



# PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: MSP (2-STEP)

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TF

## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project Title:</b>	Developing a national strategy and legal and institutional framework on access to genetic resources and related benefit sharing and traditional knowledge in line with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol in Algeria		
Country:	Algeria	GEF Project ID:	5808
GEF Agency:	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5311
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Resubmission Date:	12 May 2014
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months):	48 months
Name of parent program:	N/A	Project Agency Fee (\$):	184,300

### A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
BD-4: Build national capacities related to access to and use of genetic resources and benefit sharing	GEF	1,940,000	4,180,000
<b>Total project cost</b>		<b>1,940,000</b>	<b>4,180,000</b>

### B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

**Project Objective:** To consolidate actions to conserve and sustainably use genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria through the development and implementation of a national strategy and legal and institutional framework on access and benefit sharing (ABS) in line with the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Developing a national policy, legal and institutional framework to enable the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the conservation and valuation of genetic resources.	TA	1.1. A national coherent legal and institutional framework on ABS and the protection of TK approved and established.	1.1. National legislation on ABS and related issues on intellectual property (IP) and TK prepared and submitted for adoption by relevant Algerian authorities, following national consultations and participatory stakeholder engagement.  1.2. An institutional framework on ABS and traditional knowledge defined and established with supporting policies and measures enabling implementation of legislation on ABS and TK.  1.3. Formal coordination mechanisms established between in-country institutions having a mandate in the implementation of the national ABS and related TK framework.  1.4. An effective financial mechanism in line with the ABS legal framework established for receiving, on a voluntary basis, a percentage of monetary benefits derived from ABS projects, for redistribution towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in perpetuity.	GEF	900,000	1,500,000
2. Building and strengthening the capacity of national research and regulatory institutions to apply ABS rules	TA	2.1. Capacities of existing and/or new national agencies with competency on ABS, as well as of relevant associations improved by at least 50% as measured by the ABS Tracking Tool	2.1. Knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) surveys undertaken to assess awareness about the national ABS legal and institutional framework and the CBD and Nagoya Protocol, amongst specific groups that may use or benefit from ABS transactions (e.g. relevant researchers, local populations and industry players).	GEF	863,636	2,280,000

and principles.		(baseline and target to be defined during PPG).  2.2. 80% of the relevant national stakeholders (researchers, universities, <i>ex situ</i> collections, national competent authorities, and representatives from local populations, associations and the private sector) are informed about the regulatory and institutional framework on ABS and TK and its different dimensions.  2.3. Existing and emerging initiatives and opportunities for bio-discovery projects in the agricultural, crop protection, food/beverage, industrial biotechnology, botanical, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries identified.	2.2. Targeted training conducted for 100 representatives of national ABS competent authority, ABS/CBD focal points and agencies with complementary functions, regarding: key obligations under the Nagoya Protocol, ABS access applications, negotiating ABS agreement, defining scope and application of regulations, and implementing compliance mechanisms and monitoring activities (e.g. for bio-prospecting projects or value chains).  2.3. A national communication and engagement strategy and campaign on the national ABS framework and bio-prospecting and value-chains undertaken targeting key stakeholders.  2.4. Stakeholder-targeted manuals and training modules developed and implemented on the national ABS legal and institutional framework (ABS procedures for users and providers of genetic resources, PIC protocols, ABS agreement negotiation strategies, ABS-related IP, customary law, bio-prospecting and research procedures, etc.).  2.5. ABS model agreement(s) that facilitate the negotiation of monetary (i.e. upfront payments and royalties) and non-monetary (i.e. training/ research opportunities) benefits between users and providers of genetic resources developed and adapted to national needs and circumstances.  2.7. Database(s) compiled on a) existing and emerging projects, including users and providers of genetic resources and its associated traditional knowledge (i.e. institutions, private sector and local populations); and b) <i>ex-situ</i> collections of genetic resources of Algerian origin.			
Subtotal				1,763,636	3,780,000	
Project Management Cost (PMC) <sup>1</sup>				176,364	400,000	
<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>1,940,000</b>	<b>4,180,000</b>	

#### C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Government of Algeria	Cash**	2,000,000
National Government	Government of Algeria	In-kind	2,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash**	180,000*
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>4,180,000</b>

\*: A further \$40,000 of co-finance will be provided for the PPG, bringing the total UNDP co-finance to \$220,000.

