

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)



PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM SIZE PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the Bahamas		
Country(ies):	The Bahamas	GEF Project ID:	5744
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01262
Other Executing Partner(s):	BEST Commission, Ministry of Housing and Environment	Resubmission Date:	04 April 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	BD	Project Duration(Months)	36
Name of parent programme (if applicable):		Agency Fee (US\$):	180,500

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Financing (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
BD-4	GEFTF	1,900,000	1,649,649
Total project costs		1,900,000	1,649,649

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To create and apply the enabling conditions for fair and equitable access and effective benefit sharing.

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
Component 1. National Strategy and accession to the Nagoya Protocol	TA	1. Accession to the Nagoya Protocol	1.1 Consultative development of an Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for The Bahamas 1.2 Drafting of legal documents needed for ratification 1.3 Awareness raising among decision and law makers. 1.4 Instrument of accession to the	GEFTF	119,048	100,000

			Nagoya Protocol approved and submitted .			
Component 2. National enabling environment for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	TA	<p>2.1 Increased understanding of the national benefits to be accrued through ABS</p> <p>2.2 National ABS legal framework adopted</p> <p>2.3 Strengthened national institutional capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework</p>	<p>2.1. Consultations and public awareness campaigns with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>2.2. Policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS drafted and approved by legislature, inclusive of appointment of National Focal Point and Competent National Authority.</p> <p>2.3.1 (On line) administrative procedures for ABS Agreements with Prior Informed Consent [PIC], Mutually Agreed Terms [MAT], and Benefit Sharing approved and available for use.</p> <p>2.3.2 Capacity built within competent authorities for initiating and negotiating contracts/agreements.</p> <p>2.3.3 Monitoring system for research and bioprospecting permits, ABS Agreements developed and implemented.</p> <p>2.3.4 Consultations and awareness raising to increase understanding of issues of intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to ABS (based on analysis of issued patents on genetic resources from benefit sharing (during project preparation grant (PPG) phase).</p>	GEF TF	571,428	406,094
Component 3 Applied ABS arrangements in The Bahamas	TA	<p>3.1 ABS principles applied to adjusted commercial and non commercial research permits</p> <p>3.2 At least one new ABS agreement implemented that recognizes PIC and MAT</p>	<p>3.1 Adjusted ABS contracts/agreements for research permits to include monetary and on monetary benefit sharing provisions to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing at any stage of research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization</p> <p>3.2 The following potential pilots will be assessed for implementation during the PPG phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Holes Initiative with multiple universities - upgrading cooperation agreements and closing the loop on access and benefit sharing - Non 	GEFTF	1,119,048	1,065,000

			commercial ABS pilot case			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea Whip Commercialization - Upgrading and closing the loop on Access and Benefit Sharing - Commercial ABS pilot case • additional potential pilots to be assessed for potential through review of issued permits 			
				Sub-Total		1,809,524
						1,571,094
					GEF TF	90,476
						78,555
						1,900,000
						1,649,649
Total project costs						

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$) TO BE DEVELOPED AND CONFIRMED DURING CONSULTATIVE PREPARATION PROCESS.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Government	BEST Commission, Ministry of Housing and Environment	Cash	25,000
Government	BEST Commission, Ministry of Housing and Environment	In kind	150,000
Government	Department of Marine Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.	Cash	17,500
Government	Department of Marine Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.	In kind	70,000
Government	Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation (AMMC)	Cash	12,500
Government	Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation (AMMC)	In kind	25,000
Government	Department of Financial Services	Cash	2,500
Government	Department of Financial Services	In kind	5,000
Government	Ministry of Agriculture	Cash	7,500
Government	Ministry of Agriculture	In kind	15,000
Government	Ministry of Health	Cash	2,500
Government	Ministry of Health	In kind	5,000
Government/Private Sector	Bahamas Agricultural Investment Corporation (BAIC)	Cash	25,000
Government/Private Sector	Bahamas Agricultural Investment Corporation (BAIC)	In kind	50,000
Academic	College of the Bahamas (COB)	Cash	15,000
Academic	College of the Bahamas (COB)	In kind	30,000
Academic	Bahamas Agricultural and Marine Science Institute (BAM-SI)	Cash	10,000
Academic	Bahamas Agricultural and Marine Science Institute (BAM-SI)	In kind	20,000
Academic	US and Canadian Universities	In kind	500,000
NGO	Bahamas National Trust (BNT)	Cash	15,000
NGO	Bahamas National Trust (BNT)	In kind	35,000
NGO	BREEF	Cash	5,000
NGO	BREEF	In kind	10,000
NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Cash	10,000

