



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR ONE STEP MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT APPROVAL

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Support to Eligible Parties for the Revision of NBSAPs and Development of the Fifth National Report to the CBD (Phase III)		
Country(ies):	Global – 4 countries, namely: Bahamas, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, and Venezuela	GEF Project ID:	TBD
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01386
Other Executing Partner(s):	Environmental Ministries in the participating countries	Submission Date:	TBD
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	36 months
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of Parent Program:	N/A	Agency Fee (\$)	91,960

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM¹:

Focal Area Objectives/programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-EA: Integrate CBD Obligations into National Planning Processes through Enabling Activities	Outcome 11.1 Development and sectoral planning frameworks at country level integrated measurable biodiversity conservation and sustainable use targets.	GEF TF	968,000	830,000
Total project costs			968,000	830,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To enable countries to revise their NBSAPs and to develop their Fifth National Reports to the CBD						
Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. Stocktaking and Assessment	TA	1. People are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably	1.1. Rapid stocktaking and review of relevant plans, policies and reports conducted, including gender-related policies 1.2 Identification of stakeholders conducted taking gender equality into account; consultations and awareness held (raised) 1.3 Rapid assessment of the	GEFTF	126,720	140,000

¹ When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#).

			causes and consequences of biodiversity loss highlighting the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their contribution to men's and women's well-being conducted			
2. Setting national targets, principles, & main priorities of the strategy	TA	2. National implementation of the CBD is improved and enhanced as status of biodiversity, and measurable targets for conservation and sustainable use are operationalized at national and subnational levels, and mainstreamed into sectors and development plans.	2.1 Country specific Targets, principles, and priorities of BD conservation including ABS issues (Nagoya protocol) compiled by 4 countries are set, with attention to the formulation of gender-responsive targets	GEFTF	111,920	140,000
3. Strategy and action plan development	TA	3. NBSAP reports (with Sub national elaboration) are gender-responsive, and are integrated into sectoral development, poverty reduction, and climate change plans in 4 countries	3.1 National strategies and actions to implement the agreed targets are developed through inclusive and participatory national consultations 3.2 Application of the NBSAP to sub-national entities through sub-national and local consultations 3.3 BD sectoral strategies are integrated including mainstreaming into development, gender programs, poverty reduction and climate change plans through sectoral consultations	GEFTF	179,360	140,000
4. Development of Implementation plans and related activities	TA	4. Bodies responsible for BD are assisted in monitoring NBSAP implementation while other sectors are assisted in mainstreaming BD into their sectoral plans and also its implementation	4.1 A plan for capacity development for NBSAP implementation developed 4.2 Capacity building protocol on gender developed 4.3 Technology needs assessment conducted 4.4 A communication and outreach strategy for the NBSAP developed 4.5 A plan for resource mobilization for NBSAP implementation developed	GEFTF	238,000	140,000

5. Institutional, monitoring, reporting and exchange	TA	5. Informed professional entities, including women's groups and gender-related organizations (and the general public) are better able to lobby for or improve BD conservation And the CBD COP uses results of the project for decision making to improve BD conservation in the the participating countries	5.1 National BD Coordination structures are established, made operational and strengthened 5.2 The national BD CHMs is established and made operational 5.3 BD monitoring Indicators and M&E approach developed 5.4 Fifth National Reports submitted to the SCBD by 4 countries 5.5 NBSAPs submitted to CBD	GEFTF	224,000	70,000
Subtotal				GEFTF	880,000	630,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)				GEF TF	88,000	200,000
Total GEF Project Financing					968,000	830,000

C. SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include confirmed co-financing letters for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNEP	In kind	600,000
INGO	WCMC	In kind	230,000
Total Co-financing			830,000

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a)} (b)	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Global	Biodiversity		968,000	83,600	1,051,600
Total Grant Resources					968,000	83,600	1,051,600

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS²

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	<i>hectares</i>
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	<i>hectares</i>
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	<i>Number of freshwater basins</i>
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	<i>Percent of fisheries, by volume</i>
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	<i>metric tons</i>
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	<i>metric tons</i>
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	<i>metric tons</i>
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	<i>ODP tons</i>
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i> 4

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

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

N/A

G. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No If no, skip item G.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ³ (b)	Total c = a + b
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total PPG Amount					0	0	0

² Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF.

³ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

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List of Acronyms

2010 BIP	- 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
5NR	- Fifth National Report
ACP	- African, Caribbean and Pacific
BD	- Biodiversity Focal Area
BINU	- Project Global Project 'Biodiversity Indicators for National Use'
CBD	- Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	- Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CHM	- Clearing House Mechanism
COP	- Conference of the Parties
DRC	- Division of Regional Cooperation
EA	- Enabling Activity
EOU	- Evaluation Oversight Unit
GCC	- Global Coordination Committee
GEF	- Global Environment Facility
IA	- Implementing Agency
LDCs	- Least Developed Countries
LOE	- Letter of Endorsement
M&E	- Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	- Millennium Development Goals
MDTE	- Mid-term Evaluation
MEA	- Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MSP	- Medium-Size Project
NBSAP	- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEA	- National Environment Agency/Authority
NSC	- National Steering Committee
NPC	- National Project Coordinator
OPF	- Operational Focal Point (for GEF)
PCA	- Project Cooperation Agreement
PM	- project Manager
PMU	- Project Management Unit
PRODOC	- Project Document
PRSP	- Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan
PSC	- Project Steering Committee (national at country level)
SCBD	- CBD Secretariat
TE	- Terminal Evaluation
TOR	- Terms of Reference
SIDS	- Small Island Developing States
UNDAF	- United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UN	- United Nations
UNDP	- United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	- United Nations Environment Programme
WCMC	- World Conservation Monitoring Centre

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. Project Description

1.1 Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers

Biodiversity is currently being lost at unprecedented rates due to human activities around the globe. To address this problem, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Strategic Plan in 2002 (Decision VI/26). In its mission statement, CBD Parties committed themselves to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the CBD, to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level by the year 2010, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth. These became known as the 2010 Biodiversity Commitments, for which a set of targets and indicators were later established.

The 2010 biodiversity targets have inspired action at many levels. However, such actions have not been on a scale sufficient to address the pressures on biodiversity. Moreover there has been insufficient integration of biodiversity issues into broader policies, strategies, programmes and actions, and therefore the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss have not been significantly reduced. While there is now some understanding of the linkages between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being, the value of biodiversity is still not reflected in broader policies and incentive structures. The 2010 biodiversity targets have not been achieved, at least not at the global level. The diversity of genes, species and ecosystems continues to decline, as the pressures on biodiversity remain constant or increase in intensity mainly, as a result of human actions.

Most Parties identify lack of financial, human and technical resources as limiting their implementation of the Convention. Technology transfer under the Convention has been very limited. Insufficient scientific information for policy and decision making is a further obstacle for the implementation of the Convention.

COP 10 recognized that achieving this positive outcome requires actions at multiple entry points, which are reflected in the goals of the new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan includes 20 headline targets for 2015 or 2020 (the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”), organized under five strategic goals. The goals and targets comprise both: (i) aspirations for achievement at the global level; and (ii) a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets. Parties are invited to set their own targets within this flexible framework, taking into account national needs and priorities, while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets. Not all countries necessarily need to develop a national target for each and every global target. For some countries, the global threshold set through certain targets may already have been achieved. Others targets may not be relevant in the country context.

Cognizant of the fact that the initial NBSAPs that countries had developed starting from the late 1990s need to be revised and updated, the COP 10 meeting requested that the GEF supports this revision or updating alongside the development of 5th National Reports to the CBD. Specifically, this project proposes to address the need to engage broad groups of stakeholders (men and women) at the national level in the process of assessing and reporting on progress towards the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Targets. The project will contribute to the relevant policy agenda and decision-making processes both at global level and in participating countries. In addition, this project will integrate,

issues pertaining to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (the ‘Nagoya Protocol’). The ongoing ratification and implementation processes of the Nagoya Protocol needs to be aligned with and integrated in the revision of the NBSAPs processes under the NBSAP revision, such as stocktaking of relevant policies, stakeholder identification / consultations, CHM development, etc. all of which should be designed and carried with components that address the provisions and specific requirements of the Nagoya Protocol as well as particular actors relevant for its implementation (e.g. Intellectual property offices, private sector). This project will also align with the implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action

1.2 Why Phase 3 of the NBSAP umbrella project

There are 196 parties to the CBD and of those, 184 countries are in the process of or have revised/developed their NBSAP and produced their 5th National report. Of the 184 countries, UNEP supported 79, UNDP supported 45, WB supported 1, FAO supported 1 while 9 countries accessed funds directly from GEF and 49 countries self-funded their NBSAP revision activities (see table 1.1 below).

Table 1.1: List of countries per agency

Agency	UNEP	UNDP	FAO	WB	Direct access	self-funded	Not yet done	Total
No. of Countries	79	45	1	1	9	49	12	196

UNEP assisted the 79 countries to access GEF funds through two umbrella projects in 2 phases. Phase I had 30 countries and phase II had 27 countries while 22 countries were assisted as standalone projects. Therefore only 12 countries, out of 196 countries, have not yet started and 4 of the 12 have expressed interest in accessing GEF funding through UNEP to assist them start under this phase III project namely Bahamas, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela.

