national actors will be involved in the PSC: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Finance, the State Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance, the State Inspectorate for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Security, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Biotechnology Institute under National Academy of Sciences, the representatives of relevant public organisations, Civil Society organisation and academia.

The Kyrgyz Republic actively supports international environmental initiatives and promotes its own, including:

? Developing organic agricultural policies and practices, including revision of the legal framework and training

? On September 30, 2020 the Summit of Biodiversity during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, the Kyrgyz Republic introduced the following draft resolution on the conservation of the

world's biodiversity: "Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation is a key factor in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity".

? The country?s main focus is to strengthen international cooperation in areas such as:

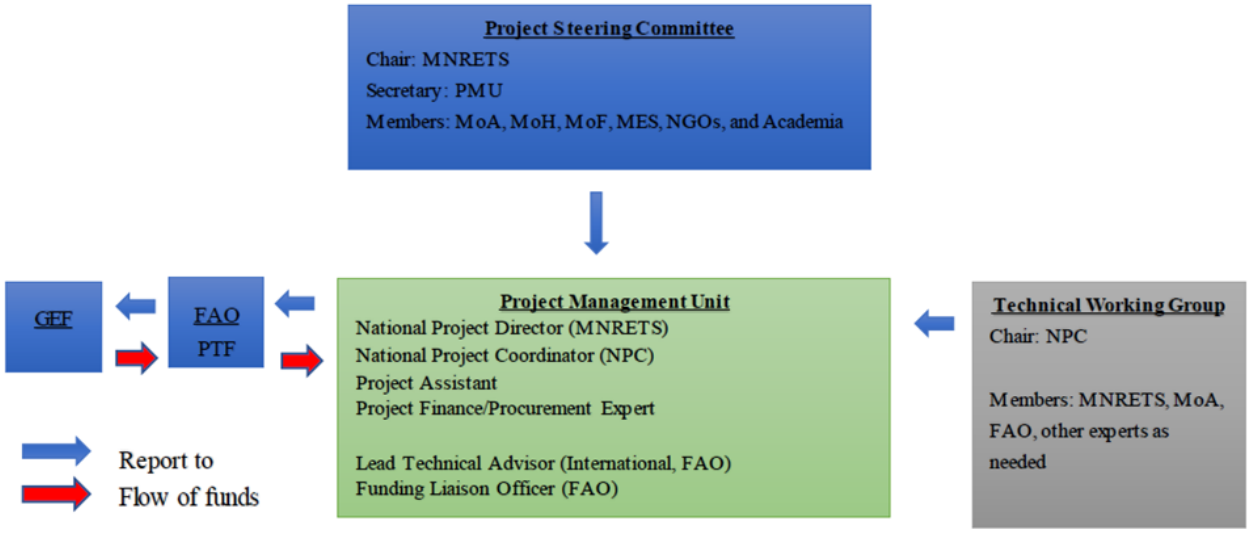
o Conservation of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems;

o Promoting transboundary cooperation in the field of biodiversity;

o Applying the principles of the green economy to achieve sustainable development;

o Developing regional cooperation initiatives for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

The project organisation structure is as follows:




The government will designate a National Project Director (NPD). Located in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision the NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. S/he will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Coordinator (see below) on the government policies and priorities.

The NPD (or designated person from the lead national institution) will chair the Project Steering Committee which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners.

The PSC will be comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Finance, the State Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Emergency Situations, the State Inspectorate for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Security, Biotechnology Institute under National Academy of Sciences, the representatives of relevant public organisations, Civil Society organisation and academia. The members of the PSC will each assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

The National Project Coordinator (see below) will be the Secretary to the PSC. The PSC will meet at least twice per year to ensure: i) Oversight and assurance of the technical quality of outputs; ii) Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project; iii) Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support; iv) Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication; v) Effective coordination of governmental partners work under this project; vi) Approval of the six-monthly Project Progress and Financial Reports, the Annual Work Plan and Budget; vii) Making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the National Project Coordinator of the PMU.

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be co-funded by the GEF grant and established within the Ministry of Natural Recourses, Ecology and Technical Supervision. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU will be composed of (i) a full-time National Project Coordinator (NPC), (ii) a full-time Project Assistant, (iii) a full-time procurement/financial specialist, (iv) a part-time (50 %) project administrative support consultant; (v) a part-time (50 %) Chief technical advisor ? international, and (vi) full-time Project Management Consultant (hired by FAO) to help the development of project management capacity of PMU. The PMU will be supported by technical specialists financed by the project, including experts on legal assessment, monitoring, gender and other experts as indicated in the project budget.

The National Project Coordinator (NPC) will oversee daily implementation, management, administration and technical supervision of the project, on behalf of the Operational partner and within the framework delineated by the PSC. S/he will be responsible, among others, for:

i) Coordination with relevant initiatives;

ii) Ensuring a high level of collaboration among participating institutions and organizations at the national and local levels;

iii) Ensuring compliance with all Operational Partners Agreement (OPA) provisions during the implementation, including on timely reporting and financial management;

iv) Coordination and close monitoring of the implementation of project activities;

v) Tracking the project?s progress and ensuring timely delivery of inputs and outputs;

vi) Providing technical support and assessing the outputs of the project national consultants hired with GEF funds, as well as the products generated in the implementation of the project;

vii) Approving and managing requests for the provision of financial resources using provided format in OPA annexes;

viii) Monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports;

ix) Ensuring timely preparation and submission of requests for funds, financial and progress reports to FAO as per OPA reporting requirements;

x) Maintaining documentation and evidence that describes the proper and prudent use of project resources as per OPA provisions, including making available this supporting documentation to FAO and designated auditors when requested;

xi) Implementing and managing the project?s monitoring and communications plans;

xii) Organizing project workshops and meetings to monitor progress and preparing the Annual Budget and Work Plan;

xiii) Submitting the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with the AWP/B to the PSC and FAO;

xiv) Preparing the first draft of the Project Implementation Report (PIR);

xv) Supporting the organization of the mid-term and final evaluations in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder and the FAO Independent Office of Evaluation (OED);

xvi) Submitting the OP six-monthly technical and financial reports to FAO and facilitating the information exchange between the OP and FAO, if needed;

xvii) Informing the PSC and FAO of any delays and difficulties as they arise during the implementation to ensure timely corrective measures and support.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for the delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex J for details):

? The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day to day project execution;

? The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the project technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;

? The Funding Liaison Officer(s) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

? Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;

? Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s)and other rules and procedures of FAO;

? Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;

? Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and

? Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;

? Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

**7. Consistency with National Priorities**

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

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

The Kyrgyz Republic ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1996. In 2006, they ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and later, in 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

The proposed project is aligned with ?The Environmental Security Concept? of the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by the Presidential Decree No 506 in 2007, which established basic policy principles in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, including biodiversity. Highlights include the development of a National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, and the aim to improve environmental legislation. In 2011, the government approved Decree No 599 establishing a set of measures to ensure the environmental safety of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2011- 2015.

The government?s broad vision for environmental conservation in the development policy framework has been recently approved by Government Decree through the adoption of biodiversity conservation priorities for 2014-2024. These priorities have been formulated with the current National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan being taken into account. These priorities have been translated into four strategic targets

focused on: 1) integrating biodiversity conservation issues into the activities of State bodies and public organisations by 2020; 2) reducing the impact on biodiversity and promoting its sustainable use; 3) improving the protection and monitoring of ecosystems and species diversity; and 4) improving the social importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, increasing the benefits of sustainable ecosystem services and traditional technologies.

The Kyrgyz government has recently embarked on developing and implementing the concept of a ?Green Economy?, with the intention to brand the country as ?Kyrgyzstan - Country of Green Economy?. The green economy is characterized primarily by a high level of quality of life, careful and rational use of natural resources in the interests of present and future generations in accordance with the international environmental obligations undertaken by the country. A key area identified for green economy development is that of ?Green Agriculture?, within which the country aims to reduce synthetic chemical use, promote organic agriculture and, specific to biosafety, strengthen control over the production and use of the latest biotechnologies, particularly those involving genetic modification of animal and plant organisms used in food production.

