



REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: NPIF

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) for the member countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)			
Country(ies):	Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and San Tome & Principe	GEF Project ID: ¹	5454
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	01144
Other Executing Partner(s):	Governments of Participating Countries; UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP DELC), and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (GIZ)	Submission Date:	October 13, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration(Months)	36 months
Name of Parent Program (if applicable): ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> ➤ For SGP <input type="checkbox"/> ➤ For PPP <input type="checkbox"/>	n.a.	Project Agency Fee (\$):	167,443

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
(select) BD-4	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 <i>Indicator 4.1: National ABS frameworks operational score as recorded by the GEF tracking tool</i>	Facilitate 10 countries to ratify or accede to, and implement the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. 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.	NPIF	1,762,557	9,200,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

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

Total project costs		1,762,557	9,200,000
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B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and the implementation of its basic provisions by the member countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
1. Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol	TA	National authorities to take informed decisions on the ratification of the protocol and future implementation.	1.1.1.Scoping study of the existing laws and regulation related to ABS	NPIF	240,000	1,300,000
	TA		1.1.2. Analysis of the implications of ratification of the protocol.	NPIF	360,000	1,400,000
	TA		1.1.3 Public awareness of key stakeholders on the obligations and provisions of Nagoya Protocol	NPIF	100,000	1,200,000
	TA		Output 1.1.4. Instruments for accession./ ratification deposited by Relevant government departments	NPIF	100,000	200,000
2. Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	TA	2.1. Basic provisions of the Nagoya Protocol implemented in target countries	2.1.1. Stocktaking and assessment	NPIF	240,000	1,300,000
	TA (select)		2.1..2. Strategy and action plan for the implementation of ABS measures	NPIF	300,000	1,110,000
	TA		2.1.3. Building capacity among stakeholders	NPIF	160,000	1,790,000
3. Sub-regional coordination and Cooperation	TA	3.1. Countries share information and gain from the experiences of the other members of the COMIFAC.	3.1.1. Experiences and Best Practices shared	NPIF	102,325	400,000

Project management Cost (PMC) ³	NPIF	160,232	500,000
Total project costs		1,762,557	9,200,000

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

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) ⁴	Cash	6,000,000
National Government	Burundi	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Cameroon	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Chad	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Central African Republic	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Democratic Republic of Congo	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Equatorial Guinea	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Gabon	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Republic of Congo	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Rwanda	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Sao Tome and Principe	In-kind	300,000
Other Multilateral Agency	COMIFAC Secretariat	In-kind	150,000
GEF Agency	UNEP-DELC	In-kind	40,000
Other Multilateral Agency	CBD Secretariat	In-kind	10,000
Total Co-financing			9,200,000

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

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

⁴ This is the total amount of the BMZ project in support of COMIFAC. This total amount will be reduced as the result of the analytical potential for coordination and collaboration around all three components, with emphasis on the following activities and outputs i) Ratification of the NP, ii) Sub regional coordination, sharing information / experiences, iii) Public Awareness of key stakeholders, and iv) Implementation of NP measures including laws and regulations and ABS Administrative structures. During project development, detailed matrix of activities of common interest s and potential for coordination will be developed between the GIZ and UNEP. Initial conversations took place over a conference call among UNEP, GIZ and the GEF Secretariat on August 1st, 2013. Currently, negotiations and harmonization is still ongoing.

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	NPIF	Biodiversity	Regional	1,762,557	167,443	1,930,000
Total Grant Resources				1,762,557	167,443	1,930,000

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

² Indicate fees related to this project.

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	45,000	0	45,000
National/Local Consultants	55,000	0	55,000

Overview of tasks and responsibilities of the consultants has been provided in Annex E.

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

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

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF⁵

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

N/a (cleared during PIF review; no changes)

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

N/A (cleared during PIF review; no changes)

A.3 The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage:

N/A (cleared during PIF review; no changes)

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

Following the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by 193 Country Parties, **among which all of the COMIFAC countries**, impressive efforts have been made for the implementation of its objectives, particularly for objectives 1 and 2. The third objective seeks “the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies”. However, this objective is as yet not sufficiently implemented. After six years of negotiation, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan. The Protocol significantly advances the Convention’s third objective by providing a strong basis for greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. Specific obligations to support compliance

⁵ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

with domestic legislation or regulatory requirements of the Party providing genetic resources and contractual obligations reflected in mutually agreed terms are a significant innovation of the Protocol. These compliance provisions, as well as provisions establishing more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources will contribute to ensuring the sharing of benefits when genetic resources leave a Party country that provides them. In addition, the Protocol's provisions on access to traditional knowledge held by indigenous and local communities when it is associated with genetic resources will strengthen the ability of these communities to benefit from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices. With Burundi acceding to the Protocol on 3 July 2014 and the EU approval, the Protocol now has the required 51 parties and it will enter into force on 12 October and will have COP/MOP-1 on 13-17 October concurrently with CBD COP-12.

The 10 member countries of COMIFAC are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and thus, committed to the implementation of Convention, particularly in achieving the third objective – “the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding”. The member countries of COMIFAC have made significant progress in fostering a regional approach to ABS. They signed a regional Strategy (see below). Currently, six of the ten COMIFAC countries signed the Protocol, of which, four also ratified/acceded to it (Rwanda, Gabon, Burundi and DR Congo). The other six countries are underway to ratify or accede to the Protocol.

