

Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal

End Term Review



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June, 2022

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We would like to express our deep sense of gratitude to the Project Management Unit/ Ministry of Forests and Environment and IUCN Nepal for entrusting us this interesting assignment of conducting End Term Review of the 'Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal'. We would like to thank National Project Director, Country Representative of IUCN, and officials of Project Management Unit and Project Execution Unit for their insight into the project and providing valuable information.

We are grateful to the community members of Sikles, Madi Rural Municipality, Kaski; Lwangghalel, Machhapuchhre Rural Municipality, Kaski; Jungu, Gaurishankar Rural Municipality, Dolakha; and officials of Gandaki Provincial Forest Directorate, Pokhara for candidly sharing their experience and concerns.

The ETR Team

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development
MAT	Mutually Agreed Terms
MoAD	Ministry of Agriculture Development
MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development
MoALRC	Ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform and Cooperative
MoLJPA	Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs
MoFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
MoFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
MTA	Material Transfer Agreement
MTR	Mid Term Review
NARC	Nepal Agriculture Research Council
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020
NEFIN	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
NGO	Non- Government Organizations
NGRCC	National Genetic Resource Coordination Council
NPD	National Project Director
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PEU	Project Execution Unit
PGR	Plant Genetic Resources
PGRFA	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
SAWTEE	South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SM	Social Mobiliser
SMTA	Standard Material Transfer Agreement
TK	Traditional Knowledge
TOT	Training of Trainers
TU	Tribhuvan University
TUCDB	Tribhuvan University Central Department of Botany
TYP	Three Year Plan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VDC	Village Development Committee



Project Title	Strengthening Capacities for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal	
Country	Nepal	GEF Project ID:
GEF Agency(ies):	IUCN Ministry of	GEF Agency Project ID:

Other Executing Partner(s):

Findings

The ETR found that all the Project activities planned have been successfully completed. The major achievements of the project are:

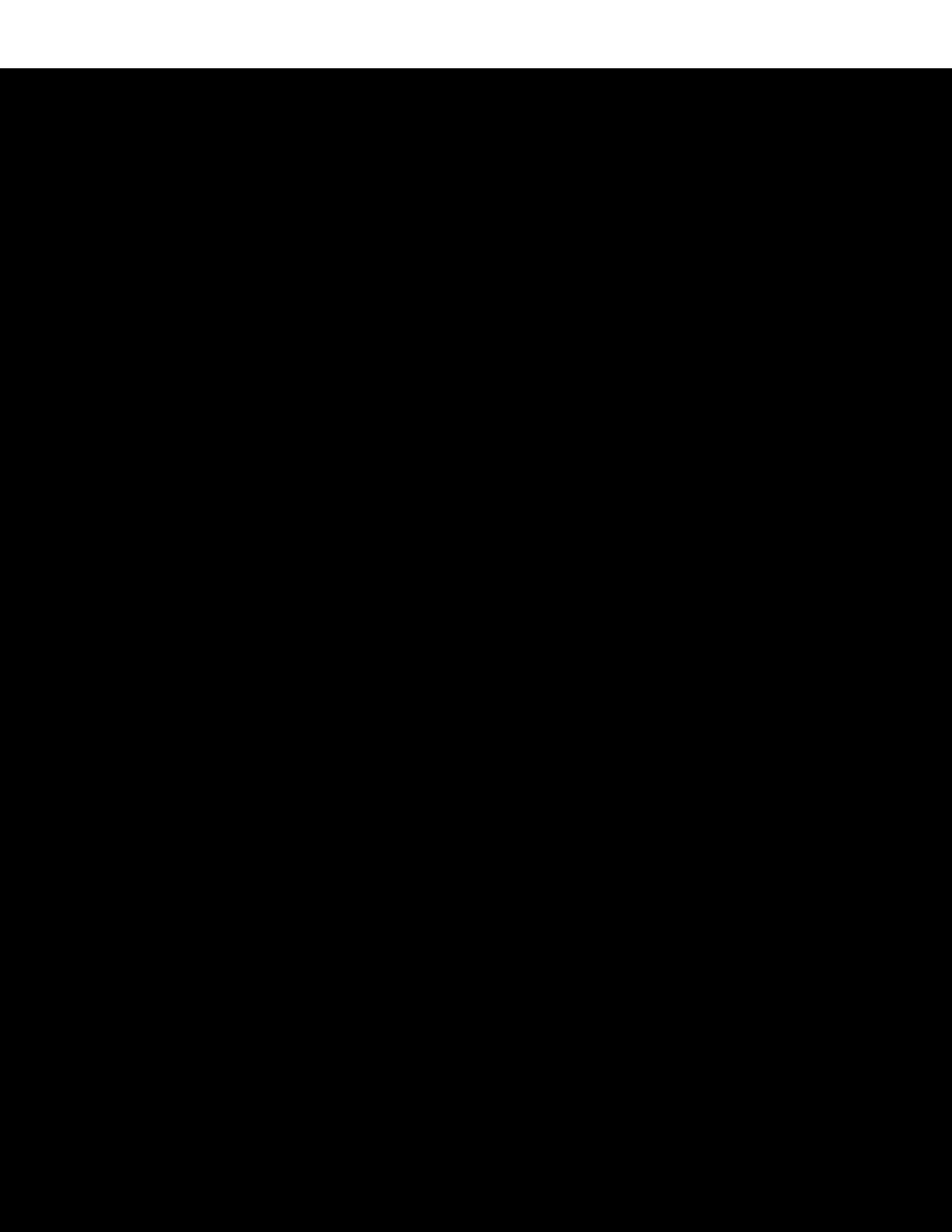
- Database on stakeholders for ABS prepared
- Draft ABS Bill has been prepared
- Strategy and Action Plan for implementation of ABS at policy level prepared
- Draft regulations for implementation of ABS at policy level formulated
- Training materials to carry out trainings on ABS prepared
- Three Community Protocols developed, and process of preparation documented
- ABS related documents in Nepali published and disseminated
- A large pool of human resources on ABS (especially the government officials) has been developed
- Capacity, understanding, and awareness on ABS and documentation of traditional knowledge improved

Most important achievement has been Accession to the Nagoya Protocol on 28 December 2018; and Nepal became a party to the Nagoya Protocol on 28 March 2019. However, ABS Bill is yet to be passed by the Parliament.