The project is also consistent with the national law ?On organic agricultural production in the Kyrgyz Republic" 2019, which excludes the use of LMOs and products made of or with the help of LMOs. In particular, the development of LMO detection capacities under the project would assist greatly in implementing the organic agriculture policy of the government, while meeting obligations established under the EAEU Technical Regulations for LMO food and feed labeling. These actions would further be in line with Law No. 90 on Consumer Protection (1997), which provides the legal basis for consumer protection rights in the country and is particularly relevant to the establishment of coherent LMO food and feed labelling in the country.

Furthermore, the Law on Food Security (2008), which aims to ensure food security in the country, is defined as the development and implementation of economic, organizational and other measures aimed at preventing food crises and meeting the needs of the population, including its socially vulnerable groups. This protection goal is particularly important to be considered in light of the potential socio-economic impacts of LMOs, for which the project aims to facilitate policy discussions and build assessment capacities on.

In relation to health aspects, the Kyrgyz Republic adopted in 2020, Law No. 52 on Public Health, which aims to improve the health of the population through increasing access to public healthcare, promoting issues of safety, and health promotion of a society as a whole. This overarching policy approach provides clear protection goals in relation to public health and any potential adverse effects of LMOs on human health. The latter would apply specifically to the import of LMOs for food purposes.

The Second Regular National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011) provides information on the country?s lack of instruments in place for the implementation of their national biosafety framework, including institutional capacity and the need for human resources capacity development and training, which the proposed project aims to address.

**8. Knowledge Management**

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

The knowledge generated through the project will be systematically integrated with all relevant project activities to improve efficiency and sustainability. It will be widely disseminated and made available to stakeholders and the public in general through public awareness campaigns, dissemination of guidelines and workshops. As per its innovative features in the Kyrgyz Republic and in the region, the project will generate substantial new knowledge on the operationalization of biosafety measures in the country.

Public awareness, education and public participation in decision-making on biosafety will be promoted and for that communication and visibility material of biosafety measures and the Cartagena Protocol will be generated. The project will also support a coordinated governmental system for public access to information on biosafety in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including the national biosafety website.

In addition, a public awareness and participation strategy will be developed in accordance with obligations under the Aarhus Convention, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the law "On access to information under the jurisdiction of state bodies and local self-government bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic?.

Finally, additional in-depth consultations will take place during the project implementation to examine and evaluate: (i) potential available material and lessons learned from previous actions on biosafety (ii) the main knowledge gaps (iii) obtain current feedback from stakeholder groups and possible beneficiary groups. To date, more than 136 capacity-building projects have been initiated in different countries/regions, according to the information registered in the Biosafety Clearing House. A systematic plan will be developed to learn from these experiences, and to gather best practices for application in the project. Information will also be gathered from relevant multilateral environmental agreements including the CBD, Cartagena Protocol and the Aarhus Convention, as well as relevant national experiences from other Parties e.g. the European Union, which have generated numerous biosafety knowledge products, manuals, guidance and toolkits, all of which can be used to positively shape the project?s activities.

More specifically, component 2 includes activities for public awareness, education and participation, which will also include sub-national and field engagement. In addition, technical capacity building activities will also include officials from sub-national agencies and institutions. Component 3 includes KM activities and awareness-raising campaigns and will assure a closer dialogue with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety) allowing the lessons learned from this project can act beyond national boundaries, including at the regional level.

Also, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of progress in achieving project outcomes and objectives will be based on the targets and indicators set out in the Project Results Framework (Annex A) and the monitoring and evaluation activities will follow FAO and GEF monitoring and evaluation policies and guidelines. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available to stakeholder at national and regional levels assuring knowledge sharing of the results.

**9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Describe the budgeted M and E plan**

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of progress in achieving project outcomes and objectives will be based on the targets and indicators set out in the Project Results Framework (Annex A) and the description of the same in relevant above. Project monitoring and evaluation activities have been estimated at USD 72,000 (see table 2 below). Monitoring and evaluation activities will follow FAO and GEF monitoring and evaluation policies and guidelines. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available.

1. **Oversight and monitoring responsibilities**

The M&E functions and responsibilities, specified in the Project Monitoring Plan (see below) will be implemented through: (i) continuous day-to-day monitoring and project progress oversight missions by the Project Management Unit (PMU, see section 6.1 above); (ii) technical monitoring of indicators by the PMU in coordination with partners; (iii) mid-term review and final evaluation (independent consultants and FAO Evaluation Office); and (iv) FAO?s monitoring and oversight missions.

PMU will establish a monitoring system to monitor the project progress during the whole implementation cycle. Participatory mechanisms and methodologies will be developed to support the monitoring and evaluation of outcome and output indicators. M&E tasks will include: (i) presentation and clarification (if necessary) of the Project Results Framework to all the project stakeholders; (ii) review of monitoring and evaluation indicators and baselines; (iii) preparation of draft clauses that would be included in the consultants' contracts to ensure fulfilment of their monitoring and evaluation reporting tasks (if appropriate); and (iv) clarification of the division of monitoring and evaluation tasks among the different project stakeholders.

The National M&E Expert with support from the team members in the PMU will prepare a draft monitoring (M&E) matrix, which will be discussed and approved by all key stakeholders during the start-up workshop. The M&E Matrix will work as a management tool for the NPC, local experts and Project Partners for: i) biannual monitoring of output indicators; ii) annual monitoring of outcome indicators; iii) definition of responsibilities and means of verification; iv) selection of methodology for data processing.

The Monitoring Plan will be prepared by the M&E Expert with support from the Project Team during the first quarter of Year 1 and validated by the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The Monitoring Plan will be based on the Monitoring Plan (Table 2 below) and the Monitoring Matrix and will include: i) the updated outcomes matrix, with clear indicators broken down by year; ii) updated baseline, if necessary, and the tools selected for data gathering; iii) description of the monitoring strategy, including roles and responsibilities for data collection and processing, report flow, monitoring matrix and brief analysis on how and when each indicator will be measured (responsibility for project activities could coincide with that of data collection; iv) updated implementation arrangements, where necessary); v) inclusion of indicators from GEF monitoring tools, data collection and monitoring strategy for mid-term review and final evaluation; and vi) schedule of evaluation workshops, including self-assessment techniques.

The M&E Expert will be responsible for the continuous monitoring of project implementation and will be guided by the preparation and implementation of an Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) supported by

a biannual project progress reports (PPR). The preparation of the AWPB and the PPRs will represent the output of a unified planning process among the main project stakeholders. As results-based management tools, the AWPB will indicate the proposed actions for the following year and will offer the necessary details on the output and outcome targets, and the PPRs will offer information on actions implementation monitoring and the achievement of the output targets. Contributions to AWPB and PPR will be prepared through a participatory system of progress review and planning with all stakeholders, which will be coordinated and facilitated through progress review and project planning workshops. These contributions will be consolidated into the draft AWBP and PPR.

An annual project progress review and planning meeting will be held with the participation of Project partners to finalize the AWBP and PPR. Once finalized, the AWPB and PPR will be sent to FAO?s LTO for technical clearance and to the Steering Committee for review and approval. The AWBP will be prepared in accordance with the Outcomes Framework to ensure adequate compliance and monitoring of project outputs and outcomes.

Following project approval, the first year AWBP will be adjusted (reduced or extended) to be synchronized with the annual reporting schedule. In subsequent years, AWBPs will follow an annual planning schedule, in line with the reporting cycle described below.

