United Nations Development Programme

Project title: Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation		
Country: Morocco	**Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity):** Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Sustainable Development	**Execution Modality**: National Implementation (NIM); assisted NIM
Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): Outcome 2 - Public policies and national strategies for industrial development, environment, and land use planning incorporate the principles of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development		
UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: Substantial	**UNDP Gender Marker:** 2	
Atlas/Quantum Award ID: 00143897	**Atlas/Quantum Project/Output ID:** 01000687	
UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number: 6372	**GEF Project ID number:** 10842	
LPAC meeting date: 22 March 2023		
Last possible date to submit to GEF: 10 July 2022, extended to 10 Sep 2022		
Latest possible CEO endorsement date: 10 Nov 2021		
Project duration in months: 60		
Planned start date: 15 October 2023	**Planned end date:** 19 December 2028	
Expected date of Mid-Term Review: 01 Oct 2025	**Expected date of Terminal evaluation:** 31 Dec 2027	
Brief project description: The project objective is to consolidate and operationalize the national access and benefit sharing (ABS) legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable		

appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems. This will be achieved through five interrelated components that will allow consolidating the national ABS framework and national and local capacity and knowledge, and the development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources while contributing to biodiversity governance and conservation. This strategy will reduce threats to biodiversity and genetic resources in three landscapes delivering global environmental benefits including 34,000 hectares (ha) of landscapes under improved practices and will directly benefit 3,000 people (1,500 female and 1,500 male). The project will have a duration of 5 years with a total investment of USD 4,726,620, USD 1,776,620 of which will be provided by the Global Environment Facility.

FINANCING PLAN	
GEF Trust Fund grant	USD 1,776,620
UNDP TRAC resources	USD 100,000
Confirmed cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP	USD 200,000
(1) Total Budget administered by UNDP	**USD 2,076, 620**
(2) Total confirmed co-financing to this project not administered by UNDP	**USD 2,650,000**
(3) Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	**USD 4,726,620**

SIGNATURES:

Signature: Secrétaire Générale Par Intérim du Département du Développement Durable Farah BOUQARTACHA	**Agreed by Implementing Partner**	**Date/Month/Year:** *within 6 months of GEF CEO endorsement* 04 AOUT 2023
Signature: Dr Edward A. Christow Resident Representative	**Agreed by UNDP** PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT NATIONS UNIES RABAT - C1 -	**Date/Month/Year:** *within 6 months of GEF CEO endorsement* ***17/07/2023***

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II. LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ABSCH	ABS Clearing House
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BPPS NCE	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Nature, Climate and Energy
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CNA	Competent National Authority
CNB	National Committee on Biodiversity (acronym in French)
CNRG	National Commission for Genetic Resources (acronym in French)
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FM	Fès-Meknès Region
FPIC	Free, prior, and informed consent
GEB	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEFSEC	Global Environment Facility Secretariat
GR	Genetic resources
INRA	National Institute for Agricultural Research of Morocco (acronym in French)
IP-LC P	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Plan
IP-LC PF	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Planning Framework
IRCC	Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance
KM	Knowledge management
MAPMDREF	Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests – Department of Agriculture (acronym in French)
MAT	Mutually agreed terms
MENFPESRS	Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education, and Scientific Research (acronym in French)
MTEDD-DDD	Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Sustainable Development (acronym in French)
MSP	Medium Sized Project
MTR	Mid Term Review
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
CNA	National Competent Authority
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIM	National Implementation
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PIC	Prior informed consent

PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	GEF Project Implementation Report
PM	Project Manager
PMU	Project Management Unit
POPP	Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
R&D	Research and development
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
SEA	Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure
SH	Sexual harassment
SM	Souss-Massa Region
STAP	GEF Scientific Technical Advisory Panel
TBWP	Total Budget and Work Plan
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TK	Traditional knowledge
ToC	Theory of Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFNA	Water and Forest National Agency

III. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

1. Located on the northwestern tip of Africa at the junction of three bio-geographic regions, Morocco is the second-most biodiverse country in the Mediterranean region, a biodiversity hotspot, and therefore holds a place of global importance in terms of biodiversity. The country has a diversity of bio-climatic regions, including important mountain ranges with large areas of bordering plateau, and rich coastal plains and valleys. The country's five major ecosystems provide habitat for more than 24,000 animal species (11% endemic) and 7,000 plant species (20% endemic). Forest and marine ecosystems are especially rich in biodiversity. The resulting high level of genetic diversity makes Morocco a particularly attractive country for bio-prospecting, especially given that there are approximately 800 known medicinal and aromatic plants, 600 of which have associated traditional knowledge (TK). Unfortunately, the general trend in the country is toward biodiversity degradation and loss, and a decline in biodiversity is observable in all ecosystems. This puts Morocco's genetic resources at serious risk, since many are rare or vulnerable.

2. Morocco is considered an important center of genetic diversity for several cultivated and endemic species, and has been historically explored by several European, Australian and American laboratories. The country continues to be regularly solicited for access to its genetic resources, but has not been able to give, to date, strict instructions on the formalities and conditions of access to its resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) third objective. This legal void has resulted in the uncontrolled use of national resources and bio-piracy, resulting in a considerable loss of revenue for the State and the local populations supplying these resources, and with limited regard to the ecosystems that provide them. Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol is an opportunity for the country to ensure effective protection of its genetic resources.