With focus on the 2020 Biodiversity Commitments at country level, this proposal pertains to the third of two phases of the UNEP/GEF global umbrella full Size Project (FSP), within the Enabling Activities window, and is to be implemented by UNEP as the GEF agency. It is designed to reach out with funding and technical support to a total of 4 interested countries in Phase III among those eligible within the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area (BD). The project will assist these countries, financially and substantively, in revising the NBSAPs and developing the 5th National Reports to the CBD, through a national participatory assessment process, using the provisional framework for goals and targets adopted by the CBD COP 10 and the guidelines for the Fifth National Report.

1.3 Why revise NBSAPS

Although these 4 countries completed their first NBSAPs, there are several gaps identified that need to be addressed by this project: Most of the first NBSAPs were funded by the GEF between 1998 and 2006. None of the 4 countries have submitted a revised version of the NBSAP, and therefore they need to revise them. The main gaps and emerging issues that need addressing are outlined in Component 2 which include:-

- i. The recently adopted Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its associated goals, and the Aichi Targets
- ii. Integration of biodiversity into poverty reduction and development strategies

- iii. Human Rights and Indigenous peoples
- iv. Gender considerations and social and environmental safeguards
- v. Communication about the NBSAPs and findings of the National Reports has not been well conducted inside the countries and regions- something that will be addressed by this project.
- vi. While some of the countries had an initial CHM, most of them have not been functional as they remained merely as websites but not information exchange hubs.
- vii. The 5th National Report will report on issues outlined under Component 5, which will include progress towards the 2020 targets- this will be something that has not been done in the previous reports for these countries.

All the 4 countries participating in this umbrella project have ratified the CBD Convention as shown in table 1.2 below. This means they are committed to adhering to the requirements of the Convention including developing NBSAPs and undertaking regular national reporting on the status of biodiversity as guided by the SCBD. To that effect, the countries developed their initial NBSAPs between 1998 and 2010 as shown in table 1.2 below. These NBSAPs are due for revision for various reasons including the fact that some were completed many years ago and need updating due to emerging issues, while others did not follow the required instructions from the COP. For example most the NBSAPs did not have concrete action plans. More importantly, the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity & Aichi BD Targets came out with new biodiversity targets which should be factored in the first generation NBSAPs. In addition, all countries participating in this project have completed their 4th national report and are obliged to develop the 5th National Report.

Table 1.2: Dates of accession to the CBD and the NBSAP stata of the Countries to be supported

	Country	Date of Ratification or accession to the CBD	Date of submission of the first NBSAP	Date of submission of the second NBSAP	4th National Report
1	Bahamas	9/2/1993	1999		8/11/2011
2	Mexico	3/11/1993	2000		7/5/2009
3	Papua New Guinea	3/16/1993	2007		7/21/2010
4	Venezuela	9/13/1994	2001	2010	4/8/2011

1.4 Threats, root causes and barriers

Generally, often, countries do not commit the necessary funds, planning, and time for following on its international commitments with sufficient technical quality. Without the benefit of external assistance and extra guidance, capacity in several countries is simply not sufficient for carrying the assessment and consultation in a truly participatory fashion and with adequate technical and scientific standards. LDCs and SIDS have generally a greater disadvantage.

Country specific threats, Barriers and root causes

The Bahamas - The principal natural threat to biological diversity in The Bahamas is climate change, as it will magnify all of the other natural threats identified such as coral bleaching, tropical hurricanes and sea level rise The main manmade threat to biological diversity in The Bahamas is the lack of appreciation and understanding of the value of the fragile Bahamian environment and biodiversity to

the people. The five major human-related activities that destroy biological diversity in the country is habitat destruction, habitat fragmentation, pollution, introduced or exotic species and over-harvesting. The Bahamas does not have a monitoring system for biodiversity.

Mexico is one of the 18 mega-diverse countries of the world. With over 200,000 different species, Mexico is home of 10–12% of the world's biodiversity. Mexico ranks first in biodiversity in reptiles with 707 known species, second in mammals with 438 species, fourth in amphibians with 290 species, and fourth in flora, with 26,000 different species. Mexico is also considered the second country in the world in ecosystems and fourth in overall species. Approximately 2,500 species are protected by Mexican legislations. In 2002, Mexico had the second fastest rate of deforestation in the world, second only to Brazil. The government has taken another initiative in the late 1990s to broaden the people's knowledge, interest and use of the country's esteemed biodiversity, through the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad.

In Mexico, 170,000 square kilometres (65,637 sq mi) are considered "Protected Natural Areas." These include 34 biosphere reserves (unaltered ecosystems), 67 national parks, 4 natural monuments (protected in perpetuity for their aesthetic, scientific or historical value), 26 areas of protected flora and fauna, 4 areas for natural resource protection (conservation of soil, hydrological basins and forests) and 17 sanctuaries (zones rich in diverse species).

The discovery of the Americas brought to the rest of the world many widely used food crops and edible plants. Some of Mexico's native culinary ingredients include: chocolate, avocado, tomato, maize, vanilla, guava, chayote, epazote, camote, jícama, nopal, zucchini, tejocote, huitlacoche, sapote, mamey sapote, many varieties of beans, and an even greater variety of chiles, such as the habanero and the jalapeño. Most of these names come from indigenous languages like Nahuatl.

Because of its high biodiversity Mexico has also been a frequent site of bioprospecting by international research bodies. The first highly successful instance being the discovery in 1947 of the tuber "Barbasco" (*Dioscorea composita*) which has a high content of diosgenin, revolutionizing the production of synthetic hormones in the 1950s and 1960s and eventually leading to the invention of combined oral contraceptive pills

Papua New Guinea is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. Most of a population of over 7 million people living in customary communities, which are as diverse as the languages. It is also one of the most rural, as only 18 percent of its people live in urban centres. The country is one of the world's least explored, culturally and geographically, and many undiscovered species of plants and animals are thought to exist in the interior.

Strong growth in Papua New Guinea's mining and resource sector led to the country becoming the sixth fastest-growing economy in the world in 2011, although growth is expected to slow once major resource projects come on line in 2015. Mining remains a major economic factor. Nearly 40 per cent of the population lives a self-sustainable natural lifestyle with no access to global capital.

At the local level, the majority of the population still lives in strong customary societies and customary subsistence-based agriculture remains fundamental. The Papua New Guinea Constitution expresses the wish for "traditional villages and communities to remain as viable units of Papua New Guinean society"

and for active steps to be taken in their continuing importance to local and national community life. Papua New Guinea is largely mountainous, and much of it is covered with tropical rainforest. The country is also prone to landslides, often caused by deforestation in major forests. The mountainous regions of Papua New Guinea are most susceptible to landslides causing damage. Offshore islands include the small, forested Admiralty Islands, the largest of which is Manus, to the north of the main island of New Guinea. These have a distinct plant and animal life from the main island but the natural forest has been cleared in places for logging and agriculture.

The rainforest is subject to deforestation as a result of growing commercial demand for tropical timber; forest clearance, especially in coastal areas, for plantations; pollution from mining projects. If the trend continues, more than half the forest that existed when Papua New Guinea became independent from Australia in 1975 will be gone by 2021.

Venezuela lies within the Neotropic ecozone; large portions of the country were originally covered by moist broadleaf forests. One of 17 megadiverse countries, Venezuela's habitats range from the Andes Mountains in the west to the Amazon Basin rainforest in the south, via extensive llanos plains and Caribbean coast in the center and the Orinoco River Delta in the east. They include xeric scrublands in the extreme northwest and coastal mangrove forests in the northeast. Its cloud forests and lowland rainforests are particularly rich.

Animals of Venezuela are diverse and include manatees, three-toed sloth, two-toed sloth, Amazon river dolphins, and Orinoco crocodiles, which have been reported to reach up to 6.6 m (22 ft) in length. Venezuela hosts a total of 1,417 bird species, 48 of which are endemic. Important birds include ibises, ospreys, kingfishers, and the yellow-orange Venezuelan troupial, the national bird. Notable mammals include the giant anteater, jaguar, and the capybara, the world's largest rodent. More than half of Venezuelan avian and mammalian species are found in the Amazonian forests south of the Orinoco. For the fungi, an account was provided by R.W.G. Dennis which has been digitized and the records made available on-line as part of the Cybertruffle Robigalia database. That database includes nearly 3,900 species of fungi recorded from Venezuela, but is far from complete, and the true total number of fungal species already known from Venezuela is likely higher, given the generally accepted estimate that only about 7% of all fungi worldwide have so far been discovered.

Among plants of Venezuela, over 25,000 species of orchids are found in the country's cloud forest and lowland rainforest ecosystems. These include the flor de mayo orchid (*Cattleya mossiae*), the national flower. Venezuela's national tree is the araguaney, whose characteristic lushness after the rainy season led novelist Rómulo Gallegos to name it "*[a primavera de oro de los araguaneyes*" (the golden spring of the araguaneyes).

Endemism: Venezuela is among the top 20 countries in terms of endemism. Among its animals, 23% of reptilian and 50% of amphibian species are endemic. Although the available information is still very small, some effort has been made to estimate the number of fungal species endemic to Venezuela: 1334 species of fungi have been tentatively identified as possible endemics of the country. Some 38% of the over 21,000 plant species known from Venezuela are unique to the country.