2. **Indicators and Sources of information**

In order to monitor project outputs and outcomes, including contributions to global environmental benefits, a set of indicators is set out in the Outcomes Framework (Annex 1). The indicators and means of verification in the Outcomes Framework will be applied to monitor both project performance and impact. Following FAO monitoring procedures and progress reporting formats, the data collected should be sufficiently detailed to allow monitoring of specific outputs and outcomes and early detection of risks to the project. Output target indicators will be monitored every six months and outcome target indicators will be monitored every year whenever possible or at least in the mid-term and final evaluations.

The main sources of information to support the M&E plan include: i) participatory progress review workshops with stakeholders and beneficiaries; ii) on-site monitoring of the field interventions implementation; iii) progress reports prepared by the PMU with inputs from partners, intervention zone coordinators, project specialists and other stakeholders; iv) consultancy reports; v) training reports; vi) mid-term review and final evaluation; vii) financial reports and budget reviews; viii) Project Implementation Reports prepared by FAO?s Lead Technical Officer with the support of FAO?s Representation in Kyrgyzstan; and ix) reports on FAO?s oversight missions.

3. **Reporting plan**

The reports that will be prepared specifically within the monitoring and evaluation programme framework are: (i) the Project Inception report, (ii) the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB), (iii) the Project Progress Reports (PPR), (iv) the Annual Project Implementation Reports (PIR), (v) the technical reports, (vi) the Co-financing Reports, and (vii) the Final Report. In addition, the GEF Core Indicator Worksheet

will be completed in connection with the Mid-Term Review and Final Project Evaluation so that progress can be compared with the baseline established during project preparation.

After FAO?s approval of the project, a national project start-up workshop and regional start-up workshops will be held. Immediately after the workshop, the NPC will prepare a project start-up report in consultation with the PSC and FAO?s Lead Technical Officer (LTO). The report will include a description of the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordination with project actors, the progress made in their establishment and start-up activities, as well as an update of any changes in external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed AWPB for the first year and the Monitoring Matrix, a detailed monitoring plan based on the monitoring and evaluation plan presented below. The draft Start-up Report will be delivered to FAO and to the PSC for review and comments prior to finalisation of the report, no later than three months after project start-up. The report must be approved by the BH, the LTO and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit. The BH will upload the report to FPMIS.

The NPC shall submit a draft AWPB to the PSC by January 15 of each year at the latest. This should include a detailed list of activities to be executed every month for each output and outcome and the dates by which the targets and milestones of the outputs and outcomes will be achieved throughout the year. It will also include a detailed budget of the project activities to be carried out during the year, along with all necessary monitoring and oversight activities during the year. The AWPB will be reviewed by the PSC and FAO. The final AWPB will be sent to the PSC for approval and to FAO for final authorization. The BH will upload the AWPB to the FPMIS.

PPRs are used to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that hinder timely implementation, and to take appropriate corrective measures. PPRs will be developed on the basis of systematic monitoring of the output and outcome indicators identified in the Project Results Framework (Annex 1), AWPB and Monitoring Plan. Each semester, the National Project Coordinator will prepare a draft PPR, and compile and consolidate comments from FAO?s PTF. The NPC will submit the final PPRs to the FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan every six months, prior to June 10 (covering the period from January to June) and prior to December 10 (ranging from July to December). The report for the July-December period should include an AWPB update for the following year for review and no objection by FAO?s PTF. Once comments are entered, the LTO will give its technical approval, the BH will approve and submit the final version of the PPR to the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) for approval. The BH will upload the PPRs to the FPMIS.

The NPC, under the supervision of the LTO and the BH and in coordination with the national project partners, will prepare a draft PIR for the July (previous year) and June (current year) periods no later than July 1 of each year. The LTO will finalise the PIR and submit it to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for review before July 10. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, the LTO and the BH will discuss PIR and ratings. The LTO is responsible for the final PIR review and sanction technical approval. The LTO will submit the final PIR version to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for final approval. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will present the PIR to the GEF Secretariat and the independent Evaluation Office of the GEF as part of the Annual Monitoring Review of the FAO-GEF portfolio. The PIR will be uploaded to FPMIS by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

**Technical reports.** Technical reports will be prepared as part of the project outputs and will serve to document and disseminate lessons learned. All draft technical reports should be prepared and submitted by the Project Coordinator to the PCS and the FAO Representation in Kyrgyzstan, which in turn, will share them with the LTO for review and approval and with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for information and comments, prior to finalisation and publication. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to the Liaison Committee and the project PSC and other project stakeholders, as appropriate. These reports will be uploaded to FPMIS by the BH.

**Co-financing Reports.** The NPC will be responsible for compiling the necessary information on in-kind and cash co-financing contributed by all co-financiers of the project, both those referred to in this document and those not foreseen (new). Each year, the Coordinator will submit these reports to the FAO Representation in Kyrgyzstan by July 10, ranging from July of the previous year to June of the year of the Report. This information will be included in the PIR.

**Final Report.** Within two months prior to the project completion date, the National Project Coordinator shall submit a draft Final Report to the PSC and the FAO Representation in Kyrgyzstan. The main purpose of the Final Report is to provide the authorities with inputs on the political decisions required to continue with the Project, and to provide the donor with information on the use of funds. Therefore, the Final Report will consist of a brief summary of the main outputs, outcomes, conclusions and recommendations of the Project. The report is aimed at people who are not necessarily technical specialists and who need to understand the political implications of the findings and technical needs to ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes. The Final Report offers assessment of the activities, a summary of lessons learned and provides recommendations in terms of its applicability to promote a biosafety framework, in the context of development priorities at national and provincial levels, as well as practical application. A project evaluation meeting should be held to discuss the draft Final Report with the NPSC and the Liaison Committee prior to its finalization by the Coordinator and approval by the BH, LTO and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

4. **Monitoring and Evaluation Plan**

Table below presents a summary of the main monitoring and evaluation activities and reports, those responsible for each report and deadlines. Project implementation will incorporate participatory monitoring of the Gender Action Plan (see Annex 5) which has a separate set of indicators that will be monitored and evaluated during the Mid-Term and End of Project Reviews. Separate gender monitoring reports will be prepared by the gender specialist with support from the project gender focal points.

**Table 2:** Summary of the main monitoring and evaluation activities and reports, parties responsible for their publication and time frames.

**Evaluation provisions**

An independent mid-term review (MTR) will be carried out at project mid-life in terms of expenditure and/or overall project duration, tentatively in the third quarter of project year 2. The BH will arrange an independent MTR in consultation with the Project Steering Committee (PSC), the Project Management Unit (PMU), the lead technical officer (LTO) and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit in FAO headquarters.

The MTR will be conducted to review the progress and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving project objective, outcomes and outputs. The MTR will allow mid-course corrective actions if needed. The MTR will provide a systematic analysis of the information on project progress in the achievement of expected results against budget expenditures. It will refer to the project budget (see Annex A2) and the approved AWP/Bs (sentence only valid for the GEF). It will highlight replicable good practices and key issues faced during project implementation and will suggest mitigation actions to be discussed by the PSC, the LTO and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all medium and large size projects require a separate terminal evaluation. Such evaluation provides i) accountability on results, processes, and performance; ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved and iii) lessons learned as an evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

The Budget Holder (BH) will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED and will be responsible for quality assurance. Independent external evaluators will conduct the terminal evaluation of the project taking into account the ?GEF Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects. OED will provide technical assistance throughout the evaluation process, via the OED Decentralized Evaluation Support team ? in particular, it will also give quality assurance feedback on: selection of the external evaluators, terms of reference (TOR) of the evaluation, draft and final report. OED will be responsible for the quality assessment of the terminal evaluation report, including the GEF ratings (only for GEF projects). After the completion of the terminal evaluation, the BH will be responsible to prepare the management response to the evaluation within four weeks and share it with national partners, GEF, OED and the FAO-GEF CU.