\*\* : including staff salaries working on genetic resources

#### D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

N/A

#### E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

PPG allowed by grant amount	Amount Requested (\$)	Agency Fee for PPG (\$)
(upto) \$100k for projects up to & including \$3 million	60,000	5,700

## PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

<sup>1</sup> To be calculated as percent of subtotal.

## A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

### A.1. Project Description

#### *The global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed*

1. *Biodiversity status and threats:* Algeria is located in the north-western section of Africa and with 2,381,741 km<sup>2</sup> is the continent's largest country. Bound by the Mediterranean Sea in the north it shares borders with seven countries to the west, south and east. Its geographical location makes it an important country in terms of ecosystem and species diversity: its territory comprises mountain, agricultural, desert, steppe, wetland, forest, and marine ecosystems. Its marine ecosystems contain over 3,000 species and its terrestrial ecosystems more than 16,000 species. Protected species in Algeria include 125 bird species, 56 mammal species, 46 reptile species, 144 insect species and 550 plant species. Biodiversity and genetic resources (and its associated traditional and local knowledge) are especially important in Algeria due to the prevailing social, cultural, economic and demographic structures. Human development and well-being depend very directly on biodiversity on many levels: as a source of food (from both land and sea), animal forage, cultural inspiration, tourism and so forth. Species representing a potential genetic resource or origin of crops cultivated by humans in agriculture, forestry, industry and ethno-botany number around 400-500. 14% of Algeria's population is dedicated to agriculture and economically exploits less than 1% of biological species.

2. However, there is a general trend towards biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation across vulnerable regions in Algeria. This erosion of biological and genetic diversity and of ecosystem services implies fewer livelihood options for local populations and fewer options to confront continued environmental pressures, for both the present and future generations. The main threats to biodiversity are driven by human activity and include most notably: the destruction or overexploitation of biological resources; expansion of cultivated areas (the surface of natural steppe vegetation has decreased by 50% since 1989); growth of human populations and related urbanization and infrastructure development; increasing demand for food; extractive activities and pollution; and poaching. Of all natural ecosystems, forests have suffered the greatest decrease in area and biodiversity: over the past 150 years, Algeria's forests have diminished by 5 million ha and now make up a mere 1.7% (4.2 million ha) of the country's land area. Marine and coastal ecosystems face strong anthropogenic pressures, most notably from pollution, alien invasive species and overfishing (in the fisheries sector, the number of fishing vessels increased from 2,400 in 1999 to 4,000 in 2005, considerably increasing fishing pressure). This increasing pressure on biodiversity is compounded by the effects of climate change, with the predicted impacts in Algeria by 2030 being: a temperature increase of 1° C; a decrease in rainfall of 20 to 40 % from east to west and a shift of agro-climates 100 km to the north; a decrease in solid precipitation (snow) of 50%; a movement of isohyets to the north. The highlands as well as the steppes and Sahara will be the regions most critically affected – e.g. from increasing desertification (a real threat for present and future generations in semi-arid, arid and desert ecosystems); but also marine ecosystems are expected to be affected such as through changes/losses in commercial fisheries.

3. Algeria has addressed and made good progress on a number of fronts relating to the first and second objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use, respectively – through building and managing a protected areas system, sustainable natural resource management practices and similar activities. Algeria has an important protected areas system: over 35% of the national territory is subject to some form of protection (national park, natural reserves, cultural parks, etc.). But challenges remain. PA management effectiveness and the resources made available can be strengthened. The administrative institutional model is insufficient and does not respond to present challenges in biodiversity management, hindering effective implementation of biodiversity related policies (e.g. the National Biodiversity Strategy), laws and regulations. Synergy, coordination and effectiveness of actions across ministries and between different sectors and agencies involved in biodiversity management and oversight can be improved. Biodiversity conservation dimensions have been incorporated into school curricula, yet awareness remains insufficient and must be further enhanced across a broader range of actors and stakeholders, particularly in regard to genetic resources. Participation of local populations in conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and genetic resources must be encouraged and increased. In addition, working towards the third objective of the CBD – the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from accessing and using genetic resources (ABS) – remains a major challenge, including in Algeria, although it could offer important avenues to address a range of the challenges identified here.