In the baseline, there are several current processes that assist COMIFAC countries in their endeavors to fulfill the requirements for ratifying or acceding to the Protocol. An outline of these elements is noted in Annex P. The first of these processes is the implementation of the COMIFAC Regional Strategy relating to the access to the biological/genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use. A second is the UNEP-GEF efforts to provide global support for (a) Capacity building for the early entry into force of the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ID 4415); and (b) the ratification and entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ID 5172). A third would be the project for ABS currently being elaborated by the German cooperation agency GIZ under the ABS Capacity Development Initiative⁶.

COMIFAC ABS Strategy

The 10 member countries of COMIFAC are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and thus, committed to the implementation of Convention, particularly its third objective. The member countries of COMIFAC have made significant progress in fostering a regional approach to ABS. In 2006, the COMIFAC created the Working Group on Biodiversity in Central Africa (Groupe de Travail Biodiversité en Afrique Centrale [GTBAC]). Constituting the backbone of the COMIFAC as regards biodiversity, this group received mandate to work out a sub-regional ABS Strategy. Consequently, within the GTBAC Roadmap 2007, the COMIFAC commissioned a study entitled “Access to the biological resources and benefit sharing arising from their use: regulations and institutional measures in the COMIFAC region and prospects” (COMIFAC, 2007). The results of this study put forward the legal, institutional and technological insufficiencies as regards ABS. One of the recommendations of this study suggested the development of an ABS Strategy in the sub-region. Similarly, in GTBAC Roadmap 2009, the COMIFAC financed a study relating to “the identification of the elements to be used as a basis for the development of the sub-regional COMIFAC strategy” (COMIFAC, 2009). On basis of the two studies, COMIFAC commissioned an expert group to elaborate the strategy on ABS. In 2011, all COMIFAC members signed the regional agreement concerning the “COMIFAC Strategy relating to the access to the biological/genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use”⁷.

⁶ <http://www.abs-initiative.info/about.html>

⁷ COMIFAC, “Stratégie des pays de l'espace COMIFAC relative à l'accès aux ressources biologiques/génétiques et au partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de leur utilisation”, 2011.

This strategy is a centerpiece of this project for ratification and implementation of Nagoya Protocol. It outlines the following objective: to guide each COMIFAC member country develop and implement a national framework for ABS by means of a platform for dialogue involving all the actors (research institutes, governmental institutions, private sector, civil society, indigenous people and local communities, etc.), in accordance with the provisions of the CBD, in particular principles of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC), while taking into account the protection of Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices (TKIP) and the gender dimension. It recognizes the following strategic axes: (a) Capacity building; (b) development of administrative procedures; (c) development of legal frameworks; (d) development of stakeholder participation mechanisms; (e) promotion and valorization of biological/genetic resources; and (f) tools for monitoring and evaluation.

The regional implementation of the Protocol is considered one of the best mechanisms to avoid bio-prospecting (often without Prior Informed Consent (PIC)) and product development and marketing to take place in one country at the expense of their neighbors. This is a risk that is particularly acute when neighboring countries share a significant number of habitats and species.

ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Established in 2006, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ABS-CDI) is a multi-donor initiative that aims to support relevant stakeholders on the African continent and in the ACP countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific) in developing and implementing national ABS regulations, in particular to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. Since its establishment, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative has convened eight Pan-African workshops, as well as numerous training courses and multi-stakeholder workshops with a regional or issue-based focus. Since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, the Initiative has also increased its support for national implementation. This includes support for the establishment of policy, institutional and legal frameworks, but also towards specific ABS-compliant value chains. At the regional level, the Initiative is supporting the process of development and validation of the African Union guidelines for coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Africa.

Building on the capacity development activities and impacts of the ABS-CDI, COMIFAC partner countries of German development cooperation have also requested support for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol through bilateral development cooperation. So far, ABS is being integrated in the following technical and/or financial programmes of COMIFAC countries⁸:

- **COMIFAC:** Based on the capacity development activities of the Initiative in Central Africa, a feasibility study on a significant ABS implementation component was foreseen within a comprehensive biodiversity oriented BMZ funded environment programme. A mission held in March/April 2013 developed recommendations for the programme design with regional training components, national on-the job support and genetic resources valuation elements.
- **Cameroon:** As part of an inter-ministerial process on ABS between the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (both supported by the GIZ implemented project ProPSFE) the ABS value chain potential of selected non-timber forest products (NTFP) is currently being assessed. The Initiative's initial support of the development of a national NTFP approach will be continued, options to integrate ABS elements into German bilateral development cooperation – including Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) on value chains – are being considered.