**Disclosure**

The project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. The disclosure of information shall be ensured through posting on websites and dissemination of findings through knowledge products and events. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available.

| M&E Activity | Responsible Units | Deadline/ Frequency | Budgeted Costs (USD) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Inception Workshop | NPC; FAO KYR (with the support of the LTO, and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit) | Two months after the project began | USD 7,000 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Final validation workshop for the National Policy Document on Biosafety | | End of project year 2 | USD 3,500 |
| Project Inception workshop report | PMU | Immediately after the start-up workshop | Part of PMU responsibilities |
| Monitoring Environmental and Social Safeguards, Update of GEF Tracking Tools | NPC with inputs from the other co-financiers. | Annual | Part of PMU responsibilities |
| Technical reports | NPC and FAO (LTO, FAO KYR) | As appropriate | Part of PMU responsibilities |
| Mid-term review | FAO KYR, External Consultant, FAO Independent Evaluation Unit in consultation with the project team, including the GEF Coordination Unit and other stakeholders. | Halfway through project implementation | USD 15,000 |
| Terminal report | NPC | Within two months before the end date of the project | USD 6,500 |
| Independent final evaluation (FE) | The BH will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED.. | To be launched 6 months prior to terminal review meeting | USD 40,000 (includes fees and travel costs of the external consultants) |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total budget** | **USD 72,000** |

**10. Benefits**

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

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)? Please also explain how the project promotes full and productive employment and decent work in rural areas, aiming at the progressive realization of their right to Decent Rural Employment [1].

The capacities in biosafety that will be built through the project have wider socioeconomic benefits, including in increasing human resource capacities in the areas of law, policy, regulation, administration, assessment and management, in regard to a major global environmental issue. Scientific and technical capacity-building is another major component of the project, which will be focused on risk assessment, risk management and socio-economic assessment. The skills, knowledge and expertise acquired through the project will therefore be more widely applicable in other areas that would be of relevance to environmental assessment and management. These socio-economic benefits will then support relevant personnel and government officials in addressing other environmental issues of importance to the country.

Capacity will also be built in analytical assessment of food safety, quantification of novel food components and detection of LMO presence in food products. The knowledge generated will ensure safe food access, consumer rights to food labelling and informed food choices for the people of the Kyrgyz Republic.

---

[1] Specific guidance on how FAO can promote the Four Pillars of Decent Work in rural areas is provided in the Quick reference for addressing decent rural employment (as well as in the full corresponding Guidance document). For more information on FAO?s work on decent rural employment and related guidance materials please consult the FAO thematic website at: http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/en/.

## 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 | 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.

Based on the established policies, for low-risk projects, we do not prepare measures to address identified risks and impacts. However, overall project risks and mitigation measures have been identified and included in the relevant section.

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

| Title | Module | Submitted |
|---|---|---|
| CC screening_Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework in the Kyrgyz Republic | Project PIF ESS | |
| FAO ES Screening Checklist CN Kyrgyz | Project PIF ESS | |
| Project Risk Certification | Project PIF ESS | |