The summary of the findings of the ETR are presented in the table below

Summary of MTR Findings

SN



Out of the total approved budget of USD 1,376,147, the expenses booked as of closing of the project date (April 30, 2022) was 1,371,727.67 which is 99.68% of the total budget. The total expenses incurred in the three components is USD 624,665 which 45.5% of the total budget. Component-wise, Components 1,2, and 3 accounted for 28.76%, 53.7%, and 17.54% respectively. The overall ratio of program and administrative expenses is 90.87 % and 9.13%.

Recommendations

Since the Project has already completed, the recommendations set forth here deals mostly with sustaining the effects of Project and effective implementation of Nagoya Protocol in Nepal.

Efforts should be made to pass the ABS Bill. ABSSAP, ABS Regulations, and trained

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1. INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background

Assess the issues and challenges project faced during its design phase as well as during implementation and assess their impact in terms of project's delivery and sustainability of project results;

Document lessons learned to contribute to sustainability of outputs and benefits generated from this project and support overall enhancement of ABS implementation in Nepal;

Make concrete recommendations to help consolidate and support sustainability of project results; and

Provide recommendation on way forward for implementation of ABS in Nepal outlining follow up activities

1.3 Methodology


The overall methodological approach of the ETR was guided by the principal purposes of the review as outlined in the TOR. The team followed consultative approach which involved refining evaluation matrix outlining the review questions, methods of information generation, selection of site for field study done with the Project Execution Unit team. The evaluation matrix developed through consultation is in Annex 7. The team followed the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) DAC (Development Assistance Committee) revised criteria to assess the project performance (OECD-DAC 2019).

During the inception phase, project documents such as project proposal, logical framework, annual progress reports, activity reports, policy briefs, joint monitoring reports, and publications on ABS were reviewed. In addition, other relevant national and international documents such as Aichi targets, CBD, SDGs, ADS, NBSAP, and national plans were also reviewed to contextualize the Project. Checklists for field study were prepared.

Field study was conducted from April 26 to 30 in both the Districts (detail in annexes 5 and 6). The team conducted Focus Group Discussions in Sikles of Madi Rural Municipality in Kaski District and Jungu of Gaurishankar Rural Municipality in Dolakha District. The ETR team also conducted interviews with the Officials of the Division Forest Office, Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP), and secretary of Conservation Area Management

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The information generated from the consultation meetings and documents review were cross-checked and verified. The findings of the ETR rely both on primary and secondary source of information. The team adopted the rating system under different criteria from the OECD criteria (OECD-DAC 2019). The findings of the review were shared with the PMU and P-9R72.024



2.1 Introduction

The Ministry of Forests and Environment (then Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation) launched a GEF-funded project 'Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal' (ABS-GEF) in November 2016. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan. Its objective is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and implementing the three objectives of the CBD. The Nagoya Protocol also covers traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources that are covered by the CBD and the benefits arising from its utilization. The Government of Nepal, as a party to Nagoya Protocol, is committed to

and co-financing of USD 3,068,574 mostly in kind from the Government of Nepal and other project partners.

2.2 Project objective and components

The Objective of the Project is to build the capacity of key stakeholders at national, sub-national, and local levels to implement ABS in Nepal. It intends to facilitate the Government of Nepal for the accession and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal by formulating appropriate laws, regulations, policies, and strategies at national, provincial, and local levels.

The project focused mainly on:

- Disseminating knowledge and the learning of pilot works to raise awareness of multiple stakeholders.

- Strengthening capacities of stakeholders to contribute at different levels on Nagoya Protocol.

- Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and finalization of the ABS Act.

The project had three major components as:

	resources on ABS in Nepali	3.5.2: Publication of project communication materials (Brochures, Pamphlets and other project related publicity materials)
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The Project adopted an adaptive management approach, and some activities were added/amended after the Mid Term Review. Following activities were added.

Table 2.1 (b): Added activities of the Project

Output	Activities
Output 1.1 Stakeholder identification and analysis and capacity assessments	Gender Assessment
Output 2.2 Training materials and Training of trainers and training for stakeholder groups	Capacity Building on ABS related DkmlDing .29 444.17-5(Di/F3 11.04

Brahmin, Tamang, Jirel, Thami, and Dalits.

These Project sites were selected on the basis of them having previously GEF-funded projects implemented, potential for leveraging from similar other projects, and accessibility. Biodiversity International, Nepal's National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Department of Agriculture, and Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) have implemented a GEF full-sized project "Integrating Traditional Crop Genetic Diversity into Technology Using a Biodiversity Portfolio Approach to Buffer Against Unpredictable Environmental Change in Nepal Himalayas" in Dolakha district. IUCN, in 2003 implemented "Building Capacity to Protect Biodiversity and Indigenous Rights through Documentation and Registration of Traditional Knowledge in Nepal" in Kaski District among others.

2.4 Implementation Modality

The Project Management Unit (PMU), the project implementing unit, was placed in the Environment and Biodiversity Division (EBD) of the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE). The Project was executed in collaboration with IUCN Nepal, as a technical Service Provider. The Project is led by the National Project Director (NPD), the Joint Secretary and the



The Project's relevancy is related with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in relation to access to genetic resources and benefit sharing and the Nagoya Protocol, as outlined by the Conference of Parties at its fourteenth meeting in Egypt in 2018.

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preserving and maintaining the traditional knowledge, skill, experience, culture and social practices of *Adivasi Janajatis* and local communities (article 51.10) (CAS, 2015).

Nepal SDGs. The Project contributes to meeting Nepal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (NPC 2017) especially to: (i) maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed by 2020 (SDG 2, Target 2.5); (ii) undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws (SDG 5, Target 5.a); and (iii) ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources (SDG 15, Target 15.6).

It is also related with the Forest Act 2076, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020; Forestry Sector Strategy 2016-2025; Agriculture Development Strategy, ITPGRFA Multilateral System Implementation Strategy and Action Plan (IMISAP) 2018-2025.

(ii) Design of the project

As explained above, the Project was necessary to capacitate the government institutions and other stakeholders for implementation of Nagoya Protocol in Nepal. The objective of the Project 'to build the capacity of key stakeholders at national, sub-national, and local levels to implement ABS in Nepal' is well articulated and consistent with the national obligations and aspirations. The Project had three inter-linked and complementary components of: (i) Policy, Rules and Regulation; (ii) Capacity Needs and Training; and (iii) Education, Public Awareness and Communication. The activities planned under component 1 help in the process of development of policies, rules, and regulations for implementation of ABS; the activities under component 2 relate to development of training materials and conduction of training for capacity strengthening of stakeholders, and those under component 3 on educating people and generating public awareness. The activities planned thus were interlinked and generated synergy.

