



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10842

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Operationalising the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation

Countries

Morocco

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Environment ? Department of Environment

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Sector

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Biodiversity, Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Local Communities, Private Sector, Large corporations, SMEs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Capital providers, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Communications, Public Campaigns, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

No Contribution 0

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

No Contribution 0

Submission Date

9/9/2022

Expected Implementation Start

4/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

3/31/2028

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

168,779.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-3-9	Further development of biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks through the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and benefit sharing	GET	1,776,620.00	2,950,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			1,776,620.00	2,950,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
1. Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework</p> <p><i>Indicated by:</i></p> <p><i>a) Revised national ABS Law submitted for adoption within first year of project implementation</i></p> <p><i>b) Further required legal and regulatory texts submitted for adoption within three years of project implementation:</i></p> <p><i>i) Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints submitted for adoption</i></p> <p><i>ii) Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use submitted for adoption</i></p> <p>1.2. Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law</p>	<p>1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS Law, etc.).</p> <p>1.1.2. Multi-tier National Commission for Genetic Resources designated as ABS Competent National Authority (CNA), established and operational across the relevant sectors.</p> <p>1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework.</p> <p>1.1.4. Complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g. directives for the application of the</p>	GE T	406,250.00	686,818.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
2. Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law	Technical Assistance	<p>2.1. Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking research and development (R&D)</p> <p><i>Indicated by:</i></p> <p><i>a) Number of private companies and cooperatives (including cooperatives of women and other vulnerable groups) active in bio-prospecting in the target regions</i></p> <p><i>i) Private companies: 2</i></p> <p><i>ii) Cooperatives: 10</i></p> <p><i>b) At least three (3) new ABS permit applications</i></p> <p>2.2. R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing</p> <p><i>Indicated by:</i></p> <p><i>a) At least three (3) new ABS-based products and value chains developed</i></p>	<p>2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework.</p> <p>2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management.</p> <p>2.1.3. ABS-compliant information on genetic resources and ABS value chains disseminated at the national and international levels to promote sustainable bio-prospecting investment opportunities.</p> <p>2.2.1. At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of</p>	GE T	499,280.00	1,520,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
3. Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions	Technical Assistance	<p>3.1. Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa (SM) and F?s-Mekn?s (FM) Regions</p> <p><i>Indicated by:</i></p> <p><i>a) Two (2) Regional Biodiversity Committees operationalized with women participation that include biodiversity conservation with roles for ABS</i></p> <p><i>b) New resources (USD) mobilized for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency (WFNA) and the MTEDD-DDD in the SM and FM regions, to reduce dependency on ODA and domestic budgets:</i></p> <p><i>a) MTEDD-DDD: from USD 700,000 to USD 840,000</i></p> <p><i>b) WFNA: from USD 6,893,600 to USD 8,793,600</i></p> <p>3.2. ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier</p>	<p>For the target areas in the <u>Souss-Massa (SM) and F?s-Mekn?s (FM) regions and the pilot ABS value chains:</u></p> <p>3.1.1. Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles integrated in Regional Development Programmes.</p> <p>3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency.</p> <p>3.1.3. Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.</p> <p>3.1.4. Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity cons</p>	GE T	374,574.00	410,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
4. Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management	Technical Assistance	<p>4.1. Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks</p> <p><i>Indicated by:</i></p> <p><i>a) 100% of safeguards standards met throughout project;</i></p> <p><i>b) > 80% of Gender Action Plan targets met</i></p> <p>4.2. Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing</p> <p><i>Indicated by:</i></p> <p><i>a) > 80% of Knowledge Management Plan deliverables met</i></p>	<p>4.1.1. Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements.</p> <p>4.1.2. Social and environmental safeguards risks mainstreamed across the work under Components 1-3, necessary management measures implemented and monitored.</p> <p>4.1.3. Gender Action Plan implemented and monitored.</p> <p>4.2.1. Knowledge Management Plan implemented and products delivered.</p>	GE T	254,250.00	40,000.00
5. Monitoring & Evaluation	Technical Assistance	<p>5.1. M&E duly implemented</p> <p><i>Indicated by:</i></p> <p><i>a) MTR, TE and PIR quality rating: S or better</i></p>	<p>5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management.</p>	GE T	80,755.00	25,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	1,615,109.00	2,681,818.00

Project Management Cost (PMC)

	GET		161,511.00		268,182.00	
Sub Total(\$)			161,511.00		268,182.00	
Total Project Cost(\$)			1,776,620.00		2,950,000.00	

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 Energy Transition and Sustainable Development ? Department of Sustainable Development	Grant	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development ? Department of Sustainable Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,650,000.00
Private Sector	GREENTECH	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP Morocco	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Private Sector	PharmAfrican	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	700,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				2,950,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The \$200,000 of investment mobilized from Government will be made available specifically for the project in cash disbursements cost-shared via UNDP. UNDP will add \$100,000 of own resources for the project.

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(\$)
UNDP	GET	Morocco	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,776,620	168,779	1,945,399.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					1,776,620.00	168,779.00	1,945,399.00

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(\$)
UNDP	GET	Morocco	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 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
30000.00	34000.00	0.00	0.00

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
30,000.00	34,000.00		

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

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

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Submitted

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,500	1,500		
Male	1,500	1,500		
Total	3000	3000	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

* Area of habitat and surrounded landscape of selected species species/genetic resources, which are of conservation importance and include unique biodiversity and ecosystems, in particular: a) Cedar lichen habitat: 5,000 ha of cedar forest (Middle Atlas Mountains/ F?s-Mekn?s Region); b) Landscape/forest surrounding saffron crops: 20,000 ha of oak forest, juniper forest, and high-mountain spine xerophytic ecosystems (Siroua massif ? Middle to High Atlas Mountains/Souss-Massa Region; and c) native Argan forest: 9,000 ha (Aoulouz area/ Souss-Massa Region). ** Direct beneficiaries include: a) Government: 300 people; b) NGOs: 200 people; c) Cooperatives of providers of raw material for ABS value chains, including women cooperatives: 2,500 people.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

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

1. The global environmental problems and root causes that need to be addressed are the same as described in the PIF. However, the barriers were updated as follows:

1. Gaps remain in the ABS legal and institutional framework and in technical capacity and knowledge	Although Morocco ratified the Nagoya Protocol on ABS on May of 2022 ^[1] , the ABS Law has not been approved. Some of the ABS Law application texts need to be updated and discussed with key stakeholder for their validation and adoption. In addition, the Competent National Authority (CNA) is not yet operational and the internal regulations must still be further defined. Technical capacity has been built but gaps still remain in key agencies on the implementation of the ABS framework (e.g. in some agencies that were not fully involved in the predecessor project [GEF Project ID 5605] but will have a role in the multi-tier CNA, (e.g. National Institute for Agricultural Research of Morocco [INRA, acronym in French]), including on more advanced issues such as ABS contract negotiation, private sector engagement, options for benefit-sharing and targeted tangible benefits to biodiversity and natural ecosystems, etc. There is no online effective ABS permit application system and the ABS TK registry is limited to a few regions only and needs to be extended geographically.
2. Insufficient private sector engagement and ABS product development	There are no products and value chains under development between government, communities and the private sector that would meet the ABS framework requirements. Too few private sector companies are aware of the ABS framework being implemented, of the permitting process and CNA, and while there is interest in ABS-related product development, progress is being stalled.
3. Gaps in biodiversity governance and benefits	While biodiversity governance and cross-sector coordination has been strengthened by the formalization of the National Biodiversity Subcommittee, structural weaknesses remain, and the ABS framework is not sufficiently linked with attempts to deliver tangible biodiversity benefits, both at national and regional levels. Local communities are also not yet aware of the importance of more sustainable management/use of biological resources including under a scheme based on genetic resource exploitation.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects.

Changes to the baseline information include the following:

2. The coordinating lead agency has been renamed as the Department of Sustainable Development (DDD, French acronym), Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development. This change has not resulted in changes regarding its operation budget, which continues to be very limited. DDD will invest USD 700,000 in the Souss-Massa (SM) and F?s-Mekn?s (FM) Regions over the next four years. Under the leadership of DDD, the Government of Morocco ratified the Nagoya Protocol in April 2022 and in the absence of the GEF investment it will continue to support the process of adoption of the ABS legal framework (developed in the predecessor UNDP/GEF/MEME project) and to institutionalise the National Biodiversity Subcommittee and to coordinate at the national level between institutions. Actions on the ground

would continue to be limited, especially in mobilising private sector stakeholders and the support of cooperatives and local stakeholder working on genetic resources.

3. In addition, the Water and Forest National Agency was created as part of 'For?ts du Maroc 2020-2030' strategy for improving the management of water and forests. This new agency assumed the responsibilities for the execution of policies for the management water and forest resources in Morocco that was formerly under the High Commission for Water, Forests and Combating Desertification (HCEFLCD). The Water and Forest National Agency will invest USD 6,893,600 in the SM an FM regions over the next four years.

4. The baseline also includes investment from the Department of Agriculture of the MAPMDREF through its Regional Agricultural Plans (PAR), which will provide financial assistance for the production of saffron in the SM region. Finally, the Mohammed V University in Rabat will invest in research for the development of products related to the argan tree and saffron and for strengthening of their value chains.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project.

5. The project strategy is closely aligned to the original PIF. The structure of the project components closely resembles the PIF approved by the GEF; however, some changes were made to the project?s outputs, primarily grouping and numbering them based on outcomes in line with UNDP guidelines for GEF project design; these do not represent a departure from the project?s strategy as defined originally in the PIF. These changes are described as follows:

PIF Outputs (Component 1)	CEO Endorsement Outputs (Component 1)
	Outcome 1.1 Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework
1.1 Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (NP ratification, ABS law, etc.)	1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS Law, etc.). Although this output remains the same, it is worth mentioning that Morocco ratified the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in May 2022.
	Outcome 1.2. Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law
1.5 Training/ certification workshops for relevant national government agencies (environment, agriculture, fisheries, water and forestry, scientific research, etc.) on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework, including inter alia PIC, MAT, ABS contract negotiations, business models of industries (pharmaceutical, cosmetics, agriculture, etc) that use genetic resources and their implications on benefit-sharing models, ABS permit granting process, ABS control points and GR use monitoring, benefit-sharing mechanism and biodiversity benefits, online platform for ABS access requests, IRCC procedure, ABS CHM, etc.	Output 1.5 was included as part of the new <i>Output 1.2.1: ABS training program developed and implemented</i> , which integrates all training activities planned under Component 1.
	Outcome 1.3. Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates

1.7 TK surveys conducted on potentially interesting ABS value chains and genetic resources, addressing thematic and geographic gaps (marine, etc.)	Output 1.7 was integrated as an activity under <i>Output 1.3.1: Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco</i>
1.9 Mechanism (digital platform) developed for harmonizing and coordinating information on biodiversity, facilitating access to information on genetic resources and ABS access procedures and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources.	1.3.2. Biodiversity National CHM (digital platform) updated to include information on ABS, facilitating access to information on genetic resources and ABS access procedures, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources and for harmonizing and coordinating efforts The wording of the output was modified to indicate that the project will strengthen the existing Biodiversity National CHM (digital platform), which is already being used to share information about the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, rather than develop a new mechanism.
1.12 Training provided to key national/regional NGOs (FM6PE, FM6RSA, Ibn El Baytar) and relevant local stakeholders on technical issues (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication, strategy)	Output 1.1.2 was included as part of the new <i>Output 1.2.1: ABS training program developed and implemented</i> (see above)
PIF Outputs (Component 2)	CEO Endorsement Outputs (Component 2)
2.4 At least two comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bioprospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation.	2.2.1. At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation. This output was updated to indicate that the project will allow the signing of at least three comprehensive ABS contracts for developing new ABS products, rather than at least two, as was originally planned.
2.5 At least two Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs), registered and submitted to the CBD Secretariat's ABS Clearing House (ABSCH).	2.2.2. At least three Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs), registered and submitted to the CBD Secretariat's ABS Clearing House (ABSCH). This output was updated to indicate that the project will register and submit at least three IRCCs to the CBD ABSCH, rather than at least two, as was originally planned.
2.7 Training of local resource suppliers to provide required primary materials to standard and in a sustainable way	Output 2.7 was integrated as an activity under <i>Output 2.2.3: ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.</i>
2.8 Study on the usefulness and feasibility of a Morocco ABS Product Label	Output 1.7 was integrated as an activity under <i>Output 2.2.3: ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.</i>
PIF Outputs (Component 3)	CEO Endorsement Outputs (Component 3)

3.2 Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources activated, engaging regional government and delegations of MEME, MAPMDREF and HCEFLCD	3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD- DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency. The wording of this output was updated to indicate that the project will strengthen the regional biodiversity committees, which are already operating in the Souss-Massa (SM) and F?s-Mekn?s (FM) regions (the project will no longer work in the Marrakech-Safi and Beni Mellal-Khenifra regions). In addition, the national agencies? acronyms were updated to reflect their new names.
3.3 Regional focal points of the National Biodiversity Committee emplaced, and regional committees integrate CNB sub-committees as appropriate	Output 3.3 was integrated as an activity under <i>Output 3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD- DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency.</i>
3.8 HCEFLCD and other key government agencies, newly created local management authorities, further partners and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of habitats	3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats. This output was updated to indicate that the project will strengthen existing regional biodiversity committees instead of promoting the creation of new regional/local governance bodies for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and ABS.
PIF Component 4 and Outputs	CEO Endorsement Outputs Component 4
No changes	No changes
PIF Component 4 and Outputs	CEO Endorsement Outputs Component 4
5.2 Annual PIRs delivered in timely fashion	Output 5.2 was integrated as an activity under <i>Output 5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management.</i>
5.3 MTR and TE conducted with all tracking tools, core indicators and financial indicators assessed	Output 5.2 was integrated as an activity under <i>Output 5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management.</i>
Other changes	
PIF	CEO Endorsement
Cofinancing: USD 2,050,000	Cofinancing: USD 2,950,000
Core Indicator 4: 30,000 ha	Core indicator 4: 34,000 ha

6. The Theory of Change (ToC, Figure 1) describes the project's strategy to deliver GEBs through three impact pathways: a) legal and institutional framework pathway; b) R&D pathway; and c) biodiversity conservation pathway. A central aspect to achieving the project objective will be to directly collaborate with key public and private sector stakeholders, and local communities (including women). To this end, a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan and a Gender Action Plan will be implemented, although stakeholder participation and gender mainstreaming is embedded throughout all the impact pathways. The identified four barriers described above, the causal pathways, and their key underlying assumptions are as follows.

7. Barrier 1: Gaps remain in the ABS legal and institutional framework and in technical capacity and knowledge. *Causal Pathway 1:* complete ABS Legal framework and improved management and operational capacity in government agencies, including a 'one-stop-shop' national permitting system for compliance with ABS regulations by providers and users of genetic resources, provides legal certainty to access genetic resources and leads to more effective and gender-sensitive implementation of the ABS agenda.

Key assumptions: 1a) the ABS Law and related regulation will be timely approved; 1b) there is stability in human resources within government agencies who benefit from capacity building activities and they satisfactorily apply their new knowledge and skills; and 1c) a national ABS information management system is fully functional and available for providers and users of genetic resources.

8. Barrier 2: Insufficient private sector engagement and ABS product development. *Causal Pathway 2:* Availability of information at national and international levels regarding value chains and genetic resources together with increased capacity of private sector companies, national research institutions and local communities is conducive to the development of three ABS products derived from selected genetic resources and associated TK, and for benefit sharing, including sustainable resources use in selected sites in the SM and FM Regions.

Key assumptions: 2a) conditions (legal clarity, information, training, collaborative research, etc.) are conducive to the signing of three comprehensive ABS contracts for the development of innovative ABS products; and 2b) technical and commercial feasibility exists for the development of three ABS products for the cosmetic industry with women's participation.

9. Barrier 3: Gaps in biodiversity governance and benefits. *Causal Pathway 3:* Improved governance and capacity at the regional and local levels together with sustainable and ABS-compliant value chains are conducive to biodiversity conservation and ecosystems restoration supported by effective benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Key assumptions: 3a) continue interest from regional and local authorities to strengthen governance mechanism for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS; 3b) financial resources timely available through ABS contracts and benefits from the commercialization of ABS products and other sources; and 3c) effective participatory monitoring to assess threats reduction and benefits to biodiversity as a result of the project.

10. It is also assumed that climate variability, particularly drought, will be within ranges, that do not significantly affect the outcomes of the project and that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to recede. The identified pathways are based on the analysis of threats/root causes and barriers. The

supporting outputs and outcomes for each pathway, and the assumptions that they are built upon, will properly address the problems and barriers described above, allowing for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources of selected genetic resources in Morocco. The project's ToC considers the active participation of public, private, and civil society stakeholders, as well as actions to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the three project sites.

11. The ToC will serve multiple objectives, such as:

? Support adaptive management during implementation, understood as the adaptation of the project results framework (including indicators and targets), organizational structure and/or project management unit, gender and stakeholder participation approach, timelines and work plans, and of priorities as a result of changes in context and needs including evolving and/or new social and environmental risks or other risks;

? Engage all stakeholders and develop ownership;

? Communicate the rationality of the Project's goals, outcomes, outputs, and activities to relevant internal and external audiences; and

? Ensure that adequate data is collected to enable sound monitoring and evaluation throughout the life span of the Project and beyond.

12. The ToC is a dynamic framework that will be continually managed and appraised during project implementation.^[1] This strategy will deliver GEBs as well as social and economic benefits at the local level. The interrelated components described above will be the means through which this is achieved.

^[1] The ToC was constructed following the recommendations of the Theory of Change Primer (STAP document 2019).

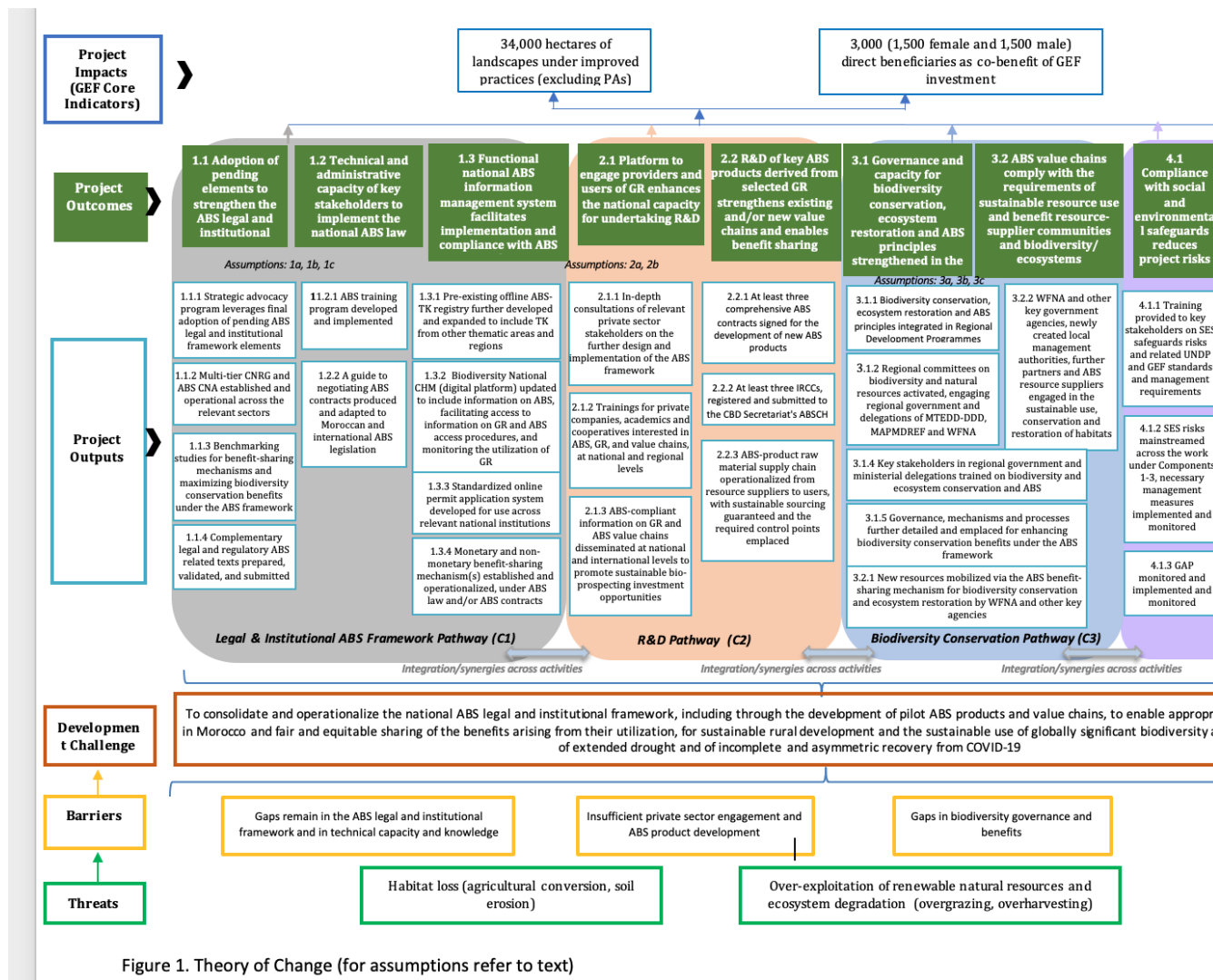


Figure 1. Theory of Change (for assumptions refer to text)

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

13. The alignment with GEF focal areas is consistent with the PIF; there are no changes to be reported.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, and co-financing.

14. Information regarding the baseline and alternative scenarios was updated as follows:

Baseline Scenario	Alternative Scenario
Component 1. Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge	

Without GEF support, the Government would continue to push the adoption of the ABS law developed and submitted in the predecessor UNDP/GEF/MEME project, however with no guarantee of success; institutionalise the national biodiversity (sub) committee and ANC, strengthening coordination at the national level between institutions. Morocco ratified the Nagoya Protocol on ABS on May of 2022.

However, the capacity at central level in the practical application of the ABS law would remain limited, especially in departments beyond the Environment Department, there would be no further benchmarking of missing elements in the framework, key legal regulations would remain unaddressed, and there would be limited cross-sector cooperation on ABS issues amongst government agencies. The TK registry would remain incomplete and not very operational, and there would be incomplete monitoring of the use of genetic resources. There would be a very limited benefit-sharing mechanism, if any, and any benefit-sharing would focus on rural populations with limited linkages to better natural resource and ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. National NGOs would remain with limited staffing and ambition and continue laudable yet small-scale work at local levels.

Raising awareness among decision-makers of the positive impacts, particularly socio-economic, of ABS applied to genetic resources will be more difficult without "success stories" of promising value chains leading to applied ABS contracts with shared benefits.

With GEF support, with piloting of promising value chains leading to applied ABS contracts, there is greater chance of convincing decision-makers of the positive impacts, particularly socio-economic, of ABS and of biodiversity value more generally.

Capacity at central level in the practical application of the ABS Law including the negotiation of ABS agreements will be enhanced, especially in departments beyond the Department of Sustainable Development, and there will be cross-sector cooperation on ABS issues amongst government agencies. Key missing elements in the ABS framework would be added, on the basis of benchmarking. The TK registry will be expanded by including related information from the in the SM and FM Regions of Morocco. In addition, monitoring of the use of genetic resources will be strengthened through the updating of the Biodiversity National CHM (digital platform). The operationalization of a standardized electronic ABS permit system will facilitate the review and approval of applications, monitor compliance, and report access and benefit-sharing, will be an important tool to assist in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing activities in line with Article 22 (Capacity) of the Nagoya Protocol. There will be a monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism, and benefit-sharing would benefit rural populations and at the same time more specifically natural resource and ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. National NGOs working on ABS would be strengthened and expand their activities on conjunction with government and private sector.

Component 2. Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law

<p>Without GEF support, there would be limited constructive cooperation between government and private sector, which would hinder the development of ABS products and value chains and a favourable response to requests for access to genetic resources by international users, due to a lack of knowledge of the sectors concerned (pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, etc.) and of negotiation techniques for ABS contracts. The rollout of NP-compliant ABS value chains would be delayed and left more in hand of existing negotiation channels between rural suppliers and user companies.</p>	<p>With GEF support, at least three new ABS products and value chains (are fully operationalized under the project (including PIC, MAT, IRCC, material transfer, and benefit sharing at different levels). Such cooperation between government, local communities, and private sector companies on ABS value agreements will set a precedent and open clear routes for other companies to follow in accessing genetic resources in Morocco in compliance with the NP and the national legal framework. In addition, control systems will be emplaced (collection/harvesting permits and checkpoints points at the local level) to ensure the sustainable harvesting/collection of raw material for the ABS value chains.</p>
<p>Component 3. Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in three target regions</p>	
<p>Without GEF support, given the limited operational budget allocated to the MTEDD-DDD Division for Biodiversity, actions on the ground would be limited, especially regarding the support of cooperatives and local actors working with biological resources containing key genetic resources. Capacity on ABS matters and biodiversity mainstreaming at regional levels in areas with promising genetic resources would remain poor. There would be very limited capacity development at the level of the regional governments and ministerial delegations for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation within the context of ABS. In addition, monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing would be less prone to generate sustainable resource use and wider biodiversity benefits.</p>	<p>With GEF support, biodiversity governance will be strengthened in the two target regions ? regional development programmes will integrate biodiversity and ABS, regional-level capacity on these matters will be enhanced, Regional Biodiversity Committees will be strengthened, and regional government delegations, municipalities, and resource supplier communities will cooperate. Cooperatives and local stakeholders working with biological resources containing key genetic resources will benefit from capacity development on ABS and sustainable resource management. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing, coupled with additional resources leveraged by key government agencies, will generate more sustainable resource use and wider biodiversity benefits.</p>
<p>Component 4. Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management</p>	
<p>Without GEF support, the Governments? work on ABS would not be accompanied by efforts focused on gender, stakeholder participation, and social and environmental safeguards, and to a far lesser extent on knowledge management.</p>	<p>With GEF support, the project will accompany national counterparts to implement a gender strategy to ensure good participation by women in decision-making platforms (e.g., Regional Biodiversity Committees), employment by project and government, trainings, and sustainable livelihood diversification though benefit-sharing. The project will also ensure that social and environmental risks are periodically assessed and well managed and do not unduly escalate. Under the knowledge management strategy the project, in terms of lessons learned sharing and result dissemination, will disseminate its results via Morocco?s Biodiversity National CHM, and via global ABS knowledge sharing platforms of UNDP and the CBD.</p>
<p>Component 5. M&E</p>	

Without GEF support, the Governments' work on ABS would only in a very limited manner be accompanied by efforts in M&E

With GEF support, the M&E plan will be implemented to provide regular assessment of progress *viz* the stipulated targets in the results framework and GEF core indicators and the monitoring of SES-related management plans. The M&E Plan will also support adaptive management in such a way that the experiences resulting from the implementation of activities can be integrated into the annual project programming.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF).