4. *The legal framework in Algeria:* Algeria has signed and ratified various *international and regional* agreements in the field of environmental protection, biodiversity and natural resource management, including most notably: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (under which the country did *not* sign the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress) and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (which was signed but not yet ratified, see § 6); the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) with its African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA); the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as well as the Protocol to Combat Desertification in African Countries; the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Barcelona Convention

for Protection against Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea; and the African Convention for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources. Algeria is also a member of IUCN. Algeria was the first country to ratify the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Algeria in December 2002 became a member through accession of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) but it is not nationally implemented. Algeria is moreover a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). However – and while negotiations are in process – the country is not yet a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Algeria is consequently not yet a party to the TRIPS Agreement (on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Including Trade in Counterfeit Goods) and not bound by its obligations. Algeria is also not a member of the UPOV International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, but is presently in contact with the Office of the Union to obtain assistance in the development of laws based on the UPOV convention.

5. In terms of its *national* environmental and related sustainable development framework and legislation, the General Law for the Environment and Sustainable Development (Law 2003-10) includes references to biodiversity. Law 1984-12 addresses the conservation and management of national forests; Laws 2002-02, 2004-03 and 2011-02 deal with the conservation and sustainable development of coastal areas, mountain areas and protected areas, respectively; Order 2004-07 regulates hunting and Order 2006-14 the conservation of threatened animal species. Decrees 1993-285 and 1995-429, respectively, establish a list of protected cultivated plants and the rules governing their export, import, exchange, use, transport and sanitary conditions. Moreover, Algeria has a comprehensive set of standards relating to trademark, copyright and patents – Law 2003-19 on Patents for Invention is the central law governing inventions and innovations. Law 1998-04 on the protection of cultural heritage is the only national legal instrument in existence stipulating and defining the implementing legislation for the conservation of intangible cultural heritage. Algeria has just created a UNESCO Category 2 Center dedicated to the preservation of Africa's intangible cultural heritage.

6. Regarding biological and genetic resources and the third objective of the CBD more specifically: Algeria in February 2011 was in the first group of countries to sign the ABS Nagoya Protocol adopted by the CBD 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties in 2010. While the protocol has not yet been ratified, a national law providing a general guiding framework on the use of biological resources was drafted and approved by the Council of Ministers in December 2013, and is currently under discussion in the National Assembly with a view of adoption.

7. *The institutional framework in Algeria:* The following government agencies are responsible for generating policies, regulations and overseeing and managing different sets of ecosystems, resources and biodiversity components; their functions are separated according to specific legal competences, expertise and areas of incidence: Ministry of Land Planning and Environment (MATE); High Commission for the Development of the Steppe (HCDS); Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR); Ministry of Interior and Local Collectivities; Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources; Ministry of Water Resources; Ministry of Energy and Mining; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Ministry of Industry Development and Investment Promotion (MDIPI); Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Tourism and Arts; National Centre for Development of Biological Resources; General Directorate of Forestry; National Development Agency of University Research; National Agency for Nature Conservation; National Centre for the Development of Agriculture in Sahara Regions (CEDARS).

8. The following technical public institutions focus more directly on fundamental research (e.g. on taxonomy, species distribution, ecosystem degradation) and applied research (e.g. identification and management of useful forest resources, agricultural improvement, livestock breeding, etc.), often specialised on specific ecosystems or biodiversity components (e.g. trees, livestock, genetic resources): Centre of Scientific and Technical Research on Arid Regions (CRSTRA); National Higher School of Agronomy (ENSA); National Institute of Forestry Research (INRF); National Higher School of Marine Sciences and Coastal Management (ENSSMAL); Technical Institute for Fruit Trees and Vine (ITAFV); Technical Institute for the Development of Saharan Agronomy (ITEDAS); Technical Institute of Livestock Breeding (ITELV); Technical Institute for Large Cultures (ITGC); Technical Institute for Vegetable and Industrial Crops (ITCMI); National Agronomic Research Institute of Algeria (INRAA); National Research Center for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CNRDPA); Biotechnology Research Center (CRBT); National Research Centre on Prehistory, Anthropology and History (CNRPAH); National Research Centre on Socio-Cultural Anthropology (CNRA); National Centre on Artificial Insemination and Genetic Improvement (CNIAAG). Several of these institutions are *inter alia* dedicated to conserving agricultural genetic resources.