3. In the last decades, the government and local communities focused on efforts to develop value chains in agriculture and forestry sectors, but the main focus of these has been on improving local livelihoods based on exploitation of ecosystems, with too little importance paid to biodiversity preservation and conservation. However, recent field visits to cooperatives and local producers in 8 regions of Morocco have indicated that there is a strong interest to develop genetic resources value chains. A study on the economic potential of the establishment of ABS contract agreements has indicated that Morocco could receive additional revenues of $37 million to $146 million USD annually from the utilization of its genetic resources, if all access to these resources is subject to ABS agreements. There are thus strong incentives to establish and develop genetic resource-specific value chains, by developing pilot value chains in different regions, on key and emblematic resources.

4. The development of value chains based on access to genetic resources was recently put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Morocco is a lower middle-income with a population of over 36.25 million people (2022) that presented a 6.3% contraction in growth in 2020 due to the pandemic; however, a strong economic rebound in 2021 has enabled Morocco to recover most of the output and job losses caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Nevertheless, real GDP is still 6.4% below the pre-pandemic trend; growth is projected to slow to 1.1% in 2022, as agricultural output declines by 17.3% due to an existing drought.[1] Although poverty experienced a substantial declined in Morocco during the past two decades, the World Bank has estimated that due to the economic and social crisis triggered by COVID-19, the proportion of people "vulnerable to poverty" and/or poor" increased from 17.1% of the population in 2019 to around 19.87% in 2020.[2] With the pandemic declining and 63.43% of the population fully vaccinated[3], in addition to the recent ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by the Government of Morocco more favorable conditions now exit exist to operationalize the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains.

Main threats to biodiversity and genetic resources in Morocco

[1] https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/morocco/publication/economic-update-april-2022

[2] Haut-Commissariat au Plan, Système des Nations Unies au Maroc et Banque Mondiale. Juillet 2020. Impact social & economique de la crise du Covid-19 au Maroc.

[3] https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/morocco

5. Threats to biodiversity in Morocco result from human activities leading to habitat loss (agricultural conversion, urbanization, infrastructure, soil erosion) as well as over-exploitation of renewable natural resources and related ecosystem degradation (forest degradation for timber and firewood, ubiquitous overgrazing by free-ranging livestock, unsustainable collecting of medicinal plants, excessive water extraction for agriculture, and overfishing). Pollution and invasive alien species are secondary contributing factors. Rising temperatures and a reduction in precipitation due to climate change are likely to worsen the state of the natural environment and the availability of key resources (water, vegetation, crops) and ecosystem services (pollination), thus exacerbating the vulnerability of agricultural, range and forest lands and of the rural livelihoods that depend on them. It is thus imperative for Morocco to identify and establish alternative and more sustainable livelihoods and value chains to allow further economic development.

6. The root causes of biodiversity loss in Morocco are: a) insufficient recognition of the intrinsic and economic importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services at all levels of society (central and regional governments, rural and urban populations, private sector); b) weak environmental/biodiversity governance – in terms of staffing numbers and technical capacity, fragmented yet also overlapping agency mandates, weak inter-agency coordination, excessively complex structures, weak central/regional coordination, decentralization weaknesses, cross-sector policy consistency, outdated laws, weak regulations and fines and sanctions for non-compliance with environmental standards, and weak law enforcement, etc.; c) insufficient resourcing/financing for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management interventions; and d) limited awareness of alternative, less biodiversity-harmful business models/livelihoods/practices.

7. Morocco signed the CBD's Nagoya Protocol on ABS in 2011/2012. To reduce the threats to biodiversity and address the causes of biodiversity loss in the country in line with the CBD's third objective, the Government of Morocco has engaged in several projects and processes with support from different donor organizations including the Global Environment Facility (GEF). These imitative have contribute to the development of a national strategy and legal and institutional framework for ABS, including the development through the GEF-UNDP project *Developing a National Framework on Access to and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge as a Strategy to Contribute to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of biodiversity in Morocco* (GEF Project ID 5605, 2014-2019) of a Draft Law on *Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization*. The Draft Law highlights the importance of genetic resources in the implementation of strategies and measures aimed at the preservation or restoration of ecosystems and the protection of endangered species of fauna and flora. The Draft Law defines genetic resources as those of "actual or potential value" and their utilization as "research and development on the genetic or biochemical composition of all or part of animals, plants, microorganisms or other biological materials containing genetic units, in particular through the application of biotechnology as well as the evaluation of these genetic resources and associated applications."[4] The adoption of the Draft ABS Law is still pending.

8. Despite these and other efforts, numerous issues remain unresolved. There is a need to consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework that will enable research and development (R&D) on genetic resources based on sustainable value chains for the fair and equitable sharing of benefit sharing from their utilization.