GIZ is currently working on a support programme for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Central Africa, for which outlines were discussed during the 19th Meeting of the GTBAC in Kinshasa, DR Congo in late March 2014. It is

⁸ http://www.abs-initiative.info/uploads/media/Workplan___Budget_Africa_2013-05-27_02.pdf
GEF5 CEO Endorsement Template-February 2013.doc

this project that will be an important baseline for the current UNEP project and the lion share of its co-financing. The current UNEP project will coordinate activities with the project under development by GIZ in support of ABS activities for the COMIFAC countries. Based on preliminary conversations with GIZ, there is potential for coordination and collaboration around all three components, with emphasis on the following activities and outputs: (i) Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, (ii) Sub regional coordination, sharing information/experiences, (iii) Public Awareness of key stakeholders, and (iv) Implementation of Nagoya Protocol measures including laws and regulations and ABS Administrative structures.

This project will coordinate activities and make use of the Pan-African and sub-regional meetings of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ABS-CDI) within the lifecycle of the project. The ABS-CDI and GIZ are currently providing technical assistance and/or investments to COMIFAC Secretariat, Cameroon, DRC, Burundi and Rwanda.

UNEP-GEF Global Support Project (GSP)

The UNEP-GEF Global Support Project (ID 5172) aims at providing the legislative bodies of the participating countries key pieces of information to take informed decision on ratification or accession. The project is lifting a key barrier (ratification or accession) that would then allow countries later on (i.e. not through this project but other projects) to establish the policy and legal frameworks necessary to regulate ABS, and incentives for private sector agreements. Although the COMIFAC countries are not part of the participating countries in the Global Support Project, the tools and instruments developed under the GSP on Rapid Capacity Needs Assessment, Stakeholder Participation and Monitoring and Evaluation, will serve as basis in the process for rapid ratification or accession of the remaining COMIFAC countries to the Nagoya Protocol. There are actually two other projects managed by UNEP-GEF that will also be used in the baseline: the UNEP-GEF Regional Project ID 2820 "Supporting the Development and Implementation of ABS Policies in Africa" covering Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa; and the UNEP-GEF project ID 4415 "Capacity building for the early entry into force of the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing". The latter is targeting at least 50 countries, and addresses the capacity barriers and capacity building needs identified by developing country Parties to the Convention related to the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, now foreseen to enter into force on 12 October.

In the baseline, the former initiatives will all create an enabling environment for a rapid ratification or accession by COMIFAC member countries to the Nagoya Protocol and a start of the implementation of activities in line with national priorities and the objectives of the COMIFAC ABS Strategy. Consequently, without the support of the GEF, ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the member countries of COMIFAC would most likely still occur, but with significant delays. An overview of the current situation in the COMIFAC member countries has been included in Annex P. But even with this increasing support, COMIFAC representatives have flagged persistent barriers that remain:

- i. Strong political will exists (as demonstrated by the early ratification of Nagoya Protocol in Rwanda and Gabon and the recent two in Burundi and DR Congo), but the national institutional and human capacities for ABS implementation remain weak.
- ii. Oversight by national committees is as yet absent, hindering sound participation of stakeholders in the ratification process.
- iii. Weak level of knowledge of the requirement of the Nagoya Protocol by the stakeholders, notably the parliamentarians;
- iv. Awareness of the implications of the recently adopted Protocol is mostly limited to technical specialists and CBD negotiators while relevant decision and policy makers and other stakeholders have not yet for the most part fully understood its potential impact on advancing the CBD implementation at national level.
- v. Lack of institutional capacities and human resources, as well as the absence of legal and juridical dispositions for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Without the support of the GEF, ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the member countries of COMIFAC will most likely occur but with significant delays. With Burundi acceding to the Protocol on 3 July 2014 and the EU approval, the Protocol now has the required 51 parties and it will enter into force on 12 October and will have COP/MOP-1 on 13-17 October concurrently with CBD COP-12 to be held in South Korea in October 2014; that would leave COMIFAC only about 3 months to have the other 7 COMIFAC members to accede to the protocol and present this milestone at the COP. With GEF support, the countries of COMIFAC would both be able to rapidly accede to the Protocol and start preparing the ground for its domestication and implementation. The incremental cost analysis in paragraph A.5 explains how the current project can deliver the Theory of Change. The ratification/accession by all COMIFAC countries would allow putting in motion a regional plan for implementation in order to improve their contribution to the strategic priorities of the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) as described in the document "OUTSTANDING ISSUES RELATED TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION FUND" (GEF/C.40/11/Rev.1).

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

The current project aims to contribute to the Aichi Target 16 and the GEF Biodiversity targets by speeding up the establishment of the national ABS frameworks in the COMIFAC member countries and ensuring their implementation (contribution of the project to achievement of the higher targets has been outlined in the Strategic Results Framework for the project, Annex A). The proposed regional support project for COMIFAC countries is building on the interest of the participating countries to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol. This interest has been expressed in the form of letters of endorsement submitted to the GEF Secretariat (2nd quarter 2013) and UNEP since the adoption of the Protocol in 2010. The project will address aforementioned barriers and contribute to the achievement of the third objective of the CBD by targeted awareness raising and capacity building of GEF-eligible Parties to help them prepare for ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, a necessary first step to allow for the implementation of ABS at national level. The alternative scenario that will be achieved with GEF support will be the necessary enabling environment required for rapid ratification of the Nagoya Protocol at national level. Increased capacity gained through this project will, in the medium-term, contribute to the eventual development of functioning legislative, administrative and policy measures for access and benefit sharing at national level, setting the stage for the generation of global environmental benefits in perpetuity through the implementation of the third objective. This project will build on the efforts of the 10 countries, as well on the investments of other projects as have been outlined above.

