



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: MSP

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TF

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Developing a national framework on access to and benefit-sharing of genetic resources and traditional knowledge as a strategy to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Morocco		
Country:	Morocco	GEF Project ID:	TBD
GEF Agency:	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4953
Executing Partner:	Department of Environment of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment	Submission Date:	October 1, 2013
GEF Focal Areas:	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	36
Name of parent program	N/A	Agency Fee (\$):	77,215

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
BD-4: Build Capacity on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing	GEF	738,895	1,272,727
Subtotal		738,895	1,272,727
Project management cost		73,890	127,273
Total project cost		812,785	1,400,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in Morocco by developing and implementing a national framework on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) consistent with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Developing a national framework on ABS consistent with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol	TA	<p>1.1 National law on ABS in line with the Nagoya Protocol adopted by Morocco.</p> <p>1.2 Institutional and regulatory frameworks including an effective benefit sharing mechanism established to facilitate the implementation of the national ABS law and related policies.</p> <p>1.3 System for the protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) established.</p>	<p>1.1 A national law on ABS prepared and submitted for adoption to the Moroccan Parliament that addresses intellectual property rights (IPR), is in line with the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol (NP) and related international instruments, and is adapted to national circumstances following stakeholder consultation and participation.</p> <p>1.2 A regulatory framework and supporting policies as well as an institutional framework (including national competent authorities and supporting measures) defined and established, enabling implementation of the national ABS law, providing legal certainty, clarity and transparency for commercial and research purposes.</p> <p>1.3 Establishment of a system for the protection of TK, including PIC, MAT and Community Protocols.</p> <p>1.4 Effective mechanisms established (e.g. through endowment, sinking or revolving funds) for receiving and sharing benefits from ABS agreements for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components.</p>	GEF	178,896	836,364
2. Building capacity for implementing the national ABS framework	TA	2.1 Capacity of existing and/or newly established agencies competent and otherwise relevant for ABS implementation improved by at least 30%, as measured by UNDP's ABS Capacity	<p>2.1 Coordination mechanisms established between the different in-country institutions involved in the implementation of the national ABS framework.</p> <p>2.2 Targeted training for Competent Authorities (CA), Focal Points (FP) and related agencies (100 staff) on processing ABS access applications, negotiating ABS agreements, facilitating access to genetic resources, compliance monitoring, monitoring bio-prospecting projects, handling issues under the Nagoya Protocol, etc.</p>	GEF	560,000	436,363

	Development Scorecard.	2.3 Development of templates, guidance manuals and training programmes on the national ABS framework (ABS procedures for users and providers of genetic resources, PIC protocols, ABS agreement negotiation strategies, ABS-related IP, customary law, bio-prospecting and research procedures, etc.); and dissemination to relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and local communities.			
	2.2 At least 50% of researchers, local communities, and relevant industry players targeted by the campaign are aware of the national ABS law and regulations as well as of the CBD and NP provisions related to ABS and TK.	2.4 ABS model agreement that facilitates the negotiation of monetary (i.e. upfront payments and royalties) and non-monetary (i.e. training/research opportunities) benefits between users and providers of genetic resources.			
	2.3 Potential users and providers of genetic resources (including private sector) identified, including any community-based bio-prospecting and value-chains.	2.5 Public Awareness Materials and Campaigns aimed at key stakeholders regarding the national ABS framework.			
		2.6. Knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) assessment surveys targeting specific groups (e.g. researchers, local communities, and relevant industry players) that may use or benefit from ABS transactions, to assess awareness about national ABS law, the CBD and Nagoya Protocol.			
		2.7 Databases on ex-situ collections of genetic and biochemical resources and traditional knowledge, including bio-prospecting value-chains of potential interest for ABS.			
Subtotal				738,896	1,272,727
Project Management Cost (PMC)				73,890	127,273
Total Project Cost				812,785	1,400,000

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Government of Morocco	Grant	100,000
National Government	Government of Morocco	In kind	100,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	200,000
Bilateral Aid Agency	GIZ	Grant	1,000,000
Total Co-financing			1,400,000

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

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	Grant Amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b) ²	Total (\$) c=a+b
UNDP	GEF-TF	Biodiversity	Morocco	812,785	77,215	890,000
Total Grant Resources				812,785	77,215	890,000