NGO	The Nature Conservancy	In kind	25,000
Bilateral	ABS Capacity Development Initiative	In kind	82,149
Multilateral	UNEP	In kind	300,000
Multilateral	WIPO	In kind	15,000
Private Sector	Marsh Harbor Exports	Cash	15,000
Private Sector	LIPO Chemicals, Estee Lauder	Cash	150,000
Total Co-financing			1,649,649

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

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	Grant amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b)	Total (\$) (a + b)
UNEP	GEF TF	BD	The Bahamas	1,900,000	180,500	2,080,500
Total Grant Resources				1,900,000	180,500	2,080,500

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEF TF	BD	The Bahamas	\$100,000	\$9,500	109,500
Total PPG Amount				\$100,000	\$9,500	\$109,500

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description

1) Global Environmental Problems, root causes and barriers.

A recent research article published in PLoS ONE calculates that 125 new natural products were discovered in Bahamian Exclusive Economic Zones in the 2000s.¹ A preliminary review of the patent databases of the USA reveals that a significant number of research initiatives applied for U.S. patents (and patents in other jurisdictions). Numerous patents are granted and thus render the owners the exclusive right to decide of the specific use of the invention - which might include the genetic resource as such or products using the invention - by third parties in the USA. During this initial work, it became obvious that significant revenues flow back to the patent holders from producers of e.g. cosmetics using extracts from soft corals harvested in The Bahamas. Furthermore, a large cluster of patents covers a marine microbe originating from The Bahamas, the production of biomolecules with this specific Bahamian strain and

¹ Leal MC, Puga J, Serôdio J, Gomes NCM, Calado R (2012) Trends in the Discovery of New Marine Natural Products from Invertebrates over the Last Two Decades – Where and What Are We Bioprospecting? PLoS ONE 7(1): e30580. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0030580

their use as pharmaceuticals. For one of these molecules, clinical phase II tests are announced to start in 2014. These inventions based on a Bahamian genetic resource might be developed in commercially successful drugs with significant revenues. Due to the lack of a regulatory ABS regime in The Bahamas and appropriate contractual ABS provisions almost no benefits are flowing back from these and other cases of utilization and commercialization of Bahamian genetic resources.

Based on the wide range of research permits issued, it is clear that there are numerous active research initiatives taking place in The Bahamas which involve terrestrial and marine exploration. One of the most well-known is the Blue Holes initiative which comprises universities from around the world including Penn State, University of Miami, Texas A & M, and New Mexico University among others exploring the famous blue holes of the Bahamas in research domains which range from biological to archeological to climate research.

There are unconfirmed, incidental reports of biopiracy, relating to the harvesting of commercially viable and valuable products, eg. soft corals, which thus far are not investigated or publicized.

Barriers which affect advancing the effectiveness of benefit sharing of genetic resources in The Bahamas:

Legal. The Bahamas is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 2 September 1993 and the Cartagena Protocol since 14 April 2004. As of February 2014, the country has not signed the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization*.

The Bahamas developed their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 1999 as a guide to CBD implementation. The main goals of the NBSAP are to enhance the quality of life in The Bahamas, develop integrated comprehensive planning, conserve biological resources and diversity, promote public awareness and education and secure financial support for implementation of the mission. The Bahamas Environment Science and Technology (BEST) Commission is the main agency responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the achievements of the NBSAP and its Director has been designated the Primary National Focal for the CBD and related processes. In July 2008, The Ministry of Environment was created to amalgamate the majority of the agencies responsible for the environment.

A Biosecurity Strategy together with legislation with ABS provisions, mainly based on CBD Art. 8j and Art. 15 were developed in 2005. Neither was ever approved or implemented. The Government of The Bahamas intends to modernize the country's intellectual property regime and has drafted new intellectual property legislation which is posted and is estimated to become law later this year, underpinned by a regional Intellectual Property Framework working its way through CARICOM. Bahamas is in negotiations to join the WTO and thus WIPO with its Patent Cooperation Treaty, as led by the Ministry of Finance. When The Bahamas joins WIPO, the possibility of patent registration in The Bahamas is facilitated. Whether any applicants will indeed register patents in The Bahamas will depend on the manufacturing and marketing possibilities in the country.

At present, there is no specific protection of traditional knowledge, including enabling elements that would foster the marketing potentials and ensure participation of and sharing the benefits with the local communities guarding the traditional knowledge. There is no specific national legal ABS expertise in The Bahamas, although certainly private sector legal capacity for negotiating contractual and financial arrangements.