The project objective is: *All 10 member countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) have ratified/acceded to the Nagoya Protocol and all member countries of COMIFAC started the implementation of its basic provisions.* The project has three components: I. Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol; II. Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol; and III. Sub-regional coordination and cooperation.

Component 1. Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol

This component aims at carrying out all the necessary activities in the 8 countries that have not ratified or acceded to the Protocol yet, to put the request through the legislature or relevant national authority. Because countries vary in their requirements and have made differential progress towards ratifications, activities to be carried out and corresponding timelines will vary. It is expected that this component will be implemented over a relatively short time (6-12 months) by a small team of legal consultants and policy advisors.

Outcome 1: National authorities to take informed decisions on the ratification of the Protocol and future implementation.

Targets:

a. By 2016, 70% of parliamentarians are trained about the importance of ABS and how it is linked to natural resources management (NRM);

b. By 2017, 25% of all decisions related to Natural Resources Management (NRM) have taken ABS into account.

In order to reach the outcome, three main outputs should be produced:

Output 1.1. Scoping study of the existing laws and regulation related to ABS.

Activities:

1. Identification of institutions, policies, laws and regulations relevant to ratification/accession to the Nagoya Protocol.;
2. Analysis of institutional and legal frameworks in light of the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol to identify gaps and opportunities of becoming parties of the Protocol;
3. Analysis of ABS related international instruments relevant to COMIFAC countries;

Output 1.2. Analysis of the implications of ratification of the Protocol.

Activities:

1. Cost Benefit Analysis for Accession by COMIFAC countries to the Nagoya Protocol;
2. Assessment of implications for the NBSAPs of COMIFAC countries;
3. Development of a timeline and Strategy and Action plan for the development, amendment or harmonization of ABS measures to comply with the Nagoya Protocol (i.e. policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS, National Focal Point, Competent National Authority, Institutional agreements, administrative procedures for ABS Agreements with proper Prior Informed Consent [PIC], Mutually Agreed Terms [MAT], and Benefit Sharing, monitoring of use of genetic resources, compliance with legislation and cooperation on trans-boundary issues);

Output 1.3. Public awareness of key stakeholders on the obligations and provisions of Nagoya Protocol.

Activities:

1. Design campaign tools for a. awareness raising among key national decision makers in COMIFAC Countries (particularly Cabinet and Parliament); and b. lobbying by CSO/NGOs both at regional and national levels;
2. Establish national platforms for sharing of community and indigenous knowledge on biodiversity services;
3. Implement campaigns.

Output 1.4. Instruments for accession/ ratification deposited by relevant government departments.

Activities:

1. Assist each COMIFAC country to identify the instruments necessary for Accession or ratification;
2. Assist to prepare the necessary documentation at country level;
3. Assist the COMIFAC focal points to effectively ensure that these instruments are deposited in the cabinet of ministers or in their national assemblies.

Component 2. Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

This component will be carried out in all the COMIFAC countries, starting with Rwanda, Burundi and Gabon that have already ratified the Nagoya Protocol, followed by the others as they ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol.

Outcome 2: Basic provisions of the Nagoya Protocol implemented in target countries

Target:

a. By 2017, at least 9 of the COMIFAC countries have implementation strategies and action plans and are executing activities;

In order to reach the outcome, three main outputs should be produced:

Output 2.1. Stocktaking and assessment

Activities:

1. Map key stakeholder groups and strategy for ABS outreach and information sharing;
2. Assessment of existing user rights and intellectual property rights, and institutional capacity including research organizations adding value to genetic resources (i.e. bio-prospecting);
3. Update National Capacity Self Assessment Biodiversity Profile for COMIFAC Countries;
4. Rapid needs assessment for short term implementing of Protocol – Project Implementation Plans;
5. Brief policy makers and key stakeholders on the results of the rapid needs assessment.

Output 2.2. Strategy and action plan for the implementation of ABS measures

Activities:

1. Implement Strategy and Action plan for the development, amendment or harmonization of the existing legal framework to comply with the Nagoya Protocol;
2. Drafting of legal documents regarding ratifying or acceding to the Nagoya Protocol and submission to appropriate legislature body for approval;
3. Sustainable resources mobilization plan for implementation of Strategy and Action Plan;

Output 2.3. Building capacity among stakeholders

Activities:

1. Elaborate capacity building plan on basis of rapid needs assessment;
2. Policy makers and key stakeholders briefed on the results of the rapid needs assessment;
3. Contract lead institute for implementation capacity building plan;
4. Build capacity of stakeholders (i.e. local communities) to negotiate ABS agreements, including domestic protocols, model contractual clauses, and minimum requirements to secure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

Component 3. Sub-regional coordination and cooperation

Under this component, countries are expected to share information and gain from the experiences and improve knowledge and understanding of the other members of COMIFAC on the Nagoya Protocol. This will be achieved by means of regional and bilateral exchanges as appropriate.

Outcome 3: Countries share information and gain from the experiences of the other members of the COMIFAC.