15. Global environmental benefits are related to the sustainable use of a component of globally significant biodiversity. These benefits are related to the resource species targeted by the project, the endemic Argan Tree (*Argania spinosa*) and the Cedar lichen (*Pseudevernia furfuracea*); it should be noted that the Resin Spurge (*Euphorbia resinifera*) will no longer be part of the project. In addition, the global environmental benefits relate directly to the enhanced management and conservation of the natural ecosystems that harbour these resource species in the selected project sites and their surroundings: a) Argan Tree (Aoulouz and Ouarzazate areas, Souss-Massa Region); b) Cedar lichen (Ifrane/Itzer area in the Atlas Mountains, F?s-Mekn?s Region); and c) saffron (*Crocus sativus*, Talouine area in Middle to High Atlas Mountains Souss-Massa Region). These species and their associated ecosystems (e.g., cedar forest, oak forest, juniper forest, and high-mountain spine xerophytic ecosystems) represent important and vulnerable parts of Morocco's share in the Mediterranean Biodiversity Hotspot.

16. Regarding the BD focal area, the project will deliver improved practices in 34,000 ha of landscape in the two targeted regions (F?s-Mekn?s Region and Souss-Massa Region); this represents an increase of 4,000 ha to what was indicated in the PIF.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

17. The project potential for innovation, sustainability, and for scaling up was updated as follows:

18. Innovation. The project will introduce innovative approaches to solving long-enduring issues in biodiversity governance and management, sustainable financing and on the ground action in the targeted areas and ecosystems, through:

? Operationalization of the ABS CNA in Morocco already institutionalized by the national ABS Law to be submitted to Parliament for adoption;

? Strengthening of coordinating units and entities between agencies governing ecosystems and biological resources in Morocco at the national and regional levels, including the multi-sector National Biodiversity Sub-Committee and the Regional Biodiversity Committees of the SM and FM regions, which are expected to have wider implications for biodiversity governance and provide entry points for further future improvements;

? Establishment of a 'one-stop shop' for bio-prospectors and investors in genetic resources, streamlining the different access procedures of the different departments in charge of agriculture, forestry, marine resources and micro-organisms and the harmonization of biodiversity databases for easier 'marketing' of the genetic resources of Morocco;

? The involvement of different mechanism including a Trust Fund and sustainable trade approaches (within ABS contractual clauses) to motivate private sector investment in the long-term

and create sustained sources of income for the production and transformation of genetic resources in ABS value-chains; and,

? The strengthening of three value chains through innovating bioprospecting to identify compounds with anti-oxidation properties from three selected genetic resources (cedar lichen, saffron, and a symbiosis of argan tree and saffron) and the commercialization of ABS products for the cosmetics sector.

19. These practices will also be integrated to regional development plans in order to ensure continued sustainable practices that create revenue and protect local ecosystems simultaneously.

20. Sustainability. The project will achieve sustainability through: the final setup of the ABS framework; growing existing links private sector companies interested in ABS genetic resource value chains and benefit sharing; the establishment of a benefit sharing mechanism benefitting both rural populations and government agencies responsible for biodiversity/ecosystem management (Water and Forest National Agency and Regional Biodiversity Committees); and integration of ABS value chains, principles and benefit-sharing in regional development plans, as part of the government's biodiversity mainstreaming strategy and in line with the COP13 Cancun declaration.

21. Upscaling. The outcomes of the project will be scaled up through the dissemination of project results, lessons learned and experiences including demonstration of best practices in the development of ABS contracts, products, and value chains. This will be achieved through making project information available in a timely manner through different mechanisms including the CHM and the updated National CHM on Biodiversity, and by proactive outreach to companies and research institutions engaged in ABS-related R&D. Finally, the project will also encourage South-South cooperation to build capacity and share knowledge with other African countries (for example, Kenya, Namibia, and Ethiopia).

[1] <https://www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/>

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

22. Please refer to Annex E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates of this CEO Endorsement request.

The project will target 34,000 ha across three sites, as follows:

Project site 1: Itzer area (Middle Atlas Mountains/ F?s-Mekn?s Region)

Cedar lichen habitat: 5,000 ha of cedar forest

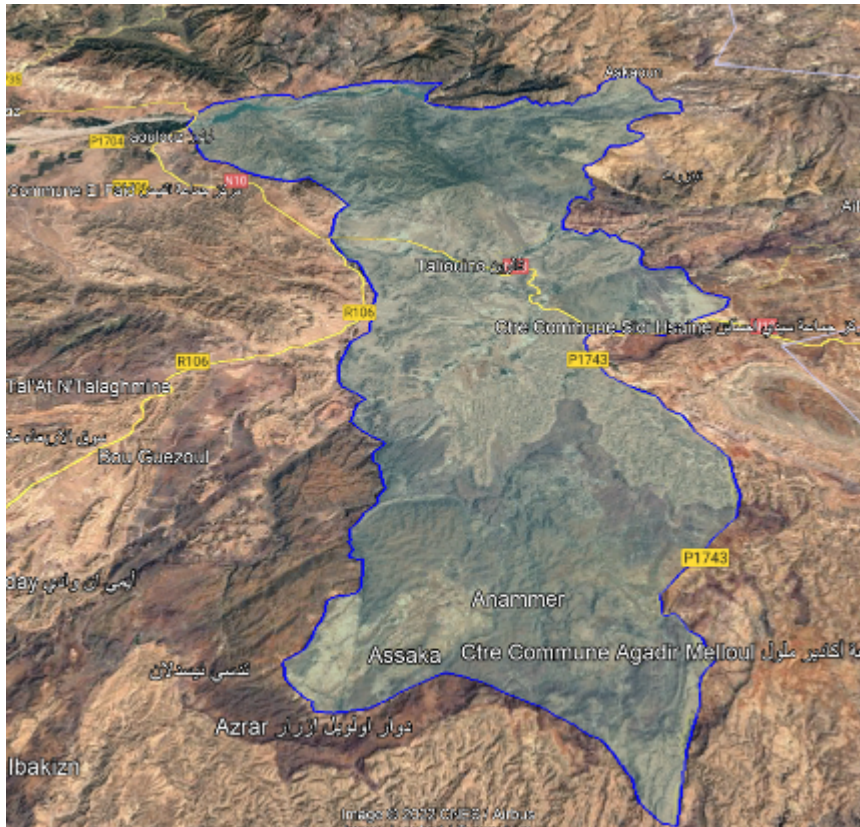
Geospatial coordinates: East location: N 32°57'24" W 4°55'45", West location: N 32°52'39" W 5°15'50", North location: N 33°00'24" W 5°04'04", South location: N 32°51'01" W 5°03'56"



Project site 2: Talouine area (Souss-Massa Region)

Landscape/forest surrounding saffron crops: 20,000 ha of oak forest, juniper forest, and high-mountain spine xerophytic ecosystems (Siroua massif ? Middle to High Atlas Mountains/Souss-Massa Region)

Geospatial coordinates: East location: N 30°28'28" W 7°44'03", West location: N 32°52'39" W 5°15'50", North location: N 30°43'31" W 8°00'31", South location: N 30°07'21" W 7°50'00"



Project site 3: Aoulouz area (Souss-Massa Region)

Native Argan forest: 9,000 ha

Geospatial coordinates: East location: N 30°40'33" W 8°08'39", West location: N 30°29'32" W 8°00'26", North location: N 30°41'54" W 8°11'56", South location: N 30°39'22" W 8°10'59"



1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

23. The successful implementation of the project will largely depend on effective communication and coordination with the multiple project stakeholders and the implementation of mechanisms to ensure their participation in project's activities. The key national and sub-national stakeholders include the MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, the Water and Forest National Agency, Regional Council of the SM and FM regions, and the Regional Biodiversity Committees, and NGOs (e.g., Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment). At the local level, the most relevant stakeholders are municipal governments, local communities in the rural areas of Ifrane/Itzer (FM Region), Talouine (SM Region), and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate (SM Region), including family/ groups of farmers and women's cooperatives involved in the value chains targeted by the project, and NGOs that are active in the target areas. In addition, two private sector companies (GREENTECH and PharmAfrican from the cosmetics sector) and national research teams from the University Mohammed V are the main users of genetic resources for research and commercial purposes, and are therefore critical in the project and in the implementation of the Morocco's ABS framework more widely.

24. During the PPG, a stakeholder analysis was conducted, which served as the basis for the development of the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan (PRODOC Annex 8) and where the main stakeholders of the project, participation mechanisms and consultations during project formulation, governance aspects of the project, the communication and information management strategy, dispute resolution mechanisms, among others, are identified. In addition, the role of each stakeholder in project implementation is detailed.

25. The stakeholder consultations and engagement that began during the PPG phase will be continued throughout project implementation. To achieve this, the project will make use of several mechanisms, including: a) Project Inception Workshop: the project will be presented to both direct and indirect stakeholders in the three targets sites (Ifrane/ Itzer area, F?s-Mekn?s Region; Talouine area, Souss-Massa Region; and Aoulouz and Ouarzazate areas, Souss-Massa Region) and the national level; b) Project Board: comprised of representatives of the government agencies and representatives of direct project beneficiaries; it will be responsible for approving the work plans, participating in the recruitment processes, and providing overall strategic guidance to the project; c) Project Management Unit (PMU): responsible for the implementation of the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, Gender Action Plan, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), grievance redress mechanisms, and M&E; d) Communication and Information Management: MTEDD-DDD will be responsible for maintaining fluid communication with the stakeholders through traditional means and new informational technologies. This communication will be duly recorded on a monthly basis in scorecards that indicate the type of communication, the reason, and the responsible parties; e) Governance role for project target groups: project target groups will be represented on the Project Board; f) Gender Action Plan: will secure the involvement of both genders, including women; the Gender Action Plan will be updated on a periodic basis; g) Grievance Mechanism: the project will establish a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for addressing complaints or grievances that

might arise during the implementation of the project; the grievance mechanism will be published so that all stakeholders are aware of its existence, documenting any potential grievances and ensuring they are addressed in a timely manner; h) Opportunities to increase the participation of stakeholders at the local level: by facilitating knowledge, awareness-raising, and dissemination of information about access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing, and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and i) M&E: this will include meetings and interviews with direct beneficiaries, and meetings with special groups such as women to verify gender ?based indicators. The Project Management Unit (PMU) in coordination with the Department of Sustainable Development and project partners (e.g., MAPMDREF and the Water and Forest National Agency) will assess if the involvement of stakeholders will be held in person or virtually depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves in the project target landscapes.

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

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

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

26. Please refer to Annex 10 of the UNDP-GEF Project Document for the Gender Analysis.

Annex 10: Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan

1. Executive Summary

This document presents a gender analysis and Gender Action Plan for the UNDP-GEF project ?Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation? in Morocco. The objective of a Gender Action Plan is to establish the considerations

necessary to integrate the gender dimension into the development of projects. These considerations are based on an analysis of the context, which includes the regulatory framework and the characteristics of the situation of women in three the project areas considered (Ifrane/Itzer area in the F?s-Mekn?s Region; and Talouine area and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate area in the Souss-Massa Region). The gender analysis provides the necessary elements to develop a Gender Action Plan with specific indicators on how the project contributes to equity and the empowerment of women.

This document present indicatives gender-response activities/Gender Action Plan. One Gender Action Plan will be developed for each region and each value chain (Saffron and Cedar Lichen), using the Mind your step! Tool.

The **main highlights coming from the Gender Analysis** are related to the following indicators:

- ? Illiteracy rate, especially for women living in rural areas
- ? Access to activity and resources
- ? Maternal mortality rate
- ? Exclusion of women from the impact of public policies
- ? Exclusion of women from social safety nets and protection nets
- ? Vulnerability rate of rural women, elderly women, poor women, women and girls with disabilities, and single mothers.
- ? Access to decent and paid employment
- ? Women entrepreneurship
- ? Access to land

The main actions identified in the Gender Action Plan are surrounded by the **project?s gender mainstreaming strategy** that is cognizant of differences between men and women in terms of needs, priorities, the division of labour and access to knowledge and resources, and includes the following aspects, among others:

- ? Ensuring equitable representation of women and men in project activities and related groups, which are established and/or strengthened under the project.
- ? Allocating targeted budgets and other relevant resources for activities that promote the active and meaningful involvement of women, including in the monitoring and evaluating of these activities.
- ? Ensuring that opportunities for active participation, trainings, skills- and capacity- building for women are identified and budgeted for in the relevant project outcomes.
- ? Ensuring consultation with women, and where possible, key women?s groups on needs and priorities related to project activities and/or interventions.
- ? Ensuring that any and/or all strategic and planning documents are developed in consultation with women and/or key women?s groups.
- ? Providing equal opportunities for women in the recruitment of project implementation staff, including any relevant third-party service providers (e.g., consultancies).
- ? Promoting, and whenever possible ensuring, equal pay and benefits for women and men.

The Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan have been developed collecting and analysing secondary and primary data. Secondary data have been shared by UNDP Morocco and by the stakeholder consulted during PPG. Primary data have been collected through semi-structured interview with key informants from UNDP Morocco and from key stakeholders such as women cooperatives and associations working in saffron and argan value chains, in Souss Massa region.

2. Introduction

Project overview

This document presents a Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan for the UNDP-GEF project 'Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation' in Morocco.

The project aims to consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems. The project, with a duration of 60 months, will focus on the following components:

1. Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge
2. Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law
3. Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in three target regions
4. Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management
5. Monitoring & Evaluation

The project will target value chains regarding saffron, cedar lichen, and the combined value chain saffron-argan in the following geographical areas: Ifrane/Itzer area, Fes-Meknes Region; Talouine area Souss-Massa Region; and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate area Souss-Massa Region.

The main possible **impacts and risks** on gender equality are the following:

- ? Lack of women and youth inclusion in sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits
- ? Lack of women and youth participation in data collection, data analysis and decision making processes
- ? Exacerbation of women and youth discrimination in the targeted value chain, especially for cedar lichen value chain, where the cooperatives structures are not yet in place
- ? Exacerbation of gender inequality in the targeted value chains

This document has been developed in line with the following UNDP and GEF Principles and Standards related to Gender and Social inclusion:

UNDP:

- ? UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES), with a focus on:

Principle 1: Leave No One Behind

Principle 2: Human Rights

Principle 3: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience

Principle 5: Accountability

Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples

Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions

- ? UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

- ? Theory of Change for Strategic Plan Outcome 4

? Gender in Strategic Plan IRRF

? Gender Parity Strategy

GEF:

? Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards

? Guidelines on GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards

? Policy on Gender Equality

? Guidelines on Gender Equality

? Policy on Stakeholder Engagement

? Guidelines on the Implementation of the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement

3. Methodology

The Gender Analysis has been developed in collaboration with the PPG team and through consultation with key informants:

- UNDP Gender Focal Point
- UNDP PPG team components
- Women involved in the saffron and argan value chains, in Souss Massa region.
- NGOs and Civil Society Organization that are interested/involved in the project

The information has been collected through the interviews and through desk research, mainly focused on the documents shared by UNDP Morocco (and on online sources).

- USAID Morocco Gender Analysis Report 2020
- Bilan commun pays Maroc 2021, United Nations Morocco
- Strengthening Arab Economic Integration for Sustainable Development Project (AEISD) Proposed Pilot Enhancing the Participation of Women in Trade Activities in the Argan Oil Sector in Morocco Concept Note (2021)
- Gender mainstreaming made easy: Handbook for programme staff ? UNDP 2013
- Coop?ratives D?Argane, Diagnostic des besoins en renforcement des capacit?s pour l?laboration d?un syst?me de digitalisation de l?exportation des produits arganiers, Mustapha Boujrad, 2020
- Projet de plan de l?tude - analyse du secteur des cooperatives de l?huile d?argane et autres produits agricole (terroir) au Maroc et de l?impact de leur activite sur l?emploi des femmes et des jeunes, document du 28-06-2021, Nabil Boubrahimi--expert PNUD
- Pestel Analysis of the Moroccan context SGD5
- Piloting an SDG Integrated Accelerator for informal women led MSMEs in Morocco: technical advisory, digital financial inclusion, and data driven public policy. North Africa/Morocco - 25 February 2022
- Guidance to Advance Gender Equality in GEF projects and programs, December 2018

The Gender Analysis and Action Plan have been developed considering the following list of sex-disaggregated indicators ? from GEF guidelines:

CONSULTATION/PARTICIPATION

? Number and percentage of men and women actively participating in consultations, workshops, and committee meetings

? Number of women and men in decision-making positions relating to the activities or in the project context

? Number and percentage of women and men serving in leadership positions relating to the areas of intervention or in the project context

? Number and percentage of men and women, by social group, consulted about project plans

BENEFIT SHARING

- ? Number of women and men benefitting from organized workshops and trainings opportunities within the program or project
- ? Number of women and men receiving program or project benefits
- ? Number of women and men benefitting from tools and resources
- ? Number of women and men benefitting from financial investments, due to program interventions
- ? Number of women and men engaged in benefit-sharing discussions
- ? Number of poor households that are project beneficiaries; number headed by men/women

ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND ASSETS

- ? Number of men who have ownership of land in their name
- ? Number of women and men who have access to land, water and forest resources.
- ? Number of women and men who have knowledge of laws relating to areas of intervention
- ? Number of women and men trained on land-right issues (e.g., land tenure/security rights)
- ? Number of women who have ownership of land in their name (e.g., land titles and tenure security)
- ? Number of women of in a leadership position with regard to land, water, forest and other biological resources (e.g., entrepreneur, manager, lead farmer).

4. Gender Analysis

Socio economic, cultural and political context

To understand the socio economic and cultural context as bases for the Gender Analysis, it is important to refer to the 'Bilan commun pays Maroc 2021' (United Nations, Morocco) where the categories likely to be left behind are highlighted. According to information provided by national institutions, statistical producers and ministerial departments, these categories are characterised by the intersectionality of the factors of socio-economic exclusion, which aggravate the consequences. These include:

- ? Women and girls experiencing intersectional discrimination,
- ? Children in difficult circumstances,
- ? NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) people,
- ? Vulnerable older people,
- ? People with disabilities,
- ? Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,
- ? People living with HIV or at high risk of infection.

In Morocco women and girls are facing intersectional discrimination^[1]. There are many socio-economic indicators to which women continue to perform poorly and lag significantly behind men.

Education and literacy

Illiteracy is still most prevalent among women: the illiteracy rate at age 10 is twice as high among women (42.1%) than among men (22.2%). Other indicators have worsened, and the gaps have widened further, notably in terms of access to activity and resources, which remains the most women's activity rate (22.1%) is more than three times lower than that of men (70.4%), the employment rate of women is almost a quarter of that of men (16.7% compared to 62.9%), while the rate of unpaid employment is four times higher for women (35%) than men (8.6%).

These national averages hide disparities that become more pronounced when we look at the most economically and socially vulnerable female populations. The illiteracy rate peaks at 60.1% for rural women, while the activity rate falls to 19.5% when only urban women are taken into account. Maternal mortality is 111.1 deaths per 100,000 live births in rural areas and 44.5 in urban areas. As for the prevalence of violence against women, it affected 58.3% of women living in urban areas and 55% of women in rural areas.

Today, young women make up 80% of NEETs. And increases with age, much more rapidly than of young men: while about 60% of 18-year-old women are at school, only one in ten is in this situation at the age of 24. More than 70% of them are NEET at this age, while around 60% of 24 year old men working. Education levels and family background further increase the risk women to become NEET, especially in rural areas. A significant share of NEETs in Morocco are young married women with a lower level of education. The analysis of the economic costs of gender inequalities in the market shows that an elimination of the employment gaps between women and men would generate an increase in GDP of up to 37.4%.

Socio-political context

Morocco has made progress in ensuring a legal and institutional framework prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, colour, creed, social or regional origin, language and disability, and providing protection of the most categories of the population. However, several categories of women and girls, generally poor and from remote rural areas continue to be directly or indirectly excluded. Most often, these are girls and women disabled, widowed, illiterate unregistered, engaged in domestic activities, etc.

Public policies are therefore called upon to take into account the strong geographical, demographic and social disparities, which are sources of vulnerability, and which accumulate and exclude many women from the impact of public policies, and in particular social safety nets and protection nets: rural women, elderly women, poor women, women and girls with disabilities, and single mothers.

The main challenge is therefore to improve the quality of life of women and to improve coordination for a comprehensive approach, while keeping in mind the insidious nature of discrimination against women, which does not spare any women (e.g. women with a high school diploma or secondary level are more likely to face gender based violence than women with no education at all, with a prevalence rate of 65% versus 49.6%).

Economic context

Access to decent and paid employment is a necessary condition for escaping from poverty. However, Moroccan women face major obstacles in this area. In decline compared to 2009 (26.5%), the activity rate for women in 2019 reached 23.8% of the working age population. In the same year, women accounted for only 22.7% of the employed. The health crisis has further reduced to 19.9% in 2020, compared to 70.4% for men. The unemployment rate for women increased significantly between 2009 and 2019 (from 27,6% ? 35%). However, this figure conceals more complex realities.

In rural areas, women have higher activity rates than in urban areas (25% vs. 12%). This rate, in urban areas remains stable at around 20%. Due to the significant importance of the agricultural sector in the rural economy, it fluctuates between 30 and 40% in rural areas, with a downward trend in recent years. A significant proportion of these active rural women work as family helpers.

It is estimated that they represent, in these areas, at least two thirds of the workers in this category. Thus, nationally, 35% of women are in unpaid employment. As for the sectors where they are in

paid employment, the highest rates of feminisation are found in sectors with low productivity and remuneration: social services provided to the community (48.3%), textile industry (47.6%) and personal and domestic services (36.6%).

In addition, in both urban and rural areas, women are still struggling to enter the field of entrepreneurship: there are three times fewer women than male entrepreneurs. Also, the low level of social capital seems to be a more important barrier for them, whether it is in setting up a business or looking for a job: in 2017, 32.3% of women said they could rely on social capital to set up a business, compared to 42.6% of men.

Institutional and legal context

Vulnerabilities related to the legal framework: The Constitution prohibits all forms of discrimination, enshrines equality between men and women in all areas and guarantees to ensure the reality of these rights. Indeed, the preamble to the 2011 Constitution enshrines the principle of equality, dignity and freedom and its article 19 enshrines parity as a commitment of the State. Moreover, as a State party to the CEDAW and the CRC, Morocco is committed to harmonising laws and establishing institutional mechanisms and instruments facilitating the consecration of equality between men and women. However, despite this progress, some provisions of the legal framework constitute a factor of vulnerability of the population, particularly women. Thus, discriminatory provisions persist particularly in the Family Code, in terms of equality in marriage and its dissolution, marriage of minors, inheritance rules and in the Criminal Code. The provisions surrounding the recognition of the rights of children born out of wedlock the situation of single mothers, as well as of their children. These are the provisions of Article 16 of Law n°37-99 on civil status, as well as the articles relating to parental and paternal filiation of the Family Code (Book III). The Family Code provides that "illegitimate filiation does not produce any effects of legitimate filiation vis-à-vis the father" (Art. 148), mothers "have only limited access to material assistance or allowances.

The legal framework also places limits on access to property, through the rules of inheritance applied to women. As a result of efforts by the Ministry of Interior to revise the legal framework relating to access to land, the recognition of women as full beneficiaries of collective right to communal land has removed discrimination that had weighed on them for generations.

The question of the legal framework arises for other vulnerable groups, such as migrants and refugees. Massive regularisation campaigns were launched in 2014 and 2016, which regularised at least 50,000 migrants.

The socio-economic integration of the part of this population that did not benefit from the regularisation campaigns is dependent on obtaining residence documents. The rapid adoption of the legislation for immigration and asylum is of paramount importance for the integration of these populations.

Article 19 of the Constitution has enshrined gender equality in all areas. Another important reform is the inclusion of the gender approach in the organic law on the Finance Law (2015), which provides for the taking into account of the gender dimension in the setting of objectives of government programmes, as well as in the results-based budgeting.

More than 8 out of 10 women and girls aged 15-74 have experienced at least one act of violence in their lifetime (82.6% - 83.1% in urban areas and 81.6% in rural areas). In legal terms, the adoption of law n°103-13 on the fight against violence against women (2018) was a step forward in

strengthening the means of the State to fight against this scourge. However, a greater alignment of this new legal framework would strengthen its protective impact on rights-holders.

Morocco has also adopted a Governmental Plan for Equality, which is now in its second phase (2017-2021). This plan aims to provide a reference framework for monitoring the government's efforts in the area of gender equality and discrimination.

The internal and external consultations carried out by the United Nations Development System (UNDS) in Morocco, as well as the reflection, analysis and compilation work carried out, have made possible to identify **three priority dimensions**. Each dimension is broken down into levers, which constitute a proposal for the future preparation of joint programming between the Government of Morocco and the UNDP, as well as general recommendations for the consideration of stakeholders, with a view to accelerating development in Morocco.

The project will take into consideration these dimensions, to contribute to SDGs achievement in the Country.