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

PPG allowed by grant amount	Amount Requested (\$)	Agency Fee for PPG (\$)
(up to) \$50k for projects up to & including \$1 million	0*	0*

*: the PPG phase will be conducted and relevant documents prepared without GEF financing

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description

1. *Biodiversity importance*: Located on the north-western tip of Africa at the junction of three bio-geographic regions, Morocco holds a place of global importance in terms of biodiversity. It has a diversity of bio-climatic regions, including important mountain ranges with large areas of bordering plateau, and rich coastal plains and valleys. The country's five

major ecosystems provide habitat for more than 24,000 animal species (11% endemic) and 7,000 plant species (20% endemic). Forest and marine ecosystems are especially rich in biodiversity. The resulting high level of genetic diversity makes Morocco a particularly attractive country for bio-prospecting, especially given that there are approximately 800 known medicinal and aromatic plants, 600 of which have associated traditional knowledge. Unfortunately, the general trend in the country is toward biodiversity degradation and loss, and a decline in biodiversity is observable in all ecosystems. This puts Morocco's genetic resources at serious risk, since many are rare or vulnerable.

2. The main threats to biodiversity in Morocco result from human activities, economic development and population growth, such as urbanization, sand mining, water pumping, habitat transformation, over-exploitation of resources, pollution, erosion, and the introduction of invasive species. Climate change is likely to worsen the state of the natural environment in years to come, as the country's water resources are expected to drop significantly due to rising temperatures and a reduction in precipitation, thus exacerbating issues of water vulnerability, resource dependence, and the erosion and desertification of agricultural land. More frequent droughts are likely to occur, placing forests and agricultural ecosystems under severe stress. Oases and mountain ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to climate change due the threat of desertification and land degradation, thus threatening their high social, economic and environmental value. These complex problems require significant investment to counter the inevitable loss of plant and animal diversity.

3. In this context, an Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regime would be a key opportunity as it would significantly strengthen biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives and measures including through the provision of new capital flows. However, Morocco currently has no framework that comprehensively governs the sustainable use, conservation and especially benefit-sharing of biodiversity. Various policies have been developed in Morocco to regulate sectors touching on biodiversity, but the lack of a national ABS framework has left the benefit-sharing opportunity untapped. An effective ABS regime must therefore be developed, in close consultation with stakeholders, in order to facilitate an efficient and equitable access to genetic resources and enable the sharing of revenues arising from their sustainable use for the benefit of biodiversity and the providers of these resources. The development of such a framework will require harmonization of the existing legal and regulatory instruments affecting genetic and biological resources. It should be consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol and must also be coupled with the support needed to build national capacity for implementation.

4. Law and policy context: The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) came into effect in Morocco in 1995. Ever since, most attention has been directed to the two first CBD objectives, being the conservation of biodiversity, and the sustainable use of its components. The third CBD objective – the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources – for long received less attention. The laws and policies most relevant to ABS relate to the environment, forests and protected areas. Following the 1995 National Strategy for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Moroccan Government in 2002 prepared a National Action Plan for the Environment that comprised the 1st National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (NSAPCSUB). The 2nd NSAPCSUB, prepared in 2006, identified the conservation of genetic resources and the adoption of a law on ABS as key strategic goals. The 2003 Law 11-03 on the Preservation and Valuation of the Environment is a framework law that established ground rules and general principles relating to the environment, including biodiversity. It requires the rational management of flora and fauna to ensure the survival of biodiversity, and forbids, or requires prior consent for, activities that may harm animal and plant species or their natural surroundings. Together with Law 12-03 of 2003 on Environmental Impacts Assessments it forms the legal framework underpinning EIAs, required for every project that by the nature of its size or impact may have an impact on the environment. Law 31-05 of 2006 regarding the protection of industrial property lays down the framework also for intellectual property rights in Morocco. Forests are governed by the Law on the Conservation and Exploitation of Forests, which lays out the extent of State forests and subjects most forested land to oversight and management (e.g. State forests, community forests, afforested or reforested common land). As a result of this Law, whose origins date back to 1917, commercial access to all forest resources found on State lands is regulated; certain species (e.g. Argan, dates and walnut) are subject to particular management regimes, and the exploitation of certain non-timber forest products is subject to prior consent. Morocco's Law 22-07 on Protected Areas was adopted in 2010 and establishes a regime that limits the use of designated areas in accordance with a development and management plan; apart from customary uses, all activities that may negatively impact the state of a protected area are forbidden without the prior consent of the relevant authority. Law 29-05 of 2011 on the national implementation of CITES deals inter alia also with the collection and trade of genetic resources. Law 25-06 of 2008 on the distinctive signs of origin and quality of food, agricultural and fishery products created the necessary legal framework for the recognition and protection of local products and the basis for related labelling. Furthermore the High Commissariat for Water and Forests oversees regulations for the access to wild flora for scientific purposes. Furthermore,