Targets:

a. By 2016, 75% of stakeholders in COMIFAC countries share information liberally on ABS related topics;

b. By 2017, at least 70 percent of COMIFAC stakeholders indicate to regularly use the online regional platform for information gathering

In order to reach the outcome, one main output should be produced:

Output 3.1. Experiences and Best Practices shared.

Activities:

1. Establish an online regional platform for sharing experiences among COMIFAC countries;
2. Capacity building of GTBAC
3. Conference among COMIFAC countries to exchange lessons learned and best practices;
4. Share report of the conference during the next CBD COP in a parallel session and progress of the regional plan in subsequent COPs;

More information about the intervention logic can be found in Annex A, the Strategic Results Framework, and in Annex I, key deliverables and benchmarks.

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

The two main risks that may be associated with this project are: lack of political will and low in-country technical capacity. Unless this project receives full support of the Governments of the 10 countries and the Secretariat of COMIFAC, it would not be possible to achieve the ratification of / accession to the Protocol. This support is needed, because once the legal studies and concepts are prepared, the legislature will prioritize the debate and facilitate the expeditious ratification of the Protocol. The strong support of the COMIFAC countries for the project received during the GTBAC18 indicates that commitment is likely to remain; also proven by the fact that all countries supplied their cofinancing letter.

Public awareness campaigns and targeted education and training programs have been foreseen in order to tackle the low in-country technical capacity and to increase understanding of the legal and technical issues in each of the COMIFAC countries, which will in turn facilitate the ratification and implementation of the Protocol. For this, also a learning mechanism will be established to exchange knowledge among the countries and the region.

An additional risk of the private sector investors being driven from the COMIFAC countries if implementation of the Nagoya Protocol is carried out by building elaborate structure of laws and regulation that is virtually difficult to comprehend and is seen as business-unfriendly needs also to be recognized. However, the focus of implementation in all the COMIFAC countries is to create a lean and efficient regulatory systems that attract investors so that benefits can be generated and shared equitably and that will avoid the confusion that leads to diminished investment potential in natural resources management.

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

N/A (cleared during PIF review; no changes)

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

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

Key stakeholders in this Regional Support Project are the COMIFAC Secretariat, high level decision makers in the COMIFAC countries, Nagoya Protocol Focal Points, the Ministries in charge of Sustainable Development (or the equivalent), and other institutions working closely with the ABS agenda. The project will collaborate with all key

stakeholder groups in each of the countries that are relevant to issues of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing.

More information about their roles in the management of the programme has been included in **Annex H**.

Stakeholder	Mandate and Baseline Project	Role in the Project
COMIFAC secretariat	The COMIFAC Secretariat has outlined its vision on how its members should work on ABS in the COMIFAC ABS strategy. The strategy will provide for a set of activities to be implemented in the COMIFAC region and in the member countries that will provide the baseline for the current Regional Support Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Liaise with the various project stakeholders as needed for the execution of the project; b) Maintain close communications with UNEP and CBD Secretariat on relevant issues related to the project; c) Implement the project activities in accordance with COMIFAC standard financial and administrative procedures and established business processes; d) Make available to the project the cash and in-kind co-financing indicated in the COMIFAC co-financing letter; e) Facilitate the delivery of the project activities, products and sub-components under the COMIFAC responsibility, as indicated above; f) Use established COMIFAC focal points to deliver the tasks assigned to them under the project. g) Co-chair the Project Steering Committee meetings.
Decision-Makers: National politicians, legislators, as well as national focal points and national competent authorities of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.	These stakeholders will have a direct role in facilitating the ratification of the Protocol by their countries and in reaching out to other stakeholder groups in both policy development and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) take part in training programmes and workshops; b) lobby for ABS within the forums they take part in.
Country Parties	<p>CBD Nagoya Protocol national focal points (NP FP) are the key contact partners for Protocol ratification and implementation at national level. They implement projects and are responsible for coordinating work at national, sub-national and local levels.</p> <p>Usually, the NP FP fall under the Ministries in charge of Sustainable Development in the COMIFAC countries. <i>Support from these Ministries is needed in order to integrate ABS elements into the overall development strategies in the member countries</i></p>	<p>NP FP will coordinate timely reporting and action programme alignment and monitoring in line with the project timelines and deliverables and ensure synergies at national level with other projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Integrate implications of the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol into country policies, strategies and programmes; b) Ensure coordination between these policies, strategies and programmes and the regional support programme.
Convention's	The CBD Secretariat has responsibilities to	Secretariat will ensure that information about the

institutions	facilitate the work of affected country Parties.	implementation of the CBD and any capacity building efforts under it are communicated to UNEP so that alignment of the regional support project can occur.
German Agency for International Cooperation GIZ	The GIZ is running the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and is currently preparing a support project for Central Africa as well. In order to make use of synergies between the current regional support programme and the project that GIZ is preparing, clear coordination mechanisms are necessary.	a. Agree to the co-financing of the current MSP for the regional support programme by GIZ; b. Coordinate with the UNEP to ensure synergies between the two projects and with the ABS-CDI in general are valorized.