Threats and trends: Venezuela is one of the 10 most biodiverse countries on the planet, yet it is one of the leaders of deforestation due to economic and political factors. Each year, roughly 287,600 hectares of forest are permanently destroyed and other areas are degraded by mining, oil extraction, and logging. Between 1990 and 2005, Venezuela officially lost 8.3% of its forest cover, which is about 4.3 million₁₁

ha. In response, federal protections for critical habitat were implemented; for example, 20% to 33% of forested land is protected. The country's biosphere reserve is part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves; five wetlands are registered under the Ramsar Convention. In 2003, 70% of the nation's land was under conservation management in over 200 protected areas, including 43 national parks. In the far south is a reserve for the country's Yanomami tribes. Covering 32,000 mi² (almost 83,000 km²), the area is off-limits to farmers, miners, and all non-Yanomami settlers.

1.5 The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects,

As with other countries this NBSAP was not aligned to the global BD strategic plan (2011 – 2020) and its Aichi 2020 targets; one of the main reasons why NBSAPs are being revised and this is the main purpose of this project

The Bahamas developed the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 1999 as a guide to the implementation of the CBD. It identified the government agencies that would be responsible for undertaking biodiversity conservation and sustainable use measures. Assessment of the effectiveness of implementation progress of the 1st NBSAP reveals that resource and capacity constraints have made implementation progress far from ideal. Although some of the priority actions and recommendations have been completed by various agencies, the NBSAP document is underutilized and not consistently referenced during the planning process.

Initiatives undertaken by the various sectoral agencies have contributed to the advancement of the NBSAP. Significant progress has been made in expanding and identifying sustainable funding for the protected areas in The Bahamas, thereby addressing resources and enforcement issues and hopefully ending stewardship protection parks in The Bahamas forever.

Mexico developed its NBSAP in 2000 that established four strategic lines that would help to accomplish CBD objectives: 1) conserve and protect the biodiversity components 2) value the different components of biodiversity; 3) promote knowledge on biodiversity and 4) encourage sustainable and diversified use of biodiversity components. At a local level, the National Commission of the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity has implemented the NBSAP taking into account the natural, social and cultural diversity of the country. In 2002, this Commission started to develop State-Level Biodiversity Strategies (SBS) in conjunction with state governments and representatives from different social sectors. CONABIO's main task is to facilitate and give advice throughout these multi-sector and multi-stakeholder processes that will allow each of the 32 state entities to have their own State Biodiversity Study and Strategy. The importance of this approach is that it takes into account the great cultural, geographical, social and biological diversity of Mexico. The main goal is that the SBS is to provide key planning instruments to local governments and decision-makers with a comprehensive framework to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity, according to specific contexts and characteristics.

The SBS process includes the elaboration of two key documents: the State Biodiversity Study and the actual State Biodiversity Strategy. The first aims to assess the current status of biodiversity within each state, at all levels, following on the same rationale and structure of the Biodiversity Country Study. The main goal is that the SBS becomes the key planning instrument to define the actions and resources that each State will allocate in order to implement CBD at this level, and to conserve and use its biological diversity in a sustainable manner. In the long run, the implementation of the SBS aims to establish basic principles for the conservation and sustainable use, and thematic and spatial priorities for action according to the particular conditions and priorities of every State. A second objective of the SBS₁₂

process is to identify synergies between the local processes and the National Biodiversity Strategy's priorities and actions.

Papua New Guinea's NBSAP was developed in 2007 with 7 main goals namely: 1) conserve, sustainably use, and manage the country's biological diversity; 2) strengthen and promote institutional and human capacity-building for biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use; 3) strengthen partnership and promote coordination for conserving biodiversity; 4) strengthen existing protected areas and ensure that protected areas for terrestrial species and marine species are increased to 10% by 2010 and 2012, respectively; 5) ensure a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of genetic and ecosystem resources; 6) promote and strengthen research of the country's biological diversity and the sustainable development of the country's biological resources; 7) establish measures for the sustainability of biodiversity use, incentives and alternatives; and 8) promote education and public awareness. However, implementation of Papua New Guinea's NBSAP has been slow and uncoordinated and lacking adequate funding and capacity allocations. Papua New Guinea is in process of starting activities concerning revising the NBSAP, including setting national targets aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets but it lacks funding.

Papua New Guinea has identified nine terrestrial and five marine ecoregions to serve as reporting units for assessing the status of species and ecosystems and their protection in Papua New Guinea's Protected Area system. These units are to be used in the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Papua New Guinea Government's current natural resource management initiatives, once endorsed by the National Executive Council. A cooperative approach to management is being promoted that will continue to be refined as more detailed information on ecosystems and/or other base layers comes to hand.

The Papua New Guinea Development Strategic Plan (2010-2030) sets new directions and parameters for development planning in the country. It has finally translated the Five Directive Principles of the National Constitution, the Eight Point Improvement Plan and the Vision 2050 through the annual planning, programming and budgetary processes. Projects include integrated, ecosystem-based initiatives, significant direction to the additions to Papua New Guinea's networks of protected areas, addressing climate change issues, restoration of degraded ecosystems, legislation for the protection of species at risk, habitat stewardship programs, sustainable resource management and a variety of ecosystem, species and genetic research and assessment initiatives. Customary landowners in the country own the land and sea and are an integral part of the landscapes and seascapes of the nation. Equal consideration is given to customary landowners when identifying priorities for protection and management.

All main staple food crop species and fruits and nut species of the country have been collected over the years, and are now conserved in "living collections" or field gene banks at various Research Programme Centers of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) located throughout the country. The genetic diversity of major cash crop species, such as sugarcane, coffee, cocoa, coconut, palm oil, rubber and tea, are maintained by their own research and development institutes or companies. Most of this diversity has been introduced from gene banks located overseas.

The New Organic Law on Provincial and Local-Level Governments provides the institutional framework for the planning process in Papua New Guinea. It provides the foundation for a system of bottom-up planning for provinces, to ensure the delivery of better and more appropriate services to the local people in a more efficient manner. The National Forest Act (1991) promotes the development of the National and Provincial Forest Plans and the opportunity for mainstreaming biodiversity¹³

conservation. Environmental impact assessments are also mandatory under the Environment Act (2000).

Despite a number of wildlife surveys conducted in the country, there is a lack of scientific and social data. However, for the first time, the terrestrial and marine ecoregions will become the reporting unit for assessing the status of species and ecosystems and their protection in the Protected Area System, once endorsed by the National Executive Council. Indeed, the ecoregion will be used in the monitoring and evaluating framework for the Papua New Guinea Government's current natural resource management initiatives

Venezuela's first NBSAP was adopted in 2001. In 2010, Venezuela adopted a new National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity but this strategy was not aligned to the global BD strategic plan and the Aichi 2020 targets. It is now seeking funding to revise its 2010 NBSAP and align it with the 2020 Aichi targets.

1.6 The proposed alternative scenario - expected outcomes and components of the project

1.6.1 Project rationale

1.6.1.1: The rationale revising NBSAPS, production of the 5th National report and developing/updating country CHM websites

The 10th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (decision X/2) held in 2010 in Nagoya adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets which is a commitment to promote effective implementation of the Convention through a strategic approach, and strategic goals and targets (the Aichi Biodiversity Targets), that will inspire broad-based action by all Parties and stakeholders.

Developing countries and SIDs which have very limited capacities and resources for preparing national reports to CBD particularly need technical support funded by the GEF to facilitate their national processes, strengthen their national capacities and improve quality of their fifth national reports. Meanwhile it should be pointed out that the fifth national report is very important for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) as it provides a mid-term review of progress and the quality of the reports is crucial for guidance that COP 12 and COP meetings until 2020 may provide for the further implementation of the Strategic Plan. The 5NR also provides information for review of implementation of the relevant 2015 targets of the MDGs. Information from 5NR will be used to review some thematic programmes such as island biodiversity so SID's 5NRs are very important for this review.

All the 4 targeted countries in this project developed their current NBSAPS before 2010. The purpose of this project is to assist these countries align their NBSAPS with the global Biodiversity strategic plan (2011 – 2020) and the Aichi BD targets (2020) and their current National development Plans. The COP notification stated that all NBSAP that were done before January 2011 had to be revised to include the Aichi targets.

1.6.1.2: The rationale for using an umbrella program is to give an “expedited mechanism” for giving GEF support to the 4 countries using one shared Project Document, which saves on time. Rather than developing single country project documents this program will have only one project document submitted to the GEF Secretariat, followed by formatted templates for country specific requests (see **appendix 11**). This mechanism will therefore provide not only standardized simultaneous working in a great number of countries, but also enable UNEP to assist the countries to exchange information as the project progresses.

1.6.2 Project goal and objective

Project Goal: The overarching development goal of the project is to enhance implementation of the CBD’s Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 17

Project Objective: With the overarching goal of improving decision-making for the conservation of global biodiversity, the main objective of this project is to enable countries to revise their NBSAPs and to produce the Fifth National Report to the CBD and improve their CHM. The project supports integrating the obligations of these countries under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) into their national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a renewed, inclusive and participative ‘biodiversity planning’ and a strategizing process, in a manner that is in line with the global guidance contained in the CBD’s Strategic Plan for 2011-2020.

1.6.3 Project components and expected results

COMPONENT 1: Stocktaking and Assessment:

The activities under this component will entail (a) Rapid stocktaking and reviewing of relevant plans, policies and reports; (b) Identification of stakeholders, taking gender equality into account and raising awareness and (c) Rapid assessment of the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss highlighting the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their contribution to women’s and men’s well-being, with attention to issues of gender equality.