Dimension 1: Sustained growth, creating decent jobs, especially for women and young people, sustainable and respectful of the environment.

Lever 1.1 Strengthen investments in human capital, notably through equitable access to quality social services

Lever 1.2 Innovation, structural transformations, and increased productivity as drivers of sustained growth

Lever 1.3 Protect the environment by ensuring the sustainability of resources for future generations

Lever 1.4: Strengthen regional integration for development

Dimension 2: Structural reforms in democratic governance and institutional capacity

Lever 2.1: Further consolidation of the rule of law

Lever 2.2: Support for the implementation of advanced regionalisation, in particular through capacity building at all levels, from local to central

Lever 2.3: The coherence of public policies based on evidence

Dimension 3: Tackling social inequalities and social vulnerabilities

Lever 3.1: Reform and mainstream protection mechanisms and services for all

Lever 3.2: Promote the inclusion and participation of women, vulnerable and neglected populations,

especially young people.

Lever 3.3: Reduce the gap between rural and urban areas

MSMEs and Cooperatives

Considering the Project will involve especially women cooperatives, the following data on MSMEs^[2] (Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) are interesting for understanding the economic context in which the project will be implemented. MSMEs are a key engine of growth in the Moroccan economy. According to Bank Al-Maghrib (2021), they account for more than 95 percent of the total number of operating enterprises, are estimated to contribute to over 20 percent of GDP, over 30 percent of exports and to create a substantial portion of informal jobs, notably for women.

The informal sector is estimated to represent over 80% of MSMEs and 60% of private sector jobs in Morocco. Though gender-disaggregated data on the informal sector remains scarce, this is understood to be particularly so for enterprises run by women ? the majority of which operate in the informal sector.

MSME run by women (WMSME) in Morocco, notably those operating in the informal sector, face several constraints ? the most significant being:

Constraint 1: Weaknesses in structural capacities, productivity, and competitiveness. The MSMEs sector suffers from several structural deficiencies, which are particularly acute for women entrepreneurs. A very large proportion of WMSMEs in Morocco are microenterprises with limited management skills, many of which operate in the informal economy, lacking both corporate governance and record-keeping systems, concentrated in low value-added sectors, poorly diversified, with weak linkages to foreign direct investment activities. On the whole, WMSMEs in Morocco produce low value products that are sold through intermediaries in local and foreign markets, generating little profit for women. Moreover, raw products produced by WMSMEs in Morocco (e.g., raw argan oil) are oftentimes transformed into high value products abroad (e.g. Argan oil-based cosmetics are primarily produced in Europe) ? thereby depriving women producers in Morocco of an extra source of profit.

Constraint 2: Low access to finance. Access to financing is a key obstacle for MSMEs operating in Morocco, with women entrepreneurs, notably those living in rural areas, being disproportionately affected. WMSMEs in the informal sector are unable to access traditional financing (grants, loans of honour), and in some cases have difficulty accessing microcredit and other digital financial tools (crowdfunding and mobile payment, etc.) also due to **a lack of knowledge. This is reflected** in the relatively low share of women with an account at a financial institution in Morocco, with only 17 percent of women having an account, compared to 29 percent of the total adult population.

Constraint 3: Regulatory obstacles and lack of data. Although several reforms have been implemented in Morocco in recent years, the environment remains cumbersome to MSMEs in many areas. Informal MSMEs are still deterred to formalise their activities, notably owing to several complexities associated with registering a business and fiscal burden. The persistent **lack of official data, notably gender-disaggregated, on the MSME sector, is an additional hindrance to effective policy development in favour of MSME development, formalisation and monitoring.**

The result of these three key constraints ? together with other compounding factors (e.g. gender imbalances and unequal access of knowledge) ? is an entrepreneurial environment for women overly dominated by informal microenterprises and concentrated in traditional, low value-added sectors of activity, with low growth in formal job creation, low innovation and export activity ? making women more vulnerable to external shocks like Covid-19.

The socio-economic status of WMSMEs in Morocco is best illustrated through following key data from the latest USAID Morocco Gender Analysis Report 2020:

? Morocco has one of the lowest female employment rates in the world, ranked 146 out of 153 countries.

? Women?s labour force participation is concentrated in lower productivity sectors, primarily in the textile and clothing industry (46.4 percent), community social services (46.2 percent), personal and domestic services (37.3 percent), and agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors (33.6 percent).

? Only 13 percent of over 46,033 enterprises are led by women, with low representation of women in executive positions. Just 3.5 percent of companies have female majority ownership.

WMSMEs in Morocco, notably those operating in the informal sector, further face significant barriers to accessing financial resources: ?despite Morocco?s ranking as a leader in the MENA region in terms of access to bank loans for SMEs, no distinction has been made between the practical needs and strategic interests of women and men entrepreneurs, and there are hardly any specific financing products and instruments to respond to gender barriers and promote women's access to guarantees, venture capital, financial training and education, and financial mentoring and coaching.?

Institutional framework for gender equality in Morocco

Morocco has implemented major gender equality reforms over the past two decades. Actions confirming the desire to root egalitarian values between the sexes in institutions and within Moroccan society have multiplied and accelerated, while being part of a coherent and converging framework.

The main institutional advances relating to the implementation of gender-sensitive public policies, particularly in the sustainable development sector and considering the regional dimension were:

1. The adoption in 2006 of the National Strategy for Gender Equality and Equity by integrating the gender approach into development policies and programs. A circular from the Prime Minister, dated March 8[3], 2007, confirms the legitimacy of this national strategy by asking the ministries, Walis and governors to proceed with the integration of gender in all policies and in sectoral and regional development programs. Several ministries have embarked on a process of institutionalizing the integration of gender equality in their respective sectors through the development, adoption and implementation of medium-term programs for the institutionalization of gender equality.
2. The implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy in all national policies was boosted by the adoption of the 2011 Constitution. This Constitution reaffirms Morocco's commitment to human rights as they stand, are universally recognized, thus paving the way for broadening the normative frame of reference in matters of equality and law. It guarantees gender equality and extends it to the economic, social, cultural and environmental fields[4].
3. The ministerial department responsible for sustainable development presented its Strategy for institutionalizing the integration of gender equality in 2018[5]. This strategy offers an appropriate operational framework for setting up projects aiming at equitable access to the right to a healthy environment, while respecting the provisions of the Finance Law in terms of the application of an efficient approach sensitive to gender[6].
4. This strategy (2018-2021) is structured around two axes: (i) Creation and development of a lasting institutional capacity to ensure the anchoring of gender equality in the sustainable development sector, and (ii) Integration of the gender approach in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programs and projects in the sustainable development sector. This second axis is broken down into three projects, one of which consists of "the development and implementation of a methodological guide and a training program for executives of the Department of Sustainable Development in gender analysis and its use in the design, planning and implementation of environmental protection projects?. To date, this project has not yet been implemented, besides generally speaking, the projects of this strategy when they are implemented, they are implemented at the central level while they remain little known at regional level.

5. The Advanced Regionalization project[7] has pronounced itself in a precise and relevant manner on the issue of gender equality, from its 'General conception', through its 'Gender Equity' section through an 'affirmative action in favor of a greater participation of women in the management of regional and local affairs'. 'The gender approach will be systematically integrated into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategies and governance at the regional level?', and 'gender-sensitive budgeting, currently being tested at the national level and municipal, will be introduced at regional, prefectural and provincial level?.

6. The 2009 Municipal Charter[8] also saw the introduction of new provisions such as: (i) the establishment in each municipality of consultative committees for parity and equal opportunities, and (ii) the need to develop the communal development plan (PDC) according to a gender-sensitive participatory approach.

7. In addition, it should be noted that the Water and Forest National Agency has set up, since 2006, a national strategy for the development and management of urban and peri-urban forests[9]. This strategy is based on the preservation and sustainable enhancement of the precious role that these spaces play for the well-being of city dwellers and for the enhancement of the landscapes of our cities. In fact, urban women are also involved in planning the development of urban and peri-urban forests, knowing that these natural spaces are places of visit and leisure for families in all its components (women, men and children).

The identified gaps/points of attention in terms of Gender Equality in the institutional and legal framework are the followings:

- ? Availability of disaggregated data by Gender, to ensure policies and strategies are correctly operationalised
- ? Facilitate processes that ensure gender equality in the economic, social, cultural, and environmental fields
- ? Facilitate access to institutional and legal resources and information, including to finance processes, by ensuring that the gender gap in terms of literacy is overcome
- ? Implementation of the project focused on the development and implementation of a methodological guide and a training program for executives of the Department of Sustainable Development in gender analysis and its use in the design, planning and implementation of environmental protection projects, as planned in the Gender Equality Strategy.
- ? As per the Regionalisation process, facilitate affirmative action in favour of a greater participation of women in the management of regional and local affairs
- ? Ensure that the gender approach is systematically integrated into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategies and governance at the regional level.
- ? Ensure that gender-sensitive budgeting, currently being tested at the national level and municipal is introduced at regional, prefectural and provincial level.
- ? Facilitate the establishment in each municipality of consultative committees for parity and equal opportunities
- ? Facilitate the development of the communal development plan (PDC) according to a gender-sensitive participatory approach.

Gender in the project areas

An updated Gender Analysis and Action Plan will be done, using the Step your Mind! Tool , developed by the GEF- UNDP ABS Global project *Strengthening Human Resources, Legal Frameworks and Institutional Capacities to Implement the Nagoya Protocol* (GEF Project ID

5731), during the first year of the project, targeting each value chain and each geographical areas where the project will be implemented.

These documents will have to include the following component:

- ? Women access to land and natural resources
- ? Women access to employment
- ? Level of representation of women in the decision-making process
- ? Level of participation of women in the decision-making process

The Mind your step! Toolkit has been prepared to guide country teams working on ABS in their efforts to mainstream gender considerations into ABS value chains and ensure that women, men, youth and elderly have equal opportunities to benefit from various ABS intervention. The tool was designed with the idea of prototyping a user-friendly, low-cost and rapidly actionable analytical framework to understand the underlying gender dynamics within a given context applicable to genetic resources management and associated traditional knowledge and identify entry points to design gender smart and ABS value chains.

Gender-responsive ABS scheme is essential to enable effective participation of both women and men in the design, negotiation, distribution and use of benefits. Gender-blind ABS schemes may overlook the vital roles played by women and fail to preserve and value their skills and knowledge. Consequently, without mainstreaming gender considerations into ABS interventions it will not be possible to ensure effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol or achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mainstreaming gender into ABS projects entails a strategy to address the particular needs, priorities, power structures, status and relationships between men and women within a given context. By conducting a gender analysis, development professionals will have an informed understanding of the roles of different social groups involved in ABS value chains to ensure that their interventions are more inclusive of those groups. This will inform the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ABS interventions so that all the social groups involved, in particular women, youth and elderly benefit equally. Since women's roles are usually overlooked far more than men's, gender-smart ABS value chains place a specific emphasis on women's involvement in value chains as a key point of intervention for the transformation of power relations and gender roles. Addressing the drivers of gender inequalities in ABS schemes will transform over time the social structures that inhibit women from having a fair and equitable share of benefits.

The Mind your Step! Tool will be used for each region and value chain targeted by the project: Sous-Massa and F's-Meknes regions, and the cedar lichen and the saffron value chains and the combined saffron-argan value chain.

During PPG the team consulted the cooperatives working on saffron and argan value chains and collected information included in the gender analysis and in the Gender Action Plan.

The main gaps in terms of gender and the main points of attention - identified during consultations - for project implementation are the following:

- ? Most vulnerable peoples are women and youth, in the areas targeted by the project
- ? Saffron value chain involves the whole family, and each component is involved for a specific task (i.e. women oversee the collection of the raw material)
- ? All the communities involved in the saffron and argan value chains are Amazigh, living in the mountain area

? Communities involved in the saffron value chain are living in very remote areas, with constraints in terms of access to resources (such as water) and in terms of access to market (considering the lack of means of transportation).

? Women and youth don't have enough access to formal education system; girls and boys very frequently leave school early, increase the number of out of school youth.

? Cedar lichen value chain is not yet structured, and the cedar lichen is collected in a non-structured way by local communities or by business companies.

? The most vulnerable cooperatives are the ones working alone and not being involved in unions of cooperatives/Groupements d'Interet Economique.

Gender Marker

The Project has a Gender Marker 2, considering that the activities have gender equality as a **significant** objective. The following outcome/outputs will have a major impact on gender equality:

Project Outputs
Component 1
1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)
1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework
1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework - Technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.)
1.3.1. Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco
1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalised, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.
Component 2
2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework.
2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management.
2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalised from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced
Component 3
3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency.
3.1.3. Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.
3.1.4. Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and legal enforcement)

3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats.

Component 4

4.1.1. Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements.

4.2.1. Knowledge Management Plan implemented, and products delivered.

Component 5

5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management

Alignment with UNDP and GEF policies and strategies

UNDP and gender: The UNDP Gender Equality Strategy[10] emphasizes the critical importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and reaffirms that sustainable human development will only be fully achieved if women and girls are able to contribute on an equal footing with men and boys to their society.

GEF and gender: Equality for women and girls is a strategic and operational imperative for the GEF[11]. Men and women use natural resources differently and, therefore, are affected differently by changes to these resources. Gender inequality and social exclusion increase the negative effects of environmental degradation on women and girls. Despite recent promising policy and legal reforms in a large number of countries, persistent discriminatory gender social and cultural norms, unequal access to land, water and productive assets, and unequal decision-making continue to prevail and prevent women and men from participating, contributing and benefiting equally from environmental projects and programs.

The recognition that efforts to tackle environmental degradation and those to tackle gender inequality can be mutually supportive is also reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which recognizes equality gender and women's empowerment as a fully-fledged Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), as well as a catalyst for achieving other goals.

The GEF adopted a new gender equality policy at the end of 2017. This policy marks the increased ambition of the GEF to ensure gender equality and promote the empowerment of women in all of its operations. More specifically, this policy aims to ensure equal opportunities for women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from GEF-funded activities, all in support of efforts for a better environment at the global level.

5. Gender Action Plan

As per specific GEF gender guidance, results related to gender equality will be traced according to 3 areas:

1. Closing gender gaps in **access to and control over resources**;
2. Improving women's **participation and decision-making**; and
3. **Social and economic benefits or services** for women.

To this effect, the project will adopt the following operational gender principles:

- ? Relevant gender analysis and participatory assessments of **direct & indirect costs & benefits** for both women's & men's participation in interventions
- ? Incorporation of **sex-disaggregated data collection & gender-sensitive indicators** to help measure socio-environmental impacts in meaningful and consistent way

? Consideration of both **formal and informal land tenure, land and forest use & access to resources** when defining beneficiaries & direct & indirect benefits.

? Engagement of women, women's groups, & gender/women's ministries in discussions on incentives & fund mechanisms and incorporate gender considerations in operational modalities of incentive & financial mechanisms.

Both men and women will be involved in the planning and decision-making processes of the project's implementation, including all interventions. It should be noted that significant consideration will be given to funding project interventions that benefit both men and women.

The project will be supported operationally by a gender focal point (GFP) appointed in the Project Team, as well gender expert(s) contracted for specific technical inputs. Gender competency will be included in the Terms of Reference for all staff and consultants/contractors.

Gender mainstreaming framework

The project is dedicated to supporting women's participation and representation throughout its project activities. As a way to ensure that women equally benefit from the project's activities, a series of activities and corresponding actions are proposed in the gender-mainstreaming framework. These activities and actions facilitate the integration of gender sensitive considerations based on findings from the project's gender analysis.

The gender-mainstreaming framework will include the following considerations:

? **Dedicated consultation** with women during the ESIA's, and the identification and design of incentive mechanisms to ensure women's perspectives help shape the mechanisms developed, and to ensure that they reflect women's livelihood priorities. To organize separate consultations with women to ensure that they partake fully in the development and implementation of project activities, and to provide them with opportunities to voice their views, needs and preferences. Where communities consist primarily of customary peoples, communications will be conducted in local languages, using culturally- appropriate methods. Consultations with customary peoples will be structured to identify potential gender related concerns specific to affected customary communities.

? **Participatory integrated landscape assessments/context analysis and sustainable genetic resources use plans** will include the identification and development of activities where women play a key role in the access to Genetic Resources (GR) and as owners of Traditional Knowledge (TK), in the cultivation and processing of genetic resources targeted by the project.

? As part of developing and implementing sustainable landscape management plans (that could provide inputs to the Communal Development Plan (PDC) the project should identify and recognize the areas in which **women play a key role** through the value chain, from cultivation/harvesting to marketing/trading. Furthermore, attention should be given to identifying opportunities for women to further develop their existing roles.

? Meaningful consultations should be conducted with women during the identification and design of models of management, for the value chains framed under ABS approach, to ensure that **women's perspectives help in operationalise models and mechanisms to implement ABS framework..** It will also ensure that these models and mechanisms reflect women's livelihood and subsistence priorities and needs. It is important that consultations be organized separately with women prior, to ensure that they receive information about specific activities and opportunities for them to voice their concerns, views, needs, and preferences. Lastly, for communities that consist mainly of customary peoples, communication will be delivered in local languages and dialects, using culturally appropriate methods and approaches.

- ? **Multi-stakeholder collaboration groups** will ensure equal representation of women and men.
- ? **Equal representation of women** in local agricultural associations and cooperatives, collaborative and partnership working groups, which will implement local, community-based activities.
- ? Targeted training on ABS framework to women farmers involved in the three selected value chains, **ensuring that at least 50% of the trainees are women** and that training supports them to achieve ABS objectives. As part of introducing training services, periodic needs assessments are required to determine the specific training and technical assistance women farmers require, such as specific technical production skills or specific training on ABS (see article 21 (Awareness raising) and article 22 (Capacity) of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the convention on biological diversity. This is to ensure that training and assistance is relevant and meets the needs and priorities of women farmers.
- ? Any relevant training of professionals **among municipal, provincial, regional and national governmental units** should ensure that at least 50% percent of the total trained staff are women.
- ? All targeted training and assistance should be organized separately for women to ensure that women **can receive information about activities and opportunities specific to their needs**, preferences priorities, and so that they may feel free to ask questions. Ideally, whenever possible, the trainings provided to women should be facilitated by women professionals.
- ? Targeted training should be provided for women farmers, when relevant, **on how genetic resources and Traditional Knowledge use is organized and managed under ABS framework**, to ensure that women farmers understand and exercise their rights.
- ? Targeted training and information should be provided to women farmers on **land ownership and tenure rights**.
- ? Establishment of cooperatives run by women or have a majority **women involvement as business owners or employees**. In addition, the project will facilitate opportunities for women and women groups to participate in the project's activities such as in improving farming practices and broadening partnership with agricultural associations and cooperatives under the ABS framework
- ? Ensure equal consideration of women in targeted awareness-raising actions for the project's integrated knowledge management strategy.
- ? Recruitment of a Safeguards/**Gender Specialist** (part ? time) to support the gender mainstreaming objectives of the project including ensuring gender-sensitive monitoring and reporting.
- ? Ensure and **encourage equal opportunity recruitment** of women for positions within the project management office, consultancies, and other service providers.

The gender-mainstreaming framework for the project is outlined in the table here below:

Activity	Actions	Indicator	Target
1. Facilitating women empowerment	Ensure appropriate representation of women in the project's decision-making bodies.	Representation of women on project decision-making bodies, including the following: (a) Project steering committee, (b) Regional committees and working groups	Equitable proportion

Activity	Actions	Indicator	Target
2. Enhancing gender equality	Ensure equitable proportion of benefits accessed by and delivered to women from the project, including opportunities for training, access to financing, resources and capital for improved farming practices and market development and partnership development.	Representation of women as direct beneficiaries, including the following: (a) Institutional level stakeholders trained, (b) Farmers trained, (c) Agricultural associations and cooperatives with improved capacities of receiving financing, resources, and capital, (d) Membership to agricultural associations and cooperatives.	50%
3. Ensuring gender integration	Ensure that all relevant gender considerations are integrated into appropriate policies, strategies, plans, regulations and sectoral programmes.	Number of gender-responsive measures included in proposed policies, strategies, plans, regulations and sectoral programmes	100%
4. Promoting gender awareness	Promote gender awareness throughout all phases of project implementation. All gender awareness training and services should be delivered by qualified service providers. The project management team members, consultants and other service provider(s) staff involved in the project activities will be trained accordingly. Training on gender awareness for the staff of partners (including private sector) will be conducted, when appropriate and required. Training will also be including guidance on how to detect, intercept, respond to, and prevent gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and other problems that may emerge during project implementation.	The percentage of project management team members, consultants and other service provider(s) staff and partners receiving gender awareness training.	100%

Activity	Actions	Indicator	Target
5. Promoting equal opportunity employment	<p>Promote equal opportunities for employment positions within the project management office, consultancies, and service providers, supporting the implementation of project activities.</p> <p>Ensure equal pay will be provided to both women and men for work of equal type in accordance with national laws and international norms.</p> <p>Ensure safe working conditions for both women and men workers will be provided.</p>	Percentage of women employed as project management staff, consultancies, and service providers.	Equitable proportion

Indicative Gender-responsive Activities

The two tables summarize the Gender-responsive activities to be implemented and the relevant Outputs:

Project Outputs	Gender related Activity
Component 1	
1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)	<p>? Ensure women's involvement in the definition and the delivery of the strategic advocacy programme to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)</p> <p>? Collect feedback from women and youth on ABS framework and include them in the Strategic Advocacy Programme.</p>
1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework	? Ensure women are consulted in the development of benchmarking studies on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework
1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented on - Technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework - Technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.)	<p>? Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to ensure women and youth are able to access to trainings.</p> <p>? During trainings, identify gaps and obstacles for a woman in accessing to monetary and non-monetary benefits in the identified value chains.</p> <p>? Ensure trainings on technical, managerial and safeguards aspects to women and youth.</p> <p>? Facilitate financial mentoring and coaching for women, under ABS framework</p>

<p>1.3.1. Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco</p>	<p>? Involve women and youth in surveys on Traditional Knowledge ? Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to facilitate access to information management system.</p>
<p>1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalised, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.</p>	<p>? Ensure women are included in monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts,</p>
<p>Component 2</p>	
<p>2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework.</p>	<p>? Data collection -disaggregated by gender ? on the targeted value chains. ? Private sector stakeholder informed on Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.</p>
<p>2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management.</p>	<p>? Ensure 50% of trainees are women. ? Facilitate access to trainings to women and youth who are not literates. ? Facilitate access to trainings to women and youth who are not literates, considering especially their role as GR providers</p>
<p>2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.</p>	<p>? Carry out gender sensitive mapping of the famers and/or crop producers, ensuring that all rightful landowners are identified and considered, both men and women, in the selected regions. ? Ensure data (on local context and on how the selected value chains are structured) disaggregated by gender are collected and shared with Government and the main stakeholders who can influence Gender equality. ? Ensure that the three comprehensive ABS contracts include gender sensitive benefits sharing mechanisms ? Facilitates women's role as entrepreneurs in the targeted value chains ? Support to saffron, lichen or argan groups/cooperatives/federation to fill gaps in terms of infrastructures, constitution of Groupement d'Interet Economique, transports, and distribution of products, to ensure sustainable supply of raw materials ? Support social safety and protection nets for women cooperatives, i.e. mutual funds. ? If part of ABS agreements, ensure women and youth paid employment in the targeted value chains, in coordination with local and national authorities. ? Design Gender smart ABS value chains</p>
<p>Component 3</p>	

3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency.	? Women involvement as members of the regional committees.
3.1.3. Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.	? Ensure 50% of trainees are women.
3.1.4. Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and law enforcement)	? Ensure gender is mainstreamed in the governance mechanisms.
3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats.	? Ensure that women and youth have access to information on ABS, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats.
Component 4	
4.1.1. Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements.	<p>? Training to the main stakeholders on UNDP and GEF principles and standards on Gender approach.</p> <p>? Ensure 50% of trainees are women.</p> <p>? Ensure women engagement in the Stakeholder Engagement Plans (CSEP and SEP at regional and value chain level)</p> <p>? Collection and analysis of the practical needs and strategic interests of women and men entrepreneurs, as part of SEP and GAP at region and value chain level</p> <p>? Ensure gender aspects are included in the SESA</p>
4.2.1. Knowledge Management Plan implemented, and products delivered.	? Ensure lessons learned on women and youth involvement in ABS value chains are part of the Knowledge Management process
Component 5	
5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management	? Implement a gender- responsive project's M&E framework Develop and organize awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, focused on specific themes including gender themes that are aimed at defined target groups (e.g., farmers, women's groups, governmental agencies, enterprises, and the public) through approaches and methods that are identified in the integrated knowledge action plan (e.g., social media, print media, radio, local television).