The project will also promote the engagement of other stakeholder groups in the Nagoya Protocol capacity building processes as follows:

- **CSOs/NGOs:** NGOs, local and indigenous communities: Expected to be involved in the national consensus building processes for both policy processes and the development of broad-based partnerships for implementation, as well as awareness raising and training activities. Many CSOs/NGOs institutions have their own databases on natural resources management. They also often are doing Action Research in the field, collecting valuable grassroots data and applying these in awareness raising, lobbying and campaigning. They will be invited to become active partners in implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in COMIFAC countries, promote the integration of social/gender issues in national action programmes and reporting obligations and build the capacity of their members accordingly.
- **Academic and Research Institutions:** Expected to share their know-how and capacities in networking and linking with the other stakeholders to increase collaboration and be involved in national consensus building processes on the accelerated entry into force of the Protocol on ABS, as well as the preparations for its implementation.
- **Private Sector:** A core target group for awareness-raising, capacity development and knowledge exchange – so as to enable the public and the private sector to engage in partnerships and agreements on ABS. ABS has important implications for the private sector organizations in the COMIFAC region that is involved in Natural Resources Management. In order to get their views on the feasibility of certain requirements under the Nagoya Protocol, regional umbrella organizations of timber producing companies (such as the African Timber Organization (ATO)), pharmaceutical companies, ecotourism operators, etc. will be involved in the project.
- **Other institutions.** Other institutions, notably the World Bank, IUCN, FAO, and ITPGRFA will be requested to assist in data quality improvement and accessibility of information of best practices on ABS.

Synergies between the two regional ABS-projects of GIZ (the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ACDI) Implementation of ABS in the COMIFAC member countries) and UNEP/GEF (Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol for the member countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC))

GIZ and UNEP have, based on the regional ABS-strategy of COMIFAC, simultaneously launched the elaboration of two regional projects focusing on the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in the COMIFAC member countries, and putting in place domestic ABS legislation. The two projects aim to promote synergies between their approaches and outcomes.

The Table on status of ABS in Africa prepared by the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (see Annex Q) outlines the
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progress that countries supported by ACIDI have made on ABS related activities up to January 2011. On basis of the activities identified during this exercise, UNEP and ACIDI decided to repartition the activities under their respective projects according to countries supported by each in order to ensure synergies and coherence in implementation. Both executing agencies would start at the same time and could work in close collaboration to support COMIFAC countries on basis of a mutually agreed indicator framework. While ACIDI is focusing on three COMIFAC countries (Cameroon, DR Congo and Rwanda), UNEP project will support all the 10 countries (according to the approved PIF). UNEP's focus is to assist those COMIFAC countries that are still in the process of ratification of /accession to the Protocol, certain elements of implementation support for those that have already ratified or acceded to the Protocol (e.g. dealing with transboundary issues); and sub-regional coordination/information sharing, etc (according to the approved PIF). ACIDI's project will complement UNEP's project by focusing on implementation of ABS activities for their COMIFAC pilot countries (Cameroon, DR Congo and Rwanda), such as stakeholder identification; establishing institutional arrangements; including competent national authorities; dealing with traditional knowledge; and elaboration of a valorization strategy. As pilot countries, these countries will serve as testing ground for joint approaches that will then be scaled up to other COMIFAC countries. A division of tasks between UNEP and GIZ projects is presented in Table 1 below which based on Annex Q.

This repartition per country would also allow taking into account some political restrictions concerning the choice of partner countries which resulting from recent priorities in the German International Cooperation policies. In addition to that, it would allow to compare the different approaches and to reflect these differing experiences onto the regional level of COMIFAC in order to ensure maximized learning experiences for all stakeholders involved.

Table 1. Division of tasks between ABS Initiative and UNEP Regional Support Programme

Country to support	Burundi	Central African Rep	Chad	DR Congo	Republic of Congo	Cameroon	Gabon	Equatorial Guinea	Rwanda	Sao Tome & Principe
Task										
Ratification/ Implementation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Defining overall ABS policy / Strategy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Putting in place domestic ABS legislation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stakeholder identification and analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Establishing Institutional arrangements, including CAN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dealing with Traditional Knowledge	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dealing with trans-boundary issues	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Valorization strategy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sub-regional Information Sharing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Responsible organization:

X = UNEP

The actual division of the budgets per country will be determined during the inception phase, but should be equitably divided according to predetermined criteria, such as baseline for capacity building and urgency of ecosystem service preservation.

Furthermore, during the inception phase, provision of certain services by ACDI to all ten COMIFAC member countries will be envisaged, which could be done through trainings either focused on a specific topic or on a certain stakeholder group. In order to allow for transparent and consistent legislation development on ABS in each of the COMIFAC countries and the region as a whole, the provision of support for the activity “Putting in place Domestic ABS Legislation” could be handled by ACDI. Also, ACDI could for example take over targeted activities for the women’s networks (REFADD), whereas UNEP would assist the indigenous people’s network (REPALEAC). The final decisions on this subject will be taken at the joint inception phase of both projects.