9. A **long-term solution** for helping to address the threats and root causes of biodiversity loss in Morocco would be to further consolidate the legal and institutional ABS framework in Morocco, complete outstanding decrees, innovate though the development of ABS products with the private sector companies under pilot ABS contracts, and fill remaining gaps on capacity, benefit-sharing and tangible returns for biodiversity sustainable use, conservation and restoration. The aim will be to activate the potential that Morocco's diverse genetic resources and TK represent for generating economic benefits to the nation and key stakeholders, including local communities where appropriate, in the form of business, employment, technology transfer and capacity development. And to raise greater awareness about and support for biodiversity conservation and to directly deliver enhanced ecosystem

[4] Secrétariat d'Etat auprès du Ministre de l'énergie, des mines, de l'eau et du développement durable. Projet de loi sur l'accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de leur utilisation.

management. However, the following key barriers would remain impeding full achievement of the above long-term solution.

1. Gaps remain in the ABS legal and institutional framework and in technical capacity and knowledge	Although Morocco ratified the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in April of 2022, the ABS Law has not been approved. Some of the ABS Law application texts need to be updated and discussed with key stakeholder for their validation and adoption. In addition, the Competent National Authority (CNA) is not yet operational, and the internal regulations must still be further defined. Technical capacity has been built but gaps still remain in key agencies on the implementation of the ABS framework (e.g. in some agencies that were not fully involved in the predecessor project [GEF Project ID 5605] but will have a role in the muti-tier CNA, (e.g. National Institute for Agricultural Research of Morocco [INRA, acronym in French]), including on more advanced issues such as ABS contract negotiation, private sector engagement, options for benefit-sharing and targeted tangible benefits to biodiversity and natural ecosystems, etc. There is no online effective ABS permit application system and the ABS TK registry is limited to a few regions only and needs to be extended geographically.
2. Insufficient private sector engagement and ABS product development	There are no products and value chains under development between government, communities and the private sector that would meet the ABS framework requirements. Too few private sector companies are aware of the ABS framework being emplaced, of the permitting process and CNA, and while there is interest in ABS-related product development, progress is being stalled.
3. Gaps in biodiversity governance and benefits	While biodiversity governance and cross-sector coordination has been strengthened by the formalization of the National Biodiversity Subcommittee, structural weaknesses remain, and the ABS framework is not sufficiently linked with attempts to deliver tangible biodiversity benefits, both at national and regional levels. Local communities are also not yet aware of the importance of more sustainable management/use of biological resources including under a scheme based on genetic resource exploitation.

10. This challenge is consistent with Morocco's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2020, most notably with: *Axis A - Strengthen the conservation of species, ecosystems and the services they provide,* (Objective A4. Strengthen or establish appropriate programmes for the in situ and ex situ conservation of the cultivated plant genetic diversity, domestic and wild animal breeds, microorganisms, as well as for the conservation of forestry species and other species of spontaneous flora of socio-economic value); *Axis C - Contributing to the improvement of the living conditions of local populations through the effective implementation of the NBSAP* (Objective C1. Strengthen mechanisms for integrating the economic, social and cultural values of national biodiversity and ecosystem services into sectoral decision-making and planning processes; and Objective C3. Establish the national legislative and institutional framework for the operationalization of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, in order to generate potential additional resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fight against poverty); *Axis D Strengthening national biodiversity governance, with the following national operational objectives* (Objective D1. Strengthen the national framework for the implementation of the NBSAP) through the strengthening of national, regional and local coordination structures, promoting convergence and participation; Objective D2. Updating national biodiversity legislation through the updating and modernization of legislation, as well as the development of implementing legislation; Objective D4. Develop the plan for mobilizing the financial resources needed to implement the strategy and activities contained in the new National Biodiversity Action Plan, through partnerships at national and international levels; and Objective D5. Develop and enrich the National Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM); and *Axis E Improving, enhancing and sharing knowledge about national biodiversity* (Objective E1. Improving the valuation of the economic, social and cultural values of national biodiversity and ecosystem services; and Objective E4. Develop and implement collaborative and relevant research programmes based on national priorities and scientific and technical information needs on biological diversity, and publish reports on national biodiversity trends.

11. This challenge is also consistent with the CBD National Report and Nagoya Protocol National Report, which highlight the synergies between the implementation of the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol and its 2018 National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). The NSDS identified seven major issues, the first of which is that of the consolidation of the governance of sustainable development and has broken down into four strategic areas,

including the strengthening of the legal framework and control mechanisms. As such, the NSDS calls for the development of new laws that contribute to sustainable development, which includes the legal and institutional framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

12. Morocco is committed to greening its economy and emphasizing sustainable recovery and development through measures such as the "Forêts du Maroc 2020-2030" strategy, which will improve the management of water and forests and that is part of the national planning process to ensure alignment of a green economy with the post-COVID-19 recovery plan.5 The strategy is built around four major axes for its implementation: a) creation of a new model based on a participatory approach, with the population as the first partner in forest management; b) management and development of forest areas according to their aptitude by encouraging private investment; c) development and modernization of forestry professions by creating modern forest nurseries with modern specifications in partnership with the private sector, including the preservation of the genetic characteristics of national forests; and d) institutional reform through the creation of the Water and Forests National Agency, which will be charged with the management of forests outside and within protected areas. It will also focus on strengthening the legal framework and capacity of the Water and Forests National Agency.