9. *Barriers:* While Algeria has made progress on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and genetic diversity and resources, it has so far failed to develop the legal and institutional basis for working towards the third objective of the CBD - regulating access to genetic resources and sharing the benefits from their use. Even though developing and operationalising an ABS framework can be expected to significantly help address several of the other challenges regarding biodiversity management and conservation in the country (see §3) – especially because the roll-out of an ABS framework is expected to leverage additional monetary and non-monetary resources for, as well as increased stakeholder awareness and interest in, the management and conservation of biological and genetic resources. The insufficient awareness and understanding of the policy, technical and financial dimensions of ABS across large sectors of society, including resource owners/suppliers, resource users, the private sector and most government agencies, represent additional difficulties in this regard. The challenges described in §3 above apply also specifically to ABS.

10. The *long-term solution* is the creation, development and implementation of a comprehensive national legal, regulatory and institutional framework for ABS – defining a *specific set of norms* either through a dedicated ABS law or by complementing and modifying its existing legal framework. The framework will be overseen either through a specialized agency or by assigning specific ABS functions and competences to existing agencies. Besides making Algeria compliant with the CBD’s ABS principles and Nagoya Protocol (such as on prior informed consent, mutually agreed terms, check points for genetic resources and benefit-sharing mechanisms), this will activate the potential that Algeria’s genetic resources and traditional knowledge represent for generating economic benefits to the nation and key stakeholders, including local populations where appropriate, in the form of business, employment, technology transfer and capacity development. These new opportunities are expected to strengthen the economic case and political motivation as well as the financing required for the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity/ resources containing the genetic material. The establishment of a comprehensive national ABS framework will moreover ensure that Algeria’s sovereign right to regulate access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge is respected. The development of the ABS framework in turn requires the strengthening of capacities across relevant stakeholder groups, including at the government agencies set to oversee and implement the related requirements.

#### ***The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects***

11. Working towards the above long-term solution, the Government will over the project duration of four years invest an estimated \$8,000,000 on matters relevant in the context of ABS and TK in the widest sense. This includes also the work on the process of ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and the adoption of the general law on the use of biological resources in Algeria (led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development currently hosting the CBD-ABS focal point); relevant research into genetic, marine and agricultural resources; and the management of biodiversity and natural resources as well as intensive participatory involvement of local populations in key protected areas through the UNDP-GEF project “Conservation of globally significant biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services in Algeria’s cultural parks” (GEF # 3952; which is scheduled to last until 2019 and will fully overlap with the here-proposed project). The Government is moreover engaged in the UNEP-GEF project “National biodiversity planning to support the implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan in Algeria” (GEF # 4987), which is revising the national institutions and policies on biodiversity and preparing the new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP); it will also consider ABS matters in the process.

12. The baseline scenario would therefore not allow the preparation of a comprehensive policy, legal and institutional framework for ABS and TK, and not seek to build specific awareness and capacity on ABS and TK-related matters across the wide range of interested stakeholders. In absence of such a framework, ABS-compliant agreements could not be legally developed and implemented between government, private sector and local populations (including traditional knowledge holders). This would also impede the creation of livelihood and wider economic and benefit-sharing opportunities to be accrued through ABS agreements.

#### ***The proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project***

13. The here-proposed project will address the aforementioned barriers and achieve the proposed long-term solution through the following two complementary components, to be implemented in close coordination with the baseline activities:

##### **Component 1. Developing a national policy, legal and institutional framework to enable the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the conservation and valuation of genetic resources.**

14. Under this component, the project will draft a dedicated legal framework for ABS and related issues regarding intellectual property (IP) and TK. Following wide-ranging consultations and participatory stakeholder engagement a consolidated version of the legal framework will be submitted to the Algerian authorities, ultimately aiming at adoption by the National Assembly. The project will also define and establish the required institutional framework on ABS and the associated traditional knowledge, together with a supporting (and coherent) set of policies and measures necessary for operationalising the newly created legislation on ABS and TK. These need to be clear, transparent and predictable, and provide legal certainty to those involved in, for example, a bio-prospecting project or a value chain accessing and using biodiversity components; it will *inter alia* entail establishing national competent authorities and defining their mandates; creating formal coordination mechanisms between in-country institutions with a mandate in the implementation of the national framework on ABS and its associated TK; developing traditional knowledge registries and bio-cultural community protocols; defining rules on ABS administrative procedures; well-designed model contracts; PIC procedures to address the interests of local populations) It may also mean the possibility that the intellectual interests of local populations in regards to their traditional knowledge is safeguarded and allows them to participate in benefit sharing schemes. Finally, the project will establish, building on and in line with the newly developed ABS framework, an effective financial mechanism (such as a Trust Fund managing endowment, sinking or revolving funds) for receiving a percentage of monetary benefits derived from ABS projects, for redistribution towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in perpetuity; such contributions should be provided on a voluntary (non-mandatory) basis by users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

