



## **Part I: Project Information**

### **GEF ID**

10991

### **Project Type**

MSP

### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

### **CBIT/NGI**

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

### **Project Title**

Promoting the safe application of biotechnology through Multi country Cooperation in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in Asia

### **Countries**

Regional, Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, Philippines

### **Agency(ies)**

UNEP

### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

National Biosafety Committee, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MONGOLIA), National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP), Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (BANGLADESH), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (INDIA), Korea Institute for Promoting Biosafety Cooperation (KIPABiC)

### **Executing Partner Type**

Government

### **GEF Focal Area**

Biodiversity

### **Sector**

Mixed & Others

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Animal Genetic Resources, Species, Threatened Species, Crop Wild Relatives, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Biosafety, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Indigenous Peoples, Stakeholders, Strategic Communications, Communications, Education, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Academia, Civil Society, Trade Unions and Workers Unions, Non-Governmental Organization, Gender results areas, Gender Equality, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Knowledge Exchange, Field Visit, Peer-to-Peer, Adaptive management, Learning, Theory of change, Enabling Activities

**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**

10/30/2023

**Expected Implementation Start**

1/1/2024

**Expected Completion Date**

12/31/2026

**Duration**

36In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

103,852.00

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

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
BD-3-8	Biodiversity	GET	1,093,186.00	5,150,085.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>1,093,186.00</b>	<b>5,150,085.00</b>

## **B. Project description summary**

### **Project Objective**

To strengthen institutional, human and regulatory capacities and promote cooperative measures in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks for the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) in Asia.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Multi-country collaboration and cooperation on Biosafety issues	Technical Assistance	1. Measures in place for implementation of functional national biosafety frameworks (NBFs) in participating countries.	<p>1.1 A baseline report on the status of implementation of CPB including a stocktaking assessment and inventory of national and regional biosafety and biotechnology resources and capacity building needs in the project countries is prepared.</p> <p>1.2. Networking mechanism established for facilitating the implementation of policy and legal framework, decision making, risk assessment and risk management, monitoring and enforcement procedures.</p>	GET	185,200.00	550,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Facilitating the establishment , further development and effective implementation of biosafety systems at national level.	Technical Assistance	2. Institutional and Human resource capacities developed for effective implementation of NBFs in the participating countries.	<p>2.1 Nationally mandated Institutions are made competent and well-equipped with the necessary administrative and technical tools for supporting regulations.</p> <p>2.2. Designated Centers of Excellence are interlinked and strengthened among project partner countries.</p>	GET	429,358.00	1,900,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Systems for information sharing, knowledge management, education and public awareness developed	Technical Assistance	3. Information sharing and knowledge management enhanced among participating countries for increased public participation and awareness.	3.1 Functional and updated mechanisms in place for information sharing and knowledge management.  3.2 Sharing of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials among participating countries to enhance public participation and awareness	GET	333,036.00	1,085,199.00
4. Project Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	4. Inter country cooperation strengthened by sustainable linkages/ networks, best practices and lessons learnt through effective project coordination.	4.1 A comprehensive project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework developed, implemented and including best practices and lessons learnt.  4.2. Mid-Term/ Terminal Evaluation	GET	50,000.00	300,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Sub Total (\$)					997,594.00	3,835,199.00

**Project Management Cost (PMC)**

GET	95,592.00	1,314,886.00
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>95,592.00</b>	<b>1,314,886.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>1,093,186.00</b>	<b>5,150,085.00</b>

**Please provide justification**

**To strengthen institutional, human and regulatory capacities and promote cooperative measures in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks for the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) in Asia.**



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

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	Philippines	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,200,085.00
Recipient Country Government	Mongolia	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Bangladesh	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	India	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	700,000.00
Other	Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy (MOTIE)	Grant	Investment mobilized	900,000.00
Other	Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy (MOTIE)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	850,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>5,150,085.00</b>

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

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of the Republic of Korea has pledged a grant of US\$ 1 million to support this project. Of this, investment of US\$ 250,000 has been mobilized to UNEP. Based on the comment received from GEF during the PIF review stage, "UNEP law Division" has been removed from the list of the executing partners for the PPG and KIPABiC has been identified to execute that role. Therefore, UNEP transferred US\$ 100,000 to KIPABiC to carry out grant (PPG) activities, to provide technical assistance including organizing meetings. The remaining US\$ 150,000 at UNEP will be transferred to KIPABiC for the main project to support the implementation of joint country activities under the project. The PPG for this project was implemented with USD 50,000 from GEF and co-finance support of USD 100,000 from MOTIE. The details of PPG budget utilization are detailed in Annex C. ?

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNEP	GET	Philippines	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	434,658	41,292	475,950.00
UNEP	GET	Mongolia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	481,023	45,697	526,720.00
UNEP	GET	Bangladesh	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	53,413	5,074	58,487.00
UNEP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	124,092	11,789	135,881.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>1,093,186.00</b>	<b>103,852.00</b>	<b>1,197,038.00</b>

**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(\$)
UNEP	GET	Philippines	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	20,000	1,900	21,900.00
UNEP	GET	Mongolia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	10,000	950	10,950.00
UNEP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	20,000	1,900	21,900.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

## Core Indicators

### 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)
<b>Female</b>	60,000	31,000		
<b>Male</b>	40,000	25,000		
<b>Total</b>	100000	56000	0	0

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

The relevant sub-indicator values for this project using the methodologies indicated in the Core Indicator Worksheet are updated and aggregated in the below. Progress in programming against these targets will be updated at mid-term and at the terminal stage of the project. It is presented attached as Annex F. Achieved targets will be aggregated and reported at the mid-term and terminal stages of the project. The multi-country project will support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), by strengthening the institutional capacity of participating countries' relevant ministries as well as specific, biosafety related agencies to fully operationalize their National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs) and regulations in compliance with the CPB. The project will contribute to the overall objective of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of its components with adequate protection from the potential negative impact of modern biotechnology. The multi-country activities will be coordinated in a manner that would also provide opportunities for other interested Asian countries to participate and contribute through their own fund or as part of their ongoing GEF projects. Biodiversity is an 'asset' that makes critical contributions to sustainable development as indicated in plans and activities under the aegis of CBD and CPB. This is reflected in the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the GEF-7 biodiversity focal area strategy and was reaffirmed at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the CBD (CBD/COP 13) with the adoption of the 'Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being', that recognizes that the management of this asset requires full engagement of all government ministries, and most critically, from the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and tourism sectors. The project is designed to build and complement the outcomes from other national, previous and/or existing or ongoing GEF supported interventions on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity including implementation of NBFs in the participating countries i.e., Bangladesh, India, Mongolia and

Philippines. The Project is expected to contribute to the overall progress toward the implementation of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under Target 17, implementation plan and capacity building plan for the CPB adopted in the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CoP-MoP10). It is also expected to contribute to Target 22 by ensuring the participation, justice, and rights for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth. Furthermore, in line with Target 23, the implementation of the project will follow a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls would be considered and trained to build biosafety capacities facilitating contribution in decision-making processes and advocate for environmental protection. The project will also contribute to the review and update of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to align with the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Attaining the targets required to support the implementation of the CPB requires the implementation of a package of actions typically including legal and policy frameworks, technical measures for risk assessment and risk management, liability and redress, monitoring and detection of LMOs, enforcement, and public and stakeholder engagement that are coherent across government ministries and across sectors.

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### Background and context

Advances in science and technology offer new opportunities in the development of society in the form of products and solutions; at the same time related concerns and issues require regulations to ensure safe and sustainable use. In tapping the potential benefits, protection need to be ensured from potential harm. For example, the products of modern biotechnology, in particular genetically modified organisms (GMOs)/living modified organisms (LMOs), have been subjected to close regulatory scrutiny. While some countries have put in place systems for regulating GMOs/LMOs, several others are still in the process of developing and implementing the required systems. Most of these countries are low- or lower-middle-income countries which are further constrained by limited resources and expertise. In building an effective and efficient biosafety regulatory system that is adaptable to the needs and capacity of these countries, the following key elements remain crucial to the system: a policy framework that establishes and informs regulatory decision-making, legal requirements, administrative procedures for submitting, processing and storing information related to applications, evaluation of applications, communication and consultation with stakeholders and citizens throughout the decision-making process, processes to arrive at sound decisions, including conditions imposed on authorizations, procedures to monitor for compliance with conditions of an authorization, capacity for compliance and investigation of possible breaches of approval conditions, capacity to check and review processes. Most of the low or lower-middle-income countries that are still in the early stages of establishing biosafety regulatory systems face additional challenges, as the local biosafety experts (e.g., researchers) involved in advising on these early stages may have little familiarity with the internal complexities of a functioning regulatory system. Furthermore, there is little readily available guidance on the basic building blocks to construct a biosafety regulatory system *de novo*. This is however due, in part, to requirements that are specific to each jurisdiction.

#### (ii) Global and Regional significance

The earth's biological resources are vital for maintaining and sustaining food security, economic development and health. The recognition of the importance of biological diversity as a global asset of tremendous importance for the present and the future is undisputable. The sustainable development goals, hold the promise of a fresh start for the planet and set out that global food production must increase by 70% by 2050. At global level, there is recognition that modern technologies can contribute to achieving this objective. Considering increased food insecurity, growing population, climate change and socio-economic stresses, products of modern biotechnology particularly LMOs in agriculture are considered an attractive source of effective innovations (Roberts, 2018)[1]1. In 2019, the 24<sup>th</sup> year of commercialization of biotech crops, over 190.4 million hectares across 29 countries, were under GM crops in 2019[2]2.

-

---

Asia encompasses many different ecoregions and biomes. It contains two of the world's major biogeographical realms; Indomalaya (which covers Southeast Asia) and Palearctic (which covers the Middle East and large parts of Asia). These terrestrial realms contain dramatically different assemblages of plants and animals and globally important numbers of endemic species. The Asia region is exceptionally rich in biodiversity. The tropical forests of Southeast Asia, the reefs of the 'coral triangle', the temperate forests and the large river basins found in the region are among the most unique on Earth. Additionally, the South-East Asia region, mainly comprising islands and archipelagos, has exceptional flora and fauna that evolved independently leading to high levels of endemism as a result of geographical isolation. Furthermore, many Asian countries host one of the oldest agricultural communities in the world and are among the centers of origin/diversity for important crop plants. However, biodiversity in the Asia region is in fast decline with many biodiversity hotspots threatened by habitat destruction and other anthropogenic pressures. At the same time, initiatives to undertake research and use products of modern biotechnology are underway or are in pipeline in most countries in Asia. Hence there is a need for ensuring safe and sustainable use of LMOs in the region in a cooperative manner keeping in view of expected likelihood of transboundary movement of LMOs.

Participating countries in the multi-country project i.e., Bangladesh, India, Mongolia and Philippines have varying level of capacities in terms of implementing the CPB and the project is a very good opportunity to look at these dynamics and assess the different areas where each of them can share their information, knowledge and expertise considering the identified project components and their respective outcomes and outputs. The Philippines, since 1990, has adopted policies for the safe and responsible use of products of modern biotechnology. Regulations has been put in place for all stages of LMO development, from contained use, introduction into the environment, and direct use and importation. Mongolia, on the other hand, also has a national biosafety law in place but is open to learning more from the project outputs especially in the effective implementation of national biosafety system that addresses the prioritized needs and interventions like risk assessment and risk management. Bangladesh has developed a stand-alone National Biosafety Policy which considers the protection of biological diversity, human and animal health as well as environment from the possible adverse impacts of the use of modern biotechnology. The policy has focused on ensuring biosafety in the areas of research, development, and any kind of commercial uses with the wider participation of the public making more transparent and admissible. India is one of the prominent players in the biotechnology industry and is also a prime mover in biosafety regulations. It continues to extend its assistance in building the biosafety capacities of its fellow South Asian countries and participated in various projects on regional cooperation.

This multi-country project aims to further build on the regional collaborative activities in Asia initiated through the interventions of Asia Biosafety Family. This multi-country project aims to replicate to other countries in Asia the project outcomes and lessons learnt from the project like the pivotal resources and attributes that promote and contribute to functional NBFs, what and how the institutional and human resources capacities that can be developed as able support to NBF implementation, what information and knowledge resources that need to be made available to various biosafety stakeholders including the necessary support tools and technologies to help increase their public awareness, education and participation, and the intercountry cooperation process anchored on quality project management.

### **(iii) Threats, Root causes and barrier analysis -**

The rapid economic growth in the Asia region, accompanied by increased resource use by a growing urban and middle-class population has generated significant pressures on the region's biodiversity. Additionally, the production of sufficient food remains a challenge due to increased population growth, limits to agricultural lands and climate change despite the significant increases in per capita agricultural



production over the last decades. Aiming to increase their agricultural production to ensure food security and promote trade in agricultural products, many Asian countries have already started, or are in the process of, developing and using LMOs produced using modern biotechnology. Many countries are acquiring crops and crops products that are developed elsewhere and may contain GMO components. Additionally, transboundary movement and exchange of materials is also taking place.

Large areas of forest are being converted into plantation and agricultural land due to the rapidly growing demand for food, vegetable oils and biofuels, among other agricultural and industrial activities. Genetic technologies to increase productivity, provide resistance to diseases and abiotic stress to combat climate change could be the solution to many environmental issues such as increased deforestation. Modern biotechnology applications offer new opportunities for food security and poverty alleviation and provide powerful tools to address key environmental issues. However, it needs to be properly developed and safely implemented, while protecting the environment and ensuring human and animal health

The adoption of LMOs in centres of biodiversity without sufficient, transparent and scientifically sound biosafety decision-making processes, appropriate risk management practices, and related biosafety research in place in countries of the region could be detrimental to the conservation of biodiversity in the region as a whole. Potential, negative impact on biodiversity of the accelerating, unregulated use of LMOs could have major and long-term implications for the regional and global environment, for human/animal health, and for international trade and competitiveness. Health and environmental concerns are reflected in widespread public mistrust of GMO crops. Meeting the needs of the region's population while also ensuring the protection of biodiversity is a challenge, one that will require significant effort to address these potential challenges. Biosafety provides a framework for the assessment and management of potential risks associated with the use of modern biotechnologies.

Most countries in the region have biosafety laws in place but many lack capacities to conduct risk assessment, monitoring, detection and identification of LMOs. Limited institutional capacities and inadequate trained human resources across the region in areas such as risk assessment, risk management, decision making, identification, detection of LMOs, especially transgenic crops and monitoring their environmental effects in these main centers of biodiversity is thus a key barrier. Further, knowledge gaps due to scarcity of mechanisms for sharing of information and resources, experiences and lessons learnt alongside the need for strengthening cooperation for technical harmonization of biosafety systems through working on common approaches for risk assessment, risk management, socioeconomic considerations in decision-making and monitoring of GMOs is an important step to overcome the barrier for effective implementation of the CPB in the four participating countries.

The current project aims to address these barriers and intends to develop and strengthen biosafety capacities in the four participating countries to minimize and manage any potential risks associated with the application of modern biotechnology, in conformity with the CPB. Pooling of resources as a multi - country project will help learning from those ahead. The project outcomes can be shared and/or replicated in other countries in Asia as well.

(iv) The baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

Currently, there are 50 countries in the Asia-Pacific region that have ratified the CPB and 39 countries are eligible for GEF funding for the implementation of their NBFs. The project was conceptualized during one of the Asia Biosafety Family (erstwhile known as Asia BCH Family) workshops organized by the Korea Biosafety Clearing House, wherein several countries expressed interest to be part of the project. Consultative meetings were held in Korea, India, and Lao PDR over a period of 2-3 years to develop a regional PIF. Initially, several countries expressed their interest to collaborate through this project, but only 4 were able to secure funding from their GEF 7 STAR allocation.

Each country's NBF is available both on the Biosafety Clearing House and the national Biosafety web pages. The project builds on the experience that the participating countries have already gained, to effectively secure the involvement of national authorities, non-governmental organizations, private sector, research institutions, and local communities, and to implement national biosafety relevant interventions through the previous GEF projects on Development and Implementation of NBFs and assistance on 'Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the BCH' and other related projects. Initial stocktaking exercise in participating countries has identified: national priorities and policies on biotechnology and biosafety; analysis of inventories on the regulatory, administrative, technical, and institutional capacity for the safe use of modern biotechnology including existing national, bilateral or multilateral cooperative programs in capacity building relevant to biosafety at the regional and national levels, mechanisms, approaches and synergies in the region to facilitate regional cooperation and information sharing.

Since the participating countries are at varied levels of implementing the obligations under the CPB at national level, there is still scope for addressing the gaps in national biosafety frameworks and related legislations to meet national priorities for sustainable development. Further development of institutional and human resource capacities along with information sharing and knowledge management systems for enhanced public awareness are required to comply fully towards a science-based decision making approach. Additionally, to promote safe application of biotechnology in Asia region, cooperation and harmonization of procedures and technical tools on thematic areas (risk assessment, management, monitoring, detection, etc.) is needed for effective implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs).

### *Philippines*

Philippines instituted a National Committee on Biosafety in 1990 which serves as both policy making and regulatory body implementing biosafety policy and review of proposals on modern biotechnology for contained use and field trials. In consideration of the local research that would eventually be released and tested outside of containment and taking into consideration the experiences of other countries in the regulation of field testing of GMOs, the NCBP developed guidelines for the planned releases of GMOs. From 1996-1998, series of public consultations were conducted around the country which culminated in the issuance of the Guidelines of Planned Release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and Potentially Harmful Exotic Species (PHES) on 8 September 1998. Being a Party to the CPB, Philippines is required to comply with the administrative requirements of the Protocol. Additionally, since the inception of the Philippine Biosafety Guidelines in the 1990s, modern biotechnology advanced by leaps and bounds and the expansion of the technology became exponential which presented challenges to the Philippine Regulatory System. It has a competent authority that processes applications for field testing, propagation and direct use as food or feed or for processing.

Philippines has also participated in GEF projects on Development and Implementation of NBFs and availed to the assistance on "Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the BCH" wherein training workshops were provided to all stakeholders on the use of the BCH as well as develop a pool of trainers to serve the purpose of creating awareness on GMOs and its regulations. These capacity building projects on the BCH has resulted in Philippines having registered significant amount of National and Reference records in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) portal which served as repository of information required of a Party to the Protocol. In January 2015 Philippines released 2 publications, The Philippines Biosafety Guidelines for Contained Use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), revised edition, and the Philippines Biosafety Guidelines and Procedures for Containment of Transgenic Arthropods. The guidelines established procedures for application and monitoring of contained use and confined tests of GMOs, including transgenic arthropods.

In a Supreme Court ruling in 2015, the court raised the following issues against Bt talong: lack of meaningful public participation, non-implementation of the Environmental Impact System (EIS) and absence of standards for Risk Assessment. Subsequently, a Joint Department Circular (JDC) was issued in 2016 whereby Philippine biotechnology regulatory system is governed by the Departments of science and technology, agriculture, environment and natural resources, health, and the interior and local government. The circular contains the rules and regulations for the research and development, handling and use, transboundary movement, release into the environment, and management of genetically modified plant and plant products derived from the use of modern biotechnology. Three years after the implementation of the JDC, the Competent National Authorities (CNAs) from the 5 government departments recommended a review of the JDC to address the challenges in implementation and consider the Ease of Doing Business Law that promotes faster timeframes for government transactions. Applicants of biosafety permits from the private and public sectors have been experiencing delays in the issuance of permits, which was caused by conflicting interpretations of the Biosafety Committees. After a thorough review by the concerned entities, a revised version of the Circular was implemented in March 2022.

### ***Mongolia***

Mongolia has adopted The National Green Development Policy (2014-2030), that aims at "Sustaining ecosystems capacity". Goal No.2 states "Setting the limitation on the import and trade of genetically modified organisms by assessing the risks associated with genetically modified organisms on human health and the environment, and by building capacities in preventing the negative impacts." The goal is also coherent with The Mongolia National Biodiversity Strategies and National Action Plans (NBSAPs, 2015-2025), particularly Strategy 2 "Develop and implement science based policy on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources" and its corresponding goal "Create a legal environment for the protection, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from widely used and economically significant genetic resources, and to implement sustainable use, and protection from genetic erosion and depletion." Mongolia has also set up national biosafety priorities which are included in the following regulations: Law on Living Modified Organisms (2007), Mongolian National Security Concept (2010), Law on Food Safety (2012). Mongolia is currently participating in the UNEP-GEF BCH (Phase III) since August 2018.

Mongolia implemented the UNEP-GEF funded Project "Capacity Building for Biosafety Implementation for Mongolia" to enhance the national capacity to implement the NBF. Building upon the National Biosafety Law of 2007, the Project has largely contributed to the elaboration of Regulations (General Regulations and specific Regulation on Inspection, Customs, Registration & Risk Assessment, Transportation), the project also supported trainings and public outreach activities to stimulate interest in biosafety issues among the general public, the academic world, the governmental institutions and the policy-makers. Mongolia is currently participating in the UNEP-GEF BCH (Phase III) since August 2018.