Institutional. The Bahamas National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) while making no direct reference to ABS, delineates legal, institutional and individual capacity barriers, all of which have bearing on the ability to take up ABS. Presently, there is limited capacity at the national level to negotiate ABS agreements and strengthen dialogue on ABS. Although it is likely from the large volume of past and ongoing research, that many international companies, educational institutions and organizations are interested in exploring genetic resources and traditional knowledge for research and development as well as commercialization in the future, the systems and procedures in place to obtain permissions do not feature explicit and effective ABS provisions. This situation, coupled with the lack of coordination between agencies on the issuance of research permits, may have deterred or hindered prospective collaborators from approaching Bahamian institutions in the appropriate context for benefit sharing.

Currently there is no requirement for external researchers to consult with research students or faculty at the national tertiary institution. Although students are often involved on an ad hoc basis with research projects, the lack of faculty engagement in the design, and carrying out, of research projects conducted nationally means that research conducted by non-nationals is not adequately absorbed nationally, and therefore does not contribute to national policy development. Accession to Nagoya therefore provides an opportunity to boost national research capacity and research resources nationally.

Capacity to specifically negotiate ABS agreements and to ensure that the organizations/companies that are undertaking research and development with Bahamian genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as well as commercialization of products based on this research is essentially absent. In addition, no system exists to monitor ongoing research and development with Bahamian genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge or commercialization of developed products. The Bahamian government and relevant stakeholders are not able to gain an overview about the potential and actual uses and value of their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Financial. Currently, most of the institutes issuing research permits do not require a fee for processing permits, and consideration of the monetization of prospective commercial finds. Government and institutional budgets do not explicitly integrate the explicitly reference the absence of an ABS system, although provide for a baseline upon which to build one, through the permitting system.

Awareness. While there is a general lack of awareness of the Nagoya Protocol and its implications, there is a keen interest in the links between the evidence of non-monetized and monetized bioprospecting and emerging concern regarding the lack of ABS codicils to issued research agreements. Local communities and relevant stakeholders particularly lack access to information and participatory opportunities.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Component 1. A draft National Biosecurity Strategy was elaborated in 2005. This strategy contains a section on Access and Benefit Sharing which calls for the development of regulation both for ABS and for the protection of Traditional Knowledge mainly based on the provisions in CBD Art. 8j and 15. This 2005 draft does not cover the additional obligations and requirements that would result for The Bahamas from accession to the Nagoya Protocol. As mentioned earlier, the Ministry of Finance is negotiating the Bahamian effort to join the WTO and thus WIPO with its Patent Cooperation Treaty and working on supporting national legislation which will complement and underpin legal work on ABS both from a pol-

icy and staffing perspective. The College of the Bahamas also has staff legal expertise on ABS which has been participating in the needs assessment and design of this project.

Component 2. The Bahamas currently issues over one hundred research permits per year enabling access to genetic resources through various governmental entities, including the primarily the Department of Marine Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST). However additional government entities are also involved in permitting research, these include the Commission the Ministry of Health, Antiquities Monuments and Museums Corporation (AMMC), and the Bahamas National Trust (BNT) for research occurring within the boundaries of national parks. These staffed permitting systems are very basic, consisting of hard copy forms which are subsequently stored in boxes (DMR, BEST before 2012) or scanned into electronic file folders (BEST since 2012). Due to resource constraints, once processed the permits are rarely cross referenced or monitored. Research permits do not yet contain any reference to ABS arrangements. The system in place, while basic, provides a baseline which provides a foundation to contribute to the implementation of the core benefit sharing provisions of the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

An analysis of the research permits of the last 5-10 years would provide for a clear picture on the types of institutions asking for access (commercial / non-commercial), the type of research and its relevancy in the context of ABS-regulations (research on genetic and biochemical composition / research in other fields). Such knowledge is essential to include the relevant stakeholders in the project activities and to develop appropriate rules and conditions for ABS. This analysis would also provide the necessary data for targeted research in public databank on scientific publications and patents on the utilisation of Bahamian genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. This work and the experiences gained would form the basis for the development of appropriate monitoring tools during the project.