## Component 2. Building and strengthening the capacity of national research and regulatory institutions to apply ABS rules and principles.

15. Designing and putting in place the institutional and legal framework on ABS and the protection of TK is only the first step towards realising and complying with the CBD ABS principles and Nagoya Protocol objectives. Work under Component 2 will therefore entail the following: first the project will undertake a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey to provide a baseline assessment of the awareness and knowledge regarding the national ABS legal and institutional framework and the CBD and Nagoya Protocol; besides government this will include specific groups bound to use or benefit from ABS transactions (e.g. relevant researchers, local populations and industry players). On that basis, institutional and technical capacities in national government institutions set to provide regulatory oversight over ABS procedures must first be strengthened, by targeted training on *inter alia* key obligations under the Nagoya Protocol, ABS access applications, negotiating ABS agreement, defining scope and application of regulations, and implementing compliance mechanisms and monitoring activities (e.g. for bio-prospecting projects or value chains); the trainings will be conducted for at least 100 representatives from the ABS authority, ABS/CBD focal points and agencies with complementary functions. As a next step, outreach and training on ABS and TK must be directed at research agencies and higher education institutions, at *ex situ* and *in situ* centres and collections, at providers of genetic resources (especially local populations) and the prospective users who will need to develop new administrative procedures and comply with new sets of requirements pertaining to ABS. To that aim, stakeholder-targeted manuals and training modules will be developed and implemented on the national ABS legal and institutional framework, to cover *inter alia* the authority of the state and its regulatory mandate over biodiversity and its components, ABS procedures for users and providers of genetic resources, PIC protocols, ABS agreement negotiation strategies, customary law, research procedures, the dimensions of ABS-related intellectual property, the defensive protection of genetic resources/ traditional knowledge issues, bio-prospecting and value-chains, and misappropriation implications. These trainings will be accompanied by a national communication and engagement strategy and campaign targeting the key stakeholder groups more broadly.

16. Once the framework is established, awareness increased and technical capacities built, the project will identify existing and emerging initiatives and opportunities for bio-discovery projects in the agricultural, crop protection, food/beverage, industrial biotechnology, botanical, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries. The goal will be to start identifying and facilitating the development of ABS pilot schemes – to start generating the benefits to be shared. To that end, ABS model agreement(s) will be developed (and adapted to national needs and circumstances) that facilitate the negotiation of monetary (i.e. upfront payments and royalties) and non-monetary (i.e. training/ research opportunities) benefits between users and providers of genetic resources. The project will coordinate cross-sectoral efforts and convene stakeholders interested in e.g. bio-prospecting, ethno-botany, bio-trade and plant breeding, to catalyse the development of ABS schemes in Algeria. Finally, the project will compile databases on a) existing and emerging ABS-relevant projects as well as the identified users and providers (institutions, private sector and local populations) of genetic resources and its associated traditional knowledge; and b) ex-situ collections of genetic resources of Algerian origin.

### **Global environmental benefits**

17. The project in Algeria will achieve global environmental benefits through enhanced national contribution towards the achievement of the three objectives of the CBD (especially Objective 3 on ABS) and of the goals of its Strategic Plan for 2011-2020. Specifically, the project will contribute towards reduced rates of biodiversity loss in Algeria through the following mechanisms: Increasing awareness about existence, use and option values of biological resources among key audiences, and about the existence of markets based on the sustainable use of biodiversity and its components; enabling the government and other stakeholders to derive greater economic benefits from genetic resources and generate incentives which can favour *in situ* conservation and ecosystem management; facilitating the generation of monetary and non-monetary benefits from the access to and use of genetic resources, particularly through the interest of industry (mainly cosmetics and pharmaceuticals), commercial firms (e.g. sustainably trade in biodiversity components) and academic and research institutions; provide local populations that maintain genetic resources in their lands and have developed and accumulated traditional knowledge (e.g. herbalists) with new livelihood options resulting in economic benefits that reduce pressures on ecosystems and contribute to the maintenance of regional and global ecosystem services.

