



# REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM- SIZED 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: <sup>1</sup>	5744
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01262
Other Executing Partner(s):	BEST	Resubmission Date:	02.02.2016
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration(Months)	36
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):	NA	Project Agency Fee (\$):	180,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>➤ For SGP <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>➤ For PPP <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>			

### A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>2</sup>

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
BD -4	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	Access and benefitsharing 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.	GEFTF	1,809,000	1,945,040
		Project Management Cost		91,000	97,252
<b>Total project costs</b>				1,900,000	2,042,292

### B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

<b>Project Objective:</b> 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	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
Component 1: National Strategy and accession to the Nagoya Protocol	TA	1.1 National Strategy and Accession to the Nagoya Protocol support mainstreaming of ABS into environmental policy	1.1.1 Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for The Bahamas developed in a consultative process  1.1.2 Awareness among decision and lawmakers on opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol is raised.	GEF TF	215,000	438,666

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](#) when completing Table A.

			1.1.3 Legal documents needed for ratification/accession are drafted			
Component 2: National enabling environment for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	TA	2.1 Increased understanding of the national benefits to be accrued through ABS  2.2 National ABS legal framework adopted  2.3 Strengthened national institutional capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework	2.1.1 Consultations and public awareness campaigns with relevant stakeholders (including consultations and awareness raising to increase understanding of issues of intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to ABS).  2.2.1 Policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS drafted and submitted for approval by legislature, inclusive of appointment of National Focal Point and Competent National Authority.  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. Monitoring system for research and bioprospecting permits, ABS Agreements developed and implemented. Viability/feasibility of Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (BPAF) as a financial mechanism for ABS permitting fees and benefits.  2.3.2 Capacity built within competent authorities for initiating	GEF TF	431,000	\$1,000,000

			and negotiating contracts/agreements			
Component 3: Applied ABS arrangements in The Bahamas	TA	3.1 ABS principles applied to adjusted commercial and non commercial research permits	3.1.1 Pilot 1. Adjusted ABS contracts/ agreements for research permits to include monetary and non monetary benefit sharing provisions to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing at any stage of research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization  3.1.2 Pilot 2. Adjusted ABS partnerships with ex situ collections take up ABS policies  3.1.3 Pilot 3. ABS agreement integrates monitoring system for BD and sustainable use	GEF-TF	1,163,000	506,374
Subtotal					1,809,000	1,945,040
Project management Cost (PMC) <sup>3</sup>				GEF-TF	91,000	\$97,252
<b>Total project costs</b>					1,900,000	2,042,292

**C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)**

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
Implementing Agency	UNEP	In Kind	\$200,000
Executing Agency	BEST Commission	In Kind	\$210,000
Private Sector	Law Offices of Pericles Maillis	In Kind	\$50,000
Bilateral	German Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH)	In Kind	\$50,000

<sup>3</sup> PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

Academia	College of the Bahamas	In Kind	\$32,292
Government	Government of The Bahamas (multi-agency, largely Attorney General's Office)	In Kind	\$500,000
Government	Government of the Bahamas (Customs Department)	Cash	\$1,000,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>\$2,042,292</b>

**D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF	BD	Bahamas	1,900,000	180,500	2,080,500
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				<b>1,900,000</b>	<b>180,500</b>	<b>2,080,500</b>

<sup>1</sup> In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

<sup>2</sup> Indicate fees related to this project.

**F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:**

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	164,000	0	164,000
National/Local Consultants	117,000	0	117,000

**G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? NO**

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

**PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

**A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF<sup>4</sup>**

Previous submission of the CEO Endorsement Package did reflect important Government co-financing of \$1.5 million which required an intervention and signature by the Ministry of Finance. This now added co-financing letter dated January 25, 2016, reflects both in kind support of \$500,000 plus \$1,000,000 in cash of an extremely relevant IDB grant executed by the Customs Department. This updated commitment exceeds the co-financing targeted at the PIF stage. While all previously reflected partners are not reflected as co-financiers, it is expected that these partners will remain engaged, as they were throughout the PPG phase. The Bahamas National Trust and The Nature Conservancy will be full participants in the entire project, and particularly Pilot 3, but also as members of the NISP Committee which serves as the Project Steering Committee. US and Canadian Universities are partners with both AMMC and with the Gerace Research Center, each of which will lead a pilot. Marsh Harbor Exports is represented legally by the Law Offices of Pericles Mailis, which is a documented co-financier of the project. LIPO and Estee Lauder are further up the supply chain, and it is expected that engagement will be further developed during implementation of pilot 3.

<sup>4</sup> For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.

The project is consistent with The Bahamas National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 1999), 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 (NPF) for GEF-5 programming in The Bahamas, as acknowledged by the GEF Secretariat.

A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.

The project is consistent with the eligibility criteria and priorities of the fund as it will support the government of the Bahamas to implement the provisions and the obligation set out in the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. Additionally, the project will facilitate private sector engagement and related initiatives targeting investments in the conservation, sustainable use of genetic resources in situ and community livelihood support.

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

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.

A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

**Biodiversity importance:**

The Bahamas is the largest small-island archipelago in the tropical Atlantic, similar in size and complexity to the entire Lesser Antilles. Comprising over 700 low-lying islands and cays, The Bahamas has a land area of 5,380 sq. mi. (13,930 sq. km.), a total land and sea area of 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and a coastline of 116,550 km<sup>2</sup>. The size, complexity, and ecological isolation of The Bahamas have contributed to significant biodiversity and the development of several unique ecosystems. The largest and easily identifiable ecosystems include, Caribbean Pine rock land forests, dry green forests, island ponds, mangrove forests, blue holes, coastal rock, tidal flats and salt marshes, sea grass beds, coral reefs and the open ocean. The Bahamas, as a SIDS country, is a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot. The geographic complexity and isolated nature of The Bahamas have led to the development of extremely high levels of endemism in this hotspot with at least 1111 species of vascular plants, of which 10.6% are endemic and 5.2% are threatened. The Bahamas has some 406 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles according to figures from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is a signatory to several multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which supports the conservation of biological resources, sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which aims is supposed to mainstream such conventions into national policy development and planning.

**Threats**

Climate change is the principal threat to biological diversity in the Bahamas as it could significantly impact on other natural threats such as coral bleaching, tropical hurricanes and sea level rise. In addition to this, the five major human-related activities that destroy biological diversity in the country are habitat destruction, habitat fragmentation, pollution, introduced or exotic species and over-harvesting. Expert and practitioner opinions were used to estimate the impacts, trends and threats to biodiversity (Figure E.1), as The Bahamas does not have a monitoring system for biodiversity. Chapter 1 provides more details on the status, trends and threats to biodiversity in The Bahamas.

**Figure E.1: Summary of the Status, trends and threats to Biodiversity (From The Fourth National Biodiversity Report of The Bahamas to the UNCBD, June 2011)**

Ecosystems / Biodiversity Component	Threat/Menaces				
	Climate Change	Habitat Loss	Invasive Species	Pollution	Over-exploitation
Agricultural	↗	↗	↗	→	↘
Coppice Forest	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
Pine Forest	↗	↑	↗	↗	↗
Inland Waters	↗	↗	↗	↑	↗
Islands	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
Coastal	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Coral Reefs	↑	↗	↗	↗	↑
Mangroves	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
Deep Water	↗	→	↗	↗	↗
Seagrass Beds	↗	→	↗	↗	↑

**Driver's Impact on Biodiversity**

	Very High
	High
	Moderate
	Low

**Driver's Trends**

↘	Decreasing Impact
→	Stabilizing Impact
↗	Increasing Impact
↑	Very Rapidly Increasing Impact

**The problem**

The specific problem that this project will seek to address is the lack of a functioning national legal, political and institutional framework that will enable the Bahamas to effectively implement the provisions and the obligations set out in the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. The current regulatory and institutional setting is not conducive to harnessing the potential value of the country's genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. This situation is a barrier to fostering innovation, biodiversity conservation, and the establishment of fair and equitable ABS agreements and partnerships.

**Long term solution:**

The long term solution is the establishment of a comprehensive national legal, political, regulatory and institutional framework coupled with targeted capacity building and awareness raising interventions to foster an environment in which access and benefit sharing can be given effect. The long-term solution will therefore involve creating an environment which will be conducive to promoting the negotiation and establishment of fair and equitable ABS

agreements and partnerships so as to strengthen the economic case and political motivation as well as the financing required for the conservation and sustainable use of the country's genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

The achievement of the long-term solution faces the following barriers:

<p>Limited legal, political and institutional capacity to develop and operationalise national ABS frameworks</p>	<p>At present, there are insufficient levels of awareness regarding the value of genetic resources as a source of innovation and scientific/technological development among decision- and policy-makers, and the constituents to whom they respond, to ensure political support for assigning the levels of resources that are required for its conservation and sustained use. Lack of capacity across a wide spectrum of actors has been identified as a key constraint for the introduction of national ABS measures. At the national level, there is little understanding of ABS issues and the protection of traditional knowledge among sectors other than those directly involved in the conservation and development of biological resources,</p>
<p>Limited Capacity to negotiate or conclude viable ABS contracts and partnerships</p>	<p>The 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.</p>
<p>Limited awareness on the Nagoya Protocol and its potentials</p>	<p>At community level, there is lack of awareness among local communities about the potential and availability of biological/genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge which contributes towards the loss and degradation of bio-resources and loss of associated traditional knowledge. Local communities also have limited understanding on how to respond to requests for access to their genetic resources and traditional knowledge including their rights and responsibilities within national ABS frameworks. 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.</p> <p>The absence of useful and user friendly approaches such as community protocols for clarifying PIC and MAT, including promotional materials, guidelines and manuals on the value of bio-resources and associated traditional knowledge and the ABS principles enshrined in the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol</p>

A.5. [incremental /Additional cost reasoning](#): describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated [global environmental benefits](#) (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

The project is designed to support the Bahamas in the adoption of national measures and mechanisms to meet the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. This is in in line with target 16 of the CBD Strategic plan on Biodiversity and the project will not only help the Bahamas in meeting the third objective of the CBD but also the other two objectives. By setting sound ABS procedures and processes, monetary and non-monetary opportunities will trickle down to local and national levels, e.g. through access fees, payments of royalties, joint or shared ownership of intellectual property rights etc.; non-monetary benefits can encompass capacity development, improved recognition of traditional knowledge and use practices, or technology transfer. This will in turn create further incentives for biodiversity conservation that will result from the enhanced understanding of the opportunities that can be leveraged with the effective implementation of the Protocol. Additionally, these mechanisms will support the effective

mainstreaming of biodiversity into broader development strategies and action plans at the national level which will create and apt environment for advancing broader sustainable development goals.

## **Component 1: National Strategy on ABS and accession to the Nagoya Protocol**

### Outcome 1.1: National Strategy and Accession to the Nagoya Protocol

#### *Output 1.1.1: Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for The Bahamas developed in a consultative process*

Under this component, the development of an access and benefit strategy will be done through a gender sensitive consultative process. In this regard, consultations and validation workshops will be undertaken to incorporate the specific views of all stakeholders into the proposed ABS Strategy before its official adoption.

#### *Output 1.1.2: Awareness among decision and lawmakers on opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol is raised.*

There is general low level of awareness among the main stakeholders on the ABS and on the Nagoya Protocol. Under this component, targeted awareness and outreach materials on the Nagoya Protocol will be developed and widely disseminated. Furthermore, workshops and briefing sessions among government officials and key decision makers such as parliamentarians will be organized to increase the level of understanding on the Nagoya Protocol and its specific provisions.

#### *Output 1.1.3: Legal documents needed for ratification/ accession are drafted*

The Bahamas, like other Commonwealth Caribbean countries, has a dualist system of laws. This means that in the Bahamas international treaties are not self-executing in the State, and domestic legislation is required to give force to any international treaties. Therefore, any international environmental convention or protocol that has been signed by the Head of State or relevant Minister, must be ratified by implementation through the passage of domestic legislation. Failure to pass domestic implementing legislation may mean that an international environmental agreement is not enforceable domestically unless it has attained the status of customary international law. As such, as the Bahamas has not yet not acceded to the Nagoya Protocol, the following steps are required for the accession document to be prepared and completed:

1. A cabinet paper is prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Housing recommending accession to the Protocol and Cabinet must approve the cabinet paper;
2. Instructions must then be sent from the Ministry of the Environment and Housing to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs then drafts the accession document and deposits it with the depository at the United Nations Headquarters.

As mentioned above, the Bahamas also need to pass implementation legislation to give effect to the accession to the Nagoya Protocol. Further to an analysis, intensive consultations and discussions during the PPG phase, the following steps have been identified as key requirements to advance the passing of the required implementing legislation:

1. A cabinet paper has to be prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Housing recommending drafting national implementing legislation and Cabinet must approve the cabinet paper;
2. Instructions must then be sent from the Ministry of the Environment and Housing to the Attorney General's office;
3. The Attorney General's office then analyses any consequential amendments to related legislation that has to be made, and drafts the national implementing legislation;
4. The draft legislation must be tabled and debated in Parliament, and then passed through the normal legislative process;
5. A consultative process with existing permitting institutions must be coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Housing to appraise them of the new requirements in the national implementing legislation.

Under this component, a specific study and other materials on the implications linked to acceding to the Nagoya Protocol will be commissioned highlighting the costs and benefits for the Bahamas to become a Party to the Nagoya Protocol. Targeted briefings will be also undertaken among all key decision makers who will be involved or play a role in the accession to the Nagoya Protocol by the Bahamas. The project will, through the combination of awareness raising campaigns and targeted briefings to decision makers, lay the necessary foundations for the development and finalization of all the accession documents.