Gender Action Plan

Gender related Activity	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Budget	Timeline	Responsibility
Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge						
Outcome 1.1: Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework						
Ensure women's involvement in the definition and the delivery of the strategic advocacy programme to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)	% of women involved in meetings focused on strategic advocacy programme definition and delivery	50%	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure women are consulted in the development of benchmarking studies on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework	% of women involved in consultations done for benchmarking studies on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework	50%	0		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, M&E
Collect feedback from women and youth on ABS framework and include them in the Strategic Advocacy Programme.	% of women and youth sharing feedback	50%	0		Year 2 and Year 3	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 1.2: Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law						
Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to ensure women and youth are able to access to trainings.	Number of analyses including gender considerations, with focus on literacy Number of regional programs including gender considerations	3 3	0 To be assessed at project inception phase	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1 From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU

During trainings, identify gaps and obstacles for a woman in accessing to monetary and non-monetary benefits in the identified value chains.	% of women aware of gaps and obstacle in accessing to monetary and non-monetary benefits in the identified value chains Number of analyses including gender considerations on access to benefits	100% 3	To be assessed at project inception phase 0		From Year 1 to Year 5 Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure trainings on technical, managerial and safeguards aspects to women and youth.	% of women taking part in the trainings	50%	0		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Facilitate financial mentoring and coaching for women, under ABS framework	% of women taking part in the mentoring and coaching processes	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Outcome 1.3: Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates

Involve women and youth in surveys on Traditional Knowledge	Number of surveys on TK involving women	3	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to facilitate access to information management system.	Number of analyses including gender considerations, with focus on literacy Number of regional programs including gender considerations	3 3	0 To be assessed at project inception phase		Year 1 From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU
Ensure women are included in monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts,	% of women receiving monetary and non-monetary benefits, under ABS Law and/or ABS contract	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Component 2: Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law

Outcome 2.1: Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D

Data collection -disaggregated by gender ? on the targeted value chains.	Number of analyses including gender disaggregated data	3	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Private sector stakeholders informed on Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.	% of private sector stakeholder informed and aware of Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.	100%	To be assessed at project inception phase		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure 50% of trainees are women.	% of women from private sector stakeholder informed and aware of Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Facilitate access to trainings to women and youth who are not literates, considering especially their role as GR providers	% of women and youth not literates participating to project's trainings	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 2.2: R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing						
Carry out gender sensitive mapping of the famers and/or crop producers, ensuring that all rightful landowners are identified and considered, both men and women, in the selected regions.	Number of analyses including gender sensitive mapping	3	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total	Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Ensure data (on local context and on how the selected value chains are structured) disaggregated by gender are collected and shared with Government and the main stakeholders who can influence Gender equality.	Number of analyses including gender disaggregated data Number of meetings with Government and the main stakeholders for data sharing	3 5	0 0	budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure that the three comprehensive ABS contracts include gender sensitive benefits sharing mechanisms	Number of ABS contracts including gender sensitive benefits sharing mechanism	3	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Facilitates women's role as entrepreneurs involved in the targeted value chains	% of women entrepreneurs involved in the project	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Support to saffron, lichen or argan groups/cooperatives/federation to fill gaps in terms of infrastructures, constitution of Groupement d'Interet Economique, transports, and distribution of products, to ensure sustainable supply of raw materials	Number of GAP including actions to fill gaps in terms of infrastructures, constitution of Groupement d'Interet Economique, transports, distribution of products.	3	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Support social safety and protection nets for women cooperatives, i.e. mutual funds.	Number of GAP including actions to support social safety and protection nets for women cooperatives, i.e. mutual funds	3	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
If part of ABS agreements, ensure women and youth paid employment in the targeted value chains, in coordination with local and national authorities.	% of women and youth with paid employment in the target value chain.	100%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Design Gender smart ABS value chains	% of women having access to financial services and technology-driven solutions in the ABS value chains supported by the project	50%	0			From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 3: Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions							
Outcome 3.1: Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa (SM) and F?s-Mekn?s (FM) Regions							
Women involvement as members of the regional committees.	% of women involved as members of the regional committees	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase	The cost has been included as part of the project?s total budget		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU
Ensure women participation as key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.	% of women trainees	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase				
Ensure gender is mainstreamed in the governance mechanisms.	% of projects documents including gender mainstream	100%	To be assessed at project inception phase				
Outcome 3.2: ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier communities and biodiversity/ecosystems							
Ensure that women and youth have access to information on ABS, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats.	% of meetings with women and youth on ABS, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats.	50%	0			From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 4: Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management							
Outcome 4.1: Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks							
Training to the main stakeholders on UNDP and GEF principles and standards on gender approach	% of women taking part in the training	50%	0	The cost has been included as part		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Ensure women engagement in the Stakeholder Engagement Plans (CSEP and SEP at regional and value chain level)	Women consultations all along projects activities Number of SEP with women engagement activities included	100% 3	0 0	of the project's total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5 Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Collection and analysis of the practical needs and strategic interests of women and men entrepreneurs, as part of SEP and GAP at region and value chain level	Number of analyses including gender considerations	3	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure gender aspects are included in the SESA	% of actions included in the Action Matrix that include gender aspects	50%	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 4.2: Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing						
[BV1] Ensure lessons learned on women and youth involvement in ABS value chains are part of the Knowledge Management process	% of lessons learned focused on women and youth involvement included in the knowledge management process	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 5: Monitoring & Evaluation						
Outcome 5.1: M&E duly implemented.						

Implement a gender-responsive project's M&E framework	% of women involved in reporting the progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	50%	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, M&E
		50%	0			
		50%	0			
	% of women involved in monitoring of ESMP/IPP, Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and other related plans					
	% of women involved in collection of feedback and M&E process					
Develop and organize awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, focused on specific themes including gender themes that are aimed at defined target groups (e.g., farmers, women's groups, governmental agencies, enterprises, and the public) through approaches and methods that are identified in the integrated knowledge action plan (e.g., social media, print media, radio, local television).	Number of awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, focused on specific themes including gender themes	4	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, M&E

Mainstreaming gender into ABS value chains

To mainstream Gender into ABS value chains, it is relevant to list the main concept to take into consideration to detail a Gender Action Plan for regions and value chains targeted by the project:

? Gender ? Refers to ?a crosscutting socio-cultural variable. It is an overarching variable in the sense that gender **can also be applied to all other crosscutting variables such as race, class, age, ethnic group**, etc. Gender systems are established in different socio cultural contexts, which determine what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman/man and girl/ boy in these specific contexts. **Gender roles are learned through socialization processes; they are not fixed but are changeable.** Gender systems are institutionalized through education systems, political and economic systems, legislation, and culture and traditions? (OSAGI, 2001).

? Gender- Responsive Approach ? It ?means that the particular needs, priorities, power structures, status and relationships between men and women are **recognized and adequately addressed in the design, implementation and evaluation of activities.**

? The approach seeks to ensure that women and men are **given equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from** an intervention and **promotes targeted measures to address inequalities and promote the empowerment of women?** (GEF Policy on Gender Equality, 2017).

? **Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)** ? Refers to ?the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how users and providers reach agreement on the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that might result from their use? (SCBD, 2011).

? **Associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK)** ? In the context of Access and Benefit-Sharing, it refers to ?the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities (ILCs) related to genetic resources. This traditional knowledge is developed through the experiences of communities over centuries, adapted to local needs, cultures and environments and passed down from generation to generation?

? **Bio-cultural community protocols (BCPs)** - In the field of ABS, according to the Mo?otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines, ?community protocols is a term that covers a broad array of expressions, articulations, rules and practices generated by communities to set out how they expect other stakeholders to engage with them?. Various communities and organizations use terms such as "bio-cultural community protocols", "bio-cultural protocols" and "community protocols" interchangeably.

? **Traditional Knowledge** - Genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are essential for the development of agriculture, food and beverages, biotechnological and pharmaceutical products. These products support poverty alleviation, food security, human well-being, and underpin the Earth?s life support systems. At the same time, it?s necessary to ensure that different social-groups involved along ABS value chains, **particularly women, youth and elderly** are empowered to fully benefit from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

The MIND Your Step! Gender Tool developed by the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project features useful context, analysis, case studies and lessons learned to guide development professionals working on genetic and biological resources in their efforts **to mainstream gender considerations into ABS Value Chains** and ensure that different social-groups equally benefit from various ABS transactions and interventions. The gender toolkit is a living document and aims at igniting these ongoing dynamics in view of further stimulating reflections on **how ABS interventions can foster the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups** to ensure that no one is left behind in the share of the benefits that can potentially arise from the utilization of genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge.

A **specific Gender Action Plan** will be developed for each target areas/candidate ABS value chain during the first year of the project, using the following template:

Activity	Indicators	Target	Source of verification	Cost
Conduct a Gender Analysis of the candidate ABS value chain	% of ABS value chain that have conducted a gender analysis	? Baseline ? Target	Report of the gender analysis	USD X
Design smart ABS value chains and/or partnership	% of women, youth and elderly participated to PIC/MAT negotiations	? Baseline ? Target	Reports Lists of participants	USD X
	% of women, youth and elderly participated in the design/drafting of BCPs	? Baseline ? Target	Reports Lists of participants	USD X
	% of aTK databases containing sex and age-disaggregated data about aTK holders	? Baseline ? Target	Reports	USD X
	The share of women having access to financial services and technology-driven solutions in the ABS value chains supported by the project	? Baseline ? Target	Reports	USD X
	Number of advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about gender biases within the scientific community, pay-gap and glass ceiling issues in ABS value chains	? Baseline ? Target	Reports	USD X
Design a gender-responsive M&E framework for the project	Percentage of ABS value chains or partnerships with gender-responsive results? frameworks	? Baseline ? Target	Project Results Frameworks	USD X
	Percentage of ABS value chains or partnerships with gender-sensitive budgeting	? Baseline ? Target	Budget	USD X

6. Resources, Roles and Responsibilities

The role and responsibilities allocated for implementing the project's gender action plan are summarized in the table below:

Position/Function	Roles and Responsibilities
Project Manager (PM)	The PM will have overall responsibility for the implementation of the project. The PM is responsible for ensuring that the project will operate according to relevant national and regional policies and procedures, these include all relevant gender mainstreaming objectives.

Position/Function	Roles and Responsibilities
Project Board/Steering Committee (PB/SC)	The PB/SC is responsible for providing strategic oversight for the project. They will be responsible for ensuring that the interests of all the representative members and project beneficiaries are considered, these include the gender mainstreaming objectives.
Gender Specialist (part-time)	The project will recruit (on a part-time basis) the expertise of a gender specialist to support the implementation of the gender action plan. The responsibilities of the gender specialist include delivering trainings to project stakeholder and providing advice on gender mainstreaming in the development of key regulatory frameworks and work programs on conservation, restoration, and sustainable land use.
Multi-stakeholder collaboration spaces	Multi-stakeholder collaboration spaces are planned across different administrative levels, with representation by local governments, farmers, cooperatives, agricultural associations, civil society, and private sector. These collaborative groups will ensure gender mainstreaming objectives are incorporated into the Regional and municipal plans and community-level project interventions.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of the Gender Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated periodically throughout the project timeframe. The project's progress towards achieving its gender mainstreaming will be monitored, evaluated, and reported in the project's progress reports. As part of ensuring the optimal achievement of gender mainstreaming targets, adaptive management measures will be implemented, whenever needed, to adjust the plan to current situations and to support the findings of the monitoring and evaluation. As mentioned previously, the monitoring and evaluating of the implementation of the gender action plan will be included in the larger project monitoring and evaluation plan, with the required budget allocated to respective activities, accordingly.

The findings, results and lessons learned from the gender mainstreaming will be shared as part of the project's knowledge management plan.

[1] From *Bilan commun pays Maroc 2021* (United Nations, Morocco)

[2] From *Piloting an SDG Integrated Accelerator for informal women led MSMEs in Morocco: technical advisory, digital financial inclusion, and data driven public policy* (2022)

[3] The date of the circular's issue coincided with International Women's Day

[4] Previously, the constitutional principle of equality was limited to the political domain

[5] *Etude de la stratégie d'institutionnalisation de l'intégration du genre dans le secteur du*

Développement Durable, Ministère chargé du développement durable - ONU Femmes, 2018

[6] *Rapport sur le budget axé sur les résultats tenant compte de l'aspect genre, Projet de Loi de Finances pour l'année budgétaire 2019*

[7] *Rapport sur la régionalisation avancée soumis à Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI, Commission consultative de la régionalisation, Mars 2011*

[8] *La charte communale, Ministère de l'Intérieur, Direction Générale des Collectivités locales, 2009*

[9] Programme ? moyen terme (2014 ? 2016) pour l'institutionnalisation de l'egalit? de genre dans le Haut-Commissariat aux Eaux et For?ts et ? la Lutte Contre la D?sertification, HCEFLCD ? GIZ, D?cembre 2013

[10] Guide to Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP Supported GEF Financed Projects, October 2016

[11] Policy on GE, GEF, Nov. 2017

27. The Gender Action Plan is a management tool that seeks to guide and promote men and women having the same opportunities for involving themselves in the activities of the various project components and to benefit from its outcomes. The Gender Action Plan is a requirement of UNDP and the GEF Secretariat and can also mitigate risks and issues in compliance with UNDP's SES policy guidance, and indicates that key aspects regarding the needs, opportunities, priorities, status, and relationships between men and women in relation to the project have been identified and incorporated into the process of design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the project. This project has a UNDP GEN2 gender marker, which recognizes gender equality as a significant goal; that is, the project incorporates the gender perspective and the outputs address the differentiated needs of men or women and the equitable distribution of benefits, resources, status, and rights, but does not address the causes of inequalities in their lives.

28. The strategy to mainstream gender into the project is presented below.

Gender related Activity	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Budget	Timeline	Responsibility
Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge						
Outcome 1.1: Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework						
Ensure women's involvement in the definition and the delivery of the strategic advocacy programme to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)	% of women involved in meetings focused on strategic advocacy programme definition and delivery	50%	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure women are consulted in the development of benchmarking studies on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework	% of women involved in consultations done for benchmarking studies on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework	50%	0		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, M&E
Collect feedback from women and youth on ABS framework and include them in the Strategic Advocacy Programme.	% of women and youth sharing feedback	50%	0		Year 2 and Year 3	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 1.2: Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law						

Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to ensure women and youth are able to access to trainings.	Number of analyses including gender considerations, with focus on literacy Number of regional programs including gender considerations	3 3	0 To be assessed at project inception phase	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1 From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU	
During trainings, identify gaps and obstacles for a woman in accessing to monetary and non-monetary benefits in the identified value chains.	% of women aware of gaps and obstacle in accessing to monetary and non-monetary benefits in the identified value chains Number of analyses including gender considerations on access to benefits	100% 3	To be assessed at project inception phase 0		From Year 1 to Year 5 Year 1		Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure trainings on technical, managerial and safeguards aspects to women and youth.	% of women taking part in the trainings	50%	0		Year 1 and Year 2		
Facilitate financial mentoring and coaching for women, under ABS framework	% of women taking part in the mentoring and coaching processes	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5		
Outcome 1.3: Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates							
Involve women and youth in surveys on Traditional Knowledge	Number of surveys on TK involving women	3	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager	
Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to facilitate access to information management system.	Number of analyses including gender considerations, with focus on literacy Number of regional programs including gender considerations	3 3	0 To be assessed at project inception phase		Year 1 From Year 1 to Year 5		Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU

Ensure women are included in monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts,	% of women receiving monetary and non-monetary benefits, under ABS Law and/or ABS contract	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 2: Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law						
Outcome 2.1: Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D						
Data collection -disaggregated by gender ? on the targeted value chains.	Number of analyses including gender disaggregated data	3	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Private sector stakeholders informed on Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.	% of private sector stakeholder informed and aware of Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.	100%	To be assessed at project inception phase		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure 50% of trainees are women.	% of women from private sector stakeholder informed and aware of Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Facilitate access to trainings to women and youth who are not literates, considering especially their role as GR providers	% of women and youth not literates participating to project's trainings	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 2.2: R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing						
Carry out gender sensitive mapping of the famers and/or crop producers, ensuring that all rightful landowners are identified and considered, both men and women, in the selected regions.	Number of analyses including gender sensitive mapping	3	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total	Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Ensure data (on local context and on how the selected value chains are structured) disaggregated by gender are collected and shared with Government and the main stakeholders who can influence Gender equality.	Number of analyses including gender disaggregated data Number of meetings with Government and the main stakeholders for data sharing	3 5	0 0	budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure that the three comprehensive ABS contracts include gender sensitive benefits sharing mechanisms	Number of ABS contracts including gender sensitive benefits sharing mechanism	3	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Facilitates women's role as entrepreneurs involved in the targeted value chains	% of women entrepreneurs involved in the project	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Support to saffron, lichen or argan groups/cooperatives/federation to fill gaps in terms of infrastructures, constitution of <i>Groupement d'Interet Economique</i> , transports, and distribution of products, to ensure sustainable supply of raw materials	Number of GAP including actions to fill gaps in terms of infrastructures, constitution of <i>Groupement d'Interet Economique</i> , transports, distribution of products.	3	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Support social safety and protection nets for women cooperatives, i.e. mutual funds.	Number of GAP including actions to support social safety and protection nets for women cooperatives, i.e. mutual funds	3	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
If part of ABS agreements, ensure women and youth paid employment in the targeted value chains, in coordination with local and national authorities.	% of women and youth with paid employment in the target value chain.	100%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Design Gender smart ABS value chains	% of women having access to financial services and technology-driven solutions in the ABS value chains supported by the project	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Component 3: Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions						
Outcome 3.1: Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa (SM) and F?s-Mekn?s (FM) Regions						
Women involvement as members of the regional committees.	% of women involved as members of the regional committees	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase	The cost has been included as part of the project?s total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU
Ensure women participation as key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.	% of women trainees	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU
Ensure gender is mainstreamed in the governance mechanisms.	% of projects documents including gender mainstream	100%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 3.2: ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier communities and biodiversity/ecosystems						
Ensure that women and youth have access to information on ABS, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats.	% of meetings with women and youth on ABS, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats.	50%	0	The cost has been included as part of the project?s total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 4: Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management						
Outcome 4.1: Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks						
Training to the main stakeholders on UNDP and GEF principles and standards on gender approach	% of women taking part in the training	50%	0	The cost has been included as part of the project?s total budget	Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure women engagement in the Stakeholder Engagement Plans (CSEP and SEP at regional and value chain level)	Women consultations all along projects activities Number of SEP with women engagement activities included	100%	0 0		From Year 1 to Year 5 Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Collection and analysis of the practical needs and strategic interests of women and men entrepreneurs, as part of SEP and GAP at region and value chain level	Number of analyses including gender considerations	3	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Ensure gender aspects are included in the SESA	% of actions included in the Action Matrix that include gender aspects	50%	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 4.2: Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing						
Ensure lessons learned on women and youth involvement in ABS value chains are part of the Knowledge Management process	% of lessons learned focused on women and youth involvement included in the knowledge management process	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 5: Monitoring & Evaluation						
Outcome 5.1: M&E duly implemented						
Implement a gender-responsive project's M&E framework	<p>% of women involved in reporting the progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework</p> <p>% of women involved in monitoring of ESMP/IPP, Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, and other related plans</p> <p>% of women involved in collection of feedback and M&E process</p>	50%	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, M&E
		50%	0			
		50%	0			

Develop and organize awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, focused on specific themes including gender themes that are aimed at defined target groups (e.g., farmers, women's groups, governmental agencies, enterprises, and the public) through approaches and methods that are identified in the integrated knowledge action plan (e.g., social media, print media, radio, local television).	Number of awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, focused on specific themes including gender themes	4	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, M&E
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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;

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.

29. Both domestic and foreign private sector companies, especially from the pharmaceutical, cosmetics and biotechnology sectors, are the main users of genetic resources for commercial purposes, and are therefore critical in the project and in the implementation of the Morocco's ABS framework more widely.

30. Two foreign biotech companies (GREENTECH, based in France^[1], and PharmAfrican, based in Canada^[2]) working on R&D to develop three new ABS products and value chains will be involved in project implementation: a) as co-financiers; b) as beneficiaries of the ABS framework; c) to help define adequate access procedures; d) to test the new legal framework; e) as ABS contract holders sharing benefits for communities and ecosystem conservation; f) by participating in bioprospecting and developing new ABS products; and g) by sourcing from the new value chains. Representatives from these companies were widely consulted as part of the PPG and provided useful information for the design of the project, including signed co-financing letters. These companies will establish partnerships with national research teams (e.g., Laboratoire de Pharmacologie et Toxicologie, Faculté de Médecine et Pharmacie, Université Mohammed V, Rabat) for bioprospecting and the development of ABS products for the cosmetics sector.

31. The participation of these biotech companies in the project for the development of three new ABS products and value chains will result in valuable lessons learned and new knowledge that will be critical to proactively engage with the private sector through bio-discovery partnerships to stimulate investments in Morocco's bio-economy based on genetic resources. In the alternative scenario, the project aims to make a business case for investing in biodiversity and by doing so it will set up an innovative mechanism for biodiversity financing, not only by re-investing monetary benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources into conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, but also by stimulating scientific research, encouraging technology transfer along value chains using genetic resources, hence contributing to wider development of co-benefits.

[1] www.greentech.fr

[2] <https://www.pharmafrican.org>

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):

32. During the PPG, the project risks were updated and mitigation measures were proposed based on UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and other risks identified at the time of the PIF, including climate change-related risks. The project has been classified as substantial risk; project activities have been designed to ensure that adverse social and environmental risks and impacts are avoided, minimized, mitigated and managed. As per standard UNDP requirements, the Project Manager will monitor risks quarterly and report on the status of risks to the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP Country Office will record progress in the UNDP ATLAS risk register. The risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved are presented below.

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
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1	National ABS Law not adopted by the end of first year of project implementation	Political Regulatory	<p>Incomplete legal ABS framework will limit R&D and benefit-sharing based on selected genetic resources</p> <p>L = 2 I = 4 Moderate</p>	<p>The ratification of the Nagoya Protocol in April 2022 is a significant development in the consolidation of the national ABS framework for Morocco. This has resulted in a renewed interest in ABS at the country's institutional and ministerial levels, and presents an opportunity to promote the adoption of the ABS Law. To promote the adoption of the Law starting at its inception, the project will develop and deliver a strategic advocacy programme to leverage the final adoption of the ABS Law.</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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2	Lack of political will and lengthy process for the full national ABS framework to be adopted and operationalised	Political Regulatory	<p>Incomplete legal ABS framework will limit R&D and benefit-sharing based on selected genetic resources</p> <p>L = 2 I = 4 Moderate</p>	<p>The project will seek to help the development of pilot value chains and establish ABS agreements on key resources by using already-existing procedures and mechanisms for accessing biological resources, in the various departments managing and monitoring the different involved ecosystems. This way, no new specific policies will be required to provide access and to establish value chains, while the political and parliamentary process takes place for the adoption of the national ABS legal framework. ABS agreements will be developed under the existing guidelines of existing laws on biodiversity (namely CITES) and will establish benefit-sharing clauses between private entities (users and providers of genetic resources) that will require minimal input from government authorities. The departments involved in the future National Competent Authority will be consulted on an individual and case-by-case basis to simulate and test their ABS processes without hindering the establishment of prospective ABS agreements between private parties, on an observational basis only. If the ABS legal framework is adopted during the project implementation, the ABS agreements will be subject to validation by the National Competent Authority, whose</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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3	The genetic resource value chain is insufficiently developed to bioprospecting and industry standards	Technical Strategic	Project activities related to R&D cannot proceed limiting the impact of the project L = 3 I = 4 Substantial	The genetic resources chosen to build the value chains around were carefully selected based on a feasibility assessment, regional specificities, and the interest of private companies, national research teams, and the civil sector in promoting the value chains with high economic potential. Only genetic resources that have been subject to high previous demand from bioprospectors, and where Morocco is a recognized high-level producer at the regional level, were considered.	MTEDD- DDD
4	PIC (or permits) is not granted and/or MAT (or ABS contracts) are not reached	Regulatory Strategic	Project activities related to R&D cannot proceed limiting the impact of the project L = 3 I = 4 Substantial	The project through its multiple activities will promote conditions (legal clarity, access to information, training, consultations, collaborative research, etc.) that are conducive to PIC, MAT, and the signing of three comprehensive ABS contracts for the development of innovative ABS products	MTEDD- DDD
5	Failure from biotech companies to identify promising extracts and compounds for developing ABS products	Technical	The development of ABS products is not feasible; thus, the development of ABS products and benefit-sharing is not possible limiting the impact of the project L = 3 I = 4 Substantial	The project, in coordination with users of genetic resources, may explore and incorporate alternative genetic resources and other value chains into the project as part of adaptive management, as time and resources permit	MTEDD- DDD Biotech companies

6	Lack of capacity and political will to add value to genetic resources and to develop, negotiate and monitor benefit-sharing agreements.	Technical	<p>Project activities related to R&D cannot proceed limiting the impact of the project</p> <p>L = 2 I = 4 Moderate</p>	<p>Key genetic resources will be selected for the pilot ABS value chains development, that are prioritized in the local development plans for forestry and agriculture at the regional level, and where local authorities have already experience in dealing with producers and local communities on said resource. ABS and biodiversity in general will be integrated into the local and regional development strategies in order to ensure that local decision-makers are in line and supportive of the establishment of value chains and ABS agreements on the targeted resources.</p>	MTEDD- DDD
7	Risks emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic	Environmental	<p>Although the COVID-19 pandemic is receding in Morocco, new outbreaks may affect project beneficiaries and the PMU participating in project activities, which could be postponed and delaying project implementation</p> <p>L = 2 I = 4 Moderate</p>	<p>The main risk is that the reactivation of the COVID-19 pandemic will likely reduce the resources available in the Moroccan Government for environmental management. Activating the ABS framework and engaging the private sector in developing more sustainable business models and rural livelihoods therefore seems well aligned with the desired green recovery. At the same time, the risk that ABS product development could be reduced seems very marginal, given how little the cosmetic sector has been affected by the pandemic to this date.</p>	MTEDD- DDD