Some of the activities planned were contingent upon the passing of ABS Bill which did not happen during the Project time. Nonetheless, those activities were implemented based on the draft Bill. Similarly, the sites for piloting the Project were selected from the same ecological belt of Middle Mountains. The Project could have been more comprehensive had the pilot sites also covered other ecological belts of Tarai and high mountain.

The activities planned under different components are appropriate to meet the overall objective of the project, and thus relevant.

3.2 Achievement and Effectiveness

The achievements of the Project against the targets have been presented in Annex 1.

3.2.1 Component 1: Policy, Rules, and Regulation

The expected outcome of the component 1 is the formulation of rules and regulation that will allow the implementation of Nagoya Protocol once the ABS law is enacted.

With persistent lobbying and continuous advocacy, one of the major achievements of the ABS-GEF project has been the accession of the Nagoya Protocol by the parliament of Nepal on 29 August 2018 and Nepal acceded to the Nagoya Protocol on March 28, 2019. However, despite continuous efforts, the ABS Bill has not yet been tabled for endorsement by the Parliament.

Output 1.1. Stakeholder identification and an9q0.085.32 841.92 reWB/F2 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1 72.024 492.55 Tm

An in-depth analysis of "Capacity Self-Assessment" at baseline, mid-term, and end-term was conducted. The Project made assessment of the existing status on the level of awareness and capacity of six groups of stakeholders (government institutions at the Federal level, government institutions at the District level, academic and research institutions, the private sector, NGOs, and the communities at the village level) in the ABS context, on policy, capacity, training and awareness and information and communication in ABS in six sites. The study revealed that general capacity of all stakeholders has increased from the baseline and midterm capacity assessments, and most of them have a good level of capacity on most aspects of ABS. The communities scored higher in most of the indicators compared to their baseline and midterm scores because the ABS-GEF Project has intensively worked on three pilot sites with

obligations; (vi) Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge; (vii) Genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, biodiscovery, product development and patent rights; and (viii) Negotiation Skills on ABS. Altogether, 277 individuals from the Forestry, Agriculture, Livestock, Soil Conservation sectors and representatives from partner organizations such as academic institutions received the training. A total of eight negotiation skills trainings were organized and 341 ABS practitioners at National, Provincial, and Local levels were trained.

One of the means to strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders has been identified as development and training of 'Citizens' Scientist'. The group included traditional healers, social workers, school teachers, volunteers, youth clubs, and women's group. Generally, 25 to 30 individuals were identified as citizen scientists in each place. Three-day long trainings were organized in Jungu (Dolakha), Lumre and Saidighatta (Lwangghalel, Kaski) and two-day trainings were organized in Khilang and Sikles in Parche (Kaski). The training aimed to build local resource persons on Nagoya implementation, to sensitize them on the process and procedure of Community Protocol preparation, update the Community Biodiversity Registers format, and orient on the importance of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. The training covered the topics of essential knowledge of biodiversity and traditional knowledge documentation. Altogether, 125 community members (29 in Lumre, 31 in Saidighatta, 33 in Khilang, and 32 in Sikles) were trained as citizen scientists in Kaski district and 23 people were trained in Jungu, Dolakha. The training sessions also provided feedback for improvement of Community Protocol (CP). Training for preparing Community Protocols were conducted in three project sites a total of 77 individuals were trained.

Capacity building training of Provincial Government Officials were organized in all the seven Provinces participated by the officials of Provincial Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment; Agriculture Knowledge Centre; Veterinary Hospital and Livestock Service Expert Centers. The topics of the training included International ABS regime, Nagoya Protocol and national obligations; ABS mechanism, Processes and Terminologies; Proposed ABS Bill and ABS Strategy in Nepal; and Biodiversity and traditional knowledge documentation and Community Bio-cultural Protocol (BCP). Other trainings included training focusing on ABS legal framework and updated documentation format for the Officials of Department of Plant Resources participated by 24 individuals; National level ABS capacity building training for stakeholders in Kathmandu participated by 32 individuals; and ABS capacity building training focusing on ABS legal framework by an International Expert participated by 26 individuals.

All these trainings were highly effective in capacitating the respective stakeholders

Output 2.3 Community protocols: The Project helped to prepare three community protocols one each in a project site. The Manuals and trainings imparted helped in preparing these community protocols.

Similarly, the Project supported seven Master level students of Central Department of Botany of TU, and Institute of Forestry, Pokhara and Hetauda to document biodiversity and

traditional knowledge in the project pilot sites. The list of theses developed from these field studies is in Annex 3. Similarly, the Project also supported study tour of MSc level students to document wildlife in Sikles (9 students) and Lwangghalel (9 students).

Output 2.4 Process documentation: The activities planned for Process documentation are exchange visits and learning framework documentation. The Project organized exposure visit in December 2017 for the community members to make them aware of the ongoing initiatives and practices on biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and ABS at local level in different parts of the country. The visit aimed to provide the opportunities for the community members to get the first-hand idea on documentation of traditional knowledge, preparation of Biodiversity Register and Community Bio-cultural Protocol, and formation of Biodiversity Management Committees in the districts of Kanchanpur, Banke, and Kailali. A six-day visit was organized for 17 community members (six from Dolakha and 11 from Kaski).

A team of 5 officials from the MoFE visited Australia from March 15 to March 22, 2018, to enhance the capacity of the Ministry officials by learning from Australia's experience in approach to ABS, ABS mechanism adopted by state laws, procedures for accessing biological resources, and minimum requirements for benefit sharing agreement. The team visited School of Law at the University of Queensland, University of Southern Queensland, University of

Table 3.1: List of Adoption of MTR recommendations

SN	MTR Recommendations	Adoption
1	Initiate administrative arrangement for extending the duration of the project implementation.	The project was extended four times until the end of April 30, 2022. The extension was mainly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project carried out several added/amended activities during

3.2.3. Component 3: Education, Public Awareness, and Communication

The expected outcome of this component is Stakeholders at all levels have greater understanding and awareness of ABS and the issues involved in implementing it. The outputs in this component are: (i) Communications and visibility plan, (ii) Nepali language ABS terminology and translations of international ABS documents, (iii) Radio spots on ABS in Nepali, (iv) Videos on ABS in Nepali, and (v) Alternative media resources on ABS in Nepali.