The government supported Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) launched in Andros with a start up budget of \$4 million offers opportunities to build on the emergent upgrading of technical education and research facilities in the Bahamas with a view towards strengthening educational and scientific research opportunities – and marrying scientific research to the permitting of collection of natural resources and genetic resources. The College of the Bahamas (COB), also publicly funded is being considered in the role of repository of national and international research data, with supporting access for fee arrangements. Gervace Institute on the island of San Salvador publishes annually a synopsis of their hosted research. Initiatives such as the annual Natural History Conference, arranged by the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), is another initiative which could serve as a launching point for privately funded project related activities. BNT which also receives government support of \$1 million a year, reviews research BNT further more serves as a focal point for awareness building on biodiversity matters in the country with a substantive role in several GEF supported projects. All government agencies currently have baseline staff in place for issuing research permits and budgets in place which would be amplified with a research fee collections to implement ABS agreements, monitoring and control systems.

Component 3. To this date, in The Bahamas, only one case of benefit sharing is in place. The U.S. importer of the corals and manufacturer of the extract mentioned in the introduction agreed to pay additional royalties to the commercial price. It is not known whether the subsequent buyers, up the supply chain, of the extracts are also paying any additional benefit sharing on top of the commercial price. A number of ongoing research arrangements through the educational institutes mentioned above have quasi non commercial arrangements in place which offer capacity building opportunities to Bahamian students which are idea baseline situations to be formalized or expanded upon. As previously men-

tioned, the Blue Holes initiative has mutually beneficial research arrangements with Penn State, University of Miami, Texas A & M, and New Mexico University.

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

Component 1. National Strategy and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, TA, Accession to the Nagoya Protocol

- 1.1 Consultative development of a ABS Policy and Strategy for The Bahamas. Multistakeholder consultations to aiming at developing an ABS system that ensures PIC and MAT and effective fair and equitable benefit sharing. In this context, the balance between precautionary and facilitative approaches to access need to be explored, bearing in mind requirements for environmentally sound extractions and utilisations. Such a policy and strategy should take into consideration approaching institutions and companies that undertake new utilisation and commercialisation with Bahamian genetic resources and associated knowledge access -- long before with the aim to negotiate benefit sharing agreements. These elements, require adequate legal/regulatory tools, institutions, and mechanisms for them to be enforced.
 - 1.2 Drafting of legal documents needed for accession to the Nagoya Protocol. Taking into account existing and relevant legislation, eg. Intellectual Property legislation, draft ABS national legislation.
 - 1.3 Awareness raising among decision and law makers. The Bahamas is host to a substantial number of universities and likely interests from the cosmetic and pharmaceutical fields. The unrealized potential benefits from the development of ABS arrangements to be communicated to decision makers in government and academia, and their constituents to build support for legal accession to the Nagoya Protocol.
- 2 Instrument of accession to the Nagoya Protocol approved and submitted.

Component 2. Enabling Environment to implement the Nagoya Protocol at the national level.

- 2.1 Building on the development of a National ABS Strategy for the Bahamas, develop legal, and regulatory frameworks for ABS. Framework to ensure that appropriate levels of the benefits derived from prospective ABS agreements get reinvested in to biodiversity conservation and monitoring efforts. Strategy, legal and regulatory framework to be approved by legislature, inclusive of appointment of National Focal Point and Competent National Authority.
- 2.2 Develop, approve and use (On line) administrative procedures for ABS Agreements that support Prior Informed Consent [PIC] and lead to Mutually Agreed Terms [MAT] ensuring effective benefit sharing.. This activity will build on review of relevant and recognized models of best practice, such as in Australia, and countries in the region which have effectively launched ABS systems (e.g. Costa Rica) or are developing new systems with innovative features (e.g. Guyana).

- 2.3 Capacity built for initiating and negotiation ABS Agreements. This activity will draw on existing tools and methodologies available through CBDSEc and other GEF supported initiatives, eg. *the GEF Project on Strengthening the Implementation of ABS Regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean* and *the EU/UNEP Project on MEA implementation in ACP countries*. The latter has developed legal drafting capacity and will specifically address the Nagoya Protocol in its second phase.
- 2.4 Monitoring system for research permits and ABS agreements. Using algorithms and approaches for patent databank analysis developed by the University of Lancaster (UK) and currently applied in studies in an African regional GEF ABS project. The available comprehensive information from existing permits over many years will allow the testing of this approach on its suitability for monitoring and enforcement purposes by the provider country.

Component 3. Integration of ABS into research permits going forward.