## **Component 2: National enabling environment for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol**

The legislative framework in The Bahamas is generally fragmented, with various pieces of legislation governing environmental management in particular. There is no enabling, holistic environmental protection act which establishes a lead agency for the environment or to cater for general natural resource protection or valuation, and no inter-governmental mechanism for integrated resource management. The Environmental Planning and Protection Bill 2015 seeks to partially remedy these deficiencies, but it must be re-evaluated once enacted. Significant areas of 'green' environmental laws are missing in areas such as marine resource protection, dredging, climate change, air quality, biosecurity and ABS. A number of pieces of legislation are outdated, although some draft bills have been prepared, particularly where they relate to areas relevant for accession to the World Trade Organization. The current fragmented nature of environmental legislation leads to inefficiencies, overlapping mandates and permitting authorities, disaggregation of authority, and a general lack of monitoring and enforcement of existing legislative provisions. These systemic issues will create hurdles for the implementation of ABS legislation, and should be taken into account when designing an ABS national strategy and legislation, and when considering institutions to implement the legislation and strategy.

### Outcome 2.1 Increased understanding of the national benefits to be accrued through ABS

#### *Output 2.1.1: Consultations and public awareness campaigns with relevant stakeholders*

The insufficient levels of awareness among decision and policy-makers in the public and private sectors regarding the issue of access and benefit sharing is a key constraint for the introduction a national ABS framework. Analysis and consultations carried out during the PPG phase revealed that for the most part, the only people already aware of the Nagoya Protocol and Access and Benefits Sharing are those who are involved with the process. Local communities surveyed had never heard about the Nagoya Protocol or ABS. On the other hand, many researchers seem to be aware of it as it is being discussed internationally. Some of the officials within government agencies in The Bahamas that were surveyed were aware of the protocol but their knowledge about the specific provisions and opportunities offered by the Nagoya Protocol was quite low. This denotes the need for "CEPA" (communication, education and public awareness) to increase the awareness of main stakeholders on ABS and the Nagoya Protocol.

At the national level, in terms of CEPA / ABS, there is a need to establish priorities, identify target groups and conduct advocacy campaigns involving specific materials for each stakeholder. Among target groups, policy-makers, local communities and private users emerge as priorities for ABS. The dissemination of information on the national ABS framework and related legal and administrative measures is key, as well as communicating the rules governing access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

In parallel to establishing a dynamic coordination mechanisms, the project will train and raise awareness through a communication strategy, comprising educational materials and a public awareness campaign focused on informing researchers, local communities and industries of the adoption of a national law on ABS, as well as particular provisions including PIC requirements, the negotiation of ABS agreements, and other relevant provisions of the Nagoya Protocol.

### Outcome 2.2: National ABS legal framework adopted

#### *Output 2.2.1: Policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS drafted and submitted for approval*

The focus will be on preparing the groundwork for a national law on ABS in line with the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol (NP) and other relevant international instruments. This framework will be adapted to national circumstances after thorough consultation of stakeholders involved on ABS related issues in the Bahamas. Ultimately, the legal expertise mobilized by the project will - in full coordination with the legal services of partner institutions - propose a law that will be submitted to the relevant authorities in the Bahamas for adoption.

Outcome 2.3: Strengthened national institutional capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework

As evidenced by the analysis and consultations carried out during the PPG Phase, one of the key deficiencies in the institutional framework for ABS in the Bahamas is the lack of a lead agency established by statute in the environmental area. As a result, the institutional framework for environmental management is fragmented, which can lead to jurisdictional conflicts, misunderstandings about responsibilities, disaggregation of responsibilities, operation in silos and multiple permitting authorities. There is no statute which establishes the BEST Commission or the Ministry of the Environment, and therefore their mandates are not clearly established by legislation. The draft National Environmental Policy calls for a comprehensive, integrated, long-term planning and management strategy which is consistent with the goal of sustainable development. There is a lack of financial and human resources among the many governmental agencies tasked with environmental management. There is also a lack of systemic information management and coordination between agencies. A number of existing institutions which issue permits lack sufficient resources to monitor research activities that they have permitted. Very few institutions receive monetary benefits from research that has been conducted in the country. The fee structure for permits is very low and in some cases free. Some institutions receive non-monetary benefits such as training and capacity building, but these benefits should be significantly increased as a result of the implementation of an ABS system. The current legislative framework allows for significant overlaps in permitting authorities.

Several agencies and Ministers have the authority to grant permits generally and in relation to research. This fragmented approach to permitting may create hurdles for the efficient implementation of an ABS system, although the Environmental Planning and Protection Bill 2015 may, when enacted, remedy this fragmentation. There is no centralized permitting authority, and each relevant Ministry or Department issues permits. Overlapping permitting authorities can be confusing for both Bahamians and non-Bahamians alike. Lack of resources in governmental departments also hampers monitoring and enforcement efforts. Multiple jurisdictional authorities can lead to delay and inefficiencies, and a lack of co-ordination between agencies. Currently some permits require an observer or participant to accompany researchers, however, there is no policy in place to facilitate the identification of an observer or participant. This has resulted in the majority of permitted activities taking place without an observer. There is also no national mechanism for the expeditious sharing of information across agencies, and generally stakeholders complain of a lack of access to and development of national data, particularly disaggregated data.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Type of permit</b>	<b>Relevance to ABS</b>
Bahamas Environment Science and Technology (BEST) commission (Previously through the Dept. of Agriculture)	Terrestrial research permit.	Relevant
Dept. of Marine Resources (DMR)	1) Marine research permit. 2) Permit to export marine mammals. 3) Permit to capture and export shark for research.	Relevant
Bahamas National Trust (BNT)	Research permits within national parks boundaries.	Relevant. However the researchers have to apply first to either BEST or DMR and then through the BNT. Therefore the BNT <i>should</i> not have any unique permits.
Department of Agriculture (DoA)	CITES permits	Relevant. Again other relevant permits, ie. From BEST or DMR should accompany the

		CITES permit.
Foreign affairs	Reviews marine research permits.	Not particularly relevant but seem to be involved in the process quite frequently; particularly when embassies initiate the contact with the relevant agency.
Port Department	Coastline activity and projects permits.	Not particularly relevant, however, in some cases the dredging of harbours have led to scientific research activities.
Forestry Unit	1) Permit to harvest timber and non-timber forest produce. 2) Permit to harvest a protected tree (reviewed by the BNT).	May have some relevance.
Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation (AMMC)	Exploration and recovery permit.	Not particularly relevant, however, archaeological research is often intertwined with other forms of research.

Currently there are a number of governmental and non-governmental agencies issuing permits in regards to research in The Bahamas (see table above.). The key agencies that are of most relevance to ABS are the Bahamas Environment Science and Technology Commission (BEST), The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and the Bahamas National Trust (BNT).

Furthermore, data analysis on research pathways during the PPG phase demonstrated that there exists great variation and several different pathways that could be used by applicant seeking to secure a permit(See graph below). In most cases, where researchers were familiar with the process, the researcher would write a letter asking for an application form from either BEST (for terrestrial research) or DMR (for marine research). Subsequently application forms would be sent out with an accompanying letter asking for the relevant criteria. Once all criteria was met and the application form was appropriately filled out, a permit would be issued. However, if additional permits were needed because research involved the export of a CITES listed organism, or within a national park, then the agency would send the application on to the DoA or BNT respectively. Resulting in additional permits, or in the case of the BNT, a letter of permission, to be sent to the applicant.

However, there were many cases where different pathways were used. If researchers were coming to conduct research in The Bahamas for the first time often they contacted either their embassy or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for assistance. These agencies then contacted the appropriate permitting agency and from there the normal pathway (as stated above) would commence.

Occasionally the researcher would begin the application process through the BNT or the Gerace Research Centre (GRC), resulting in a reversed application pathway. This was more commonly observed where researchers had a close relationship with either the BNT or GRC.

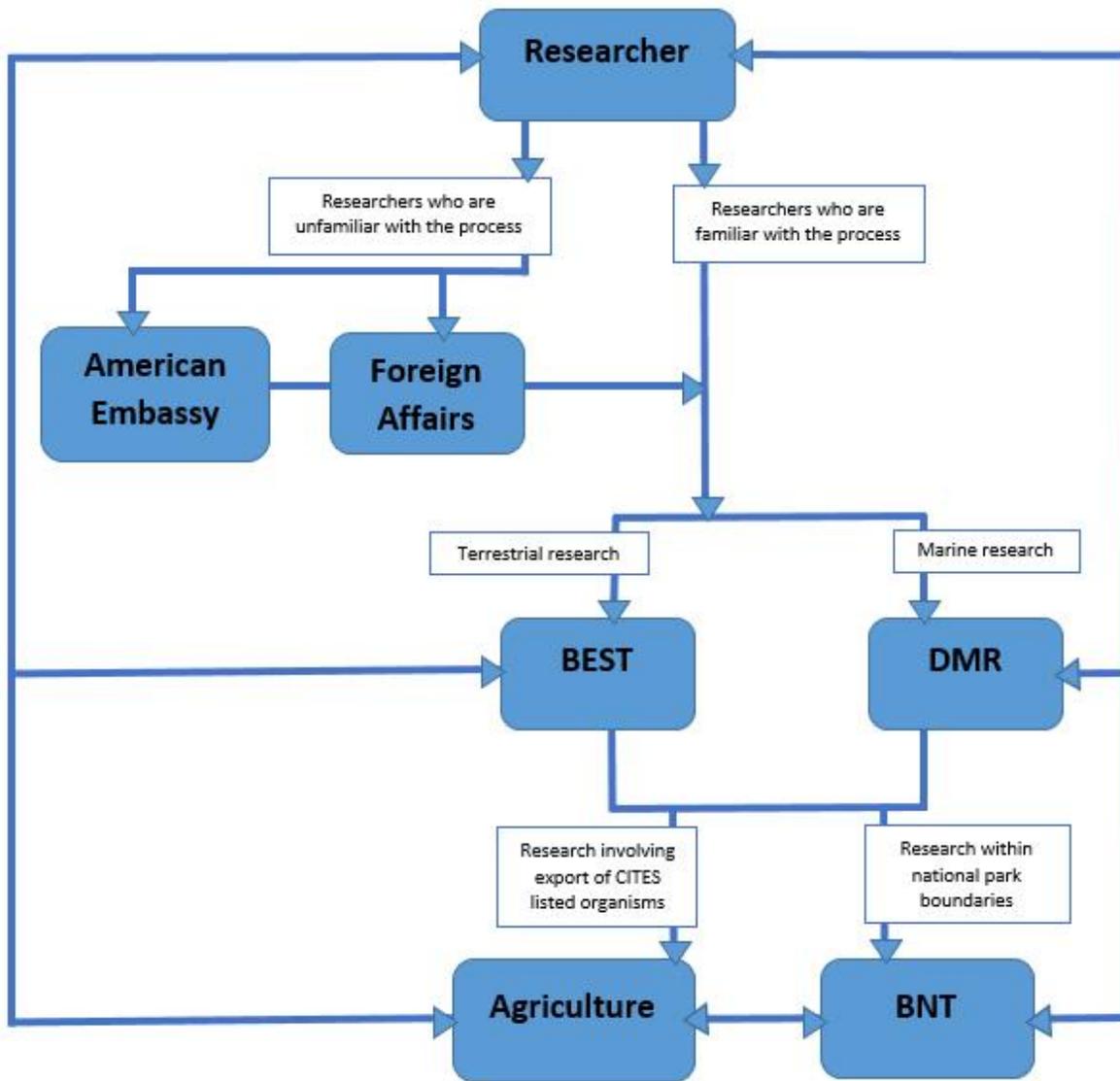


Fig 1. Flow chart demonstrating the various observed research permitting pathways.

*Output 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. Monitoring system for research and bioprospecting permits, ABS Agreements developed and implemented*

The Analysis, consultations and discussions held in a validation workshop during the PPG phase clearly underscored that agencies involved in the permitting process are the most informed about the overall permitting procedures. The knowledge within agencies is however often strictly confined to the specific areas of operation of these agencies. It was also underscored that scientists are equally only informed on the permitting procedure of their specific subject area and some completely unaware of other permitting agencies operating in the Bahamas. Local communities are not at all informed about the various pathways governing permitting systems in the Bahamas as well on the various permitting agencies or their respective roles; irrespective of what island they were from. The analysis in the PPG phase clearly highlighted to need to streamline the application process through a single, automated system which would lead to more efficiency and help to reduce the confusion amongst the various agencies and the researchers concerned

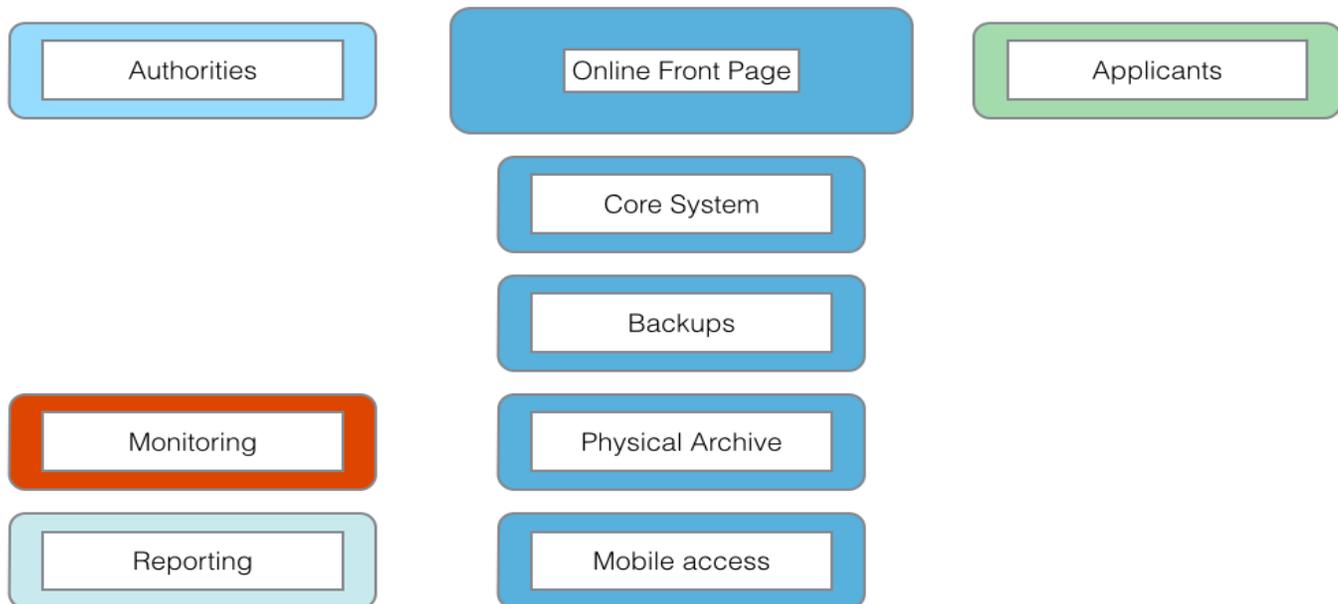
In light of these findings and recommendations that came out of the PPG phase, the project will, under this component, contribute to the establishment of a single electronic permit system that makes it easy to apply for permits and that allows government authorities to review and approve applications, monitor compliance and report on the access, benefit-sharing, compliance and reporting provisions of the Nagoya Protocol. The proposed system would serve the needs of permit granting authorities in the Bahamas and applicants seeking to access genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources within the jurisdiction of the Bahamas. Requirements involving applications and permits granted for investigation, access and use of genetic resources would consider differentiated gender aspects as appropriate where relevant. This output would further explore the Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (BPAF) as a financial mechanism for transiting ABS permitting and benefits.