Output 3.1 Communications and visibility plan: Project Communication plan and rosters of ABS expert has been prepared.

Output 3.2 Nepali language ABS terminology and translations of international ABS documents:

The major outputs of the component are: Nepali language ABS terminology, translations of

and song competitions were organised at local level of Kaski and Dolakha (27 alternative media activities in Kaski and 21 in Dolakha district) during the local events like *Chaita dashain*, *Teej*, or Environment Day, and Biodiversity Day. These activities were well appreciated at local

Continuation of the Project's effects would not require large sum of monetary resources hence the effects of the project are financially sustainable.

1.4.1 Policy Labs	Series of Policy Labs conducted to finalize ABS Bill and ABS Regulations (23 policy discussions of drafting team) Policy discussion with the MOALD; Agriculture, Cooperative and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament; NEFIN completed	Effectiveness: Satisfactory Efficiency: Moderately satisfactory Sustainability: NA
1.5 Draft ABS Rules and Regulations and Guidelines		
1.5.1 Advocate for and support the Government of Nepal to accede to the Nagoya Protocol	Accession to the Nagoya Protocol on 28 December 2018; became party to the Nagoya Protocol on 28 March 2019	Effectiveness: Highly Satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: NA
1.5.2 Support finalization of the draft ABS Bill and advocate for its adoption	Final draft of the ABS Bill has been prepared and waiting for passing discussion is an ongoing process	Effectiveness: Moderately satisfactory Efficiency: Moderately satisfactory Sustainability: NA
1.5.3 Draft ABS Rules and Regulations and Guidelines	Draft of ABS Rules has been prepared	Effectiveness: Satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: NA
2.1 Continuously scope, compile and systematize information to support training and raising awareness on ABS		
2.1.1 Conduct baseline	Baseline completed	Effectiveness: Satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: NA
2.2 Training materials and training of trainers and training for stakeholder groups		
2.2.1. Identify existing training materials and develop new training materials as necessary	Identified existing training materials and review carried out on gaps, Package on ABS orientation materials, ABS ToT manual, Citizen Scientist training material prepared	Effectiveness: Satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: Likely
2.2.2 Traintrain2(Trp1)-7(g a)-6(n7-2(d)-		Effectiveness: Satisfactory

2.2.4 Negotiation skills training	A total of eight negotiation skills trainings were organized for 341 ABS practitioners	Effectiveness: Satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: Likely
2.2.5 Capacity Building Training of Government Officials	Training conducted in all the seven provinces	Effectiveness: Satisfactory

3.2.1 Convene group of experts that will develop ABS terminology in Nepali	the booklet containing terminology has been prepared and widely disseminated	Effectiveness: Highly Satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: Likely
3.2.2 Translate 7 documents	Translated and published 4 documents related to ABS in Nepali (ABS Glossary; ABS Information Kit (CBD)- 7 documents; ABS Fact Sheet (CBD); Nagoya Protocol Fact Sheet (CBD); summary of IUCN Explanatory Guide to the Nagoya Protocol	Effectiveness: Highly Satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: Likely
3.3 Radio spots on ABS in Nepali		
3.3.1 Develop radio spots and arrange for them to be broadcast	Total 30 episodes of radio programs on ABS developed and broadcasted from Image FM (national), Radio Barahi (Kaski) and Radio Sailung (Dolakha) The radio spots were later expanded in all provinces through provincial FM Stations Mass awareness programs through Radio Sagarmatha has been completed	Effectiveness: Moderately satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: Moderately likely
3.4 Videos on ABS in Nepali		
3.4.1 Create videos, post them on YouTube, and arrange for them to be broadcast on TV	One Short video entitled "What is ABS" in English and Nepali developed One long video on ABS developed and broadcasted through three National TVs	Effectiveness: Satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: Moderately likely
3.5 Alternative media resources on ABS in Nepali		
3.5.1 Develop alternative media resources on ABS in Nepali	48 events using alternative media such as art competition, quiz contests etc. organised at local level of Kaski and Dolakha (27 alternative media activities in Kaski and 21 in Dolakha District).	Effectiveness: Highly satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: Likely
3.5.2: Publication of project communication materials (Brochures, Pamphlets and other project related publicity materials)	Brochures, flyers, and other publicity materials produced and disseminated/distributed.	Effectiveness: Satisfactory Efficiency: Satisfactory Sustainability: Likely
Rating scales (UNDP 2012): Relevance (1. Not relevant, 2. Relevant); Effectiveness, Efficacy (1. Highly Unsatisfactory (HU), 2. Unsatisfactory (U), 3. Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Satisfactory (S), Highly Satisfactory (HS); Impact (1. Negligible, 2. Minimal, 3. Significant).		

Sustainability (1. Unlikely (U), 2. Moderately Unlikely (MU), 3. Moderately Likely (ML), and 4. Likely (L); Additional rating: Not applicable (NA), Unable to access (UA).

Note: The table above presents the performance of the individual project activities in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability and the overall assessment including the criteria relevancy, coherence, and impact is discussed here and presented in conclusion section.

3.5 Coordination and networking

The Project had put strong emphasis on strengthening coordination with several relevant agencies. Several committees formed at the different tiers of governance contributed to coordinating with relevant agencies. For example, at the central level, PSC comprises representatives from Ministries of Agriculture; Livestock; Local Development; Women, Children, and Social Welfare; NARC/Gene-Bank, NTNC, ICIMOD, FNCCI, NEFIN, FECOFUN etc. The District Project Coordination Committees also had representatives from these sectoral line agencies. Although such committees helped to keep abreast the members of the initiatives of the Project, it is not clear whether the learning from the Project are adopted by other agencies and vice versa.

Coordination with agencies like ACAP, FNCCI, NEFIN, and LIBIRD was found to be effective, and these agencies contributed to project implementation. A relationship characterized by synergy has developed.

3.6 Factors affecting implementation

Several factors affected the implementation of the Project by either facilitating or detracting. The implementation in the first year was largely affected by the local elections. As the whole political/administrative set up of the country focused on conducting the election, the Project launching was delayed in the field. The setting up of project office in the district and hiring of staffs was delayed. The COVID-19 pandemic, which occurred in the late stage of the Project greatly affected the implementation of the activities planned for that period.