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

| Results chain | Indicators | Baseline | Mid-term target | Final target | Means of verification | Assumptions | Responsible for data collection |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Objective:** To provide technical guidance and assistance for the implementation of the regulatory framework on biosafety at the national level, including the establishment of administrative systems and institutional arrangements, such as laboratories for LMO detection and human resource capacities | | | | | | | |
| **Component 1: Development and operationalization of biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework** | | | | | | | |
| Outcome 1.1: Policy and regulatory biosafety framework completed and aligned with the rights and obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety | Established process to reconcile various biosafety draft laws with a view to adopting a national biosafety policy, inclusive of liability and redress issues | There has been a previous process established to deal with biosafety policy and law; this can be reactivated | Process established | Process completed | Process established and completed | There is political will to complete the process and no political instability | MNRETS, FAO |
| | National regulations and sectoral rules integrating and operationalizing biosafety principles and objectives | Current regulations and rules do not comprehensively integrate and operationalise biosafety | Draft regulations and rules | Final regulations and rules | National regulations and sectoral rules integrate and operationalise biosafety | There is political will to complete the process and no political instability | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Increased capacity for biosafety policy and regulatory implementation across relevant institutions, in line with national laws and policies | There is no or little capacity | Planning and material developed for two capacity building workshops | Capacity has been built for at least 120 government officials via two capacity building workshops | Number of capacity building workshops held and number of government officials trained | There is adequate engagement from the government officials | MNRETS, FAO |
| Output.1.1.1 National Policy Document on Biosafety drafted | National Policy Document on Biosafety | There is currently no National Policy Document on Biosafety | Draft document | Final document | The final National Policy Document on Biosafety | There is adequate engagement from the government and no political instability | MNRETS, FAO |
| Output 1.1.2 Exploratory discussions on acceding to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress initiated | Discussions held on the issues | There has been no national discussion on this issue | There have been discussions held on the issue | Decision made on whether to accede to the Supplementary Protocol | Number of discussions held and a decision made on whether to accede to the Supplementary Protocol | There is political will and adequate engagement from the relevant government agencies | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 1.1.3 National biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines produced, in connection with existing national laws, including the law "On organic agricultural production in the Kyrgyz Republic" 2019 | National biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines produced | There are no specific biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines | Draft national biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines | Final national biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines | Number of national biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines produced | There is political will to complete the process and no political instability | MNRETS, FAO, sectoral agencies |
| Output 1.1.4 Training of relevant government officials involved in implementing the biosafety policy, regulatory and institutional framework carried out in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles | Capacity building workshops held for relevant government officials, with women comprising a minimum of 50% | There has been no training | Planning and material developed for capacity building workshops | Two capacity building workshops for 60 officials each time, with women comprising a minimum of 50% | Number of capacity building workshops held and number of government officials trained, including women | There is adequate engagement from the government officials | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1.2<br><br>Administrative systems and institutional arrangements for biosafety implemented at the national level | Functioning centralized administrative system for LMO applications established | There is no centralized administrative system | Centralized administrative system established and tested | Centralized administrative system fully operational | Functioning centralized administrative system | There is no political instability | MNRETS, FAO |
| | Established institutional arrangements for biosafety tasks and decision-making | There are no institutional arrangements | Institutional arrangements proposed and discussed with relevant agencies | Institutional arrangements fully established | Institutional arrangements established and operational | There is adequate engagement of the relevant agencies | MNRETS, FAO, relevant agencies |
| | Functioning technical and decision-making bodies for biosafety established | There are no technical and decision-making bodies | Technical and decision-making bodies established | Technical and decision-making bodies fully functional | Number of technical and decision-making bodies | There are adequate members with relevant expertise | MNRETS, FAO |
| | Functioning national biosafety website with online presence and acting as depository for reporting and information sharing in accordance with obligations under the Cartagena Protocol established | There is no national biosafety website | Technical and content development of national biosafety website | Launch of national biosafety website | National biosafety website | There are no technical impediments | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 1.2.1 Centralized administrative system and institutional arrangements established to handle differentiated applications for LMOs in transit, destined for contained use, intentional introduction into the environment, and for direct use as food or feed, or for processing | Functioning centralized administrative system and institutional arrangements | There are no centralized administrative system and institutional arrangements | Establishment of centralized administrative system and institutional arrangements, and development of procedural guidelines | Functioning centralized administrative system and institutional arrangements established, with procedural guidelines in place | Centralized administrative system and institutional arrangements, and number of procedural guidelines | There is no political instability and there is adequate engagement of relevant agencies | MNRETS, FAO, relevant agencies |
| Output 1.2.2 National technical and decision-making bodies for biosafety constituted with appropriate multi-disciplinary membership and attention to gender and diversity issues. | Functioning national technical and decision-making bodies | There are no technical and decision-making bodies | Technical and decision-making bodies established with governance provisions for at least 30% women/ youth/ ethnic minorities? representatives | Technical and decision-making bodies fully functioning, comprising at least 30% women/ youth/ ethnic minorities? representatives | Number of technical and decision-making bodies | There are adequate members with relevant expertise | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 1.2.3 National biosafety website established to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on LMOs at the national level | Functioning national biosafety website | There is no national biosafety website | Technical and content development of national biosafety website | Launch of national biosafety website | National biosafety website | There are no technical impediments | MNRETS, FAO |
| **Component 2: Development of national capacity for the operationalization of biosafety measures in compliance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** | | | | | | | |
| Outcome 2.1<br><br>National capacity for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring enhanced<br><br>- | Agreed risk assessment procedures and mechanisms developed; Risk assessment, risk management and monitoring performed as required by the Cartagena Protocol | There are no risk assessment procedures and mechanisms according to the Cartagena Protocol | Draft technical procedures and mechanisms for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring | Final technical procedures and mechanisms for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring | Number of technical procedures and mechanisms for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring | There is political will to complete the process and adequate personnel with relevant expertise | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Functioning risk assessment, risk management and monitoring institutional mechanisms, including functioning contingency protocols | There are no institutional mechanisms and contingency protocols functioning | Establishment of institutional mechanisms and contingency protocols for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring | Functioning institutional mechanisms and contingency protocols for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring | Number of institutional mechanisms and contingency protocols for LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring | There is political will to complete the process and adequate personnel with relevant expertise | MNRETS, FAO |
| Output 2.1.1 Procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs developed and validated by the national authorities responsible for different uses of LMOs | Functioning procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs developed and validated by the national authorities responsible for different uses of LMOs | There are no functioning procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs | Draft of one technical guideline (Part #1) with procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs | Final technical guideline (Part #1) with validated functional procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs developed | One technical guideline (Part #1) with validated functional procedures and mechanisms for assessing environmental and health risks of LMOs | There is political will to complete the process and adequate personnel with relevant expertise | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 2.1.2<br><br>Mechanisms established for risk management and monitoring, including contingency protocols for emergency response in case of accidents involving LMOs | Functioning mechanisms for risk management and monitoring, including contingency protocols for emergency response | There are no functioning mechanisms for risk management and monitoring, including contingency protocols for emergency response | Draft of one technical guideline (Part #2) with procedures and mechanisms for risk management and monitoring, including contingency protocols for emergency response | Final technical guideline (Part #2) with functional procedures and mechanisms for risk management and monitoring, including contingency protocols for emergency response | One technical guideline (Part #2) with functional procedures and mechanisms for risk management and monitoring, including contingency protocols for emergency response | There is political will to complete the process and adequate personnel with relevant expertise | MNRETS, FAO |
| Output 2.1.3 Specialized personnel trained to perform the tasks of risk assessment, risk management and monitoring, in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles | Two capacity building training courses and two follow up workshops held for relevant government officials, with women comprising a minimum of 50% | There has been no training to perform the tasks of risk assessment, risk management and monitoring, in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles | Planning and material developed for capacity building training courses and workshops | Two capacity building training courses for 40 participants and two follow up workshops held for relevant government officials, with women comprising a minimum of 50% | Number of capacity building workshops held and number of participants trained, including women | There is adequate engagement from the government officials | MNRETS, FAO |
| Outcome 2.2 National capacity for LMO identification, detection and enforcement enhanced | Two functioning laboratories for LMO analysis | There is no functioning laboratory to perform LMO analysis according to the Cartagena Protocol | Planning of new LMO routines and purchase of necessary equipment | New laboratory routines established and functioning new equipment. | Number of equipment purchased and number of LMO analysis routines established | There is political will to complete the process and adequate personnel with relevant expertise | MNRETS, State Vet Laboratories, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | Laboratory personnel able to perform LMO analysis for identification and detection purposes | There is no trained laboratory personnel to perform LMO analyses | Planning and material developed for a capacity building training course | One capacity building training course for 20 laboratory staff | One capacity building training course held and number of participants trained, including women | There is adequate engagement from the government officials | MNRETS, State Vet Laboratories, FAO |
| | Roadmap for National Training Centre on LMO risk assessment, risk management and monitoring developed | There is no roadmap for training centre established for continuous training in the field | Draft roadmap for establishing a National Training Centre for biosafety | Final roadmap for the establishment of a National Training Centre | Roadmap document and a technical guideline with procedures and mechanisms for LMO identification, detection | There is political will to complete the process and no political instability | MNRETS, State Vet Laboratories, FAO |
| | LMO border control tasks performed by customs officers, with access to guidance to detect and identify LMOs | There is no trained customs officers to perform LMO monitoring | Planning and material developed for a capacity building workshop on border control | One capacity building workshop for border control officers | One capacity building training workshop held and number of participants trained, including women | There is adequate engagement from the government officials | MNRETS, State Vet Laboratories, FAO |