The system would function as follows;

- An application, once submitted in electronic form, would stay in place at a central server-based hub. The system would be designed in such a way that more than one authority may be involved in reviewing or authorising a permit.
- Notifications would then be dispatched to relevant authorities to inform them of the need for action on a particular application. Authorities would log in to the system and take action accordingly, including communications with applicants that are transmitted through the notification system.
- Communications arising from an application would be stored with the application as part of the electronic file register for the application.

The single permit system would facilitate compliance with the terms of the Protocol by the government of the Bahamas. This could include creating an applicant's portal providing clear information on the progress of applications in the procedure, the name and contact details of the relevant person at each stage of the procedure and extend to the generation of automatic emails notifying applicants when a stage in the procedure has been approved or providing written information on issues requiring resolution. Implementation of this principle could also include a clear, transparent and time limited appeals process. The core components on which this online permitting system would be premised on are illustrated in the graph below.

# Electronic Permit System: Core Components



## *Output 2.3.2: Capacity built within competent authorities for initiating and negotiating contracts/agreements*

This output is designed to overcome the barrier related to weak institutional and technical capacity in key government agencies and across other relevant groups of stakeholders. The work is to designate and subsequently improve the capacities of the national competent authority and other relevant agencies to implement the ABS framework, thereby improving the chances that the adoption of a framework is successful on the ground. This also involves the establishment of sound regulatory and institutional frameworks necessary to support the successful implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Bahamas, involving competent national authorities, supporting measures, and improving coordination between authorities that will oversee the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The result will comprise an institutional framework that provides a sound legal environment, clarity and transparency for commercial and research purposes. Mechanisms shall be proposed to the Bahamian government to facilitate access, benefit-sharing and compliance, including national focal points and competent national authorities to serve as contact points for information, granting access, or to cooperate on compliance issues. Mechanisms will recognize and promote greater awareness of gender-differentiated use and knowledge of biodiversity resources within social groups.

### **Component 3: Applied ABS arrangements in The Bahamas**

The objective of the third component of the project is to establish ABS partnerships between Bahamian academic and nature conservation institutions but also commercial entities with users that pave the way for applied ABS agreements

with Bahamian authorities. To reach this objective, the component comprised three ABS Pilots, which cover different stages in the value chain. The Nagoya Protocol Art. 17 1. (a) (iv) defines these stages as “research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization“. With the creation of long-lasting partnerships, the Pilots also aim at creating enabling environments supporting the conclusion of ABS agreements beyond the life of the project. All three Pilots will include media and outreach activities and are set up to enable upscaling and transfer of the methodologies to other countries.

In order to support the development of diverse ABS partnerships and agreements, the Pilots will support activities at three critical points of the value chain:

### Outcome 3.1: ABS principles applied to adjusted commercial and non-commercial research permits

*Output 3.1.1 Pilot 1. Adjusted ABS contracts/agreements for research permits to include monetary and non monetary benefit sharing provisions to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing at any stage of research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization*

Pilot 1 intervenes at the early stages of the value chain, namely the education of students and training of scientists as well as mainly basic, non-commercial research projects. In the current situation of granting access to genetic resources through research permits, the Bahamian authorities support and rely on a system of partnerships between national and foreign institutions and academics in which the Bahamian counterpart facilitates the application process by the foreign counterpart. Such national partner organizations are for example the Gerace Research Centre on San Salvador and the Bahamas Caves Research Foundation, which undertake scientific research on biodiversity aiming at supporting conservation efforts. In the context of the emerging ABS framework such partnerships need to be maintained and strengthened to be able to deal with the additional issues and obligations ABS agreements entail compared to research permits. Based on the existing Bahamian model, the Pilot will also support the establishment of ABS partnerships at the regional level. Creating ABS awareness amongst these scientific and conservation experts at the national and regional level will support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the respective domestic ABS frameworks. Based on the positive experiences with current partnerships, the hypothesis of the Pilot is that through the creation of ABS partnerships between trusted counterparts the acceptance of the coming ABS framework will increase, the signing of agreements will be made easier and, finally, that this will enhance compliance with contractual obligations.

The partner for the Pilot is the Gerace Research Centre (GRC) located on the island of San Salvador at the most eastern part of The Bahamas. GRC has been in operation for over 30 years as an educational and research institution and provides accommodations, laboratory space, and logistical support for both teachers and researchers interested in the diverse and unique tropical environments available on San Salvador. GRC is part of the College of The Bahamas (COB). Currently, about 1500 students and researchers per year take part in training courses and scientific field trips conducted by GRC. GRC works together with approximately 150 institutions active in the fields of biology, chemistry, and geology. While most of them are located in the USA, some of the institutions are in Canada, United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland and Japan. GRC is also supporting those researchers seeking access to genetic resources in filling in the necessary research permits. According to GRC, up to 60 permits per year are filed through GRC. Hence, GRC will be an important partner not only for this component but in the ABS project as a whole.

The Pilot builds upon the assumption that many of the trained students and researchers active in the field of biology will come back to The Bahamas or other countries in order to access genetic resources for utilization. Those academics need to understand, accept and follow the upcoming domestic ABS frameworks of The Bahamas and other countries providing them with genetic resources – and also associated traditional knowledge - and comply with the MAT of future ABS agreements. The working hypothesis of this Pilot is that timely and well-conducted ABS education and training will support future compliance of the trained users with domestic ABS frameworks and ABS agreements.

For this output, experts from GRC, the College of the Bahamas (COB) and other relevant organizations will develop concepts and material for ABS education and training. The Pilot will make use of already existing material as e.g. the ABS course developed by the University of Cape Town (South Africa) in collaboration with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (Germany). To add an element of broader awareness raising, journalists and other media experts from The Bahamas but also from the main user countries will be engaged in producing news articles and films dealing with ABS issues. The Pilot will conduct specific ABS classes in the context of ongoing activities of the GRC but also

offer dedicated ABS workshops to train students and scientists, mainly focusing on marine sciences. In addition to these workshops, GRC can offer hands-on practical support to researchers in applying for access permits and testing the online application procedure to be developed under component 2.

*Output 3.1.2. Pilot 2. Adjusted partnerships with ex situ collections take up ABS policies*

Pilot 2 will cover specific early and medium stages of the value chain in which Bahamian genetic resources stored in public ex-situ collections are accessed for new utilizations. The Partner for this Pilot is the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation (AMMC). The AMMC is governed by the 1998 Antiquities, Monuments and Museum Act and its 1999 Regulations and acts as the principal heritage conservation agency. Since more than 10 years, AMMC is engaged in archaeological research in the Blue Holes of The Bahamas. Blue Holes are unique ecosystems found in voids that are developed in carbonate banks and islands. They contain tidally influenced waters of fresh, marine or mixed chemistry; they extend below sea level for a majority of their depth; and may provide access to submerged cave passages. The research expeditions of AMMC attract also biological research groups, which amongst others collect and study unique and scientifically not described microbial populations living in the water column. Those foreign researchers need to apply for a research permit at the BEST Commission. Apart from the AMMC's familiarity with the current research permit system and awareness of a future domestic ABS framework AMMC follows general concepts and implements basic elements in the domain of access to and use of fossils and artefacts that would also apply to ABS frameworks. The respective AMMC permits for example stipulate that access to fossils and artefacts and certain uses does not imply that the ownership of The Bahamas over these object ceased. Accordingly, third party transfer is forbidden; change of intent requires new MAT. In a first step, the Pilot will apply methodologies developed and knowledge gained in Component 2 to find out which ex-situ collections store genetic resources from The Bahamas. Databanks of major botanical gardens and microbial collections will be screened. Large databanks as e.g. the GBIF can be searched "in reverse". Since all institutions that entered species information into GBIF are known, it is possible to trace back where the respective material was once stored and examined. Through these kind of reverse searches, the Pilot can also lead to more knowledge where Bahamian genetic resources might be stored currently. In a second step, ABS policies, if existing, of the identified ex-situ collections will be gathered and analyzed.

This pilot aims at entering into partnerships with selected ex-situ collection with the goal to explore the opportunities to amend ABS policies to ensure that new utilizations will comply with legal requirements of the Bahamian ABS framework. The details of these policies will be discussed and agreed upon in dialogues with the ex-situ collections and in agreement with the draft provisions of the national ABS framework developed under component 1. Workshops in the countries hosting the majority of genetic resources with representatives of the ex-situ collections will support the necessary dialogues. Due to geographic and historic reasons, these countries will likely be the USA and the United Kingdom. It is envisaged that due to new and revised ABS policies of ex-situ collections first applications of new users at the Bahamian authorities will be filed within the project time.

*Output 3.1.3. Pilot 3. ABS agreement integrates monitoring system for BD and sustainable use.*

Pilot 3 covers the late stages of the value chain in which Bahamian genetic resources, after an initial period of research and development, are harvested annually for commercial purposes. The main partner for this Pilot is the Bahamas National Trust (BNT). Associated partners are the University of Buffalo, USA / Prof Howard Lasker, the harvesting companies Marsh Harbour Exportes & Importers (MHEI) and the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) of The Bahamas. The Bahamas is currently one of the very few countries worldwide in which an ABS agreement is followed that governs the commercialization of a genetic resource as a result of previous utilization and results in monetary benefit sharing. The agreement of 2001 covers the first steps of a value chain in the cosmetic industry, namely the annual harvest of the soft coral *Antilloorgia elisabethae* (previously *Pseudopterogorgia elisabethae*) and the extraction of the naturally occurring derivate pseudopterosin. The agreement further stipulates that - in line with Art. 9 of the Nagoya Protocol - the commercial partners pay monetary benefits into a fund that "to assist in further surveys and resource assessments, training seminars and to assist in some of the expenses of training voyages and exercises, marine conservation education and related expenses of training new fishermen to enter the industry, for scholarships and in-service training scholarships to strengthen The Bahamas Government's future ability to monitor and manage the resource and the future harvest of other genetic of material".