- 3.1 Creation of an institutional mechanism, eg. National Research Committee as a feature of the Competent National Authority to develop and review selective national and international research permits, with a view towards ABS potential. Adjusted ABS addendums to be integrated in prospectively benefit generating research permit agreements going forward -- whereby specific commercial or non commercial products may be developed. Activity to be developed in partnership with the College of the Bahamas, Bahamian Agriculture and Marine Science Institute BAMS (Andros), Gerace Institute (San Salvador), ForFar Field Station (Andros), all government agencies issuing research permits) and input from private sector and educational institutes active in the Bahamas.
- 3.2 At least one pilot application of ABS on current prospecting initiatives, possibly non commercial, with potential commercial application (Blue Holes), or commercial (Sea Whip), or additional pilots to be identified based on a review of research permits during the PPG phase.
- Blue Holes Initiative with multiple universities - upgrading and closing the loop on access and benefit sharing through AMMC and BEST Commission - Non commercial pilot case
 - Sea Whip Commercialization - Upgrading and deepening of cooperation agreements, integrating PIC and MAT, and closing the loop on Access and Benefit Sharing supply chain - Commercial pilot case.
 - additional pilots to be identified through a screening review of issued permits during PPG phase).

4) Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, GEFTF and co-financing

The proposed project will assist the Bahamas to be a Party of and implement the Nagoya Protocol as well as to develop and implement a national ABS policy. The project would build on existing national capacity for research and bioprospecting through government funded national academic and research institutions, coupled with the current research permitting regime, to implement Access and Benefit Sharing arrangements based on mutually agreed terms, and prior informed consent. Fur-

thermore, private sector engagement, prospective bioprospecting initiatives will be advanced at the nexus of global environmental benefits and national interests under the umbrella of ABS. Incremental GEF support would build on a system, whereby discovery efforts return benefits at the national level and explore potential for further engagement with educational institutions and Family Island communities.

5) Global environmental benefits (GEBs)

The project is fully consistent and designed to deliver GEBs under the following GEF's ABS priorities a) Support Parties in reviewing their own capacities and needs on ABS with a focus on the provisions of existing national policies, laws, and regulations and to strengthen the enabling environment at national level through the development of appropriate policy and institutional measures to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources; b) Support Parties to implement national and regional projects to promote technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, private sector engagement, and projects targeting investments in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in-situ to accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Protocol; c) Support Parties to undertake activities to increase public awareness regarding the implications of the Nagoya Protocol; and d) Support Parties to further the knowledge and scientific-base for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

6) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The Bahamas is a likely leader in the region with respect to the sheer number of issuance of research permits and arrangements with educational institutes and (marine) bioprospectors. There is one example of a long standing working agreement resulting in monetized benefits to The Government of the Bahamas which could be built on. This example lends promise to the possibility of scaling up this successful effort to other bio prospecting and research efforts, with the integration of PIC and MAT, at the national level. Sustainability will be addressed through project design to ensure that fees are attached to permitting systems and that ABS agreements generating monetized and non monetized benefits, feed back into national and local levels, and furthermore close the loop on essential monitoring. The expected passage of the Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (BPAF) will provide a potential conduit to a financial mechanism that can ensure that monetized ABS benefits connect with the need to monitor and promote further research in support of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including genetic resources.

National level partnerships and mechanisms will be established under the project (potential National Research Committee) and implementation arrangements (National Implementation Strategic Partnership-NISP, see section A. 4) to ensure that that opportunities for scaling up all facets of the project outcomes are taken up through mechanisms such as the annual Natural History Forum, etc..

The project is being developed concurrently with a regional effort entitled Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the countries of the Caribbean Region which will explore regional knowledge sharing mechanisms in close coordination. The GEF supported project "Strengthening of Access and Benefit Sharing in the LAC region" and prospective GEF project "Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Caribbean Region", also provides a platform for inter-regional exchange of experiences, tools and best practices.

A.2. Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Role
BEST Commission, Ministry of Housing and Environment	Lead overall Executing Agency
Department of Marine Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.	Partner executing agency
Bahamas Agricultural Investment Corporation (BAIC)	Partner executing agency
College of the Bahamas (COB)	Partner executing agency
Antiquities, Monuments, (AMMC)	Partner Executing agency
Department of Financial Services	Partner executing agency
Department of Legal Services and Attorney General	Partner Executing agency
Bahamas Agricultural and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI), Gerace Institute, ForFar Research	Partner executing agency
LIPO Chemicals	Consultative partner and co-financier
Marsh Harbor Exports	Consultative Partner and co-financiers
GIZ	Consultative partners and co-financiers
European Union	Consultative partners and co-financiers
AusAid	Consultative partners and co-financiers
Union of Ethical Bitrade	Consultative partners and co-financiers