| Output 2.2.1 Existing laboratory facilities adapted for LMO detection, with requisite human resources and infrastructure to carry out analysis | Two functioning laboratories for LMO analysis | There is no functioning laboratory to perform LMO analysis according to the Cartagena Protocol | Planning of new LMO routines and purchase of necessary equipment | New laboratory routines established and functioning new equipment. | Number of equipment purchased and number of LMO analysis routines established | There is political will to complete the process and adequate personnel with relevant expertise | MNRETS, State Vet Laboratories, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 2.2.2 Training of laboratory personnel for LMO identification and detection carried out, in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles | Laboratory personnel able to perform LMO analysis for identification and detection purposes | There is no trained laboratory personnel to perform LMO analyses | Planning and material developed for a capacity building training course | One capacity building training course for 20 laboratory staff | One capacity building training course held and number of participants trained, including women | There is adequate engagement from the government officials | MNRETS, State Vet Laboratories, FAO |
| Output 2.2.3<br><br>A roadmap for establishing a national training centre on identification and detection of LMOs is developed, in consultation with the relevant agencies | Roadmap for National Training Centre on detection and identification of LMOs developed | There is no roadmap for training centre established for continuous training in the field | Draft roadmap for establishing a National Training Centre for biosafety | Final roadmap for the establishment of a National Training Centre | Roadmap document and a technical guideline with procedures and mechanisms for LMO identification, detection | There is political will to complete the process and no political instability | MNRETS, State Vet Laboratories, FAO |
| Output 2.2.4 Specialized personnel trained to perform the tasks of monitoring and detection of LMOs at, airports and customs checkpoints | LMO border control tasks performed by customs officers, with access to guidance to detect and identify LMOs | There is no trained customs officers to perform LMO monitoring | Planning and material developed for a capacity building workshop on border control | One capacity building workshop for border control officers | One capacity building training workshop held and number of participants trained, including women | There is adequate engagement from the government officials | MNRETS, State Vet Laboratories, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outcome 2.3 Gender-sensitive public awareness, education and public participation in decision-making on biosafety enhanced | Intersectoral public awareness and participation strategy | There is no public awareness and participation strategy for biosafety | Draft public awareness and participation strategy | Final public awareness and participation strategy | Final public awareness and participation strategy | There is political will to develop and implement a public awareness and participation strategy | MNRETS, FAO |
| | Civil servants, academia/ scientists, civil society, farmers and the private sector adequately aware of biosafety issues | There is no or very little target group public awareness in biosafety | Planning of target-awareness activities and development of awareness-raising material | Public awareness activities performed with target groups which also follow gender equality and social inclusion principles, and awareness-raising materials developed | Number of target awareness activities performed and number of participants reached per target group, including women, as well as number of awareness-raising materials developed | There is adequate engagement from target groups | MNRETS, FAO |
| | Functioning repository for information and communication materials under the national biosafety website | There is no public repository for biosafety information | Draft webpage-based public repository for biosafety information to be shared and stored | Functioning webpage-based public repository for biosafety information to be shared and stored | Functioning webpage-based public repository for biosafety as part of national website on biosafety | There is political will to complete the process and no political instability | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Stakeholder consultation mechanisms established | There are no functioning procedures and mechanisms for stakeholder consultation | Draft stakeholder consultation mechanism to be included in National Policy Document and national biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines | Functional procedures and mechanisms for stakeholder consultation included in National Policy Document and national biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines | Functional procedures and mechanisms for stakeholder consultation | There is political will to complete the process | MNRETS, FAO |
| | Gap analysis and proposal for modification of curricula to include relevant biosafety topics | Current educational curricula do not include biosafety topics | Gap analysis of existing curricula | Proposal for modification of curricula developed, in consultation with Ministry of Education and Science and relevant academic institutions | Final gap analysis and proposal for modification of curricula | There is adequate engagement from academic institutions | MNRETS, Ministry of Education and Science, FAO, relevant academic institutions |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 2.3.1<br><br>Public awareness and participation strategy developed in accordance with obligations under the Aarhus Convention, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the law "On access to information under the jurisdiction of state bodies and local self-government bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic?, including a coordinated governmental system for public access to information on biosafety | Strategy/policy document on public awareness and participation for biosafety, including on access to information | There is currently no strategy/policy document on public awareness and participation for biosafety | Draft strategy/policy document on public awareness and participation for biosafety | Final strategy/policy document on public awareness and participation for biosafety, which includes access to information | The final strategy/policy document on public awareness and participation for biosafety | There is adequate engagement from the government and no political instability | MNRETS, FAO, Aarhus Centre |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 2.3.2 Targeted awareness-raising activities implemented in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles | Targeted awareness-raising activities performed and awareness-raising and communications material developed for 40 participants 5x | There is no awareness-raising activities or materials for biosafety issues | Planning and material developed for five target-awareness activities | Five public awareness activities performed with target groups, with 30% participation of women and at least one gender-focussed session, and awareness-raising and communications materials developed in local languages and in different formats (e.g. print, digital, etc) | Number of target awareness activities performed and number of participants trained per target group, including women, and number of awareness-raising material developed | There is adequate engagement from target groups | MNRETS, FAO |
| Output 2.3.3<br><br>Gaps in primary, secondary and university level education for biosafety identified and proposal for modification of curricula to include biosafety issues | Gap analysis and proposal for modification of curricula to include relevant biosafety topics | Current educational curricula do not include biosafety topics | Gap analysis of existing curricula | Proposal for modification of curricula developed, in consultation with Ministry of Education and Science and relevant academic institutions | Final gap analysis and proposal for modification of curricula | There is adequate engagement from academic institutions | MNRETS, Ministry of Education and Science, FAO, relevant academic institutions |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 2.3.4<br><br>Public gender-balanced participation mechanisms as part of the authorization process established | Public participation mechanisms established | There are no public participation mechanisms for biosafety | Draft public participation mechanisms to be included in National Policy Document and national biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines | Functional public participation mechanisms included in National Policy Document and national biosafety regulations and sectoral rules/guidelines | Functional public participation as part of the authorization process established, including a provision for both sexes to comprise at least 40 percent | There is political will to establish public participation mechanisms | MNRETS, FAO |
| Outcome 2.4<br><br>Ability to take into account socio-economic considerations in decision-making strengthened | Government officials trained (of which 50% are women) to take socio-economic considerations into account | There has been no training to perform the tasks of socio-economic considerations | Planning and material developed for capacity building training courses | Capacity building training courses held for relevant government officials | Number of capacity building workshops held and number of participants trained, including women | There is adequate engagement from the government officials | MNRETS, FAO |
| | Technical guidelines for socio-economic assessment developed | There are no functioning procedures and guidelines for assessing socio-economic aspects | Draft of technical guideline with procedures and mechanisms for assessing socio-economic aspects | Final technical guideline with functional procedures and mechanisms for assessing socio-economic aspects | One technical guideline with functional procedures and mechanisms for assessing socio-economic aspects | There is political will to complete the process and adequate personnel with relevant expertise | MNRETS, FAO |
| | LMO food and feed labelling regulations implemented in accordance with EAEU technical regulations | There is no implementation of labelling regimes in the country | Identification of gaps in current labelling regulations | Full implementation of LMO food and feed labelling regulations | Full implementation of LMO food and feed labelling regulations | There is political will to complete the process and no political instability | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 2.4.1 Capacity on socio-economic considerations built among relevant government agencies and ministries in accordance with gender equality and social inclusion principles | Two capacity building training courses held for relevant government officials, with women comprising a minimum of 50% | There has been no training to perform the tasks of socio-economic assessment | Planning and material developed for capacity building training courses | Two capacity building training courses for 40 participants held for relevant government officials, with women comprising a minimum of 50% | Number of capacity building workshops held and number of participants trained, including women | There is adequate engagement from the government officials | MNRETS, FAO |
| Output 2.4.2 Socio-economic considerations, including gender-related considerations, integrated into biosafety decision-making processes through clear procedures and guidelines | Functioning procedures and guidelines for assessing socio-economic impacts, including gender-related risks and opportunities | There are no functioning procedures and guidelines for assessing socio-economic impacts | Draft of one technical guideline with procedures and mechanisms for assessing socio-economic impacts | Final technical guideline with functional procedures and mechanisms for assessing socio-economic impacts | One technical guideline with functional procedures and mechanisms for assessing socio-economic impacts, including gender-related risks and opportunities | There is political will to complete the process and adequate personnel with relevant expertise | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 2.4.3 Labeling implemented for LMO food and feed, to enable adequate consideration of public choice and in alignment with the relevant EAEU technical regulations | Technical guides and full implementation of LMO food and feed labelling | There is no implementation of labelling regimes in the country | Draft one technical guideline (under Component 2) on detection and identification to support implementation of labelling regulations | One technical guideline on detection and identification to support implementation of labelling regulations | One technical guideline (Component 2) on detection and identification of LMOs | There is political will to complete the process and no political instability | MNRETS, FAO |
| **Component 3: Knowledge sharing process** | | | | | | | |
| Outcome 3.1 Gender-sensitive project monitoring system operational and providing systematic information on progress in meeting the project outcome and output targets | Functioning M&E system and global environmental benefits and co-benefits established | There is no M&E system | Project monitoring system that includes sex-disaggregated data established | Project performance assessed and lessons learned | Six-monthly progress reports and final report | Project activities carried out fully and data available | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 3.1.1 Development of a performance framework (M&E plan) defining roles, responsibilities, and frequency for collecting and compiling data to assess project performance. | Performance framework | There is no performance framework | Performance framework developed | Final performance framework | Performance framework | The performance framework adequately captures the aspects needed for M&E | MNRETS, FAO |
| Outcome 3.2 Knowledge and results shared with relevant actors<br>- | Timely reporting to the Cartagena Protocol | Two National Reports have been submitted | Submission of the delayed Fourth National Report | Gathering of information and preparation for the Fifth National Report | National Reports submitted | There are capacity and resources to prepare the National Reports | MNRETS, FAO |
| | Process to share knowledge arising from the project established | There is no process | Process established | Process utilised to share knowledge | Process to share knowledge | There is willingness to share knowledge | MNRETS, FAO |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Output 3.2.1 Outcomes of this project shared with inter alia, the CBD Secretariat, other Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, particularly from the region, and other stakeholders | Project outcomes shared | There has been no sharing of project outcomes | Draft project outcomes | Project outcomes shared | Number of institutions project outcomes are shared with | There is willingness to share knowledge | MNRETS, FAO |
| Output 3.2.2 Submission of National Reports on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety | National Reports | Two National Reports have been submitted | Submission of the delayed Fourth National Report | Gathering of information and preparation of the Fifth National | National Reports submitted | There are capacity and resources to prepare the National Reports | MNRETS, FAO |
| Output 3.2.3 Submission of project reports and other relevant information to the Biosafety Information Resource Centre | Project reports and other relevant information | There have been no submissions to the Biosafety Information Resource Centre | Periodic submission of information | Project report and other relevant information submitted | Number of submissions to the Biosafety Information Resource Centre | There is willingness to share knowledge | MNRETS, FAO |