## Comparison between the results framework at PIF and at CEO Endorsement stages

Component <b>PIF</b>	Component <b>CEO doc</b>	Outcome <b>PIF</b>	Outcome <b>CEO doc</b>	Comments on changes
1. National Strategy and accession to the Nagoya Protocol	1. National Strategy and accession to the Nagoya Protocol	1.1 Accession to the Nagoya Protocol	1.1 National Strategy and Accession to the Nagoya Protocol support mainstreaming of ABS into environmental policy	Slight reformulation of outcome 1.1 to emphasize both the ABS strategy and the NP accession and the integrative aim of the project
2. National enabling environment for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	2. National enabling environment for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	2.1 Increased understanding of the national benefits to be accrued through ABS  2.2 National ABS legal framework adopted  2.3 Strengthened national institutional capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework	2.1 Increased understanding of the national benefits to be accrued through ABS  2.2 National ABS legal framework adopted  2.3 Strengthened national institutional capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework	No changes
3. Applied ABS arrangements in The Bahamas	3. Applied ABS arrangements in The Bahamas	3.1 ABS principles applied to adjusted commercial and non-commercial research permits	3.1 ABS principles applied to adjusted commercial and non-commercial research permits	

## Comparison of OUTPUTS

Outputs <b>PIF</b>	Outputs <b>CEO doc</b>	Comments on changes
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	1.1.1 Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for The Bahamas developed in a consultative process  1.1.2 Awareness among decision and lawmakers on opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol is raised.  1.1.3 Legal documents needed for ratification /accession are drafted	Stakeholder consultations during PPG let the slight reorganization of outputs. It was felt that while approval of NP accession should certainly remain among the aims of this component, the actual legislative process of the Bahamas is beyond the direct reach of the project. It was therefore decided to formulate more realistic outputs, i.e. that the documents for

<p>Nagoya Protocol approved and submitted .</p>		<p>accession are prepared for the legislative process of approval.</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>	<p>2.1.1 Consultations and public awareness campaigns with relevant stakeholders (including consultations and awareness raising to increase understanding of issues of intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to ABS).</p> <p>2.2.1 Policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS drafted and submitted for approval 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. Monitoring system for research and bioprospecting permits, ABS Agreements developed and implemented.</p> <p>2.3.2 Capacity built within competent authorities for initiating and negotiating contracts/agreements</p>	<p>Minor reorganization of the outputs, while the overall implementation strategy remains unchanged.</p> <p>The former output 2.3.3 is now incorporated into output 2.3.1.</p> <p>PIF output 2.3.4 was achieved during PPG (as foreseen) and is therefore not carried over.</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>3.1.1 Adjusted ABS contracts/agreements for research permits to include monetary and non monetary benefit sharing provisions to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing at any stage of research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization, whilst also</p>	<p>Consultations during the PPG phase led to the selection of 3 pilots to advance application of ABS policy in practice.</p>

<p>3.2 The following potential pilots will be assessed for implementation during the PPG phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Holes Initiative with multiple universities - upgrading cooperation agreements and closing the loop on access and benefit sharing - Non commercial ABS pilot case</li> <li>• Sea Whip Commercialization - Upgrading and closing the loop on Access and Benefit Sharing - Commercial ABS pilot case</li> </ul> <p>additional potential pilots to be assessed for potential through review of issued permits</p>	<p>integrating monitoring for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.</p>	
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In terms of global environmental benefits, the project will allow the Bahamas to better meet the three of objectives of the CBD (especially the third objective), to help achieve Aichi Target 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as well as the obligations set out in the Nagoya Protocol. The project will increase the awareness in key target groups about the importance of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, their use and option values; strengthen specific national capacities to allow the government and other stakeholders to harness greater benefits from the country's genetic resources; and provide a new relevant incentive for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, especially for those species and habitats that are the source of valuable genetic resources. The project will also set up a financing mechanism by which a part of the revenue generated through future ABS agreements and partnerships can be reinvested into biodiversity conservation more generally, such as through enhanced management of priority protected areas or through targeted interventions reducing the overexploitation of valuable or globally threatened species. Revenue from the national ABS scheme will moreover generate benefits to be shared with the providers of the country's genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Without the GEF project, The Bahamas would not be in the position to accelerate its accession to the Nagoya Protocol with corresponding national legislation, which does not exist, and build capacity which at present is minimal. The GEF incremental support of Bahamian efforts will allow for the actual testing of real life prospective ABS arrangements in support of a newly created permitting and monitoring system. The project will assist The Bahamas in delivering Sustainable Development Goal 15, Target 6 which is to ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, and promote appropriate access to genetic resources.

**A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:**

<b>RISK</b>	<b>Level of Risk</b>	<b>Risk Mitigation Strategy</b>
Uncertainty due to government shifts in priorities and policy changes. Political will to have regulatory and institutional arrangements /structures to effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol in the Bahamas	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 legal, political and institutional	M	The project will strengthen capacity of the decision makers,

capacity. Risk of staff turnover. Limited institutional and community interest in ABS.		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.
Willingness among institutions to share knowledge and coordinate their activities to ensure the effectiveness of a centralized permitting mechanisms	M	Creating the incentive mechanism of benefit sharing and prospects of generating resources through an effective permitting and monitoring system, underpinned by capacity building and strengthening of awareness aimed at increased willingness to share and work together.
Slow processes for adoption and promulgation of texts	H	The project will accelerate political commitment by raising awareness on ABS prospects of generating resources, and benefit sharing.
Ex-situ collections in the US and in the EU refuse to change/adopt ABS policies due to the lack of domestic legal requirements to do so	M	Carrot and stick: the benefits of continued research relationships with The Bahamas; negative publicity associated with non cooperation with intent of NP.

L-Low / M-Medium / H-High

#### A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

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 the prospective National Competent Authority and this body? 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 ongoing 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. The Bahamas can benefit from regionally planned activities and tools to be developed under this project. The Bahamas is a member state of CARICOM, which has and will continue to provide support at a regional level with the closely linked parallel running regional project. The Biotechnology Center of the University of the West Indies, the region’s primary tertiary level educational institution, is also linked to the associated regional project. The Bahamas ABS National Project Manager and UNEP Task Manager will be invited to participate of the inception meeting of the regional project where key issues for the region will be discussed; in addition, the Bahamas team will be similarly invited to participate in annual regional coordination meetings where project products will be presented and where interactions, knowledge sharing and networking opportunities will be discussed. The project will interact with UNEP ROLAC and IUCN as major partners of the Regional ABS project, and furthermore be directly supported with in kind support and technical assistance from ROLAC based staff from the UNEP’s Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC).

**B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:**

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.

The project depends on the active participation of key stakeholders who will drive the project. In this respect the project will involve a wide spectrum of stakeholders at every stage in its implementation. The table below provides an overview of the key project partners with a provisional description of their respective roles, which must be confirmed and validated during a consultative process, in the form of workshops as start-up activities for the project’s institutional anchoring.

<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Role</b>
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	<b>Implementing Agency and co-financier</b>
BEST Commission, Ministry of Housing and Environment	<b>Lead overall Executing Agency</b>
Department of Marine Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Partner executing agency and co-financier
Department of Legal Services and Attorney General’s Office	Partner executing agency and co-financier
Customs Department	Partner executing agency and co-financier
Bahamas Agricultural Investment Corporation (BAIC)	Partner executing agency
College of the Bahamas (COB)	Partner executing agency and co-financier
The Antiquities, Monuments & Museum Corporation (AMMC)	Partner executing agency
Department of Financial Services	Partner executing agency
Gerace Institute	executing partners
LIPO Chemicals	Consultative partner
Marsh Harbor Exports & Pericles Mailis (attorney)	Consultative partner and co-financier
German Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH) and ABS Capacity Development Initiative	Consultative partner and co-financier
European Union	Consultative partner
Union of Ethical Biotrade	Consultative partner

B.2 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

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.

During project development and review processes, preparation team consulted IUCN publication “Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Equity in ABS Governance” and the CBD – IUCN publication entitled “Gender and Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources”, noting that meeting international obligations on gender equality in relation to ABS has the potential to help countries in meeting the CBD’s three objectives and the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity targets to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss. With respect to uptake of recommendations from these publications, Output 1.1.1 whereby an Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy will be developed for The Bahamas, activities will be carried out through an equitably gender sensitive consultative process. In the design of the mechanism of the permitting system outlined in Output 2.3.2, activities will take into account the recognition and promotion of awareness of gender-differentiated use and knowledge of biodiversity resources within social groups – acknowledging that this dynamic can be quite different in many parts of the Caribbean region, including The Bahamas. Output 2.3.2

whereby capacity is built for negotiating contracts and agreements will ensure that development of training materials is gender sensitive.

B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

The project embraced the most direct route towards establishing ABS mechanisms in the Bahamas, which is first through developing up to date and coherent legal and institutional framework , namely a package of an ABS law and corresponding regulations and related institutional arrangements and procedures. Secondly the project will contribute to strengthening national capacities through targeted awareness raising and capacity building activities. The project's investment in the national ABS framework and capacity building will be largely outweighed by the socioeconomic benefits it is expected to create.

Close collaboration with ongoing and upcoming interventions in the region, as well as with the multi-donor ABS Capacity Development Initiative, will ensure that lessons learned and information already produced can be utilized to the maximum extent possible and that new approaches and experiences in The Bahamas can be swiftly shared within the region and beyond.

### **C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:**

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures, with substantive technical and financial project reporting requirements. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP.

The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether expected project results are being achieved. The means of verification of these elements are summarized in the Project Result Framework.

UNEP will be responsible for managing the mid-term review/evaluation and the terminal evaluation. The Project Manager and partners will participate actively in the process.

The project will be reviewed or evaluated at mid-term (tentatively in 07/2017 as indicated in the project milestones). The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools .

The Project Steering Committee will participate in the MTR or MTE and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented. An MTR is managed by the UNEP Task Manager. An MTE is managed by the Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP. The EO will determine whether an MTE is required or an MTR is sufficient.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The EO will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager throughout the process. 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 and executing partners.

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e. correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO 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 EO when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

The Project Steering Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Task Manager. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop.

The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources. The estimated cost of M&E activities is USD 315,000 (GEF and Co-finance), fully integrated into the project budget, as shown below:

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	Project Manager (PM) and Project Management Unit (PMU)	25,000	18,000	Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	PM and PMU		2,000	1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	PM and PMU	10,000	10,000	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Semi-annual Progress/Operational Reports to UNEP	PM and PMU		3,000	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Project Steering Committee meetings	PM and PMU; UNEP TM	40,000	40,000	At least once a year, and via electronic media per request and need
Reports of PSC meetings	PM and PMU		5,000	Within 1 month after PSC meeting
PIR	PM and PMU		3,000	Annually, part of reporting routine (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Monitoring visits to field sites	PM and PMU; UNEP TM	20,000	15,000	As appropriate
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	UNEP TM and EO	25,000		At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	UNEP EO	25,000		Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Audit	PM and PMU	10,000		Annually
Project Final Report	PM and PMU		2,000	Within 2 months of the project completion date (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Co-financing report	PM and PMU		2,000	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	PM and PMU	30,000	30,000	Annually, also part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
<b>Total M&amp;E Plan Budget</b>		<b>185,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	

**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 form. For SGP, use this [OFP 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 CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan Vandyke Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		February 2, 2016	Kristin Mclaughlin Task Manager	202-974- 1312	Kristin.mclaughlin@unep.org

<b>Annex A : Project Logical Framework, using standardized UNEP template</b>
<b>Annex B : Response to GEF Reviews(GEF STAP council)</b>
<b>Annex C: Status of implementation of project preparation activities and the use of funds</b>
<b>Annex D: Calendar of expected reflows</b>
<b>Annex E: Consultants to be hired &amp; Terms of Reference</b>
<b>Annex F-1 : Detailed GEF budget / Annex F-2: Detailed Co-finance budget (Separate EXCEL Attachment)</b>
<b>Annex G: M&amp;E Budget and Workplan</b>
<b>Annex H: Project Implementation Arrangements</b>
<b>Annex I: Detailed Project Workplan showing deliverables and benchmarks</b>
<b>Annex J: OFP Endorsement letters (Separate PDF Attachment)</b>
<b>Annex K: Co-finance letters (Separate PDF Attachment)</b>
<b>Annex L: Environmental and Social Safeguards checklist</b>
<b>Annex M: Procurement Plan</b>
<b>Annex N: Acronyms and Abbreviations</b>
<b>Annex O: Supervision Plan (Separate EXCEL Attachment)</b>
<b>Annex P – Baseline – Legal Framework</b>
<b>Annex Q - Baseline – Institutional, Sectoral and Policy Context</b>

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK**

Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP Programme of Work Reference
<p>To create and apply the enabling conditions for fair and equitable access and effective benefit sharing</p>	<p>Draft National ABS strategy, draft law, implementing legislation and institutional frameworks/ structures in place which will enable the Bahamas to accede to the Nagoya Protocol and to effectively implement its provisions</p>	<p>No comprehensive ABS Strategy, laws or institutional frameworks in place</p>	<p><b>Mid of project target:</b></p> <p>Training and capacity development on ABS and on the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol are initiated for all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p><b>End of project Target:</b></p> <p>All necessary ABS Accession documents are drafted, reviewed, validated through a national consultative process</p> <p>A draft national law and corresponding regulations are</p>	<p>Government records demonstrating that all relevant documents required for the accession to the Protocol are finalized and submitted to the relevant authorities.</p> <p>Government’s records demonstrating that a draft national law on ABS and corresponding regulations have been finalized and submitted to the relevant authorities.</p> <p>Government</p>	<p>The government of the Bahamas is committed to becoming a Party to the Nagoya Protocol and to the introduction of enabling regulatory and institutional frameworks for its implementation.</p> <p>There is sufficient political will to have regulatory and institutional arrangements /structures to effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol in the Bahamas</p> <p>Target audiences</p>	<p>Ecosystem Management Expected Accomplishment (b): The capacity of countries to develop and enforce laws and strengthen institutions to achieve internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals and comply with related obligations is enhanced, and specifically Output 2. Legal technical assistance provided to support initiatives by countries to implement, monitor and achieve compliance with, and enforcement of, international</p>

			<p>elaborated and one or more institution is officially designated and capacitated to fulfill the functions and responsibility of a national competent authority</p>	<p>records indicating that one or more institution have been designated to act as a National Competent Authority on ABS</p>	<p>for training, awareness raising and other capacity building activities are committed to actively participate in project activities.</p>	<p>environmental obligations, including those set out in multilateral environmental agreements</p>
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Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment
<p><b>Outcome 1.1:</b> National Strategy and Accession to the Nagoya Protocol support mainstreaming of ABS into environmental policy</p>	<p>Existence of a comprehensive ABS strategy developed through a consultative process involving all relevant actors and stakeholders.</p> <p>Increased awareness on the Nagoya Protocol among the key decisions makers directly involved in the accession process</p> <p>Accession-related documents are finalized</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Low level of awareness among decision makers</p> <p>None- accession process has not been initiated.</p>	<p><b>Medium Term Target (MT):</b> All relevant documents (including analysis of implications for accession and other legal documents) needed for accession are drafted and key decision makers are sensitized about the Nagoya Protocol</p> <p><b>End of project Target (ET):</b> All relevant documents for accession are finalized and submitted to the authorities</p> <p>Comprehensive ABS</p>	<p>Government records showing that all relevant documents (including ABS strategy) required for the accession to the Protocol are finalized.</p>	<p>There is sufficient political will, institutional capacity and buy in for the adoption of a comprehensive strategy on ABS</p> <p>The government of the Bahamas is committed to becoming a Party to the Nagoya Protocol and to take the necessary legislative, measures to meet the obligations set out in the Nagoya Protocol.</p> <p>Stakeholders have a sustained interest in ABS</p>	