A.3. Risks

RISK		Risk Mitigation Strategy
Uncertainty due to government shifts in priorities and policy changes.	M	The project will strengthen the political commitment by raising awareness of the decision makers, institutions, and communities on ABS prospects of generating resources, strengthening conservation and contributing to science and to national research capacity generally.
Limited institutional and community interest in ABS.	M	The project will strengthen capacity of the decision makers, institutions, and communities on ABS prospects through targeted training modules and access to best practice tools and ABS success stories.
Balancing threats to marine and terrestrial ecosystems with the benefits of a successfully implemented ABS policy and system.	M	During the preliminary stakeholder consultation process to develop a national ABS policy, a balanced and informed policy will be developed and monitoring system embedded in the eventual ABS system.

A.4. Coordination

This project will be carried out in close coordination with the ongoing GEF funded projects in the Bahamas portfolio which include “Building a Sustainable National Marine Protected Area Network – The Bahamas”; and “Pine Islands - Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration”. The existing National Implementation Strategic Partnership (NISP) currently comprises BEST, BNT, DMR and TNC and is proposed coordinating body of this new project under the preparation phase. Additional key partners such as AMMC and COB are envisioned to be added to an expanded NISP. Additional project partners from the private sector, local government and civil society organizations of island communities for project information sharing and review purposes can be enjoined on an as needed basis. The NISP meets on a monthly basis.

It is proposed that a body such as an ABS Research/Review Committee be constituted under prospective National Competent Authority and these bodies would take up permanent sustainable coordinative

functions. The Bahamian GEF funded biodiversity and land degradation portfolio is managed by one UNEP Task Manager, an additional safeguard to avoid duplication of effort and maximize coordination efficiencies and best use of existing tools, resources and products.

The project will benefit from cross-pollination and coordination with the forthcoming GEF funded UNEP implemented project entitled “Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya protocol in the countries of the Caribbean Region” which will be running concurrently. Bahamas can benefit from regionally planned activities and tools to be developed under this project.

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: (1)

The project is consistent with 1999 The Bahamas National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), in that it would adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and furthermore contribute to the linkages between ecosystem and human well being.

This project has been indicated as the highest of priorities in the recently completed June 2011 National Portfolio Formulation Document (NPDF) for GEF-5 programming in The Bahamas, as acknowledged by the GEF Secretariat.

B.2. GEF Focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities: (0.5)

Biodiversity (BD) Strategy: The project proposed is consistent with the GEF priority of supporting capacity building of governments for meeting their obligations under Article 15 of the CBD, as well as building capacity within key stakeholder groups, including indigenous and local communities, and the scientific community. The project includes support for the establishment of measures that promote concrete 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.

Aichi Targets: The project is consistent with making progress towards Aichi Target 16, which states that: “By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.”

B.3. The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage for implementing this project: (0.5)

Support to countries in assessing their opportunities and gaps in addressing issues of Access and Benefit Sharing, as well as adhering to the requirements under the Nagoya Protocol is already an integral part of UNEP’s Programme of Work (PoW) 2012-2013 and is in line with UNEP Medium Term Strategy (2014-2015) for Sub-Programme 4 (Environmental Governance) in ensuring that environmental governance at country level is strengthened to addresses the agreed environmental priorities. The UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP DELC) assists many national partners and governments through its expertise in environmental law and policy to develop and implement ABS policies and to harmonize national processes for the implementation of CBD provisions on ABS. UNEP-DELC is staffed by several officers who specialize in ABS issues, legal and political ramifications, as well as the international

processes around CBD and the Nagoya Protocol. UNEP DELC deploys MEA Focal Points who are based in the UNEP Regional Offices including the Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean (ROLAC).


This proposed project is in line with UNEP's role in the GEF to catalyze the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. In particular, the project further complements UNEP's aim to promote specific methodologies and tools that could be replicated on a larger scale by other partners. UNEP currently implements a number of GEF funded ABS projects including the prospective GEF project "Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Caribbean Region", and the ongoing GEF funded regional project: "Strengthening the Implementation of ABS Regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean", under which substantial tools and resources have been developed and disseminated. The Bahamas initiative will build on these existing outputs.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Camille Johnson	Permanent Secretary GEF Political Focal Point	Ministry of Housing and the Environment	12/12/2013

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) 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.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan Van Dyke Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		April 4, 2014	Kristin Mclaughlin, Task Manager	202-974- 1312	Kristin.mclaughlin@ unep.org