18. The project will contribute towards the achievement of the following CBD Aichi Targets: Target 1, by increasing the awareness of people in Algeria on the values and potential of biodiversity and how to conserve and sustainably use it; Target 12, by preventing the extinction and/or improving the conservation status of (economically valuable) threatened species; Target 13, by safeguarding the genetic diversity of socio-economically valuable species and cultivated plants (where these are also source of useful genetic materials and components for research and development); Target 18, by better involving, protecting and promoting local traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and Target 20, by adding an untapped financing mechanism to the portfolio of resource mobilisation options for biodiversity in Algeria.

### **Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

19. The project is innovative at national and global levels. ABS and the protection of the associated local traditional knowledge are new emerging and highly complex issues and the project will enable the different stakeholders – including public institutions, the private

sector, local populations and research institutions – to take full advantage of Algeria’s biodiversity and genetic resources in line with international and national conservation and sustainable development obligations and priorities. Newly designing, establishing and implementing an ABS framework should facilitate and streamline the negotiation and development of ABS contracts that fully comply with CBD requirements on PIC, MAT and benefit-sharing with local populations and other stakeholders; this will represent an important further and innovative step towards collaborative, inclusive and participatory governance of natural resources. Developing the ABS framework is also expected to mobilise new revenue for biodiversity management. The outcomes of the project, which is part of the first cohort of such projects globally, can provide valuable lessons to be applied subsequently through the dissemination of project results, experiences and best practices in the development and early implementation of national ABS frameworks including on ABS agreements and PIC processes. A scaling up is expected at national level when ABS agreements will increasingly be adopted by both users and providers of genetic resources, and at global level through the development of similar projects aiming at the further promotion of ABS legal and institutional frameworks.

**A.2. Stakeholders.** Identify key stakeholders and describe how they will be engaged in project and/or its preparation:

20. With regard to the institutional setting for implementing and overseeing the ABS framework, the following box lists the institutions with direct and indirect functions and competences in regards to biodiversity conservation, management, oversight and sustainable use.

Stakeholder/actor	Implementation role
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)	National Executing Agency which will ensure delivery and coordinate the involvement of all relevant stakeholders to set up a coherent nationwide legal framework and its related institutional arrangements.
Ministry of Land Planning and Environment (MATE)	A horizontal Ministry hosting the GEF Focal Point as well as CBD and Biosafety Focal Points, it is inter alia in charge of the revision and overall implementation of the NBSAP, and will play an important role as a leading partner in all stages of the here-proposed project.
Ministry of Interior and Local Collectivities	Will intervene and facilitate discussions with civil society, part of which holds traditional knowledge.
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources	Will intervene on all matters concerning the marine environment and its genetic resources under its mandate.
Ministry of Culture	Will intervene on matters relating to traditional knowledge and intangible heritage of which it is the national focal point.
Universities and research institutions	Efforts will be made to strengthen research programmes on taxonomy, genetic resources and the sustainable use of related biodiversity materials. Communication channels will also be strengthened to ensure research results are widely disseminated in the context of building national capacity on ABS.
Private sector / industry (as users and/or providers of genetic resources)	As a key partner the private sector, most notably through leading and committed representatives, will be involved in all project milestones - contributing to awareness-raising within the private sector, identifying suitable genetic resources, resource providers and value chains.
Civil society organizations (NGOs, others)	CSO’s will play an active role in liaising with local populations and raising public awareness with regard to ABS economic opportunities and positive social impacts. They are also expected to enrich and contribute to the design and implementation of a coherent legal framework.
Local/rural populations, farmers, etc. (as providers of genetic resources)	Facilitate and contribute to the compilation and assessment of genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge, raise awareness amongst local populations involved in ABS matters and spread necessary capacities.