Mongoila intends to use the opportunity under this project to strengthen capacities for the effective implementation of NBF.

### ***India***

The conservation and use of biological resources are directly mentioned in the Constitution of India (Article 48A and Article 51(g)) and is based on local knowledge systems and practices. Relevant regulatory framework includes the Environment Protection Act (1986) National Environment Policy (2006) and the Biological Diversity Act (2002).

India has been an early mover in the development of biotechnology regulations. Rules for the manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous microorganisms, genetically engineered organisms or cells, were notified in 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. MoEFCC is the lead ministry for implementation of the national biosafety regulations for genetically modified organisms (GMOs)/living modified organisms (LMOs) derived from modern biotechnology. MoEFCC implements these rules jointly with Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology and state governments through six statutory committees. These include rDNA Advisory Committee (RDAC), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), State Biotechnology Coordination committee (SBCC) and District Level Committee (DLC). While the RDAC is of advisory in function, the IBSC, RCGM and GEAC are of regulatory functions, SBCC and DLC are for monitoring purposes. The rules are supported by a series of guidelines prepared by MoEFCC and DBT on various aspects of the development process such as contained research, confined field trials, environmental safety assessment, food safety assessment, etc. In line with the advances in development of biotechnology and its applications, the guidelines are updated regularly.

India has actively participated and led activities towards regional cooperation through GEF supported projects, bilateral activities and other projects such as South Asia Biosafety Programme (SABP). More information about Indian biosafety regulations is available at <https://geacindia.gov.in/> and <https://ibkp.dbtindia.gov.in/>.

India has been at the forefront in adopting state-of-the-art science and technology across various sectors in meeting its socioeconomic and environmental challenges. Over last few years, a very encouraging growth has been seen in the biotechnology sector. This has been primarily due to a strong foundation, which has been established over few decades from research and education to translation and product development. An effort has been made to engage with all stakeholders and provide not just financial support but bring in key policy changes with strong enablers and drivers for this ecosystem. Modern biotechnology is one of the key thrust areas identified by the Government of India, for promoting research, development and its innovative applications. Significant efforts have been made to create infrastructure for research and development of new technologies/products both in public and private sector. More than 500 organizations are actively engaged in activities involving modern biotechnology. The National Biotechnology Development Strategy (2021-2025) has identified several programs to position India as a leader in biotechnology. Several products have been approved for commercial use in healthcare, Bt cotton was the first Living Modified (LM) crop approved for environmental release in the country in 2002. Bt cotton has been widely accepted and covers more than 90% area under cotton cultivation. Recently, GM mustard has been approved for environmental release in 2022. The need for updating the biosafety framework to meet current trends and developments has been recognized in the country and efforts were initiated towards setting up of a dedicated Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) by enacting a new law.

India has implemented two GEF supported capacity building projects. Phase II Capacity Building project focused on management of LMOs in Agriculture. A project to translate and decentralize the national biosafety system from the Union to the State Levels is being initiated to ensure monitoring and enforcement mandates among others which are entrusted to the State level Committees is strengthened in the management of deliberate of LMOs to the environment. India has also participated in UNEP/GEF BCH I & II projects.

### ***Bangladesh***

Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is an obligation as a fundamental principle of the state policy of the constitution of the government of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is one of the few countries that enacted Bangladesh Biological Diversity Act in 2017 to implement the convention at the national level. The National Biotechnology Policy was approved in 2006, and it has been updated in 2012. The Department of Environment (DOE) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

developed the *“Biosafety Guidelines of Bangladesh”* and the

*“National Biosafety Framework”* in 2006. The Biosafety Guidelines of Bangladesh has been Gazetted in 2008. The Bangladesh Biosafety Rules 2012 has been enacted under Environment Conservation Act, 1995. The Biosafety Guidelines, 2008 have also been endorsed to be followed as the supporting document to the Rules. Bangladesh has notified Bangladesh Standard for Guidelines for the Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Genetically Engineered Plants in 2013 and Guidelines for the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of Genetically Engineered Plants in 2016.

Government of Bangladesh has developed a stand-alone *National Biosafety Policy* taking into account the protection of biological diversity, human and animal health as well as environment from the possible adverse impacts of the use of modern biotechnology. The policy has addressed the use of biotechnology to accomplish the development goals identified in the National Biotechnology Policy. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is mandated to implement the National Biosafety Policy. The proposed policy has focused on the following areas to ensure biosafety in research, development and any kind of commercial uses with the wider participation of the public making more transparent and admissible.

Bangladesh implemented UNEP/GEF supported project on Implementation of NBF of Bangladesh from 2013 ? 2018 under which a national policy on biosafety and other regulatory documents have been developed along with extensive training and awareness activities in the country.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2021) of Bangladesh has proposed project programs to implement NBF to deal with genetically modified organisms and alien species and promoting/encouraging regional dialogue on sharing of expertise and resources in management of IAS and GMOs.

As indicated above, there have been several interventions by both the UN and other development agencies and Governments to support biosafety capacity building at national levels in four participating countries. Proposed project will add value to ongoing and/or just concluded UNEP/GEF projects on implementation of NBFs in the four participating countries through collaboration, with coordination and technical support by KIPABiC.

Interventions to review and update the policy and regulatory framework with supplementary regulations, specific interventions including Risk Assessment, Monitoring and Enforcement, etc. through cooperative measures are increasingly becoming a strategic priority. It also allows for countries to go beyond their national boundaries in their implementation of NBFs and is in line with the GEF 7 Focal Area strategy on implementation of the CPB.

#### **(v) Proposed Alternative Scenario**

The envisaged project interventions will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity from any adverse effects of LMOs. The project will strengthen institutional, infrastructural, human and regulatory biosafety capacities of the participating countries in the implementation of NBFs in alignment with the CPB. The aim is to provide a more coherent, coordinated and effective delivery of biosafety capacity building and technical support at all levels, in response to identified country gaps/priorities and needs. The project will also develop coherent partnerships across the four participating countries for continued and sustainable sharing of biosafety resources, expertise, information and experiences aimed at strengthening implementation of the CPB.

The participating countries recognize that regional cooperation is essential for sustainability of the implementation of the CPB at the national and regional levels due to the transboundary focus of the CPB. The critical elements for regional cooperation include sharing of resources among countries within the region, including technical facilities, materials, and expertise; sharing of experiences among countries in developing and implementing their NBFs including methodologies, materials, and skills; sharing of information on biosafety among countries and through regional networks, including the BCH; and building and strengthening regional capacity for biosafety and biotechnology to support national decision making.

It is important that over the next decade, the focus is put on accelerating the implementation of the CPB to ensure effective compliance with its regulations. The immediate need is to promote compliance through various focused capacity-building initiatives, including strengthening information management systems and the establishment of LMO documentation systems. There is also an urgent need to upgrade LMO laboratory facilities (referral accredited laboratories) and enhancement of skills and protocols for LMO detection. The safe transfer, handling and use of GM commodities in the Asian region calls for greater regional cooperation and coordinated capacity-building initiatives.

Thus, cross-country lessons will contribute to partners strengthening each other on relevant NBF pillars. In addition, the project will form a nucleus for catalyzing a regional approach to biosafety in the Asia region, as project experiences and outcomes will be shared with other Asian countries and the relevant regional structures.

Furthermore, there is the opportunity to sustain the biosafety cooperative initiatives through the involvement of KIPABiC, a non-governmental organization, established on 23 November 2021 under Article 32 of the Civil Law of the Republic of Korea to promote interactive networking and cooperation on biosafety through the Asia Biosafety Family. KIPABiC provides a neutral convening platform to coordinate and bring stakeholders together for biosafety capacity building, leveraging expertise and supporting the implementation of this project.

The project will focus on gaps and needs identified by the project preparatory phase, across the following five pillars of the NBFs:

1. Biosafety regulatory regime (national laws, regulations and guidelines), Biosafety policy
2. Institutional setups (administrative systems for handling notifications or requests for authorization for imports, exports, transit, transport, handling, contained use, release into the environment, and/or placing on the market,
3. Risk assessment and risk management setups),
4. Mechanism for monitoring enforcement and
5. Promoting and facilitating public participation, education and awareness.

#### **(vi) Project Objective**

The project aims to assist participating countries to meet their international obligations as Parties to the CPB. The current project will create the necessary capacities for LMOs to be introduced into the environment, without undermining the conservation of native genetic resources, and will thus assist the participating countries to advance their economic and scientific development, in line with the objectives and articles of the CPB. The project seeks to:

1. strengthen institutional, infrastructural, human and regulatory biosafety capacities of the participating countries in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs) in support of the CPB.
2. Promote cooperative measures in the implementation of NBFs across the three countries
3. Stimulate regional dialogues on biosafety and effective cooperation of technical tools and relevant support for the safe use and transboundary movement of LMOs.

The PIF was developed through a consultative process led by the Asia Biosafety Family which is an offshoot of the support provided by the government of the Republic of Korea to the UNEP-GEF BCH

Projects (Phases I, II, & III). The PIF for this medium-sized multi-country project was endorsed by Global Environment Facility (GEF) on 16 June 2022.

The proposal was further updated and refined based on the additional information gathered from the four participating countries as part of the Project Preparatory Grant (PPG) implementation activities. The main activities were national stocktaking and stakeholder validation to identify the gaps and prioritize activities for national and multi-country level cooperation. Two interactions of all project partners were organized by KIPABiC: an inception workshop in November 2022 and a multi-country validation workshop organized from 12-14 April 2023 in Jeju Island, South Korea to consultatively review the Project document. The PPG activities were coordinated by KIPABiC from June 2022 with GEF PPG budget of USD 50,000 and an additional finance grant of USD 100,000 from the MOTIE, mobilized through UNEP. The Inception Workshop served as the venue to officially launch the PPG to undertake a participatory review of the project work plan, timeline, budget, coordination, monitoring and evaluation details. The workshop saw full representation, achieved through the hybrid mode from all four participating countries, UNEP and representatives from KBCH, MOTIE with a total of 19 participants (ten participating onsite at Daejeon, Republic of Korea while nine joined virtually via Zoom). The Intercountry Validation workshop allowed the participating countries to consultatively review and validate the final project document along with all the annexures, it was attended by 19 participants (16 onsite and 3 virtually) from UNEP, KBCH, MOTIE, four countries and independent biosafety experts.

The National stock-taking exercises defined the specific national gaps and needs for establishing fully functional NBFs in each of the four countries. Although the four countries are at different levels of implementation of the NBFs, many of the identified gaps and needs require common interventions. However, some specific national needs were also identified. Thus, guided by the results of the stocktaking process and aligned with the project components as stated in this proposal, the project proposes national as well as joint multi-country interventions.

The compilation and the synthesis of the national needs and priorities is guided by needs for supporting the establishment and/or operationalization of key components of NBF, in alignment with the CPB. Limitations in the implementation of the CPB in the four project countries, include inadequate regulatory regimes, limited technical guidance and tools, lack of capacity for managing transboundary movement of LMOs, limited capacity for informed decision making, and limited public awareness and/or prioritization of biosafety.

The multi-country level project activities would help avoid duplication of efforts, build synergies, and enhance efficiency and cost effectiveness through shared expertise and resources while providing lessons and best practices for potential uptake by other countries in the region. This cooperative approach could serve as a catalyst for other countries in the region. To cater for the different national needs, the participating countries will retain national specific responsibilities while collaborating with the other countries for joint multi-country activities under the coordination of KIPABiC as pilots for up scaling.

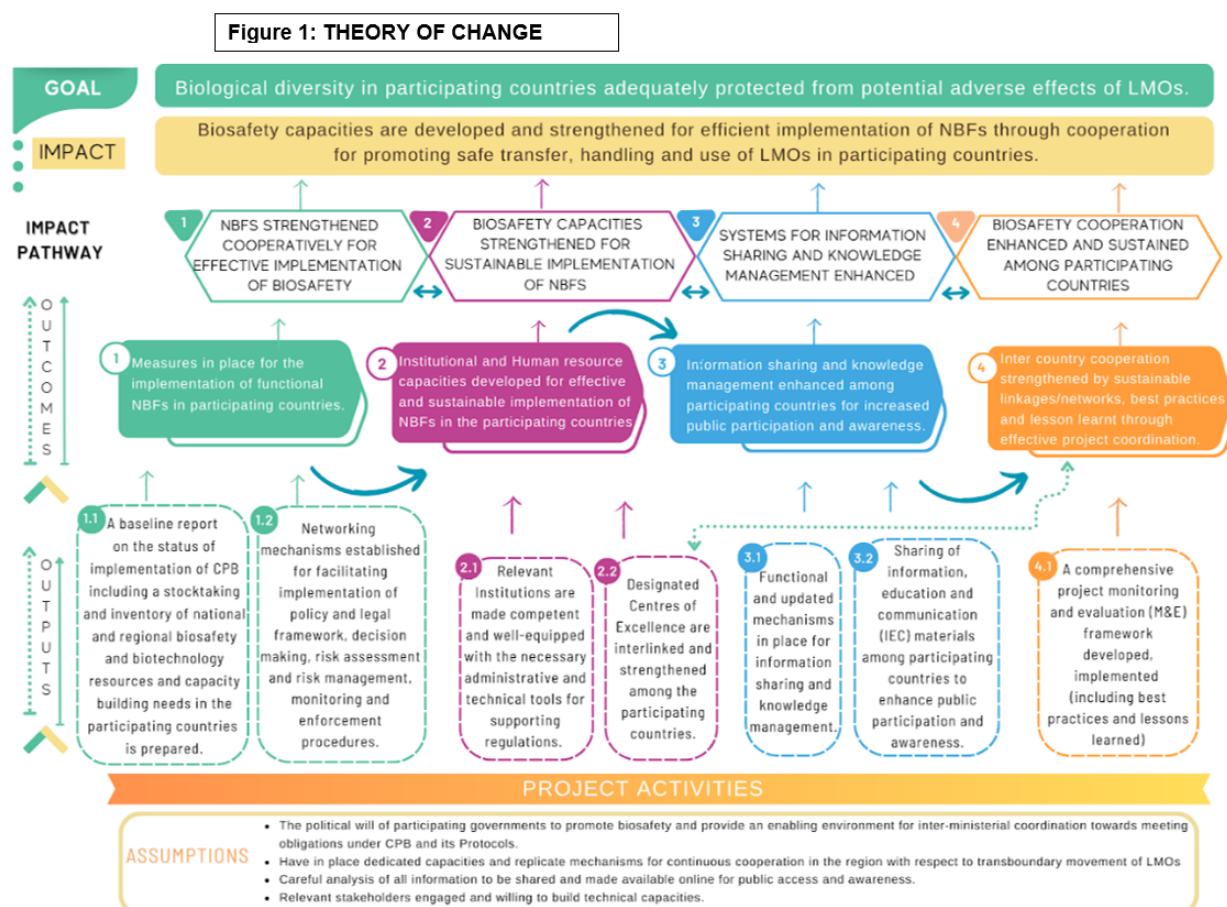
The project will be implemented using an 'incremental approach', through which achievements accrued from earlier projects, as highlighted by the stocktaking exercise, will constitute the baseline for the project activities. In addition, the project will address common needs using the central multi-country strategy and replicate at national level e.g. for capacity building where a multiplier effect will be achieved



through the use of the Training of Trainers (ToT) approach, with technical backstopping from relevant experts. Throughout the implementation of the project, sex disaggregated data will be compiled on the project personnel and on project participants/ beneficiaries. The project will ensure the balanced gender representation and participation across all levels of project implementation. The results from the project will be reviewed with a gender lens to ensure that all the technical tools including Risk Assessment, LMO Detection among others are gender responsive.

The envisaged results of the project in the four participating countries are fully established and sustainably implemented national biosafety laws that are aligned with the CPB and its supplementary Protocol. The NBF institutional, infrastructural, human and regulatory capacities will be strengthened. Strengthening implementation of NBFs in the four countries will contribute to sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity.

The project is conceptualized as per the proposed Theory of Change consisting of four project components as shown in **Figure 1**.



## Theory of change narrative

The multicountry project is designed to contribute to protection of biological diversity in participating countries from any potential adverse effects of LMOs, as illustrated in the theory of change diagram. To achieve this goal, four distinct yet interconnected impact pathways have been outlined through a combination of country specific and joint activities by participating countries.

The first pathway involves strengthening NBFs through collaboration among participating countries. Cooperative efforts shall focus on biosafety measures to ensure the effective implementation of safeguards, based on experience sharing and networking approach.

Building on this, the second pathway focuses on the strengthening of biosafety capacities for sustainable implementation of NBFs. The aim is to cultivate resilient institutional and human resource capacities beyond the project's lifecycle.

The third pathway focusses on information sharing, outreach and knowledge management systems. Information dissemination shall be aimed at a shared understanding and awareness among participating countries, fostering a collective responsibility in biosafety management for the protection of biological diversity.

The fourth pathway emphasizes on enhanced biosafety cooperation among participating countries. It seeks to strengthen and sustain inter-country cooperation for lasting impact through the establishment of sustainable linkages and networks, incorporating best practices and lessons learned from effective project coordination that can be replicated in other countries and up scaled in the region.

To achieve the anticipated outcomes, a set of carefully organized outputs are outlined, such as (1.1) a comprehensive baseline report on the implementation of the CPB, including stock taking and inventory of national and regional resources and capacity building needs, (1.2) networking mechanisms for implementation of policy and legal framework for decision making, (2.1) competent and well-equipped institutions, (2.2) interconnected Centers of Excellence, (3.1) functional and updated mechanisms for information sharing and knowledge management, (3.2) sharing of IEC materials to enhance public participation and awareness, and (4.1) a comprehensive project monitoring and evaluation framework. Outcome 2.2 and 4.1 directly contributes to strengthen inter-country cooperation through sustainable linkages and networks.

Throughout the described process, the participating countries are required to work in close partnership, contributing to the various activities by providing skills, data, resources, and

knowledge. Collectively, the countries shall have strengthened institutional and human resource capacities for efficient implementation of NBFs. This theory of change operates on the assumptions of unwavering political will of participating governments, dedicated capacities for continuous cooperation, careful analysis of information for public access, and the active engagement of stakeholders committed to building technical capacities.

### (vii) Project Components and Expected Outcomes

The participating countries adopted a consultative approach, both at the national level and multicountry discussions facilitated by KIPABiC to design project components, outcomes, outputs and activities. There are four project components covering activities to strengthen the NBFs and include joint activities as well as country specific activities. To bring in more clarity in the implementation, the number of outputs have been increased to 4, as compared to 3 at the PIF stage. Table (2) below provides a comparative summary on changes made in readjustment of the components and outcomes.

**Table 2: Summary of changes on the project components**

Project Outcomes	At PIF Stage	Readjusted in ProDoc
<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Multi country collaboration and Cooperation on Biosafety Issues</b>	
Outcome 1	Harmonized inter-country biosafety systems and enhanced institutional capacities resulting in adequate protection in the use of modern biotechnology in Asia.	Measures in place for implementation of functional national biosafety frameworks (NBFs) in participating countries.
<p>Justification: Based on the consultation among the participating countries and feedback received during the PPG phase, the component 1 has been restructured to undertake a baseline report through a stocktaking assessment and preparation of an inventory of national and regional resources and capacity building needs. This activity was included under component 2 in the PIF to be undertaken as a national activity. The countries will undertake stocktaking assessment at national level, however the same will now be consolidated as a combined multicountry report. The output 1.1 is the same as the Output 2.1 from PIF.</p> <p>Resources available at regional level shall also be included to have a comprehensive report. The objective of this change is to contribute to sharing of experience among the participating countries and harmonization through multicountry cooperation.</p> <p>Based on the feedback from the countries, the output 1.1 from the PIF has been restructured as output 1.2, to bring in more clarity of cooperative networking on the key pillars of NBFs to strengthen implementation of CPB. It is proposed to achieve the same by utilizing existing systems/capacities and activities undertaken in the project at national level.</p> <p>Considering the relevance, the Output 1.3 from PIF on "Designated Centres of Excellence are interlinked and strengthened" is placed as Output 2.2 under Component 2.</p>		
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Facilitating the establishment, further development and effective implementation of biosafety systems at national level</b>	

Outcome 2	National biosafety systems are updated and ready for effective implementation.	Institutional and Human resource capacities developed for effective implementation of NBFs in the participating countries.
<p>Justification: Based on the feedback from the participating countries, component 2 was divided into two components viz: Components 2 and 3. While Component 2 focuses on strengthening the nationally mandated institutions, based on the country specific needs of the participating countries, component 3 is on information sharing, knowledge management, education and public awareness.</p> <p>The Output 1.2 from the PIF has now been merged with the Output 2.2 and is mentioned as Output 2.1. The output 2.1 would ensure that nationally mandated institutions are made competent and well equipped with the required administrative and technical tools for supporting biosafety regulations/decision making in the participating countries.</p> <p>All the outputs in the PIF have be retained; more clarity and focus has been brought in through the new text to ensure implementable and practical approach to the project delivery.</p>		
<b>Component 3</b>	<b>Project Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<b>Systems for Information sharing, knowledge management, education and public awareness developed</b>
Outcome 3	Systematically monitored processes aligned with available resources and producing high quality results.	Information sharing and knowledge management enhanced among participating countries for increased public participation and awareness
<b>Component 4:</b>	-	<b>Project Monitoring and Evaluation</b>
Outcome 4	-	Inter country cooperation strengthened by sustainable linkages/ networks, project monitoring and evaluation, best practices and lessons learnt through effective project coordination.
<p>Justification: Component 3 focuses on information sharing, knowledge management, education and public awareness, elaborating the relevant activities from the Output 2.2. The outputs have been restructured to ensure capacity building at national level and contribute to sharing of experience amongst countries.</p>		

Further description of the present proposed project component and outcomes is as follows:

#### **Component 1: Multi-country collaboration and cooperation on biosafety issues**

This component of the project will promote common visions and approaches and focus on greater inter-country cooperation and technical cooperation of biosafety systems including standards, administrative

procedures, post-release activities, sharing of information, experiences and lessons learnt. The project by combining national and multi-country activities will enhance sustainability, allow the pooling of resources to promote cost effectiveness especially through the establishment of regional database for knowledge sharing on biosafety and the production of common science-based materials for training and communication purposes. It will further build on the existing networks and collaborative initiatives of the Asia Biosafety Family.

