



# REQUEST FOR CEO APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: NPIF

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## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Gabon - Implementation of national strategy and action plan on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits accruing from their utilization			
Country(ies):	Gabon	GEF Project ID:	5882
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01311
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Forest, Environment & Protection of Natural Resources UNEP-DELIC	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration(Months)	36
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):	NA	Project Agency Fee (\$):	82,004
	<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>1</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.	NPIF	863,200	1,940,000
<b>Total project costs</b>				<b>863,200</b>	<b>1,940,000</b>

### B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

**Project Objective: To implement the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit sharing through a coordinated and coherent strategy that incorporates awareness raising and capacity development**

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
1 Strengthening capacity of stakeholders	TA	1.1 Strengthened capacity for implementation of Nagoya Protocol and provisions	1.1.1 Definition of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the ABS processes. 1.1.2 Organization of seminars for communication, education and awareness raising of the public (CEPA) on ABS	NPIF	296,500	790,000

<sup>1</sup> Refer to the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](#) when completing Table A.  
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			<p>matters</p> <p>1.1.3 Training on ABS procedures for the main stakeholders of indigenous and local communities (ILC) and staff of the administrations involved (customs, ministries of forests, environment, trade, research)</p>				
2 Regulatory framework on ABS	TA	2.1 Regulatory and administrative procedures for ABS are developed and submitted for validation and application	<p>2.1.1 Elaboration of an ABS law and regulations</p> <p>2.1.2 Development of procedures for granting access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits (PIC, MAT, manuals)</p>	NPIF	239,880	500,000	
3 Institutional Framework for the Nagoya Protocol	TA	3.1 The institutional ABS framework is established and operational	<p>3.1.1 Establishment of a Competent National Authority (ABS-CNA)</p> <p>3.1.2 Establishment and enhancement of a clearing house and information exchange center for ABS (ABS CH)</p> <p>3.1.3 Identification et designation of surveillance and check points for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources</p>	NPIF	240,500	500,000	
Subtotal						776,880	1,790,000
Project management Cost (PMC)				NPIF	86,320	150,000	
<b>Total project costs</b>						<b>863,200</b>	<b>1,940,000</b>

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

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the projeSct with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
National Government	Govt. of Gabon, Environment Ministry	Cash	300,000
National Government	Govt. of Gabon, Environment Ministry	In-kind	800,000
Others	IUCN	In-kind	150,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	40,000
CSO	Brainforest	In-kind	150,000
CSO	Foret Developpement	In-kind	150,000

CSO	CIAJE	In-kind	50,000
CSO	FENSED	In-kind	150,000
Others	WWF	In-kind	150,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			1,940,000

**D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c=a+b
UNEP	NPIF	Biodiversity	Gabon	863,200	82,004	945,204
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				863,200	82,004	945,204

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

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	108,000	50,000	158,000
National/Local Consultants	147,000	400,000	547,000

**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>2</sup>**

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NA NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.  
No changes; information of PIF is still relevant. This project contributes to the Nagoya Protocol decision NP-1/7.  
[www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/NP-MOP-01/np-mop-01-dec-07-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/NP-MOP-01/np-mop-01-dec-07-en.pdf)

A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.  
No changes; information of PIF is still relevant

A.3 The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage:  
No changes; information of PIF is still relevant

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

Gabon is located on the Atlantic coast of Central Africa, on the equator and shares its borders with the Gulf of Guinea to the west, Equatorial Guinea to the northwest, and Cameroon to the north, with the Republic of the Congo curving around the east and south. Its size is almost 270,000 km<sup>2</sup> with an estimated population of 1,500,000. There are three distinct regions: the coastal plains (ranging between 20 to 300 km from the ocean's shore), the mountains (Cristal Mountains to the northeast of Libreville and the Chaillu Massif in the centre, culminating at 1575 m with Mont Iboundji), and the savanna in the east. Gabon has a relatively small (estimated at 1.5 million inhabitants in 2009) and

<sup>2</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.

highly urbanized (86 percent) population. It is a resource- rich country, well endowed with forest resources (which cover 85 percent of its land area) and is the second-largest timber producer after Cameroon. Gabon's forests are amongst the richest in Africa in terms of botanical diversity and endemism for example, 22% of plants described in the Flora of Gabon are endemic and the forests of Gabon have more plant species (estimated at 8000 species) than all of the forests of West Africa combined. The fauna is also rich, estimated at more than 190 mammal species, including at least 20 species of monkeys, more than 600 species of birds, 70 species of reptiles and 100 species of amphibians