8	<p>SESP Risk 1: Rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim relevant rights, especially amongst less educated rural populations, some of which are indigenous peoples/local communities</p>	Social	<p>There may be some of marginalized Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities that may be not fully involved and cannot participate and/or claim their rights due to their own limitations of knowledge/capacity/power/cultural norms, etc., actions that limit their participation in the project</p> <p>L = 3 I = 3 Moderate</p>	<p><u>Screening:</u> To assess and manage all the identified risks will be screened on a site and value chain specific basis using the SESP. Based on the impacts identified, appropriate impact management measures will be integrated in the ESMP, that will be prepared by the first project year, for each region and each value chain targeted. This SESP will be revised as part of regular project monitoring and based on further assessments and on information/details gathered during project implementation. Revisions of the SESP will inform the ESIA and ESMP over the course of the project.</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> As the project is Substantial risk with potential downstream and upstream impacts, the ESIA is required at field-level activities and the SESA is required for the policy-level activities. The ESIA and SESA will take place during the first project year. No activities which might have adverse impacts on the rights, lands, resources and territories of marginalized Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will commence until the ESIA/SESA is completed, impact management measures established, and</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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9	<p>SESP Risk 2. Duty-bearers (government and private sector partners) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in respecting and protecting the human rights of affected populations.</p>	<p>Organizational Regulatory</p>	<p>Weak governance and capacity for enforcement of project partners (national and local government) may have limitations in fulfilling the obligations derived from the execution of the activities anticipated by the project and compliance with safeguard guidelines</p> <p>L = 4 I = 3 Moderate</p>	<p><u>Assessment and Management:</u> The SESA and ESIA will include the impacts of upstream and downstream activities on human rights of the affected population. The SESA will focus especially on Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 2.2.1, and 3.1.4</p> <p>An ESIA will be developed for each region where the activities will be implemented and for each value chain and propose safeguards including monitoring arrangements which will be integrated into the ESMPs.</p> <p>The SESA ? and the related reports and Action Matrix - will also include study on how ABS related intervention might affect human rights of the most vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>MTEDD- DDD Private sector companies</p>
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1 0	<p>SESP Risk 3. Project support directly or indirectly linked to rural livelihoods lead to child labour (boys and girls) especially in the collection of primary materials or other tasks for ABS value chains.</p>	Social	<p>Morocco is consolidating important efforts to eliminate child labor, however, in rural areas child labor (boys, girls, youth) is used, mainly in agricultural activities.</p> <p>L = 3 I = 3 Moderate</p>	<p><u>Screening:</u> The risk has been reassessed during the PPG and scored as Moderate. The risk has been incorporated into the ESMF, and into site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs. As Moderate, the requirements of UNDP's SES Standard 7 will apply.</p> <p><u>Assessment and Management:</u> The SESA (for output 2.2.1) and ESIA will include a review of labour standards in each region where the activities will be implemented, and propose safeguards including monitoring arrangements which will be integrated into the ESMPs</p> <p>The SESA ? and the related reports and Action Matrix - will also include study on how ABS related intervention might affect labour requirements, potentially increasing pressure to employ children.</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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1 1	<p>SESP Risk 4. Project support directly or indirectly linked to rural livelihoods lead to unduly modified work or enhanced workloads for women, especially in the collection of primary materials or other tasks for ABS value chains.</p>	Social	<p>There may be gender disparities that are much more exacerbated in rural women.</p> <p>L = 3 I = 3 Moderate</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> The risk will be assessed through the ESIA. The planned SESA will assess the impact of output 2.2.1.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: ? The Indigenous Peoples Local Communities Plan will include the Gender approach, considering the differences among groups/communities. ? The consultation of women and girls will be ensured during project implementation, especially in planning, monitoring and reporting processes. ? Informed by the Gender Analysis, the Gender Action Plan has been developed to actively promote the role of women and girls in the project and will be updated by the first six months of the project. ? A Gender Action Plan, for each region and each value chain, will be developed during the first year of the project and will include the use of the Mind your step! Tool, to mainstream Gender in value chains. ? The comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan will also include women's engagement in project related activities. ? As Stakeholders and as</p>	<p>MTEDD- DDD</p> <p>Gender /Safeguards Expert</p>
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<p>1 2</p>	<p>SESP Risk 5. Given the prevailing cultural context, groups marginalised for socio-economic, tribal (especially indigenous peoples) or gender (especially women) reasons are not duly consulted and involved in the project, do not benefit equally, and that the project and its stakeholders reproduce established discriminations, potentially leading to inadvertent harm.</p>	<p>Social Strategic</p>	<p>Although FPIC was initiated during project design, the project management may fail to properly consult with vulnerable groups about the project and its activities as outlined in the ESMF.</p> <p>L = 3 I = 3 Moderate</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> The SESA will assess the impacts of outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2</p> <p><u>Management:</u> The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: ? The Indigenous Peoples Local Communities Plan will include the Gender approach, considering the differences among groups/communities. ? The consultation of women and girls will be ensured during project implementation, especially in planning, monitoring and reporting processes. ? Informed by the Gender Analysis, the Gender Action Plan has been developed to actively promote the role of women and girls in the project and will be updated by the first six months of the project. A Gender Action Plan, for each region and each value chain, will be developed during the first year of the project and will include the use of the Mind your step! Tool, to mainstream Gender in value chains. ? The comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan will also include women's engagement in project related activities. ? In addition, site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs may be developed that</p>	<p>MTEDD- DDD</p> <p>Gender /Safeguards Expert</p>
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<p>1 3</p>	<p>SESP Risk 6. The Project or the wider ABS framework leads to the commercial exploitation of traditional knowledge without due consultations and recognition, without a fully functional ABS law and framework in place, and/or without due benefit sharing with TK holders, potentially leading to inadvertent harm to indigenous peoples (Amazigh) or other local communities and their heritage and traditions.</p>	<p>Social Strategic</p>	<p>Access to genetic and the associated traditional knowledge related to three ABS value chains may potentially affect the right holders.</p> <p>L = 3 I = 4 Substantial</p>	<p><u>Assessment and Management</u> An ESIA and an IP-LC P will be developed for each region and value chain and a SESA will be developed including the impacts of Output 1.1.4. Stakeholders will also have access to a project Grievance Redress Mechanism, to be in place. Project-affected peoples will be informed about the existence of these processes and mechanisms. In addition, site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs will be developed that include the site-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans and Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities Plan (including FPIC processes), where relevant. Moreover, the project will ensure that ABS-related TK is safely documented and registered, and that no genetic resource agreements are struck with commercial entities before the ABS law and framework are fully adopted and operational.</p>	<p>MTEDD- DDD</p>
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1 4	<p>SESP Risk 7. The project leads to economic displacement in some parts of the population including women and indigenous peoples, considering that the project is expected to catalyze more sustainable land use, natural resource exploitation and ecosystem management, which could curtail access to traditional natural resources and harm local livelihoods.</p>	Social	<p>Some farmers and their families may have to change their production practices to more sustainable alternatives resulting in temporary losses of economic opportunities.</p> <p>L = 4 I = 4 Substantial</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> An ESIA for each region and each targeted value chain and the SESA will be prepared by the first project year and will include the impacts of the activities included in output 2.2.3. The ESIA will include a Displacement Risk Assessments.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> - The risk will be managed through the ESIA/ESMP, SESA Action Matrix and Stakeholder consultations, in line with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plan, ensuring that livelihoods are not adversely impacted by the project. The impact assessment will identify any economic displacement, and strategies will be included to avoid, minimize or manage any such impacts. Where necessary, a Livelihood Action Plan will be produced to ensure that any such impacts are appropriately managed.</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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<p>1 5</p>	<p>SESP Risk 8. The project affects the development priorities and cultural heritage (transhumance, value systems, wealth management) or natural features with cultural significance of some indigenous peoples, considering that the project is expected to catalyze more sustainable land use, natural resource exploitation and ecosystem management, which could curtail access to traditional natural resources and harm local livelihoods.</p>	<p>Social</p>	<p>The project may promote changes in land use and or modes of production for conservation purposes and/or to adopt sustainable value chains that may be in conflict with traditional and cultural values regarding access to natural resources</p> <p>L = 4 I = 4 Substantial</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> The ESIA will assess whether natural features with cultural significance will be impacted by the project in each targeted region. Where they are found to be project-affected, FPIC consultations will be carried out with the objective of achieving initial consent from specific rights-holders, in line with Standard 6 requirements.</p> <p>Further FPIC consultations will be on-going and followed during project implementation, following the measures summarized in the ESMF, in the Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Planning Framework (as IPPF) and in the Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plan that will be prepared as part of the subsequent ESMP as required by ESIA assessment reports.</p> <p>ESIA and SESA will include a focus on natural features with cultural significance identification and analysis, with a strong participatory approach, to collect information from local communities about the meaning of the natural features,</p> <p>A community mapping will be included in the ESIA to ensure the communities? perception of the landscape and of the natural resources is taken into consideration and</p>	<p>MTEDD- DDD</p>
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1 6	<p>SESP Risk 9. The successful establishment of new value chains (ABS, or inadvertently Biotrade) <u>directly</u> lead to increased exploitation of natural resources and ecosystems/biodiversity</p>	Environmental	<p>Project activities related to the supply of raw material for ABS value chains may result in unintended negative ecological impacts limiting the project's ability to deliver global environmental benefits</p> <p>L = 3 I = 4 Substantial</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> At PPG stage, an ESMF has been developed for the entire project, which is required to incorporate an ESIA, and comprehensive assessments of value chains targeted by the project that define needs in terms of raw materials for harvesting, carrying capacity and sustainable exploitation levels, risks to valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. Related impacts from upstream national-level work (ABS framework) will be assessed by the SESA, planned in the ESMF, at project inception phase.</p> <p><u>Management</u> The management of this risk will be included into the ESMP, based on ESIA findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports.</p> <p>The project will ensure that the safeguards requirements are reflected in the emerging ABS framework over the course of the project. In replication efforts, which are linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks.</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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1 7	<p>SESP Risk 10. The successful establishment of new value chains (ABS, or inadvertently Biotrade) <u>indirectly</u> lead to increased pressures on natural resources and ecosystems/biodiversity</p>	Environmental	<p>Project activities related to the supply of raw material for ABS value chains may result in unintended negative ecological impacts limiting the project's ability to deliver global environmental benefits</p> <p>L = 2 I = 4 Moderate</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> For the upstream national-level work (ABS framework), the SESA will be conducted at project inception phase and will ensure that the emerging requirements are reflected in the emerging ABS framework over the course of the project. Government and project team will monitor for such trends and intervene especially where significant immigration and behavioral or wealth changes could undermine project success. Conduct an ESIA, and comprehensive assessments of value chains targeted by the project that define raw material sourcing needs, carrying capacity and sustainable exploitation levels, risks to valuable biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> In replication efforts, which are linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks.</p> <p>The management of this risk will be included into the ESMP, based on ESIA findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports.</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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1 8	<p>SESP Risk 11. Project's activities increase the vulnerabilities of populations (especially women living in rural areas) to the effects of climate change.</p>	Social	<p>Morocco is vulnerable to climate change, in particular to drought. The impacts of climate change may include alterations in biodiversity patterns and to biodiversity loss, as well as modifications in the dynamics of ecological processes.</p> <p>L = 3 I = 3 Moderate</p>	<p><u>Assessment and Management:</u> The project must promote climate-smart value chains development targeting natural resources, for climate-smart livelihoods.</p> <p>This risk has been managed through the design of the project and will be further examined in the course of the ESIA, based on the ESMF, and included in the ESMP as determined necessary.</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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1 9	<p>SESP Risk 12: The wild harvesting by local communities and the traditional value chain structure is impacted by new value chain's structure, with an impact on gender balance and on traditional social roles in the local communities.</p>	Social	<p>The project may promote changes traditional value by promoting the ABS associated to genetic resources</p> <p>L = 4 I = 4 Substantial</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> . An ESIA per each region and value chain will be prepared by the first project year and will include the elements explained above and the impacts the project can have on the existing dynamics, identifying the mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> The mitigations measures will be included in the ESMP in each region. This risk will be managed also through the Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plan that will be prepared for each region and each value chain by the first project year and through the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</p> <p>The Grievance Redress mechanism that will take into consideration the local grievance mechanism already in place will be implemented during the project's implementation and will support the mitigation of the identified risk.</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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2 0	<p>SESP Risk 13: Involvement ? also in co-financing the project (co-financing option 1b) - of the private sector has an impact on respect of Safeguards standards (respect of Human Rights, Gender balance, etc?)</p>	Social Financial	<p>Most of the co-financing falls under category 1.b: Co-financing not administered by UNDP but included in UNDP project, of the categories for co-financing and UNDP accountability.</p> <p>L = 4 I = 4 Substantial</p>	<p><u>Assessment and Management</u></p>	MTEDD- DDD
				<p>As per the Guidance on Application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards for Co-Financing (and Parallel Funding) - Environmental Vertical Funds - December 2021, the Project is included in option 1b, where the co-financing is included in project results and is not administered by UNDP. Therefore: ? UNDP is accountable to monitor all project results, including those delivered by co-financing, to ensure consistency with UNDP & GEF policies/procedures, including SES. ? While the co-financing partner applies their own policies & procedures, the UNDP project's governance, management, assurance, monitoring arrangements apply. ? UNDP is accountable for ensuring Option 1b activities are ?consistent? with SES and grievances may be eligible for SECU investigation.</p> <p>UNDP needs to ensure consistency with SES.</p> <p>Under component 4, trainings and activities have been detailed to ensure the UNDP Safeguards standards are known and addressed by the main Stakeholders. ESIA, SESA,</p>	

2 1	<p>SESP Risk 14: Access to economic resources and natural resources facilitated through interventions create or exacerbate conflicts between groups or increase the risk of violence between project-affected communities and individuals.</p>	Social	<p>The project may promote changes in land use and or modes of production for conservation purposes and/or to adopt sustainable value chains. These change could result in social conflict limiting the impact od the project.</p> <p>L = 3 I = 4 Substantial</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> A SESA will be developed for upstream activities and an ESIA per each region and value chain will be prepared by the first year of the project and will include conflict analysis and assessment. The ESIA and the SESA will have a focus on the current anthropological scenario, identifying the nature of the relations between different groups at all levels (national, regional and local) and the impact the project?s outputs can have on these relations.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> This risk will be managed through an Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plan that will be prepared for each region and each value chain by the first project year and through the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, integrating the findings of the conflict assessment/ESIA/SE SA. A Grievance Redress mechanism, which will take into consideration the local grievance mechanism already in place, will be implemented during the project?s implementation. Where necessary, inter-groups stakeholder consultations will be held to resolve ?territorial? disputes relating to resource use. An ESMP per each region will be prepared by the first</p>	MTEDD- DDD
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2	SESP Risk 15:	Environmental	Although the COVID-19 pandemic is receding in Morocco, new outbreaks may affect project beneficiaries and the PMU participating in project activities, which could be postponed and delaying project implementation	This risk will be managed on the basis of the national regulations from the Health Authority to combat the COVID 19. The design of the project interventions will take into account the specific measures necessary to mitigate any potential risk of exposure during implementation. Consistent with current health constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, project preparation and implementation will employ videoconferencing equipment for virtual meetings and workshops, where necessary; adjust the work plan to allow some field or ongoing consultation-related activities to be conducted in virtual mode, as needed; and/or provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent exposure to stakeholders and project participants.	MTEDD- DDD
2	Participation in project activities could pose a potential risk of increased exposure to COVID-19 and other occupational risks.	Operational	L = 2 I = 4 Moderate		

33. Climate change risks: Morocco's climate is varied experiencing a typical Mediterranean climate, with mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. The Atlas Mountains run through the center of the country forming a natural divide between the Mediterranean northern coastal zone and the southern interior regions, which lie on the edge of the Sahara Desert. Morocco is highly vulnerable to climate variability and change; the country is experiencing rising temperatures, less precipitation, and an increase in drought, creating a deficit between water supply and demand. Average temperatures are expected to rise between 2 and 5°C by the end of this century, while rainfall is predicted to decline 20 to 30%.^[1] Expected increases in frequency and intensity of droughts will greatly impact the agricultural sector and will affect both rural livelihoods and the national economy as a whole. Climate change and variability in semi-arid areas makes communities vulnerable to food insecurity and leads to unsustainable agroecological systems, crop failure, and unproductive rangelands. Water shortages have

already put pressure on the country's natural resources, affecting the resilience of forest ecosystems and the agriculture sector.^[2]

- ? Vulnerability and exposure. The project's vulnerability to climate change is related primarily to prolonged drought. The exposure of the project to climate change is moderate.
- ? The likelihood of the occurrence of climate-related events has been rated as moderate (Likelihood = 3; Impact = 3, on a scale of 1 to 5 according to UNDP SES rating scale to assess the impact of risk)^[3]. This rating considers primarily the vulnerability of the three project areas (Ifrane/Itzer, FM Region; Talouine, SM Region; and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate, SM Region) and key habitats in particular for the cedar lichen/cedar forest and argan trees where ABS projects will be piloted, especially due to prolonged drought and water shortages. This risk will be further examined in the course of the ESIA, based on the ESMF (included as Annex 9 of the Project Document), and included in the ESMP as determined necessary.

34. COVID-19 risks: The risk mitigation strategy includes mitigation measures related to risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the pandemic has receded in Morocco and current infections are 17% of peak, there is a risk of new related outbreaks. This means that COVID-19 may pose a risk to project implementation. Accordingly, the project design has considered the following: a) during project implementation, various mechanisms will be used, depending on the degree of involvement required of the stakeholders and their role in the project; these may include workshops, meetings, field visits, and interviews, etc.; the Project Management Unit (PMU) in coordination with the Department of Sustainable Development and project partners (e.g., MAPMDREF and the Water and Forest National Agency) will determine if these methods involving stakeholders will be held in-person or virtually, depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves in the project target landscapes; b) the project budget includes resources to purchase biosafety supplies to minimize exposure to COVID-19, as needed (hand sanitizers, masks and face shields, disinfectant sprays, disposable gloves, etc.); c) videoconferencing equipment (also budgeted) will be used for virtual meetings and workshops; and d) the annual work plans/timelines will be adjusted to allow some activities to be conducted in virtual mode and travel restrictions for technical experts because of COVID-19.

[1] <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/arab-states/morocco>

[2] <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/morocco>

[3] Guidance Note. UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES): Social and Environmental Screening Procedure. 2019.

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.

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects? governance mechanism

35. Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development ? Department of Sustainable Development.

36. The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the

assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

37. The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

38. Responsible Parties: No Responsible Parties are foreseen for this project. Should the need arise during implementation based on specific needs to implement project outputs, any Responsible Party will be designated in compliance with UNDP rules and procedures.

39. Project stakeholders and target groups: The key national and sub-national stakeholders include the MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, the Water and Forest National Agency, Regional Council of the SM and FM regions, and the Regional Biodiversity Committees, and NGOs (e.g., Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment). Target groups municipal governments, local communities in the rural areas of Ifrane/Itzer (FM Region), Talouine (SM Region), and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate (SM Region), including family/ groups of farmers and women's cooperatives involved in the value chains targeted by the project, and NGOs that are active in the target areas. In addition, two private sector companies (GREENTECH and PharmAfrican) and national research teams from the University Mohammed V are the main users of genetic resources for research and commercial purposes.

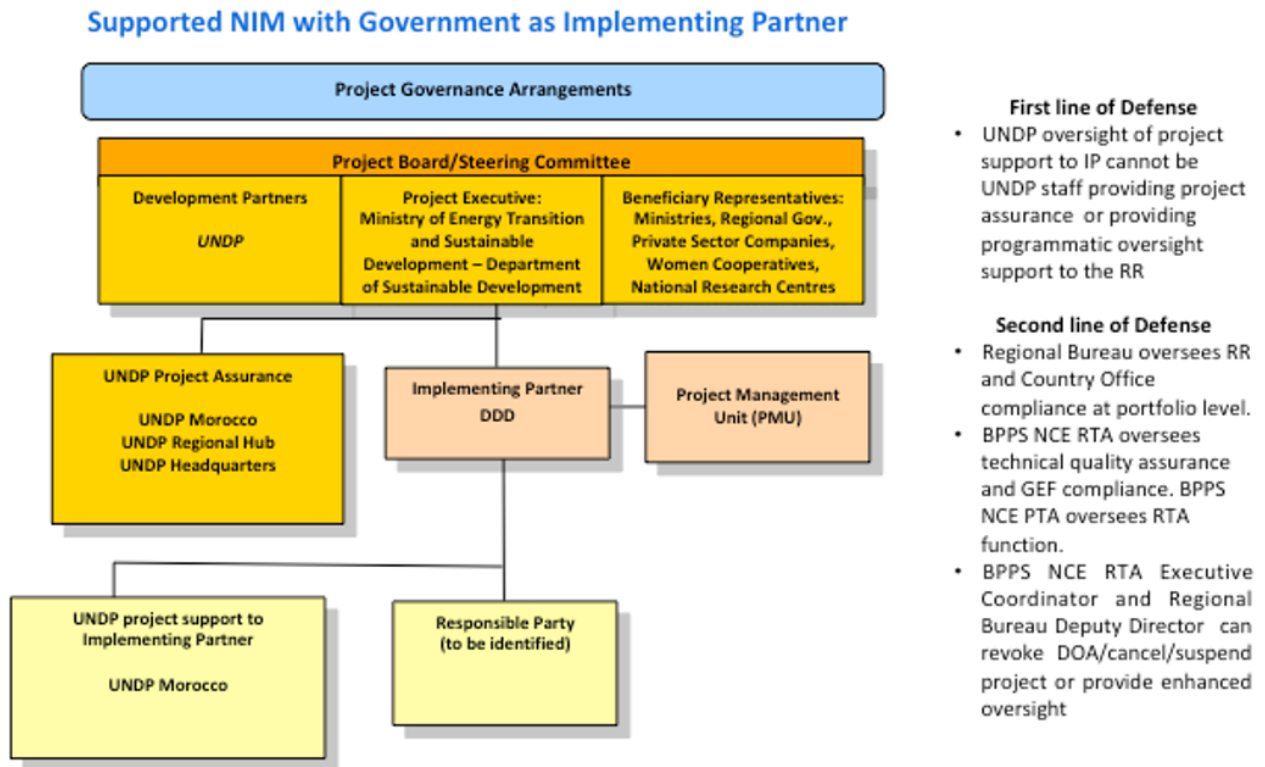
40. Project target groups will be engaged in decision making for the project through their participation in PIC and MAT as providers of genetic resources, as potential signatories of at least three comprehensive ABS contracts for the development of new ABS products, and through their participation in the Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM regions and thematic regional sub-committees, as appropriate. Additional engagement mechanisms are detailed in the project's Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan (Annex 8 of the ProDoc).

41. UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

42. A firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and charged to the GEF Fee and any support to project execution performed by UNDP (as requested by and agreed to by both the Implementing Partner and GEF) and may be charged

to the GEF project management costs (only if approved by GEF). The segregation of functions and firewall provisions for UNDP in this case is described in the next section.

Section 2: Project governance structure



43. The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

44. **UNDP project support:** The Implementing Partner and GEF OFP have requested UNDP to provide support services in the amount of USD 20,000 for the full duration of the project, and the GEF has agreed for UNDP to provide such execution support services and for the cost of these services to be charged to the project budget. The execution support services ? whether financed from the project budget or other sources - have been set out in detail and agreed between UNDP Country Office and the Implementing Partner in a Letter of Agreement (LOA). This LOA is attached to this Project Document.

45. To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independent from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-?-vis UNDP representation on the project board:

46. As noted in the [Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies](#), in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the

GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

47. In this case, UNDP's implementation oversight role in the project as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function is performed by the Resident Representative and the Head of the Environment Unit. UNDP's execution role in the project (as requested by the implementing partner and approved by the GEF) is performed by the Head of Finance, who will report to the Operations Manager.

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure:

a) Project Board: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

48. The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the [?Provide Oversight?](#) section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the [?Manage Change?](#) section of the POPP).

Requirements to serve on the Project Board:

- ? Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- ? Meet annually; at least once.
- ? Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
- ? Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.
- ? Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the Project Board

- ? Consensus decision making:
 - o The project board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
 - o Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
 - o The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
 - o In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
 - o In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.
- ? Oversee project execution:

- o Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
- o Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
- o Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- o Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
- o Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
- o Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
- o Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
- o Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.
- ? Risk Management:
 - o Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
 - o Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
 - o Address project-level grievances.
- ? Coordination:
 - o Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
 - o Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the Project Board: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation (DIM). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is: Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development ? Department of Sustainable Development
 2. **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfill this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are: Members of the National Biodiversity Subcommittee (incl. *inter alia* MTEDD-DDD; Water and Forest National Agency, MAPMDREF-DA, MENFPESRS); Regional Governments of Souss-Massa and F?s-Mekn?s; representatives of women cooperatives (incl. *inter alia*, the Argan Cooperative Taitmatine, the Union des Coop?ratives des Femmes de l'Arganier, and the Federation of Saffron Cooperatives in the region of Taliouine), and University Mohammed V.
 3. **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is/are: UNDP.
- a) **Project Assurance:** Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and

supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is/are: Amal Nadim, Head of Environment Unit.

b) **Project Management ? Execution of the Project:** The Project Manager (PM) (also called project coordinator) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The PM typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers.

A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative.

The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is: TBD at inception.

Coordination

49. The project will take into account lessons learned from the UNDP/GEF/MEME project *Developing a National Framework on Access to and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge as a Strategy to Contribute to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of biodiversity in Morocco* (GEF # 5605, 2014-2019). This is the immediate predecessor project on which the project builds ? regarding the adoption of the legal and institutional framework (ABS NP ratification, ABS law, ABS CNA designation, etc.), capacity development and communications, and outreach to academia and private sector. The government staff in MEME-DE (now MTEDD-DDD) remains the same and they and the former Project Manager provided significant input to the here-proposed project and will continue to be involved during project implementation.

50. The project will also consider lessons learned from the UNDP/GEF/MAMA project *A Circular Economy Approach to Agro-Biodiversity Conservation in the Souss Massa Draa Region of Morocco* (GEF # 3989, 2014-2020). Both projects deal with the endemic Argan ecosystem in the Souss Massa region and work with rural communities. There is good learning in the complications the GEF-4 project faced in establishing a good understanding of a complex concept like PES amongst government and community stakeholders in the region, and the challenges in linking the rural development interventions to sustainable ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. The ABS project is prone to face similar challenges. Product Label as way to certify that the development of ABS value chains and products contribute the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, considering lessons learned from the project.