Method of execution for Component 1

- National consultants will be engaged to do rapid stock taking of relevant plans, policies and reports including those pertaining to the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.
- National consultants will be engaged to undertake a gap analysis of the initial NBSAP report
- National consultative meetings to undertake rapid assessment of causes and consequences of biodiversity loss
- National consultants and consultative meetings will take gender considerations into account as appropriate

Main outputs of Component 1:

- Stakeholder inventories: Comprehensive stakeholder inventories and elaboration of best consultation modalities
- BD national plans: Completed reports from reviews on national plans & policies on Biodiversity conservation
- Assessment reports: Reports emanating from reviews of causes and consequences of BD

loss, and value of BD to human well being

COMPONENT 2: National Targets, Principles, & Priorities of the Strategy

Before the NBSAP is developed, the country will determine its targets and priorities first, using the 2020 targets, and taking into account the guiding results from Component 1. This component will be further guided by the instructions given by the CBD COP, and assisted by an international consultant (if necessary) based on the many emerging issues which will be updated in the NBSAPs and which will add different dimensions to the consultations. These emerging issues include:

- a) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its associated goals, the Aichi Targets, and indicators which require consultations by countries;
- b) Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development: It will be necessary to include ways of integrating the NBSAPs into national development and poverty reduction policies and strategies, national accounting, economic sectors and spatial planning processes and the MDGs
- c) Gender considerations and social and environmental safeguards: -the initial NBSAPs had ignored mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the implementation of the Convention and the promotion of gender equality in achieving its three objectives. This aspect will now be addressed more prominently, in line with the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, to ensure that needs, interests and priorities of women and men, boys and girls are taken into account in the development of the NBSAP. This includes determination and assessment of views on how various social groups use biological resources, how lack of conservation and environmental degradation might affect gender equality and how the needs of indigenous groups, forest communities and other local communities should be addressed in BD conservation.
- d) In the same vein, issues of BD conservation and poverty alleviation should be well articulated in the consultations in this project. Although the project itself is not intervention based, it is important to discuss the poverty- conservation nexus, so that the right principles underline the final official documents.
- e) Marine and coastal Biodiversity needs: Many initial NBSAPs included some aspects of marine and fresh water biodiversity but were heavy on land based biodiversity at the expense of the marine and coastal Biodiversity issues. This omission and other gaps in ecosystem and thematic coverage will be corrected.
- f) Issues on Nagoya protocol on ABS: This will include consultations on strategies and plans and reviewing their own capacities and needs on ABS and to strengthen the enabling environment with a focus on the provisions of existing national policies, laws, and regulations; strategies and plans on national and regional activities to promote technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, private sector engagement, and projects targeting investments in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources; strategies on building capacity as appropriate with the aim of ensuring that traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by indigenous and local communities is accessed; and strategies on undertaking activities to increase public awareness on needs and opportunities of the Nagoya Protocol

Method of execution for Component 2:

Each country will determine which of the 2020 AICHI Targets are relevant to them, and then discuss and develop country specific targets and indicators using small multi-sectoral committees to do the ground work, which will then be discussed by all stakeholders and compiled by national consultants engaged for that purpose. International experts will be involved for technical assistance in the targets₁₆

and indicator work as required by countries. UNEP/DEPI, UNEP/WCMC and UNEP/DELIC may facilitate the participation of international consultants either in regional consultations combining several countries or recommending relevant institutions that can provide the technical expertise. Special attention will be paid to identifying issues relevant to gender equality and the development of gender-responsive targets and indicators.

Main outputs of Component 2:

This component will come up with country specific Targets, principles, and priorities of BD conservation compiled by the 4 countries, which include gender considerations.

COMPONENT 3: Strategy and action plan development:

Component 3 will entail developing the strategy and actions to implement the agreed targets through national consultations. In addition, mainstreaming biodiversity into development policies, plans and practices and into sectoral plans and strategies will be done. This means internalization of biodiversity conservation goals into economic and development sectors, policies and programs, such that they become an integral part of the functioning of these sectors. Focus will be directed to such sectors as Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting, Livestock, Tourism, Trade, Travel and Transport, Energy, Fisheries, Development Planning & Finance, Water, Housing, and Mining.

Activities of this component will include:-

- i. National consultants engaged to develop various chapters of the NBSAP according to the guidance given by the SCBD and according to the sectors into which biodiversity needs to be mainstreamed, taking gender considerations into account.
- ii. Several consultations at national and sub national levels where integration in sectoral development and poverty reduction strategies is discussed.
- iii. National consultations and data collection for integration of Climate Change issues into the NBSAP
- iv. National consultants to compile final draft of revised NBSAPs
- v. Validation of the revised NBSAP by stakeholders

Main outputs of Component 3:

NBSAP reports (with Sub national elaboration) reflect gender considerations, and are integrated into sectoral development, poverty reduction, and climate change plans in 4 countries

COMPONENT 4: Development of Implementation Plans:

Once there is a revised draft NBSAP – further work will be required to address supporting systems. Component 4 addresses these supporting systems for the NBSAP process and will have several activities including the formulation of a series of needs assessments and plans, which will each integrate gender considerations:-

- (a) Formulation of a plan for capacity development for NBSAP implementation; Assessing and strengthening capacity needs: One of the primary areas of enabling activities is the assessment of capacity needs. The decisions at CoP-10 place new and ambitious demands on countries, including requirements to protect and sustainably manage their lands and water, to develop comprehensive₁₇

plans that integrate climate change into their land use, development and sectoral plans and strategies, and to develop appropriate biodiversity and climate policies, laws and incentives. This activity will ensure that a road map for strengthening these specific capacities is developed. Building on existing capacity needs assessment the project will address areas such as:

- capacities for development and maintenance of the protected areas system
- capacity for research of the biodiversity components and monitoring
- capacity for biodiversity rehabilitation
- capacity for multi sectoral consultation processes followed by integration of BD conservation in the sectors
- capacity for collection of relevant data for NBSAPs and emerging issues in BD conservation including ecosystem approach to services, sustainable utilization, climate change and biodiversity, to name a few.

(b) Technology needs assessment; National consultants will be engaged to develop the final report after consultations undertaken by stakeholder meetings both nationally and in various development sectors.

(c) Development of a communication and outreach strategy for the NBSAP. National consultants will be used to develop the final product after discussions by a wide stakeholder group

(d) Development of a plan for resource mobilization for NBSAP implementation. Securing sustainable finance for NBSAP implementation: The need for sustainable financing for NBSAP implementation is mentioned in Article 20 of the Convention-“to provide, in accordance with its capabilities, financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Convention.” Apart from conventional sources of government funds, there could be new ways of funding to be explored including such as payments for ecosystem services, levies from various services, conservation trust funds, biodiversity offsets and bio-carbon funding. This activity will therefore focus on (i) identifying the existing financial gap for implementing the NBSAPs; (ii) identifying new innovative sources of revenue for filling these gaps; (iii) addressing how feasible these new methods are; and (iv) developing a detailed plan for operationalizing the identified methods of financing.

Main outputs of component 4:

Each output will reflect a consideration of gender equality issues:

- a) Capacity development needs assessment report and capacity development Plan for NBSAP implementation
- b) Technology needs assessment reports
- c) NBSAP Communication strategy
- d) Resource mobilization plan for NBSAP implementation
- e) Capacity building protocols on gender

COMPONENT 5: Institutional, monitoring, reporting and exchange:

This component will address establishment and or strengthening of national coordination structures. Countries will choose the activities that are most relevant to them.

Activities for COMPONENT 5 will include

(a) Support to the existing national coordination structures and strengthening of Biodiversity Units, especially in development of how to monitor progress (indicators) of the implementation of the NBSAP in the future.

(b) Strengthening of the CHM development

(c) Development of the Fifth National Report to the CBD: This will be prepared following the guidelines given by the COP and the SCBD. Using the framework for goals and targets adopted by the CBD COP in its Decision X/2 and the Guidelines for the Fifth National Report⁴ to the CBD, the development of the report will use the data already gathered during consultations for the NBSAP process and from data gathered by various experts. This means the development of the 5th National Report and the revision of the NBSAP is one process but with 2 different products. Portals to assist the preparation of the 5th National Report and revision of the NBSAP have been developed by the SCBD and will be constantly updated, permitting also on-line status reporting in real-time to the CBD, the implementing agencies, the GEF, countries and interested audience, as well as allowing countries to exchange experiences. UNEP will assist in facilitating this inter-country knowledge exchange.

Format for 5th National Report:

As per the guidelines (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-05/NR5-guidelines-en.doc>), the 5th National Report will address 3 areas;

- Part I - An update on biodiversity status, trends, and threats and implications for human well-being
- Part II - The current NBSAP, its implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity.
- Part III - Progress towards the 2015 and 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and contributions to the relevant 2015 Targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

Main outputs of Component 5

- a) National Coordination structures: Operational BD coordination structures
- b) CHMs: Operational national CHMs
- c) Indicators and M&E approach document
- d) Fifth National Reports submitted to the SCBD by 4 countries
- e) The final revised NBSAPs

1.6.4 Fit with UNEP Programme of Work

Sub Programme: Environmental Governance

Expected Accomplishment (a): The United Nations system and multilateral environmental agreements bodies, respecting the mandate of each entity, demonstrate increasing coherence and synergy of actions on environmental issues.