The specific problem that this project will address is the lack of a functioning national legal, political and institutional framework in Gabon to allow it to implement and meet its obligations as a Party to the Nagoya Protocol. The current regulatory and institutional landscape is not adequate to foster the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, and Gabon is therefore missing out on socio-economic benefits from research on and the use of products derived from bio-genetic resources. Such socio-economic benefits would accrue in an ABS system compliant with the Nagoya Protocol and could be used to bolster biodiversity conservation and management, so as to contribute to a better functioning ABS system.

#### Legal and institutional baseline information

Gabon has over the recent years demonstrated a clear political commitment towards the conservation of biodiversity.

This has for instance translated into the creation of 13 National Parks in 2002, as well as policy reforms to develop a strong governance for forest management since the 1990s. There is also a recognition of the importance of environmental services in policy and strategy documents. In May 2004, the Government adopted a Letter of Sector Policy, which set out the governance and policy reform agenda for increasing the contribution of natural resources to economic diversification and to poverty reduction. The Letter of Policy emphasized greater transparency and law enforcement for forest, biodiversity, and fisheries. This Letter of Policy aimed to provide a collaborative framework for the preparation of Gabon's Forest and Environment Sector Program (PSFE). The Republic of Gabon has adopted the Law n°007/2014 on the protection of the environment in the Republic of Gabon ("Environment Law"). The Environment Law, which repealed the law n°016/93 dated 26 August 1993, was promulgated on 1st August 2014. The issues of Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) are indirectly addressed in Article 74 of Law 007/2014 which stipulates that "in order to sustainably manage the wildlife, the State shall preserve the genetic heritage and maintain the ecological balance so as to avoid overexploitation or extinction'

In 2012, Gabon adopted a national strategy on ABS which was based on the ABS Common Strategy adopted in 2010 for all the 10 COMIFAC countries. The strategy's main objective was to provide the basis for Gabon to develop a national access regime on Access and Benefit Sharing which takes into account, inter alia, the protection of Traditional Knowledge, Innovation and Traditional Practices (ICTP) of Indigenous and Local Communities (CAL) in accordance with local realities and with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol. The strategy provides specific guidance for the development and adoption of measures to provide Gabon with a transparent framework for regulating access and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The specific objectives stipulated in the strategy include:

- Strengthening/developing the capacity of stakeholders on ABS;
- Promoting the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and other relevant instruments on ABS;
- Contributing to the fight against poverty and support efforts to ensure food security, human health and cultural integrity;
- Encourage and guide the taxonomic research nationally.

The research undertaken during the PPG phase thus highlighted that there is a strong legal framework for environmental protection which is evidenced by the numerous texts highlighting the important of sustainable management of resources and the conservation of biodiversity. Although the importance of biodiversity and environmental services is recognized in certain policy documents and legislation, the issue of access and benefit sharing is only scantily referred to in these laws and policies. The strategy nevertheless provides a strong basis for the development of legislative, administrative, and policy measures to allow Gabon to meet its specific obligations under the Nagoya Protocol.

#### Institutional landscape

Research undertaken during the PPG phase showed that several national institutions have responsibilities to grant access permissions for the collection of genetic resources covered by the Nagoya Protocol in the territory of Gabon, for commercial, scientific or leisure purposes. These include:

- The National Center for Scientific and Technical Research (CENAREST), the technical body for coordination and implementation of the national research policy. One of the missions of the CENAREST is to exercise permanent control over the implementation of programs developed for non-national research organizations that use scientific materials from Gabon;
- The National Agency of National Parks (ANPN), whose mission, among others, is to implement the national policy for the protection of natural resources and natural processes, and fostering natural and cultural heritage in and through these parks, while balancing and stabilizing ecosystems;
- The General Directorate of Industries, Trade of Wood and Forest Products Promotion which is mandated to review applications for professional certification in the field of valuation forest products;
- The General Directorate of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DGFAP) whose mission is to implement government policy on wildlife management and protected areas;
- The Directorate General of Forest (DGF) in charge of supervision, control and monitoring of the management and production forests;
- The Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA) whose mission is to design and monitor the implementation of the Government's policy on fisheries and aquaculture.