			<p>Strategy outlining key steps for the accession to the Nagoya Protocol is finalized and validated by all relevant stakeholders, disaggregated equitably by gender.</p>		<p>and in advancing the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.</p> <p>Stakeholders 'understanding and capacity in relation to the Nagoya Protocol will lead to the adoption of actions to support its effective implementation</p> <p>Willingness among institutions to share knowledge and coordinate their activities to ensure the effectiveness of a centralized permitting mechanisms</p>	
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<p><b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Increased understanding of the national benefits to be accrued through ABS</p>	<p>Awareness of international and national ABS strengthened</p>	<p>Very low level of awareness about the Nagoya Protocol and its implications among most stakeholders</p>	<p>MT: Awareness strategy for ABS implementation and potential benefits is designed and first consultations are launched.</p> <p>ET: At least 80% of researchers, local communities, and relevant industry players (balanced by gender) targeted by the campaigns and consultations are aware of and understand the national ABS law and regulations as well as the CBD and NP provisions related to ABS and TK</p>	<p>Meeting minutes and records, follow up surveys and outcomes of awareness raising campaigns and consultations</p>	<p>Stakeholders exhibit interest and openness to actively participate in the awareness activities and consultation meetings</p>	
<p><b>Outcome 2.2:</b> National ABS legal framework adopted</p>	<p>National law and implementing regulations on ABS are prepared for adoption</p>	<p>No legislative, administrative and policy measures on ABS in place</p>	<p>MT: National laws and implementing regulations are drafted.</p> <p>ET: National laws are finalized and ready to</p>	<p>Government records</p>	<p>Stakeholders have a sustained interest in ABS and in advancing the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.</p>	

			be submitted for approval, adoption to the relevant authorities		Improved understanding and capacity in relation to the Nagoya Protocol will lead to the adoption of actions to support its effective implementation	
					Slow processes for adoption and promulgation of texts	
<b>Outcome 2.3:</b> Strengthened national institutional capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework	One or more National Competent authority identified, designated and capacitated to support the implementation of national law and regulations on ABS	While some relevant institutions are in place, there is no designated and fully capacitated national competent authority on ABS  Several	MT: National Competent authority designated and capacitated  ET: National Competent Authority in place and operational  MT: Development of	Government records / official bulletins; information submitted to ABS CHM; project reports; national reports on implementation of the Nagoya	Institutional willingness to participate in the project activities  Willingness among institutions to share	

	<p>A well-functioning electronic system for ABS permit applications, administration, monitoring and reporting is established</p> <p>Existence of mechanisms for the protection of traditional knowledge relating to genetic and biological resources</p>	<p>government agencies issue different types of permits and there is no coordinated or centralized system for the issuance/processing of permits.</p> <p>TK relating to genetic resources is not inventoried or protected</p>	<p>a one-stop-shop electronic permit system with input from all relevant sectoral agencies</p> <p>ET: A single electronic permit system that makes it easy to apply for ABS- related permits and that enables government authorities to effectively review and approve ABS related permit applications is in place and operational</p> <p>MT: TK inventory is established</p> <p>ET: A system for protecting confidential and non-confidential Traditional Knowledge (TK) is established</p>	<p>Protocol</p> <p>Government records, databases</p> <p>Number of expression of interests and applications received through the centralized permitting system</p>	<p>knowledge and coordinate their activities to ensure the effectiveness of a centralized permitting mechanism</p> <p>Stakeholders exhibit interest and openness to actively participate in the awareness activities and consultation meetings</p> <p>There is sufficient political will on the part of the government to encourage the development of community protocols</p>	
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					Will and capacity of indigenous and local communities to provide information on their traditional knowledge so as to allow for its inventory/ assessment, and to put in place adequate community level procedures	
<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> ABS principles applied to adjusted commercial and non-commercial research permits	Adjusted ABS contracts/agreements to include benefits  Partnerships with ex-situ collections established  Adjusted commercial ABS agreement to include monitoring	No agreements with PIC and MAT.  Benefit sharing is not used for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	MT: Baselines and analyses for all 3 pilots  ET: Establishment of National depositories/ databases on: potential and actual ABS agreements and value chains; potential users and providers of genetic resources; ex-situ collections of genetic and biochemical resources	Emails/letters establishing partnership discussions  Signed MoUs and agreements	Willingness of ex situ collections to collaborate in project activities  Ex-situ collections in the US and in the EU refuse to change/adopt ABS policies due to the lack of domestic legal requirements to	Lack of political will delays the negotiations and signature of the ABS agreement  The necessary administrative requirements cannot be finalized in time to ensure that the monetary benefit sharing is directed towards biodiversity support

			Partnership/ collaboration agreements established with 2-3 ex-situ collections  ABS agreement in place and signed by the government of the Bahamas and the commercial partner		do so	
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Project Outputs	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	PoW Output Reference Number
1.1.1: Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for The Bahamas developed in a consultative process	Draft of and ABS Strategy is elaborated and validated through a consultative process	No comprehensive ABS Strategy	<p><b>MT:</b></p> <p>All stakeholder groups in family Islands are consulted to gather input to feed into ABS Strategy</p> <p><b>ET:</b></p> <p>Draft Strategy is finalized and validated through a consultative process</p>	Government's records, report of consultative meetings	Sufficient political will and stakeholders buy in towards having a comprehensive ABS strategy.	
1.1.2: Awareness among decision and lawmakers on opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol is raised.	Increased awareness on the Nagoya Protocol among the key decisions makers directly involved in the accession process	Low level of awareness among decision makers on the Nagoya Protocol	<p><b>MT:</b> Materials targeting decision makers on the Nagoya Protocol are prepared and disseminated among the target audiences</p> <p><b>ET:</b> All relevant decision makers are briefed about the Nagoya Protocol</p>	Meeting reports and participants lists	Decision makers briefed are interested in advancing the accession processes	

<p>1.1.3: Legal documents needed for ratification /accession are drafted</p>	<p>Accession documents are prepared</p>	<p>Process not initiated</p>	<p><b>MT:</b> Draft accession documents (including supporting documents) are prepared</p> <p><b>ET:</b> All documents submitted for formal accession</p>	<p>Government records</p>	<p>The government of the Bahamas is committed to becoming a Party to the Nagoya Protocol and to take the necessary legislative, measures to meet the obligations set out in the Nagoya Protocol.</p>	
<p>2.1.1: Consultations and public awareness campaigns with relevant stakeholders (including consultations and awareness raising to increase understanding of issues of intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to ABS)</p>	<p>Awareness raising campaigns, consultation meetings targeting specific stakeholder groups are undertaken</p>	<p>Low level of awareness on the Nagoya Protocol among across all stakeholder groups.</p>	<p><b>MT:</b> Consultations, public awareness campaigns initiated with all stakeholder groups, respective of gender</p> <p><b>ET:</b> 80% stakeholder groups reached through consultations and campaigns</p>	<p>Government records/ meeting documents/ list of gender disaggregated participants</p>	<p>Willingness of stakeholders to engage in project activity.</p>	

<p>2.2.1: Policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS drafted and submitted for approval by legislature, inclusive of appointment of National Focal Point and Competent National Authority.</p>	<p>Regulatory and institutional frameworks for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Bahamas are developed</p>	<p>No regulatory and institutional frameworks in place</p>	<p><b>MT:</b> Laws, regulations (including on institutional arraignments are drafted)</p> <p><b>ET:</b> Draft laws/ regulations submitted for enactment</p> <p>National Competent Authority designated and capacitated</p>	<p>Official documents</p>	<p>Administrative processes can advance rapidly</p> <p>Slow bureaucratic processes</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. Monitoring system for research and bioprospecting permits, ABS Agreements developed and implemented.</p>	<p>Online permitting and monitoring system is in place</p>	<p>No such mechanism in place</p>	<p><b>MT:</b> Online- one-stop permitting/monitoring system (which takes into consideration gender as appropriate) is established</p> <p><b>ET:</b> Online permitting/ monitoring system in place and operational</p>	<p>Government records/ websites</p>	<p>Buy in and collaboration from all relevant government agencies</p>	

2.3.2: Capacity built within competent authorities for initiating and negotiating contracts/agreements.	Officials in relevant government agencies trained on MAT negotiations.	Low level of understanding expertise on ABS contract negotiations	<b>MT:</b> Gender sensitive tailored training materials developed <b>ET:</b> All targeted officials trained	Training reports/ list of participants	Willingness of audience to participate in the project activity	
3.1.1 Pilot 1. Adjusted ABS contracts/agreements for research permits to include monetary and non monetary benefit sharing	Adjusted ABS contracts/agreements to include monetary and non monetary benefits	0 commercial agreements with PIC and MAT.	MT: Tailored training material developed.  ET: Establishment of national depositories/databases on: potential and actual ABS agreements and value chains; potential users and providers of genetic and biochemical resources.	Workshop reports  Monitoring of permitting system.	Willingness of actors involved to participate in project activities.	

<p>3.1.2. Pilot 2. Adjusted partnerships with ex situ collections take up ABS policies</p>	<p>Partnerships with ex-situ collections established</p>	<p>0 partnerships /collaborative agreements with ex-situ collections</p>	<p>MT: Analyses of state of play of Bahamas GR in ex situ collections</p> <p>ET: Partnership/ collaboration agreements established with 2-3 ex-situ collections</p>	<p>Emails/letters establishing partnership discussions</p> <p>Signed MoUs and agreements</p>	<p>Willingness of ex situ collections to collaborate in project activities</p> <p>Ex-situ collections in the US and in the EU refuse to change/adopt ABS policies due to the lack of domestic legal requirements to do so</p>	
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<p>3.1.3. Pilot 3. ABS agreement integrates monitoring system for BD and sustainable use.</p>	<p>Adjusted ABS agreement signed by the Government of the Bahamas and the commercial partner</p>	<p>Benefit sharing not used for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p>	<p>MT: Baseline established on sustainable harvesting of <i>Antillogorgia elisabethea</i>.</p> <p>ET: Monitoring system up and running with corresponding adjusted ABS agreement signed by the Government of the Bahamas and the commercial partner</p>	<p>Correspondence, official records such as signed MoUs and agreements</p>		<p>The necessary administrative requirements cannot be finalized in time to ensure that the monetary benefit sharing is directed towards biodiversity support</p>

<b>ACTIVITIES COMPONENT 1: National Strategy on ABS and accession to the Nagoya Protocol</b>
<b>Outcome 1.1: National Strategy and Accession to the Nagoya Protocol support mainstreaming of ABS into environmental policy</b>
<b>Output 1.1.1: Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for The Bahamas developed in a consultative process</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1.1.1 Conduct assessment on stakeholder roles and responsibilities in ABS, including stakeholder mapping and analysis</li> <li>1.1.1.2 Conduct an ABS capacity needs assessment to define key ABS strategic orientations/ goals</li> <li>1.1.1.3 Undertake consultations through workshops ( in all family Islands) to get input on the draft ABS Strategy</li> <li>1.1.1.4 Organisation of a multi-stakeholder validation workshop to validate the ABS strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Output 1.1.2: Awareness among decision and lawmakers on opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol is raised.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1.2.1 Development of awareness and outreach materials on the Nagoya Protocol for decision makers</li> <li>1.1.2.2 Organization of workshops and briefing sessions for government officials and decision makers</li> </ul>
<b>Output 1.1.3: Legal documents needed for ratification /accession are drafted</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1.3.1 Undertaking a study on implications of accession, including cost benefit analysis and rationale</li> <li>1.1.3.2 Development of a manual on accession the Protocol including templates for briefing documents for high government officials</li> <li>1.1.3.3 Organizing parliamentary briefings with key members of environmental related commission</li> <li>1.1.3.4 Drafting all required documents for accession</li> </ul>
<b>ACTIVITIES COMPONENT 2: National enabling environment for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol</b>
<b>Outcome 2.1: Increased understanding of the national benefits to be accrued through ABS</b>
<b>Output 2.1.1: Consultations and public awareness campaigns with relevant stakeholders (including consultations and awareness raising to increase understanding of issues of intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to ABS)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1.1.1 Development of toolkits to raise awareness of government officials and other stakeholders on ABS</li> <li>2.1.1.2 Organization of workshops for government officials and other stakeholders on thematic issues of relevance to ABS implementation</li> <li>2.1.1.3 Organization of workshops for journalists and other media and communication experts on ABS</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 2.2: National ABS legal framework adopted</b>
<b>Output 2.2.1: Policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS drafted and submitted for approval by legislature, inclusive of appointment of National Focal Point and Competent National Authority.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.2.1.1 Undertaking a comprehensive analysis ( including gap analysis) of laws/regulations of relevance to ABS</li> <li>2.2.1.2 Organization of training sessions among laws makers/drafters on the Nagoya Protocol</li> <li>2.2.1.3 Drafting of required legislation/ regulations</li> <li>2.2.1.4 Organization of consultative workshops to validate draft text before its official submission</li> <li>2.2.1.5 Organization of training workshops for relevant institutions ( including the designated NCA on ABS and the Nagoya Protocol</li> </ul>