Output 4: Technical support provided to Governments to facilitate coherence and synergy in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements through collaborative arrangements between UNEP and their secretariats and the provision of relevant information and knowledge base

⁴ www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-10/official/cop-10-11-en.doc

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.

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.

Expected Accomplishment (c): Countries increasingly mainstream environmental sustainability in national and regional development policies and plans.

Output 2: Support provided to countries and regional organizations to integrate environmental sustainability and priorities from MEAs into sectoral and inter-sectoral development planning processes and related financial instruments, including support to counties to address the poverty and environment linkage

1.7 Incremental/additional cost reasoning

The project seeks to offer instructive guidance and a suite of responsive technical support services for enhancing the quality of NBSAPs and catalyzing their transformative role as effective policy instruments, and thereby contributing to achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 17.

<i>Current Baseline</i>	<i>Alternative</i>
<p>In the baseline scenario, countries will complete the next generation of NBSAPs, some earlier than others. Without the project, however, new NBSAPs will lack the sufficient technical stringency and analytical depth that will be required for significantly raising the bar of biodiversity planning. Business as usual strategy preparation will not achieve the necessary levels of policy traction to contribute to achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Aichi Targets will remain aspirational and will find no expression at the country level.</p> <p>Without the project, the next generation of NBSAPs will be developed with insufficient or inaccurate data on the status of biodiversity and ecosystems, NBSAP architects will continue to lack analytical and technical capacity, there will be limited stakeholder consultation in NBSAP development, biodiversity will be insufficiently mainstreamed into key productive sectors and development plans, countries will continue to create financial planning for NBSAP implementation based on incorrect assumptions and unrealistic projections, and NBSAPs will quite likely lack sufficient policy traction at the national level and simply get shelved.</p>	<p>In the alternative, governments/countries will develop robust and policy ambitious NBSAPs, which will be drafted in a participatory manner, based on sound assessments of the status of biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as sharp analysis of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss; attach due value to biodiversity and ecosystem services for a country’s development; provide policy guidance on the mainstreaming of biodiversity into key sectoral and development plans, policies and practices; take climate change and resilience into consideration; include a sound a prioritized plan for addressing direct pressures on biodiversity; include national biodiversity targets and appropriate indicators for monitoring progress; integrate spatial planning considerations; identify issues requiring capacity development and urgent action; include a feasible resource mobilization plan; and have been adopted with the inclusion of Aichi-inspired national targets.</p> <p>The GEF’s co-support will be essential for fostering the development of a community of practice dedicated to NBSAP, which currently counts on 750 pre-registered participants. The project has been designed to establish and maintain an innovative knowledge, communication and country outreach support framework for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 and making significant advances on national biodiversity policy-making. Innovation will permeate all aspects of the project, both through online and in-person content and services delivery.</p>

1.8 Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

More specifically, the following global biodiversity benefits will be produced by the project:

Successful mainstreaming of biodiversity into national development planning frameworks and sector planning processes

Increased understanding about the role intact habitat and biodiversity play to help humans adapt to climate change and advances in ecosystem service valuation provide an opportunity to incorporate this knowledge into the revision of NBSAPs.

At the level of individual NBSAPs, the project's specific benefits will be: i) the valuing of ecosystem goods and services; ii) biodiversity mainstreaming; iii) the incorporation of challenges and opportunities linked to ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience; iv) the establishment of national Aichi-inspired targets and development of biodiversity indicators for monitoring implementation; v) the integration of spatial planning considerations; and vi) the inclusion of feasible NBSAP implementation plans, including and in particular resource mobilization plans for biodiversity

The results will provide a simultaneous and comparable⁵ snapshot of how countries are implementing CBD, and provide revised NBSAPs for the implementation of 2020 targets. This project is an intervention in alignment with the GEF's mandate to generate global benefits by paying for the incremental costs of planning and foundational enabling activities that countries implement to generate global biodiversity benefits. Amongst other aspects, the project will touch on overarching themes that have global significance such as protected area systems, biodiversity hot spots, endemic and threatened species, as well as biomes and ecosystems of global significance and Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.

1.9 Innovation, Sustainability and potential for scaling up.

1.9.1 Innovation

Getting biodiversity concerns into the policies and plans of government ministries and private sector companies is a goal that can take many years to achieve. Huge amounts of energy and determination are needed to bring the right people together. This project will help ministries concerned with BD conservation to develop resilient and effective NBSAPs that can communicate the importance of biodiversity to key development sectors and to poverty reduction. These will be plans needed to make a compelling argument for conservation, influence development decisions and have the potential to improve outcomes for biodiversity and poverty. The plans will be gender responsive.

1.9.2 Sustainability

Institutional Sustainability:

The project's sustainability will be assured by building institutional strength principally through the various committees that will be formed to discuss different topical issues pertaining to biodiversity conservation. In many of the countries these committees and structures have already been in operation in previous enabling activities, however, measures will be taken to ensure adequate representation of stakeholders responsible for issues of gender equality and other emerging issues. Secondly, the revamping of CHMs is key to ensure that the training materials developed by the SCBD will be digitized and made available at the country portals and at the SCBD website same portal as the Climate Change data. This is to counter the high level of key staff turnover in the project countries, and also to increase the reach of project results.

⁵ When countries develop the BD reports simultaneously it is possible to facilitate South-South and North-South lesson learning.

Sustainability through strengthening Networks:

The technical sustainability of the outcomes of the project is dependent on the maintenance and management of the national, regional and global communications infrastructure. This project will be executed at country level but may have participation of various regional and global actors such as UNEP Regional offices, UNEP WCMC, and SCBD as deemed necessary. Networks will also include actors relevant to issues of gender equality.

Financial sustainability:

One of the outcomes of Component 4 is that Government BD budgets will be adjusted as a result of knowing capacity and technology gaps, and the full requirements for conservation of biodiversity. It is anticipated that the national environment Agencies (NEAs) will start making yearly budgets to cater for BD conservation in their areas of priority. In addition, any new innovative methods of financing identified will help in sustaining the results of the project. Attention will be given to gender-responsive budgeting.

Anchoring the project in the UNDAFs

UNEP will make sure this project is anchored in the individual country UNDAF processes, and thus will expose the results to the rest of the UN players in the region. This is crucial to making sure that the outputs and outcomes are visible to many other development agencies and therefore stand a better chance to attract more national and regional support in the future.

While the number of countries may pose a challenge for this mainstreaming due to differences UNDAF cycles, it will still be possible to capture and include it sometime within the 36 months of the project duration. A typical UNDAF framework runs for 5 years and has five pillars including (a) Human rights; (b) Gender mainstreaming; (c) Environment Sustainability; (d) Capacity development; and (e) Results based management. This NBSAP project is based on the environment angle but addresses all the others- and so it will be easy for any country to articulate and mainstream the project in UNDAF. Each of the 4 countries will interrogate their own UNDAF documents and make sure the project answers to their requirements. Since the official UNDAF documents are part of the governments documents on development, this part will be done under Component 3 where mainstreaming with other development plans (such as economic plans, Vision documents, MDGs, PRSPs) will be done.

Specific information on UNDAFs of the target countries

Pillar 2 of PNG's UNDAF states aims to Increase Development of Land and Natural Resource with 2 goals namely 2.1 Promote a viable, structured and functional rural and urban development strategy (growth centers) and 2.3 Maximize land usage and natural resource opportunities
Specific information on the UNDAF's of the Bahamas, Mexico and Venezuela will fully captured in due course since all their UNDAFs are currently in Spanish.

1.9.3 Potential for scaling up

The program approach for these 4 countries is already a replication from other earlier enabling activities. For example during the development of the Third and Fourth National reports, UNEP and UNDP had a similar mode of using an umbrella program encompassing many countries. This modus operandi has several advantages which could be replicated in other GEF and non-GEF projects that involve mandatory enabling activities. The advantages include:-

- The umbrella approach is aimed at reducing transaction costs of individual country requests, providing the GEF, and UNEP an opportunity for managing the biodiversity Enabling Activities more strategically in close partnership with the CBD and other key global actors.
- A second aspect that is already being replicated from previous umbrella projects is parallel training for country teams for issues pertaining to the project and organized by the SCBD.

All the activities are designed with maximum replicability as an integral aim: for example, the consultation teams, the wide multi-sectoral stakeholder groups, the thematic biodiversity committees are all structures that will be useful in future biodiversity planning projects and exercises.

2. Child Project?

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

N/A

3. Stakeholder participation

Countries are expected to involve a wide multi sectoral group of stakeholders in the various stages of consultations and will include the entities shown in table 3.1 below. The GEF eligible countries have in the past conducted stakeholder mapping exercises for biodiversity issues during previous enabling activities and so they will use the same line up of stakeholders as before except in the case of any emerging issues, such as gender equality, which will be determined on a country by country basis. In brief, there are different sets of actors as recommended in the training modules used by the SCBD, including:-

- National Stakeholders: Government Ministries (multi sectoral), local authorities, local communities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) local NGOs and Universities - all of which will be active in consultations and working teams.
- Private sector entities- will be active in providing inputs on their role in Biodiversity conservation and how it can be improved
- Local communities and indigenous groups will be consulted and represented in the consultations so that indigenous methods of conservation are included, and the needs of indigenous communities which live close to nature are taken care of.
- International NGOs related to Biodiversity conservation and which operate at country level will attend the consultations and these include WCMC, Birdlife international, Wetlands International and many others. They will also be active in checking final documents before they are submitted to the SCBD
- Multi laterals such as FAO, UNDP, World Bank and others will be invited to attend the consultations. Section 5 gives a detailed identification of relevant institutions and their expected roles in the consultations.