13. The project is consistent with the "Forêts du Maroc" strategy by using a participatory approach in which local communities will actively participate in consolidating the national ABS legal and institutional framework; developing new ABS products and value chains derived from forest genetic resources (e.g., Cedar lichen and Argan tree); directly benefiting from ABS contracts; and engaging in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats and forest ecosystems in the three project sites. In addition, the project will contribute to strengthening the Water and Forests National Agency, a key government stakeholder for the implementation of project activities.

[5] https://www.un-page.org/morocco

IV. STRATEGY

14. The project objective is to consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems. The GEF investment will reduce threats to biodiversity and genetic resources from their utilization focusing in the Souss-Massa (SM) and Fès-Meknès (FM) Regions by executing a strategy that will allow Morocco to further implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS for the delivery of global environmental benefits (GEBs). This will be achieved through the following five interrelated components:

- Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge
- Component 2: Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law
- Component 3: Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions
- Component 4: Safeguards, gender & knowledge management (KM)
- Component 5: Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

15. **Component 1** will allow the adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework. To achieve this, the project will define and deliver a strategic advocacy programme to leverage the adoption of any still pending elements of the ABS legal and institutional framework – such as the adoption of the ABS law, and of outstanding regulations. It will then establish and operationalize the multi-tier National Commission for Genetic Resources (CNRG), expected to become the Competent National Authority (CNA), across the relevant sectors. The project will prepare any missing benchmarking studies, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework; and based on this prepare outstanding complementary legal and regulatory texts such as directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA interior regulations, TK protection system, benefit sharing mechanisms, and biodiversity conservation benefits, to be validated by the National Biodiversity Committee and submitted to the General Secretary of Government for adoption. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) will be established and operationalized, under the ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities/ women and biodiversity management, as well as penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses.

16. In addition, the technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders to implement the national ABS law will be further strengthened. To this end, the project will organize training and certification workshops for relevant national government agencies on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework, including *inter alia* prior informed consent (PIC), mutually agreed terms (MAT), ABS contract negotiations, business models of industries (pharmaceutical, cosmetics, agriculture, etc.) that use of genetic resources and their implications on benefit-sharing models, ABS permit granting process, etc. The project will also develop a guide to negotiating ABS contracts adapted to Moroccan and international ABS legislation, and provide training to key national/regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and relevant local stakeholders on technical issues and management issues relate to the conservation of biodiversity and ABS. A functional national ABS information management system will be emplaced to facilitate the implementation and compliance with ABS mandates. To this end, the pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry will be further developed and expanded to include TK, focusing on terrestrial species in the regions of Souss Massa (SM) and Fès-Meknès (FM). Moreover, the Biodiversity National CHM (digital platform) strengthen for better harmonizing and coordinating information on biodiversity to facilitate access to genetic resource information and ABS access procedures. Finally, a standardized online permit application system will be developed for use across relevant national institutions, to provide efficient access to genetic resources by national, regional and international bioprospectors; the mechanism will also allow the monitoring of the utilization of genetic resources.

17. **Component 2** will allow the operationalization of a platform to engage providers and users of genetic resources enhancing the national capacity for undertaking research and development (R&D). The project will conduct and continue in-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework. It will organize trainings (workshops, simulations) for private companies, academic institutions, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains, at national and regional levels, covering a wide range of topics including most notably the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management. In addition, the project will disseminate ABS-compliant information on genetic resources and ABS value chains at national and international levels to promote sustainable bio-prospecting investment opportunities.

18. This component will also promote R&D of key ABS products, primarily for the cosmetic industry, derived from selected genetic resources strengthening existing and new value chains and enabling benefit sharing. Three comprehensive ABS contracts will be signed that include *inter alia* bioprospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements (MTA) with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation. Three Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) will be registered and submitted to the CBD Secretariat's ABS Clearing House (ABSCH). Under each ABS contract, R&D and genetic resources manipulation will be triggered towards the development of new ABS products. The project will work with two private sector companies in three targeted value chains for the development of ABS products as follows: a) GREENTECH (www.greentech.fr) for the development of a cosmetic product from the Cedar lichen (*Pseudevernia furfuracea*) in the Ifrane/Itzer area – Atlas Mountains (DT Region); b) PharmAfrican (https://www.pharmafrican.org) for the development of a cosmetic product from Saffron (*Crocus sativus*), which is grown in the Taloune area – Atlas Mountains (SM Region); and c) PharmAfrican for the development of a cosmetic or food product from a symbiosis of the native Argan Tree (*Argania spinosa*) and Saffron (*Crocus sativus*) in the Aoulouz area – Atlas Mountains (SM Region) (maps of these areas are included in Annex 3).

19. The two private companies involved in the project will conduct R&D on the genetic and/or biochemical composition of the genetic resources in accordance with the national ABS law (once approved) and the Nagoya Protocol. To further promote ABS product development in Morocco, the project will conduct a study on the feasibility and usefulness of a Morocco ABS Product Label. With regard to the biological resources at the origin of the targeted genetic resources, the project with its private sector partners will operationalize the ABS-product raw material supply chain from resource suppliers, emplacing the required control points and guaranteeing sustainable sourcing including through the training of local primary material suppliers.