<b>Outcome 2.3: Strengthened national institutional capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework</b>
<b>Output 2.3.1:</b> (On line) administrative procedures for ABS Agreements with Prior Informed Consent [PIC], Mutually Agreed Terms [MAT], and Benefit Sharing approved and available for use. Monitoring system for research and bioprospecting permits, ABS Agreements developed and implemented.
2.3.1.1 Develop a pilot permit system at an early stage (Year 1) accommodating the principles of agile development wherever possible.
2.3.1.2 Implement and continue the development of the system with regular periodic review by users.
2.3.1.3 Report on experience gained and future development plans and fine tune system (Year 2, Year 3)
<b>Output 2.3.2:</b> Capacity built within competent authorities for initiating and negotiating contracts/agreements
2.3.2.1 Development of explanatory notes on the different components of MAT and relevant actors.
2.3.2.2 Organization of trainings and orientation programmes on negotiation of MAT, including modules on technical and legal aspects.
2.3.2.3 Orientation programme on IPR-related issues of MATs.
2.3.2.4 Development of an operational manual on MAT, covering, inter alia, how to negotiate MAT and the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors
<b>Activities Component 3: Applied ABS arrangements in The Bahamas</b>
<b>Outcome 3.1: ABS principles applied to adjusted commercial and non-commercial research permits</b>
<b>Output 3.1.1 Pilot 1. Adjusted ABS contracts/agreements for research permits to include monetary and non monetary benefit sharing provisions</b>
3.1.1.1 Hands-on practical training for researchers in applying for access permits and testing the online application procedures to be developed under component 2.
3.1.1.2 Develop concepts and materials for university ABS education and professional ABS training
3.1.1.3 Test materials in ABS courses and workshops
<b>Output 3.1.2. Pilot 2. Adjusted partnerships with ex situ collections take up ABS policies</b>
3.2.2.1 Undertake study providing overview on Bahamian resources held in ex situ collection and analysis of existing ABS policies of ex-situ collections
3.2.2.2 Partnership dialogues with selected ex-situ collections to discuss ABS policy for new utilisations of Bahamian genetic resources

**Output 3.1.3. Pilot 3. ABS agreement integrates monitoring system for BD and sustainable use.**

- 3.1.3.1 Development of a population model to monitor the sustainability of these current practices as well as alternative strategies for harvesting
- 3.1.3.2 Development of a management plan to monitor resource use
- 3.1.3.3 Undertaking model validation/ analysis
- 3.1.3.4 Workshops to bring together Partners to negotiate on terms and condition of the Agreement

**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).

GEFSEC Comments of 1-13-2016	IA/EA Response
<p>7. Please elaborate on the changes in Component 3 since PIF approval. See comments under item 17.</p>	<p>At the PIF stage it was envisioned that <i>“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.”</i> This has <u>not</u> shifted substantially at CEO Endorsement phase. Following a participatory PPG phase, <u>3</u> pilots are supported by the project:</p> <p>AMMC, which has partnered with many institutes, through its <u>Blue Holes</u> research, remains a lead partner in what is now Pilot 2, whereby partnerships with ex situ collections will be adjusted to take up ABS policies.</p> <p>The commercialization of the <u>Sea Whip</u>, is addressed in what is now Pilot 3 whereby the existing value chain will integrate a monitoring system for the sustainable use of the sea whip. This pilot will provide lessons and best practice in terms of serving as a model/protocol for future BD monitoring of ABS arrangements.</p> <p>A third pilot (Pilot 1) identified during the PPG phase will be led by the Gerace Research Center, whereby <u>ABS education and training provided</u> at the earliest phases of research projects will ensure compliance with ABS frameworks and agreements.</p>
<p>13. is innovation, sustainability and capacity to scale-up modify by the reduction in co-financing (partners and \$ resources)?</p>	<p>Co-financing of \$2.0M now exceeds original target of \$1.6M. Previous submission of the CEO Endorsement Package did reflect important Government co-financing of \$1.5 million which required an intervention and signature by the Ministry of Finance. This now added co-</p>

	financing letter dated January 25, 2016, reflects both in kind government support valued at \$500,000 plus \$1,000,000 in cash of an extremely relevant IDB grant executed by the Customs Department. This updated commitment exceeds the co-financing targeted at the PIF stage. While all previously reflected partners are not reflected as co-financiers, it is expected that these partners will remain engaged, as they were throughout the PPG phase, see 17.
14. There are changes without justification. See comments under item 17.	See 17.
16. Not clear if the outcomes and outputs as proposed in approved PIF could be achieved considering the reduction in co-financing. Please see comments on item 17.	See 13.
17. Co-financing was significantly reduced both in number of co-financiers (from 10+ to 5) and financial resources (from \$1.6M to \$0.5M). Please elaborate on how these changes impacted the design and proposed outcomes and outputs of the project. The GEF Secretariat notices that some key co-financiers dropped from the project altogether, including NGOs (Bahamas National Trust, TNC, US and Canadian Universities), Multilaterals (WIPO), and Private Sector (Marsh Harbor Exports, LIPO Chemical, Estee Lauder). These changes appear to have affected mainly the deliverables of Component 3. Please elaborate and Include response under Part II. A. (page 4 of MSP).	See 13, co-financing of \$2.0M now exceeds original target of \$1.6M. The Bahamas National Trust and The Nature Conservancy will be full participants in the entire project, and particularly Pilot 3, but also as members of the NISP Committee which serves as the Project Steering Committee. US and Canadian Universities are partners with both AMMC and with the Gerace Research Center, each of which will lead a pilot. Marsh Harbor Exports is represented legally by the Law Offices of Pericles Mailis, which is a documented co-financier of the project. LIPO and Estee Lauder are further up the supply chain, and it is expected that engagement will be further developed during implementation of pilot 3.  This response is also on page 4.

### ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS<sup>5</sup>

A. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
<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>
PPG Coordinator /ABS Specialist	43,000	43,000	0
College of The Bahamas	15,000	15,000	0
Bahamas National Trust	10,000	10,000	0
Lancaster University	7,500	7,500	0
Workshop(s)	12,000	12,000	0
Stakeholder Consultations	12,500	12,500	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>5</sup> If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.

The PPG phase encompassed numerous consultations carried out through different preparation elements of the project. The Bahamas National Trust led the Survey for ABS Awareness for The Bahamas, and the College of the Bahamas led the Survey for ABS Capacity Needs for The Bahamas. The BEST Commission facilitated Family Island Consultations and Awareness Raising workshops. Together with BNT, Lancaster University carried out a very instrumental analysis of the baseline research permit situation. The PPG Coordinator carried out extensive consultations on the ground culminating in a two day Project Validation Workshop, June 16-17, 2015, attended by over 40 participants from 19 institutions.

**ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)**

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

NA

**ANNEX E: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED & DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ person week*</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks**</i>	<i>Tasks to be performed</i>
<b>For Project Management</b>			
Local			
See TORS for National Project Manager	\$48,000/pa	3 years	
<b>For Technical Assistance</b>			
Local			
National legal expert/drafter on environmental law, biodiversity and ABS	2,500	12	Assumes a role of coordination and contact person for the implementation of an appropriate regulatory and institutional framework for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Lead drafter of the national draft Law on ABS, including all implementing regulations, in collaboration with other national and international consultants.  Outputs 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1
National expert on inventory and protection of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources	2,000	8	Plays a key part in the team of consultants with regard to the role and rights of local communities, for the protection of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in the context of ABS.  Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.3.2, 3.1.1-3
National expert ( Programmer Online Permit and Monitoring System)	2,500	12	Programming/ setting technical functions of the online permit and monitoring system  Outputs 2.3.1 and 3.1.1-3

National expert on GR and dialogue with national research institutions	2,000	12	<p>Plays a key part in the team of consultants with regard to documentation of existing genetic resources in Bahamas.</p> <p>Works closely with specialized national contact persons on categories of GR (agricultural, wild plants, marine, domestic fauna, wild animals, microorganisms, etc.).</p> <p>Provides relevant technical and scientific information to legal experts and to expert interacting with the private sector.</p> <p>Takes on a coordination role and resource person for the project's planned training activities on GR.</p> <p>Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 3.1.1-3</p>
National expert on organization and animation of local communities	2,000	12	<p>Resource person for consultations with representatives of local communities and NGOs, to reflect their expectations and propose appropriate measures to strengthen the capacity of civil society and LCs, with particular emphasis on the role of women in relation to ABS.</p> <p>Also acts as a moderator during meetings in the domain of capacity building for local communities</p> <p>Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.3.2</p>
National expert on education and public awareness for biodiversity and ABS	2,000	11	<p>Participates in the elaboration of the national communication strategy and awareness on ABS, in collaboration with the international consultant</p>

			<p>responsible for PR.</p> <p>Following the strategy's definition, he takes charge of the effective implementation of activities as defined in the output on public awareness.</p> <p>Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.3.2</p>
National expert on information and database management related to GR and associated TK	2,000	6	<p>Design and delivery of the ABS database Management System (DBMS), suited for each type of record and according to needs of use, in cooperation with the project manager and international consultants</p> <p>Output 2.3.1</p>
National expert on inventory and valorization of marine GR	2,000	3	<p>His/her role will be to prepare and analyze data (databases) on the identification component of marine genetic resources that may be subject to valorization under the ABS framework.</p> <p>Assumes a resource person role for this type of GR and provides expertise in training workshops on those GR.</p> <p>Output 3.1.1-3</p>
<b>International</b>			
International expert ( focusing on the establishment of an online permit and monitoring system	3000	12	<p>Provide technical advice for the setting up the online permit and monitoring system</p> <p>Output 2.3.1</p>

International consultants to advise in the implementation of the pilots under component 3 of the project	3000	9	Provide advice in the implementation of the pilots, lead liaison with ex situ collections and national/international research institutions involved in the Implementation of the pilot  Component 3
International Legal expert on national and international implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	3000	12	Provides high-level assistance through consulting and capacity reinforcement services for the implementation of a regulatory and institutional framework. Provide advice in the drafting of the laws/regulations.  Outputs 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 3.1.1-3
International expert on communication and public awareness regarding ABS	3000	6	Develop a national communication strategy and awareness on ABS, with a list of topics, calendar, activities, assessment tools, and of a list of target-groups.  Advice and support the manager to promote the project's results.  Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.3.2
<p>Justification for Travel, if any:</p> <p>Field visits for local information gathering and assessments; Input to and guidance at the regular local and national project coordination meetings and workshops/capacity development exercises</p>			

## TORs - National Project Manager

### Duties and Responsibilities

**The national project manager will have management (~25%) and technical tasks (~75%).**

#### Objectives:

1. Coordinate daily management of the project's administrative and financial obligations.
2. Supervision of the overall preparation of the project's two components and of consultations with stakeholders. Responsible for timely elaboration and finalization of the project's objectives.

#### Main tasks:

- Ensure timely and effective implementation of the project's objective, outcomes, outputs and activities;
- Prepare detailed work and financial plans (including timeline and description of activities), to be submitted to the Steering Committee and UNEP for approval;
- Develop ToR for contractual services companies, consultants, experts, and all necessary project documents in liaison with the Task Manager UNEP;
- Supervise/ oversee consultants' works, and endorse deliverables in liaison with the Project Steering Committee and other relevant bodies;
- Contribute to organize project activities when necessary. This may include planning meetings, local and national workshops, field visits and other project related activities;
- Supervise the team of consultants involved in the ABS project and bear overall responsibility for timely preparation and delivery of documents to UNEP and GEF, strictly respecting schedules and applying quality control protocols.
- Ensure that the launch meeting leads to the delivery of a clear road map on the scope of services and project tasks to be undertaken under the supervision of key implementing partners and UNDP technical staff.
- Submit revised preliminary versions of all studies and reports on ABS project activities for reviewing and finalization to key implementing partners, national consultants, and UNDP technical staff.
- Lead the development of the project's technical work plan and coordinate consultants' contributions and output, and ensure quality control of technical deliverables.
- Ensure delivery of results and implementation according to approved work plans.
- Develop a comprehensive mapping and implementation plan of executing partners towards the project's activities.
- Lead the CHM updating process.
- Prepare the project's monitoring reports, and more specifically the short PIR, risk log and report on lessons learned.

#### Competencies/Qualifications

##### Core qualifications:

- Good Management Skills
- Efficient communication skills (orally and in writing), in order to transmit complex technical information to both technical staff and the general public;
- Good leadership, coordination and facilitation skills;
- Familiar with the situation in Bahamas
- Proven ability to draft project documents (publications, reports and related documents);
- Proven ability to collect, verify and analyze information, as well as to finalize and present research with a high degree of accuracy and technical quality;
- Good knowledge and understanding of decisions and processes related to the CBD and Nagoya Protocol;
- Previous experience in the development of ABS strategies is an asset.