The objective of this component is to strengthen technical capacity, establish mechanisms for multi-country cooperation (in Bangladesh, India, Mongolia & Philippines) and elaborate best practices based on comparative assessment of key elements of biosafety frameworks. Activities will include understanding commitments under Target 17 of post 2020 Global biodiversity Framework and implantation and capacity building plan of CPB and developing cooperative mechanisms based on best practices for strengthening implementation of NBFs. This is in line with Articles 14 (bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements) and 22 (capacity building) of the CPB, specifically their emphasis on joint country interventions in harnessing the potential of shared expertise and resources.

***Expected outcomes include:*** Measures in place for implementation of functional national biosafety frameworks (NBFs) in participating countries.

***Expected outputs include:*** The output 1.1 would include preparation of a baseline report on the status of implementation of CPB through undertaking a stocktaking assessment by the participating countries. Additionally, an inventory of national and regional biosafety and biotechnology resources and capacity building needs shall also be prepared by each of the participating countries.

The output 1.2 would include establishing a networking mechanism for implementation of policy and legal framework, decision making, risk assessment and risk management, monitoring and enforcement procedures. These mechanisms may include multiple approaches for cooperation depending on the activities and institutions/stakeholders involved. Efforts will be made to have networks that are structured, with common objectives and mandates to ensure sustainability. National Technical institutions will be linked to facilitate exchange, institutional laboratory visits and peer-to-peer learning. The activities under the output 1.2 include:

- sharing resources and experiences through inter-country workshops for the effective implementation of key elements of NBFs in participating countries.
- Establishing subject-specific multicountry expert groups/panels to function virtually, for cooperation and sharing of experiences and provide technical backstopping in key areas viz. implementation of policy and legal framework, decision making, RARM, monitoring and enforcement procedures.
- Creating an inter-country network (platform) for sharing biosafety technical resources and expertise (Asia BCH).

During the implementation of this component, the review and consultation design will be gender-responsive, promoting equal representation of both men and women. Women's participation will also be encouraged in analyzing gaps for effective NBF implementation and propose measures for equal voice in decision-making.

***Output 1.1: A baseline report on the status of implementation of CPB including a stocktaking assessment and inventory of national and regional biosafety and biotechnology resources and capacity building needs in the project countries is prepared.***

The activities to be undertaken to achieve the expected outputs are listed below:

1.1.1 Organize a virtual inter-country knowledge sharing workshop on the biosafety related target 17 of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its action plans (2021-2030).

1.1.2 Undertake stocktaking assessment by project partner countries and prepare a baseline report on status of implementation of key provisions of CPB.

1.1.3 Prepare an inventory of national biosafety and biotechnology resources by project partner countries.

1.1.4 Undertake comparative assessment of biosafety frameworks in participating countries and document best practices in key areas viz. risk assessment, risk management, detection, etc.

***Output 1.2: Networking mechanism established for facilitating implementation of policy and legal framework, decision making, risk assessment and risk management, monitoring and enforcement procedures.***

The activities to be undertaken to achieve the expected outputs are listed below:

1.2.1 Organize two inter-country workshops to share resources and experiences for the effective implementation of key elements of NBFs in participating countries. (**Hybrid mode**)

1.2.2 Establish subject-specific multicountry expert groups/panels to function virtually, for cooperation and sharing of experiences and provide technical backstopping in key areas viz. implementation of policy and legal framework, decision making, RARM, monitoring and enforcement procedures.

1.2.3 Create an inter-country network (platform) for sharing biosafety technical resources and expertise (Asia BCH).

**Component 2: Facilitating the establishment, further development and effective implementation of biosafety systems at national level**

The objective of this component is to further develop and operationalize NBFs and enhance institutional capacities in participating countries at the national level. This is in line with Article 2.1 of the Protocol that mandates Parties to take the necessary and appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement their obligations under the CPB.

By the end of the project, all participating countries have a workable fully functional and transparent NBF consisting of:

- 1) Fully functional and responsive regulatory regimes in line with the CPB and national needs and priorities;
- 2) Fully functional national systems for handling request,
- 3) Performing risk assessment and risk management, decision-making, performing administrative tasks;
- 4) A functional national system for ?follow-up?, inspections and enforcement.

In the area of risk assessment and decision making, supportive tools will be developed followed by training of trainers. In area of LMO detection, the project intervention will focus on training and capacity strengthening of designated regulatory agency officials in sampling and detection. Methodologies and protocols, will be documented, and shared with the four participating countries for review and integration in the national biosafety system. There will also be dedicated training for enforcement officers in data review and handling of LMOs at the port. Participation in cooperative activities such as proficiency testing will be facilitated.

***Expected outcomes include:*** Institutional and Human resource capacities developed for effective implementation of NBFs in the participating countries

-

***Expected outputs include:*** The output 2.1 would ensure that nationally mandated institutions are made competent and well equipped with the required administrative and technical tools for supporting biosafety regulations in the participating countries through developing technical tools and building capacities. Guidance and resource material for strengthening risk assessment and risk management, handling request and decision making would include guidelines, training manuals, SOPs, tools for trainers, decision formats etc. Human resource capacities developed through training/workshops would be undertaken with ?Train the Trainer? approach to help achieve multiplier effect and supplement capacity building and ongoing skill development in the participating countries. Discussions led by women and youth would be encouraged for a more gender balanced representation.

Further, output 2.2 would facilitate interlinkages of designated centres of excellence of participating countries to strengthen the LMO detection capacities in the region. Pooling of resources, sharing of experiences and costs, including use of regional experts shall facilitate sustainable linkages amongst national and regional biosafety implementation agencies in Asia.

**Output 2.1: Nationally mandated Institutions are made competent and well-equipped with the necessary administrative and technical tools for supporting regulations**

The activities to be undertaken to achieve the expected outputs are listed below:

2.1.1 Develop technical tools for strengthening risk assessment and risk management (RARM), handling requests and decision making particularly conduct of confined field trials, environmental risk assessment, monitoring, etc. for use by participating countries.

2.1.2 Adapt and adopt technical tools for strengthening risk assessment and risk management, and decision making to national contexts and use.

2.1.3 Organize national training workshops on decision making tools, RARM, including practical RA & RM real cases where available (simulation of NBFs using the enhanced tools).

2.1.4 Build laboratory testing capacities by reviewing and updating the existing facilities in Mongolia and Philippines.

2.1.5 Organize national awareness workshops for policy makers, members of regulatory committees, scientists and enforcement officials on key topics of regulatory and safety assessment procedures, risk management and monitoring of LMOs by international/regional experts.

2.1.6 Organize national training workshops (Train the Trainer) on identification, detection and sampling procedures of LMOs and proficiency testing for laboratory staff, food and seed inspectors and relevant enforcement officials such as customs, border control officials, etc. by international/regional experts.

**Output 2.2: Designated Centres of Excellence are interlinked and strengthened among project partner countries.**

The activities to be undertaken to achieve the expected outputs are listed below:

2.2.1 Develop manual for LMO detection, SOPs and other supporting tools based on best practices in participating countries.

2.2.2 Organize inter-country hands on training on identification, detection and sampling procedures of LMOs and proficiency testing (Train the Trainer approach to be followed for next level of national trainings in Mongolia, Bangladesh and Philippines).

**Component 3: Systems for information sharing, knowledge management, education and public awareness developed**



Systems for information sharing and knowledge management will be enhanced and strengthened for increased public awareness and participation. Local trainings/workshops/seminars on science communication and public engagement will be conducted to inform stakeholders about current situation of biosafety in the participating countries.

Increasing public access to biosafety information can be achieved and can be made available to various clients through multi-media and interpersonal channels. Information material will be developed including in electronic forms such as apps, websites, audio-visuals, etc. to ensure wider dissemination. National BCH Websites/Portals and Asia Biosafety Family (ABF) Portal will be enhanced for disseminating reliable scientific information necessary to ensuring the safe and sustainable use of modern biotechnology not only in the participating Countries but also in the whole of Asia Region with the active involvement and support of KIPABiC and Korea BCH.

Within participating countries, meetings will be conducted with various stakeholders through publications and fact sheets; these can proactively provide effective community outreach and education to targeted members of the public, **including women, girls, youth, and local communities**. In summary, the current project's proposed structure seeks to collate the major tasks that would support the full implementation of the CPB in the participating countries.

***Expected outcomes include:*** Information sharing and knowledge management enhanced among participating countries and in Asia Region for increased public participation and awareness.

***Expected outputs include:*** The output 3.1 would facilitate putting in place functionally updated mechanisms for information sharing and knowledge management in the participating countries for sustainability beyond the project duration. **Study/surveys would be undertaken to help access gaps in information available and access of authentic resources to facilitate capacity building in PAEP (public awareness, education and participation).** Accordingly, information resources, modules for training, outreach material and other modes of online information sharing resources are proposed to be developed and/or updated from time to time, ensuring gender sensitivity.

The output 3.2 would help enhance public participation and awareness among participating countries through developing and sharing of information, education and communication (IEC) materials. **Online national workshops, collaborative efforts among participating countries and KIPABiC for regional and international events, study tours and effective utilisation of existing Asia BCH/nBCH for enhancing public participation and awareness shall be undertaken, while ensuring gender balance.**

**The proposed activities shall contribute to pooling of resources for widespread public awareness and education.**

### ***Output 3.1: Functional and updated mechanisms in place for information sharing and knowledge management***

The activities to be undertaken to achieve the expected outputs are listed below:

3.1.1 Undertake studies/surveys to identify gaps in accessing authentic biosafety information and capacity building in PAEP (public awareness, education and participation) among the participating countries.

3.1.2 Review, document and implement systems for public education, awareness, participation and access to biosafety information

3.1.3 Organize a series of workshops (in person/virtual) to sensitize on useful online resources including the BCH

*Training material and modules for using BCH are developed and translated by countries as part of their respective ongoing BCH projects.*

3.1.4 Provide interlinks/references between in- country (websites of national relevant departments) and inter-country biosafety relevant official webpages for information sharing and dissemination, integration and cooperation among the participating countries. (such inter country linkages facilitate harmonization of procedures through lessons learnt and enable sustainability beyond project/possible through bilateral/multi-country agreements)

3.1.5 Develop biosafety outreach material such as: primers, booklets, brochures, pamphlets, glossary of terms, audio-visual resource, Instagram and twitter pages, etc. for multiple stakeholder categories.

3.1.6 Develop website/mobile based apps as quick information sharing systems on key biosafety topics for scientists, civil society personnel, students, farmers, etc.

3.1.7 Develop/strengthen Biosafety Information Management System (Philippines)

***Output 3.2: Sharing of information, education and communication (IEC) materials among participating countries to enhance public participation and awareness***

The activities to be undertaken to achieve the expected outputs are listed below:

3.2.1 Organize online workshops on biosafety and biotechnology for research institutions and universities.

3.2.2 Identify opportunities for further collaboration between institutions of participating countries, KIPABiC and others at regional and international events.

3.2.3 Make available online through BCH/Asia BCH the technical tools, resource materials, case studies, articles on key topics on risk assessment and risk management, conduct of confined field trials, monitoring, etc. for facilitating cooperation among participating countries.

### 3.2.4 Organize study tours/familiarization workshops on biosafety and biotechnology for policy makers and technical working groups

## **Component 4: Project Monitoring and Evaluation**

The project will be guided by a comprehensive project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework that would result in documenting best practices and lessons learnt from all the activities in the other three project components.

This M&E framework will be implemented through the activities such as: ensuring the integrated and coordinated efforts by partner countries towards regional harmonization, adaptively managing the project, mitigate risks and incorporate best practices and lessons learnt, undertaking mid-term Project evaluation, and drawing lessons to enhance project implementation and carry out terminal evaluation and institutionalize the established systems for continuity beyond the project. *The project will encourage active participation of women and youth in both project implementation and monitoring teams.*

***Expected outcomes include:*** Intercountry cooperation strengthened by sustainable linkages/ networks, best practices and lessons learnt through effective project coordination.

***Expected outputs include:*** The output 4.1 is aimed to develop a comprehensive project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework inclusive of best practices and lessons learnt during the project duration, *including the best practices and lessons learnt on gender mainstreaming.*

Best practices and Lessons learnt on gender mainstreaming especially in the policy and regulatory interventions, human resource and institutional development activities and State Level activities under Monitoring and enforcement will be captured and disseminated to regulators and decision makers.

***Output 4.1: A comprehensive project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework developed, implemented and including best practices and lessons learned***

The activities to be undertaken to achieve the expected outputs are listed below:

4.1.1 Inception Workshop for multi-country project.

4.1.2 Develop and implement a comprehensive Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework aimed towards ensuring integration and coordinated efforts by partner countries towards regional harmonization.

4.1.3 Adaptively manage the project, mitigate risks and incorporate best practices and lessons learnt, (including aspects related to gender mainstreaming).

4.1.4 Undertake mid-term Project evaluation and draw lessons to enhance project implementation.

4.1.5 Carry out Terminal Evaluation and institutionalize the established systems for continuity beyond the Project.

Experience gained by project monitoring and evaluation can be further replicated in other similar projects to achieve global benefits. The proposed project activities as per the work plan along with key deliverables, benchmarks and timelines is placed as **Annexes L1 and L2**.

#### **(viii) Project alignment with GEF focal area and Impact Program strategies**

The project belongs to the Biodiversity Focal Area and fits within the GEF 7 Biodiversity strategy program under objective 3: 'Further biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks' under item H-Implement the CPB.

At the multi-country level, the project would enhance cooperation and collaboration aiming for a more effective and efficient use of human, technical, institutional, capacity building and financial resources through:

- 1) Establishing mechanisms to promote inter-institutional and inter-country collaboration on biosafety and sharing of human and technical resources (Article 22 of the CPB),
- 2) Development of common approaches to risk assessment, risk management and communication, contingency planning and emergency responses, monitoring, and enforcement to be used by project targeted institutions/ agencies and collaboratively between participating countries and
- 3) Promoting sharing of information all aimed at facilitating national biosafety decision making.

At the national level, the project would assist in building national capacity to implement the CPB in participating countries by increasing institutional effectiveness through capacity building for personnel to be able to perform the assigned tasks.

The interventions under this component will generate results which can be repurposed to support risk profiling and management, testing, emergency responses and enforcement measures also in relation to ongoing and future pandemics as a biosecurity response. **The interventions under this component will provide measures to ensure safe and sustainable use of transgenic crops and derivatives of strategic importance to the participating countries.**

### **Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions**

The absence of GEF contribution will prolong and postpone the full effective implementation of the NBFs in the participating countries. This will endanger the control of LMOs and create an urgent situation in a region which is among the richest and unique biodiversity areas of the world as a result of rapidly expanding adoption of transgenic crops without systematic risk and impact assessment, safety management and tracking/monitoring systems. This will also lead to persistence of many of the already existing problems which include *inter alia*

- 1) gaps in biosafety frameworks and related legislation,
- 2) insufficient capacity for administrative procedures,
- 3) inadequate laboratory tools/methodologies and guidelines for GMOs risk assessment, risk management, detection, identification and enforcement
- 4) insufficient training of personnel and lack of corresponding experts,
- 5) missing harmonization between frameworks and legislations in the region to manage biotechnology applications.
- 6) Lack of access to updated and latest information.

The other scenario of having separate projects in participating countries is also deemed not suitable as it would require major, long-term investment to reach international standards and multidisciplinary technical capacity. This is unacceptable given the urgency of biosafety as a result of the rapidly evolving nature of biotechnology techniques and applications. Additionally, this would result in 1) scale, cost and time inefficiencies, 2) lost opportunities for collaboration, cooperation and exploitation of comparative advantage and complementary skills, 3) Lack of cooperation and coordination among biosafety systems in the region and lack of common approaches on risk assessment, monitoring and enforcement 4) Potential lack of sustainability.

Proposed GEF involvement in the context of this proposed project would contribute towards the successful implementation of participating countries NBFs to fulfil their obligations as Parties to the CPB, and to meet their national needs and priorities for sustainable development. The project will enhance inter-country cooperation and promote sharing information, experiences and lessons learnt. The involvement of GEF would also help to act as a catalyst to enlist financial and political support from the Governments, thus promoting sustainability of the outcomes of the project. It would also provide hands on experience and lessons in translating best practices in biosafety systems among participating countries. The involvement of KIPABiC in project coordination with support from MOTIE, Korea, with the mandate of promoting biosafety cooperation in Asia will further help in sustainable outcomes.

The project paradigm is built on maximizing economies of scale by exploiting the comparative advantages of participating countries and entities as either Net Donors/Providers (NP) or Net Recipients (NR) of capacity, within the project's multi-country structure.

Incremental cost is estimated as the difference in scenarios between the 'baseline' or 'what would happen without GEF intervention' and an 'alternative' (where series of additional activities will be carried out to contribute to global environmental benefit). The activities to be carried out by this project proposal will result in the 'alternative' scenario, the cost of which will be borne through the GEF funds.