There is therefore no designated entity or coordination body yet, to fulfil the administrative and institutional arrangements as stipulated by the Nagoya Protocol. Furthermore, there is a need to ensure coordination and to streamline permitting processes in Gabon to ensure the coherent implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Gabon.

A. 5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCE/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCE/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:  
No changes, PIF information still relevant.

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>Degree</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>
1. Nagoya Protocol receives low priority and stakeholders fail to engage in the project.	M	1. Public education and awareness activities in the country during the project. Capacity building and training should reinforce the importance of the project.
2. High staff turnover in government agencies and loss of important staff with their “corporate knowledge”.	H	2. Hedge risk by designing the implementation of the project so it will not overly rely on individual staff. Broad-based involvement of different public entities will provide a stable institutional framework for the ABS regime to be manageable. Training and capacity development will equally aim for a widely-spread ABS awareness among public servants, NGO, CBO and the public, so as to provide leverage against individual staff turnover.
3. Communities may oppose regulations that restrict their activities relevant to ABS	H	3. Thorough community consultation and awareness programmes and wherever possible encourage use the partnership approach with communities

4. lack of communication and coordination between participating agencies in-country	M	4. Set up communication procedures that are relevant to existing networks and processes (e.g. NBSAPs)
5. Political buy in to NP changes for the worse during the project	M	6. Public awareness, especially of parliamentarians and other legislators, to reinforce the country's obligations to the NP.

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives. The project will closely coordinate its activities and share its lessons learned with other ABS-related projects in the Region, as outlined in the PIF. Particularly the sub-regional project with the COMIFAC secretariat and UNEP-DELIC (GEF ID 5454) will provide many opportunities for synergies, through sub-regional information exchange and through mutually beneficial activities. Under the sub-regional project, for example, Gabon will develop a strategy for communications, education and awareness raising of the public (CEPA) the materials of which will support a series of CEPA seminars of this project and will inform the Gabonese ABS Clearing House, equally to be developed by this project.

As the CBD is a UNEP-administered Convention, it largely draws support for ABS legal and policy issues at global and regional levels through UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC). In line with UNEP's Programme of Work (PoW) 2014 – 2015, the current project falls within the Environmental Governance Sub-Programme contributing to Expected Accomplishment (b): "The capacity of countries to develop and enforce laws and strengthen institutions to achieve internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals, and to comply with related obligations is enhanced" and Output 2 "Legal technical assistance provided to support initiatives by countries to implement, monitor and achieve compliance with, and enforcement of, international environmental obligations, including those set out in multilateral environmental agreements". The project has also links with projects under the Ecosystems Management sub-programme including the ABS project for COMIFAC (GEF ID 5454).

While UNEP-DEPI will maintain its role as implementing agency with oversight functions, UNEP-DELIC through the Regional Biodiversity MEAs Focal Point for Africa<sup>3</sup> will assume the coordinating and co-executing functions in the proposed project in order to provide expertise needed to ensure quick implementation and the linkage to regional and international expert networks. Annex H outlines the implementing arrangements for the project in more detail.

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

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation. The engagement of stakeholder groups is a red thread linking most activities, outputs and outcomes of this project - stakeholders ranging from local and indigenous communities to NGO, governmental agencies and private sector entities to international organizations and enterprises interested in promoting and selling products with biogenetic origin from Gabon.

Roles, responsibilities and opportunities of these stakeholder groups in a national ABS system will be identified in-depth at the project start - feeding into a capacity needs analysis and capacity development strategy (Output 1.1.1). Communications, awareness raising and education of the public is key to instilling a broad-based interest in and knowledge of ABS opportunities (Output 1.1.2) and will provide the foundation for more in-depth training sessions for local stakeholders and resource users as well as the national administrations to be involved in an ABS regime, on technical, political and legal topics (Output 1.1.3), as well as how to provide feedback and input through the ABS clearing house (Output 3.1.2). The project will also seek to engage with the public entities and partners that were involved in establishing the National Biosafety Framework, to learn from their experiences and expertise in establishing a broad-based and participatory framework for a nascent or new field within biodiversity management and how to address capacity development challenges.

The ABS law and related regulations will equally be elaborated in close discussion with the relevant stakeholders

<sup>3</sup> DELIC's Regional Biodiversity MEAs Focal Point for Africa is based in ROA and works on ABS related topics and projects.

(Output 2.1.1), and a tool-kit for ABS management will be developed with those groups affected by the new ABS regime (Output 2.1.2) and for their use.