'Passing of ABS Bill' in the Parliament is largely affected by the overall political priority of the country. As the Parliament had long lists of bills (such as those on fundamental rights) the ABS Bill could not be passed during the Project period. Some activities were contingent upon passing of the Bill and as such they were delayed. These issues are beyond the Project's implementation sphere.

The enthusiasm shown by elected local level governments (rural municipalities) has contributed towards smooth functioning of the Project at the local level. Some of the wards have already taken initiatives which are in line with the Project objectives. Strong ownership exhibited by the MoFE, and the interest of Province level governments facilitated the project implementation.

3.7 Impact

ABS is a new concept and mechanism in Nepal. Evidence of the impact of implementation of Nagoya Protocol in Nepal is not available. In the absence of information on the Project impact pathways, it is difficult to understand a clear impact pathway of the project. However, on the basis of achievements made in strengthening capacities for implementation of Nagoya Protocol in Nepal, it will have long term positive impact.

The Project was designed with the objective to build capacity of key stakeholders at national, sub-national, and local levels to implement ABS-GEF project in Nepal. It comprised three components with three synergistic outcomes as: (i) ABS Bill in place, (ii) enhanced capacity of the stakeholder groups at all levels, and (iii) enhanced greater understanding and awareness of ABS with pilot sites testing. Although the Bill is not in place yet, the capacity and framework is in place for implementation once the Bill is passed.



4.1 Conclusion

Summary of the progress

The ETR found that all the Project activities planned have been successfully completed. The major achievements of the project are:

- Database on stakeholders for ABS prepared
- Draft ABS Bill has been prepared
- Strategy and Action Plan for implementation of ABS at policy level prepared
- Draft regulations for implementation of ABS at policy level formulated
- Training materials to carry out trainings on ABS prepared
- Three community protocols developed, and process of preparation documented
- ABS related documents in Nepali language published disseminated
- A large pool of human resources on ABS (especially the government officials) has been developed
- Capacity and enhanced understanding and awareness on ABS and documentation of traditional knowledge improved

The achievements of the project were reviewed against the criteria of relevancy, achievement and

			<p>developed at all levels of governance. These training of officials and citizen scientists have been effective. Publication of materials on ABS in Nepali language is very effective and the training manuals will help in expansion of such activities in other local levels.</p>
3	Efficiency	Satisfactory	<p>Although there was a considerable delay for several reasons at the initial phase, such delay was offset by the intense pace of implementation in 2018. However, COVID-19 affected the implementation of activities in later phase of the project and the Project had four no-cost extensions till April 30, 2022.</p> <p>The Project had a financial delivery of 99.68 % of the total proposed budget with a program expenses ratio of 90.87%.</p> <p>Human resources were effectively utilized, and Project followed adaptive management.</p>
4	Sustainability	Likely	<p>As being the government led and executed project, the</p>

4.2 Lessons learned and opportunities

Stakeholders Collaboration and Partnership

The 'access and benefit sharing' provisions of the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol are particularly complex to implement. They interact with a number of laws and policies, broad range of academic

1. Policy, Rules, and Regulations

Enactment of ABS Act: In order to effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol, to which Nepal is committed, passing of ABS Bill is essential. The ABS draft Bill has been prepared through rigorous exercise with multi-stakeholders' participation as well as synergizing and incorporating the provisions of Multilateral System (MLS) of the ITPGRFA into the Nagoya Protocol. Approval of draft ABS Bill through consensus of diverse stakeholders, Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), different user groups, and research institutions would greatly enhance the implementation of the Protocol. Since the momentum has already been in place, efforts should be made to pass the Bill.

Strengthen ABS implementation into relevant sector specific legal frameworks: In order to advance the implementation of ABS as soon as possible, Nepal should proceed to incorporate provisions of ABS mechanism into sectoral, including Forestry and Agriculture Sectors, and cross-sectoral, including Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) legal policies; similar approach has been in practice in Mexico.

Competent National Authorities (CNA): The Competent National Authorities (CNA), as per the Article of the Nagoya Protocol, are responsible for granting access or, as applicable, issuing written evidence that access requirements have been met and be responsible for obtaining prior informed consent (PIC) and for entering into mutually agreed terms (MAT). **We recommend initiating policy debates on establishment of functional and acceptable Competent National Authority.**

Digital Sequencing Information (DSI): The DSI is an emerging issue proposed in the Post-2020. This plays a crucial role in catalyzing research applications that can contribute to international societal and biodiversity conservation targets. However, benefit sharing relating to DSI is difficult to identify. There exists a lack of clear international governance and legislation to make DSI publicly and freely available. Critically, no precise definition exists under the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol, or the ITPGRFA. Nepal, as a contracting party, should ensure that monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources in any form, including DSI and related traditional knowledge are shared fairly and equitably with the country of origin of those genetic resources and IPLCs.

2. Capacity needs and Training

Capacity strengthening of government elected local bodies to govern science-policy-practice interface: Local elected bodies in Nepal are committed and responsible for governing natural resource management within their boundaries. Science-policy-practice interfaces at different levels are strengthened to address priority knowledge gaps that integrate scientific, and indigenous and local knowledge to inform more targeted and effective actions for achieving the Post-2020 GBF. We also recommend an improved integration of scientific, indigenous and local

knowledge under science-policy-practice interfaces at different levels to support ABS mechanism.

Enhance capacities of disadvantaged groups in the ABS process: The GoN has provision for the participation of disadvantaged groups in the local governments and national and provincial assemblies. Such participation is also essential in ABS implementation mechanism.



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Annexes

Annex 1: Targets and Achiev

	2.1.1 Conduct baseline		Baseline completed
2.2 Training materials and training of trainers and training for stakeholder groups	2.2.1. Identify existing training materials and develop new training materials as necessary	2.2.1 Training materials identified and adapted or new materials developed that are used in general ABS training, training citizen scientists, and negotiation skills training	Identified existing training materials and

	2.4.2 Develop and use an ABS learning framework		ABS Learning framework based on piloting of community protocol in pilot field sites prepared
2.5 Monitoring and Evaluation	2.5.1 Develop and implement project joint monitoring mechanism (monitoring and reporting) and conduct project mid-term and final evaluation	Midterm and Final Evaluation Report	

			(CBD); summary of IUCN Explanatory Guide to the Nagoya Protocol
Outputs 3.3 Radio spots on ABS in Nepali	3.3.1 Develop radio spots and arrange for them to		

	project related publicity materials)		
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Amended/Added activities in component 2