the recently adopted National Charter for Environment and Sustainable Development proclaims that research and development must be supported to stimulate innovation and encourage technologies and processes that are appropriate for environmental protection, sustainable development and job creation, in the context of a new economy and green growth. The Charter advanced the adoption of the following laws and strategies, currently under development: (a) a new Framework Law on the Environment, which will become the new key overarching legislative reference on the environment; (b) a new Strategy for the Environment; and (c) a new National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Taken together, these laws govern the use of biological and genetic resources, but they do not provide a coherent framework for ABS.

5. Lastly, a new Constitution was enacted on 29 July 2011, which devolves power from the Monarchy to the Parliament, and lays out the framework for decentralization and advanced regionalization aimed at achieving integrated and sustainable development at the economic, social, cultural and environmental levels. The Constitution also formally proclaims that the State will strive toward the realization of sustainable human development, with the objective of consolidating social justice, the preservation of national natural resources and the rights of future generations.

6. *The long-term solution* is the establishment of a comprehensive national legal, regulatory and institutional framework for ABS, to activate the potential that Morocco's diverse genetic resources and traditional knowledge represent for generating economic benefits to the nation and key stakeholders, including local communities where appropriate, in the form of business, employment, technology transfer and capacity development. The long-term solution will therefore involve the development of a national bio-prospecting industry, an equitable participation in international bio-prospecting programmes and attracting investment from international bio-prospecting companies in Morocco, to catalyse the discovery and development of further biochemical products such as pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals and agro-chemicals. These new opportunities will strengthen the economic case and political motivation as well as the financing required for the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity/resources containing the genetic material. The establishment of a comprehensive national ABS framework will moreover ensure that Morocco's sovereign right to regulate access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge is respected. Given that Morocco is in the final stages of ratifying the Nagoya Protocol, this task takes on some urgency.

7. *The baseline project.* The Government of Morocco has over the last years engaged in several projects and processes that provide a relevant preliminary foundation. The recently closed (July 2013) UNEP-GEF project "Development of the National Clearing House Mechanism, Capacity Assessment for ABS and Taxonomy in Morocco, and Updating of the NBSAP" (GEF # 3008) prepared an assessment and analysis of relevant laws and regulations in force, institutional arrangements, resources, and opportunities for ABS. This included a suggestion for an appropriate framework for the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on ABS. The project also prepared an assessment of the state of knowledge regarding genetic resources, particularly regarding the exploitation of genetic resources at the national and international level; an assessment of the economic potential of Morocco's genetic resources; and a stocktaking of the roles of all pertinent stakeholders in the domain of ABS. In 2011, the Government carried out two workshops to develop a roadmap and strategy for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Morocco and organised the 5th Pan-African Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing in Marrakesh where African countries had the opportunity to exchange information on model national ABS frameworks and recommendations for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Under the UNEP-GEF project the government in January and July 2012 also carried out two workshops on capacity building needs relating to the implementation of ABS in Morocco.