Below table summarizes major stakeholders current roles and their implication in the project and its results, i.e. the ABS system to be established.

The Gabonese private sector organizations do not yet have a role currently, and therefore do not show in the below table. It is, however, important to engage with private sector entities in establishing a national ABS system, as these play a critical part in lobbying, awareness raising and advocacy. Particularly for setting up PIC and MAT, the private sector needs to be involved and engaged so as to establish rules that are mutually agreed and adhered to. Another area for close engagement consists in defining and setting up of the ABS CH through the CNA, whereas the private sector would have reporting responsibilities for ABS-conform business engagements. Relevant business sectors for targeting include e.g. timber and forestry products; agro-food and fisheries; pharmaceuticals. The project will also engage with public agencies charged with supporting the private sector and engagement with it, such as Private Investment Promotion Agency (APIP), the Gabonese SME and SMI Promotion Agency (PromoGabon), the Gabon Assistance and Guarantee Fund (FAGA) and the Development and Expansion Fund (FODEX).

Name	Classification	Current role	Envisaged role in the project and the Gabonese ABS system
<b>DGEPN</b> Direction Générale de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental policy making and coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project execution</li> <li>Chair of the Project Steering Committee (PSC)</li> <li>Active role in establishing and contributing to the Competent National Authority (CNA) system</li> <li>Active contributor and principal recipient of the ABS regulations</li> <li>Active collaboration in developing CEPA materials and conducting CEPA activities and in the ABS Clearing House (ABS CH)</li> </ul>
<b>DGFAP</b> Direction Générale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy making and coordination for Fauna and Protected Areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member of the PSC</li> <li>Active collaboration in developing CEPA materials and conducting CEPA activities and in the ABS Clearing House (ABS CH)</li> </ul>
<b>ANPN</b> Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Parks management and protection of natural resources</li> <li>Providing access permits to biological resources (research permits for the parks)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member of the PSC</li> <li>Active collaborator in the establishment of the CNA</li> <li>Active collaborator in the development of the legal framework for ABS</li> <li>Active collaboration in developing CEPA materials and conducting CEPA activities and in the ABS Clearing House (ABS CH)</li> </ul>
<b>DGF</b> Direction Générale de la Forêt	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forestry policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member of the PSC</li> <li>Active collaborator in the development of the legal framework for ABS</li> <li>Active collaboration in developing CEPA materials and conducting CEPA activities and in the ABS Clearing House (ABS CH)</li> </ul>
<b>DGICBVPF</b> Direction Générale des Industries, du Commerce du Bois et de la Valorisation des Produits Forestiers	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional accreditation of work for the valuation of Non-Timber Forest Products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active member in the system of national authorities responsible for issuing ABS permits (CNA)</li> <li>Active collaborator in the development of the legal framework for ABS</li> </ul>
<b>DGPA</b> Direction Générale de la Pêche et de	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy coordination for fisheries and aquaculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member of the PSC</li> <li>Active collaboration in developing CEPA materials and conducting CEPA activities and</li> </ul>

l'Aquaculture			in the ABS Clearing House (ABS CH)
<b>OGAPI</b> Office Gabonais de Propriété Industrielle	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of national policy on industrial and intellectual property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active member in the use of genetic resources monitoring system (check points)</li> </ul>
<b>DGDDI</b> Direction Générale des Douanes et des Droits Indirects	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Border controls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active member in the system to fight bio-piracy</li> </ul>
<b>HAAL</b> Haute Autorité de l'Aéroport de Libreville	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airport management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active member in the system to fight bio-piracy</li> </ul>
<b>Parliament and legislators</b>	Govt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active collaborators in establishing a national ABS system</li> <li>• Multipliers for public awareness</li> </ul>
<b>CENAREST</b> Centre National de Recherche Scientifique et Technique	Academic institution & research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permissions to access and collection of genetic resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the PSC</li> <li>• Active member in the system of national authorities responsible for issuing ABS permits (CNA)</li> <li>• Active collaboration in developing CEPA materials and conducting CEPA activities and in the ABS Clearing House (ABS CH)</li> </ul>
<b>FSBO</b> Fondation Sylvia BONGO ONDIMBA	Civil Society Organization, NGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User and collector of natural and bio-genetic resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active stakeholder in the development and implementation of the ABS system</li> </ul>
Other NGO	Civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying and awareness raising, advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active collaboration in developing CEPA materials and conducting CEPA activities and in the ABS Clearing House (ABS CH)</li> </ul>
Local communities and Pygmy Associations	CBO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users and collectors of natural and bio-genetic resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active partners in the development and implementation of the ABS system</li> <li>• Active contributor in the CEPA activities and in the ABS Clearing House (ABS CH)</li> </ul>