##### Experience required:

- Advanced university degree preferably advanced (master or doctoral degree) in natural, environmental sciences, economic or social, or management;

- At least 10 years of experience in managing national or international projects - at least 3 in a management position - in the field of policy or management of biodiversity and genetic resources;
- Solid monitoring and evaluation competencies;
- Previous experience of work with GEF projects is a considerable asset;
- Excellent command of English

Reports to: Director, BEST Commission

**ANNEX F-1 : DETAILED GEF BUDGET / ANNEX F-2: DETAILED CO-FINANCE BUDGET (SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS)**

## ANNEX G: MONITORING AND EVALUATION BUDGET AND WORKPLAN

### Template for Costed M&E Workplan (to be inserted in the CEO endorsement template)

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	Project Manager (PM) and Project Management Unit (PMU)	25,000	18,000	Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	PM and PMU		2,000	1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	PM and PMU	10,000	10,000	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	PM and PMU		3,000	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Project Steering Committee meetings	PM and PMU; UNEP TM	40,000	40,000	At least once a year, and via electronic media per request and need
Reports of PSC meetings	PM and PMU		5,000	Within 1 month after PSC meeting
PIR	PM and PMU		3,000	Annually, part of reporting routine (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Monitoring visits to field sites	PM and PMU; UNEP TM	20,000	15,000	As appropriate
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	UNEP TM and EO	25,000		At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	UNEP EO	25,000		Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Audit	PM and PMU	10,000		Annually
Project Final Report	PM and PMU		2,000	Within 2 months of the project completion date (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Co-financing report	PM and PMU		2,000	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	PM and PMU	30,000	30,000	Annually, also part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
<b>Total M&amp;E Plan Budget</b>		<b>185,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	

## ANNEX H: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### • DESCRIBE THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

UNEP's **Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)** is the GEF Agency (or Implementing Agency, IA) for the Project on behalf of the GEF Secretariat, with the following roles:

- Provide consistent and regular Project oversight to ensure the achievement of Project objectives,
- Liaise between the Project and the GEF Secretariat,
- Ensure that both GEF and UNEP policy requirements and standards are applied to and are met (reporting obligations, technical, fiduciary, M&E),
- Ensure timely disbursement/sub-allotment of funds to the executing agency (EA), based on the agreed legal documents,
- Approve budget revision, certify fund availability and transfer funds,
- Organize mid- and end-term evaluations and audit,
- Provide technical support and assessment of the execution of the Project,
- Provide guidance if requested to main TORs/MOUs and subcontracts issued by the Project,
- Follow-up with EA for progress, equipment, financial and audit reports,
- Certify project operational completion.
- Member of the Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The **Bahamas Environment Science and Technology (BEST) Commission** of the Ministry of Housing and the Environment is the Executing Agency (EA) of the Project on behalf of the government of The Bahamas. Its main responsibilities include:

- Oversee Project execution in accordance with the project results framework and budget, the agreed work plan and reporting tasks;
- Support the Project Management Unit (PMU) in coordinating project activities at national and local levels;
- Provide technical expertise through its personnel and networks;
- Ensure technical quality of products, outputs and deliverables;
- Provide guidance and coordination to the PMU and Bahamian stakeholders;
- Facilitate access to sites and locations;
- Support logistical issues, e.g. through organization of meetings and provision of relevant facilities;
- Support the PMU in regular Project reporting, incl. progress, financial and audit reporting to IA;
- Chair the project steering committee.

If such need arises, the EA will notify the IA, in writing, of its intention to modify the agreed implementation plan and budget, and will seek approval from UNEP, the Government of The Bahamas and the Project Steering Committee. It will also rectify any issues raised by IA with respect to project execution in a timely manner.

The **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** will provide strategic direction and oversight to project management. The PSC will be a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral body covering related environment areas of practice. The PSC will include representatives of relevant government agencies, academic institutions and other stakeholder representatives, including but not limited to the *Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health, Bahamas Agricultural Investment Corporation, College of the Bahamas, Bahamas Agricultural and Marine Science Institute, Bahamas National Trust, BREEF*; UNEP representatives and the Bahamian CBD focal point will also take membership in the PSC. It will meet at least once a year, or more often according to expressed need, to review the progress, approve the work plan and budget, provide direction and guidance, and assist in project implementation as well as build synergies with other complementing initiatives. The EA will provide support services, as required.

The **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be located at the **BEST Commission**; it will consist of:

- The Project Manager,
- The Project Administrative and Financial Assistant,
- Other as required

Its roles comprise:

- Ensure Project execution, including all technical aspects;
- Ensure Project governance and oversight of the financial resources from the GEF investment;
- Provide staff time and expertise in guiding and advancing the project;
- Provide Project reporting according to the supervision plan;
- Share all achievements and products of the project with all relevant stakeholders;
- Prepare and manage ToR, contracts and MoU with consultants and project partners using appropriate legal instruments;
- Ensure that consultants and project partner organizations deliver against their contracts and in time;
- Organize the Steering Committee meetings and serve as its secretariat;
- Overall management and implementation of the Project M&E framework to evaluate project performance;
- Management of the flow of information from the field to the Project collaborators, and producing periodic monitoring reports.

**Project collaborators:** Partner organizations, sectoral ministries, scientific institutions, private sector organizations and NGO from The Bahamas and beyond will be involved in the Project to provide expertise in environmental knowledge and information management, regular updates on environmental management in the country, staff time and experience in guiding and advancing the activities' implementation, support the Project with robust field data on environmental issues at stake, linking with stakeholders, including at local level for project implementation and for receiving and transferring stakeholder input and feedback.

National and international consultancy services will be called in as required for specific tasks, such as needs assessments, legal advice, indicator development, capacity development and training for key stakeholder groups, or modelling. Consulting services will be procured in accordance with applicable UNEP/GEF Guidelines.

• **DESCRIBE THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE**

The PMU is responsible for the daily implementation of the project, including all reporting and monitoring and evaluation duties, as well as the follow-up of all contractual tasks. The PMU liaises with all project partners, and receives their technical advice and support. At the same time, the PMU serves as secretariat to the Project Steering Committee.

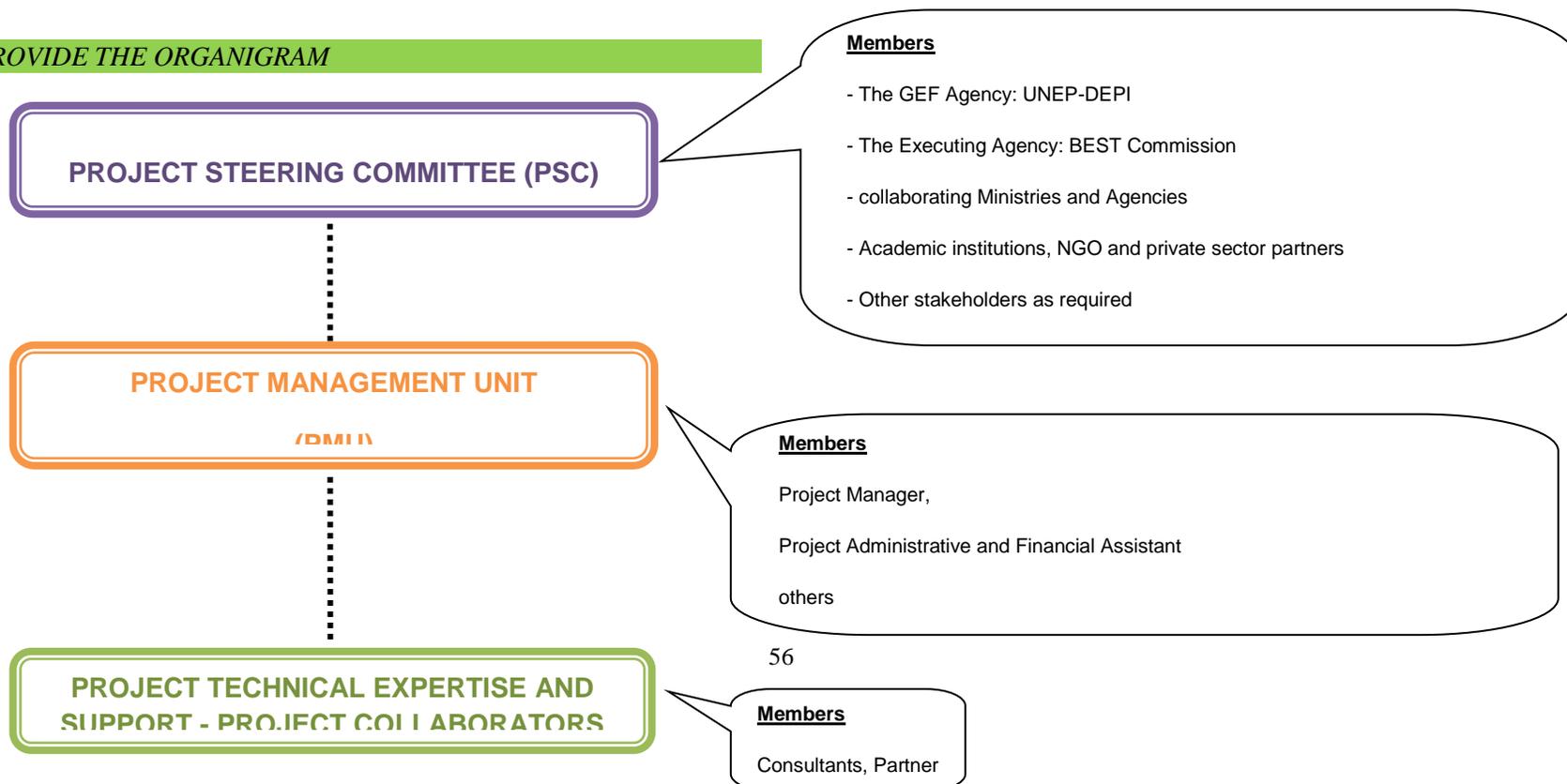
• **DESCRIBE THE EXTERNAL STRUCTURE**

The Project Steering Committee, chaired by the BEST Commission, is in charge of project oversight and overall guidance. It will meet at least on an annual basis or according to the project's needs.

• **DESCRIBE THE OVERSIGHT MECHANISM**

The main oversight body for the project is its Steering Committee, comprised of the Implementing Agency, the Executing Agency and representatives of all main partners and stakeholder groups. Further monitoring and evaluation procedures of the project, including regular reporting duties, are detailed in Annex G and Appendix 5. The Executing Agency can undertake field visits at any stage and is tasked to support the mid-term review and terminal evaluation and audit of the project.

• **PROVIDE THE ORGANIGRAM**



**Annex I: Workplan and timetable**

		Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	<b>Output and Activities Description</b>	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 5	Quarter 6	Quarter 7	Quarter 8	Quarter 9	Quarter 10	Quarter 11	Quarter 12
<b>COMPONENT 1 – National Strategy on ABS and accession to the Nagoya Protocol</b>													
<b>1.1.1</b>	<b>Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for The Bahamas developed in a consultative process</b>												
1.1.1.1	Conduct assessment on stakeholder roles and responsibilities in ABS, including stakeholder mapping and analysis												
1.1.1.2	Conduct an ABS capacity needs assessment to define key ABS strategic orientations/ goals												
1.1.1.3	Undertake consultations through workshops (in all family Islands) to get input on the draft ABS Strategy												
1.1.1.4	Organisation of a multi-stakeholder validation workshop to validate the ABS strategy												
<b>1.1.2</b>	<b>Awareness among decision and lawmakers on opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol is raised</b>												
1.1.2.1	Development of awareness and outreach materials on the Nagoya Protocol for decision makers												
1.1.2.2	Organization of workshops and briefing												

.2	sessions for government officials and decision makers												
<b>1.1.3</b>	<b>Legal documents needed for ratification /accession are drafted</b>												
1.1.3 .1	Undertaking a study on implications of accession, including cost benefit analysis and rationale												
1.1.3 .2	Development of a manual on accession the Protocol including templates for briefing documents for high government officials												
1.1.3 .3	Organizing parliamentary briefings with key member of environmental related commission												
<b>COMPONENT 2 – National enabling environment for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol</b>													
<b>2.1.1</b>	<b>Consultations and public awareness campaigns with relevant stakeholders ( including consultations and awareness raising to increase understanding of issues of intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to ABS)</b>												
2.1.1 .1	Development of toolkits to raise awareness of government officials and other stakeholders on ABS												
2.1.1 .2	Organization of workshops for government officials and other stakeholders on thematic issues of relevance to ABS implementation												
2.1.1 .3	Organization of workshops for journalists and other media and communication experts on ABS												

2.2.1	<b>Policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS drafted and submitted for approval by legislature, inclusive of appointment of National Focal Point and Competent National Authority</b>												
2.1.2 .1	Undertaking a comprehensive analysis (including gap analysis) of laws/regulations of relevance to ABS												
2.1.2 .2	Organization of training sessions among laws makers/drafters on the Nagoya Protocol												
2.1.2 .3	Drafting of required legislation/ regulations												
2.1.2 .4	Organization of consultative workshops to validate draft text before its official submission												
2.1.2 .5	Organization of training workshops for relevant institutions (including the designated NCA on ABS and the Nagoya Protocol												
2.3.1	<b>(On line) administrative procedures for ABS Agreements with Prior Informed Consent [PIC], Mutually Agreed Terms [MAT], and Benefit Sharing approved and available for use. Monitoring system for research and bioprospecting permits, ABS Agreements developed and implemented.</b>												
2.3.1 .1	Develop a pilot permit system at an early stage (Year 1) accommodating the principles of agile development wherever possible												
2.3.1 .2	Implement and continue the development of the system with regular periodic review by users												



3.1.1 .2	Develop concepts and materials for university ABS education and professional ABS training												
3.1.1 .3	Test materials in ABS courses and workshops												
<b>3.1.2</b>	<b>Pilot 2. Adjusted partnerships with ex situ collections take up ABS policies</b>												
3.1.2 .1	Undertake study providing overview on Bahamian resources held in ex situ collection and analysis of existing ABS policies of ex-situ collections												
3.1.2 .2	Partnership dialogues with selected ex-situ collections to discuss ABS policy for new utilisations of Bahamian genetic resources												
<b>3.1.3</b>	<b>Pilot 3. ABS agreement integrates monitoring system for BD and sustainable use</b>												
3.1.1 .1	Development of a population model												
3.1.3 .1.2	Development of a management plan												
3.1.3 3	Undertake model validation/ analysis												
3.1.3 .4	Workshops to bring together Partners to negotiate on terms and condition of the Agreement												

**Annex I (continued): Key deliverables and benchmarks**

Component/Outcome/Outputs	Deliverables	Benchmarks
<b>1 National Strategy on ABS and accession to the Nagoya Protocol</b>		
<b>Outcome 1.1: National Strategy and Accession to the Nagoya Protocol support mainstreaming of ABS into environmental policy</b>		
1.1.1 Access and Benefit Sharing Strategy for The Bahamas developed in a consultative process	1 stakeholder assessment 1 capacity needs assessment 1 ABS Strategy	Documented appraisal approach and engagement with respective ministries and core stakeholder groups  Assessment results and ABS Strategy are accepted by key stakeholders
1.1.2 Awareness among decision and lawmakers on opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol is raised	1 set of support documentation for awareness and outreach seminars  A series of seminars	Support documentation meets stakeholder needs  Active participation in and demand for seminars
1.1.3 Legal documents needed for ratification /accession are drafted	1 study on accession implications 1 accession manual A series of parliamentary briefings 1 set of accession documents	Close involvement of the BEST and other relevant environmental commissions