The proposed incremental cost analysis is described below:

Project item	Baseline scenario (B)	Alternative scenario (A)	Incremental benefits (A-B) from the project
--------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	---

<p><b><u>Project objective:</u></b></p> <p>To strengthen institutional, human and regulatory capacities and promote cooperative measures in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks for the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) in Asia</p>	<p>Though the four participating countries are Party to the CPB, they are at varied levels of being aligned to its obligations for safe application of biotechnology at national level. Further development of institutional and human resource capacities along with information sharing and knowledge management systems for enhanced public awareness are required to comply fully.</p> <p>Additionally, to promote safe application of biotechnology in Asia region, cooperation and harmonization of procedures and technical tools on thematic areas (risk assessment, management, monitoring, detection, etc.) is needed for effective implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs).</p>	<p>The project shall contribute towards further strengthening of national biosafety frameworks in the participating countries, which in turn shall contribute towards regional cooperation and harmonization through sharing of experience and resources, developing streamlined procedures, technical tools, common information sharing platforms and materials, etc. for promoting the safe application of biotechnology in Asia. These are to be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing of technical resources and expertise among participating countries enabling also to be cost effective.</li> </ul>	<p>? Development and strengthening of institutional and human resources in participating countries through technical tools, procedures, documentations, etc. for risk assessment, management and monitoring of LMOs.</p> <p>? Efficient enforcement of activities for transboundary movement of LMOs within the region.</p> <p>? Common information sharing platforms and developing outreach materials for enhanced public awareness.</p> <p>? Establishing multi-country cooperation through incorporation of processes and procedures via the best practices and lessons learnt for biosafety regulations appropriate to national contexts.</p>
---	---	--	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Technical backstopping and capacity building within the region.</li><li>- Interlinkages and interactions to enable sharing of experiences and best practices being followed in the region.</li><li>- Linking information sharing platforms within the region.</li></ul>	
--	--	---	--



<p><b><u>Component 1:</u></b></p> <p>Multi-country collaboration and cooperation on Biosafety issues</p>	<p>The participating countries are implementing their biosafety regulations at national level.</p> <p>Multi-country cooperation and collaboration are limited/non existing.</p>	<p>The project shall contribute to Target 17 of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the implementation and Capacity Building plans (2021-2030) in context to effective implementation of the NBFs through sharing of experience and best practices among participating countries.</p> <p>The inter-country collaboration on common needs and peer-to peer learning among the participating countries who are at varying levels of implementing the NBF shall be built as part of the project.</p> <p>Trained personnel across the participating countries shall</p>	<p>? Facilitating multi-country cooperation through understanding the needs and putting in place appropriate support mechanisms including mentorship and peer-to-peer support for review and adaptation of policies and regulations as appropriate to the national contexts of the participating countries.</p> <p>? Wherever similarities are possible and/or exist in terms of operational or contextual, the project shall reinforce the participating countries NBFs by joint capacity building and pooling of efforts.</p>
--	---	---	---

		<p>be a part of the national core team of experts/various committees, skilled manpower and supporting staff for meeting the obligations under national and international treaties towards safe application of biotechnology.</p>	
--	--	--	--

<p><b><u>Component 2:</u></b></p> <p>Facilitating the establishment, further development and effective implementation of biosafety systems at national level.</p>	<p>As the participating countries are at varying levels of implementing key elements of the NBFs, there is limited experience, facilities and trained personnel.</p>	<p>The project shall assist the participating countries in their national efforts to build and further strengthen safety assessment systems, monitoring and enforcement systems including detection of LMOs through inter-country platform. This will be done through sharing of experiences and expertise, costs and by addressing the knowledge and competence gaps cooperatively among the participating countries. The more advanced partner countries will share experiences with those with less developed biosafety systems thus providing learning opportunities and technical support services.</p>	<p>? Pooling of resources, sharing of experiences and costs, including use of regional experts under various thematic areas, will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Validated biosafety technical tools, procedure, guidelines and formats,</li> <li>- Improved institutional capacities, human &amp; technical resources,</li> <li>- Increased number of trained personnel on relevant biosafety thematic issues, and mentoring to build hands-on experience,</li> <li>- Platform for establishment of efficient inter-institutional arrangements and linkages amongst national and regional biosafety implementation agencies,</li> <li>- Enhanced information sharing systems within Asian region.</li> </ul>
---	--	--	--

		<p>The train the trainer approach will be used to achieve multiplier effect on capacity building and ensure on-going skills development.</p>	
--	--	--	--

<p><b><u>Component 3:</u></b></p> <p>Systems for information sharing, knowledge management, education and public awareness developed.</p>	<p>The participating countries have benefitted from previous UNEP/GEF projects on Biosafety Clearing House (BCH). However, gaps exist with respect to update and management of information besides, sharing of experiences, best practices and lesson learnt.</p>	<p>The project shall coordinate and contribute to the national efforts of the participating countries to strengthen the information sharing and management systems.</p> <p>Advanced tools for information sharing will be used besides developing outreach material for multiple stakeholders and contributing the public awareness and education on biotechnology and biosafety.</p>	<p>? Facilitate gaps analysis in accessing authentic information and capacity building in PAEP (public awareness, education and participation) among the participating countries.</p> <p>? Activities under the project shall contribute to widespread public awareness and education.</p> <p>? Establishing interlinks/references between countries for pooling of resources.</p> <p>? Update information on national websites including BCH.</p>
---	---	---	--

<p><b><u>Component 4:</u></b></p> <p>Project Monitoring and Evaluation</p>		<p>Similar activities implemented and managed through the multi-country platform approach will facilitate cost-saving.</p> <p>A coordinated approach to monitoring and evaluation of.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lessons from one country can be used to expedite progress in another.</li> <li>- The project will enable a coordinated monitoring tool, ensuring that the same standards are used to evaluate level of implementation in all target countries.</li> <li>- Fund management and resource allocation</li> </ul>	<p>The multi-country approach will result in cost saving for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Implementation and management of the project,</li> <li>? Management of capacity building activities</li> <li>? Success in project implementation synergies and knowledge transfer</li> </ul> <p><u>Global benefit</u></p> <p>Experience gained by project monitoring and evaluation can be replicated in other similar projects to achieve global benefits.</p>
--	--	---	--

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

Global environmental benefits and adaptation benefits would include *inter alia*:

- ? Contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of the rich and unique genetic resources in Asia through pursuing a synergistic approach to implementing the CPB to the CBD;
- ? Minimizing the potential risk of LMOs to wild relatives and cultivated varieties of the Asia region and ensure identity preservation;
- ? Implementing biosafety actions on a greater scale to avoid further biodiversity loss and to contribute to the overall global agricultural development;
- ? Building biosafety capacity of small nations in Asia and ensuring effective implementation of biosafety laws and regulations across the region;
- ? Mainstreaming biosafety across sectors and ensure policy coherence among the participating countries;
- ? Promote a coordinated and strategic regional approach to risk assessment, risk management and monitoring the long-term environmental impact of transgenic varieties in agriculture thus addressing the information deficit;
- ? Enhance the capabilities of the target countries to comply with their international biosafety obligations and commitments, thereby improving each country's contribution to global conservation efforts.
- ? Using genetic techniques to harness genetic diversity in the region and to deal with climate change and desertification as well as other abiotic and biotic stresses (e.g. drought resistant, salt tolerant varieties or, alternative crops, and improved agricultural practices).

### **Innovation and Sustainability**

The proposed multi-country project has a significant innovative aspect, as it is the first GEF project in Asia to combine and integrate both national and multi-country biosafety efforts through cooperative actions to support implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks. At the national level, the thrust will be to operationalize effective and efficient biosafety systems that are responsive to demonstrated country needs and priorities to allow safe biotechnology advancements. At the multi-country level, activities will focus on establishing common biosafety/biotechnology visions, strategic priorities, technical approaches and cooperation mechanisms for participating countries, and pooling of resources to promote cost effectiveness and economies of scale, foster greater cooperation and enhance sustainability. The project strategy of developing and strengthening institutional capacities and human resource capabilities in the partner countries is expected to strengthen biosafety knowledge of the participating countries. The project design will enable its inspired measures to be implemented in practice even after the project ends.

The project approach to sustainability measures is incorporated in the key components described below:

#### **A. Political and financial terms**

-

Integration of biosafety issues into strategic documents ensures that biosafety will continue to be taken into account in decision making as a part of environmental management, scientific and technical development even after the project ends. Agreed policies could guarantee sustainability of biosafety financing on a regular manner from States' budget. The project would assist politicians to better understand the issues of biosafety and ease for sectorial ministries to plan their budgets and activities for future. This approach would lead to better cooperation between relevant governmental institutions in-country and among the participating countries so that they do not work in isolation that could lead to overlapping and big gaps in the implementation of CPB. Additionally, the multi-country component is expected to create medium-term economies of scale in implementing the CPB. Involvement of international agencies in the project is a potential opportunity for garnering their longer-term financial support. The multi-country approach also improves the fund-raising prospects of a group of countries versus a single country and reduces intraregional competition and duplication of effort. Furthermore, the project provides a base from where Asia regional biosafety capacity can be strengthened. Conducting active fund-raising capacity in the partner countries, as well as effective partnerships with other stakeholders and donors, are expected to boost financial sustainability.

-

-

## **B. Institutional, legal and operational terms**

At the national level, strengthening biosafety frameworks with clearly defined roles and responsibilities guarantees institutional sustainability. Institutional arrangements once established would be sustained well beyond the life of the project. Organizing capacity-building workshops and courses for officers and experts, with the aim to improve competence, share information and experience and follow recent scientific development contribute to operational sustainability. Furthermore, in order to guarantee sustainability, more than one person will be trained per institution, and gender responsive written guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be developed to enable new personnel to get acquainted with biosafety issues. A multi-country strategy and structure, exploiting the technical experience and complementary expertise of each country and its Centers of Excellence, are expected to bolster institutional sustainability.

### **Replicability and scaling up.**

The project will establish an online knowledge-sharing mechanism for the replication of cooperative and national experiences. Methodologies and tools developed by the project will be designed for easy transfer and trained technical personnel will be available within the region through a roster of experts. The multi-country approach also provides a better foundation for replicating similar biosafety operations in other countries of the region. The lessons learnt under this project during project preparation and implementation could be used in other proposed regional and national projects for biosafety.

The project will facilitate direct replication by applying the following approaches:



- 1) demonstrate new ideas and practices in each of all project components,
- 2) identify and disseminate lessons learned and best practices to project partner institutions and authorities,
- 3) enable stakeholders to access information regarding biosafety issue and connected procedures, and in certain cases even additional funds from national or regional sources, and
- 4) train experts and other individuals to expand the project main approaches to other sphere of activities (at national level) or countries.
- 5) Development of gender responsive operational procedures, tools and guidelines to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol among the participating countries.

Scaling up occurs when lessons and experience are integrated into major program or policy priorities and funding criteria. Scaling-up activities will represent: Lessons learnt and experience gained under the project will be shared and demonstrated in a way that strengthens organizational and stakeholders' capacities and contributes to the development of supportive policy, strategies, program and fiscal incentives. It is expected that the use of common approaches by participating countries in addition to promoting regional cooperation on biosafety and biotechnology issues, will eventually lead to harmonization of policies, regulations and procedures for safe application and use of biotechnology as well as the biosafety regulatory frameworks.

---

[1] Roberts R.J, 2018; The Nobel Laureates? campaign supporting GMOs. In Journal of Innovation and Knowledge <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-innovation-and-knowledge> accessed 18 January 2019

[2] <https://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/55/>

#### 1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Country	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name
Mongolia	47.90771	106.88324	Ulan Bator
Bangladesh	23.7104	90.40744	Dhaka
Philippines	14.6042	120.9822	Manila

India	28.65195	77.23149	Delhi
-------	----------	----------	-------



### 1c. Child Project?

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

### 2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder involvement has always been a core element of the debate on biosafety. Successful implementation of key elements of biosafety regulatory framework requires involvement of multiple stakeholders. The Protocol also focuses on consultative approach and regional cooperation. This project is a result of the consultative partnership between a few members of the Asia Biosafety Family to jointly pursue regional collaboration to work towards one common goal of ensuring full compliance to the Protocol.

During the project preparation, special attention has been given to key elements for successful stakeholder engagement which tend to fall by the wayside in the rush to participate in the discourse. The potential stakeholders will be further finetuned during the national stock taking assessment, also taking into account gender related considerations and inputs from specific national entities/groups with the required expertise. It is envisaged that the different stakeholders will be engaged and involved throughout the execution stages of the project through direct consultation and participation in the project activities.

Possible stakeholders, depending on ?in country? dynamics will include the following groups:

STAKEHOLDER LIST (COUNTRY WISE)			
BANGLADESH	INDIA	MONGOLIA	PHILIPPINES
Parliamentarians, policymakers, decision-makers			

<p>? Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;</p> <p>? Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;</p> <p>? Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture;</p> <p>? Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock;</p> <p>? Director General, Department of Environment.</p>	<p>? Senior officials from concerned ministries and agencies</p> <p>? Chair and members of regulatory committees viz. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) and Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM)</p>	<p>? Standing Committee of the Parliament,</p> <p>? Parliamentary Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy,</p> <p>? Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment</p>	<p>Senior representatives from:</p> <p>? National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines</p> <p>? Department of Science and Technology</p> <p>? Department of Agriculture</p> <p>? Department of Environment and Natural Resources</p> <p>? Department of Health</p> <p>? Department of the Interior and Local Government</p> <p>? Department of Trade and Industry</p> <p>? Department of Foreign Affairs</p>
Governmental ministries/departments and [e.g. environment, agriculture, science and technology, health, finance, Trade?]			

<p>? Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;</p> <p>? Ministry of Agriculture;</p> <p>? Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock;</p> <p>? Department of Environment;</p> <p>? Department of Agricultural Extension;</p> <p>? Ministry of Health Services;</p> <p>? Ministry of Science and Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</li> <li>•Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Farmers Welfare</li> <li>•Ministry of Science &amp; Technology (Department of Biotechnology)</li> <li>•Ministry of External Affairs</li> <li>•Ministry of Finance</li> <li>•Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying</li> <li>•Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry</li> <li>•Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</li> </ul>	<p>? Ministry of Environment and Tourism,</p> <p>? Natural Resources Policy Coordination Department,</p> <p>? Ministry of Foreign Affairs,</p> <p>? Ministry of Food Agriculture and Light Industry,</p> <p>? Ministry of Road and Transportation,</p> <p>? Ministry of Defense,</p> <p>? National Emergency Agency,</p> <p>? General Intelligence Agency of Mongolia,</p> <p>? Police department,</p> <p>? Ecological Police Service</p>	<p>? Bureau of Plant Industry</p> <p>? Biotechnology Office</p> <p>? Central Laboratory</p> <p>? National Plant Quarantine Services Division</p> <p>? Post-entry Quarantine Station</p> <p>? Regional Station: Cagayan De Oro City</p> <p>? Regional Station: Davao</p> <p>? Food and Drug Administration</p> <p>? Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)</p> <p>? Department of Agriculture</p> <p>? Biosafety Committee</p> <p>? Biotechnology Program Office</p> <p>? Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority</p> <p>? National Seed Industry Council</p>
Standard Institutions			
<p>? Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution (BSTI)</p>	<p>Bureau of Indian Standards</p>	<p>? Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology</p>	<p>? Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards</p> <p>? Bureau of Philippine Standards</p>

Academia [e.g. universities and research institutions]			
<p>? University of Dhaka,</p> <p>? Jagannath University,</p> <p>? Bangladesh Agricultural University,</p> <p>? Cotton Development Board,</p> <p>? Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI),</p> <p>? Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI),</p> <p>? Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA),</p> <p>? Bangladesh Sugarcrop Research Institute,</p> <p>? National Institute of Biotechnology.</p>	<p>Institutions working in the area of LMOs and related applications under scientific bodies viz.</p> <p>? Indian Council of Agricultural Research</p> <p>? Indian Council of Medical Research</p> <p>? Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education</p> <p>? Council of Scientific and Industrial Research</p> <p>? Department of Biotechnology</p> <p>? Department of Science &amp; Technology</p> <p>? Central and state universities</p> <p>? State agricultural universities</p>	<p>? Mongolian Academy of Sciences,</p> <p>? Institute of Biology,</p> <p>? School of Animal Husbandry and Biotechnology,</p> <p>? National University of Mongolia,</p> <p>? Mongolian University of Science and Technology</p>	<p>? University of the Philippines Los Banos</p> <p>? University of the Philippines Diliman</p> <p>? Central Luzon State University</p> <p>? International Rice Research Institute</p> <p>? Philippine Rice Research Institute</p> <p>? Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority</p> <p>? Institute of Plant Breeding</p> <p>? National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology</p> <p>? National Institute of Health</p> <p>? National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines</p> <p>? National Council Research of the Philippines</p> <p>? Livestock Biotechnology Center</p> <p>? Crop Biotechnology Center</p> <p>? Fisheries Biotechnology Center</p>
Civil Society groups and non-governmental organizations			

? Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	? Relevant civil society groups, farmers organizations, industry associations and NGOs including public interest groups.	? Mongolian Biotechnology Association,  ? Mongolian Environmental Lawyers Association,  ? International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	? Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines  ? International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications, Inc.  ? Southeast Asian Research Center for Graduate Study in Research and Agriculture  ? Outstanding Young Scientists, Inc.
Private Sector			
? BRAC Seed and Agro Enterprise, Lal Teer Seed, Supreme Seed Company, ACI Agro Ltd	? Industry associations viz. Federation of Seed Industry of India, National Seeds Association of India, Seedmen Association, Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce of India will be involved along with their member companies concerned with the subject	? Private sectors (relevant)	? Bayer CropScience  ? Syngenta  ? Corteva AgriScience  ? Pacific Isles  ? Del Monte Philippines
Customs and border control officials			
? National Board of Revenue (NBR)	? Central Board of Excise and Customs, National Academy of Excise and Narcotics, Directorate of Plant Protection, Plant Quarantine and Storage	? General Authority for Border Protection  ? Customs Agency	? Bureau of Customs  ? National Plant Quarantine Services Division
Indigenous and Local Communities			
? Engage ethnic minority local communities like Jummas	? Engagement through relevant ministries, organizations such as Ministry of Tribal Affairs	? Mongolian Nomadic herders and local people in risk areas	? Engagement through the National Council for Indigenous Peoples
Local women and youth Group/Association			

? Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Bangladesh	? Engagement through relevant ministries, organizations such as Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs etc.	? Youth Development Organizations,  ? Mongolian Youth Council,  ? Mongolian Women's Federation	? UP League of Agricultural Biotechnology Students  ? UP Genetic Research and Agricultural Innovators Society
---	---	--	---

The civil society will be consulted as part of the project as:

- ? *Member of Advisory Body; contractor;*
- ? *Co-financier;*
- ? *Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;*
- ? *Executor or co-executor;*
- ? *Other (Please explain): Beneficiaries of project outputs particularly information outputs.*

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project is placed as [Annex Q](#).

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

Stakeholder engagement has always been a core element of the debate on biosafety, as biosafety relates to several sectors, including environment, agriculture, health, science and technology, rural development, industry, trade, as well as community-based organizations, consumer associations, NGOs, and Private Sector. The project lays special attention towards successful stakeholder engagement and involvement throughout the preparation and execution of the project via direct consultations and participation in project activities.

The main objective of stakeholder engagement is to ensure that the participating organizations shall proactively consider the needs of key stakeholders. Active engagement of concerned stakeholders



through the project activities shall foster confidence and buy-in for strengthening and implementation of the NBFs. Stakeholder engagement in the project is an intrinsic part of the initiatives at the national level and cooperative multi-country activities involving participating countries.

Consultation with key stakeholders will be continuous from the PPG phase through project inception and execution phase. The broad-based consultation throughout the implementation of project activities will ensure effective and participatory implementation of the key elements of biosafety regulatory frameworks in the participating countries and in other Asia countries through dissemination of project outcomes.

Stakeholder Engagement shall also promote country ownership by forging stronger partnerships at national level, particularly with civil society, Indigenous Peoples, communities and the private sector and by harnessing the knowledge, experience and capabilities of affected and interested individuals and groups. The project activities and stakeholder engagement has been designed in line with the GEF and CBD policies on Gender Mainstreaming and taking also in account national socio-economic priorities of participating countries. Details of the Stakeholder engagement plan as captured in Annex Q is inserted below:

The plan comprises of two tables:

1. Stakeholders consulted during the Preparation Phase (Table 5)
2. Stakeholder List: It identifies the tentative list of relevant key institutions/agencies/groups of stakeholders in the four countries who would be engaged during the project implementation.

**Table 5: Stakeholder representation during the PPG stage**

COUNTRIES	STAKEHOLDERS: AGENCIES/INSTITUTIONS
-----------	-------------------------------------

Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? National Institute of Biotechnology</li> <li>? University of Dhaka</li> <li>? Jagannath University</li> <li>? Department of Environment</li> <li>? Cotton Development Board</li> <li>? Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI)</li> <li>? Plant Breeding Division</li> <li>? Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)</li> <li>? Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA)</li> <li>? Bangladesh Sugarcrop Research Institute (BSRI)</li> <li>? BRAC Seed and Agro Enterprise</li> <li>? Lal Teer Seed</li> <li>? Supreme Seed Company</li> <li>? ACI Agro Ltd</li> <li>? local communities and youth groups</li> </ul>
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines</li> <li>? Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) - Biotechnology Office</li> <li>? BPI Central Laboratory</li> <li>? BPI - National Plant Quarantine Services Division</li> <li>? University of the Philippines College of Public Affairs and Development</li> <li>? Bureau of Customs</li> <li>? Department of Health - Food and Drug Administration</li> <li>? Retired national Biosafety experts of Philippines</li> <li>? Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)</li> </ul>

Mongolia	?	Ministry of Environment and Tourism,
	?	Natural Resources Policy Coordination Department,
	?	Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
	?	Ministry of Food Agriculture and Light Industry,
	?	Ministry of Road and Transportation,
	?	Ministry of Defense,
	?	National Emergency Agency,
	?	General Intelligence Agency of Mongolia,
	?	Police department,
	?	Ecological Police Service
	?	Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology
	?	Mongolian Academy of Sciences
	?	Institute of Biology
	?	School of Animal Husbandry and Biotechnology
	?	National University of Mongolia
	?	Mongolian University of Science and Technology
	?	Standing Committee of the Parliament
	?	Parliamentary Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy
	?	Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment
	?	General Authority for Border Protection
	?	Customs Agency
	?	Youth Development Organizations
	?	Mongolian Youth Council,
	?	Mongolian Women's Federation
	?	Mongolian Biotechnology Association

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Mongolian Environmental Lawyers Association</li> <li>? International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</li> <li>? Mongolian Nomadic herders and local people in risk areas</li> </ul>
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</li> <li>? Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Farmers Welfare</li> <li>? Food Safety and Standards Authority of India</li> <li>? Members of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)</li> <li>? Representatives from state governments</li> <li>? National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources</li> <li>? Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage</li> <li>? Academic institutions (research institutions and universities)</li> <li>? Federation of Seed Industry of India</li> <li>? Association of Biotech Led Enterprises</li> <li>? The Energy and Resources Institute</li> <li>? Research and Information System for Developing Countries</li> <li>? Punjab Biotech Incubator</li> <li>? Stakeholder specific groups such as farmers, women, youth etc.</li> </ul>

2. STAKEHOLDER LIST (COUNTRY WISE)			
BANGLADESH	INDIA	MONGOLIA	PHILIPPINES
Parliamentarians, policymakers, decision-makers			

<p>? Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;</p> <p>? Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;</p> <p>? Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture;</p> <p>? Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock;</p> <p>? Director General, Department of Environment.</p>	<p>? Senior officials from concerned ministries and agencies</p> <p>? Chair and members of regulatory committees viz. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) and Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM)</p>	<p>? Standing Committee of the Parliament,</p> <p>? Parliamentary Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy,</p> <p>? Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment</p>	<p>Senior representatives from:</p> <p>? National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines</p> <p>? Department of Science and Technology</p> <p>? Department of Agriculture</p> <p>? Department of Environment and Natural Resources</p> <p>? Department of Health</p> <p>? Department of the Interior and Local Government</p> <p>? Department of Trade and Industry</p> <p>? Department of Foreign Affairs</p>
Governmental ministries/departments and [e.g. environment, agriculture, science and technology, health, finance, Trade?]			