Table 3.1: Potential stakeholders and their roles

Potential Stakeholders	Expected Roles
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<p>Government ministries: Ministry of environment and mineral resources Ministry of Fisheries Ministry of Health/Public Health Ministry of Housing Ministry of Trade/ Commerce Ministry of Science and Technology Ministry of Education Ministry of Finance Ministry of Energy Ministry of Women’s Affairs/responsible for gender issues Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Water Resources Ministry of Industrialization Ministry of Information and Communication Ministry of Lands Ministry of Labor agricultural extension agencies, National focal point(s) for Multilateral Environmental Agreements</p>	<p>Conservation related ministries should adopt the NBSAP as their primary planning tool & the minister/head of agency needs to become the principle advocate within the government and amongst other ministries for NBSAP and conservation implementation activities.</p> <p>Advocating for Involvement of NBSAP development into daily workings/mandate which should increase political support for biodiversity conservation and also incorporate the NBSAP into their policy making frameworks.</p> <p>Building the financial basis to help include NBSAP implementation into national budgeting process, other domestic sources of support, and external funding for NBSAP implementation</p> <p>Development and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks, implementation of regulatory functions including monitoring and compliance with Protocol related matters</p>
<p>Legislature- Parliaments Congressional Bodies Senates Member of Parliament</p>	<p>Development and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks, implementation of regulatory functions including monitoring and compliance with Protocol related matters.</p> <p>Adoption of the NBSAP Reviewing and adopting new NBSAP related legislation</p>
<p>Judiciary Civil Courts, Criminal Courts, Police, Roll of Advocates, Judges, Magistrates</p>	<p>Ensure that environmental compliance of NBSAP / biodiversity related laws and regulations as adopted by the legislature are adhered to nationally via civil and criminal courts</p>
<p>Taxonomists, National Museums, Zoological /Botanical gardens, Herbaria, Arboreta, germplasm and seed bank managers, plant and animal breeding bodies etc, Universities, Forest Associations, Wild Life Protection Services</p>	<p>As holders of national and or international technical conservation information these organizations will provide the key resources that will fill up the NBSAP document</p>
<p>Communication Print, Audio & Visual Media</p>	<p>In conjunction with the other stakeholders participants from the communication world such as the Media (print, audio & visual) have the opportunity to convey to the nation and globally the NBSAP revision and development process. These entities can also serve as a good source of resources for educational purposes.</p>
<p>Private Businesses/Sector/Industry: Oil Industry, Pharmaceuticals, Financial Institutions, Telecommunication Companies, Food and Beverage Companies, Extractive/Mining companies, agro-biotechnology industry associations,</p>	<p>These should be brought in so that they can internalize any negative externalities from their production costs.</p> <p>Industries are involved in utilization of biodiversity resources and hence they need to engage in sustainable production techniques, if the NBSAP is included into their production frameworks.</p>

Academia & Research Institutions: public and private agricultural research bodies, Colleges, polytechnics and universities or training establishments,	Biodiversity & Biosafety research and training including laboratory analytical functions to support regulatory agencies
Civil Society Groups / NGOs/UN Agencies: Indigenous, minority and local community associations, Farmer Associations, Human rights groups, Conservation NGOs, Bilateral aid groups NGOs working in the area of gender and environment	Consumer related issues, public engagement and socio economic benefit actualization Offer an alternative source of direct and indirect technical assistance to countries. Assist in lobbying the government to adopt conservation policies within its policy frameworks
Standards Institutions:	Development of standards to facilitate work of regulatory and development agencies

4. Gender Considerations

The initial NBSAPs had ignored mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the implementation of the Convention and promote gender equality in achieving its three objectives. This aspect will now be included to enable the implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, to ensure that needs, interests and priorities of women and men, boys and girls are taken into account in the development of the NBSAP. This includes determination and assessment of views on how various social groups utilize biodiversity, how lack of conservation and environmental degradation might affect gender equality and how the needs of indigenous groups, forest communities and other local communities should be addressed in BD conservation. Gender considerations are intended to be addressed at every stage of the project, through engagement of relevant stakeholders and provision of technical expertise. This PRODOC will take into account the new checklist for social and environmental safeguards recently introduced for all UNEP GEF projects by the UNEP GEF Coordination Unit and also the new gender tracking tool introduced by the UNEP gender unit.

5. Benefits - socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project

5.1 Socio-economic benefits

This project is an enabling activity where practical interventions or basic research for new data from the field will not be done. However the project will ensure all norms regarding social safeguards in the following ways;

- In-depth analysis and articulation of relationship of BD conservation to human wellbeing. In particular, issues on how biodiversity conservation, or lack of it, affects both men and women, and how it affects livelihoods and poverty levels of local rural communities will be brought out in the consultations and in the final reports, along with measures identified to address issues, where possible. Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development: It will be necessary to include ways of integrating the NBSAPs into national development and poverty reduction policies and strategies, national accounting, economic sectors and spatial planning processes and the MDGs and SDGs
- Human Rights and Indigenous peoples: In most of the participating countries, the population is highly stratified and contains various indigenous peoples and minority groups and so it will be necessary to factor issues on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Issues of BD conservation and poverty alleviation should be well articulated in the consultations in during NBSAP revision. In addition, during the project implementation, there will be deliberate inclusiveness of both men and women in formulation and implementation of the national

consultation processes as well as collecting of gender disaggregated (information) data where possible.

5.2 Environmental safeguards

Environmental safeguards for a project refer to the inclusion of measures to make sure the project does not do any direct or inadvertent harm to the environment due to its activities and the modus operandi engaged throughout the project life span or beyond. The aim of this project is the exact anti-thesis for causing environment harm i.e. the project addresses planning and strategies for making sure Biodiversity is conserved and utilized in the best manner possible.

6. Risk analysis and risk management measures

Risk	Level	Risk Mitigation
<p>Experience from past Umbrella programs (for 3rd and 4th national reports to the CBD) showed that many countries have been slow in preparing and remitting country requests to the GEF implementing agency . Often requests were incomplete or contained inconsistent text.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The ongoing training by SCBD will support countries and contribute to better articulation of country requirements for the project.</p> <p>As part of its contribution to this project the UNEP will prepare a readymade template for country requests and related guidance materials which will be availed to the participating countries. This template is given as Appendix 11.</p>
<p>The review of several reports also showed that many countries missed the opportunity to truly involve civil society in consultations.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>UNEP will be extra vigilant to ensure that all stakeholders are involved and that there is a comprehensive list of stakeholders in the individual country proposals</p> <p>Experts or consultants will be engaged to train country teams during project execution and follow up on the quality of the reports and revised NBSAPs. This will be done partially in conjunction with the SCBD.</p>
<p>Lack of capacity: Experience from the Fourth National Report Umbrella Projects (both UNDP's and UNEP's) showed that many countries do not have adequate capacity for the preparation of the reports to the CBD.</p> <p>In addition this project includes revision of the NBSAPs- which requires a different type of training</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>One of the collaborating entities, the WCMC, is doing a parallel capacity building program for countries revision of NBSAPs. This project will work hand in hand with the SCBD training program. In addition this project plans to further work with the SCBD to support countries in developing the 5th national report.</p> <p>In addition, UNEP will provide one-on-one training and question and answer facility to the countries during implementation of the project. UNEP will also provide comments on the quality of the reports and NBSAPs once the drafts are ready.</p> <p>Information on operational procedures and substantive guidance prepared for the project will be in the CBD website.</p>

7. Project cost-effectiveness

This project requests US \$ 1,051,600 from the GEF Trust Fund for support for revision of the NBSAP and development of 5th National Report. Using an umbrella program for 4 countries will be highly cost effective as it saves time and funds for countries that would have been spent developing single country projects, and also for UNEP and the GEF secretariat.

Secondly cost saving will be achieved as the project is rolled out in many countries simultaneously and thereby enabling effective oversight by UNEP, and enhancing lesson learning quicker as many countries execute the projects at the same time.

Thirdly it will be highly cost effective in that it lays the foundational planning for conservation, which, if well implemented, has great gains for a country as all conservation efforts will depend on it in the future. In addition, this project is an intervention in alignment with the GEF's mandate to generate global benefits by paying for the incremental costs of planning and foundational enabling activities that countries implement to generate global biodiversity benefits. Specifically, the project will concentrate on overarching themes that touch upon protected area systems, biodiversity hot spots, endemic and threatened species, Alliance for Zero extinction (AZE) sites, as well as biomes and ecosystems of global significance.

If GEF funds are not provided, the countries would "self-finance" for the preparation of their Fifth National Reports and revision of the NBSAPs to achieve the outcomes of this project. However past experience has shown that this method would be the least effective and countries might not revise their NBSAP and develop the 5th National Report to the CBD at all or may be very late in doing so.

In both cases, the functioning of the CBD, in particular its decision-making processes, will be seriously affected. Without a significant number of national reports, the CBD COP cannot review the implementation of the CBD and consequently provide adequate guidance for the CBD implementation at various levels. This will hamper the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 Strategic for Biodiversity & Aichi BD Targets.