Output	Activities	Achievement
Training materials and Training of trainers and training for stakeholder groups	Capacity Building on ABS related Policies and Legal Frameworks in all provinces Capacity Building on Biodiversity and TK Documentation in all provinces	Capacity building on ABS related policies and legal frameworks in seven provinces completed
	Capacitate local bodies of the pilot sites to demonstrate ABS institution mechanism	Capacitated local bodies on pilot sites on ABS institutional mechanism (as provisioned in ABS SAP and draft ABS Bill)
	Negotiation Skill training for private sector (FNCCI members, Bioprospectors) Training of MoFE officials by international expert	Negotiation Skill training for private sector (FNCCI members, Bioprospectors) completed Training of MoFE officials by international expert completed.
	Training for officials of all centers of Department of Plant Resources	Finalised TKDL and handed over to DPR
	TKDL Finalization and handover to DPR (Community Protocol, Documentation etc.)	Conducted training in collaboration with DPR, trained 24 personnel of DPR

Annex 3: Project Publication

Booklets:

1. Introduction to Access and benefit-sharing (English and Nepali):
2. Access and Benefit Sharing Fact Sheet (English and Nepali)
3. Uses of Genetic Resources (English and Nepali)
4. Traditional Knowledge (English and Nepali)
5. The Bonn Guidelines (English and Nepali)
6. ABS National Implementation (English and Nepali)
7. Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (English and Nepali)
8. ABS community Sensitising manual (in Nepali)
9. Community Biodiversity Registration format
10. ABS TOT Resource Book (in Nepali)
11. ABS community training resource book (in Nepali)

Flyers:

1. Project on Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal (Nepali)
2. Project on Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal (English)
3. Poster presentation on ABS GEF at CBD COP14, 17-29 November 2018, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
4. Community Protocols for establishing ownership over Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources; at CBD COP14, 17-29 November 2018, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Theses supported:

Assessment of Floral Diversity and Analysis of Community Structure: *A case study from the Forest of Machhapuchhre Rural Municipality, Kaski District, Nepal*; IoF/TU Hetauda, Bichit Kumar Singh

Ethnobotany, Diversity and Distribution Pattern of Vascular Plants in Lwangghalel, Kaski district, central Nepal; CDB/TU Kirtipur; Bijay Khadka

Ethnobotany and Medicinal Plants in Madi Rural Municipality, Kaski District, Nepal, CDB/TU Kirtipur; Dhruva Khakurel

An Assessment of Plant Diversity: A Case Study from Parche of Madi Rural Municipality, Kaski, Nepal; IoF/TU Pokhara; Sabita Thapa

Diversity, Distribution and Ethnobotany of Epiphytic Orchids in Jungu, Dolakha, Central Nepal, CDB/TU Kirtipur, Sangram Karki

Exploring Major NTFPs and their contribution to Rural Communities (A case study of Lwangghalel, Machhapuchhre rural municipality); Manju KC,

Contribution of Non-Timber Forest Products in Rural Livelihoods (A case Study c Tf19estkof

Annex 4: List of Project Documents Reviewed (Produced by the Project)

Project Document (Project Proposal)

Implementing Agreement IUCN and MoFSC

Capacity Self-Assessment and Baseline Study – Baseline Report, 2018

Annex 5: List of people interacted

Group meeting

SN	Name	Representation
Meeting at Sikles, Madi 1, Kaski; April 27, 2022		
1	Nou Maya Gurung	Mothers' Group Chairperson
2	Chandra Prasad Gurung	Tole Coordinator
3	Indra Jeet Gurung	Tole Coordinator
4	Ichha Bahadur Gurung	
5	Ge Shubha Gurung	School Teacher
Meeting at Jungu, Gaurishankar, Dolakha; April 29, 2022		
6	Basanta Karki	Chairperson, Ward 2
7	Jhalak Kumar Karki	Chairperson, Ward 1
8	Surya Bahadur Tamang	Citizen scientist
9	Rup Maya Tamang	Citizen Scientist
10	Govinda Khadka	Staff at Cooperative
11	Netra Bhadur Khadka	Citizen Scientist

Individuals met

SN	Name/ institution
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Annex 7: Review Questions

SN	Criteria/Key questions	Indicators/Analysis	Information required/Methods
1	Relevance		
1.1	To what extent had the project contributed to the strategic policies and programmes of the country?	Comparison of specific components of the project contributing to specific policies (CBD, Nagoya Protocol, Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, NBSAP, SDGs, National Plans, Provincial plans etc.)	Specific policy provisions and project components contributing to these domains Review of the policies and the project documents
1.2	Assess the contribution of the project towards the achievement of national objectives and contribution in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal	Causal relationship between the project activities and the Nagoya Protocol	Juxtaposing project objectives against the national objectives in relation to the Implementation of Nagoya Protocol; Review of project Document;
1.3	Analyse whether the project's approach addresses the needs and demands of the stakeholders.	Consonance of the project approaches and needs and demands of the stakeholders	Review of the needs and aspirations of the groups of stakeholders (Gap analysis, capacity assessment report)
1.4	Assess the relevance of the tools / instruments / inputs applied by the project for enabling policy environment for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal	Consonance of the project approaches and objectives of the project	Teasing out connectivity between objectives, outcomes, outputs, and activities to the objectives

Identification of contributing and
detracting factors and the
magnitude of influence

	<p>forum was optimally used for decision making.</p> <p>Assess the timeline and quality of the reporting followed by the project</p> <p>Assess the qualitative and quantitative aspects of management and other inputs (such as equipment, technical assistance and budgetary inputs) provided by the project vis-à-vis achievement of outputs and targets.</p>		<p>changes made in management (if any) based on reporting/monitoring</p>
4	Sustainability		
4.1	<p>Was the approach used likely to ensure continued benefit after the project?</p>	<p>Review of the process and approach followed in relation to the contribution in sustaining the effects</p> <p>Institutional basis for ensuring sustainability</p>	<p>Assessment of institutional basis, financial basis of the sustainability for different components across different levels (Some activities are related with central level government institutions while others are at local levels);</p> <p>Consultation with the project team and review of the report</p>
4.2	<p>Were all key stakeholders sufficiently and effectively involved? Were their expectations met and are they satisfied with their level of participation?</p>	<p>Nature and extent of stakeholders' participation; Assessment of level satisfaction</p>	<p>Review of the reports, consultation with stakeholders at field level and implementation unit</p>
4.3	<p>Was the approach inclusive and gender responsive?</p>	<p>Measures adopted to make the approach socially and gender inclusive</p>	<p>Review of the reports, consultation with stakeholders at field level and implementation unit</p>
4.4	<p>Were alternative or additional measures needed and, if so, what was required to ensure continued sustainability and a positive impact?</p>	<p>Identification of potential measures for contributing sustainability</p>	<p>Review of the reports and consultation with PMU, PEU</p>

	Identify significant lessons and conclusions which could be drawn from the project in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and networking	Drawing of overall conclusions based on different criteria	Synthesizing outcome of review under different criteria
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Annex 8

and institutional structures in place for implementing the Nagoya Protocol; and c) publishing mandatory information in the ABS Clearing-House.