<b>2 National enabling environment for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol</b>
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<b>Outcome 2.1: Increased understanding of the national benefits to be accrued through ABS</b>
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2.1.1 Consultations and public awareness campaigns with relevant stakeholders (including consultations and awareness raising to increase understanding of issues of intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to ABS)	1 toolkit for ABS awareness raising  A set of workshops for the public and relevant stakeholder groups on ABS implementation	ABS workshops actively requested by stakeholder groups and the public  80% of stakeholder groups reached through consultations and campaigns
<b>Outcome 2.2: National ABS legal framework adopted</b>		
2.2.1 Policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS drafted and submitted for approval by legislature, inclusive of appointment of National Focal Point and Competent National Authority	1 legal assessment  Trainings on legal implications of ABS  1 ABS legal framework and related regulations	Legal framework and regulations validated by relevant stakeholders and submitted for government endorsement
<b>Outcome 2.3: Strengthened national institutional capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework</b>		
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. Monitoring system for research and bioprospecting permits, ABS Agreements developed and implemented	1 ABS permit system and related administrative procedures  1 report on lessons learned and experiences	Adaptive system responds to user feedback and lessons learned
2.3.2 Capacity built within competent authorities for initiating and negotiating contracts/agreements	1 manual for MAT, incl. on IPR  MAT negotiation trainings	Manuals available for use by main stakeholder groups and explained in trainings

### 3: Applied ABS arrangements in The Bahamas

#### Outcome 3.1: ABS principles applied to adjusted commercial and non-commercial research permits

<p>3.1.1. 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>1 training course for university-based ABS education 1 training on applying for ABS permits</p>	<p>Demand from researchers and ex-situ collector in being involved in ABS trainings</p>
<p>3.1.2. Adjusted partnerships with ex situ collections take up ABS policies</p>	<p>1 study on ex-situ collections and analysis of relevant ABS policies</p>	<p>Demand from researchers and ex-situ collector in being involved in ABS trainings</p>
<p>3.1.3. ABS agreement integrates monitoring system for BD and sustainable use</p>	<p>1 population model 1 management plan 1 ABS monitoring system</p>	<p>All relevant stakeholders engage in the agreements' development process</p>

**ANNEX J: OFP ENDORSEMENT LETTER (SEPARATE ATTACHMENT)**  
**ANNEX K: CO-FINANCE LETTERS (SEPARATE ATTACHMENT)**

## ANNEX L: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS CHECKLIST

As part of the GEFs evolving Fiduciary Standards that Implementing Agencies have to address ‘Environmental and Social Safeguards’. To fill this checklist:

- STEP 1: Initially assess E&S Safeguards as part of PIF development. The checklist is to be submitted for the CRC.
- STEP 2 : Check list is reviewed during PPG project preparation phase and updated as required
- STEP 3 : Final check list submitted for PRC showing what activities are being undertaken to address issues identified

### UNEP/GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards Checklist

<b><i>Project Title:</i></b>	<b><i>Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the Bahamas</i></b>		
<b><i>GEF project ID and UNEP ID/IMIS Number</i></b>	<b><i>5744 01262</i></b>	<b><i>Version of checklist</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>
<b><i>Project status (preparation, implementation, MTE/MTR, TE)</i></b>	<b><i>Preparation</i></b>	<b><i>Date of this version:</i></b>	<b><i>19 July 2015</i></b>
<b><i>Checklist prepared by (Name, Title, and Institution)</i></b>	<b><i>Olivier Rukundo, consultant Kristin McLaughlin, UNEP</i></b>		

*In completing the checklist both short- and long-term impact shall be considered.*

#### ***Section A: Project location***

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	<i>Yes/No/ N.A.</i>	<i>Comment/explanation</i>
- Is the project area in or close to -		
- densely populated area	Yes	No negative impacts are foreseen. To the contrary, integration of ABS schemes into environmental policy and decision making will have positive environmental, conservational and socio-economic effects in the mid- and long term
- cultural heritage site	No	
- protected area	Yes	See above
- wetland	Yes	See above
- mangrove	Yes	See above
- estuarine	No	
- buffer zone of protected area	Yes	See above
- special area for protection of biodiversity	No	

- Will project require temporary or permanent support facilities?	No	Existing facilities will be used
<i>If the project is anticipated to impact any of the above areas an Environmental Survey will be needed to determine if the project is in conflict with the protection of the area or if it will cause significant disturbance to the area.</i>		

**Section B: Environmental impacts**

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	<i>Yes/No/N.A.</i>	<i>Comment/explanation</i>
- Are ecosystems related to project fragile or degraded?	Yes	The uncontrolled and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and their genetic resources is exactly the concern of the project interventions
- Will project cause any loss of precious ecology, ecological, and economic functions due to construction of infrastructure?	No	
- Will project cause impairment of ecological opportunities?	No	
- Will project cause increase in peak and flood flows? (including from temporary or permanent waste waters)	No	
- Will project cause air, soil or water pollution?	No	
- Will project cause soil erosion and siltation?	No	
- Will project cause increased waste production?	No	
- Will project cause Hazardous Waste production?	No	
- Will project cause threat to local ecosystems due to invasive species?	No	
- Will project cause Greenhouse Gas Emissions?	No	
- Other environmental issues, e.g. noise and traffic	No	
<i>Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.</i>		

**Section C: Social impacts**

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	<i>Yes/No/N.A.</i>	<i>Comment/explanation</i>
- Does the project respect internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property and uniqueness and rights of indigenous people?	Yes	
- Are property rights on resources such as land tenure recognized by the existing laws in affected countries?	Yes	
- Will the project cause social problems and conflicts related to land tenure and access to resources?	No	
- Does the project incorporate measures to allow affected	Yes	

stakeholders' information and consultation?		
- Will the project affect the state of the targeted country's institutional context?	Yes	The Project aims at facilitating the implementation of the obligations and provisions of the Nagoya Protocol into the national legal system. This includes recommendations for institutional changes so as to establish a competent national authority and permitting system in line to guide the granting of PIC and the negotiation of MAT in the context of implementing the Nagoya Protocol. The overall aim is to foster natural resources management and to strengthen conservation incentives and related resource flows
- Will the project cause change to beneficial uses of land or resources? (incl. loss of downstream beneficial uses (water supply or fisheries)?	Yes	The overall aim is to foster natural resources management and to strengthen conservation incentives and related resource flows through Access and Benefit Sharing
- Will the project cause technology or land use modification that may change present social and economic activities?	No	
- Will the project cause dislocation or involuntary resettlement of people?	No	
- Will the project cause uncontrolled in-migration (short- and long-term) with opening of roads to areas and possible overloading of social infrastructure?	No	
- Will the project cause increased local or regional unemployment?	No	
- Does the project include measures to avoid forced or child labour?	N.A.	
- Does the project include measures to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for workers employed as part of the project?	N.A.	
- Will the project cause impairment of recreational opportunities?	N.A.	
- Will the project cause impairment of indigenous people's livelihoods or belief systems?	No	
- Will the project cause disproportionate impact to women or other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups?	No	To the contrary, project interventions aim at

		increasing socio-economic benefits for marginalized groups in the longer term
- Will the project involve and or be complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any critical cultural heritage?	No	
- Does the project include measures to avoid corruption?	Yes	Broad stakeholder engagement and participation will establish checks and balances against misappropriation opportunities
<i>Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.</i>		

**Section D: Other considerations**

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	<i>Yes/No /N.A.</i>	<i>Comment/explanation</i>
- Does national regulation in affected country (-ies) require EIA and/or ESIA for this type of activity?	No	
- Is there national capacity to ensure a sound implementation of EIA and/or SIA requirements present in affected country (-ies)?	Yes	
- Is the project addressing issues, which are already addressed by other alternative approaches and projects?	No	
- Will the project components generate or contribute to cumulative or long-term environmental or social impacts?	Yes	Improved management opportunities for natural resource use; strengthened conservation incentives and increased resource flows for sustainable use; fostered recognition of indigenous knowledge and uses.
- Is it possible to isolate the impact from this project to monitor E&S impact?	Yes	The project will establish an M&E platform to measure environmental and social impacts.

## Annex M: Procurement Plan Template

<b>UNEP/GEF Project Procurement Plan</b>					
<b>Project title and number</b>		Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the Bahamas, GEF ID 5744; UNEP ID 01262			
<b>UNEP Budget Line</b>		<b>List of Goods and Services required</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Year {Note 1}</b>	<b>Brief description of anticipated procurement process {Note 2}</b>
1201	Intl. legal advisor	Provides high-level assistance through consulting and capacity reinforcement services for the implementation of a regulatory and institutional framework. Provide advice in the drafting of the laws/regulations	36,000	2016-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee
1202	Intl. monitoring & ABS permit expert	Provide technical advice for the setting up the online permit and monitoring System	36,000	2016-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee
1203	Intl. expert on ABS application	Provide advice in the implementation of the pilots, lead liaison with ex situ collections and national/international research institutions involved in the Implementation of the pilot	27,000	2016-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee
1204	Intl. ABS awareness raising expert	Develop a national communication strategy and awareness on ABS, with a list of topics, calendar, activities, assessment tools, and of a list of target-groups. Advice and support the manager to promote the project's results.	18,000	2016-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee

1205	Natl. env. lawyer	Assumes a role of coordination and contact person for the implementation of an appropriate regulatory and institutional framework for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Lead drafter of the national draft Law on ABS, including all implementing regulations, in collaboration with other national and international consultants.	30,000	2016-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee
1206	Natl. traditional knowledge expert	Plays a key part in the team of consultants with regard to the role and rights of local communities, for the protection of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in the context of ABS.	16,000	2016-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee
1207	Natl. IT, database and monitoring experts	Programming/ setting technical functions of the online permit and monitoring system Design and delivery of the ABS database Management System (DBMS), suited for each type of record and according to needs of use, in cooperation with the project coordinator and international consultants	42,000	2016-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee
1208	Natl. expert on ABS and research links	Plays a key part in the team of consultants with regard to documentation of existing genetic resources in Bahamas. Works closely with specialized national contact persons on categories of GR (agricultural, wild plants, marine, domestic fauna, wild animals, microorganisms, etc.). Provides relevant technical and scientific information to legal experts and to expert interacting with the private sector. Takes on a coordination role and resource person for the project's planned training activities on GR.	24,000	2016-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee

1209	Natl. outreach and awareness raising experts	Resource person for consultations with representatives of local communities and NGOs, to reflect their expectations and propose appropriate measures to strengthen the capacity of civil society and LCs, with particular emphasis on the role of women in relation to ABS. Also acts as a moderator during meetings in the domain of capacity building for local communities Participates in the elaboration of the national communication strategy and awareness on ABS, in collaboration with the international consultant responsible for PR. Following the strategy's definition, he takes charge of the effective implementation of activities as defined in the output on public awareness.	46,000	2016-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee
1210	Natl. expert on marine genetic resources	His/her role will be to prepare and analyze data (databases) on the identification component of marine genetic resources that may be subject to valorization under the ABS framework. Assumes a resource person role for this type of GR and provides expertise in training workshops on those GR.	6,000	2017-18	TOR will be prepared and a call for bids be issued. After reviewing all the candidatures, depending upon qualification/experience the best ones will be selected by a panel. Project manager will issue the contract in close collaboration with the Steering Committee
2201	SSFAs for assessments and plan development	Development of population model and analysis (Output 3.2.1)	425,000	2016-18	A number of national or regional organizations will be considered. Depending upon qualification/experience the best one will be selected by conducting a due diligence process.
4201	IT hard- and software for online permit system	Programs and installations that will establish functional data collection and processing as well as exchange between entities in the Bahamas.	40,000	2016-18	A number of companies will be considered. Selection will be conducted either by an RFP or an RFQ according to the final technical specifications
4202	Office supplies	Computer, office materials	9,000	2016-18	A number of companies will be considered. Selection will be conducted either by an RFP or an RFQ according to the final technical specifications

5101	IT maintenance	Maintenance of ABS permitting system and server	9,000	2016-18	A number of companies will be considered. Selection will be conducted either by an RFP or an RFQ according to the final technical specifications
<b>Note 1 - Year when goods/services will be procured</b>					
<b>Note 2 - Based on your organization's procurement procedures, and in compliance with UNEP rules and procedures,</b>					
	<b>briefly explain how the service provider/consultant/vendor will be selected</b>				

## ANNEX N: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
AMMC	The Antiquities, Monuments & Museum Corporation
BAIC	Bahamas Agricultural Investment Corporation
BAMSI	Bahamas Agricultural and Marine Science Institute
BD	Biodiversity
BEST	Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission, Ministry of Housing and Environment
BNT	Bahamas National Trust
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
COB	College of the Bahamas
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DEPI	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP
DELC	Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP
DMR	Department of Marine Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEF-OFPP	GEF Operational Focal Points
GIZ	German Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH)
GIZ (ABS-CDI)	German Technical Cooperation (ABS – Capacity Development Initiative)
GR	Genetic Resources
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
MAT	Mutually Agreed Terms
MEA	Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreement
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTR/MTE	Mid-Term Review / Evaluation
NBSAP	National Biodiversity and Action Plan
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NISP	National Implementation Strategic Partnership
NP	Nagoya Protocol
NPM	National Project Manager
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
PIF	Project Information Form
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
ROLAC	UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely Indicators
TA	Technical Assistance
TOR	Terms of Reference
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TT	Tracking Tools
UEBT	Union of Ethical Biotrade
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