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):

This project is expected to achieve positive impacts, both environmental and socioeconomic, by effectively integrating ABS mechanisms into government policies, plans and regulations. By incorporating ABS procedures into research and sustainable use permits, monetary opportunities will accrue at 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. Stimuli for biodiversity conservation will arise from an enhanced understanding of environmental goods and services as expressed through the ABS regime, as well as an improved resource base as a result of benefit sharing mechanisms. Prior informed consent (PIC) and reaching mutually agreed terms (MAT) will ensure that concerns and rights of local and indigenous peoples are taken into consideration.

Additionally, by promoting the integration of Nagoya Protocol obligations and provisions, the global environment will benefit through improved safeguard mechanisms for sustainable natural resource use and associated traditional knowledge, and from practical applications and lessons learned of ecosystem services and their values. Furthermore, advances in implementing the CBD's third objective strengthen the notion that biodiversity benefits should primarily support those that provide for its conservation.

Gender mainstreaming is incorporated in the implementation of all capacity development processes, e.g. through providing inclusive spaces and processes for dialogue with and feedback from indigenous peoples and local communities, in which women particularly have an active presence as well as taking into account their challenges with regard to participation and decision making.

B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design: Cost-effectiveness is incorporated in the project's implementation strategy by bringing together all relevant stakeholder groups, including various government agencies that have an interest in the use of natural resources, to jointly develop an ABS system that is not an externally driven "add-on", but links and strengthens existing regulations and practices, based on the needs and interests of implicated stakeholders.

It is further estimated that the establishment of an ABS regime in Gabon will lead to additional resources accruing through ABS agreements for research and sustainable use of natural resources. These resources will be used in accordance with the to-be-established benefit sharing system, leading to strengthening incentives for local biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as to a constant upgrading and improving of the ABS system as such and rendering it sustainable in the long term.

Building on experiences made through related GEF- and non-GEF supported projects will equally contribute to the project's cost-effectiveness, as will active engagement with ongoing interventions to maximize synergies, exchange lessons learned and improve coherence.

**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 200,000 (GEF and Co-finance), fully integrated into the project budget, as shown below:

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)	10,000	8,000	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	20,000	15,000	At least biannual, 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)

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Monitoring visits	PM and PMU; UNEP TM	10,000	5,000	As appropriate (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
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	5,000		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	20,000	20,000	Annually, also part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
<b>Total M&amp;E Plan Budget</b>		<b>125,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	

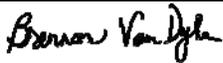
**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)**

- 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)
Louis Leandre Ebobola Tsibah	GEF OFP	MINISTERE DE LA FORET, DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA PROTECTION DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES	05/02/2014

**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 Van Dyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		November 25, 2015	Ersin Esen Task Manager	+254 20 762 4731	Ersin.Esen@unep.org

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
To implement the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit sharing through a coordinated and coherent strategy that incorporates awareness raising and capacity development	The implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Gabon is facilitated through relevant legal frameworks and texts, institutionalization of a Competent National Authority and through ABS awareness raising and capacity development	No policy, legislative and administrative framework on ABS or institutional arrangements are in place  Limited capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol	<b>Mid of project target (MT):</b> Training and capacity development on ABS procedures for stakeholders has begun  A Competent National Authority is established  <b>End of project Target (ET):</b> Legal frameworks and legislative texts are drafted  Identified enabling conditions for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol are met	Project records on training and capacity development  Official documents and administrative procedures	Sectorial stakeholders are interested in cooperation for ABS  Existing policy documents and planning processes accessible for inclusion and mainstreaming of ABS issues	
Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment
<b>Component 1: Strengthening capacity of stakeholders</b>						
Outcome 1.1: Strengthened capacity for the implementation of Nagoya Protocol and its provisions	Relevant public servants capable of developing cross-sectoral legal and administrative ABS measures.  ILC engaged and	No capacity development activities for ABS  Two awareness raising sessions were held in February and March 2013	<b>MT:</b> At least four training or awareness raising sessions for different stakeholder groups (both ♂ and ♀)  <b>ET:</b> At least 250	Project documentation  Training and awareness tools and	Long consultation process - During consultation process many stakeholders with different (sometimes opposing) positions need to be involved.	<i>The Expected Accomplishment under which the project outcome can be fitted</i>