20. **Component 3** will result in strengthened governance and capacity for adopting biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles in the SM and FM regions. The project will ensure the integration of these principles in the Regional Development Programmes for the SM and FM regions. Regional Biodiversity Committees will be strengthened, engaging regional government and delegations of MTEDD, Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests – Department of Agriculture (MAPMDREF, acronym in French) and the Water and Forest National Agency. The project will provide training for key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations on biodiversity, ecosystems and ABS. Governance, mechanisms and processes will be further detailed and emplaced, with the aim of enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and legal enforcement).

21. This component will also ensure that ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefit the resource-supplier communities and biodiversity/ ecosystems. New resources will be mobilized via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency and other key agencies. In addition, the Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, as well as newly created local management authorities, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers, will be engaged in the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of habitats.

22. **Component 4** will ensure compliance with social and environmental safeguards to manage and reduce risks emanating from the project. Training on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP and GEF standards and management requirements will be provided to key stakeholders, social and environmental safeguards risks will be mainstreamed across the work under Components 1-3, and the necessary management measures will

be duly and constantly implemented and monitored as per the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF; see Annex 9). Upstream policy, planning and strategic work under Component 1 will integrate support on safeguards, most notably elements emerging from the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). The mainstreaming of safeguards issues into the work under Component 2 on the development of ABS value chains and private sector engagement will ensure that suppliers, communities, indigenous peoples, and others who may be affected are duly consulted and engaged and aware of their rights and obligations; specific assessment and risk mitigation measures to be emplaced include and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). In addition, a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan and Gender Action Plan will be fully implemented and monitored. Finally, to increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing a Knowledge Management Plan will be implemented and delivered.

23. **Component 5** will allow the full implementation of the project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy. The project will deliver regular monitoring of its progress and gaps, and weaknesses identified will inform adaptive management. This includes but is not limited to the preparation of quality and timely annual PIRs, and full transparent support to the independent Mid Term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE) with all required tracking tools, core indicators and financial indicators provided.

24. The Theory of Change (ToC, Figure 1) describes the strategy to deliver GEBs through three impact pathways: a) legal and institutional framework pathway; b) R&D pathway; and c) biodiversity conservation pathway. A central aspect to achieving the project objective will be to directly collaborate with key public and private sector stakeholders, and local communities (including women). To this end, a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan and a Gender Action Plan will be implemented, although stakeholder participation and gender mainstreaming is embedded throughout all the impact pathways. The identified four barriers described above, the causal pathways, and their key underlying assumptions are as follows.

25. Barrier 1: Gaps remain in the ABS legal and institutional framework and in technical capacity and knowledge. *Causal Pathway 1*: complete ABS Legal framework and improved management and operational capacity in government agencies, including a "one-stop-shop" national permitting system for compliance with ABS regulations by providers and users of genetic resources, provides legal certainty to access genetic resources and leads to more effective and gender-sensitive implementation of the ABS agenda.

- Key assumptions: 1a) the ABS Law and related regulation will be timely approved; 1b) there is stability in human resources within government agencies who benefit from capacity building activities and they satisfactorily apply their new knowledge and skills; and 1c) a national ABS information management system is fully functional and available for providers and users of genetic resources.

26. Barrier 2: Insufficient private sector engagement and ABS product development. *Causal Pathway* 2: Availability of information at national and international levels regarding value chains and genetic resources together with increased capacity of private sector companies, national research institutions and local communities is conducive to the development of three ABS products derived from selected genetic resources and associated TK, and for benefit sharing, including sustainable resources use in selected sites in the SM and FM Regions.

- Key assumptions: 2a) conditions (legal clarity, information, training, collaborative research, etc.) are conducive to the singing of three comprehensive ABS contracts for the development of innovative ABS products; and 2b) technical and commercial feasibility exists for the development of three ABS products for the cosmetic industry with women's participation.

27. Barrier 3: Gaps in biodiversity governance and benefits. *Causal Pathway* 3: Improved governance and capacity at the regional and local levels together with sustainable and ABS-compliant value chains are conducive to biodiversity conservation and ecosystems restoration supported by effective benefit-sharing mechanisms.

- Key assumptions: 3a) continue interest from regional and local authorities to strengthen governance mechanism for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS; 3b) financial resources timely available through ABS contracts and benefits from the commercialization of ABS products and other sources; and 3c) effective participatory monitoring to assess threats reduction and benefits to biodiversity as a result of the project.

28. It is also assumed that climate variability, particularly drought, will be within ranges, that do not significantly affect the outcomes of the project and that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to recede. The identified pathways are based on the analysis of threats/root causes and barriers. The supporting outputs and outcomes for each pathway, and the assumptions that they are built upon, will properly address the problems and barriers described above, allowing for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources of selected genetic resources in Morocco. The project's ToC considers the active participation of public, private, and civil society stakeholders, as well as actions to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the three project sites.