<p>? Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;</p> <p>? Ministry of Agriculture;</p> <p>? Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock;</p> <p>? Department of Environment;</p> <p>? Department of Agricultural Extension;</p> <p>? Ministry of Health Services;</p> <p>? Ministry of Science and Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</li> <li>•Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Farmers Welfare</li> <li>•Ministry of Science &amp; Technology (Department of Biotechnology)</li> <li>•Ministry of External Affairs</li> <li>•Ministry of Finance</li> <li>•Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying</li> <li>•Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry</li> <li>•Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</li> </ul>	<p>? Ministry of Environment and Tourism,</p> <p>? Natural Resources Policy Coordination Department,</p> <p>? Ministry of Foreign Affairs,</p> <p>? Ministry of Food Agriculture and Light Industry,</p> <p>? Ministry of Road and Transportation,</p> <p>? Ministry of Defense,</p> <p>? National Emergency Agency,</p> <p>? General Intelligence Agency of Mongolia,</p> <p>? Police department,</p> <p>? Ecological Police Service</p>	<p>? Bureau of Plant Industry</p> <p>? Biotechnology Office</p> <p>? Central Laboratory</p> <p>? National Plant Quarantine Services Division</p> <p>? Post-entry Quarantine Station</p> <p>? Regional Station: Cagayan De Oro City</p> <p>? Regional Station: Davao</p> <p>? Food and Drug Administration</p> <p>? Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)</p> <p>? Department of Agriculture</p> <p>? Biosafety Committee</p> <p>? Biotechnology Program Office</p> <p>? Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority</p> <p>? National Seed Industry Council</p>
Standard Institutions			
<p>? Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution (BSTI)</p>	<p>Bureau of Indian Standards</p>	<p>? Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology</p>	<p>? Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards</p> <p>? Bureau of Philippine Standards</p>
Academia [e.g. universities and research institutions]			

<p>? University of Dhaka,</p> <p>? Jagannath University,</p> <p>? Bangladesh Agricultural University,</p> <p>? Cotton Development Board,</p> <p>? Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI),</p> <p>? Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI),</p> <p>? Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA),</p> <p>? Bangladesh Sugarcrop Research Institute,</p> <p>? National Institute of Biotechnology.</p>	<p>Institutions working in the area of LMOs and related applications under scientific bodies viz.</p> <p>? Indian Council of Agricultural Research</p> <p>? Indian Council of Medical Research</p> <p>? Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education</p> <p>? Council of Scientific and Industrial Research</p> <p>? Department of Biotechnology</p> <p>? Department of Science &amp; Technology</p> <p>? Central and state universities</p> <p>? State agricultural universities</p>	<p>? Mongolian Academy of Sciences,</p> <p>? Institute of Biology,</p> <p>? School of Animal Husbandry and Biotechnology,</p> <p>? National University of Mongolia,</p> <p>? Mongolian University of Science and Technology</p>	<p>? University of the Philippines Los Banos</p> <p>? University of the Philippines Diliman</p> <p>? Central Luzon State University</p> <p>? International Rice Research Institute</p> <p>? Philippine Rice Research Institute</p> <p>? Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority</p> <p>? Institute of Plant Breeding</p> <p>? National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology</p> <p>? National Institute of Health</p> <p>? National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines</p> <p>? National Council Research of the Philippines</p> <p>? Livestock Biotechnology Center</p> <p>? Crop Biotechnology Center</p> <p>? Fisheries Biotechnology Center</p>
Civil Society groups and non-governmental organizations			

? Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	? Relevant civil society groups, farmers organizations, industry associations and NGOs including public interest groups.	? Mongolian Biotechnology Association,  ? Mongolian Environmental Lawyers Association,  ? International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	? Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines  ? International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications, Inc.  ? Southeast Asian Research Center for Graduate Study in Research and Agriculture  ? Outstanding Young Scientists, Inc.
Private Sector			
? BRAC Seed and Agro Enterprise, Lal Teer Seed, Supreme Seed Company, ACI Agro Ltd	? Industry associations viz. Federation of Seed Industry of India, National Seeds Association of India, Seedmen Association, Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce of India will be involved along with their member companies concerned with the subject	? Private sectors (relevant)	? Bayer CropScience  ? Syngenta  ? Corteva AgriScience  ? Pacific Isles  ? Del Monte Philippines
Customs and border control officials			
? National Board of Revenue (NBR)	? Central Board of Excise and Customs, National Academy of Excise and Narcotics, Directorate of Plant Protection, Plant Quarantine and Storage	? General Authority for Border Protection  ? Customs Agency	? Bureau of Customs  ? National Plant Quarantine Services Division
Indigenous and Local Communities			
? Engage ethnic minority local communities like Jummas	? Engagement through relevant ministries, organizations such as Ministry of Tribal Affairs	? Mongolian Nomadic herders and local people in risk areas	? Engagement through the National Council for Indigenous Peoples
Local women and youth Group/Association			



? Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Bangladesh	? Engagement through relevant ministries, organizations such as Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs etc.	? Youth Development Organizations,  ? Mongolian Youth Council,  ? Mongolian Women's Federation	? UP League of Agricultural Biotechnology Students  ? UP Genetic Research and Agricultural Innovators Society
---	---	--	---

-

-

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

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes**

**Co-financier; Yes**

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

**Executor or co-executor; Yes**

**Other (Please explain) Yes**

Advise on the design and participate in activities relevant to consumer related issues, public awareness and public engagement. ? *Beneficiaries of project outputs particularly information outputs.*

They will

- i. be beneficiaries of project outputs particularly information outputs.
- ii. participate in awareness raising meetings and trainings.
- iii. be involved in community and targeted outreach engagements for awareness and sensitization.
- iv. Receiving outreach material designed for the different target groups.
- v. be involved in the usage of online useful resources to create awareness.

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

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

For gender planning, the information about direct beneficiaries disaggregated by sex was compiled by each participating country. Experiences from similar projects implemented in participating countries coupled with stakeholder engagement workshops were used as the basis to arrive at estimated participation of stakeholders disaggregated by sex. The information provided was further analyzed and compiled for three project outcomes based on the relevant activities. The information was further deliberated in detail during the Intercountry Validation Workshop, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

For gender analysis, the countries used existing information on female-to-male representations within each stakeholder category and calculated a female-to-male ratio. This ratio was then used to further break down the total number of beneficiaries by gender. The results of this analysis are summarized in the Table (7) below. In total, it is estimated that there will be 56,000 beneficiaries, including 25,000 males and 31,000 females. Mongolia is targeting 2,500 beneficiaries, with a female-to-male ratio of 60-40. Bangladesh is aiming for 1,500 beneficiaries, with a ratio of 30-70. The Philippines is targeting a balanced gender distribution among its 18,000 beneficiaries, with an equal ratio of 50-50. India, the largest contributor with a targeted 34,000 beneficiaries, aims to have gender representation ratio of 60-40.

**Table 7: Summary of gender analysis**

STAKEHOLDERS (Target)	Mongolia	Bangladesh	Philippines	India
Parliamentarians, policies decision makers	25	50	200	100
Governmental ministries/departments and Regulatory Agencies	50	350	1000	5000
Standards Institutions	25	50	50	100
Academia [e.g. universities and research institutions]	1000	800	14000	25000
Civil Society groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community based organizations, media , Indigenous and Local Communities	1000	100	1000	300
Relevant Private Sector including industries, traders, importers and exporters and distributors.	200	100	1500	3000
Customs and border control officials	200	50	250	500
	2500	1500	18000	34000
Female to Male ratio	63:37	30:70	50:50	60:40

Based on the gender considerations and analysis during the consultative processes and project document preparation, Gender Action Plan has been developed (placed as Annex P) to ensure representation of women and men through the project implementation.

As part of the PPG process, the participating countries carried out a gender analysis at national level and also identified approaches to ensure balanced gender representation in the project. Based on the preliminary assessment, a varied baseline scenario exists among the participating countries, for instance, more female to male ratio is anticipated in Mongolia during project implementation, while the situation is expected to be otherwise in Bangladesh. The Philippines and India reported a fair and balanced representation of the gender in the project activities. Sharing of experiences and effective coordination will be instrumental in ensuring balanced representation of both the genders: male and female in the project activities in the four participating countries.

Considering the current project activities, the opportunity to mainstream gender equality will be through capacity building, stakeholder consultations and institutional development. Specific interactions with the women and youth advocacy groups and associations will be taken up as part of the national level stocktaking activities. A proper gender analysis will be undertaken so that appropriate and relevant gender responsive interventions are updated and implemented.

Targeted training for empowerment of the women (including women leaders and scientists) and youth will be taken up, as required. Gender analysis of issues and women's and youth participation will be facilitated through a gender responsive approach throughout the project implementation to capture and report on gender outcomes.

Additionally, sex disaggregated data will be collected to guide, design and implement gender specific tasks to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol at the national level in the participating countries. Gender issues will also be incorporated in developing governance responsive mechanisms at two levels (a) at the project level and (b) in the design, review and update of regulatory instruments with adequate budgetary resources. Capacity building interventions, knowledge management and information sharing will also focus on capturing gender disaggregated data as this is key to monitoring project results and delivery.

The Project will make use of the subcontracted Gender Expert (s) to help in the implementation of the project by following a gender-sensitive approach in the four countries, as per the gender plan of action placed as Annex P.

See below the costed Gender Action Plan

OUTCOME	OUTPUTS	GENDER ACTION	INDICATOR	Budget
---------	---------	---------------	-----------	--------

COMPONENT 1: Multi-country Collaboration and Cooperation on Biosafety Issues				\$
<b>Outcome 1: Measures in place for implementation of functional national biosafety frameworks (NBFs) in participating countries.</b>	<b>Output 1.1</b> A baseline report on the status of implementation of CPB including a stocktaking assessment and inventory of national and regional biosafety and biotechnology resources and capacity building needs in the project countries is prepared.	<p>Ensure that review and consultation design is gender responsive.</p> <p>Identify, promote and encourage a balance representation of men and women equally in providing feedback and inputs for stocktaking assessment of the biosafety and biotechnology capacities in participating countries.</p> <p>Encourage women participation in analysis of gaps and opportunities for effective implementation of NBFs and suggest measures for equal voice and representation in decision making.</p>	<p>Improved gender representation at review and planning level which is represented by at least 30%</p> <p>Gender related issues considered in baseline reports for effective implementation of NBFs</p>	5,000

	<p><b>Output 1.2</b> Networking mechanism established for facilitating implementation of policy and legal framework, decision making, risk assessment and risk management, monitoring and enforcement procedures.</p>	<p>Encourage gender balance representation from relevant government organizations in establishing cooperative networks in the region.</p> <p>Inclusion of women scientist in technical committees and as experts/resource persons for conducting trainings.</p> <p>Encourage participation of women for inter-country trainings and networking activities.</p>	<p>Level of women representations at national and international forums and networks improved with at least 30% representation.</p> <p>Involvement of women <b>leaders</b>/scientists as experts and resource persons and participants enhanced for national and international trainings and networking activities.</p>	
<p><b>COMPONENT 2: Facilitating the establishment, further development and effective implementation of biosafety systems at national level.</b></p>				

<p><b>Outcome 2: Institutional and Human resource capacities developed for effective implementation of NBFs in the participating countries.</b></p>	<p><b>Output 2.1</b> Nationally mandated Institutions are made competent and well-equipped with the necessary administrative and technical tools for supporting regulations</p>	<p>Strengthen women participation by organizing women and youth led discussions with relevant stakeholders to review and update policies/strategies and action plans in participating countries.</p> <p>Include gender issues in adopted policies, strategies and plans.</p> <p>Encourage inclusion of women in the training and mentorship on adaptation of guidelines, procedures, technical tools, etc. on various thematic areas for strengthening national biosafety capacities.</p> <p>Encourage role of women as trainers and advisors for national level trainings.</p>	<p>Improved women and youth representation in discussion forums, decision making, suggestive actions and needs at national level.</p> <p>Increased number of women trainers and advisors for national stakeholder trainings.</p> <p>Improved levels of women participation in safety assessment, monitoring and enforcement systems for LMOs.</p>	<p>10,000</p>
---	---	---	---	---------------

	<p><b>Output 2.2</b> Designated Centres of Excellence are interlinked and strengthened among project partner countries.</p>	<p>Encourage a balance representation of women in technical committees and resource persons for establishing cooperative networks in the region and as trainers for national stakeholder trainings.</p>	<p>Ensure 30% women participation to promote cooperation and networking at regional level.</p>	
<p><b>COMPONENT 3: Systems for information sharing, knowledge management, education and public awareness developed.</b></p>				\$



<p><b><u>Outcome 3:</u> Information sharing and knowledge management enhanced among participating countries for increased public participation and awareness.</b></p>	<p><b>Output 3.1</b> Functional and updated mechanisms in place for information sharing and knowledge management</p>	<p>Conduct national consultations and workshops for sensitization and awareness on biosafety and biotechnology for women, girls, youth and local communities towards strengthening public awareness for informed decision-making process.</p> <p>Ensure that surveys and consultation designs are planned to be gender sensitive and represent men, women, indigenous people, local communities and youth for PAEP strategies and developing communication and outreach material and also relevant dissemination.</p> <p>Encourage sharing of experiences by women on impact of development of biotechnology and implementation of biosafety regulations.</p>	<p>Increased biosafety awareness among women, youth and local communities.</p> <p>Gender related issues are included and addressed in communication and PAEP strategies.</p> <p>Level of gender equity considered in the preparation and distribution of information and communication tools, as well as other products.</p> <p>Level of sharing of information among communities and public improved.</p>	<p>10,000</p>
---	--	---	--	---------------

	<b>Output 3.2</b> Sharing of information, education and communication (IEC) materials among participating countries to enhance public participation and awareness	Encourage gender balance representation from relevant government and private organizations, agencies and institutions in establishing cooperative networks in the region.  Build gender issues into the communication strategies to enhance cooperation and information sharing.	Level of gender equity considered in the preparation of communication strategies to enhance cooperation and information sharing	
<b>COMPONENT 4: Project Monitoring and Evaluation</b>				
<b>Outcome 4: Inter country cooperation strengthened by sustainable linkages/ networks, best practices and lesson learnt through effective project coordination.</b>	<b>Output 4.1</b> A comprehensive project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework developed, implemented and including best practices and lessons learned	Encourage women participation in project implementation and monitoring team.	Inclusion of gender sensitive issues in project implementation and effective monitoring with sharing of experiences.	5,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>30,000</b>

**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;** No

**Improving women's participation and decision making** Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women** No

**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.**

Biosafety is a cross-cutting issue with involvement and impact on multiple sectors. Given the ramifications of compliance with the CPB, biosafety capacity-building per se, and the public controversy surrounding GMOs, the development and implementation of effective and workable biosafety system requires active involvement and collaboration with private sector. The project will support the concept of public-private partnership and cooperation both at the national and multi-country level for enhancing capacities. The representatives of private companies and industry associations (e.g., feed and seed importers, feed processors, farmer unions, companies dealing with GMOs) will benefit from information exchange and from operating biosafety framework.

#### **5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

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

The following table summarizes the information about the identified possible risks, level of risk and the proposed mitigation measures under the project:

<b>Potential risks</b>	<b>Level of risk</b>	<b>Proposed mitigation measures</b>
Participation of multiple entities within each country with differing interests to implement CPB, could create conflicts.	Medium (M)	Initial selection of entities will be undertaken through the national focal points and based on expertise, complementarities, and work record for each country to guarantee project commitment and execution.

Participation of multiple countries with different capacity level could create problem during the project implementation.	Low (L)	Governance arrangements include a Multi-country Project Steering Committee and Project Management Unit with representatives of partner countries to avoid the predominance of some countries and ensure that participating entities focus on project objectives and outputs.
Possible lack of harmony at national and regional level for safe use, handling, and transboundary movement of LMOs.	Medium (M)	Regional collaboration and harmonization of methods of assessment and testing through existing national and regional protocols.
Changed political will and commitment to project objectives, in a partner country, may be as a result of governmental change that shift support away from the project.	Low (L)	Multi-country PMU would develop a strategy consistent with project objectives and activities, to educate new administration in project goals and methodologies. It will also put in place a system for periodic reviews and soft skills activities to engage high level decision makers.
Possible fluctuations in the personnel during the project implementation entailing changes in the coordinator and other important support staff.	Low (L)	<p>The project will link several people on key tasks. Moreover, minutes and reports of all the activities implemented will be made to maintain the historical memory of the project and ensure that new members can have a solid foundation in order to continue the implementation.</p> <p>Also, a Monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E) framework would be developed to ensure smooth coordination.</p>
Delays in internalizing and start of the project	Low (L)	Share all approved and UNEP legal instruments ahead, discuss and address questions informally prior to signing off.

<p>Due to climate change impacts, public perception towards LMOs change, especially if LMOs perform better under climate change conditions</p>	<p>Low (L)</p>	<p>Potential use and import of LMOs may increase under increased temperature and other climate change related results due to tolerance to abiotic stresses.</p> <p>The main projections under climate change suggest that seasons of heat, drought and rainfall will become more intense. These changes are likely to result in an increased frequency of extreme events, primarily floods but in some cases also droughts. Food security will be affected by land and infrastructure degradation due to erosion/landslides, an increase in livestock and crop diseases due to temperature increase, direct crop failure due to floods and heavy rains. Water availability will be affected by possible periods of drought. Climate projections (for year 2100) include projected increase in temperature of 2.5°C -3°C, increased unpredictability of seasonal rains, and increased incidence or intensity of extreme weather events including droughts, cyclones and floods. Key climate impacts are crop loss/failure, loss of pasture lands and water resources for livestock, loss of marine habitat, etc. Climate change projections for the period 2045 ? 2065 suggest: (i) minimum expected temperature increase of 1-2 °C and a maximum of 2-3.5°C in the summer, and 2.5 - 4°C in winter; and (ii) rainfall projections are uncertain with differences among regions. Implications are: (i) projected temperature rises could result in evaporation and evapotranspiration increases from 5-15%; (ii) hotter days, in tandem with shorter growing seasons, would make it harder even for resilient crops; (iii) Productivity among crops could drop by 20 ? 50%; (iv) increased difficulty due to insufficient grazing for livestock; (v) heat stress on livestock which can affect feeding and reproduction. Due to the effects on food security and food production in the countries, potential use and import of LMOs that are better adapted (or perceived to be) or tolerant may increase. During PPG, the potential of climate change scenarios on the countries' response will be integrated into capacity building interventions and into the design of the ten-year strategic plans and policies to ensure that such changes to public attitude to LMOs are anticipated and proactively managed. Furthermore, the project purpose is to strengthen [participating countries capacity to effectively manage safe handling and use of LMOs in such cases.</p>
<p>An outbreak of diseases (Covid-19)</p>	<p>Low/ Medium</p>	<p>The risk is only partly under project control. Nationally and regionally, the recent outbreak of Covid-19 is already affecting work and the way people implement projects. Travel restrictions have been removed to a large extent in the participating countries. Biosecurity considerations which is at the base of Biosafety capacity building and implementation will be fully triggered in a phased approach both to ensure human and environmental safety to project implementation measures and execution of activities guided by the technical principles of ensuring genetic and material confinement and management measures in project delivery. Standard Project Operational Procedures will be developed as applicable.</p>

The Safeguards Risk and Identification Form is attached as [Annex O](#).

## 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.**

### **Institutional Arrangement and Coordination**

The Multi-country Project Steering Committee (Mc-PSC) will be set up, involving the National focal points and the National Project Coordinators (NPCs) from the four participating countries, representatives from UNEP and KIPABiC, along with any other subject specific experts/ representatives of project associated organizations. Mc-PSC will guide the overall implementation of the project and ensure that project goals and appropriate GEF and UNEP procedures for reporting are met.

A Multi-country Project Management Unit (mc PMU) will be established at KIPABiC to function as the lead executing agency for the implementation of multi-country joint project activities and to co-execute national activities by the four participating countries. The operational cost for KIPABiC to function as the PMU is supported by the government of the Republic of Korea represented by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of Korea (MOTIE). The PMU will be the point of liaison between the UNEP and the four participating countries. PMU will be guided by the PSC and the UNEP and will have an approval role in operational planning, administration, budget, annual plans, and monitoring of the project progress.