51. The project proposed herein would coordinate action with GCF/ADA/ANDZOA/DRA Souss Massa project *Development of Argan orchards in degraded environment (DARED)* (GCF FP 022, 2017-2022). There are important connections with this project because both deal with the endemic Argan ecosystem in the Souss Massa region and work with rural communities. However, the approach is different. While the GCF project directly commits GCF resources to reforestation under the project and aims to introduce a plantation-based recovery and expansion of the Argan resource with a focus on severely degraded lowlands with limited biodiversity co-benefits, the here-proposed project aims to

provide incentives to communities and additional sustainable resources to achieve a better conservation and sustainable use of the natural Argan forest ecosystem and its biodiversity. In addition, the GCF project focuses on the southern parts of the Argan range near Tiznit, while the here-proposed project will be active further north where there are no plans for Arganiculture plantations.

52. Finally, the project will build on the GEF-UNDP Global ABS project Strengthening Human Resources, Legal Frameworks and Institutional Capacities to Implement the Nagoya Protocol (GEF Project ID 5731) to assist countries in the development and strengthening of their national ABS frameworks, human resources, and administrative capabilities to implement the NP. In particular the project will make use of training and other tools developed under the Global ABS project.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

53. The National Priorities are consistent with the PIF; however, the following has been added:

54. Morocco is committed to greening its economy and emphasizing sustainable recovery and development through measures such as the "For?ts du Maroc 2020-2030" strategy, which will improve the management of water and forests and that is part of the national planning process to ensure alignment of a green economy with the post-COVID-19 recovery plan.^[1] The strategy is built around four major axes for its implementation: a) creation of a new model based on a participatory approach, with the population as the first partner in forest management; b) management and development of forest areas according to their aptitude by encouraging private investment; c) development and modernization of forestry professions by creating modern forest nurseries with modern specifications in partnership with the private sector, including the preservation of the genetic characteristics of national forests; and d) institutional reform through the creation of the Water and Forests National Agency, which will be charged with the management of forests outside and within protected areas. It will also focus on strengthening the legal framework and capacity of the Water and Forests National Agency.

55. The project is consistent with the "For?ts du Maroc" strategy by using a participatory approach in which local communities will actively participate in consolidating the national ABS legal and institutional framework; developing new ABS products and value chains derived from forest genetic resources (e.g., cedar lichen and argan tree); directly benefiting from ABS contracts; and engaging in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats and forest ecosystems in the three project sites. In addition, the project will contribute to strengthening the Water and Forests National Agency, a key government stakeholder for the implementation of activities under Components 1, 2, and 3.

^[1] <https://www.un-page.org/morocco>

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.

56. The project includes a dedicated workstream on Knowledge Management under Component 4. Knowledge Management will be a key element during implementation to ensure that all lessons learned from the implementation of relevant previous and parallel projects are captured, analyzed, and shared with key stakeholders to promote learning within and across government departments, research institutions, bioprospecting companies, and local communities targeted, to help replicate and scale up its impact, as well as to inform policy.

57. A Knowledge Management Plan will be developed and implemented to allow key stakeholders to make use of information and mechanisms for sharing lessons learned and new knowledge as a result of project implementation and for scaling up and replication of successful experiences and best practices related to ABS. The project's Knowledge Management Plan will be used as a mechanism to disseminate ABS-compliant information on genetic resources and ABS value chains, including through the updated National CHM on Biodiversity. The Knowledge Management Plan will be aligned with the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan developed as part of the PPG, and will include a communication strategy to share lessons learned and experiences with project stakeholders, among other aspects related to project implementation.

58. At the national level, the project will provide guidance, produce knowledge products, use innovative knowledge exchange tools developed by the project, and share valuable information and lessons learned adapted to different audiences and in different languages, including the following: a) a guide for ABS agreement negotiations for specific contract clauses; b) guidelines related to the fair distribution of benefits between the users and providers of genetic resources and for compliance and sanctions, including monitoring and reporting; c) a user-friendly manual on how to use the one-stop-shop for ABS transactions; d) protocols for the sustainable collection and harvesting of raw material for ABS value chains; and e) Conservation and Sustainable Use Plans for selected species, their habitat, and associated ecosystems.

59. As part of the project results framework, the following target has been established: more than 80% of Knowledge Management Plan deliverables are met. In addition, USD 49,750 has been allocated for project knowledge management, including: a) development of the K Management Plan (year 1) and systematization of lessons learned (USD 33,750); b) development of knowledge management-related products (publications, videos, etc.) (years 2 to 5; USD 6,000); c) workshops and meetings with project stakeholders to identify lessons learned and to share information related to ABS (years 2 to 5; USD 5,000); and d) travel expenses related to knowledge management (USD 5,000). The project will also exchange knowledge and lessons learned through global environmental platforms such as the UN South-South Galaxy platform; Panorama ? Solutions for a Healthy Planet; and the ABS Clearing-House platform of the CBD.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

60. The projects' M&E strategy is included in Section VII: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan of the UNDP-GEF Project Document and the budgeted M&E plan is presented below.

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:		
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame

Inception Workshop and Report	3,000	Inception Workshop within 2 months of the First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	11,250	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	No cost (covered by the salary of the Project Manager)	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring of ESMP/IPP, Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, and other related plans	11,250	On-going.
Supervision missions	No cost	Annually
Learning missions	No cost	As needed
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	20,750	10/01/2025
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	34,505	12/31/2027
TOTAL indicative COST	80,755	

Section VII: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan of the UNDP-GEF Project Document:

1. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the [UNDP POPP \(including guidance on GEF project revisions\)](#) and [UNDP Evaluation Policy](#). **The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project M&E requirements including project monitoring, UNDP quality assurance requirements, quarterly risk management, and evaluation requirements.**

2. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the [GEF Monitoring Policy](#) and the [GEF Evaluation Policy](#) and other [relevant GEF policies](#)[1]. The M&E plan and budget included below will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

3. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed ? including during the Project Inception Workshop - and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

Minimum project monitoring and reporting requirements as required by the GEF:

4. Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within 2 months from the First disbursement date, with the aim to:

1. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
2. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
3. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.

4. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
 5. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework (where relevant) and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
 6. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
 7. Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan. Finalize the TOR of the Project Board.
 8. Formally launch the Project.
5. GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR): The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. UNDP will undertake quality assurance of the PIR before submission to the GEF. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. UNDP will conduct a quality review of the PIR, and this quality review and feedback will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent annual PIR.
6. GEF Core Indicators: The GEF Core indicators included as Annex will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status. The updated monitoring data should be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent groundtruthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF [website](#).
7. Independent Mid-term Review (MTR): The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard UNDP templates and UNDP guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the [UNDP Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#).
8. The evaluation will be ?independent, impartial and rigorous?. The evaluators that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review.
9. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate.
10. The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by 01 October 2025. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report?s completion.
11. Terminal Evaluation (TE): An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the [UNDP Evaluation Resource Center](#). The TE should be completed 3 months *before* the estimated operational closure date, set from the signature of the ProDoc and according to the duration of the project. Provisions should be taken to complete the TE in due time to avoid delay in project closure. Therefore, TE must start no later than 6 months to the expected date of completion of the TE (or 9 months prior to the estimated operational closure date).

12. The evaluation will be independent, impartial and rigorous?. The evaluators that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

13. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate.

14. The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by 31 December 2027. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report's completion.

15. **Final Report:** The project's terminal GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

16. **Agreement on intellectual property rights and use of logo on the project's deliverables and disclosure of information:** To accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing grant funding, the GEF logo will appear together with the UNDP logo on all promotional materials, other written materials like publications developed by the project, and project hardware. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the GEF will also accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP Disclosure Policy[2] and the GEF policy on public involvement[3].

17. **Monitoring Plan:** The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored by the Project Management Unit annually, and will be reported in the GEF PIR every year, and will be evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. Project risks, as outlined in the risk register, will be monitored quarterly.

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
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Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<p>Project objective</p> <p>To consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems</p>	<p>Indicator 1</p> <p>Mandatory Indicator 1 (GEF Core Indicator 11): # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)</p>	<p><u>Mid-term</u>: 1,000 (500 female; 500 male)</p> <p><u>End</u>: 3,000 (1,500 female; 1,500 male)</p>	<p>Direct beneficiaries are defined as individual people who measurably benefit from the existence of the project, or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Direct beneficiaries must be aware that they are receiving this project support.</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries include:</p> <p>a) Government: 300 people</p> <p>b) NGOs: 200 people</p> <p>c) Cooperatives, including women cooperatives: 2,500</p>	<p>Surveys / interviews with local population and other stakeholders</p> <p>GEF 7 Core Indicator</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Project manager</p> <p>Gender/Safeguards Expert</p>	<p>Results of surveys/interviews with members of cooperatives and other stakeholders (unstructured and/or semi-structured)</p> <p>Updated Gender Action Plan</p>	<p><u>Risks</u>:</p> <p>The project team and Implementing Partner fail to involve all key project partners and stakeholders</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u>:</p> <p>There is willingness on the part of cooperatives and other stakeholders to participate in the project</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<i>Indicator 2</i> # Indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	<u>Mid-term:</u> 3,500 (1,750 female; 1,750 male) <u>End:</u> 10,000 (5,000 female; 5,000 male)	Wider stakeholders of the project areas (e.g., farmers?- cooperative members families, cooperatives of producers not directly involved with the selected value chains, etc.) Indirect beneficiaries are individual people who are not directly connected to the project but will still benefit from it either through a connection to the direct beneficiary such as the family members of the direct beneficiaries, or because they live within the project's geographical	Surveys / interviews; census data	Annually	Project manager Gender/ Safeguards Expert	Results of surveys / interviews Updated census data	<u>Risks:</u> The project team and the IP fails to involve all project stakeholders <u>Assumptions:</u> Optimal sampling

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p>Indicator 3</p> <p>Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 4:</p> <p>Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, excluding protected areas)</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u> 12,000</p> <p><u>End:</u> 34,000</p>	<p>Area of habitat and surrounded landscape of selected species/species/genetic resources, which are of conservation importance and include unique biodiversity and ecosystems (excluding protected areas).</p> <p>Area includes:</p> <p>a) Cedar lichen habitat: 5,000 ha of cedar forest (Middle Atlas Mountains / Fes-Meknes Region);</p> <p>b) Landscape/forest surrounding saffron crops: 20,000 ha of oak forest, juniper forest, and high-</p>	<p>GEF 7 Core Indicator</p> <p>Field surveys</p>	Midterm and end of the project	M&E Expert	Monitoring and field reports	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Limited benefits resulting for ABS agreements</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Users and providers of genetic resources are willing to include biodiversity conservation benefits considered as part of MAT and ABS agreements</p> <p>Climate variability within normal range</p> <p>Optimal sampling efforts</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<p>Project Outcome 1.1</p> <p>Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework</p>	<p><i>Indicator 4</i></p> <p>Revised national ABS Law submitted for adoption within first year of project implementation</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u> Submitted</p> <p><u>End:</u> Submitted</p>	Revised text of the ABS law and validation by key ministries	Document content analysis	End for first year of project implementation	Project Manager ABS Law Expert	<p>Updated draft of the ABS Law</p> <p>Official Certification of submission</p>	<p><u>Risk</u></p> <p>Estimated time for revision and submission is not long enough</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u></p> <p>Continued interest of decision-makers to update and submit the ABS Law for approval</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p>Indicator 5</p> <p>Further required legal and regulatory texts submitted for adoption within three years of project implementation</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u> Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints submitted for adoption</p> <p>Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use submitted for adoption</p> <p><u>End:</u> Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints submitted for adoption</p>	Revised text of ABS regulations and validation by key ministries	Document content analysis	End for first year of project implementation	Project Manager ABS Law Expert	<p>Updated draft of the ABS Law</p> <p>Official Certification of submission</p>	<p><u>Risk</u></p> <p>Estimated time for revision and submission is not long enough</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u></p> <p>Continued interest of decision-makers to update and submit the ABS Law for approval</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<p>Project Outcome 1.2</p> <p>Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law</p>	<p><i>Indicator 6</i></p> <p>Capacity of relevant government agencies as measured using the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Scorecard</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>MTED D- DDD: 80%</p> <p>MAPM DREF- DA: 40%</p> <p>Water and Forest National Agency : 35%</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>MTED D- DDD: 90%</p> <p>MAPM DREF- DA: 60%</p> <p>National Agency for Water and Forest: 50%</p>	<p>Scores based on the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Tracking Tool for national level institutions</p> <p>Targets estimated considering Project activities for capacity development to implement the ABS Law</p>	<p>ABS Capacity Development Scorecard</p>	<p>Midterm and end of the project</p>	<p>M&E Expert</p>	<p>Updated ABS Capacity Development Scorecard and report</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Loss of capacities due to personnel changes in government agencies</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Beneficiaries apply acquired knowledge and use available tools and resources</p> <p>Sampling efforts are optimal</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<i>Indicator 7</i> Number of people trained differentiated by gender	<u>Mid-term:</u> Female: 100 Male: 100 <u>End:</u> Female: 300 Male: 300	People form national/regional NGOs and local stakeholders on technical and management issues relate to access to genetic resources and benefit sharing	Lists of attendees	Annually	M&E Expert Gender/Safeguards Expert	Training event minutes Lists of attendees	<u>Risks:</u> Training opportunities are limited due to delay in implementation and other management constraints <u>Assumptions:</u> Interest from stakeholders
Project Outcome 1.3 Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates	<i>Indicator 8</i> Number of new ABS-TK registries	<u>Mid-term:</u> Souss Massa region: 659 F?s-Mekn?s region: 200 <u>End:</u> Souss Massa region: 689 F?s-Mekn?s region: 500	Measures how the existing ABS-TK registry/database administered by MTEDD-DDD is updated with new TK information associated with genetic resources (terrestrial species) from the SM and FM regions	Data base entries TK surveys	Annually	ABS-TK Expert Project Manager	Updated ABS-TK registry/database TK survey reports	<u>Risks:</u> Limited access the ABS-TK registry/database <u>Assumptions:</u> Willingness of TK holders to share information Sampling efforts are optimal

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p><i>Indicator 9</i></p> <p>Number of ABS information management mechanisms established</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>0</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>4</p>	<p>The information management mechanisms expected are:</p> <p>(i) Standardized online ABS permit issuance;</p> <p>(ii) Online knowledge management and monitoring system;</p> <p>(iii) National mechanism for receiving and sharing monetary and non-monetary benefits from ABS agreements, for the benefit of local communities (including women) / genetic resources suppliers and biodiversity conservation;</p> <p>(iv) Standardiz</p>		Midterm and end of the project	<p>Information Technology Expert</p> <p>Project Manager</p>	National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/web-page with and updated/improved ABS-related information platform	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Potentially conflicting provisions and mandates are difficult to overcome</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Effective coordination among government agencies with responsibilities in collecting information, issuing permits, etc.</p> <p>Technical feasibility</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<p>Project Outcome 2.1</p> <p>Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D</p>	<p>Indicator 10</p> <p>Number of private companies and cooperatives (including cooperatives of women and other vulnerable groups) active in bioprospecting in the target regions</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>Private companies: 2</p> <p>Cooperatives: 8</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>Private companies: 2</p> <p>Cooperatives: 10</p>	<p>Private biotech companies involved in R&D: GREENTECH and PharmAfrica</p> <p>Cooperatives supplying raw material for R&D purpose by project end: a) 1 (Cedar lichen); b) 2 (Saffron); and c) 7 (symbiosis Argan-Saffron)</p>	<p>Surveys/interviews with providers and users of genetic resources for the three ABS value chains</p>	<p>Midterm and end of the project</p>	<p>ABS Technical Expert</p>	<p>Signed ABS contracts</p> <p>Records of negotiation meetings</p> <p>Results and reports for surveys/interviews</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Bioprospecting efforts are cut short due to failure to identify promising extracts and compounds for developing ABS products</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Agreements and MAT reached for bioprospecting and benefit sharing</p> <p>Legal certainty, ABS Law and related regulations timely approved</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p>Indicator 11</p> <p>Number of new ABS permit applications</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>At least three (3)</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>At least three (3)</p>	<p>Measures if users of genetic resources have applied for permission to access genetic resources:</p> <p>a) Cedar lichen; b) Saffron; and c) Symbiosis Argan-Saffron</p>	<p>Registration in the standardized online permit application system</p>	<p>Midterm and end of the project</p>	<p>Biotech companies</p> <p>ABS Technical Expert</p>	<p>Certification of permit applications issued by the CNA or other related authority</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Users and providers of genetic diversity do not reach and agreement for undertaking R&D</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Continued interest from biotech companies to conduct R&D related to the prioritized species</p> <p>Technical and legal feasibility</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<p>Project Outcome 2.2</p> <p>R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing</p>	<p><i>Indicator 12</i></p> <p>Number of new ABS-based products and value chains developed through R&D and genetic resources manipulation by private companies</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>0</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>At least three (3)</p>	<p>Measures successful R&D related to the three selected value chains: a) Cedar lichen; b) Saffron; and c) Symbiosis Argan-Saffron</p>	<p>Scientific data related to extracts and compound identified and products developed to the cosmetic industry</p>	<p>Midterm and end of the project</p>	<p>ABS Technical Expert</p>	<p>Technical publications</p> <p>Project reports</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Bioprospecting efforts are cut short due to failure to identify promising extracts and compounds for developing ABS products</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Legal certainty, ABS Law and related regulations timely approved</p> <p>Permits granted</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p>Indicator 13</p> <p>Performance of developing and implementing ABS agreements in the context of bioprospecting three pilot efforts as measured by Section 2 of the GEF 6 BD-ABS tracking tool (Objective 3, Program 8)</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>a) Cedar lichen ? GREE NTEC H: 4</p> <p>b) Saffron ? Pharm African : 4</p> <p>c) Combined Argan-Saffron ? Pharm African : 4</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>a) Cedar lichen ? GREE NTEC H: 9</p> <p>b) Saffron ? Pharm African : 9</p> <p>c) Combined Argan-Saffron ? Pharm African : 9</p>	<p>Assesses the level of and implementation of ABS agreements in the context of bioprospecting for the three ABS pilot projects based on five questions with total maximum score of 10 points</p>	<p>Section 2 of the GEF 6 BD-ABS tracking tool (Objective 3, Program 8)</p>	<p>Midterm and end of the project</p>	<p>M&E Expert</p> <p>ABS Technical Expert</p>	<p>Updated GEF 6 BD-ABS tracking tool (Objective 3, Program 8)</p> <p>Project technical reports</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Bioprospecting efforts are cut short due to failure to identify promising extracts and compounds for developing ABS products</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Agreements and MAT reached for bioprospecting and benefit sharing</p> <p>Legal certainty, ABS Law and related regulations timely approved</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<p>Project Outcome 3.1</p> <p>Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa (SM) and F?s-Mekn?s (FM) Regions</p>	<p><i>Indicator 14</i></p> <p>Number of regional committees operationalized with women participation that include biodiversity conservation with roles for ABS</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u> 2</p> <p><u>End:</u> 2</p>	<p>Assesses how governance at the regional level is enhanced by updating the functions of the existing Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM regions by including ABS roles</p>	<p>Surveys/interviews</p> <p>Document content analysis</p>	<p>Midterm and end of the project</p>	<p>Biodiversity Conservation Expert</p> <p>Project Manager</p>	<p>Manual of duties and responsibilities for the Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM regions</p> <p>Results of surveys/interviews</p> <p>Records of meetings</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Limited coordination among committee members and with project team</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Interest from Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM regions in ABS</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p><i>Indicator 15</i></p> <p>New resources (USD) mobilized for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency (WFNA) and Forest and the MTEDD-DDD in the SM and FM regions, to reduce dependency on ODA and domestic budgets</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>MTEDD-DDD: USD 747,500</p> <p>WFNA: USD 7,436,600</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>MTEDD-DDD: USD 840,000</p> <p>WFNA: USD 8,793,600</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u></p> <p>MTEDD-DDD: USD 700,000 (SM region: USD 600,000; FM region: USD 100,000)</p> <p><u>WFNA:</u></p> <p>USD 6,893,600 (SM region? USD 3,654,700; FM region: USD 3,238,900).</p> <p><u>Change Mid-term:</u></p> <p>MTEDD-DDD: a) SM region: USD 640,000; b) FM region. USD 107,500. Increase by 6.4%.</p> <p><u>WFNA:</u> a) SM region: USD 4,004,700; b) FM region: USD 3,838,900. Increase by 7.2%.</p> <p><u>Change</u></p>	<p>Financial gap and progress assessments</p> <p>Survey/interviews with WFNA and MTEDD-DDD</p>	<p>Midterm and end of the project</p>	<p>Biodiversity Financing Expert</p> <p>Project Manager</p>	<p>Draft short-, medium- and long-term investment plans for each pilot area</p> <p>Financial records and reports from WFNA and MTEDD-DDD</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Efforts from agencies to leverage new resources are limited by budget shortages</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Economic conditions remain stable</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<p>Project Outcome 3.2</p> <p>ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier communities and biodiversity/ecosystems</p>	<p>Indicator 16</p> <p>Number of biodiversity management plans developed and implemented</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>3 (developed)</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>3 (implemented, >80%)</p>	<p>Management plans will allow to assess that that collection and/or harvest of raw material needed for R&D activities are done in a sustainable way and that their habitats/ecosystems are not degraded</p>	<p>Survey applied to the Water and Forest National Agency and to the Regional Biodiversity Committees of to determine the status of management plans</p>	<p>Midterm and end of the project</p>	<p>Biodiversity Conservation Expert</p> <p>Project Manager</p>	<p>Drafts of biodiversity management plans</p> <p>Project technical progress reports</p> <p>Survey results</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Effective coordination between institutional and local stakeholders for the formulation and implementation of management plans</p>
<p>Project Outcome 4.1</p> <p>Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks</p>	<p>Indicator 17</p> <p>Safeguards standards met throughout project</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>50%</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>100%</p>	<p>Assesses the level of implementation of the different management plans to mitigate social and environmental risks as per the ESMF included as Annex 9</p>	<p>Surveys / interviews with local community members</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Gender /Safeguards Expert</p> <p>Safeguards and Gender M&E Expert</p>	<p>Results of surveys / interviews</p> <p>Updated management plans to mitigate social and environmental risks, including the SESP</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Measures implemented are not sufficient to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or manage risks</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Project implemented in line with the implementation schedule of the ESMF</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	<p>Indicator 18</p> <p>Percent of Gender Action Plan targets met</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>>30%</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>>80%</p>	Assesses the level of implementation of the Gender Action Plan to ensure gender mainstreaming in the project	Surveys / interviews with women participating in the project	Annually	<p>Gender /Safeguards Expert</p> <p>Safeguards and Gender M&E Expert</p>	<p>Results of surveys / interviews</p> <p>Updated Gender Action Plan</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>The project team and the IP fail to involve women in the project</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Project implemented in line with the gender mainstreaming framework of the gender action plan</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
<p>Project Outcome 4.2</p> <p>Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing</p>	<p><i>Indicator 19</i></p> <p>Percent of Knowledge Management (KM) Plan deliverables met</p>	<p><u>Mid-term:</u></p> <p>>30%</p> <p><u>End:</u></p> <p>>80%</p>	<p>Assesses the use of information and mechanisms for sharing lessons learned and new knowledge as a result of project implementation and for scaling up and replication of successful experiences and best practices related to ABS</p>	<p>Surveys/interviews with project beneficiaries</p> <p>Systematization of lessons learned</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Knowledge Management Expert</p>	<p>Results of surveys / interviews</p> <p>KM database</p> <p>Completed KM products</p>	<p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Limited communication with project stakeholders</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>Broad and timely dissemination of information</p>

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Project Outcome 5.1	<i>Indicator 20</i> MTR, TE and PIR quality rating	<u>Mid-term:</u> S or better <u>End:</u> S or better	Assess the quality of the PIRs, MTR, and TE as per GEF requirements	PIRs Evaluation reports	Annually (PIRs) Midterm and end of the project (evaluations)	Project Manager UNDP CO UNDP Regional Technical Advisor	PIRs scoring reports Evaluations scoring reports	<u>Risks:</u> Low project level of project implementation, including technical and budget deficiencies <u>Assumptions:</u> Project outcomes satisfactorily delivered within the expected timeline

[1] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

[2] See

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/transparency/information_disclosurepolicy/

[3] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

10. Benefits

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

61. The project will provide monetary and non-monetary benefits to providers and users of genetic resources, including cooperatives that provide raw material for ABS value chains, many of which are women-operated, and foreign private sector companies and national research groups interested in R&D of cosmetic products. This will include: a) at least three (3) ABS contracts following the regulatory

framework to be strengthened through the project and that would include negotiated favorable conditions with clear monetary and non-monetary benefits for providers and users of genetic resources in the three project sites; b) participation of local stakeholders, including women, in sustainable ABS-product raw material supply chains; c) enhanced governance and capacity at the regional and local levels for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and adoption of ABS principles for decision-making and planning; and d) sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats and ecosystems associated with the prioritized species and genetic resources accessed with support from additional financial resources mobilized via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism and contributing to their resilience.

62. The project has a strong training component that will benefit the following: a) legal department staff within the MTEDD and other stakeholders on legal aspects regarding the ABS Law and its implementation; b) staff from key government agencies (e.g., MTEDD, MAPMDREF, NWFA, and MENFPESRS) to allow them to fully understand the ABS rules and procedures, including granting permits, evaluating access applications, the core principles of PIC and MAT and their application, and the rights and roles of local communities and vulnerable groups; c) representatives from national/regional NGOs and local stakeholders in relation to ABS and contributions to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of its components; d) members of private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains; e) providers of raw material to ensure sustainable collection and harvesting; f) representatives from the regional governments and ministerial delegations on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS; and g) institutional partners and stakeholders present in the project sites and participating in the prioritized ABS value chains on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP and GEF standards and management requirements. The project will directly benefit 3,000 people (female: 1,500; male: 1,500).

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	High or Substantial		

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.