29. The ToC will serve multiple objectives, such as:

- Support adaptive management during implementation, understood as the adaptation of the project results framework (including indicators and targets), organizational structure and/or project management unit, gender and stakeholder participation approach, timelines and work plans, and of priorities as a result of changes in context and needs including evolving and/or new social and environmental risks or other risks;
- Engage all stakeholders and develop ownership;
- Communicate the rationality of the Project's goals, outcomes, outputs, and activities to relevant internal and external audiences; and
- Ensure that adequate data is collected to enable sound monitoring and evaluation throughout the life span of the Project and beyond.

30. The ToC is a dynamic framework that will be continually managed and appraised during project implementation.[6] This strategy will deliver GEBs as well as social and economic benefits at the local level. The interrelated components described above will be the means through which this is achieved.

31. The project is aligned with the GEF7 Biodiversity (BD) Focal Area Objective 3: *Further develop biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks*; more specifically with objective BD-3-9: *Further development of biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks through the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and benefit sharing*. The project will allow to fill in gaps related to the policy ABS framework through the development of complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g., directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA internal regulations, TK protection system, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and biodiversity conservation benefits) and to enhance institutional and technical capacities for the implementation of the national ABS Law. In addition, it will allow developing new ABS products associated to three value chains derived from genetic resources.

[6] The ToC was constructed following the recommendations of the Theory of Change Primer (STAP document 2019).

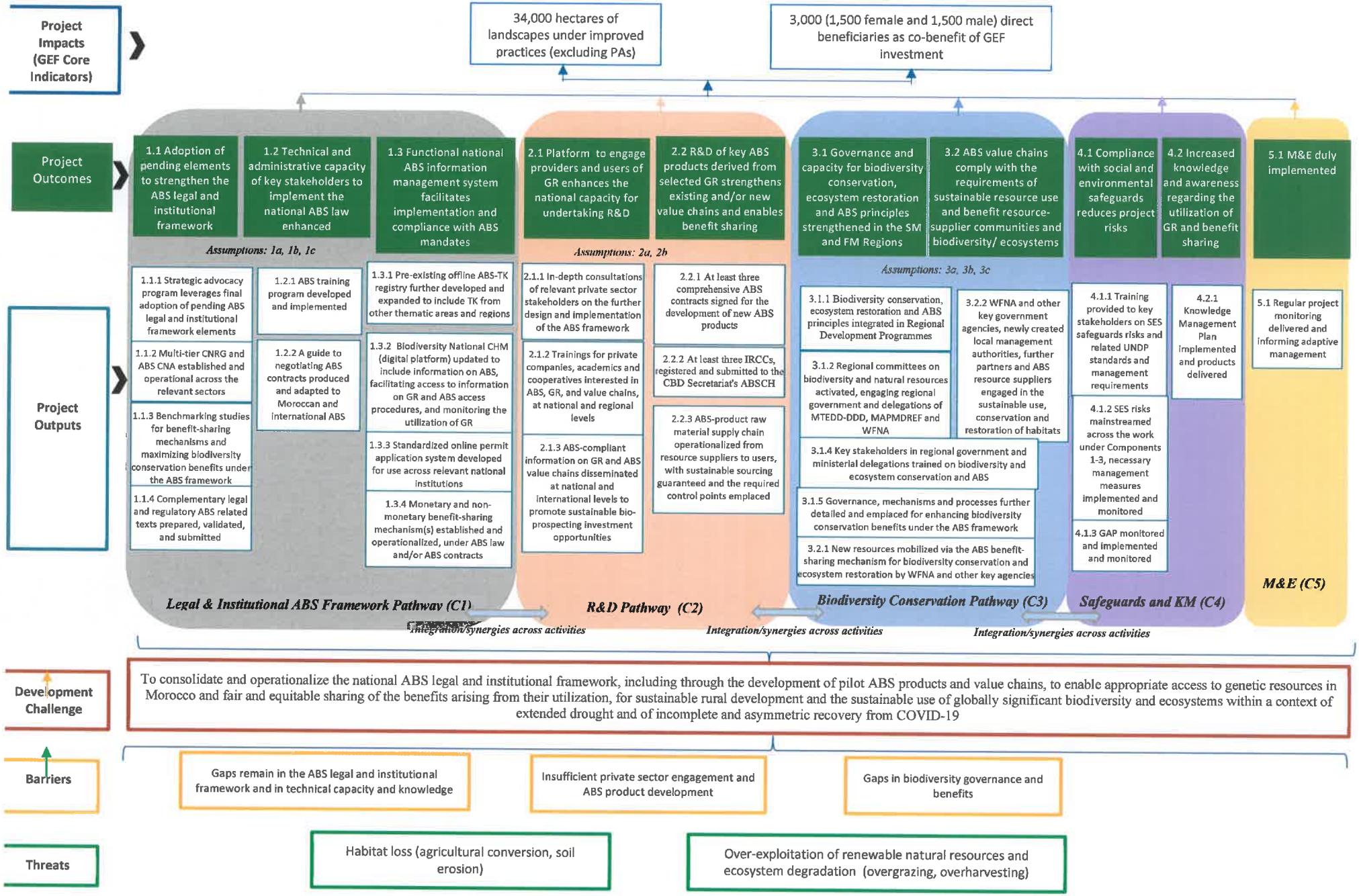


Figure 1. Theory of Change (for assumptions refer to text)

V. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results:

Component 1. Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge.