8. Coordination

8.1 Institutional, sectoral and policy context

This umbrella project will be based in the ministries that are responsible for managing the environment portfolio in each participating country. However, during consultations, stakeholders and discussants will come from a very wide institutional and sectoral spectrum. Table 3.1 of section 3 above gives a list of stakeholders and the role they will be expected to play in this project, and they include Government Ministries or departments. The importance of involving all these government based institutions and other non-government stakeholders is that the results from the project will be firmly embedded in the country fabric, and necessary policies are made for Biodiversity conservation

9. Institutional Arrangement for project implementation

9.1 Institutional arrangement

The government Ministries in charge of biodiversity issues in the 4 countries will be the National Executing Agencies (NEAs) (or a national institution appointed by the Ministry). The NEAs will host the project management unit (PMU) composed of the Project Manager and a financial assistant. The project manager will be supervised by a senior level manager at the NEA. The Project Manager will oversee all the activities of the project as per the TORs given in **Appendix 7**, and following the work-plan shown in **Appendix 4**. He/She will further follow the reporting requirements summarized in **Appendix 9** and the project key deliverables are given in **Appendix 5**.

Enhanced project oversight at UNEP:

UNEP DEPI will have oversight to the project through a Task Manager and will liaise with country teams to provide technical back up, i.e. provide one to one question and answer sessions. UNEP will also support the country with comments on technical input and content of the reports prepared as well as keep project database at UNEP using the web based project management tool ANUBIS. Specifically, UNEP will manage the project in several ways as follows:

- UNEP will disburse funds (according to the UNEP budget shown in **Appendix 2**. This UNEP budget follows closely on the general component budget outline given by the GEF Secretariat and is shown as part of **Appendix 3**, which is cost benchmarks/or sample budget for NBSAPs.
- UNEP will support the countries to execute the project using the training modules earlier developed by UNEP and Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) and guidelines given by the SCBD (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/a3-train-intro-nr-en.pdf>)
- In addition, UNEP and SCBD will collaborate in training country teams for the revision on NBSAPs as per the schedule issued by the SCBD (<http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/>).
- UNEP will further give guidance and technical advice to country teams during implementation of the project as required and make initial comments on draft NBSAPs before they are submitted to the SCBD. Through the UNEP Task manager, UNEP will provide project oversight, including coordinating, monitoring and evaluation.

UNEP-WCMC will provide technical support to countries through its GEF project titled “Support to GEF Eligible Countries for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 through a globally guided NBSAPs update process”. UNEP-WCMC will also peer review NBSAPs before they are submitted to the CBD. More technical support will be provided through the NBSAP forum.

9.2 Project Implementation Arrangement:

The Global Coordination Committee

At the global level, the Global Coordination Committee (**GCC**) composed of UNEP, UNDP, WCMC, SCBD and the GEF Secretariat, will guide the project. The GCC will be a coordinating committee to discuss and monitor the progress of the program and all the members of the GCC will attend the sessions at their own cost. The Chairmanship will be provided by the SCBD and UNEP. The committee will meet virtually or face to face, whenever possible during international events. This operational modality was adopted in past umbrella enabling activities and was found to be successful. This GCC is the convener and the host of the NBSAP forum that has been providing support to countries.

The Roles of the National project steering committee

At national level, the Project will be guided by a Steering Committee (NSC) composed of NEA (the chair), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Municipalities and General works, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific researches, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Local Governments and NGOs and the National Project Coordinator and the National Project Manager and UNEP.

The NSC is responsible - among others - to adopt the project's strategic decisions, reports and approve annual work plans, budgets and financial procurement, as well as control of the use of financial resources.

The NSC will meet regularly twice a year and whenever necessary to oversee the project execution and monitor the conformity with the approved project workplan and to review and approve the project deliverables. The NSC will have the following roles:

- Provide strategic advice to the project Team on the implementation of project activities to ensure the integration of activities with national policies and sustainable development objectives
- Ensure coordination/complementarities between the Project and other ongoing activities in the country
- Ensure inter-agency coordination
- Ensure full participation of stakeholders in project activities
- Provide policy guidance and technical backstopping to the project.
- Approve reports and annual work plans, budgets and financial procurement, as well as control of the use of financial resources
- Approve the 5th National report and the NBSAP document

The role of UNEP DEPI

The project will be managed by UNEP DEPI (GEF) through the designated Task manager for the project, who will work together towards fulfillment of the project's objectives. The Task Manager will have a project assistant and will be responsible for receiving country proposals and subsequent disbursement of funds. UNEP DEPI will be responsible for monitoring implementation in the countries until the reports are ready and the NBSAPs revised.

UNEP will disburse the \$220,000 per country. Specifically, countries will be invited to fill the funds request template (the template is **Appendix 11** - Format for Country Request for the Revision of NBSAP and Development of 5th National Report to the CBD).

UNEP will process the proposals, legal instruments and disbursements to the countries, which will be done simultaneously for all the countries and will use the UNEP Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) which is a legal document to be signed with each country before work commences.

Use of international consultants during project implementation:

Implementation support services, which are different from oversight services, will be treated as direct project costs linked to its implementation. These direct costs will be charged directly to the project on actual cost basis. UNEP DEPI will work closely with the SCBD to train the country teams on development of the 5th National Reports and development of national CHMs through regional consultations. Other international consultants from the recommended institutions may be brought in to support the countries (especially in COMPONENTS 2 on targets and indicators). The participating

countries vary in their capacity for meaningful target and indicator setting (COMPONENT 2) and this is where they might require help from international consultants. UNEP has therefore recommended that countries should feel free to engage international consultants to assist in this process as they deem necessary. Countries could also engage the same international consulting institutions or WCMC to assist in making comments on the completed NBSAPs and 5th National Reports. The institutions earmarked as potential sources of consultants are UNEP WCMC, IUCN, UNEP MEA Focal points and the SCBD.

The role of UNEP – WCMC

UNEP-WCMC has experience over several years working with Parties to the CBD in the development of indicators to track progress towards nationally and internationally agreed goals and targets. Through a series of regional consultations and the development of guidance material UNEP-WCMC has supported indicator development in some 45 countries worldwide (see www.bipnational.net). WCMC has done work with CBD National focal points in the context of GEF MSP and FSP projects for which WCMC acted as executing agency.

During the current round of NBSAP revisions UNEP-WCMC has attended several of the regional consultations organised by the CBD Secretariat during 2011, at which countries have highlighted a need for capacity strengthening on indicator development and use, and other data management and analysis issues, and UNEP-WCMC staff have presented guidance material and led workshop breakout sessions. Individual countries have requested further follow-up.

UNEP-WCMC also has significant technical experience in a range of other fields relevant to the revision of NBSAPs, including spatial planning and mainstreaming, and has worked in many of these fields to strengthen national capacity.

At present UNEP-WCMC (together with UNEP Regional Focal Points for biodiversity) is developing guidance materials and workshop modules to support NBSAP revision, focusing in particular on understanding targets and developing appropriate indicators, with additional modules on using spatial information for planning and priority-setting, and on mainstreaming NBSAPs into development planning and other sectors, being planned

For this umbrella project, UNEP-WCMC has two ways in which they might assist in the umbrella program.

1. UNEP WCMC will provide technical assistance to certain elements of the project. They are well placed to contribute to Component 2, Component 3 and Component 5 (Outputs c and d).
2. UNEP WCMC will be called upon to peer review draft NBSAPs and 5th national reports if the countries desire this service

The role of UNEP-MEA focal points (based in the UNEP regional offices)

1. The biodiversity MEA focal points have been attending their respective CBD regional consultations on the revision of NBSAPs, giving presentation(s) on a number of topics, including: Synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions through the NBSAP Process, TEEB, Funding of NBSAP activities, etc. At these consultations they made interventions on their own capacity as well as on behalf of the other biodiversity-related MEAs, not all of whom were present, to ensure that the NBSAP revision process would give due consideration of the other MEAs and promote synergies among them,

highlighting the potential role of these MEAs in providing data/information/methodologies in developing and measuring the national Targets.

2. Also during the course of the workshop, they liaised with a large number of country representatives, NGOs, UN agencies as well as CBD staff members in identifying the best way forward for collaborating on the NBSAP revision, including through sharing the GEF funding opportunities.

3. Other areas of work undertaken by the biodiversity MEA focal points in UNEP regional offices are:
- Collaboration with UNEP-WCMC on the indicators work as they relate to the Aichi Targets and NBSAP revision ("training of trainers" for the MEA focal points to take place at the end of September 2011),

- Communication with CITES and CMS through their preparation of the guidelines on integration in the NBSAP process

- Analysis on the possible areas of synergies of biodiversity-related MEAs and ITPGRFA under each of the Aichi Targets (preliminary study undertaken in May 2011, a more detailed exercise to take place in 4Q 2011)

- Communication and consultation with a number of countries interested in undertaking stand-alone GEF project on NBSAPs

Possible Participation of the UNEP MEA FOCAL POINTS in the UMBRELLA program

The comparative strength of the biodiversity MEA Focal Points lies in their regionally-based expertise/experience. The implementation of biodiversity-MEAs in the region, including CBD, is their core responsibility.

The envisaged role would therefore include, but not be limited to:

1. Provision of regionally-specific technical advice and support
2. Regional (and possibly national) rollout of central/global activities, including organization of regional consultations.
3. Liaison with country focal points in the region to "feel the pulse" of the countries, and to relay their needs and concerns
4. Liaison with other biodiversity-related Convention secretariats (CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention, ITPGRFA) on synergistic approaches at the regional level

ROLE OF THE SCBD

The SCBD has already participated in preparing the ground by training the country teams on

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b2-train-prepare-update-nbsap-revised-en.pdf> ON REVISION OF NBSAPs as indicated in the SCBD website.