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach

The project will apply a human rights-based approach and actively engage stakeholders at all levels through targeted outreach and consultation efforts, including a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process and Grievance Redress Mechanism where relevant, given the involvement of Amazigh indigenous peoples (IPs) and other local communities in the project. The FPIC was structured in the ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework) during the PPG and it will be ensured at project inception phase and during project implementation. Based on the findings of the stakeholder consultations done during the PPG, Amazigh communities will be included also in the overall category of local communities. In the ESMF is included an Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Planning Framework (IPPF), that is the guidance for an Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plan (IP-LC P) that will be developed following the IPP UNDP template during the first year of the project. This process has been structured during the PPG considering the local perception about Amazigh communities, Indigenous Peoples and other local communities, involved in the Cedar lichen, Saffron, and the combined Saffron-Argan value chains.

The project will engage Amazigh umbrella associations and cooperatives working with local peoples and farmers. Local communities will be involved in decision-making processes relevant to their rights and livelihoods such as on access to pastoral resources. The project will provide capacity enhancement support, regular meetings, and ensure involvement in each stage of the process. The above dynamics are important elements underpinning a human rights-based approach, which will be mainstreamed especially thanks to the activities planned under components 2, 3 and 4, but it is well integrated in all the projects components.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

In all the targeted regions women play a key role in natural resource-based livelihoods ? in collection, transformation and trade. They have a strong role in numerous cooperatives. The project intends to reinforce their prominent socio-economic role in the ABS value chains, and thereby contribute to women empowerment. During PPG a Gender Analysis and a Gender Action Plan have been developed, based on secondary information focusing on women empowerment in the economic & SMEs sector and from stakeholder consultations done by the PPG team. During project implementation, the Gender Analysis will be updated, and a Gender Action Plan will be developed for each region and each value chain targeted by the project, using the Mind your step! Tool focusing on mainstreaming gender in the value chains. Risks of negative discrimination of women will be actively addressed through the project under its safeguards work. This will be done especially for the value chains that are not fully in line with a Gender balanced approach. The project will contribute to gender equality in the following results areas: closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; improving women's participation and decision-making; generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. The project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators

In accordance with UNDP SES standards, a Gender Analysis has been conducted during the PPG phase, focused on identifying the needs, priorities, roles of women and men engagement in value chains in the targeted regions

The project is assigned the gender marker GEN-2, indicating that gender equality is incorporated as a ?significant objective? during project design and implementation. The Project Document provides a detailed plan to ensure that men and women have equal opportunities for participation in project implementation and M&E. The project will target women and women's cooperative to mainstream their participation in local initiatives and particularly in interventions aimed at generating income. Specific activities have been incorporated into the Project Document to help the project deliver a gender-transformative approach. The project will improve gender equality and women's empowerment especially through activities planned under component 2, 3 and 4; however, the gender sensitive approach is strongly integrated in all project components. In addition, to monitor success, gender-disaggregated data will be collected against the indicators.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

The project will mainstream sustainability and resilience at three levels ? at local levels by promoting sustainable resource use and ecosystem management towards rural populations, at regional levels by training regional government delegations on these matters and by integrating them into regional development plans, and at national level by integrating sustainability more strongly into the emerging ABS framework.

The project will achieve sustainability through: the final setup of the ABS framework; growing existing links with private sector companies interested in ABS genetic resource value chains and benefit sharing; the establishment of a benefit sharing mechanism benefitting both rural populations and government agencies responsible for biodiversity/ecosystem management; and integration of ABS value chains, principles and benefit-sharing in regional development plans, as part of the government's biodiversity mainstreaming strategy and in line with the COP 10 Decision X/1.

The project is in line with UNDP objectives to strengthen the resilience of societies to the impact of shocks, disasters, conflict and emergency situations, to implement the sustainable management, conservation and rehabilitation of natural habitats (and their associated biodiversity and ecosystem functions), and to develop and implement sustainable development pathways. The project will address poverty and inequality and will reduce vulnerabilities while maintaining and enhancing natural capital. Finally, the project will promote sustainable solutions that will respect the sociocultural and economic landscapes, enhance livelihood practices already developed in the project areas and ensure that practices are adapted to the challenges the country and the population will face in terms of access to natural resources.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

Stakeholders, especially amongst less educated rural populations, some of which are indigenous peoples, will be proactively informed about their rights as well as FPIC and the Grievance Mechanisms. FPIC have been emplaced during the PPG and will be ensured all along project implementation and M&E.

A Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan has been developed during PPG and a value-chain and site-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed during the first year of the project. In addition, an Indigenous Peoples' Local Communities Planning Framework (IP-LCPF) is included in the ESMF and an Indigenous Peoples- Local Communities Plan (IP-LCP) will be prepared and implemented throughout project implementation for each value chain and for each region targeted by the project.

The project, in line with UNDP principles, promotes accountability to stakeholders by: (i) enabling active local community engagement and participation in decision-making, particularly those at risk of being left behind; (ii) ensuring transparency of interventions through provision of timely, accessible and functional information regarding supported activities, including on potential environmental and social risks and impacts and management measures; (iii) ensuring stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to rights-compatible complaints redress processes and mechanisms; and (iv) ensuring effective monitoring and where appropriate, participatory monitoring with stakeholders and reporting on implementation of social and environmental risk management measures.

The Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, the Grievance Redress Mechanism, the Gender Action Plan, the IP-LCPF, the IP-LCP and the ESMP will put in place a mechanism that will ensure the accountability to stakeholders. The IP-LCPF (included in the ESMF) is adapted to the local context. Indigenous Peoples - Local communities involved in the project in Morocco can be included in the UNDP Indigenous peoples' definition, based on the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) reports, where Amazigh communities in Morocco are identified as Indigenous Peoples.

Considering the consultations done during PPG with local stakeholders, in order to integrate the IPs involvement process in the local context, during project design and implementation the reference to Indigenous Peoples will be integrated with the reference to Local Communities. This will allow the project to take into consideration the level of integration of Amazigh communities in Morocco. Local stakeholders aim to integrate Amazigh communities in the more general definition of Local Communities.

The IPP will be developed using the UNDP IPP template and will integrate information about the level of integration of Amazigh communities in the broader concept of Local Communities. An IPP will be prepared for each region and for each value chain selected, by the first year of the project, based on the risk assessment, in line with the UNDP SES. No relevant project activities that can affect indigenous peoples' rights will begin until this plan has been drafted, disclosed (in line with UNDP's policy) (including FPIC achieved), approved by the Project Steering Committee, and its measures put in place.

Accountability to stakeholders includes all the mechanisms and systems identified to collect feedback from project beneficiaries and project stakeholders and integrate this feedback into project's design, monitoring and evaluation. The project includes all the elements of the Accountability to stakeholders: Stakeholder engagement and response mechanism, Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance and Access to Information. The monitoring process will involve stakeholders - such as affected communities, independent experts, and CBOs/NGOs - to complement or verify the monitoring activities.

The project's Comprehensive Stakeholder and Communications Engagement Plan identifies the different ways of involving stakeholders, such as information, communication, consultation, and direct involvement in project activities. All these processes will be reported through the most appropriate mechanism, adapted to the local context and will be part of project monitoring and reporting processes.

Accountability to stakeholders is one of the most important dimensions integrated in the project's M&E process. This step will ensure the sustainability of the intervention. The project strengthens accountability to Stakeholders through all the project's components.

<p>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i></p>			<p>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</p>
<p><i>Risk Description</i> <i>(broken down by event, cause, impact)</i></p>	<p><i>Impact and Likelihood</i> <i>(1-5)</i></p>	<p><i>Significance</i> <i>(Low, Moderate Substantial, High)</i></p>	<p><i>Comments (optional)</i></p>	<p><i>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</i></p>

<p>Risk 1. Rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim relevant rights, especially amongst less educated rural populations, some of which are indigenous peoples/local communities.</p> <p>Principles: Human Rights: (Question: P3) Accountability (Question: P14) Project level standards: 6 ? Indigenous peoples (Question: 6.4)</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk:</p> <p>1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.</p> <p>2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework.</p> <p>2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management.</p> <p>2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced, [includes training of local resource suppliers to provide required primary materials to standard and in a sustainable</p>	<p><u>Screening:</u> To assess and manage all the identified risks will be screened on a site and value chain specific basis using the SESP. Based on the impacts identified, appropriate impact management measures will be integrated in the ESMP, that will be prepared by the first project year, for each region and each value chain targeted. This SESP will be revised as part of regular project monitoring and based on further assessments and on information/details gathered during project implementation. Revisions of the SESP will inform the ESIA and ESMP over the course of the project.</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> As the project is Substantial risk with potential downstream and upstream impacts, the ESIA is required at field-level activities and the SESA is required for the policy-level activities and will focus especially on Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 1.3.4, 2.2.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.4 The ESIA and SESA will take place during the first project year. No activities which might have adverse impacts on the rights, lands, resources and territories of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will commence until the ESIA/SESA is completed, impact management measures established, and FPIC has been obtained. The SESA will be developed to ensure the impacts of upstream activities, in Component 1, are assessed and mitigation measures are identified in the Action Matrix. The ESMF will inform further Stakeholder Engagement, establish the ToR for ESIA/SESA, and strategies and plans to ensure the involvement of all project affected groups. Further assessments of the roles of individuals and groups, with a focus on women and on the participation to decision making process of the different groups, have been done during the PPG. The potential impacts of the project on rights and interests, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods have been pre-assessed. Consultations with relevant stakeholder groups have been undertaken by national and</p>
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<p>Risk 2. Duty-bearers (government and private sector partners) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in respecting and protecting the human rights of affected populations.</p> <p>Principles: Human Rights Question: P.2</p> <p>Project Level Standards: 6 ? Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.3</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 4</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk:</p> <p>1.1.1. Strategic advocacy Programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)</p> <p>1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework</p> <p>1.1.4. Complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g. directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA interior regulations, TK protection system, benefit sharing mechanisms, biodiversity conservation benefits) prepared, validated by National Biodiversity Subcommittee and submitted to General Government Secretariat</p> <p>1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented includes:</p> <p>a) Training/certification workshops for relevant national government agencies (environment, agriculture, fisheries, water and forestry, scientific research, etc.) on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework,</p>	<p><u>Assessment and Management:</u></p> <p>The SESA and ESIA will include the impacts of upstream and downstream activities on human rights of the affected population. The SESA will focus especially on Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 1.3.4, 2.2.1, 3.1.1 3.1.4</p> <p>An ESIA will be developed for each value chain and propose safeguards including monitoring arrangements, which will be integrated into the ESMPs.</p> <p>The SESA ? and the related reports and Action Matrix - will also include study on how ABS related intervention might affect human rights of the most vulnerable groups.</p>
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<p>Risk 3. Project support directly or indirectly linked to rural livelihoods lead to child labour (boys and girls) especially in the collection of primary materials or other tasks for ABS value chains.</p> <p>Principles: Human Rights Questions P.2, P.3, P.4, P.5</p> <p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Questions P.9, P10</p> <p>Project level Standards 7. Labour and Working Conditions Questions: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.5</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: 2.2.1. At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation. 2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.</p>	<p><u>Screening:</u> The risk has been reassessed during the PPG and scored as Moderate. The risk has been incorporated into the ESMF, and into site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs. As Moderate, the requirements of UNDP's SES Standard 7 will apply.</p> <p><u>Assessment and Management:</u> The SESA (for output 2.2.1) and ESIA will include a review of labour standards foreach value chain targeted by the Project, and propose safeguards including monitoring arrangements which will be integrated into the ESMPs</p> <p>The SESA ? and the related reports and Action Matrix - will also include study on how ABS related intervention might affect labour requirements, potentially increasing pressure to employ children</p>
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<p>Risk 4. Project support directly or indirectly linked to rural livelihoods lead to unduly modified work or enhanced workloads for women, that could lead to gender-based violence, especially in the collection of primary materials or other tasks for ABS value chains.</p> <p>Principles: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P.9 Accountability Question: P.14</p> <p>Project level Standards: 7 - Labour and Working Conditions Questions: 7.1, 7.5</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: 1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc. 2.2.1. At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation. 2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced, [includes training of local resource suppliers to provide required primary materials to standard and in a sustainable way (activity); and a Study on the usefulness and feasibility of a Morocco ABS Product Label</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> A full Gender Analysis has been developed to clarify relevant gender concerns and identify how the mainstreaming of gender into the project interventions can be achieved. In this regard as part of the PPG consultations with relevant women's groups/leaders have been conducted by the project's development team, to better understand the role of women and men in project related sectors, such as access to natural resources, income generating activities and participation to cooperatives and farmer organizations. The risk will be assessed through the ESIA. The planned SESA will assess the impact of outputs 1.3.4 and 2.2.1.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: ? The Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plans will include the Gender approach, considering the differences among groups/communities. ? The consultation of women and girls will be ensured during project implementation, especially in planning, monitoring and reporting processes. ? Informed by the Gender Analysis, the Gender Action Plan has been developed to actively promote the role of women and girls in the project and will be updated by the first six months of the project. ? A Gender Action Plan, for each value chain, will be developed during the first year of the project and will include the use of the Mind your step! Tool, to mainstream Gender in value chains. The Gender Action Plans will include mitigation measures for any possible risk of gender based violence. ? The comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan includes women's engagement in project related activities. ? As Stakeholders and as project beneficiaries, women will have access to the project Grievance Redress Mechanism. ? The SESA findings will be included in the Action Matrix</p>
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<p>Risk 5. Given the prevailing cultural context, groups marginalised for socio-economic, tribal (especially indigenous peoples) or gender (especially women) reasons are not duly consulted and involved in the project, do not benefit equally, and that the project and its stakeholders reproduce established discriminations, potentially leading to inadvertent harm.</p> <p>Principles: Human Rights Question: P3 Accountability Question: P13, P14 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P10</p> <p>Project level Standards: 6 - Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.4</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk:</p> <p>1.1.1. Strategic advocacy Programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)</p> <p>1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework</p> <p>1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented includes:</p> <p>a) Training/certification workshops for relevant national government agencies (environment, agriculture, fisheries, water and forestry, scientific research, etc.) on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework.</p> <p>b) Training of key national/regional NGOs (FM6PE, FM6RSA, Ibn El Baytar) and relevant local stakeholders on technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.)</p> <p>1.2.2. A guide to negotiating ABS contracts is</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> At PPG stage, an ESMF, an IP LC F and a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan have been developed for the entire project to ensure meaningful stakeholder consultation and engagement across all elements of the project. The findings from the ESIA to be developed for each value chain will focus also on the impacts of the projects on the most marginalized groups. A full Gender Analysis has been developed to clarify relevant gender concerns and identify how the mainstreaming of gender into the project interventions can be achieved. In this regard during the PPG specific consultations with relevant women's groups/leaders have been conducted by the project's development team, to better understand the role of women and men in project related sectors, such as access to natural resources, income generating activities and participation to cooperatives and farmer organizations. The SESA will assess the impacts of outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, 1.3.4 and 3.1.4.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: ? The Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plans will include the Gender approach, considering the differences among groups/communities. ? The consultation of women and girls will be ensured during project implementation, especially in planning, monitoring and reporting processes. ? Informed by the Gender Analysis, the Gender Action Plan has been developed to actively promote the role of women and girls in the project and will be updated by the first six months of the project. A Gender Action Plan, for each value chain, will be developed during the first year of the project and will include the use of the Mind your step! Tool, to mainstream Gender in value chains. ? The comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan includes</p>
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<p>Risk 6. The Project or the wider ABS framework leads to the commercial exploitation of traditional knowledge without due consultations and recognition, without a fully functional ABS law and framework in place, and/or without due benefit sharing with TK holders, potentially leading to inadvertent harm to indigenous peoples (Amazigh) or other local communities and their heritage and traditions.</p> <p>Principles: Human Rights Questions: P2, P3, P4, P5, P6 Accountability Questions: P13, P14.</p> <p>Project level Standards 1 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Questions: 1.2, 1.3, 1.6 4 - Cultural Heritage Questions: 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 6 ? Indigenous Peoples Questions: 6.4, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk:</p> <p>1.1.4. Complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g. directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA interior regulations, TK protection system, benefit sharing mechanisms, biodiversity conservation benefits) prepared, validated by National Biodiversity Subcommittee and submitted to General Government Secretariat</p> <p>1.3.1. Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco</p> <p>1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.</p> <p>2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced,</p> <p>3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government</p>	<p><u>Assessment and Management</u> At PPG stage, an ESMF, an IP LC F and a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan have been developed for the entire project to ensure meaningful stakeholder participation, consultation and engagement across all elements of the project. An ESIA will be developed for each value chain, an IP-LC P will be developed for each region and a SESA will be developed including the impacts of Output 1.1.4 and 1.3.4 Stakeholders will also have access to a project Grievance Redress Mechanism, to be in place. Project-affected peoples will be informed about the existence of these processes and mechanisms.</p> <p>In addition, site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs will be developed that include the site-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans and Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities Plans (including FPIC processes), where relevant.</p> <p>Moreover, the project will ensure that ABS-related TK is safely documented and registered, and that no genetic resource agreements are struck with commercial entities before the ABS law and framework are fully adopted and operational. This process will be ensured also through FPIC.</p>
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<p>Risk 7. The project leads to economic displacement in some parts of the population including women and indigenous peoples, considering that the project is expected to catalyze more sustainable land use, natural resource exploitation and ecosystem management, which could curtail access to traditional natural resources and harm local livelihoods,</p> <p>Principles: Human Rights Questions: P4, P5, P6. Gender Equality and Women? Empowerment Questions: P9, P10, P11. Accountability Question: P14.</p> <p>Project Level Standards: 1 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Question: 1.3, 1.6, 1.9 5 - Displacement and Resettlement Questions: 5.2, 5.4 6 ? Indigenous Peoples Questions: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7.</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 4</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: 2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced,</p> <p>Specific attention will be put on the combined Saffron-Argan value chain. This new value chain will support the re-introduction of Argan in an area where local communities left Argan to move to Saffron value chain, due to economic reasons and to the depletion of Argan resources. This change must be proposed through a strong participatory approach, ensuring the involvement of all the stakeholders in the areas ? especially the most vulnerable groups.</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> As indicated in the ESMF, an ESIA for each targeted value chain and the SESA will be prepared by the first project year and will include the impacts of the activities included in output 2.2.3. The ESIA will include a Displacement Risk Assessments.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> The risk will be managed through the ESIA/ESMPs, SESA Action Matrix and Stakeholder consultations, in line with the Stakeholder Engagement Plans and the Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plans, ensuring that livelihoods are not adversely impacted by the project. The impact assessment will identify any economic displacement, and strategies will be included to avoid, minimize or manage any such impacts. Where necessary, a Livelihood Action Plan will be produced to ensure that any such impacts are appropriately managed. The Livelihood Action Plan will be developed ? where needed ? to ensure that in all the communities who could be impacted by the project the risk identified is mitigated, in case the impacts will affect livelihood ecosystems of which the targeted value chains are part.</p>
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<p>Risk 8. The project affects the development priorities and cultural heritage (transhumance, value systems, wealth management) or natural features with cultural significance of some indigenous peoples, considering that the project is expected to catalyze more sustainable land use, natural resource exploitation and ecosystem management, which could curtail access to traditional natural resources and harm local livelihoods.</p> <p>Principles Human Rights Question: P4, P6. Gender Equality and Women? Empowerment Question: P11. Accountability Question: P14.</p> <p>Project level Standards 1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Question: 1.2, 1.3, 1.6 4. Cultural Heritage Questions: 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 5. Displacement and Resettlement Questions: 5.2, 5.4 6. Indigenous Peoples Questions: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 4</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: 2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced 3.1.4. Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and law enforcement) 3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> The ESIA's will assess whether natural features with cultural significance will be impacted by the project in each targeted region. Where they are found to be project-affected, FPIC consultations will be carried out with the objective of achieving initial consent from specific rights-holders, in line with Standard 6 requirements. Further FPIC consultations will be on-going and followed during project implementation, following the measures summarized in the ESMF, in the Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Planning Framework (as IPPF) and in the Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plans that will be prepared as part of the subsequent ESMPs as required by ESIA assessment reports. ESIA's will include a focus on natural features with cultural significance identification and analysis, with a strong participatory approach, to collect information from local communities about the meaning of the natural features, A community mapping will be included in the ESIA's to ensure the communities? perception of the landscape and of the natural resources is taken into consideration and will inform the ESMPs.</p> <p><u>Management</u> The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: ? The Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan - in which inputs from the Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plans will be considered - will include consultations with stakeholders involved in cultural heritage management. ? The management of this risk will be included into the ESMPs, based on ESIA's findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports.</p>
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<p>Risk 9. The successful establishment of new value chains <u>directly</u> lead to increased exploitation of natural resources and ecosystems/biodiversity in the regions where the project is implemented</p> <p>Principles: Human Rights Questions: P4, P5, P6 Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment Question: P11 Accountability Question: P14</p> <p>Project Level Standards 1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Questions: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13 6 -Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.3 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency Question: 8.2</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: 2.2.1. At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation 2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced</p> <p>As indicating at PIF stage, both regarding the taxa targeted under the project, but also more widely through the implementation of the ABS framework, this risk can happen if collection is not embedded in a sustainable management approach, especially given that rural populations and administration by default expect value chains that generate local returns based on continuing collection of primary matter. In addition, upscaling of the ABS framework, could replicate the same direct impacts in other resources/areas in Morocco. Considering that Saffron is a cultivar, the project inadvertently may serve as an incentive to expand the</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> At PPG stage, an ESMF has been developed for the entire project, which is required to incorporate anESIA, and comprehensive assessments of value chains targeted by the project that define needs in terms of raw materials for harvesting, carrying capacity and sustainable exploitation levels, risks to valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. Related impacts from upstream national-level work (ABS framework) will be assessed by the SESA, planned in the ESMF, at project inception phase.</p> <p><u>Management</u> The management of this risk will be included into the ESMPs, based on ESIA findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports.</p> <p>The project will ensure that the safeguards requirements are reflected in the emerging ABS framework over the course of the project. In replication efforts, which are linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks.</p>
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<p>Risk 10. The successful establishment of new value chains (ABS, or inadvertently Biotrade) <u>indirectly</u> lead to increased pressures on natural resources and ecosystems/biodiversity</p> <p>Principles: Human Rights Questions: P4, P5, P6, P7 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P11 Accountability Question: P14</p> <p>Project level Standards: 1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Questions: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13 6 -Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.3 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency Question: 8.2</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: 2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced</p> <p>As highlighted at PIF stage, successful investment by government and donors in the target area might attract additional populations, and secondly successful livelihood interventions could offer beneficiaries the resources needed to acquire new technologies/ equipment/ pesticides and greater livestock numbers with consequential environmental impacts.</p> <p>In addition, upscaling of the ABS framework, if not embedded in a sustainable ecosystem management approach, could replicate the same indirect impacts in other resources/areas in Morocco.</p> <p>Considering that Saffron is a cultivar, the project inadvertently may serve as an incentive to expand the cultivation area of Saffron with potential impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> For the upstream national-level work (ABS framework), the SESA will be conducted at project inception phase and will ensure that the emerging requirements are reflected in the emerging ABS framework over the course of the project. Government and project team will monitor for such trends and intervene especially where significant immigration and behavioral or wealth changes could undermine project success. At PPG stage, an ESMF has been developed for the entire project, which is required to incorporate an ESIA, and comprehensive assessments of value chains targeted by the project that define raw material sourcing needs, carrying capacity and sustainable exploitation levels, risks to valuable biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> In replication efforts, which are linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks. The management of this risk will be included into the ESMFs, based on ESIA findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports.</p>
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<p>Risk 11. Project's activities increase the vulnerabilities of populations (especially women living in rural areas) to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Principles: Human Rights Questions: P4, P5, P6, P7 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P11 Accountability Question: P14</p> <p>Project level Standards: 2 - Climate Change and Disaster Risks Questions: 2.2, 2.3</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: 2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced,</p> <p>During Stakeholder consultations in PPG phase and as per Gender analysis findings, women (especially young women) living in rural areas are affected by the impacts of climate change. All the project stakeholders need to be informed about the risk of increasing this vulnerability.</p> <p>The vulnerability can increase when the ABS product raw material supply chain is operationalized, considering the activities can have impact on areas affected by climate change and the effect of cumulative impacts (for instance on water resources) can increase the vulnerability of local communities, especially of the most vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Considering the project will focus on three new value chains (Cedar lichen, Saffron, and the combined Saffron-Argan value chain), at project design phase there are not yet enough elements to identify how these value chains can impact on availability of</p>	<p><u>Assessment and Management:</u> The project must promote climate-smart value chains development targeting natural resources, for climate-smart livelihoods.</p> <p>This risk has been managed through the design of the project and will be further examined in the course of the ESIA's, based on the ESMF, and included in the ESMPs as determined necessary.</p>
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<p>Risk 12: The wild harvesting by local communities and the traditional value chain structure is impacted by new value chain's structure, with an impact on gender balance and on traditional social roles in the local communities.</p> <p>Principles: Human rights Questions: P4, P5, P6, P7 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Questions: P9, P10, P11</p> <p>Project level Standards: 1 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Question: 1.3, 1.6 4 - Cultural Heritage Question: 4.4, 4.5 5 - Displacement and Resettlement Question: 5.4 6 ? Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.3 7 - Labour and Working Conditions Question: 7.5</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 4</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: 2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced</p> <p>During stakeholder consultations, data showed that possible project partners are structuring value chain targeting resources that are traditionally collected in an not organized and not structured way and collect both by men and women.</p> <p>The Implementation of ABS framework has to take into consideration traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices), such as the practices related to economic activities and the roles of the different social groups.</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> Stakeholder identification and analysis and Stakeholder engagement plan developed during PPG will be updated and monitored during the implementation phase. The Stakeholder Analysis at value chain level will focus on assessing the sociocultural context, identifying social roles in local communities. An ESIA per each value chain will be prepared by the first project year and will include the elements explained above and the impacts the project can have on the existing dynamics, identifying the mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> The mitigations measures will be included in the ESMPs. This risk will be managed also through the Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plan that will be prepared for each region by the first project year and through the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plans.</p> <p>The Grievance Redress mechanism that will take into consideration the local grievance mechanism already in place will be implemented during the project's implementation and will support the mitigation of the identified risk.</p>
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<p>Risk 13: Involvement ? also in co-financing the project (co-financing ?as project results?) - of the private sector has an impact on respect of Safeguards standards (respect of Human Rights, Gender balance, etc?)</p> <p>All the principles and standards identified for the other risks</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 4</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Involvement of private sector need an additional screening/assessment of the value/supply chain</p> <p>Principal relevant Output that can lead to the identified risk:</p> <p>2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced,</p>	<p><u>Assessment and Management</u></p> <p>As per the Guidance on Application of UNDP?s Social and Environmental Standards for Co-Financing (and Parallel Funding) - Environmental Vertical Funds - December 2021, the Project has co-financing included in project results that is not administered by UNDP. Therefore:</p> <p>? UNDP is accountable to monitor all project results, including those delivered by co-financing, to ensure consistency with UNDP policies/procedures, including SES.</p> <p>? While the co-financing partner applies their own policies & procedures, the UNDP project?s governance, management, assurance, monitoring arrangements apply.</p> <p>? UNDP is accountable for ensuring Option 1b activities are ?consistent? with SES and grievances may be eligible for SECU investigation.</p> <p>? These measures are included in the ESMF.</p> <p>Under component 4, trainings and activities have been detailed to ensure the UNDP Safeguards standards are known and addressed by the main Stakeholders.</p> <p>ESIAs, SESA, Gender Action Plans, Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plans and ESMPs will be developed through a strong participatory approach and the main findings and concerns will be shared also with private sector actors.</p> <p>The Stakeholder Engagement Plan that will be developed for each value chain will support the mitigation of the identified risk. In the ESMP that will be developed for each value chain a specific focus will be on private sector involvement in the project.</p> <p>A Social and Environmental Commitment Plan, summarizing key commitments they agree to implement per the framework that has been developed for the project, will be prepared and signed by the co-financing partners prior to initiation of co-financing activities.</p>
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<p>Risk 14: Access to economic resources and natural resources facilitated through interventions create or exacerbate conflicts between groups or increase the risk of violence between project-affected communities and individuals.</p> <p>Principle: Human rights Question: P.7 Accountability Questions: P13, P14</p> <p>Project level Standards: 6 - Indigenous Peoples Questions: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.9</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Principal relevant Output that can lead to the identified risk:</p> <p>2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced,</p> <p>The communities and groups living in the project areas are involved in different livelihood activities related to access to land and other natural resources. There are sedentary and nomadic communities. Between different communities and groups there may already exist disputes and conflicts that could be exacerbated by the identified outputs.</p> <p>In particular, the selection of location and the selection of beneficiaries can lead to exacerbating inequality and potential conflicts, if a participatory approach is not granted and if the impacts are not identified at site level.</p>	<p><u>Assessment:</u> Stakeholder identification and analysis and Stakeholder engagement plan developed during PPG will be updated and monitored during the implementation phase A SESA will be developed for assessing the impact of output 2.2.3 and an ESIA per each value chain will be prepared by the first year of the project and will include conflict analysis and assessment. The ESIA's and the SESA will have a focus on the current anthropological scenario, identifying the nature of the relations between different groups at all levels (national, regional and local) and the impact the project's outputs can have on these relations.</p> <p><u>Management:</u> This risk will be managed through an Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Plan that will be prepared for each region by the first project year and through the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plans, integrating the findings of the conflict assessment/ESIA's/SESA. A Grievance Redress mechanism, which will take into consideration the local grievance mechanism already in place, will be implemented during the project's implementation. Where necessary, inter-groups stakeholder consultations will be held to resolve ?territorial? disputes relating to resource use. An ESMP per each value chain will be prepared by the first year of the project and will include mitigation measures based on ESIA's findings, including the ones identified through the conflict assessment.</p>
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<p>Risk 15: Participation in project activities could pose a potential risk of increased exposure to COVID-19 and other occupational risks.</p> <p>Principles Gender Equality and Women? Empowerment Question: P.11</p> <p>Accountability Question: P14</p> <p>Project Level Standards: 3 ? Community Health, Safety and Security Question: 3.4 7 - Labour and Working Conditions Question: 7.6</p>	<p>I = 4 L= 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Initial project arrangements and inter-institutional coordination with government partners at the national, regional and local level may be delayed. Activities could be postponed and even come to a halt due to restrictions in movement.</p>	<p>This risk will be managed on the basis of the national regulations from the Health Authority to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The design of the project interventions will take into account the specific measures necessary to mitigate any potential risk of exposure during implementation. Consistent with current health constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, project implementation will employ videoconferencing equipment for virtual meetings and workshops, where necessary; adjust the annual work plans/timelines to allow some field or ongoing consultation-related activities to be conducted in virtual mode, as needed; and/or provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent exposure to stakeholders and project participants. The availability travel restrictions of technical expertise and capacity due to COVID-19 will also be considered.</p>
	QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?			
	<i>Low Risk</i>	?		
	<i>Moderate Risk</i>	?		