As the CBD is a UNEP-administered Convention, it largely draws support for ABS legal and policy issues at global and regional levels through UNEP’s Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC). In line with UNEP’s Programme of Work (PoW) 2014 - 2015 the current project would fall within Subprogramme 3 “Ecosystem management”, contributing to the expected accomplishment “Services and benefits derived from ecosystems are integrated with development planning and accounting, particularly in relation to wider landscapes and seascapes and the implementation of biodiversity and ecosystem related MEAs” and main output 4: “Technical support is provided to countries to test approaches for equity in ecosystem management and addressing access and benefit-sharing, development and climate change adaptation.” While UNEP-GEF Unit will maintain its role as implementing agency with oversight functions, UNEP-DELIC through the Regional Biodiversity MEAs Focal Point for Africa in charge of the COMIFAC region will assume the coordinating and overall executing functions in the proposed project. The project execution will be done in collaboration with the UNEP Regional Office for Africa (UNEP-ROA) in order to provide expertise needed to ensure quick implementation and the linkage to regional and international expert networks. COMIFAC Secretariat will act as co-chair of the steering committee which will ensure ownership during the ratification, implementation and post project impact assessment. Annex H outlines the implementing arrangements for the project in more detail.

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

African countries are well endowed with an abundance of natural resources and a rich biological diversity. Genetic resources play a key role in developing new varieties of crops, drugs, and technologies. These resources are vital to many sectors of society, including the agricultural, pharmaceutical, chemical, tourism, environment, fisheries and industrial sectors. Effective management of these natural resources is critical to alleviating poverty, ensuring food security, fostering industrial innovation, and developing new medicines in African countries. The use of these resources is often associated with traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities and Africa’s diverse ethno-cultural landscape makes it rich in traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. The Nagoya Protocol addresses such traditional knowledge and it will protect Africa’s indigenous and local communities from “biopiracy”. This is because the Protocol requires Contracting Parties to take measures to ensure these communities’ prior informed consent before genetic resources are taken and fair and equitable benefit-sharing keeping in mind community laws and procedures, as well as customary use and exchange. Ratification of the Protocol will ensure that African communities benefit from the utilization of their natural resources and this will contribute to their development and well-being. The low investment in bioprospecting in Africa may be attributed to the lack of legal clarity on accessing genetic resources and the associated

traditional knowledge. This is because researchers and industries are not eager to participate in bioprospecting activities without legal certainty. This leads to limited benefit-sharing and the great potential in genetic resources remains untapped. This is the anomaly that the Nagoya Protocol seeks to correct by creating greater legal certainty. Therefore, African countries could benefit tremendously when the Protocol is ratified and enters into force.

With clear procedures for ABS, African countries would benefit from increased investment in research and bioprospecting, which may eventually lead to commercializing of genetic resources leading to economic gains. Another important benefit for African countries is the provision for cooperation in cases of alleged violation of another Contracting Party’s requirements; encouragement of contractual provisions on dispute resolution in mutually agreed terms providing an opportunity for seeking recourse under the country’s legal systems when disputes arise from mutually agreed terms; and measures regarding access to justice. These are particularly important considering that once genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge leave the country, there is little provision to bring to book foreign individuals or firms that deviate from the mutually agreed terms or those that obtain genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge illegally.

When ratified and domesticated, the Nagoya Protocol will create greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources by establishing more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources; and helping to ensure benefit sharing when genetic resources leave the Contracting Party providing the genetic resources. Below is a summary of benefits of the Nagoya Protocol to African countries and to the local communities.

The implementation of the Nagoya Protocol can potentially unleash significant benefits for users and providers of genetic resources under the mandate of the CBD, and ultimately, to the conservation of biodiversity. This can only be achieved if the Nagoya Protocol enters into force and is effectively implemented. Since the Nagoya Protocol is intended to create legal and administrative systems to stimulate the engagements of users and producers of genetic resources, these systems need to provide legal certainty and clarity to the parties to engage in a new way of doing business. Since the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol has the potential to reach all the genetic makeup of the biological resources, it is not possible to pinpoint specific global environmental benefits. In spite of this, monetary and non-monetary benefits would be accrued in various sectors that depend on biological resources, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, food & drinks and seeds, among others.

Benefits to Countries	Benefits to Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Legal and transparent foundation to the providers and users of genetic resources. ✚ Adherence of the country’s laws on fair and equitable benefit sharing and access to genetic resources. ✚ Community to benefit from traditional knowledge skills on genetic resources. ✚ Control of illegal transfer of genetic resources from one place to another. ✚ Motivation to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for social welfare. ✚ Financial and knowledge gain for implementation of the Protocol’s objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Food and livelihood security: communities can be sure of getting food despite the impacts climate change. ✚ Monetary gains in terms of access fees to the samples collected, license fee, salaries, research funding, and royalties. ✚ Strengthened capacity for technology transfer. ✚ Economic activities that will be involved in the implementation process of the Protocol. ✚ Joint ownership of relevant intellectual property rights. ✚ Access to scientific information on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. ✚ Knowledge and technology transfer under fair and most favorable terms.

This project aims at assisting countries to rapid ratification or accession to the legally binding Nagoya Protocol for its early entry into force. By becoming a party of the Nagoya Protocol, a COMIFAC member country will allow key

stakeholders like local and indigenous communities, civil society, including women groups, and the private sector, to benefit from the proper use of genetic resources and the sharing of benefits.