	knowledgeable about PIC and MAT procedures		persons trained, of which at least 100 officials (accounted for by gender)	modules  Meeting reports and participants lists		
<b>Component 2: Regulatory framework on ABS</b>						
Outcome 2.1: Regulatory and administrative procedures for ABS are developed and submitted for validation and application	A bill incorporating ABS provisions is submitted for adoption  At least three sectoral regulations incorporating ABS provisions are submitted for adoption	No specific ABS bill or regulation is in place	<b>MT:</b> The bill and the regulations are drafted  <b>ET:</b> The bill and the regulations are ready for adoption and integration into sectoral processes	Official documents and texts	Slow processes for adoption and promulgation of texts	
<b>Component 3: Institutional Framework for the Nagoya Protocol</b>						
Outcome 3.1: The institutional ABS framework is established and operational	One regulation for the establishment and procedures of a Competent National Authority (CNA) is prepared  One regulation designating control points for ABS is drafted  Website on ABS in Gabon is endorsed by the CBD ABS clearing house	No CNA in place  3 institutional scenarios for a CNA are elaborated  No regulation on ABS control points available  No ABS website	<b>MT:</b> A CNA is established  Check points are identified  <b>ET:</b> Website established and functional  Check points are nominated	Policy recommendation documents  Official reports  Website  Facilitation/Training records	National planning procedures open for amendments and/or revisions	
<b>Project Outputs</b>	<b>Output Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Targets and Monitoring Milestones</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions &amp; Risks</b>	<b>PoW Output Reference Number</b>
1.1.1 Definition of roles and	At least five identified stakeholder groups	Basic stakeholder assessment available	<b>MT:</b> At least 3 stakeholder groups	Project	Conflicts of interest between stakeholder	<i>Number of the corresponding</i>

responsibilities of stakeholders in the ABS processes.	participate actively in ABS processes	.	(both ♂ and ♀) take part in shaping the ABS processes  <b>ET:</b> At least 5 stakeholder groups actively involved in driving the ABS processes  1 stakeholder assessment and 1 capacity needs assessment, including gender specific needs	documentation	groups can be overcome  Stakeholder groups are interested in active participation in ABS	<i>PoW Output</i>
1.1.2 Organization of seminars for communication, education and awareness raising of the public (CEPA) on ABS matters	At least two CEPA seminars per year	2 CEPA seminars held in 2013	<b>MT:</b> Three CEPA seminars with key stakeholders (both ♂ and ♀)  <b>ET:</b> Six CEPA seminars with key stakeholders (both ♂ and ♀)	Meeting reports and participants lists	Stakeholder groups are interested in CEPA seminars	
1.1.3 Training on ABS procedures for the main stakeholders of indigenous and local communities (ILC) and staff of the administrations involved (customs, ministries of forests, environment, trade, research)	At least two training sessions per year	No ABS training	<b>MT:</b> 3 training sessions  <b>ET:</b> 6 training sessions, of which at least 3 for sectoral agencies	Training documentation and participants lists	Stakeholder groups are interested in ABS capacity development and training	
2.1.1 Elaboration of an ABS law and regulations	One piece of legislation integrating provisions relating to ABS is submitted for adoption	No ABS law existing	<b>MT:</b> Law and regulations are available  <b>ET:</b> Law and	Official documents	Administrative processes can be sped up	

			regulations are enacted			
2.1.2 Development of procedures for granting access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits (PIC, MAT, manuals)	The procedures for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Gabon are developed	No procedures for ABS implementation are available	<b>MT:</b> ABS procedures (governing the granting of PIC- and the establishment of MAT) developed  <b>ET:</b> ABS procedures are enacted	Official documents	Administrative processes can be sped up	
3.1.1 Establishment of a Competent National Authority (ABS-CNA)	One regulation for the creation and operation of a CNA is finalized	No CNA established  Three CNA scenarios	<b>MT:</b> CNA established  <b>ET:</b> CNA operational	Official documents	Slow bureaucratic processes	
3.1.2 Establishment and enhancement of a clearing house and information exchange center for ABS (ABS CH)	ABS website and documentation portal	No ABS website	<b>MT:</b> Website created  <b>ET:</b> Website integrated into ABS CH	Website and links to CBD web-portal		
3.1.3 Identification and designation of surveillance and check points for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources	One regulation on the designation of check points	No check points and no related regulations	<b>MT:</b> Check points identified and related ABS regulations drafted  <b>ET:</b> Check points designated	Official documentation	Sectoral administration is interested in ABS control points	