Substantial Risk X

Overall, the risk rating for this project is Substantial (A total of 15 risks have been identified: 7 risks are rated as *Substantial*, 8 risks are rated as *Moderate*).

To meet the SES requirements the following have been prepared: (1) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); (2) Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan; (3) Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan; (4) Grievance Redress Mechanism.

To mitigate the identified risks an ESIA for each region and each targeted value chain is required for the field-level activities and a SESA is required for Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 1.3.4, 2.2.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.4

as detailed assessment of the cumulative project-wide risks under the upstream planning, policy and strategic components.

Both assessments will be developed within the first project year.

The ESIA will inform the development of the required ESMP, one for each region and for each targeted value chain, to be developed within the first year of the project.

Considering the risks related to Standard 6, an Indigenous Peoples' Local Communities Plan will be developed for each region and each targeted value chain within the first year of the project.

To manage specific risks related to economic displacement and livelihoods, an Economic Displacement Risk Assessments and Livelihoods Action Plans will be included in the ESIA.

ESIAs will assess if there are specific safeguards commitments to be implemented by the co-financing partners. If it is confirmed, a Social and Environmental Commitment Plan, summarizing key commitments they agree to implement per the framework that has been developed for the project, will be prepared and signed by the co-financing partners prior to initiation of co-financing activities.

High Risk ?

QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)

Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects

<p><i>Is assessment required? (check if ?yes?)</i></p>	<p>X</p>		<p><i>Status? (completed, planned)</i></p>
		<p>X Targeted assessment(s)</p> <p>Gender Analysis</p>	<p>Completed</p>
		<p>X ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment) ? (one for each value chain) ? for downstream components of the project - with Economic Displacement Risk Assessments and Livelihoods Action Plans.</p>	<p>Planned</p>
		<p>X SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment) -for upstream planning, policy and strategic components of the project (for identified outputs)</p>	<p>Planned</p>
<p><i>Are management plans required? (check if ?yes)</i></p>	<p>X</p>		

	<p><i>If yes, indicate overall type</i></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Targeted management plans:</p> <p>Gender Action Plan</p> <p>Gender Action Plan for each region and value chain</p> <p>Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement Plan (one for each region and value chain)</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples - Local Communities Plan (IPP format) (one for each region)</p> <p>Livelihood Action Plans</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Planned</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Planned</p> <p>Planned</p> <p>Planned</p>
		<p>X</p>	<p>ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan) (one for value chain)</p>	<p>Planned</p>

		X	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework), including IP- LC PF (Indigenous Peoples ? Local Communities Planning Framework)	Completed
	<i>Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project- level Standards triggered?</i>		Comments (not required)	
	<i>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</i>			
	<i>Human Rights</i>	X		
	<i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	X		
	<i>Accountability</i>	X		
	<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</i>	X		
	<i>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</i>	X		
	<i>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</i>	X		
	<i>4. Cultural Heritage</i>	X		
	<i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i>	X		
	<i>6. Indigenous Peoples</i>	X		
	<i>7. Labour and Working Conditions</i>	X		
	<i>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	X		

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title

Module

Submitted

Title	Module	Submitted
UNDP 6372 GEF-7 10842 MOR ABS 2_ESMF for CEO ER submission	CEO Endorsement ESS	
UNDP 6372 GEF-7 10842 MOR ABS 2_SESP for CEO ER submission	CEO Endorsement ESS	
6372 MOROCCO_ABS Phase 2_SESP ANNEX	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).

<p>This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s):</p> <p>SDG 1 (Targets 1.1, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.7): promote resource ownership and associated rights, justice and legal certainty, and local development and empowerment;</p> <p>SDG 2 (All targets): sustainable management of global genetic resources diversity contributing to food security, enhanced nutrition, sustainable agriculture and rural development;</p> <p>SDG 3 (Target 3.11): sustainable use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge contributing to use of traditional medicine and discovery of new medical treatment for overall human well-being and health care needs;</p> <p>SDG 8 (Targets 8.2, 8.3 and 8.6): promote new opportunities of productive employment, job creation, entrepreneurship and partnerships contributing to economic and social growth for all, including indigenous peoples;</p> <p>SDG 13 (Targets 13.2, 13.3 and 13.5): promote high diversity and climate appropriate genetic resources for climate change adaptation;</p> <p>SDG 15 (Target 15.10): promote additional financial resources and incentives for sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems;</p> <p>SDG 16 (Targets 16.3 and 16.6): strengthen legal and institutional frameworks contributing to effective and transparent partnerships and cooperation.</p>				
<p>This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD):</p> <p>Outcome 2 - Public policies and national strategies for industrial development, environment, and land use planning incorporate the principles of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development</p>				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project Objective:	To consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems			
	Mandatory Indicator 1 (GEF Core Indicator 11): # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	0	1,000 (500 female; 500 male)	3,000 (1,500 female; 1,500 male)
	Indicator 2: # Indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	0	3,500 (1,750 female; 1,750 male)	10,000 (5,000 female; 5,000 male)

	<u>Mandatory Indicator 3 (GEF Core Indicator 4)</u> Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, excluding protected areas)	0	12,000	34,000
Project component 1	Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge			
Project Outcome 1.1 Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework	<u>Indicator 4:</u> Revised national ABS Law submitted for adoption within first year of project implementation	Not submitted	Submitted	Submitted
	<u>Indicator 5:</u> Further required legal and regulatory texts submitted for adoption within three years of project implementation	Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use	Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints submitted for adoption Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use submitted for adoption	Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints submitted for adoption Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use submitted for adoption

Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1	<p>1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS Law, etc.).</p> <p>1.1.2. Multi-tier National Commission for Genetic Resources designated as ABS Competent National Authority, established and operational across the relevant sectors.</p> <p>1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework.</p> <p>1.1.4. Complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g. directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA interior regulations, TK protection system, benefit-sharing mechanisms, biodiversity conservation benefits) prepared, validated by National Biodiversity Subcommittee and submitted to General Government Secretariat.</p>			
Outcome 1.2. Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law	<u>Indicator 6:</u> Capacity of relevant government agencies as measured using the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Scorecard	MTEDD- DDD: 71% MAPMDREF- DA: 27% Water and Forest National Agency: 24%	MTEDD- DDD: 80% MAPMDREF- DA: 40% Water and Forest National Agency: 35%	MTEDD- DDD: 90% MAPMDREF- DA: 60% Water and Forest National Agency: 50%
	<u>Indicator 7:</u> Number of people trained differentiated by gender	Female: 0 Male: 0	Female: 100 Male: 100	Female: 300 Male: 300
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2	<p>1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented includes:</p> <p>a) Training/certification workshops for relevant national government agencies (environment, agriculture, fisheries, water and forestry, scientific research, etc.) on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework.</p> <p>b) Training of key national/regional NGOs (e.g., FM6PE, FM6RSA, Ibn El Baytar) and relevant local stakeholders on technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.).</p> <p>1.2.2. A guide to negotiating ABS contracts is produced, adapted to Moroccan and international ABS legislation.</p>			
Outcome 1.3. Functional national ABS information management system	<u>Indicator 8:</u> Number of new ABS-TK registries	Souss Massa region: 639 F?s-Mekn?s region: 0	Souss Massa region: 659 F?s-Mekn?s region: 200	Souss Massa region: 689 F?s-Mekn?s region: 500

<p>facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates</p>	<p><u>Indicator 9:</u> Number of ABS information management mechanisms established</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Four (4): (i) Standardized online ABS permit issuance; (ii) Online knowledge management and monitoring system; (iii) National mechanism for receiving and sharing monetary and non-monetary benefits from ABS agreements, for the benefit of local communities (including women) /genetic resources suppliers and biodiversity conservation; (iv) Standardized procedure to report to the CBD via the ABS CHM</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.3</p>	<p>1.3.1. Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco.</p> <p>1.3.2. Biodiversity National CHM (digital platform) updated to include information on ABS, facilitating access to information on genetic resources and ABS access procedures, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources and for harmonizing and coordinating efforts.</p> <p>1.3.3. Standardized online permit application system developed for use across relevant national institutions, to provide efficient access to genetic resources by national, regional and international bioprospectors.</p> <p>1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.</p>			
<p>Project component 2</p>	<p>Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law</p>			

Outcome 2.1. Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D	Indicator 10: Number of private companies and cooperatives (including cooperatives of women and other vulnerable groups) active in bio-prospecting in the target regions	Private companies: 2 Cooperatives: 0	Private companies: 2 Cooperatives: 5	Private companies: 2 Cooperatives: 10
	Indicator 11: Number of new ABS permit applications	0	At least three (3)	At least three (3)
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework. 2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management. 2.1.3. ABS-compliant information on genetic resources and ABS value chains disseminated at the national and international levels to promote sustainable bio-prospecting investment opportunities.			
Outcome 2.2. R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing	Indicator 12: Number of new ABS-based products and value chains developed through R&D and genetic resources manipulation by private companies	0	0	At least three (3): a) Cedar lichen; b) Saffron; and c) Symbiosis Argan-Saffron
	Indicator 13: Performance of developing and implementing ABS agreements in the context of bioprospecting three pilot efforts as measured by Section 2 of the GEF 6 BD-ABS tracking tool (Objective 3, Program 8) Note: out of a maximum of 10 points	a) Cedar lichen ? GREENTECH: 0 b) Saffron ? PharmAfrican: 0 c) Combined Argan-Saffron ? PharmAfrican: 0	a) Cedar lichen ? GREENTECH: 4 b) Saffron ? PharmAfrican: 4 c) Combined Argan-Saffron ? PharmAfrican: 4	a) Cedar lichen ? GREENTECH: 9 b) Saffron ? PharmAfrican: 9 c) Symbiosis Argan-Saffron ? PharmAfrican: 9

<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2</p>	<p>2.2.1. At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation.</p> <p>2.2.2. At least three Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs), registered and submitted to the CBD Secretariat's ABS Clearing House (ABSCH).</p> <p>2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.</p>			
<p>Project component 3</p>	<p>Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions</p>			
<p>Outcome 3.1. Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa (SM) and F?s-Mekn?s (FM) Regions</p>	<p><u>Indicator 14:</u> Number of Regional Biodiversity Committees operationalized with women participation that include biodiversity conservation with roles for ABS</p>	<p>0 (Regional biodiversity committees exist but with not ABS roles)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>
	<p><u>Indicator 15:</u> New resources (USD) mobilized for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency (WFNA) and Forest and the MTEDD-DDD in the SM and FM regions, to reduce dependency on ODA and domestic budgets</p>	<p>MTEDD-DDD: USD 700,000 WFNA: USD 6,893,600</p>	<p>MTEDD-DDD: USD 747,500 WFNA: USD 7,436,600</p>	<p>MTEDD-DDD: USD 840,000 WFNA: USD 8,793,600</p>

Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1	<p>3.1.1. Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles integrated in Regional Development Programmes.</p> <p>3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency.</p> <p>3.1.3. Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.</p> <p>3.1.4. Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and legal enforcement).</p> <p>3.1.5. New resources mobilized via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency and other key agencies.</p>			
Outcome 3.2. ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier communities and biodiversity/ecosystems	<u>Indicator 16:</u> Number of biodiversity management plans developed and implemented	0	3 (developed)	3 (implemented, >80%)
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.2	<p>3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats.</p>			
Project component 4	Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management			
Outcome 4.1. Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks	<u>Indicator 17:</u> Safeguards standards met throughout project	0%	50%	100%
	<u>Indicator 18:</u> Percent of Gender Action Plan targets met	0%	>30%	>80%
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.1	<p>4.1.1. Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements.</p> <p>4.1.2. Social and environmental safeguards risks mainstreamed across the work under Components 1-3, necessary management measures implemented and monitored.</p> <p>4.1.3. Gender Action Plan implemented and monitored.</p>			
Outcome 4.2. Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing	<u>Indicator 19:</u> Percent of Knowledge Management Plan deliverables met	0%	>30%	>80%
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.2	<p>4.2.1. Knowledge Management Plan implemented and products delivered.</p>			

Project Component 5	Monitoring & Evaluation			
Outcome 5.1. M&E duly implemented	Indicator 20: MTR, TE and PIR quality rating	N/A	S or better	S or better
Outputs to achieve Outcome 5.1	5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management.			

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).

GEF Secretariat Review for Medium Sized Project ? GEF - 7: 8/10/21		
Comment	Response	Reference in CEO Endorsement Document
<p>Co-financing</p> <p>3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?</p> <p><i>The proposed co-financing is modest. Please indicate if there is a possibility of raising the co-financing ration during preparation and confirm that the current co-financiers listed on Table C have committed to contributing to the project in the terms stipulated</i></p>	<p>The project cofinancing was incremented from USD 2,050,000 (co-financing ratio: 1.2 to 1) to USD 2,950,000(co-financing ratio: 1.7 to 1).</p>	<p>Part I: Project Information, C. Confirmed sources of co-financing for the project by name and by type</p>

<p>Part II ? Project Justification</p> <p>6. Are the project?s/program?s indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?</p> <p><i>Proposed contributions to GEBs are reasonable, but need to be further detailed during preparation. Please be prepared to include aspects addressing "Green Recovery" and resilience of ecological and socio-economic systems</i></p>	<p>The project?s contribution to GEBs is 34,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices. This area corresponds to habitat and landscapes associated with selected species and genetic resources, which are important for conservation and include unique biodiversity and ecosystems:</p> <p>a) Cedar lichen habitat: 5,000 ha of cedar forest (Middle Atlas Mountains/ F?s-Mekn?s Region);</p> <p>b) Landscape/forest surrounding saffron crops: 20,000 ha of oak forest, juniper forest, and high-mountain spine xerophytic ecosystems (Siroua massif ? Middle to High Atlas Mountains/Souss-Massa Region; and c) native argan forest: 9,000 ha (Aoulouz area/Souss-Massa Region). The Atlas Mountains (High Atlas, Anti Atlas, and Middle Atlas) are one of the three principal areas of plant diversity in Morocco and host over 400 endemic species^[1].</p> <p>Morocco is committed to greening its economy and emphasizing sustainable recovery and development through measures such as the ?For?ts du Maroc 2020-2030? strategy, which will improve the management of water and forests and that is part of the national planning process to ensure alignment of a green economy with the post-COVID-19 recovery plan.^[2] The strategy is built around four major axes for its implementation: 1) creation of a new model based on a participatory approach, with the population as the first partner in forest management; 2) management and development of forest areas according to their aptitude by encouraging private investment; 3) development and modernization of forestry professions by creating modern forest nurseries with modern specifications in partnership with the private sector, including the preservation of the genetic characteristics of national forests; and 4) institutional reform through the creation of the Water and Forests National Agency, which will be charged with the management of forests outside and within protected areas. It will also focus on strengthening the legal framework and capacity of the Water and Forests National Agency.</p> <p>The project will contribute to the ?For?ts du Maroc? strategy by using a participatory approach in which local communities will actively participate in consolidating the national ABS legal and institutional framework; developing new ABS products and value chains derived from forest genetic resources (e.g., cedar lichen and argan tree); directly benefiting from ABS contracts; and engaging in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats and forest ecosystems in the three project sites. In addition, the project will contribute to strengthening the Water and Forests National Agency, a key government stakeholder for the implementation of activities under Components 1, 2, and 3.</p> <p>The project will also contribute to building the resilience of ecological and socioeconomic systems through the sustainable use,</p>	<p>Part I: Project Information, E. Project?s target contributions to GEF 7 core indicators</p>
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<p>Risks to Achieving Project Objectives</p> <p>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?</p> <p><i>Risk analysis is adequate for PIF stage. Please make sure that a clear articulation of risks that Covid-19 may pose on project implementation is included in the project document, particularly in relation to availability of technical expertise and capacity, changes in timeline, stakeholder engagement process and enabling environment</i></p>	<p>The risk assessment and mitigation measures were updated as part of the PPG. The risk mitigation strategy includes mitigation measures related to risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the pandemic has receded in Morocco and current infections are 17% of peak, there is a risk of new related outbreaks. This means that COVID-19 may pose a risk to project implementation. Accordingly, the project design has considered the following: a) during project implementation, various mechanisms will be used, depending on the degree of involvement required of the stakeholders and their role in the project; these may include workshops, meetings, field visits, and interviews, etc.; the Project Management Unit (PMU) in coordination with the Department of Sustainable Development and project partners (e.g., MAPMDREF and the Water and Forest National Agency) will determine if these methods involving stakeholders will be held in-person or virtually, depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves in the project target landscapes; b) the project budget includes resources to purchase biosafety supplies to minimize exposure to COVID-19, as needed (hand sanitizers, masks and face shields, disinfectant sprays, disposable gloves, etc.); c) videoconferencing equipment (also budgeted) will be used for virtual meetings and workshops; and d) the annual work plans/timelines will be adjusted to allow some activities to be conducted in virtual mode and travel restrictions for technical experts because of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Part II: Project Justification: 5. Risks. 7. Consistency with National Priorities</p> <p>GEF-UNDP Project Document</p>
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[1] <https://www.oneearth.org/ecoregions/mediterranean-high-atlas-juniper-steppe/>

[2] <https://www.un-page.org/morocco>

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 50,000			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed

Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews Desktop and field-based studies and data collection Gender Analysis Identification of project sites Partner capacity assessments Financial planning, co-financing and investment mobilized Stakeholder analysis	30,000	16,200	13,800
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes Stakeholder Engagement Plan Gender Action Plan and Budget Social and Environmental Standards: Screening and Management Measures UNDP-GEF ProDoc, GEF CEO Endorsement, and all mandatory and project specific Annexes, using the required templates	20,000		20,000
Total	50,000	16,200	33,800

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

The project will target 34,000 ha across three sites, as follows:

Project site 1: Itzer area (Middle Atlas Mountains/ F?s-Mekn?s Region)

Cedar lichen habitat: 5,000 ha of cedar forest

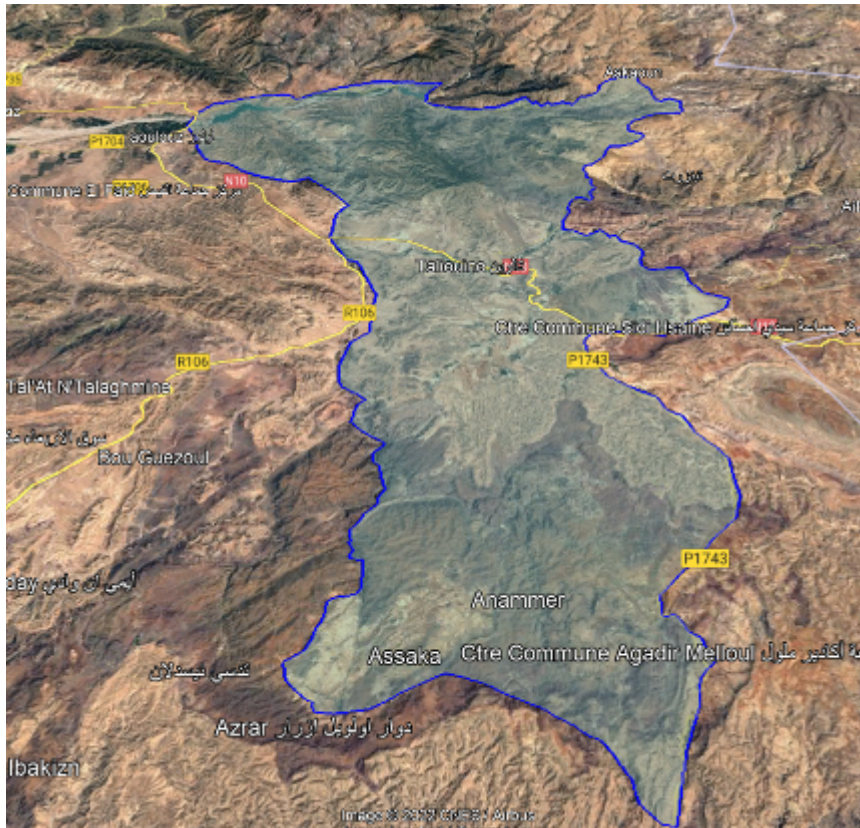
Geospatial coordinates: East location: N 32°57'24" W 4°55'45", West location: N 32°52'39" W 5°15'50", North location: N 33°00'24" W 5°04'04", South location: N 32°51'01" W 5°03'56"



Project site 2: Talouine area (Souss-Massa Region)

Landscape/forest surrounding saffron crops: 20,000 ha of oak forest, juniper forest, and high-mountain spine xerophytic ecosystems (Siroua massif ? Middle to High Atlas Mountains/Souss-Massa Region)

Geospatial coordinates: East location: N 30°28'28" W 7°44'03", West location: N 32°52'39" W 5°15'50", North location: N 30°43'31" W 8°00'31", South location: N 30°07'21" W 7°50'00"



Project site 3: Aoulouz area (Souss-Massa Region)

Native Argan forest: 9,000 ha

Geospatial coordinates: East location: N 30°40'33" W 8°08'39", West location: N 30°29'32" W 8°00'26", North location: N 30°41'54" W 8°11'56", South location: N 30°39'22" W 8°10'59"



ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

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

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

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