**A.3 Risks.** Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable):

Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
Low participation and involvement of government staff and public officials may impede project implementation.	Low	The government is very committed to this project and considers it a strategic priority wherefore the risk is low and the stakes are high. The project by providing targets training to government agencies involved in ABS issues will engage selected officials from each competent authority, as well as other related agencies. This will increase the depth of experience and skills available and the commitment to the project and for future ABS work.
Difficulties and delays in adopting the national framework on ABS and	Low	The project will conduct extensive consultation and advocacy campaigns with stakeholders to create awareness and political will to undertake the required steps to develop a national ABS/traditional knowledge regulatory and institutional framework. This will also help to



protection of traditional knowledge.		provide information to decision-makers and other stakeholders to help them understand the importance of the framework and the Nagoya Protocol. The project will conduct a series of consultations, awareness raising activities and seminars to inform about the potential and advantages of having an ABS framework.
Stakeholders are not interested in the project and/or not committed to participating in its activities.	Low	Methods for engagement of actors and stakeholders will vary. In the case of government officials, high level requests to participate and the selection of suitable venues for training are important. For local populations measures will be developed focused on a new set of ABS-related livelihood opportunities ensuring interest. In the case of the private sector, highlighting values and business opportunities can also play a role.

**A.4. Coordination.** Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives:

21. The project will use relevant lessons and build on the following two currently operational GEF-financed projects in Algeria:

Initiative and Objective	Coordination with project
<i>National biodiversity planning to support the implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan in Algeria</i> of Ministry of Land Planning and Environment/UNDP /GEF (GEF # 4987, \$220,000 GEF, 2012-2015), set to (i) take stock of biodiversity status and policies and set national biodiversity targets, (ii) prepare an updated NBSAP, and (iii) develop national frameworks for NBSAP implementation, CBD reporting and exchange mechanisms.	Strong synergies must be established between the NBSAP project and the here-proposed project during the period of overlap so that important elements are taken up by the two project leaders respectively. The NBSAP once finalised will provide the overarching policy framework for biodiversity with which the ABS legal and institutional framework must align and connect.
<i>Conservation of globally significant biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services in Algeria's Cultural Parks</i> of Ministry of Culture (GEF # 3952, \$5,387,142 GEF, 2012-2018), set to: strengthen the expanded national system of cultural parks in Algeria; ensure they are managed to secure the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the sustainable use of ecosystem services; expand public support to cultural parks; enhance stakeholder involvement in park management, including through the collaborative management agreements with local populations ; park and ecosystem management, threat reduction, protection and flagship species conservation are improved especially in priority biodiversity sites in the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar Cultural Parks.	Significant synergies and coordination between the Cultural Parks project and the here-proposed project must be established, because the periods of implementation will overlap significantly and both projects will deal with holders of traditional knowledge. The results of both projects will together help improve the knowledge on biological and genetic resources and facilitate the implementation of an adequate national action plan for their conservation. Traditional knowledge including on intangible aspects will consolidate the resulting action plans.

## B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

**B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable (i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.)**

22. The proposed project is in line and consistent with the country's existing national policies, strategies and plans relevant for biodiversity. There are two levels to consider here though: firstly, references to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in general; and secondly, specific references to genetic resources and ABS-related matters. On the former, references are vast: the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (NBSAP; defined in 1997, and later strengthened in 2002) as well as the National Action Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development (NAPE-SD), incorporate global and national objectives advocating the conservation of biodiversity at the ecosystems, habitats and biomes levels, most notably through the creation of protected areas. The Algerian Government in 2009 completed its Fourth National Report to the CBD on progress achieved in implementing the Strategic Plan for 2002-2010 and, in particular, towards its objective to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at the national level. This assessment report will be catalytic in pushing forward a proposal for developing a new national biodiversity strategy and action plan to 2020, in accordance with the provisions of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The project in the wider sense is moreover consistent with the National Scheme of Land Planning 2030 (SNAT), which defines the basic strategic guidelines and requirements of national policy development and sustainable development planning; the SNAT through Territorial Action Programmes has a direct relationship with biodiversity, such as on "Soils and steppe" (preservation and enhancement of the steppe ecosystem and land in an integrated and coordinated) and "Nature and cultural parks" (preservation and enhancement of natural and cultural parks in the highlands by the creation of parks and cultural centres around archaeological sites). The project is also consistent with the Master Plan for



Natural Spaces and Protected Areas and with the Master Plan for Coastal Development (where it promotes the conservation and recovery of the fragile and coveted ecosystems in coastal areas). Biodiversity considerations are also integrated into several sectoral strategies, including the National Strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development, the Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Renewal and the National Plans for Forest Development and Reforestation.