ABT 16 is being supported by ABT 13 that refers to safeguarding genetic diversity of plants, animals and wild relatives; and ABT 18 relates to the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous [peoples] and local communities (IPLCs) and implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of IPLCs, at all relevant levels.

As of 17 May 2022, 134 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity ratified the Nagoya Protocol. Both the Parties and non-Parties have made considerable progress in putting the ABS frameworks in place; however, further efforts are needed to make the Protocol fully operational (cbd.int/abs/Nagoya-protocol/signatories/ - accessed on 17-05-2022).

The Conference of Parties, at its fourteenth meeting held in Egypt in 2018, adopted decision 14/34 for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in relation to access to genetic resources and benefit sharing and the Nagoya Protocol. Possible elements proposed on ABS and the Nagoya Protocol in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that include: a) Goal, milestone and indicators; b) Integration of access and benefit sharing into other areas of work under the convention; c) Enabling elements and review mechanisms: Access and Benefit-sharing-Clearing-House, capacity building, resource mobilization, national reports, communication; iv) Indigenous peoples and local communities; v) Digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources; and d) Other relevant international instruments (CBD-UNEP 2019a; CBD-UNEP 2019b) will significantly contribute to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

food security. The assessment has reiterated and re-emphasized the positive contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities that sustainability can be facilitated through national recognition of land tenure, access and resource rights in accordance with national legislation, the application of free, prior and informed consent, improved collaboration among stakeholders, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use, and co-management arrangements with local communities (IPBES, 2019). The success of alignment, however, depends on the modality of ABS chosen (<https://trade4devnews.enhancedif.org/en/op-ed/access-genetic-resources-and-benefit-sharing-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework> (23 May 2022)).

(ii) National commitments. The project is consistent with the legal instruments and regulatory frameworks, policies and plans of Nepal. This part assesses on provisions related to biodiversity and access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, and its related issues. A brief review of pertinent provisions in the legislations, strategies and action plans from 2014 onwards have been provided; National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020 (NBSAP) was endorsed in Nepal in 2014.

Constitution of Nepal. The project is consistent with provisions of the Constitution of Nepal, 2015, such as to: i) conserving the natural resources available in the country, its sustainable use in an environmental friendly way, and ensuring the fair distribution of the benefits generated by it by giving local people the priority and preferential rights (Article 51.g); ii) making a sustainable use of biodiversity through the conservation and management of forests, fauna and flora, and by minimizing the negative impacts of industrialization and physical development by promoting public awareness on environmental cleanliness and protection, and formulate policies and enact laws on the basis of the principle of sustainable environment development (article 51.5); iii) making special arrangements to ensure the rights of *Adivasi Janajatis* (indigenous ethnic groups) to lead a dignified life with their respective identities, and making them participate in decision making processes that concern them, and preserving and maintaining the traditional knowledge, skill, experience, culture and social practices of *Adivasi Janajatis* and local communities (article 51.10) (CAS, 2015).

Nepal SDGs. The Project contributes to meeting the Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals

The project also contributes to nature conservation national strategic framework for sustainable development (2015-2030), in particular, forest, biodiversity, agriculture, GESI sectors (NPC 2016).

Fifteenth National Plan. The implementation of the project has supported implementation of Nepal's Fifteenth Plan (2019/20 – 2023/24) to meet the national strategies of the "Forests, biodiversity and watershed [wetlands]" Sector including national Strategy 1: High, sustainable and employment-based national income; and Strategy 4: Enhancing production and productivity through four objectives, such as: i) Enhancing ecosystem services through forests and wetlands production and productivity; ii) conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forests, biodiversity and wetlands; iii) fair and equitable distribution of benefits arising from utilization of forests, biodiversity and watershed; and (iv) developing enterprises by promoting teaching and research in the areas of forests, biodiversity and wetland resources. The Fifteenth Plan also reiterates: i) documentation and registration of biodiversity and associated indigenous knowledge, skills, practices, social-cultural processes, arts, intellectual properties of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs); and ii) implementation of access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits by making legal instruments and establishing implementing structure (GoN-NPC, 2020).

Policies.

The National Forest Policy has been formulated with the goal to address the objectives of the CBD including conservation and management of biodiversity and forest resources. The project contributes directly towards achieving vision, goal and objectives of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in general. The policy specifically encourages fair and equitable distribution of benefits arising from the utilization of resources in context to federal structure of Nepal at the sub-national levels. It also facilitates research and capacity strengthening in the areas of utilizing indigenous knowledge, skills and practice of local communities related to biological resources (MoFE, 2018).

The project contributes to implementation of Agrobiodiversity Policy, 2063 (2007) (firBT/F273(())7-i9o0

knowledge and indigenous knowledge by inventory and establishing "Traditional Knowledge Digital Library" of IPLCs (MoC, 2017).

The project also contributes to Climate Change Policy, 2076 (2019) of Nepal under the policy 8.2 - Forest, Biodiversity and Watershed Conservation which facilitates that Action plan will be formulated and implemented to conserve rare and endangered wildlife and plants as well as sensitive ecosystems that are at risk of climate change (MoLJPA, 2019).

Regulatory Frameworks (Acts & Bills).

Forest Act 2076 B.S. (MoFE, 2019) is an important regulatory framework to effectively implement ABS mechanism for meeting people's needs through conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing. According to Forest Act (MoFE, 2019), the Government of Nepal may, by a notification in the Nepal Gazette, impose restriction on the collection, cutting, use, transportation, sale, distribution or export of the prescribed forest products for the purposes of protection of biodiversity, any species or environment. The provisions well cover the first and second objectives of the CBD; however, it does not specifically refer to the third objectives of the CBD, i.e., access to genetic material or resources and benefit sharing.