Participation of the SCBD for Revision of NBSAP will include:

1. SCBD (FOR NATIONAL REPORTING AND CHM)

- a) First there is a mandate from CBD COP decision X/10 paragraph 14, which requests the CBD executive secretary to continue facilitating support to countries in particular LDCs, SIDs and countries with economies in transition for the preparation of their fifth national reports. In fact, this paragraph was included because all the countries that had received technical support from GEF umbrella project for 4NR (Phases I and III through UNEP) felt that these capacity development consultations and activities were useful to their timely preparation and submission of the fourth national reports.

- b) Second, during Phases I and III of the fourth national report umbrella projects (managed by UNEP and UNDP), 30 LDCs and 15 SIDs were provided technical support through capacity development consultations for preparing their fourth national reports. Almost all of them had submitted the fourth national reports, with some of them ahead of other countries including developed countries. Another indication of the usefulness of such technical support/assistance is the improved quality of the fourth national reports. Preparing the fourth national reports required considerable data, information and analysis-the work load was much bigger than those for preparing the second and third national reports which primarily answered questions through selecting multiple choices given.
- c) Third, technical support through the GEF umbrella project also significantly facilitated the national processes of preparing the fourth national report. As of now SCBD has received a total of 179 fourth national reports, accounting for over 90% of the total number of Parties, which is record high in the history of the Convention. Among them 165 countries sent their fourth national reports to COP 10 (October 2010), which was only a year and a half after the deadline set by COP 10 (March 30, 2009). Compared with the earlier national reports, the rate of submission a year and a half after the deadline was 30%-40% of the total number of the Parties.
- d) Finally, technical support through the GEF project strengthened national capacities of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the CBD, particularly exposure to, processing and analysis of information and data available from various sources. Participants of capacity development consultations were provided training on how to review and analyze implementation. They also benefited from each other's experience, expertise and lessons through exchanges, discussions and group exercises during these consultations. Resource persons or experts sent to these consultations or assigned to work with participating countries provided very useful comments and suggestions to participating countries during and after the consultations.

Possible Participation of the SCBD for development of 5th national report

The SCBD intends to participate in the work on development of 5th national report and CHM through regional consultations for LDCs and SIDs similar to those done for fourth national report.

Training on CHM could be done in the same consultation meetings or otherwise. As part of co-financing the SCBD will be responsible for development and management of project related web pages within the CHM framework, i.e. the 5NR Portal, and providing assistance requested through the Portal.

10. Knowledge Management

10.1 knowledge management approach for the project

Component 5 will address communication aspects of the project which will entail the following ways;

- Through the CHM: The national and international stakeholders will be able to know the status and conservation progress for biodiversity through the CHM. At the same time the CHM fosters a 2 way flow of information i.e. from the NEA to stakeholders, and vice versa.
- Communication to the CBD and other international entities through the 5th National Report to the CBD
- Communication to the international community through the SCBD portal -where all the reports and revised NBSAPs will be uploaded.
- The NBSAP forum: Participation of the staff of the ministries of targeted countries in the

NBSAP forum will be encouraged. The NBSAPS forum uses various means of delivering capacity, for example, technical guidance and tools, capacity building workshops, e-learning courses, best practices, facilitating information exchange, and peer and expert reviews that have proved to be very effective in delivering capacity to countries in developing NBSAPs. Capacity building workshops will have more time for countries to share lessons and experiences

Communication to the policy and decision makers in the countries through the process of final endorsement and adoption of the revised NBSAP by relevant bodies. This part will also include the local media for each country so that the results of the project will be known to the general public. Each country will develop an NBSAP communication strategy to popularize the NBSAPs.

10.2 Lessons learnt

In the past enabling activities, the model of using an umbrella has been used during the development of the 3rd and 4th National Reports to the CBD, and also the development of the 2nd national Biosafety reports, and now in phase 1 and 2 of NBSAP revision and NR5 production. There are several lessons learnt from this approach, which are beneficial to this project. These include:-

- The umbrella approach provides a standardized simultaneous working in a great number of countries. Using one main project document for many countries, saves time and funds for countries, GEF agencies and the GEF Secretariat. The projects components are similar in all the countries, and where there are minor differences in country needs it is possible to capture those differences at project implementation.
- The umbrella approach has enabled countries to have a peer to peer exchange and reviews and to learn from each other. It therefore enables UNEP to assist the countries to exchange information as the project progresses.
- There is a lot of learning and exchange between countries, and trainings can be done in blocks.
- UNEP's experience in the past is that enabling activities took much longer time to execute at country level due to many delays. Pooling many countries together in an umbrella set up enabled UNEP to shorten execution time for the third phase of 4th national report which started in 2009 and completed in 2011, for a group of 27 countries. It has also enabled UNEP to expedite revision of NBSAPs and production of NR5 in phase 1 and 2 of this stage of enabling activity.
- It has also encouraged competition among countries since most of them started almost at the same time. This helped to have a high rate of success and with quality output. For example, as of June 2015, 83% of the countries have submitted their 5th National Reports while 65% of the countries have submitted their NBSAPs.
- The umbrella approach helps to reduce transaction costs of individual country requests, providing the GEF, and UNEP an opportunity for managing the biodiversity Enabling Activities more strategically in close partnership with the CBD and other key global actors.
- Umbrella projects provide a platform for parallel training for country teams for issues pertaining to the project and those organized by the SCBD.

This project proposes to support 4 countries in an umbrella program to fulfill this commitment in three main areas, namely, to enable GEF eligible parties to undertake revision of the NBSAPs, to support them to develop the 5th National Report to the CBD and to assist them develop or improve their CHM.

11. Consistency with National Priorities.

All of the 4 countries have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and are therefore committed to implementing the Decisions of the CBD Conference of Parties (COP). This project is in conformity and responds to several Decisions of the COP and resultant guidelines as follows:

- COP Decision X/10-National Reporting⁶: The project responds to this COP Decision and the resultant specific SCBD document on Guidelines for Fifth National Report is given at the SCBD website⁷.
- Notification for 5th National Report and revision of NBSAPs: The proposal responds to the recent SCBD Notification⁸ to Parties to prepare the 5th National Reports and Update the NBSAP of 21-Jan-2011. This notification informs Parties that the deadline for submitting duly completed Fifth National Report to the CBD is 31st March 2014.
- AICHI targets: The project will further be in complicity with the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity & Aichi BD Target 17 for biodiversity as agreed by countries in COP 10.
- PRSPs: Most of the 4 countries have developed their initial PRSPs and later versions of them. Component 3 of this project will articulate how the NBSAP will be integrated into PRSPs and MDGs and now probably SDGs.

12. Monitoring and evaluation Plan

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

The project will be reviewed or evaluated at mid-term. 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) according to the project logframe in **annex 1**, 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.

⁶ - <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12276>

⁷ www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-10/official/cop-10-11-en.doc

⁸ - <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-015-nbsap-en.pdf>

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 M&E budget as shown in **Appendix 6**.

Part III: approval/endorsement by gef operational focal point(s) and GEF agency(ies)


- A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the [*Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)*](#) with this template – see **annex 12** of this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (Month, day, year)
Phillip S. Weech	Director of Environment, Science and Technology Commission	Bahamas Ministry of Environment and Housing	2 APRIL 2015
Carlos Rau Delgado Aranda		Mexico: Ministry of Environment	31 MARCH 2015
Gunther Joku	Managing Director Conservation and environment protection Authority	Papua New Guinea	26 NOVEMBER 2014
Lic Charles Giuseppi	Director General Office for International Cooperation	Venezuela	30 MARCH 2015

B. CONVENTION PARTICIPATION

CBD CONVENTION	CBD DATE OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION (mm/dd/yyyy)	CBD NATIONAL FOCAL POINT
Bahamas	9/2/1993	Mr. Philip S. Weech
Mexico	3/11/1993	Dr. Roberto Dondisch Glowinsky
Papua New Guinea,	3/16/1993	Dr. Wari Iamo
Venezuela	9/13/1994	Mr. Rubén Darío Molina and Dr. Jesús Manzanilla Puppo

C. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁹ and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for (select) Enabling Activity approval in GEF 6.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail Address
Brennan Van Dyke, Director GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		24 November 2015	Jane Gubare Nimpamya DEPI, UNEP Nairobi, Kenya	+254 207 624 629 +254 718436427	Jane.Nimpamya@unep.org

⁹ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

Appendices

Appendix 1: Project logical Framework

Appendix 2 Detailed GEF Budget and detailed Co-Financing Budget

Appendix 3: Cost benchmarks/or sample budget for biodiversity enabling activities

Appendix 4: Workplan and timetable

Appendix 5: Key deliverables and benchmarks

Appendix 6: M&E plan

Appendix 7: Terms of Reference of Key personnel

Appendix 8: Project Implementation Arrangements

Appendix 9: Reporting requirements and responsibilities

Appendix 10: Environmental and social safeguards

Appendix 11: Formatted template for country specific requests/project documents

Appendix 12: Endorsement letters of GEF National Focal Points

Appendix 13: Co-financing commitment letters from project partners

Appendix 14: Acronyms and Abbreviations

Appendix 15: BD Tracking Tool

Appendix 16: PRC Checklist