23. At the same time, specific references to genetic resources (including on access and benefit sharing and the associated traditional knowledge) are still relatively weak in the prevailing policies – the NBSAP refers to the need to avoid bio-piracy (the challenges of regulating access to genetic resources, as well as their collecting and trading); the need for scientific research and experiments on genetic resources on species native to Algeria by national laboratories; the need to regulate the access by foreigners to the country's genetic material, seeking compensation through technology transfer and the sharing of benefits from their utilisation; the integration of genes and their values into the common national biological heritage; the issuance of patents based on payable usage rights; and the need to expand surveys on ethno-botanical knowledge and practices and on traditional knowledge to define the baseline and complete data bases. This is not altogether surprising given that many policies predate the adoption of the ABS Nagoya Protocol, but only pays tribute to the importance of the here-proposed project.

## **B.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:**

24. The project addresses the GEF 5 BD4 Focal Area objective – Build capacity on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, contributing directly towards Outcome 4.1 “Legal and regulatory frameworks, and administrative procedures established that enable access to genetic resources and benefit sharing in accordance with the CBD provisions” and Output 4.1 “Access and benefit-sharing agreements that recognize the core ABS principles of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. The project is also consistent with the eligibility criteria and priorities of the GEF Trust Fund, as it will support the Government of Algeria in developing a national ABS framework and related capacity to implement this regime, with appropriate consideration to PIC; traditional knowledge holders; promoting bio-prospecting and related value adding chains; and ensuring that benefits generated (both monetary and non monetary) are fairly shared. In addition, the project will facilitate private sector engagement, as well as projects targeting investments in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in in-situ and ex situ conditions.

## **B.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project:**


25. UNDP plays a key role in terms of capacity development at the global level, including in the field of biodiversity and genetic resources. The agency has broad experience in integrated policy development, the development of human resources, and institutional strengthening, in addition to non-governmental and community participation. Sustainability (and more particularly, sustainable use) is one of the UNDP's signature programs within the biodiversity arena. UNDP has a significant global portfolio of projects that implement strategies to address management, financial, ecosystem and sector-oriented services. Also the global portfolio of projects on ABS has grown steadily over the past years. Moreover, UNDP has for years played an important role in supporting the implementation of GEF projects in Algeria. UNDP supported the Government of Algeria in the preparation of its 2005 NBSAP and presently acts as implementing agency for GEF projects for (i) the preparation of the new NBSAP and the 5th National Report to the CBD, and (ii) the strengthening of the national system of cultural parks. UNDP has an established national office in Algiers with well-developed working relationships with the key stakeholders of the project. UNDP Algeria's Environment and Sustainable Development Portfolio is the largest in terms of financial resources (85% of the portfolio). The office counts with three professional staff dedicated to the Environment & Energy portfolio, in addition to operational support staff and senior management. UNDP Algeria is moreover backed by specialised technical advisors from UNDP-GEF regional service centres that will support project implementation by building on UNDP's experience at national, regional and global levels; this includes a francophone UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor-Biodiversity, and a Senior Technical Advisor-ABS who holds a Ph.D. on a related topic with direct experience in ABS projects. UNDP has been active in Algeria since 1967. The GEF project is closely aligned with the strategic cooperation framework (UNDAF 2012-14) and with the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP, 2012-14). The CPAP states that “the protection of natural resources, sustainable management of the environment, the fight against pollution and protection against the effects of climate change and natural disasters will be improved”. Result 23 of the CPAP is concerned with the strengthening of institutional capacities and national programs related to fight against desertification and the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The environment is also the theme that is best suited to projects whose activities and impact at the local level are promoted through the involvement and participation of local population and civil society.

### PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY

#### **A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)</b>
Mr Samir GRIMES	GEF OPF	Ministry of Land Planning and Environment	15 April 2014

#### **B. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
<b>Agency Coordinator, Agency name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Adriana Dinu, UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator and Director a.i		May 12, 2014	Yves de Soye, UNDP- GEF Regional Technical Advisor, Ecosystems & Biodiversity	+421 911 360 250	<a href="mailto:yves.desoye@undp.org">yves.desoye@undp.org</a>