The PMU at KIPABiC will include a Chief Director, supported by a Project manager and an Administration/Finance officer to coordinate and implement the project on a day-to-day basis. They will be responsible for coordinating the project, providing technical and administrative support, preparing planning materials, preparing the budget, auditing project's financial accounts/statements at the project level, monitoring project progress, and ensuring that project activities are sustainable and executed on a multi-country level.

For the implementation at the country level, the countries will have a National Project coordinator (NPC/Focal Point) to work in close liaison with KIPABiC and ensure the implementation of all the activities at the national level. The NPC may be supported by the existing national committee/task force and/or establish a project coordination unity to support and advise on project activities.

The proposed project implementation arrangements and decision-making flow chart for the project and the terms of reference for the project implementation and experts to be hired for project activities is placed as [Annex K](#).

The monitoring of the progress of project activities will be undertaken in accordance with UNEP's internal guidelines for project monitoring and evaluation (M&E). In this respect, self-evaluation will be ongoing throughout the project and GEF/UNEP's requirements of quarterly and half-yearly reports on substantive and financial matters will be provided. This process will include a mid-term evaluation/review and end-of-project evaluation undertaken by external review teams arranged by UNEP.

Deliverables will be identified on a timetable agreed between UNEP and each participating country, and country-specific final reports will be prepared at the end of the activities planned under this project. Project execution performance, delivered outputs and project impact will be measured according to the indicators developed in the project log frame, and using the specific Monitoring and Evaluation Plan that will be developed at the inception of the project. The general and specific objectives of the project, and the list of its planned outcomes, will provide the basis for this monitoring and evaluation plan.

Activities towards multi-country cooperation and collaboration would be only partially funded by the countries' GEF allocation with additional funding/execution support by the KIPABiC). Furthermore, countries not eligible for GEF funding will also be able to purchase these services and products and participate in the activities using their own funds if the need arises. At this stage, Korea Institute for Promoting Asia Biosafety Cooperation is an NGO which came out of the interventions and support through the Korea BCH to the Asia Biosafety Family in support of the BCH II project and the current BCH III project. It provides a convening platform and the neutrality of not being a GEF recipient in coordinating, leveraging expertise and bring the different stakeholders to the same table in Biosafety Capacity building. Activities towards multi-country cooperation and collaboration would be partially funded by the countries' GEF allocation with additional funding/execution support by the KIPABiC. The four countries and KIPABiC will be providing the co-finance support in-kind for the project. The details of the cofinance budget is placed as [Annex I-2](#).

Apart from the cofinance support made available through KIPABiC, the Republic of Korea would collaborate with participating countries to provide institutional support to strengthen their NBFs. Some of the potential areas are:

- ? sharing technical expertise and resource persons in strengthening RARM, the Kunming Montreal GBF, the Biosafety Implementation and Capacity Building Plans (2021-2030).
- ? co-hosting some study tours/familiarization workshops on biosafety and biotechnology for policy makers and technical working groups.
- ? sharing expertise and infrastructures to facilitate the Train the Trainer programs on identification, detection and sampling procedures of LMOs and proficiency testing for laboratory staff.
- ? supporting the countries to create an inter-country network (platform) for sharing biosafety technical resources and expertise (Asia BCH), through IT and institutional support from KBCH.

- ? facilitating linkages between the relevant institutions of Korea and participating countries to strengthen their institutional capacities.
- ? Hosting and partnering the participating countries in setting up annual conferences and workshops on new and emerging issues in Biotechnology and Biosafety including genome editing, genome drives, new plant biotechnologies, DSI and synthetic biology

### **Coordination with ongoing GEF-UNEP projects**

Coordination with recent, ongoing and pipeline GEF-UNEP projects in participating countries will be emphasized, with a focus on the following projects:

#### **i. Regional projects:**

*Building Capacity for Regionally Harmonized National Processes for Implementing CBD Provisions on Access to Genetic Resources and Sharing of Benefits.*

**ii. Philippines:** *BCH I and II Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the BCH (projects completed)*

**iii. In Mongolia:** *Support to Mongolia for the Revision of the NBSAPs.*

**iv. India -** *Mainstreaming of Biosafety and Institutional Capacity Building to strengthen effective implementation of CPB (CEO PIF Approved)*

**v. Bangladesh ?** *The BCH-III project.*

### **Republic of Korea**

The government of the Republic of Korea is committed to fostering cooperation among Asian countries in the field of biosafety. This effort began in February 2005 with the hosting of a BCH workshop in Daejeon for six Asian countries. KBCH, UNEP, and its advisory committee member countries developed a roadmap to help other countries to comply with the CPB. To facilitate communication of interests and concerns related

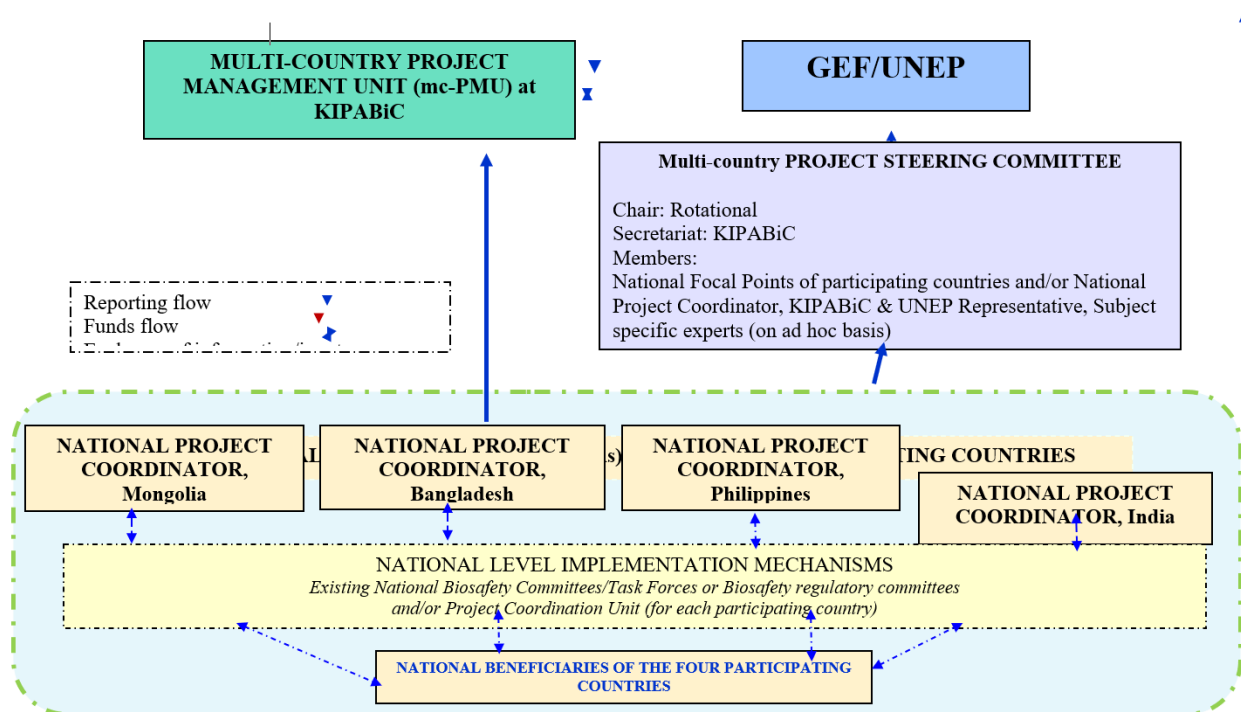


to LMOs or demands from countries, with support from KBCH, an information platform, now known as the Asia BCH portal (<https://asiabchfamily.org/>) was created. Subsequently, several consultative meetings and workshops were organized, including the 3rd Asian Regional Workshop on Biosafety Clearing House in Cambodia, where all participating countries recognized the importance of sustained regional cooperation. These gatherings demonstrated the positive impact of joint cooperative efforts and highlighted the potential for achieving a common goal. These activities were all supported by the Korea Biosafety Capacity Building Initiative, which was launched at the COP-MOP8 in Pyeongchang, Korea in 2014 and continued until 2021.

The Republic of Korea is supporting this project as a donor by providing financial contributions in cash and in-kind through MOTIE and KBCH to support KIPABiC to provide technical facilitation as well as function as multi-country Project Management Unit.

The project decision making arrangements as depicted in Annex K is shown below

#### DECISION MAKING FLOW CHART



## **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.

The project will support the participating countries to meet the commitment shown by their ratification of the CPB. Quality implementation of the Protocol has a direct impact on the agricultural innovation and technology transfer policies of developing/evolving agricultural economies such as the partner countries in this proposal, and for the global economy and environment.

The consistency of the project with various strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions are described below:

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC
- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD
- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury
- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC
- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC
- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)
- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC
- CBD National Reports (refer 6th NR)

- Biosafety National Reports (refer 4th NR)

- Others

More specifically, the project is consistent with the participating countries' national priorities and plans:

**A. *Mongolia:*** The National Green Development Policy (2014-2030), that aims at 'Sustaining ecosystems capacity' (goal No.2) by 'Set(ing) the limitation on the import and trade of genetically modified organisms by assessing the risks associated with genetically modified organisms on human health and the environment, and by building capacities in preventing the negative impacts.' It also coherent with The Mongolia National Biodiversity Strategies and National Action Plans (NBSAPs, 2015-2025), in particular with Strategy 2 'Develop and implement science based policy on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources' and corresponding goal 'Create a legal environment for the protection, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from widely used and economically significant genetic resources, and to implement sustainable use, and protection from genetic erosion and depletion.' National biosafety priorities are also included in the following regulations: Law on Living Modified Organisms (2007), Mongolian National Security Concept (2010), Law on Food Safety (2012).

**B. *India:*** The conservation and use of biological resources are directly mentioned in the Constitution of India (Article 48A and Article 51(g)) and is based on local knowledge systems and practices. Relevant policies and regulations include the National Environment Policy (2006), Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells (1989), National Biodiversity Action Plan (2014) and National Biotechnology Development Strategy (2021-2025).

India has been proactive in biosafety matters and has taken several initiatives at national level. India has also implemented two GEF supported biosafety capacity building projects. Extremely useful outcomes from Phase 2 biosafety capacity building project were generated. These included state of the art guidance documents for environmental risk assessment of genetically engineered organisms, biology documents, monitoring manuals, biosafety outreach material, etc. Accredited laboratories with detection capabilities and mechanisms for proficiency testing are in place for supporting enforcement officials. India has mechanisms for online management of application processing at all levels of research, field testing and environmental release of LMOs.

**C. Philippines:** Biosafety regulations have been in place since 1991, the NBSAPs adopted in 1997 and currently under revision, Biosafety Development Plan (2017-2022) and its strategy ?to expand the development of sustainable resources including fish, marine and genetic resources.?

**D. Bangladesh:** Bangladesh has a clearly defined Biosafety framework supported by the Biosafety Rules of 2012 and related technical guidelines on Biosafety. The institutional framework for handling Biotechnology applications is in place.

The proposed project concords with national mandates for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, safe use of LMO, creating conditions that are conducive to using native genetic resources appropriately, generating environmental information, modernizing customs, and strengthening of environmental control and inspections. The project supports the sector development strategies and agendas of the participating countries which show marked similarity across development pillars and sector goals, and both direct and indirect consonance with the proposed project. In addition, the project will support national and sub-regional plans for agricultural development, sustainable food production and biodiversity conservation. All these countries have indicated their desire to implement their NBFs and their support for the multi-country project through their letters of endorsement. Partner countries also agreed that a multi-country approach is likely to be more cost effective, achieve more rapid impact, and be more sustainable than alternative methods, since it would both utilize and enhance existing country capacity.

The proposed project fits directly with the UNEP Programme of work with direct linkages to the Nature Action and Environment Governance sub programmes relating specifically to the Programme Coordination Project (PCP) on Conservation, Restoration and sustainable use of Biodiversity under Pow Outcomes on 2B - Sustainable management of nature adopted and implemented in development frameworks; and 2C Nature conservation and restoration are enhanced and Pow Indicator 2(iii) - Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas.

It will also contribute to the Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity PCP under Direct Outcome 2.9 on ?Institutional capacity to adopt and act on national and international commitments is enhanced and accountability frameworks are strengthened? and Direct Outcome 2.3 under the ?Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity?.

The planned actions fit directly and will contribute to the Theory Change in terms of the expected results. It will also contribute to the Kunming-Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6 on Invasive Alien Species and Target 17 on Biosafety

After the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15), the countries are now in the process of carrying out consultations to review the existing NBSAPs to integrate/incorporate decisions made during COP15/MOP10, specifically the Target 17 of GBF that focuses on strengthening biosafety capacity by establishing and implementing biosafety measures. The Table (8) below provides a summary of the NBSAPs of the four countries highlighting the current status of alignment with Biosafety, as well as remarks on the status of revision:

**Table 8: Status of alignment of biosafety in NBSAP**

<p>Bangladesh</p> <p>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2021)</p>
<p>Biosafety is mainstreamed in Target 13: By 2021, Bangladesh's 3% area under terrestrial ecosystem (forests), 3% area under inland wetlands and coastal ecosystems and 5% of total marine area will come under PAs or ECAs with development and implementation of management plan for these areas.</p> <p>Remarks: NBSAP is under revision to integrate decisions from Kunming-Montreal GBF. By CBD COP-16 the NBSAP targets will be updated and the issues of biosafety will be further integrated into the NBSAP under Target 17.</p>
<p>India</p> <p>National Biodiversity Action Plan 2008 and Addendum 2014</p>

Action points for strengthening biosafety regulatory processes, updating guidelines, creating awareness are included in the action points in NBSAP 2008: 134, 135, 136, 145, 146, 147. The action points are linked to various national biodiversity targets, particularly 2 and 10.

134: Review the regulatory processes for LMOs so that all relevant scientific knowledge is taken into account, and ecological, health, and economic concerns are adequately addressed.

135: Periodically review and update the national biosafety guidelines to ensure that these are based on current scientific knowledge.

136: Ensure conservation of biodiversity and human health while dealing with LMOs in transboundary movement in a manner consistent with the multilateral biosafety protocol.

145: Develop DNA-probe based technology for tracking of LMOs.

146: Develop specific pilot gene banks for LMOs approved for undertaking research and commercial use.

147. Develop capacity for risk assessment, management and communication on LMOs.

Remarks: The process of updating NBSAP is underway to align with Kunming-Montreal GBF first through the ongoing GEF Early Action Support project and will be further updated through the new GEF 8 NBSAP and 7<sup>th</sup> National Report and Biodiversity Finance project under UNDP.

#### Mongolia

Mongolia National Biodiversity Strategies and National Action Plans (NBSAPs, 2015-2025)

Biosafety is mainstreamed in Goal 3 (Create a legal environment for the protection, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from widely used and economically significant genetic resources, and to implement sustainable use, and protection from genetic erosion and depletion), Indicator: Number of actions ensuring and taking precautionary measures for biosafety.

Remarks: NBSAP is under revision in line with Kunming-Montreal GBF.

#### Philippines

Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2028, Bringing Resilience to Filipino Communities

Biosafety is mainstreamed:

Target 6.5: The current policy is strengthened to introduce independent risk assessment of planned programs and inclusion of GMO concerns in the EIA system

Target 6.6: Draft legislation or EO on labelling of GMO products is promulgated

Remarks: The NBSAP is currently being updated to integrate/incorporate decisions made during COP15/MOP10, specifically the Kunming-Montreal GBF. Currently undergoing consultation/review by concerned agencies and key stakeholders in major areas in Visayas, Mindanao and Luzon.

## 8. Knowledge Management

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

The Knowledge Management Approach for the project, shall include a budget, key deliverables and a timeline and explaining how it will contribute to the project's overall impact. The proposed project will use the following guiding principles of The Knowledge Management Approach for the project, shall include a budget, key deliverables and a timeline and explaining how it will contribute to the project's overall impact. The proposed project will use the following guiding principles of Knowledge Management Approach:

- 1) Partnership: A cooperation network for sharing information, experiences and lessons learnt on biosafety implementation at the national and regional level will be established. The network will implement its program through an array of partnerships and coalitions. Knowledge management will be based on individuals and organizations' expertise, through decentralized model. An online exchange and library platform will be launched, availing useful tools - such as technical guidelines, specific biology documents of importance in the region. outreach and training materials - to a broader audience. Additionally, multi-country and regional level meetings will serve as an opportunity for this project and others in the region to share lessons learned, train on soft skills for negotiation and cooperation, good practices and technical expertise.
- 2) Synergy: explore and leverage synergies within partner countries to ensure maximum value creation with minimum resources and economies of scale.
- 3) Quality: since capacity building is central to the project activities, creating and delivering that knowledge amounts largely to a quality management approach.

The project aims to ?generate and communicate knowledge? on biosafety.

This goal focuses on developing capacity to share knowledge. It seeks to promote a dynamic communication culture between involved countries and institutions by creating:

- 1) the enabling environment (policies, legal frameworks);
- 2) the institutional arrangements; and
- 3) the management instruments for sharing data/information, assessing, planning, negotiating, cooperating, regulating, and financing.
- 4) Gender responsive measures to facilitate delivery and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety guided by the Gender Action Plan in Annex P.

The knowledge management would follow a gender-sensitive approach to include both male and female leaders/resource persons/participants/contributors and make use of gender sensitive languages, contents and convincing gender arguments. The countries shall make special efforts to ensure that women are well represented as key actors in the knowledge management chain.

The knowledge management includes the following steps:

- 1) planning (identifying knowledge needs and balanced representation of male and female audiences),
- 2) implementation (Knowledge deliverables),
- 3) dissemination and use (Communications strategy and channels that are gender sensitive) and evaluation (quantitative indicators and qualitative assessments)

The roles and relationship of the main actors involved in the project ?Knowledge Chain? can be summarized as follows:

- 1) the multi-country project partnerships to better identify project needs,
- 2) the Project Steering Committee: Where knowledge needs and capacity building and development needs are identified, and
- 3) the project management unit consisting of the project director, project manager and the finance and administrative officers whose role will facilitate liaison between the various entities involved in knowledge production and dissemination as well as monitoring use.



The above considerations have been incorporated in the various project outcomes and outputs and activities. Some of the relevant deliverables that are directly contributing to the knowledge enhancement at national and multi-country levels are shown in Table (9) below:

**Table 9: Key deliverables, timeline and budget for KM&L**

Outputs/deliverables	Indicative Timeline	Indicative GEF Budget (\$)
1.1.1 Virtual inter-country knowledge sharing workshop organized on the biosafety related target 17 of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its action plans (2021-2030). (reports made available)	Year 1	5000
1.1.3 An inventory of national biosafety and biotechnology resources by project partner countries are prepared.  (Resources available in project partner countries are documented)	Year 1	7500
2.1.4 Laboratory testing capacities are enhanced with SOPs and guidance developed/updated for Mongolia and Philippines.	Year 1 & 2	20500
2.1.5 National awareness workshops organized for policy makers, members of regulatory committees, scientists and enforcement officials on key topics of regulatory and safety assessment procedures, risk management and monitoring Report of training workshop and multiple stakeholders trained (sex aggregated data).	Year 1 & 2	29500
3.1.1 Gaps identified for accessing biosafety information and capacity building needs aligned with PAEP.	Year 1	11500
3.1.2 Biosafety information system established/updated at national level and inter linked.	Year 1	38000
3.1.3 Report of workshops held in person/virtual along with certificates (sex aggregated data).	Year 1, 2 & 3	17000
3.1.4 Bilateral/multi-country agreement for developing a network that allows for information sharing among the participating countries via web pages being interlinked/referred.	Year 1, 2 & 3	14500

3.1.5 Varied biosafety outreach materials available for multiple stakeholder categories with copies appropriately disseminated at national level.	Year 1 & 2	77500
3.1.6 Websites and/or apps developed for information sharing.	Year 2 & 3	62100
3.1.7 A Biosafety Information Management System made efficient and effective in Philippines	Year 1 & 2	22000
3.2.1 Report of online workshops at national level for enhanced awareness (sex aggregated data).	Year 1, 2 & 3	11000
3.2.3 Resource materials from each country available online on BCH/Asia BCH.	Year 1, 2 & 3	6000
3.2.4 Study tours for practical familiarization on biosafety and biotechnology issues undertaken by the policy makers and technical working groups members (with gender balance).	Year 1 & 2	70000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>392100</b>

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

### Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Monitoring will be carried out by the project coordination team and the project stakeholders particularly the project advisory committee, on a regular basis in order to ensure that project performance and progress are as per the project objectives (internal monitoring and evaluation).

The monitoring of the progress of project activities will be undertaken in accordance with UNEP's internal guidelines for project monitoring and evaluation (M&E). In this respect, self-evaluation will be ongoing throughout the project and GEF/UNEP's requirements of quarterly and half-yearly reports on substantive and financial matters will be provided. This process will include a mid-term evaluation/review and end-of-project evaluation undertaken by external review teams arranged by UNEP.

Deliverables will be identified on a timetable agreed between UNEP and each participating country, and country-specific final reports will be prepared at the end of the activities planned under this project. Project execution performance, delivered outputs and project impact will be measured according to the indicators developed in the project log frame, and using the specific Monitoring and Evaluation Plan that will be further updated at the inception of the project. The general and specific objectives of the project, and the list of its planned outcomes, will provide the basis for this monitoring and evaluation plan.