Outcome 1.1. Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework.

Output 1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS Law, etc.).

32. The ratification of the Nagoya Protocol in April 2022 is a significant development in the consolidation of the national ABS framework for Morocco, which became a Party in July 2022[7]. This has resulted in a renewed interest in ABS at the country's institutional and ministerial levels and presents an opportunity to promote the adoption of the ABS Law and regulations to govern its implementation. A draft ABS Law was developed as part of the GEF-UNDP project *Developing a National Framework on Access to and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge as a Strategy to Contribute to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Morocco* (GEF Project ID 5605). However, the draft ABS Law, as well as the regulatory decrees that establish the institutional framework for its implementation, have not been discussed beyond the MTEDD. Accordingly, the project will develop and deliver a strategic advocacy programme to leverage the final adoption of the draft ABS Law and its related regulations; this will be carried out with the following activities:

- Conduct additional consultations based on the existing draft ABS Law for political support.
- Strengthen the legal department staff within the MTEDD and other stakeholders, particularly by providing training on legal aspects regarding the ABS Law and its implementation.
- Revise the draft ABS Law with support of ABS legal experts and reinforce the importance of the biodiversity conservation law, considering the Regulatory Impact Study conducted in 2019 under the previous GEF-UNDP project *Developing a National Framework on Access to and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge as a Strategy to Contribute to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Morocco* (GEF Project ID 5605). The Regulatory Impact Study assesses the impact of the ABS Law.
- Conduct awareness-raising activities for political advocacy related to the national ABS legal framework and using the results of the Regulatory Impact Study.
- Validate the revised ABS Law through the National Biodiversity Subcommittee and key stakeholders (for example, the government, scientific community, civil society, and local communities).
- Submit the revised ABS Law to the General Secretary of Government, who is the entity in charge of proposing regulations for approval by Parliament.
- Conduct a detailed assessment of the cumulative project-wide risks under the upstream planning, policy, and strategic components (SESA) in line with the ESMF included in Annex 9. The SESA will be focused on the impacts of Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 1.3.4, 2.2.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.4.

Output 1.1.2. Multi-tier National Commission for Genetic Resources designated as ABS Competent National Authority, established and operational across the relevant sectors.

33. As part of the GEF-UNDP project *Developing a National Framework on Access to and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic* Resources *and Traditional Knowledge as a Strategy to Contribute to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Morocco (GEF Project ID 5605)*, a decree for the creation of the National Commission for Genetic Resources (CNRG, according to its acronym in French) was drafted that takes into account the composition and internal rules of the CNRG. The CNRG is expected to become the Competent National Authority (CNA) on ABS in compliance with Article 13, *National Focal Points and Competent National Authorities*, of the Nagoya Protocol. However, the draft decree has not yet been validated with key stakeholders from the government, the scientific community, civil society, or local communities. The CNRG will be chaired by one member from the MTEDD and will include four permanent members designated by: a) the Department of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries; b) the Water

[7] https://www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/

and Forest National Agency; and c) the Department of Higher Education and Scientific Research. In addition, it is expected that the CNRG will include the following members: a) six members appointed by the ministerial departments of the interior, trade and industry, health, culture, tourism, and finance; seven members appointed by public establishments and scientific organizations (for example, the Scientific Institute, the National Center for Scientific and Technical Research, and the Center for Forestry Research); c) two members representing experts in the conservation and use of genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge (TK); and d) two members representing civil society and local communities that hold genetic resources and/or their associated TK.

34. Each of the four permanent members of the CNRG will chair Specific Sectoral Committees (for example, agriculture, maritime, water and forests, and micro-organisms). Each Specific Sectoral Committee will include official members representing the related departments and members representing experts in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the use of the genetic resources and/or its associated TK. The CNRG will be responsible for granting access and for advising on applicable procedures and requirements for PIC and establishing MAT. The following activities will be conducted to operationalize the CNRG and its appointment as the CNA on ABS:

- Revise the existing draft of the regulation that pertains to the CNRG so that it reflects the latest institutional changes in Morocco.
- Consult with key stakeholders (for example, the government, scientific community, civil society, and local communities) to assess their interest and raise awareness about the relevance of the CNRG/CNA in implementing the ABS agenda in Morocco.
- Update the existing draft of the regulation pertaining to the CNRG and validation of the updated draft with the key stakeholders.
- Present the draft of the regulation that pertains to the CNRG to the General Secretary of Government for adoption. This will be done in conjunction with updates made to other ABS regulations conducted as part of Output 1.1.4.
- Provided that the updated regulation is approved, the project will support the formation of the CRNG, four Specific Sectoral Committees (agriculture, maritime, water and forests, and micro-organisms), and the process for the designation of the CNRG as the CNA on ABS.

Output 1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework.