8. Working further towards the above long-term solution, the Government and GIZ will over the next three years invest \$400,000 and \$1,000,000, respectively, to define a national ABS Strategy and institutional framework for ABS in Morocco and develop an ABS value chain pilot programme. The GIZ will through a dedicated project provide technical assistance on these matters to the Government of Morocco. Under the baseline scenario therefore some critical issues are being addressed. However, *two key barriers remain that impede full achievement of the above long-term solution:*

1. Lack of a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework	No effective national legal and regulatory framework on ABS is in place. A mosaic of sectoral laws touching on, or governing different aspects of ABS exist, but these do not sufficiently reflect the 2010 Nagoya Protocol. National laws do not yet cover PIC and MAT procedures. While there is a national focal point for ABS, also competent national authorities are not yet in place. Authorities who could be involved in ABS are dispersed across sectors, and there is a lack of sufficient coordination. It can be difficult to identify the authorized representatives of local communities, as well as pertinent laws and customs. Traditional knowledge related to genetic resources has not been broadly identified or inventoried. Measures for access and benefit sharing fail to distinguish between access for research purposes, and access for the purposes of commercialization. Existing
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	measures relating to access and benefit sharing are often confusing and procedures are unclear. It is difficult to assure benefit sharing once genetic resources have left Morocco.
2. Limited capacity, knowledge and awareness	The April 2012 provisional report “Evaluation of the national capacity development needs on ABS (<i>Evaluation des besoins de renforcement des capacités nationales en matière d’APA</i>)” produced under the above-mentioned UNEP-GEF Project identified four principal areas: 1) institutional capacity, 2) legal and regulatory capacity, 3) scientific and technical capacity, and 4) awareness-raising. In addition, capacity must be built to establish control points; define and implement indicators to monitor the implementation of ABS; educate competent authorities, the representatives of local communities, and other stakeholders on how to negotiate ABS contracts; strengthen of contribution of activities linked to ABS to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of biodiversity; identify competent actors with existing expertise for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol; manage cross-border situations; mobilize financial resources for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and an ABS mechanism; and elaborate special measures to build the capacity of civil society and local communities, with an emphasis on empowering women in communities. The lack of awareness amongst stakeholders and administrators in the public and private sectors regarding the question of access and benefit sharing is a serious obstacle to implementation. Taxonomic studies must also be strengthened, as well as knowledge on the potential of genetic resources from marine and terrestrial environments.

The proposed GEF alternative scenario, with a description of project components, incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF-TF and co-financing:

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

Component 1: Developing a national framework on ABS consistent with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol

10. Under this component, the project with its partners will together establish a fully operational national framework for ABS in Morocco. Building on the outcome of the UNEP-GEF project mentioned in the baseline section, the work under this component will involve the preparation of a national law on ABS that is in line with the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol (NP) as well as with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and further related international instruments, addresses intellectual property rights (IPR) and is adapted to national circumstances following stakeholder consultation and participation. Upon completion the law will be submitted to the Moroccan Parliament for adoption. Moreover this component will involve the establishment of sound regulatory and institutional frameworks necessary to support the successful implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Morocco, including competent national authorities, supporting measures, and improved coordination between authorities that will oversee access and benefit-sharing. The result will comprise an institutional framework that provides legal certainty, clarity and transparency for commercial and research purposes. Mechanisms that will be institutionalized to facilitate access, benefit-sharing and compliance include national focal points and competent national authorities to serve as contact points for information, to grant access, or to cooperate on issues of compliance; an operational ABS monitoring and information-sharing mechanism; a R&D management platform; a payment and benefit-sharing system; and checkpoints at all stages of the value-chain, including research, development, innovation, and pre-commercialization. Under this component also a system to protect traditional knowledge will be created to ensure that access takes place with the prior informed consent of the holders of traditional knowledge, and that benefits are shared when traditional knowledge is used for the purposes of research and development. Community protocols and customary law can be constituted as the basis for clarifying PIC and MAT requirements between users and providers of traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

11. The work under this component will lead to the establishment of an effective mechanism for receiving revenues/benefits generated through ABS agreements from the users of the genetic resource, and sharing/reinvesting these revenues/benefits with the providers of the genetic resource from the private sector or local communities. The benefit-sharing mechanism could be an endowment, sinking or revolving fund or a similar structure, and can be used to support conservation and sustainable use through the provision of financial resources to projects and local community initiatives. The link between conservation and ABS recognized by Article 9 of the Nagoya Protocol can be established by using this scheme.

Component 2. Building capacity for implementing the national ABS framework

12. This component is designed to overcome the barrier related to weak institutional and technical capacity in key government agencies and across other relevant stakeholder groups. The work under this Component will therefore

improve the abilities of the national competent authority and other relevant agencies to implement the ABS framework, thereby improving the chances that the adoption of a framework meets with success on the ground.