?In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements and UNEP's Evaluation Policy, GEF Full-Sized Projects and any project with a duration of 4 years or more will be subject to an independent Mid-Term Evaluation or

management-led Mid-Term Review at mid-point. All GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. This performance assessment will be either an independent Terminal Evaluation or a management-led Terminal Review.

In case a Review is required, the UNEP Evaluation Office will provide tools, templates, and guidelines to support the Review consultant. For all Terminal Reviews, the UNEP Evaluation Office will perform a quality assessment of the Terminal Review report and validate the Review's performance ratings. This quality assessment will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review report, validated performance ratings will be captured in the main report.

However, if an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project is required, the Evaluation Office will be responsible for the entire evaluation process and will liaise with the Task Manager and the project implementing partners at key points during the evaluation. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation (or the management-led review) will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office in relation to the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the Project Manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report. The costed M & E plan is as below and it is also attached as Annex J:

## Costed Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Time Frame	Indicative Budget (\$)	
			GEF	Co-finance (MOTIE)
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, capture of Core Indicators data and gender related data at national and multi-country level	mc-PMU under guidance of UNEP, with inputs from Project Steering Committee (PSC), National Project Coordinators (NPCs) of the four partner countries and technical experts	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project progress/perform.  Indicators: Annually	13,000	40,000
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	mc-PMU with NPC of the four project partner countries	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July		30,000
Project Steering Committee meetings and National Steering Committee meetings (NSCs) to be conducted virtually and/or part of any ongoing meeting	mc-PMU with NPC of the four project partner countries	At least once in a year, Virtual meeting (s)		30,000
Reports of PSC meetings	mc-PMU with NPC of the four project partner countries	Annually		8,000
Project Progress Reports	mc-PMU with NPC of the four project partner countries	Half yearly		9,000
Project implementation reports (PIR) to UNEP & consolidation of GEF Core Indicator Sheet as part of mid-term reporting	mc-PMU under guidance of PSC and inputs from NPC of the four project partner countries	Annually, part of reporting routine		10,000
Monitoring visits to field sites	mc-PMU supporting NSCs, NPC of the four partner countries	As appropriate		30,000

Mid Term Review/Evaluation	UNEP	At mid-point of project implementation	12,000	50,000
Terminal Evaluation	UNEP	Within 6 months of end of project implementation	25,000	50,000
Project Final Report(s), Terminal Reports and preparation/consolidation of final GEF Core Indicator Worksheet(s)	mc-PMU under guidance PSCs and with inputs from NPC of the four partner countries	Within 2 months of the project completion date		10,000
Co-financing report	mc-PMU and NPC of the four project partner countries	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July		8,000
Publication of Lessons Learnt/Best practices and other project documents	mc-PMU and the four project partner countries	Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report		25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>50,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>

## **10. Benefits**

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

The project activities in all four participating countries take into account socio-economic impact on all sectors of society, including both men and women and other vulnerable groups while preparing regulations, guidelines and outreach material. The project will also contribute

to promoting good governance through the participation of all stakeholders in decision-making on LMOs. Project staff recruitment, project activities, workshops and training activities will not discriminate against any particular group or gender. Target groups like farmers, local communities, general public, youth, particularly students and women will be involved in development of awareness raising materials and help enhance social sustainability. Translation of outreach material in local languages will further promote effective participation by all stakeholders.

The sustainable use of LMOs would have impact on the livelihood of local groups/population, country wide awareness workshops/campaigns would be organised for concerned stakeholders including representatives from NGOs, community-based organizations, mass media, students, farmers, etc. Mechanisms for wider dissemination of outreach material through various extension networks will be developed. Efforts to reach out to all social segments would be made by translating outreach material in local languages. The national Biosafety Clearing Houses (nBCH) will be enhanced and updated regularly for use by the stakeholders in all four participation countries. All project information will be disseminated through the nBCH and Asia BCH. The progress of the project and lessons learned will be shared through extensive circulation of monthly newsletters.

## **11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks**

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

**Overall Project/Program Risk Classification \***

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low	Low		

**Measures to address identified risks and impacts**

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

Potential risks	Level of risk	Proposed mitigation measures
Participation of multiple entities within each country with differing interests to implement CPB, could create conflicts.	Medium (M)	Initial selection of entities will be undertaken through the national focal points and based on expertise, complementarities, and work record for each country to guarantee project commitment and execution.
Participation of multiple countries with different capacity level could create problem during the project implementation.	Low (L)	Governance arrangements include a Multi-country Project Steering Committee and Project Management Unit with representatives of partner countries to avoid the predominance of some countries and ensure that participating entities focus on project objectives and outputs.

Possible lack of harmony at national and regional level for safe use, handling, and transboundary movement of LMOs.	Medium (M)	Regional collaboration and harmonization of methods of assessment and testing through existing national and regional protocols.
Changed political will and commitment to project objectives, in a partner country, may be as a result of governmental change that shift support away from the project.	Low (L)	Multi-country PMU would develop a strategy consistent with project objectives and activities, to educate new administration in project goals and methodologies. It will also put in place a system for periodic reviews and soft skills activities to engage high level decision makers.
Possible fluctuations in the personnel during the project implementation entailing changes in the coordinator and other important support staff.	Low (L)	<p>The project will link several people on key tasks. Moreover, minutes and reports of all the activities implemented will be made to maintain the historical memory of the project and ensure that new members can have a solid foundation in order to continue the implementation.</p> <p>Also, a Monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E) framework would be developed to to ensure smooth coordination.</p>
Delays in internalizing and start of the project	Low (L)	Share all approved and UNEP legal instruments ahead, discuss and address questions informally prior to signing off.



<p>Due to climate change impacts, public perception towards LMOs change, especially if LMOs perform better under climate change conditions</p>	<p>Low (L)</p>	<p>Potential use and import of LMOs may increase under increased temperature and other climate change related results due to tolerance to abiotic stresses.</p> <p>The main projections under climate change suggest that seasons of heat, drought and rainfall will become more intense. These changes are likely to result in an increased frequency of extreme events, primarily floods but in some cases also droughts. Food security will be affected by land and infrastructure degradation due to erosion/landslides, an increase in livestock and crop diseases due to temperature increase, direct crop failure due to floods and heavy rains. Water availability will be affected by possible periods of drought. Climate projections (for year 2100) include projected increase in temperature of 2.5°C -3°C, increased unpredictability of seasonal rains, and increased incidence or intensity of extreme weather events including droughts, cyclones and floods. Key climate impacts are crop loss/failure, loss of pasture lands and water resources for livestock, loss of marine habitat, etc. Climate change projections for the period 2045 ? 2065 suggest: (i) minimum expected temperature increase of 1-2 °C and a maximum of 2-3.5°C in the summer, and 2.5 - 4°C in winter; and (ii) rainfall projections are uncertain with differences among regions. Implications are: (i) projected temperature rises could result in evaporation and evapotranspiration increases from 5-15%; (ii) hotter days, in tandem with shorter growing seasons, would make it harder even for resilient crops; (iii) Productivity among crops could drop by 20 ? 50%; (iv) increased difficulty due to insufficient grazing for livestock; (v) heat stress on livestock which can affect feeding and reproduction. Due to the effects on food security and food production in the countries, potential use and import of LMOs that are better adapted (or perceived to be) or tolerant may increase. During PPG, the potential of climate change scenarios on the countries' response will be integrated into capacity building interventions and into the design of the ten-year strategic plans and policies to ensure that such changes to public attitude to LMOs are anticipated and proactively managed. Furthermore, the project purpose is to strengthen [participating countries capacity to effectively manage safe handling and use of LMOs in such cases.</p>
<p>An outbreak of diseases (Covid-19)</p>	<p>Low/ Medium</p>	<p>The risk is only partly under project control. Nationally and regionally, the recent outbreak of Covid-19 is already affecting work and the way people implement projects. Travel restrictions have been removed to a large extent in the participating countries. Biosecurity considerations which is at the base of Biosafety capacity building and implementation will be fully triggered in a phased approach both to ensure human and environmental safety to project implementation measures and execution of activities guided by the technical principles of ensuring genetic and material confinement and management measures in project delivery. Standard Project Operational Procedures will be developed as applicable.</p>

Varying gender inequitable contexts in the participating countries	Low	Based on the preliminary analysis carried out during the PPG stage, the countries reported varying gender inequitable contexts: for instance, female representation in Mongolia is more than men while it is the opposite in Bangladesh. While this poses a low risk, the project can manage it by adopting best practices to improve women/men's equal representation in decision making at various level, and providing equal access to participation in capacity building activities and institutional development. In the four participating countries, women and men will be engaged to contribute their unique knowledge and capacities to promote biosafety outcomes.
may challenge the implementation of the project in a gender responsive way.		

#### Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
<b>Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF)_CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>SRIF Multi Country_Asia-Biosafety PIF_am</b>	<b>Project PIF ESS</b>	
<b>SRIF Multi Country_Asia-Biosafety PIF</b>	<b>Project PIF ESS</b>	

**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).

Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones		Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
			Mid-Term Target	End of project target			

<p>To strengthen institutional, human and regulatory capacities and promote cooperative measures in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs) for the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) in Asia</p>	<p><b>Enhance and develop</b> biosafety systems and capacities towards promoting cooperation between participating countries by the end of the project.</p> <p><b>Establish supporting tools/mechanism</b> for scientifically sound decision-making including RARM.</p> <p><b>Establish</b> linkages for LMO detection for cooperation in Asia region.</p> <p>Knowledge management systems and relevant data on BCH/Asia BCH available.</p> <p><b>Core Indicator 11:</b> Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by</p>	<p>Mongolia has inadequate capacities for biosafety.</p> <p>Bangladesh has biosafety systems and structures that need to be strengthened for further efficient biosafety implementation.</p> <p>India and Philippines have functional biosafety systems with need to further strengthen monitoring and enforcement capacities.</p> <p>Public awareness and information</p>	<p>The gaps in implementation of CBP and NBFs in the four participating countries are assessed, documented and measures to address them are identified.</p> <p>Creation of subject-specific multi-country expert groups/panels, mobile apps/website/system and inter-country network (Asia BCH) initiated.</p> <p>Strengthening of laboratory testing capacities initiated for 3 laboratories in 2 participating countries.</p> <p>Development of 2 technical tools for strengthening RARM, handling requests, and decision-making, particularly for the conduct of confined field trials, environmental risk assessment, monitoring, etc. for use by participating countries, is initiated.</p>	<p>The measures to strengthen the implementation of CBP and NBFs in the four participating countries are in place and under implementation.</p> <p>Establishment of 2 subject-specific multi-country expert groups/panels, 2 mobile apps/website/system and 1 updated and functional inter-country network (Asia BCH).</p> <p>Laboratory testing capacities strengthened for 3 laboratories in 2 participating countries.</p> <p>4 technical tools developed for strengthening RARM, handling requests, and decision-making, particularly for the conduct of confined field trials, environmental risk assessment,</p>	<p>Review of biosafety systems and structures for effective implementation of NBFs, (through gender balanced representation), updated and adapted for decision making by participating countries.</p> <p>Networking mechanisms enhanced through systems for cooperation and collaboration in the Asia region.</p> <p>More number of accredited LMO detection laboratories with established interlinkages present</p> <p>Sources of information sharing enhanced for biosafety</p>	<p><u>Assumption:</u> National level cooperation by policy makers, regulators, etc. in each participating country towards operationalising the NBFs.</p> <p><u>Risk:</u> Lack of prioritization of biosafety issues by governments /concerned departments</p>	<p>Environmental Governance/ Nature Action</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---	---	--

	gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	systems for decision making need to be strengthened in the participating countries.	Preparation of online and offline information outreach materials (10) such as documents/brochures/FAQs and other public awareness material initiated among the four participating countries.  15000 personnel (9000 women and 6000 men) trained/engaged in national training workshop, hands-on training (Tot), virtual/in person inter-country workshops, awareness/sensitization/online workshops.	monitoring, etc. for use by participating countries.  Preparation of online and offline information outreach materials (20) such as documents/brochures/FAQs and other public awareness material initiated among the four participating countries.  Total target of 56,000 beneficiaries (31,000 women and 25,000 men) are trained/engaged in national training workshop, hands-on training (ToT), virtual/in person inter-country workshops, awareness/sensitization workshops.	cooperation and public awareness in Asia.  Project midterm and terminal review reports, nBCH and Asia BCH.		
COMPONENT 1: MULTI-COUNTRY COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION ON BIOSAFETY ISSUES							
Project Outcome 1.0	Outcome/ Output Indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Target	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment

Measures in place for implementation of functional national biosafety frameworks (NBFs) in participating countries.	<p>Number of assessments undertaken for understanding the present status of implementation of CPB among participating countries.</p> <p>Number of Biosafety frameworks aligned with the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Targets and the Capacity building action plans (2021-2030).</p> <p>Number of direct beneficiaries (trained personnel) disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (10,000 persons: Female ? 5,000, Male ? 5,000)</p>	<p>Mongolia has limited capacities for biosafety regulation.</p> <p>Bangladesh needs capacities for making biosafety regulatory systems more efficient along with trained staff for the same.</p> <p>Philippines and India have functional regulatory systems in place for effective implementation of NBFs. Capacities for monitoring and enforcement mechanisms need to</p>	<p>Stocktaking assessment of status of the implementation of CPB and the inventory of national biosafety and biotechnology resources documented in the four countries, and measures to be undertaken fine-tuned/identified.</p>	<p>The measures to strengthen the implementation of CBP and NBFs in the four participating countries are in place and under implementation.</p> <p>All four countries have Biosafety frameworks with specific Biosafety target(s) in line with Target 17 of the GBF with clearly defined implementation and capacity building action plans (2021-2030)</p>	<p>Country (National) reports to CPB;</p> <p>Assessments documented as reports by the four participating countries;</p> <p>Enhanced biosafety capacities and technical expertise in the four participating countries. (With at least 30% women representatives considered during review and seeking inputs/feedback)</p>	<p><u>Assumption:</u> An enabling environment by national authorities for inter-ministerial coordination for functional NBFs.</p> <p><u>Risk:</u> Delay in approval or rejection of legal documents</p>	2(iii), 2(iv)
---	--	---	---	--	--	---	------------------

		be strengthened					
Output 1.1: A baseline report on the status of implementation of CPB including a stocktaking assessment and inventory of national and regional biosafety and biotechnology resources and capacity building needs in the project countries is prepared.	Number of national and regional biosafety and biotechnology resources, capacities and means of information sharing in place.	Varied levels of biosafety policies, procedures, guidance and human resource capacities with respect to the five pillars of NBFs for effective implementation of CPB available in each of the participating country that need review, appropriate updating and adaptation.	4 national reports and one consolidated report is prepared based on stocktaking assessment on the status of implementation of CPB and inventory of national biosafety and biotechnology resources.	Best practices documented in key areas based on the experiences of the 4 project partner countries.	Report of the inter-country workshops Stocktaking and comparative assessment reports by each of the four project partner countries.  List of inventories of national biosafety and biotechnology resources by the four project partner countries	Assumptions : Cooperation at national level and among the participating countries to review and assess the capacity building needs.  Risk: Lack of active involvement of concerned ministries.	

Output 1.2: Networking mechanism established for facilitating implementation of policy and legal framework, decision making, risk assessment and risk management, monitoring and enforcement procedures.	Number of trained personnel for operationalizing an efficient and effective biosafety framework and facilitate establishment of cooperative network for sharing of resources and experiences in participating countries.	Limited intercountry sharing of experiences and resources on biosafety implementation among participating countries.	1 inter-country workshop successfully organized and report made available.  1 subject-specific multi-country expert groups/panels established among the participating countries and made functional for guidance in key areas for effective NBFs such as policies/guidelines for decision making, RARM etc.  The creation of one inter-country network (Asia BCH) is initiated.	2 inter-country workshops successfully organized and reports made available (Mongolia and India).  2 subject-specific multi-country expert groups/panels established among the participating countries and made functional for guidance in key areas for effective NBFs such as policies/guidelines for decision making, RARM etc.  The inter-country network (Asia BCH) is functional and in use with updated information.	Report of inter-country workshop.  Subject specific multi-country expert groups/panels established.  An inter-country cooperative network/platform established and functional	Assumption: Positive inter-institutional cooperation for sharing of experiences with other countries  Risk: Limited leadership, ownership and mechanism to support the functionality of cooperative network. Lack of priority for cooperation	
COMPONENT 2: FACILITATING THE ESTABLISHMENT, FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF BIOSAFETY SYSTEMS AT NATIONAL LEVEL							
Project Outcome 2.0	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Target	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment



<p>Institutional and Human resource capacities developed for effective implementation of NBFs in the participating countries.</p>	<p><b>Strengthen institutional capacities in participating countries by developing trained human resources for functional systems.</b></p> <p><b>Number of nation-wide training for multiple stakeholders with best practices for effective implementation of biosafety frameworks in participating countries.</b></p> <p><i>Number of direct beneficiaries (trained personnel) disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (22,000 persons: Female ? 12,000, Male ? 10,000)</i></p>	<p>Varied levels of capacities of institutions and stakeholders for supporting biosafety regulations in the participating countries.</p>	<p>Development of 2 technical tools for the conduct of confined field trials, environmental risk assessment, monitoring, etc and a docket consisting of manuals, SOPs, and booklets, is initiated.</p> <p>100 Personnel from relevant categories identified and trained in national training workshop on decision-making tools, RARM, hands-on training (ToT) with certificates on the identification, detection, and sampling procedures of LMOs and awareness workshops.</p> <p>Testing capacities in identified laboratories in two countries are reviewed and planning for updation is completed.</p>	<p>4 technical tools for the conduct of confined field trials, environmental risk assessment, monitoring, etc and a docket consisting of manuals, SOPs, and booklets, is developed and in use.</p> <p>200 Personnel from relevant categories identified and trained in national training workshop on decision-making tools, RARM, hands-on training (ToT) with certificates on the identification, detection, and sampling procedures of LMOs and awareness workshops.</p> <p>The 2 laboratories pass proficiency testing and are ISO Certified by the end of the project</p>	<p>Reports of national workshops and trainings from each of the project partner countries.</p> <p>Published material such as guidance documents, training manuals, technical tools and SOPs for supporting the biosafety administrative system of project partner countries.</p> <p>Number of trained personnel (with balanced gender representation).</p> <p>Certificate of trainings</p>	<p><u>Assumption:</u> An enabling environment by national authorities and actors for updating and implementation of functional NBFs.</p> <p><u>Risk:</u> Inadequate training of relevant human resources.</p>	<p>2(iii), 2(iv)</p>
---	--	--	---	---	--	---	--------------------------

Output 2.1: Nationally mandated Institutions are made competent and well-equipped with the necessary administrative and technical tools for supporting regulations	<p>Number of national institutions with mandates on biosafety implementation made competent and personnel trained for handling request, decision making, safety assessment , monitoring and enforcement for supporting biosafety regulations in participating countries.</p> <p>Number of committee meetings undertaken while developing technical tools.</p> <p>Number of technical tools and guidance in place to support scientific decision making.</p> <p>Strengthen monitoring and enforcement</p>	<p>Several existing laws in Mongolia, Bangladesh and Philippines with relevant clauses.</p> <p>Mongolia has limited institutional framework and expertise for establishing a functional biosafety administrative system.</p> <p>Bangladesh has systems in place for handling request and decision making that need review and updating.</p> <p>Philippines and India have functional administrative</p>	<p>2 technical tools prepared for strengthening RARM, handling requests, and decision-making, particularly for the conduct of confined field trials, environmental risk assessment, monitoring, etc. for use by participating countries.</p> <p>Atleast 60 relevant personnel trained in national training workshop on decision-making tools, RARM and national policy workshops. Atleast one laboratory each in 2 of the participating countries identified and activities initiated to strengthen the testing capacity.</p> <p>Atleast 10 scientists/laboratory personnel from two countries provided with hands-on training (ToT) on identification, detection and</p>	<p>4 technical tools developed for strengthening RARM, handling requests, and decision-making, particularly for the conduct of confined field trials, environmental risk assessment, monitoring, etc. for use by participating countries.</p> <p>At least 150 relevant personnel trained in national training workshop on decision-making tools, RARM, including practical real cases, where available (simulation of NBFs using enhanced tools).</p> <p>Atleast 20 personnel from enforcement agencies and laboratories from two countries are trained on identification, detection and sampling procedures of LMOs.</p>	<p>Technical tools, working knowledge documents including guidelines, manuals based on best practices developed.</p> <p>Minutes of consultative meetings towards finalizing guidelines;</p> <p>Proceedings of training workshops ;</p> <p>Trained human resources with certificates in LMO detection;</p> <p>Functional LMO detection laboratories along with technical documents for operation and maintenance of these laboratories during the project duration.</p>	<p>Assumption: National institutions willingness to establish systems for biosafety administration (infrastructural support, relevant personnel and adequate financial support)</p> <p>The RARM tools are completed and adopted within the project duration. Government support for implementation of the monitoring and enforcement guidelines.</p> <p>Risk: Delay in receiving feedback from respondents during review process. Lack of clarity and coordination between different agencies</p>	
--	--	---	---	---	--	---	--