Because the Nagoya Protocol covers most of the genetic resources that biodiversity has to offer, an evaluation of the anticipated economic benefits of becoming a party to the Protocol is difficult at the national or global levels. Nevertheless, parties to the CBD compiled a list of monetary and nonmonetary benefits arising from genetic resources (see annex II of Decision IV/24), referring to, among others, fees, royalties, licenses, intellectual property rights, or product development, access to knowledge, capacity development or benefits arising from food security or improved livelihoods.

Under well-developed ABS policy frameworks, socio-economic benefits will particularly arise at local levels, where resource users or owners as well as bearers of traditional knowledge will be able to better participate in the sustainable use of biological resources. An increased recognition and better valuation of genetic resources under such ABS policies will lead to improved and further differentiated economic opportunities at local levels, e.g. through better market access, participation in product development, or knowledge sharing. Bearing in mind that women in rural communities often play a key role in biodiversity use and conservation, community development and are equally the bearers of traditional knowledge, their active involvement in all project activities will be taken into full consideration.

Increasing appreciation of access to and sharing the benefits arising from biodiversity and ecosystem services will in turn lead to a more sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, creating local and global environmental benefits not only for flora and fauna, but also allowing a broader impact of biodiversity on climate change mitigation.

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

This project is cost-effective because it will deliver support for the ratification or accession of the Nagoya Protocol to the Ministries in COMIFAC Countries where the CBD/ABS focal point resides. Because CBD/ABS focal points are the engines to promote ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, delivering the funding to their institutions should make the process efficient and expedite. Cross-fertilization between the projects mentioned in the description of the baseline, such as the UNEP Global Support Programmes for ratification of the Protocol and the regional GIZ ABS-project, will avoid duplication of efforts of development of special trainings, assessment tools or workshop scripts. Ensuring a close collaboration with the COMIFAC Secretariat in its endeavors for the implementation of the Regional COMIFAC Strategy on ABS will enhance upscaling of national activities to include the cross-border landscape approach which is so desperately needed in the sustainable and equitable valorization of biodiversity resources.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

The project will follow United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) minimum requirements for project monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Substantive and financial project reporting requirements are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument that will be signed by the executing agency and UNEP.

The project M&E plan (see Annex G) is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Annex A includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Annex I will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification and the costs associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators are summarized in Annex A. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the costed M&E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project

budget. In addition, it is understood that the project will be implemented as part of the CBD Enabling Activities and hence Parties at Conference of Parties (COP-12⁹ and 13) and the COP/MOP for the Protocol (of which the first is to be held on 13-17 October 2014, concurrently with COP-12) will evaluate project outputs and deliverables.

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) process will include an end of project assessment undertaken by independent review teams. The final reports will be submitted to the GEF M&E Unit as well as other stakeholders and/or donors involved in the implementation of this project. The project will be evaluated on the basis of: execution performance, output delivery and project impact. Evaluation of the project's success in achieving its outcomes will be monitored continuously throughout the project through the bi-annual progress reports, annual summary progress reports and the final evaluation.

The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception period to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception period. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the PMU but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to inform the UNEP Task Manager of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The project Steering Committee will receive annual reports on progress and will make recommendations to the project partners concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Task Manager in UNEP GEF Unit. The executing agency will submit periodic progress reports and financial statements to UNEP-GEF Unit. The UNEP Task Manager will provide technical guidance as necessary for project implementation, feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to assess the quality of the project outputs according to UNEP standards

The UNEP Regional Office for Africa (UNEP-ROA) will ensure linkages with the UNEP Regional Support Office lead environmental governance project titled, "Integrating environmental sustainability in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and UN common country programming processes". To ensure that the project outcomes are fully embedded in the countries United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes and that CSO, Gender and Indigenous people issues are well captured and considered in the reporting, UNEP will request the national implementing agencies of the project that when they are reporting back at the end of the project, they include in the report how they have mainstreamed the project in the UNDAF and national policies processes and how CSO, Gender issues and Indigenous and local communities have been considered. This will be cross-checked with the prominent CSO/INGOs intervening in the area of ABS, such as WWF and IUCN.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The PMU will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners. The Project Manager will be based in the COMIFAC Secretariat in order to oversee the implementation of the activities closely. The emphasis of the supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored annually by UNEP to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

⁹ The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will engage in a mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi targets. The theme of the meeting will be 'Biodiversity for Sustainable Development.'

An independent terminal evaluation will take place at the end of project implementation. The UNEP Evaluation Office will manage the terminal evaluation process standard terms of reference for the terminal evaluation (will be adjusted to the special needs of the project). A review of the quality of the evaluation report will be done by EOU and submitted along with the report to the GEF Evaluation Office not later than 6 months after the completion of the evaluation.

The BD GEF tracking tool is attached as Annex O. The tool will be filled out during the inception phase and updated at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool.

An M&E budget and workplan containing above mentioned activities is attached as Annex G.

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

- A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this form. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan Van Dyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		October 13, 2014	Mohamed Sessay UNEP GEF	+ 254 20 7624294	Mohamed.Sessay@unep.org

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

The Strategic Results Framework has been attached as a separate file.

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

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS¹⁰

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 63,927 US\$			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Total	0	0	0

¹⁰ If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.

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

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

Not applicable