<b>ACTIVITIES Component 1 – Strengthening capacity of stakeholders</b>	
<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Strengthened capacity for implementation of Nagoya Protocol and provisions	
<b>Output 1.1.1:</b> Definition of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the ABS processes	
1.1.1.1	Conduct assessment on stakeholder roles and responsibilities in ABS, including stakeholder mapping and analysis and disaggregated by gender, where appropriate
1.1.1.2	Conduct an ABS capacity needs assessment through a capacity development strategy
1.1.1.3	Validate above assessments in a stakeholder workshop
<b>Output 1.1.2:</b> Organization of seminars for communication, education and awareness raising of the public (CEPA) on ABS matters	
1.1.2.1	Develop CEPA support documentation
1.1.2.2	Implement the CEPA action plan
1.1.2.3	Organize awareness raising seminars particularly for researchers, journalists and Indigenous and Local Communities (ILC)
<b>Output 1.1.3:</b> Training on ABS procedures for the main stakeholders of indigenous and local communities (ILC) and staff of the administrations involved (customs, ministries of forests, environment, trade, research)	
1.1.3.1	Develop training modules for ABS stakeholder capacity development, including for schools and at universities
1.1.3.2	Organize 12 ABS training sessions for stakeholders (contractual right and clauses, use of contract models, ABS protocols at community level, ABS and intellectual property rights, granting PIC, monitoring of MAT, management of ABS mechanisms, ABS and non-timber forest products, ABS and the private sector, bioprospecting with a B conservation perspective, indigenous and local communities and ABS...)
1.1.3.3	Organize a special training session on legal, administrative and political ABS measures
1.1.3.4	Organize a special training session for administration staff on legal, administrative and political ABS measures, including on surveillance of biogenetic resource use
1.1.3.5	Organize three training sessions for ILC
1.1.3.6	Organize a special training session for customs and border control staff on biodiversity and ABS issues
1.1.3.7	Organize a training on research and taxonomy, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use
1.1.3.8	Provision of adequate materials for customs and border control staff to observe and control biological resource use and transport
1.1.3.9	Organize training for e- and online learning for the ABS clearing house (webmaster, webinars, social networking etc.)
1.1.3.10	Develop learning modules on the utilization of online knowledge exchange and the ABS clearing house

1.1.3.11	Organize a practical training on the use of the ABS CH
<b>ACTIVITIES Component 2 – Regulatory framework on ABS</b>	
<b>Outcome 2.1</b>	Regulatory and administrative procedures for ABS are developed, validated and applied
<b>Output 2.1.1:</b>	Elaboration of an ABS law and regulations
2.1.1.1	Elaborate a law for the enactment of the Nagoya Protocol, including stakeholder consultations on that matter
2.1.1.2	Elaboration and adoption of ABS regulations (customary use, community protocols, exchange of genetic resources, roles and operations of control and surveillance points for ABS, modules and granting modes for PIC, procedures for access and sharing of benefits, conflict resolution, conservation of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge, establishment and operation of the CNA, roles of stakeholder groups, emergency procedures...)
<b>Output 2.1.2:</b>	Development of procedures for granting access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits (PIC, MAT, manuals)
2.1.2.1	Develop a PIC manual (elements, procedures or granting or refusal...)
2.1.2.2	Develop a manual differentiating between access to genetic resources for commercial and non-commercial purposes
2.1.2.3	Develop a tool kit for ABS management
2.1.2.4	Develop procedures and mechanisms for benefit sharing, including MAT negotiations
<b>Activities Component 3 - Institutional Framework for the Nagoya Protocol</b>	
<b>Outcome 3.1</b>	Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in national planning
<b>Output 3.1.1:</b>	Establishment of a Competent National Authority (ABS-CNA)
3.1.1.1	Support to the establishment and functioning of the CNA
<b>Output 3.1.2:</b>	Establishment and enhancement of a clearing house and information exchange center for ABS (ABS CH)
3.1.2.1	Procurement of materials and/or tools for online distribution of ABS information and networking
3.1.2.2	Development of an online exchange platform amongst ABS stakeholders
3.1.2.3	Support to the creation and day-to-day management of an ABS clearing house (hardware, information validation meetings, provision of high-speed data connection etc.)
<b>Output 3.1.3:</b>	Identification and designation of surveillance and check points for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources
3.1.3.1	Support to the BD/ABS checkpoints

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS** (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Response Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

NA, PIF was cleared without issues to be addressed.