	<p>systems.</p> <p>Strengthen monitoring and enforcement capacities with number of frontline personnel and biosafety inspectors trained and certified.</p>	<p>rative systems in place.</p>	<p>sampling procedures of LMOs.</p>	<p>At least 2 laboratories are functional and have capacities to participate in proficiency testing.</p>			
--	--	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

Output 2.2: Designated Centres of Excellence are interlinked and strengthened among project partner countries.	<p>Improve LMO detection facilities with technical guidance, SOPs and proficiency testing systems and trained manpower through consultative and cooperative approach.</p> <p>Facilitate regional centres of excellence being established and operationalized.</p>	<p>Limited trained inspectors for biosafety monitoring and enforcement in Mongolia and Bangladesh. LMO detection facilities also inadequate.</p> <p>Philippines has some capacities for detection and need support to establish network of laboratories for national and inter-country cooperation.</p> <p>India has a national network of detection laboratories with need to</p>	<p>Development of manuals, SOPs, and booklets on best practices for LMO detection is initiated.</p> <p>Inter-country hands-on training (ToT) with certificates awarded to at least 10 scientists from Mongolia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines.</p>	<p>Manuals, SOPs, and booklets on best practices for LMO detection is developed and in use.</p> <p>3-5 national trainings held in Mongolia, Bangladesh and Philippines for scientists/laboratory personnel/enforcement agencies on identification, detection and sampling procedures of LMOs.</p>	<p>Technical working knowledge documents, manuals and SOPs in place.</p> <p>Report of inter-country hands on training workshop.</p> <p>Reports of training workshops held in national context in Mongolia, Bangladesh and Philippines ;</p> <p>Certificate s of trainings;</p> <p>Accredited laboratories in Philippines and Mongolia</p>	<p>Assumption: Willingness to have systems for information exchange through practical trainings</p> <p>Risk: Limited financial resources for long term sustainability. Trained staff fails to effectively implement regulations.</p>	
--	---	--	--	---	---	--	--

		develop inter- country linkages .					
COMPONENT 3: SYSTEMS FOR INFORMATION SHARING, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS DEVELOPED							
Project Outcom e 3	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Target	End of project target	Means of Verificatio n	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expecte d Accomp lishme nt

Information sharing and knowledge management enhanced among participating countries for increased public participation and awareness.	<p><b>Ensure that</b> national biosafety websites/information links of participating countries are appropriately updated/linked with the BCH. Improved level of stakeholder participation in the decision-making process established in participating countries.</p> <p><b>Make available</b> documents for biosafety information awareness and knowledge sharing (considering gender equity issues).</p> <p>National annual budgets sanctioned by relevant authorities for promoting biosafety.</p> <p>Number of direct</p>	<p>Several existing websites with biosafety information fragmented and not up to date.</p> <p>The public participation in informed decision making is almost non-existent in Mongolia while at varied levels in Bangladesh.</p> <p>Philippines and India. Awareness of biosafety needs to be further enhanced to broader stakeholders strategically</p>	<p>4 study/survey report prepared at the national level in participating countries to identify gaps in PAEP and suggested measures to address.</p> <p>Preparation of at least 10 resources/outreach materials, mobile apps/website/s system initiated in the partner countries that can be used for biosafety information dissemination.</p> <p>At least 2 workshops/webinar, 1 online workshop, 1 study tour/familiarization workshop and interactive meetings organized for information sharing, education, communication and knowledge management.</p>	<p>4 Study/survey reports available for use by countries for planning activities in the area of information sharing and knowledge management.</p> <p>At least 20 resources/outreach material, mobile apps/website/s system developed and operational in the partner countries for biosafety information dissemination.</p> <p>At least 4 workshops/webinar, 3 online workshop, 2 study tour/familiarization workshop and interactive meetings organized for information sharing, education, communication and knowledge management.</p>	<p>Survey report on public information system needs for capacity building.</p> <p>Number of trained personnel (sex disaggregated data)</p> <p>Certificate of trainings</p> <p>Proceedings of training/awareness workshops</p> <p>Biosafety outreach material available for dissemination</p> <p>National websites in place/updated with information linked to BCH.</p>	<p><u>Assumption:</u> Careful analysis on technical and information requirements for the website carried out. Information identified to be shared and made easy for public access.</p> <p><u>Risk:</u> Delay in collecting information.</p>	2(iii), 2(iv)
---	--	---	---	---	--	---	------------------

	beneficiaries (trained personnel and targeted public/stakeholder) disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (24,000 persons: Female ? 14,000, Male ? 10,000)						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Output 3.1: Functional and updated mechanisms in place for information sharing and knowledge management	<p>Enhance the level of sharing of biosafety information and awareness</p> <p>Number of public awareness creation activities and materials improved.</p> <p>Number of knowledge management products developed.</p> <p>Review and reupdate information and knowledge management systems at national and inter-country level</p>	<p>Biosafety awareness and/or information material and products exist in participating countries in various forms.</p> <p>All participating countries have information on BCH.</p>	<p>4 study/survey report prepared at the national level in participating countries to identify gaps in PAEP and suggested measures to address. National study reports analyzed and consolidated report with suggested measures to be taken based on commonalities and sharing of experiences.</p> <p>Preparation of 10 resources and outreach material initiated in the partner countries that can be used for biosafety awareness trainings.</p> <p>At least 2 workshops/webinar organised by the participating countries on useful online resources including the BCH.</p> <p>Interactive meetings held among the concerned stakeholders for documenting biosafety relevant official</p>	<p>Study/survey reports available for use by countries for planning activities in the area of information sharing and knowledge management.</p> <p>At least 20 resources and outreach material for biosafety available at national level in project countries that can be used for biosafety awareness trainings.</p> <p>At least 4 workshops/webinar organised by the participating countries on useful online resources including the BCH.</p> <p>Biosafety relevant official webpages are interlinked for information sharing and dissemination at national and multicountry level.</p> <p>Mobile apps/website/information management system are set up and</p>	<p>Report of series of webinars.</p> <p>Bilateral/multilateral country agreements for developing network of sharing information, etc. among participating countries.</p> <p>Varied types of biosafety outreach material developed, translated in local languages and printed.</p>	<p>Assumption: Willingness and interest of multiple stakeholder groups; Replication mechanism in place to continue awareness raising after the project including potential funding.</p> <p>Risk: Quality of outreach material developed not appropriate.</p>	
---	--	--	--	--	---	--	--



			<p>webpages and mechanisms for interlinking them for information sharing and dissemination at national and multicountry level.</p> <p>Development of mobile apps/website/s system is initiated in Philippines/Mongolia</p>	operationalized in Philippines/Mongolia.			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Output 3.2: Sharing of information, education and communication (IEC) materials among participating countries to enhance public participation and awareness	Strengthen national and inter-country linkages for information sharing, education and communication material developed through cooperation among participating countries.  Update information and resource material on BCH and Asia BCH	Limited network linkages within countries for public awareness and education	1 online workshop on biosafety and biotechnology for research institutions and universities organized. Feedback analysis report on online workshop is compiled.  1 study tour/familiarization workshop on biosafety and biotechnology for policy makers and technical working groups organized.  Atleast 20 documents comprising of technical tools, resource materials, case studies, articles on key topics on risk assessment and risk management, conduct of confined field trials, monitoring, etc. posted on national BCH/Asia BCH.  Interactive meetings with institutions/experts organized for identification of opportunities	3 online workshops on biosafety and biotechnology for research institutions and universities organized. Feedback analysis reports on online workshops is compiled.  2 study tours/familiarization workshops on biosafety and biotechnology for policy makers and technical working groups organized.  Atleast 50 documents comprising of technical tools, resource materials, case studies, articles on key topics on risk assessment and risk management, conduct of confined field trials, monitoring, etc. posted on national BCH/Asia BCH.  Report outlining potential opportunities prepared and circulated to pursue collaboration	Sensitized and informed stakeholders on key thematic areas of biosafety  Documented report on opportunities for regional collaboration  Updated information and resource materials available on nBCH and Asia BCH  Report of study tours/workshops	Assumption: Countries will collaborate for linkages and networking. Risk: Quality of review undertaken and events organized insufficient	
---	---	--	---	--	--	---	--

			for collaboration between institutions of the participating countries, KIPABiC.	between institutions of the participating countries, KIPABiC.			
COMPONENT 4: PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION							
Project Outcome 4	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Target	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment
Inter country cooperation strengthened by sustainable linkages / networks, best practices learnt through effective project coordination.	Number of channels for communication and networking	Very limited inter country linkages and communication among participating countries.	<p>Biosafety capacities improved in project partner countries through best practices through sharing of experiences and lessons learnt among themselves (including gender sensitivity).</p> <p>Channel of communication and networking established through the mc-PMU at KIPABiC.</p>	<p>The insights and lessons learnt through the project implementation are documented and circulated.</p> <p>Mechanisms for institutionalising the established systems identified/suggested for adoption by participating countries for continuity beyond the Project.</p>	<p>Inception workshop report</p> <p>National reports including reviews, stocktaking, comparative assessment, etc. on project completion.</p> <p>Project mid-term report.</p> <p>Terminal project report.</p>	<p><u>Assumption:</u> National government's willingness to promote biosafety and sharing of experiences. Dedicated capacities in place</p> <p>Replication mechanism in place for continuous cooperation.</p> <p><u>Risk:</u> Lack of coordination and involvement of relevant agencies. Limited financial resources for long-term sustainability</p>	2(iii), 2(iv)

Output 4.1: A comprehensive project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework developed, implemented and including best practices and lessons learned	Develop Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to ensure coordination and sharing of best practices  Document lesson learnt.  Enhance institutional and human resource capacities and document through project reports	No M&E framework developed yet	Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework is in place with guidance from multicountry Project Steering Committee, for use by KIPABiC and partner countries.  Inception Workshop convened for multi-country project and report prepared and circulated.  Mid-term evaluation initiated to implement project implementation and draw lessons to enhance project implementation.	Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework is implemented by KIPABiC and partner countries.  Best practices documented and shared amongst participating countries.  Mechanisms for institutionalizing the established systems identified/suggested for adoption by participating countries for continuity beyond the Project.  Terminal Report prepared and submitted.	M&E reports reflecting outputs being monitored ? ongoing  Documented lessons learnt  Assessment of national biosafety systems to verify incorporation of lessons learnt by end of project	Countries will adapt and use the M&E framework	
---	---	--------------------------------	--	--	---	--	--

## **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).**

summary of the responses to address the GEF Secretariat comments at the time of PIF approval related to PPG work.

### **Matrix of responses to GEF Secretariat**

<b>GEF Secretariat comments at the time of PIF Approval</b>	<b>Response on the comments</b>
---	---------------------------------

<p>- Refine the theory of change (ToC) of the project, and notably develop a narrative. While there remain diverse ways of presenting a ToC, key issues are to communicate clearly, through a diagram and a narrative, the causal pathways by which interventions are expected to have the desired effect and the justification that these causal pathways are necessary and sufficient. Please refer to STAP's guidance: <a href="https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer">https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer</a></p>	<p>The ToC proposed in the PIF stage was further reviewed by a review group composed of the national PPG focals, KIPABiC, UNEP Task Manager and the International Consultants. A refined ToC was drafted which was further reviewed at the national consultative and validation meetings during the national Stakeholder consultation workshops. The comments were compiled by KIPABiC and refined consultatively with expert help from International Consultants. The final ToC was reviewed at the multi-country validation workshop organized from 12-14 April 2023 in Jeju Island, South Korea. The ToC and a summarised narrative is described under (vi) Project Objective.</p>
<p>- Component 1 was dedicated to regional cooperation so that it is truly complementary and adds-value to the national-level interventions of component 2. In particular, output 1.2 seems redundant with component 2 and will have to be refined</p>	<p>The Project components were reviewed by all countries and revised to so that the component 1 is focussed entirely on multicountry cooperation. The other activities under the component 2 and 3 include national activities to be taken up cooperatively with sharing of experience from participating countries which is further supported by joint country activities to enrich the national results through cooperative activities.</p>
<p>- tailor the country-specific interventions to the needs of each country to be precisely identified during PPG; The need for output 2.1 (baseline report) in addition to the baseline analysis to be carried out during PPG will have to be justified.</p>	<p>During the PPG stage, a preliminary baseline study was carried out by the four countries as part of national activities. Due to limited time, it mainly focussed on identifying country specific interventions that need to be addressed through the project.</p> <p>Whereas, in the main project, this activity will be implemented mainly under Component 1 (Output 1.1) as a multi-country activity, to further elaborate on the preliminary baseline study carried out during the PPG stage. The focus will be to compile relevant information at country level followed by comparative assessment and document best practices in four countries in key areas such as risk assessment, risk management, detection, etc.</p> <p>The outcomes from the baseline reports and their analysis will be used to design robust and updated capacity building programs, facilitate knowledge exchange, establish a pool of regional experts/groups, facilitate institutionalization of capacity building programs, peer-to-peer learning and promote inter-country networking. The ultimate goal is to achieve optimal regional collaboration and cooperation in the area of biosafety and biotechnology.</p>

<p>- pay particular attention to the institutionalization of the training and capacity building activities. The regional nature of the project should be leveraged, e.g. by developing training of regional trainers that would be able to replicate and upscaling the trainings in the region.</p>	<p>The project will address common needs using the central multi-country strategy and replicate at national level. Approaches for ensuring multiplier effect will be used by institutionalization of capacity building activities, particularly in the areas of RARM, LMO detection and information sharing. The Project will also identify institutions/infrastructures with the countries as well as the Republic of Korea for providing training in the area of LMO detection. Training of Trainers (ToT) approach will be used both at the national and multicountry levels.</p>
<p>- We note that the stakeholder analysis remains very preliminary at this stage. The PIF also indicates that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Civil Society organizations and Private sector Entities have been consulted during the project identification phase but does not provide any information on these stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>(i) ensure meaningful consultations with IPLCs and civil society organizations and document them, along with all other consultations, in the CEO approval package;</p> <p>(ii) develop separate and complementary stakeholder analyses and engagement plans for the regional and the national components of the project. The plan should include detailed, country-specific analyses and information on future engagement.</p> <p>(iii) ensure that the GEF policies on stakeholder engagement and environmental and social safeguards are implemented in full.</p>	<p>During the PPG stage, the countries conducted stakeholder consultations. The key stakeholders who participated in the workshops conducted in the four countries in the month of January 2023 is provided in the ProDoc. Since there was limited representation of the ethnic communities, women and youth groups at the workshops, KIPABiC sought additional information from the countries. The countries reached out to the representatives of the ethnic communities and groups to seek their views. Some of their views were collected through one-to-one consultations carried out over telephonic conversation.</p> <p>To ensure that key stakeholders are included in the main project, an indicative Stakeholder List is prepared for four countries identifying the relevant key institutions/agencies/groups who would be engaged during the project implementation as provided by the partner countries. The list is available as part of Annex Q of ProDoc.</p> <p>Due to limited time, at this stage, a generic stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared (available as part of Annex Q of ProDoc). This would be further fine-tuned during the stock taking assessment, to prepare country specific plans, adapted to suit each country's gender related requirements and inputs from specific national entities/groups with the required expertise.</p> <p>GEF Policies on stakeholder engagement and environmental and social safeguards will guide execution of planned activities during the implementation period</p>

Responses to CEO Approval review was done through the Review sheet template

**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: 50000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
- Expert Review, assessment of national reports, and final drafting of Project Proposal (contract with 3 International consultants)	12400	12400	0
Philippines:  - Preparation of terms of reference for PPG implementation  - Local consultative meetings with interested parties and stakeholders for seeking inputs/data collection for project plans and programs  - Local validation workshop on preparing national inputs to the draft prodoc  - Travel costs for local experts for data collection, and consultative meetings with interested parties and stakeholders.  - Drafting of national inputs (contracts with national Consultants)  - Gender data collection & analysis	13000	13000	0

Mongolia:			
- Preparation of terms of reference for PPG implementation			
- Local consultative meetings with interested parties and stakeholders for seeking inputs/data collection for project plans and programs			
- Local validation workshop on preparing national inputs to the draft prodoc			
- Travel costs for local experts for data collection, and consultative meetings with interested parties and stakeholders.	7600	7600	0
- Preparation of preliminary desktop review reports in support of the proposed project			
- Drafting of national inputs (contracts with national Consultants)			
- Gender data collection & analysis			
- Translation into local languages			



India:			
- Preparation of terms of reference for PPG implementation			
- Local consultative meetings with interested parties and stakeholders for seeking inputs/data collection for project plans and programs			
- Local validation workshop on preparing national inputs to the draft prodoc	17000	0	17000
- Travel costs for local experts for data collection, and consultative meetings with interested parties and stakeholders.			
- Preparation of preliminary desktop review reports in support of the proposed project			
- Drafting of national inputs (contracts with national Consultants)			
- Gender data collection & analysis			
<b>Total</b>	<b>50000</b>	<b>33000</b>	<b>17000</b>

***Note: In addition to the GEF fund, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE), Government of the Republic of Korea provided additional cofinance support of USD 100,000 for the implementation of PPG activities from June 2022-June 2023.***

*The cofinance support fund of USD 100,000 was allocated as below:*

*Bangladesh for implementing national activities: USD 5000*

*Philippines for implementing national activities: USD 3165*

*Mongolia for implementing national activities: USD 6400*

*International Consultants: USD 4000*

*Intercountry validation and consultation workshops and support: USD 81435*



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

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

Country	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name
Mongolia	47.90771	106.88324	Ulan Bator
Bangladesh	23.7104	90.40744	Dhaka
Philippines	14.6042	120.9822	Manila
India	28.65195	77.23149	Delhi



## GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. These IDs are available on the [GeoNames? geographical database](#) containing millions of placenames and allowing to freely record new ones. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#).

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
Mongolia	47.90771	106.88344		<input type="checkbox"/>
Bangladesh	23.7104	90.40744		<input type="checkbox"/>
Philippines	14.6042	120.9822		<input type="checkbox"/>
India	28.65195	77.23149		<input type="checkbox"/>

## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Annex I-1: GEF Indicative Project Budget Template

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Goods	Office supplies including computers and printers	15,000	10,000	15,000	40,000			40,000	MoEF & CC, India , NCBP, Philippines, NBC,MoET, Mongolia,
	Laboratory equipment	-	140,000	-	140,000			140,000	NCBP, Philippines, NBC,MoET, Mongolia,
Revolving funds/ Seed funds / Equity	...				0			0	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	Sub-contract to support laboratory updates, technical services including web and virtual services & services to identified centers of excellence in the participating countries/adhoc expert services	17,500	40,000	50,000	107,500		20,000	127,500	Joint/multicountry - KIPABiC National activities - NBC,MoET, Mongolia, NCBP, Philippines, DoE, MoEF & CC, Bangladesh, MoEF & CC, India
	Gender Based Expert Services (Annex P)	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000		-	30,000	Joint/multicountry - KIPABiC National activities - NBC,MoET, Mongolia, NCBP, Philippines, DoE, MoEF & CC, Bangladesh, MoEF & CC, India
	Sub-contract to function as national level Project Coordination Units (PCU)	-	-	-	-		56,000	56,000	MoEF & CC, India, NBC,MoET, Mongolia,
	Design of SOPs, publications & Reviews	-	-	10,000	10,000		0	10,000	Joint/multicountry - KIPABiC National activities - NBC,MoET, Mongolia, NCBP, Philippines, DoE, MoEF & CC, Bangladesh, MoEF & CC, India
Contractual Services – Company	...				0			0	
International Consultants	Expert familiar with biosafety issues and provisions of various relevant international conventions/treaties (1500\$ /week for 10 weeks)	15,000	0	0	15,000			15,000	KIPABiC
	Expert for support on preparation of Risk Analysis Framework, decision making tools, training strategy etc. (1500\$ /week for 20 weeks)	0	30,000	0	30,000			30,000	KIPABiC
	Expert in LMO detection and Laboratory Standards (1500 \$ /week for 10 weeks)	0	15,000	0	15,000			15,000	KIPABiC
	Expert familiar with biosafety issues and provisions of various relevant international conventions/treaties (625\$/week for 16 week )	10000	-	0	10000			10000	NBC,MoET, Mongolia, NCBP, Philippines, DoE, MoEF & CC, Bangladesh, MoEF & CC, India

National Biosafety Committee, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MONGOLIA),	NBC, MoET, Mongolia
National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP) (PHILIPPINES),	NCBP, Philippines
Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (BANGLADESH),	DoE, MoEF & CC, Bangladesh
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (INDIA),	MoEF & CC, India
Korea Institute for Promoting Asia Biosafety Cooperation (KIPABiC)	KIPABiC, Korea

**ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet**

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

**ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows**

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencies 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).