Access to genetic resources ABS Bill (Draft). The project directly contributes to improve and formulate the Bill "Access to genetic resources, utilization, and benefit-sharing Bill" on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (AGRBS) which has incorporated the provisions related to ABS as stipulated in the CBD. In addition, the ABS Bill was harmonized with Agrobiodiversity Bill as agreed by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD). The ABS Bill shall be applicable for access to genetic resources and benefit sharing including agriculture genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge except for the conservation and utilization for research, breeding and training for food and agriculture (Annex 1 of ITPGRFA) (MoFE, IUCN & GeF, 2022).

The Bill covers in detail the provisions of sovereignty of ownership on genetic resources and

(NGRCC). To get access to genetic resources and materials, two procedures need to be followed: firstly, application for preliminary and scientific research and sample collection; and secondly,

Forestry Sector Policy. The project is in consistent with the “ Forestry Sector Strategy 2016-2025” of Nepal (MoFSC, 2016). Under managing ecosystems and conserving biodiversity, it is stipulated to develop formal legal framework, enact and implement Access and Benefit Sharing Arising out of the Utilization of Genetic Resources (ABS) laws. Under Conservation area management, emphasis has been given to promote community-based approaches and develop integrated site-specific conservation practices for protection forests with defined roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and benefit-sharing mechanisms and by ensuring the rights of indigenous and local communities (MoFSC, 2016).

ABSSAP. Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing Strategy and Action Plan (ABSSAP), 2023-2032 – Draft has been formulated to facilitate the third objective of the CBD. The ABSSAP comprises 11 strategies that principally include conservation of elements of genetic resources of animals, plants and microorganisms, sustainable use and their promotion; protection and promotion of indigenous knowledge of IPLCs; capacity strengthening of stakeholders, raising awareness about ABS; and fair and equitable distribution of benefits from commercial utilization of genetic resources (MoFE, 2022). The ABSSAP is in the process of review and revision for approval from the parliament.

ADS & ITPGRFA-MILS. The project also supports implementation of Agriculture Development Strategy; and ITPGRFA-MILS Implementation Strat

Conservation; c) Documentation; d) Materials for exchange; e) Non-germplasm base technology; f) Resource utilization; g) Capacity building; h) germplasm import and export; and i) Monitoring.

6th National Report to CBD. While undertaking assessment of NBSAP progress for meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABT) by 2020, NBSAP had set up specific national targets to assess progress of ABS related ABT (MoFE, 2018). The ABT 13 - Genetic diversity was for endorsement of "Agricultural Diversity Conservation Act", and the progress is on track to exceed the target. Similarly, ABT 16 - related to Access and Benefit Sharing aimed at endorsement of the ABS Bill. In this regard, there is progress towards target but at an insufficient rate. Similarly, ABT 18 is related to "Traditional Knowledge" aiming at amendment of "Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Right Bill". *The progress is towards target but at an insufficient rate.*

(iii) Synergy. Resolution conf. 16.4 of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", calls on the parties to "further opportunities to strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels" and to "further strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and other partners at the national level to enhance coherent national-level implementation of the Convention" (UN Environment, (2016).

Other UN Programmes. The project contributes to other UN programmes. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has linkages to biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources (Article 7.9.e). The Agreement has also given emphasis on building the resilience of socio-economic and healthy functional ecosystems that can play in both mitigation and adaptation (UN, 2015: IUCN, 2022).

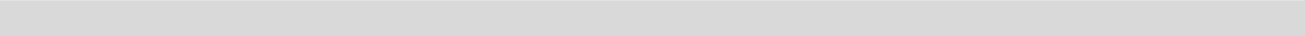
Provinces and Local Municipalities. There is low level of awareness on policy provisions and rationale of biodiversity conservation and ABS among stakeholders at the field level (GoN/MoFSC, 2014; Chaudhary et al. 2015). Some initiatives at the local level have been undertaken as provisioned in the Constitution of Nepal and Local Government Operation Act 2074 to formulate and endorse new policies to conserve biodiversity at the local level (Chaudhary et al., 2020). The project will help to strengthen biodiversity and ABS related policy

In accordance with GEF M&E policies and procedures, all medium-sized GEF-financed projects are required to undergo an end term review/evaluation at the end of the project period. This Terms of Reference (ToR) sets out the expectations for the project end term review of the medium-sized

project (GEF Project ID 9352) implemented through the Ministry of Forests and Environment and International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The project budget planned for the period of implementation is given in the table below,

Funds	Amount (USD)
Co-financing Total	3,068,574



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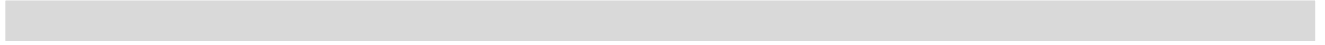
Effectiveness

1. What worked well and did not work well as expected?
- 2.

Assess the sustainability of the project interventions in terms of its effect on policies, capacities and awareness

Network /linkages

Evaluate the level, degree and representation by the stakeholders, (government and civil society, indigenous groups and local communities, academic and research institutions etc.) in the execution of the project



Articulate the recommendations on way forward for the implementation of ABS in Nepal outlining follow up activities

COMPETENCIES

Ability to meet strict deadlines and work under stressful conditions
Ability to work in close collaboration with a group of ABS stakeholders, experts and national and international experts, to meet strict deadlines and plan the work according to priorities
Strong interpersonal and communication skills
Good analytical and writing skills
Excellent oral and written communication skills
Good interpersonal and facilitation skills; ability to be flexible, respectful, and effective

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Advanced university degree or higher in Environmental Law or Natural Sciences
Experience with applying participatory monitoring approaches is an advantage
Recent knowledge of the International Monitoring and Evaluation methodologies is an advantage
Experience of review of GEF funded projects
Recognized expertise in the cross-cutting area of ABS
Familiarity with ongoing dialogue, discussions, milestones in the process of ABS implementation in Nepal
Work experience in relevant areas (national and regional development planning, environmental management and planning) for at least 5

The review will be undertaken in a 15 day period, the international reviewer (Nepalese expert with international experience) will be involved for 8 days and national reviewer will be involved for 14 days to complete the project end term review.

MAXIMUM ALLOCATED BUDGET

NPR 10,00,000 (In words: Ten lakhs only including all taxes and travel expenses)

SELECTION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

Independent consultants proposal proposing a team of national reviewer (as team leader) and international reviewer (as expert) is eligible to apply