13. This will first involve the creation of coordination mechanisms between the different in-country institutions involved in the development and subsequent implementation of the legal and regulatory ABS framework. In parallel, the project will raise awareness through a communication strategy, involving educational materials and a public awareness campaign focused on informing researchers, local communities and industries of the adoption of a national law on ABS, as well as particular provisions including PIC requirements, the use of model ABS agreements, and relevant provisions of the Nagoya Protocol. Knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) assessment surveys targeting specific groups (e.g. researchers, local communities, and relevant industry players) that may use or benefit from ABS transactions will be carried out in order to assess enhanced awareness about national ABS law, the CBD and Nagoya Protocol.

14. The above coordination and awareness raising work will be accompanied by the development of templates, guidance manuals and training programmes on the national ABS framework and dissemination to relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and local communities. The guidance and training materials will address issues such as ABS procedures for users and providers of genetic resources, PIC protocols, ABS agreement negotiation strategies, ABS-related IP, customary law, bio-prospecting and research procedures, and so forth. Also an ABS model agreement that facilitates the negotiation of monetary (i.e. up-front payments and royalties) and non-monetary (i.e. training/research opportunities) benefits between users and providers of genetic resources will be produced. The materials will be used specifically for strengthening the capacity of competent authorities, national focal points and related agencies through the targeted training of some 100 staff – on processing ABS access applications, negotiating ABS agreements and related strategies, facilitating access to genetic resources, compliance monitoring, monitoring bio-prospecting projects, handling issues under the Nagoya Protocol, PIC protocols, ABS related intellectual property, customary law, bio-prospecting and research procedures, etc. Equivalent training will be provided to users and providers of genetic resources. Lastly, the project will under Component 2 also create databases on ex-situ collections of genetic and biochemical resources and traditional knowledge, including bio-prospecting value-chains of potential interest for ABS.

Global Environmental Benefits.

15. The project will achieve global environmental benefits through enhanced national contribution towards the achievement of the three objectives of the CBD (especially Objective 3 on ABS) and of the goals of its Strategic Plan for 2011-2020. Specifically, the project will contribute towards reduced rates of biodiversity loss in Morocco through the following mechanisms: Increasing awareness of the existence, use and option values of biological resources among key audiences; enabling the government and other stakeholders to derive greater economic benefits from genetic resources through the biotechnology industry, thereby providing incentives for biodiversity conservation; providing communities that hold genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge with new livelihood options, which result in economic benefits that reduce pressures for unsustainable use and the conversion of ecosystems; and contributing to the maintenance of regional and global ecosystem services.

16. The project will specifically contribute towards the achievement of a number of CBD Aichi Targets: Target 1, by increasing the awareness of people in Morocco about the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably; Target 12, by preventing the extinction and/or improving the conservation status of (economically valuable) threatened species; Target 13, by safeguarding the genetic diversity of socio-economically valuable species and cultivated plants (where these are also source of endemic genetic materials); Target 18, by better involving and respecting the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and Target 20, by adding an untapped financing mechanism to the portfolio of resource mobilisation options for biodiversity in Morocco.

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

17. The project is innovative in the national context, as ABS is a new emerging and highly complex field and the project will enable the different stakeholders – including from the private sector, local communities, and research institutions – to take full advantage of Morocco's rich biological resources in line with national sustainable development priorities. Also, no ABS agreements have been completed yet. Setting up the full ABS implementation framework should facilitate the negotiation and development of ABS contracts that fully comply with the requirements of CBD for PIC, MAT and benefit sharing with ILCs and other stakeholders, providing the first steps towards more collaborative governance of natural

resources and new revenue generation for biodiversity management. The outcomes of the project will be scaled up through the dissemination of project results, lessons learned and experiences including demonstration of best practices in the development of ABS agreements and PIC processes. This will be achieved through making project information available in a timely manner through different mechanisms including the CHM.