**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).**

| Questions | Secretariat comment | Agency Response |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions? | May 6, 2021 HF:<br><br>1.) The Executing Agency in Portal (Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic) is not the same Executing Agency in the LoE (State Agency on Environmental Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic). Please fix. There are three options: (i) leave the EA blank or TBD in Project Information section of the Portal and remove Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic and from Section 6 ? Coordination; (ii) get an email from the OFP supporting State Agency on Environmental Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic as the Executing Partner and upload the emails in the Documents tab; (iii) get a new LoE supporting State Agency on Environmental Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic as the Executing Partner.<br><br>May 28, 2021 HF:<br><br>Comment cleared. | RE May 6: Thank you for your advice. We updated the Portal following the suggestion (i).<br><br>Section 6 (Coordination) of the PIF has been updated. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators? | April 29, 2021 HF:<br><br>1.) Please make the level of detail of the description of the three project components more commensurate (including further development/description of Components 1, but especially 3).<br><br>2.) Component 1 on policy, regulatory and institutional framework seems to contain capacity building elements, should these be captured in Component 2 instead? Or is Component 2 on technical capacity building (detection, identification etc), whereas C-1 capacity building is on policy/regulatory requirements? Please clarify in project documentation.<br><br>3.) The first indicator under Project Outcome 1.1 is 'coherent national implementation of Cartagena Protocol" seems like a higher/project objective-level indicator (e.g. for the entire project with contributions of all three Components) rather than under C-1 only. Further, the PIF doesn't make clear what metrics would be used to measure this...Please clarify/revise.<br><br>4.) Please modify the name of Component 3 to minimize the risk of confusion/accidental inclusion of execution or project management costs in this component. Any execution or project management expenses should be separate and covered by the PMC since that is the whole purpose of having PMC funding.<br><br>May 28, 2021 HF:<br><br>1-3.) Comments cleared.<br><br>4.) Please address original comment. Please take out "project management" from the title of Component 3 and please note that any execution or project management expenses need to be separate out and covered by the PMC since that is the whole purpose of having PMC funding | RE 29 Apr: Please see more detailed elaboration of Components 1 and 3 in Section 3 (alternative scenario) of the PIF. We have added a description of a KM strategy that includes a dialogue with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and also the submission of project reports and case studies under an information resources platform already available by the SCBD.<br><br>Please see changes made in the PIF table and descriptions of Components 1 and 2 in Section 3 (alternative scenario). The training elements in Component 1 are to support development and implementation of the policy, regulatory and institutional framework, whereas Component 2 is focused on technical capacity building.<br><br>Thank you for the suggestion, and indeed, this indicator does not provide a good metric and was removed.<br><br>The name of Component 3 has been revised as well outputs and outcomes have been adjusted to reflect KM strongly.<br><br>RE 28 May:<br><br>Thank you for your comment. We have updated Component 3?s title accordingly. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described? | April 29, 2021 HF:<br><br>1.) The baseline mentions a previous GEF project in 2005, and mentions how the draft legislation under that project was never passed, and the further institutional/legislative challenges that have been encountered since. Please expound on what has shifted in the context or approach to ensure greater progress/success under this investment.<br><br>May 28, 2021 HF:<br><br>Comment cleared. | RE 29 Apr:<br><br>A new paragraph has been added in Section 2 (baseline scenario) to address this point |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project? | April 29, 2021 HF:<br><br>Yes, but needs further development at PIF (and PPG) stage. For example:<br><br>1.) Please address any financial sustainability challenges and measures this project will take to ensure continuing implementation of the Protocol and related activities-including the future financial viability of the three laboratories included in Component 2.<br><br>2.) Please address the issue of scaling-up at the national level as this project is focused, it seems, exclusively on activities that will be happening at the national level (policy, capacity, regulatory, technical), whereas there would need to be sub-national and field engagement to fully realize implementation of the Protocol. Please address how the project envisions scaling from this perspective (likely beyond the project budget/timeframe), and if any scaling or KM is envisioned beyond national-boundaries please further develop this in Component 3 or under a new KM component.<br><br>May 28, 2021 HF:<br><br>All comments cleared. | RE 29 Apr:<br><br>A new paragraph has been added on Section 7 (innovation, sustainability, scaling up) to address this point<br><br>The project is very small, and it would be the first step to establish the process at national level. Component 2 includes activities for public awareness, education and participation, which will also include sub-national and field engagement. In addition, technical capacity building activities will also include officials from sub-national agencies and institutions. Component 3 has been restructured to include KM activities and awareness-raising campaigns. During the PPG phase, the mapping and identification of the stakeholders from sub-national levels, who should be involved in the training and capacity building process, will be done. Also, a dialogue with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety) will be established and ways to act beyond national boundaries, including at the regional level, will be explored jointly. We have further detailed an information resource platform under the Convention that will be used for knowledge sharing among Parties and other stakeholders. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12. Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement? | April 29, 2021 HF:<br><br>Please include "means of future engagement" in the stakeholder table.<br><br>2.) If the private sector is considered a key stakeholder in this project (which is assumed given what is written in the private sector section), please mark "private sector entities" under #2 Stakeholders.<br><br>3.) Please include in the stakeholder table any key private sector entities the project is planning on engaging, or the private sector as a whole with as much detail as possible at this point regarding private sector stakeholders for engagement.<br><br>May 28, 2021 HF:<br><br>All comments cleared. | RE 29 Apr:<br><br>Updated in the PIF Section 2 (stakeholders)<br><br>Updated in the PIF Section 2 (stakeholders)<br><br>Unfortunately, this will only be done during the PPG phase due to the ongoing COVID restrictions. The team tried to reach the private sectors partners online but the process was unsuccessful. To properly engage this sector, face-to-face meetings are necessary. |
| 13. Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate? | April 29, 2021 HF:<br><br>1.) This section has provided indicative gender statistics/information on gender, but please include info on barriers for gender equality that the project will encounter and aim to overcome.<br><br>2.) Potential gender activities in relation to Component 2 could consider personnel and hiring practices, access to training and promotion etc at the three laboratories that will be central to the work of the project. Please consider in PPG/gender assessment.<br><br>May 28, 2021 HF:<br><br>Comments cleared. | RE 29 Apr:<br><br>One of the main barriers that the project will help to overcome is that of women?s leadership and participation in the decision-making processes in Kyrgyzstan, which has declined in the past years. The project will ensure equal participation for men and women (target of 50% of women participation) assuring that women will be properly involved and trained on the topics of this project.<br><br>Thank you for the suggestion, this will be considered during the PPG phase and a gender engagement plan will be prepared. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 14. Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach? | April 29, 2021 HF:<br><br>Yes, though during PPG please undertake a much more complete analysis and engagement with the private sector and fully develop the project's approach to private sector engagement. The formation of partnerships and concrete means for engagement are also welcomed. | RE 29 Apr: Thank you for your suggestion during the PPG phase. We will take action accordingly. |
| 15. Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design? | April 29, 2021 HF:<br><br>The climate change risk in the Project Risks box of the PIF refers to an "additional document 'climate change screening' " but it is not attached in the documents tab of the PIF. Please upload and resubmit.<br><br>May 28, 2021 HF:<br><br>Comment cleared. | RE 29 Apr: The climate change screening report has been uploaded. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 17. Is the proposed ?knowledge management (KM) approach? in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project?s/program?s overall impact and sustainability? | April 29, 2021 HF:<br><br>Please further develop the approach to KM, both in this PIF, and throughout the PPG, in the KM section, but also throughout the project components- considering including it as an Outcome in revised Component 3 as well (see previous comment). In particular:<br><br>1.) Please provide an overview of existing lessons and best practice that inform the proposed project concept, and<br><br>2.) Include plans to learn from relevant projects, programs, initiatives & evaluations during project design and implementation. The PIF should include a brief discussion regarding these element and/or if these will be identified/prepared later using PPG, then the PIF should clearly mention this intention in the KM section (and include it as part of proposed PPG funded actions).<br><br>May 28, 2021 HF:<br><br>Comments cleared. | RE 29 Apr:<br><br>Please see revised Component 3 in the PIF table and description in Section 3 (alternative scenario). The revised PIF includes one new outcome ?3.2 Knowledge and results shared with relevant actors? and three new outputs as follows: 3.2.1 Outcomes of this project shared with inter alia, the CBD Secretariat, other Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, particularly from the region, and other stakeholders; 3.2.2 Submission of National Reports on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; 3.2.3 Submission of project reports and other relevant information to the Biosafety Information Resource Centre.<br><br>Please see revised Section 3 (alternative scenario). The revised section includes reference to the recently developed document on the draft Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol and Capacity-Building Action Plan (2021-2030) as an existing initiative and best practice document to inform this proposal.<br><br>Please see the revised KM section within Component 3. The revised section indicates that such plans will be covered during the PPG stage. Relevant projects will be identified, inter alia, among the 136 capacity-building projects that have been initiated in different countries/regions, according to the information registered in the Biosafety Clearing House, from which to draw lessons. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 19. Has the project/program been endorsed by the country?s GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base? | April 29, 2021 HF:<br><br>Comment cleared. Valid LOE is attached.<br><br>April 21, 2021 HF:<br><br>Please secure a current LOE from the OFP. The letter submitted is out-dated and contains the former OFP's signature (Mirslav Amankulov). The current OFP's name contact information is available on the GEF website and pasted below: | RE 29 Apr: Addressed - Apologies for this mistake. |