Below please find a comparison between the logical frameworks at PIF and CEO endorsement stage, with minor reformulations as developed through stakeholder discussions during PPG phase. The original intervention strategy remains unchanged.

**COMPARISON BETWEEN PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK AT PIF AND CEO ENDORSEMENT STAGE**

Component PIF	Component CEO doc	Outcome PIF	Outcome CEO doc	Comments on changes
1. Strengthening capacity of stakeholders	1. Strengthening capacity of stakeholders	Strengthened capacity for implementation of Nagoya Protocol and provisions	1.1 Strengthened capacity for implementation of Nagoya Protocol and provisions	No changes
2. Develop and Validate Legislative and Administrative measures	2. Legislative framework on ABS	National regulatory frameworks on ABS in place	2.1 Regulatory and administrative procedures for ABS are developed and submitted for validation and application	Minor reformulations
3. Implement the institutional framework for Nagoya Protocol	3. Institutional framework for the Nagoya Protocol	Enhanced and strengthened implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and its provision	3.1 The institutional ABS framework is established and operational	Minor reformulation of the outcome to highlight the need of a functional institutional framework as the backbone for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

**Comparison of OUTPUTS**

Outputs PIF	Outputs CEO doc	Comments on changes
(i) Principal actors and their roles and responsibilities in ABS defined  (ii) Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) sessions on Nagoya Protocol organized  (ii) Principal actors in local communities and management personnel in Customs Administration and Ministry of Water and Forests trained on ABS procedures	1.1.1 Definition of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the ABS processes.  1.1.2 Organization of seminars for communication, education and awareness raising of the public (CEPA) on ABS matters  1.1.3 Training on ABS procedures for the main stakeholders of indigenous and local communities (ILC) and staff of the administrations involved (customs,	Minor reformulations of outputs to add more specificity, e.g. in 1.1.3 on particular stakeholders to be engaged, without altering the intended content.

	ministries of forests, environment, trade, research)	
(i) ABS procedural tools (PIC, MAT, manual) for ABS process for benefit sharing developed  (ii) legislation and regulations to ring NP into law with provisions for dispute resolution mechanism, protection of Traditional Knowledge, Innovation and Practices and agreements for transfer of genetic/biological materials developed	2.1.1 Elaboration of an ABS law and regulations  2.1.2 Development of procedures for granting access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits (PIC, MAT, manuals)	Minor reformulations and reorganization of sequence, as procedures follow the regulations.  Specificities for the ABS regulations are retained and further detailed in activity 2.1.1.2
(i) National Advisory Committee set up  (ii) Center of biodiversity Information exchange established  (iii) Potential biological and genetic resources check points identified	3.1.1 Establishment of a Competent National Authority (ABS-CNA)  3.1.2 Establishment and enhancement of a clearing house and information exchange center for ABS (ABS CH)  3.1.3 Identification and designation of surveillance and check points for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources	Minor reformulations.  Discussions with stakeholders during PPG led to outcome 3.1.1 aiming for a CNA instead of an advisory committee so as to have a focal point coordinating implementation.

**ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS**

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

Project title: Gabon - Implementation of national strategy and action plan on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits accruing from their utilization				
PPG Grant Approved at PIF: USD 50,000				
<i><b>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</b></i>	<i><b>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</b></i>			<i><b>In-kind contribution by project partners (\$)</b></i>
	<i><b>Budgeted Amount</b></i>	<i><b>Amount Spent To Date</b></i>	<i><b>Amount Committed</b></i>	
PPG coordination				12,000
Analysis on the institutional and legal frameworks for ABS in Gabon	13,000	8,500	4,500	
Stakeholder Meetings at local and national level to deliberate on baseline circumstances, project design, implementation strategy, and monitoring and evaluation arrangements	14,000	14,000	0	
Translation of Project Documentation	3,000	0	3,000	
MSP development and coordination	20,000	0	20,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>12,000</b>

**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