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

18. The following provides an overview of the key partners in the project with a tentative description of their respective roles, which must be confirmed and validated through a dedicated workshop and suitability assessments during the PPG:

Stakeholder	Implementation Role
Department of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment (MEMEE)	National Executing Agency which will ensure delivery and coordinate the involvement of all relevant stakeholders to set up a coherent nationwide legal framework and its related institutional arrangements.
The High Commissariat for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification (HCEFLCD)	The High Commissariat will facilitate access to relevant data on forest related genetic resources and traditional knowledge, propose and undertake relevant measures to set up a coherent ABS legal framework (within national forests, continental waters and maritime dunes) and participate in capacity building schemes.
Homeland Ministry	The ministry will coordinate through the DGCL Direction the input of local authorities to facilitate the set up of an ABS legal framework, guide the assessment of local communities' traditional knowledge and the ABS capacity strengthening targeting.
Ministry of Agriculture	Through its different affiliated sub-structures, the ministry will facilitate access to available data on agro-genetic resources (including fisheries and related traditional knowledge), propose and undertake relevant measures for a coherent ABS legal framework within the agricultural sector and participate in capacity building schemes.
Ministry of Finance	Its role will be to establish checkpoints through the customs administration to control trans-boundary (illegal) trade of genetic materials/resources.
Ministry of High Education, Scientific Research and training	Through its permanent inter-ministerial committee on scientific research and technological development, the ministry is well positioned to play a key role by providing strategic orientations and coordinating technical and scientific research activities/input.
National Biodiversity Committee	Should act as guiding Steering Committee to the project at national level, considering that it brings together the key national stakeholders on biodiversity in an already existing committee that meets regularly.
German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)s	GIZ will be a key partner of the project providing critical co-finance and technical support over the next three years through a dedicated project on ABS in Morocco (see § 8). Inter alia GIZ will lead on several of the thematic streams, especially under Component 1, and input best-practices and model policies and legislation from its global ABS Capacity Development Initiative.
Universities and research institutions	Efforts will be made to strengthen research programmes on taxonomic studies, genetic resources and the sustainable use of related biodiversity materials. Communication channels will be also strengthened to ensure research results are widely disseminated in the context of building national capacity on ABS.
Civil Society Organizations	CSO's will play an active role in liaising with local populations and raising public awareness with regard to ABS economic opportunities and positive social impacts. They are also expected to enrich and contribute to the design and implementation of a coherent legal framework.
Private sector (user and/or provider of genetic resources (e.g. in Argan oil business))	As a key partner the private sector, most notably through leading and committed representatives, will be involved in all project milestones - contributing to awareness-raising within the private sector, identifying suitable genetic resources, resource providers and value chains.
Providers of genetic resources: local/rural communities, farmers, women's cooperatives, nomadic populations (Amazigh a.k.a. Berber)	Facilitate and contribute to the compilation and assessment of ABS-related traditional knowledge, raise awareness of local communities involved in ABS matters and spread necessary capacities through training of trainers modalities.

A.3. Risks and mitigation measures

Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation Measures
Government staff turnover may impede	Low	The project generally aims to build capacity within the government agencies involved in ABS issues, and will train several people from each competent authority, as well as other

project implementation		related agencies. This will increase the depth of experience and skills available both for the project and for future ABS work. The advancement of this subject area also provides increased opportunity and incentive for staff to remain involved.
Potential difficulties in adopting the national ABS regulatory framework by relevant stakeholders	Low	The project will conduct extensive consultation and advocacy campaigns with stakeholders to create awareness and political will to take up the proposed ABS Law. To ensure smooth and quick approval of the ABS Law, mechanisms to provide information to decision-makers and other stakeholders to help them understand the importance of the framework and the NP will be developed. The project will conduct forums or seminars targeting legislators and other decision-makers to advocate for their support for the new ABS Law. The project will also involve appropriate stakeholders throughout the consultation process for the national framework.
Target audiences for training, awareness raising and other capacity building activities are not committed to participating in project activities	Low	Measures will vary according to the target audience. For government officials, high level requests to participate and the selection of suitable venues for training are important. For local communities measures will be developed focused on a new set of ABS-related livelihood opportunities ensuring interest.

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

19. This project will be coordinated with two other UNDP-GEF initiatives in Morocco. The first initiative is aimed at revising the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and entitled “National Planning on Biological Diversity in Support of the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020” (GEF # 4853), which is being implemented from October 2012-December 2014 . Coordination will take place to ensure that the new ABS framework and its opportunities are fully reflected in the new NBSAP under development, and that the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol under this project is linked to the biodiversity planning process.