## 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: **?????** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Project Preparation Activities Implemented*** | ***GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)*** | | |
| | ***Budgeted Amount*** | ***Amount Spent Todate*** | ***Current Balance*** |
| Salaries Professional????? | 2,000????? | 0????? | 2,000????? |
| Consultants | 42,600 | 45,359 | (2,759) |
| Contracts | 3,860 | 0 | 3,860 |
| Travel | 0 | 363 | (363) |
| Training | 1,540 | 312 | 1,228 |
| Expendable Procurement | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General Operating Expenses | 0 | 66 | (66) |
| **Total** | **50,000** | **46,100** | **3,900** |

## ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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


Coordinates: 41.5, 75 http://www.geonames.org/1527747/kyrgyz-republic.html

https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/kyrgyzstan The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

## Please attach a project budget table.

| Cost Categories | Comp. 1 Total | Comp. 2 Total | Comp. 3 Total | M&E | PMC | Administred by FAO | MNR | MoA | Total GEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5013 Consultants** | | | | | | | | | |
| Expert on Cartagena Protocol and biosafety policy | 10,688 | 21,375 | 10,688 | | | 42,750 | | | 42,750 |
| Expert on risk assessment, risk management, detection and identification | 0 | 42,750 | 0 | | | 42,750 | | | 42,750 |
| Expert on socioeconomic considerations | 0 | 31,500 | 0 | | | 31,500 | | | 31,500 |
| Gender Expert | 5,063 | 10,125 | 5,063 | | | 20,250 | | | 20,250 |
| Experts on Cartagena implementation from other countries (knowledge sharing) | 0 | 11,250 | 0 | | | 11,250 | | | 11,250 |
| **Sub-total international Consultants** | 15,750 | 117,000 | 15,750 | 0 | 0 | 148,500 | | | 148,500 |
| National Technical Chief Advisor | 12,000 | 24,000 | 12,000 | | 45,600 | 93,600 | | | 93,600 |
| Project Assistant | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 50,400 | 50,400 | | | 50,400 |
| Policy Expert | 56,000 | 0 | 0 | | | 56,000 | | | 56,000 |
| RA&RM Expert | 0 | 48,000 | 0 | | | 48,000 | | | 48,000 |
| Dectection Expert (Laboratory) | 0 | 57,600 | 0 | | | 57,600 | | | 57,600 |
| Socio-economics Expert | 0 | 32,000 | 0 | | | | 32,000 | | 32,000 |
| M&E Expert | 0 | 0 | 48,000 | | | 48,000 | | | 48,000 |
| Gender Expert | 0 | 19,200 | 0 | | | | 19,200 | | 19,200 |
| Communications Expert | 4,000 | 8,000 | 5,200 | | 6,800 | 24,000 | | | 24,000 |
| **Sub-total national Consultants** | 72,000 | 188,800 | 65,200 | 0 | 102,800 | **377,600** | **51,200** | **0** | 428,800 |
| **5013 Sub-total consultants** | 87,750 | 305,800 | 80,950 | 0 | 102,800 | **526,100** | **51,200** | 0 | 577,300 |
| **5650 Contracts** | | | | | | | | | |
| Website development | 20,000 | 0 | 0 | | | | 20,000 | | 20,000 |
| Development of risk assessment training material | 0 | 15,000 | 0 | | | | 15,000 | | 15,000 |
| Development of detection and identification training material | 0 | 12,000 | 0 | | | | 12,000 | | 12,000 |
| Development of socio-economics training material | 0 | 12,000 | 0 | | | | 12,000 | | 12,000 |
| Development of communications and awareness-raising on labelling | | 7,000 | | | | | 7,000 | | 7,000 |
| Development of communications and awareness-raising materials, including translation | 0 | 45,000 | 0 | | | | 45,000 | | 45,000 |
| Mid-term review | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15,000 | | 15,000 | | | 15,000 |
| Final Evaluation | 0 | | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | | | 40,000 |
| Terminal report | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,500 | | 6,500 | | | 6,500 |
| Translation services | 9,028 | 18,056 | 9,028 | | | | 36,111 | | 36,111 |
| **5650 Sub-total Contracts** | 29,028 | 109,056 | 9,028 | 61,500 | 0 | 61,500 | 147,111 | 0 | 208,611 |
| **5021 Travel** | | | | | | | | | |
| International travel | 22,500 | 45,000 | 22,500 | | | 90,000 | | | 90,000 |
| National travel | 18,000 | 36,000 | 18,000 | | | | 36,000 | 36,000 | 72,000 |
| **Travel for training/workshops and meetings** | 30,000 | 60,000 | 30,000 | | | | 60,000 | 60,000 | 120,000 |
| **5021 Sub-total travel** | 70,500 | 141,000 | 70,500 | 0 | 0 | 90,000 | 96,000 | 96,000 | 282,000 |
| **5023 Training** | | | | | | | | | |
| Inception workshop | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7,000 | | | 7,000 | | 7,000 |
| Annual gender session (3x for 40 participants) | 10,500 | 0 | 0 | | | | 10,500 | | 10,500 |
| Final validation workshop for the National Policy Document on Biosafety | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,500 | | | 3,500 | | 3,500 |
| Training session on biosafety policy and regulation (2x for 60 participants) | 7,000 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 7000 | 7,000 |
| Workshop to finalise procedural guidelines with relevant implementation agencies | 3,500 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 3500 | 3,500 |
| Meeting to launch biosafety website | 3,500 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 3500 | 3,500 |
| Training session on risk assessment of LMOs (2x for 40 participants) | 0 | 7,000 | 0 | | | | | 7000 | 7,000 |
| Follow up workshops in risk assessment (2x for 40 participants) | 0 | 7,000 | 0 | | | | | 7000 | 7,000 |
| Practical training course on detection and identification of LMOs (1x for 20 participants) | 0 | 3,500 | 0 | | | | | 3500 | 3,500 |
| Specialized workshop on border control (1x for 40 participants) | 0 | 3,500 | 0 | | | | | 3500 | 3,500 |
| Awareness-raising sessions with target groups (5x for 40 participants) | 0 | 17,500 | 0 | | | | | 17500 | 17,500 |

**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 Agencys 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).