20. The second initiative aims at integrating biodiversity into the medicinal and aromatic plant value chain and is titled “Integration of Biodiversity in the Value Chain for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Morocco” (Project ID 52975, April 2010 to April 2015). The project aims to strengthen the capacity of governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations and individuals to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and fight against poverty by increasing the value of wild medicinal and aromatic plants and improving their access to markets while ensuring the sustainability of production. Coordination will take place to ensure that the expected national strategy on medicinal and aromatic plants and strengthened regulatory framework on medicinal and aromatic plants is supportive of and compatible with the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol under this project.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable:

21. The proposed project is fully in line with the country’s national policies, strategies and plans. It will support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Morocco, as aimed for in the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity and the National Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, by protecting and giving value to Morocco’s genetic resources through the adoption of a new ABS framework. It is also consistent with the National Strategy to Combat Climate Change, which focuses on adaptation to climate change as a major component, including the monitoring of vulnerable species and protection of endangered species. The project is consistent with The National Action Plan against Desertification, which has the goal of developing new revenue generating activities and rural development/poverty eradication as key modes of combating desertification. The project is also consistent with Morocco’s pursuit of the Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as a party to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

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

22. The project addresses the GEF 5 BD4 Focal Area objective – *Build capacity on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing*, contributing directly towards Outcome 4.1 *Legal and regulatory frameworks, and administrative procedures established that enable access to genetic resources and benefit sharing in accordance with the CBD*

provisions and Output 4.1 *Access and benefit-sharing agreements (number) that recognize the core ABS principles of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.* The project is also consistent with the eligibility criteria and priorities of the GEF Trust Fund, as it will support the Government of Morocco to develop a national ABS framework and related capacity, ensuring that PIC for associated TK is respected and recognised, promoting bio-prospecting, and ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits accrued. In addition, the project will facilitate private sector engagement, as well as projects targeting investments in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in-situ.

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


23. UNDP plays a key role in terms of capacity development at the global level, including for biodiversity and genetic resources. The agency has broad experience in integrated policy development, the development of human resources, and institutional strengthening, in addition to nongovernmental and community participation. Sustainability (and more particularly, sustainable use) is one of the UNDP's signature programs within the biodiversity arena. UNDP has a significant portfolio of projects that implement strategies to address management, financial, ecosystem and sector-oriented services. UNDP Morocco counts with three professional staff and one support staff directly in charge of the environment portfolio, in addition to senior management and operational support staff. The team has a demonstrated track record of good technical and management expertise, as well as a strong working relationship with the key stakeholders of the project. UNDP Morocco is moreover backed by specialised technical advisors from UNDP/GEF regional service centres who will support the implementation of this project by building on UNDP's experience at national, regional and global levels; this includes a Senior Technical Advisor for ABS who holds a Ph.D. on a related topic with direct experience in ABS projects. The project is in line with the recently endorsed UNDAF (2012-2016) and national priorities on the environment and sustainable development. In particular, the project will fall under the 5th Cooperation Area, the "Protection of the environment, disaster prevention, and the management of natural risks and climate change"; and it will contribute to UNDAF Outcome 5, being that "The principles of the 'National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development' are implemented in a way ensuring consistency between sector-based strategies and priorities in the fields of environment, climate change adaptation and risk management, and by strengthening the territorial convergence in the most vulnerable areas and populations, with special attention to gender". Moreover, the project is in conformity with UNDP Morocco's Country Programme Document 2012-2016, which states that UNDP will support the development, coordination and implementation of national and territorial strategies with special attention to low carbon resilient climate change, gender and a focus on the most vulnerable populations and areas.

PART III: ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT AND GEF AGENCY

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mohamed Benyahia	Directeur du Partenariat, de la Communication et de la Coopération / GEF Operational Focal Point	Department of Environment of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment	01 October 2013

B. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu, UNDP/GEF Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Executive Coordinator		1 October 2013	Yves de Soye, UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor, Ecosystems & Biodiversity	+421 911 360 250	yves.desoye@undp.org