35. Genetic resource access and benefit-sharing ensures that the way in which they are used maximizes the benefits for users and providers and ensures the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. The project will support a study to identify the most effective and accepted mechanisms for distributing monetary and non-monetary benefits in Morocco. The starting point for this study will be the options contained in the *Model Benefit-Sharing Contract for the Use of Genetic Resources and/or Associated Traditional Knowledge* for monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing, and which are included as part of the *Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic resources and to checkpoints*. The majority of the options contained in the Model Benefit-Sharing Contract are identical to the options listed in the Nagoya Protocol and do not provide an exact indication of what these benefit-sharing types consist of (nor does the Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD] or the Nagoya Protocol). The study will analyze case studies within Africa (for example, Kenya, Namibia, and Ethiopia) and elsewhere (for example, France, Brazil, and India) and will include consultations with providers and users of genetic resources to assess the benefit-sharing mechanisms that are more feasible in Morocco, including those for women and other vulnerable groups. The consultations will also help to establish realistic expectations of the level of benefits available, which may include a combination of monetary and non-monetary benefits. The study will not solely rely on the analysis of monetary benefits (for example, royalties) from the commercialization of products resulting from genetic resource R&D, which may be limited and usually occur only after the user benefits from the use of genetic resources. The study will also provide clarity of the definition and scope of terms related to benefit-sharing so that there is a clear understanding among users and providers as to what each type of monetary and non-monetary benefit means and what triggers (timing) the need for benefit-sharing. The study may also address tax exemptions for benefit-sharing and aspects related to compliance and sanctions.

36. The project will also support a study on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework and will consider the feasibility of including these benefits a part of the ABS agreements. Although ABS can contribute to obtaining the financial resources needed to achieve biodiversity conservation objectives, these maybe limited. Additional strategies for financing biodiversity conservation that are complementary to ABS, such as the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), are necessary and the processes to access resources need to be simplified. Non-monetary options such as using research, knowledge exchange, and training to build local skills that are fundamental to developing strategies for biodiversity conservation will also be considered. In addition, the inclusion of non-monetary benefits as part of ABS agreement could help to establish trust between the local providers and the users of genetic resources. Results from these studies will be considered for establishing monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) under the ABS Law and for their operationalization through ABS contracts (Output 1.3.4). The following activities will be implemented:

- Review and compile similar and existing case studies elsewhere in African countries (for example, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Madagascar) and the economic study on Argan (*Argania spinosa*), Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and marine bioprospection (*Valorisation des ressources génétiques du Maroc - Etude sur le potentiel économique des ressources génétiques marocaines*, 2017) that was conducted as part of the previous GEF-UNDP ABS project (GEF Project ID 5605).
- Analyze lessons learned from other projects focused on women's involvement in value chains implemented in Morocco and other African countries by UNDP or similar organizations.
- Assess the monetary and non-monetary benefits of the three ABS pilot cases implemented by the project (Cedar lichen, Saffron, and symbiosis Argan-Saffron for the cosmetic industry, Component 2) so that the results of the pilot cases can be considered in general for Morocco.
- Share the studies with key stakeholders (for example, the government, scientific community, private sector, civil society, and local communities including women) through the National CHM on Biodiversity.

Output 1.1.4. Complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g. directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA interior regulations, TK protection system, benefit-sharing mechanisms, biodiversity conservation benefits) prepared, validated by National Biodiversity Subcommittee and submitted to General Government Secretariat.

37. The project will work to update, validate, and submit for adoption two ABS regulations that were originally drafted as part of a previous ABS project (GEF Project ID 5605): a) *Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic resources and to checkpoints*; and b) *Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use*. The aspects and activities related to the CNRG are described in Output 1.1.2. Regarding checkpoints, the existing draft decree indicates that several bodies will designated as checkpoints for the use of genetic resources and/or the associated TK: a) the CNRG; b) the General Administration of Customs and Indirect Taxes; c) the Intellectual Property Office; d) the Phytosanitary and Veterinary Permit Offices; and e) research institutions related to genetic resources. Checkpoints will be responsible for collecting or receiving information related to PIC, the source of the genetic resources, the establishment of MAT, and the use of genetic resources, as appropriate, in line with Article 17, *Monitoring the Utilization of Genetic Resources*, of the Nagoya Protocol.

38. The second decree regulates the request for access to genetic resources and/or associated TK in line with Article 6, *Access to Genetic Resources*, and Article 7, *Access to Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources*, of the Nagoya Protocol. Any application by a natural or legal person must submit a request to the CNRG, which will assess and accept the requested that all the required information is provided. The decree also regulates the access contract, including the definition of the parties to the access contract, and the confirmation of access.

39. Both draft decrees require approval to be implemented from the MTEDD, the MAPMDREF, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Economy and Finance, and the Director of the Water and Forest National Agency and publication in the Official Bulletin. However, the draft decrees have not been discussed with all the interested parties and they need to be updated in line with current legal and institutional frameworks. To this end, the following activities will be implemented:

- Undertake a baseline survey of status of the existing regulatory texts (that is, draft decrees) and identify additional ABS-related complementary legal and regulatory texts.

- Update the existing regulatory texts (that is, draft decrees) and draft complementary legal and regulatory texts that provide legal clarity ensuring that these provide a framework that is attractive to conduct R&D and for commercial companies.
- Validate the existing regulatory texts (that is, draft decrees) and other complementary legal and regulatory texts with competent authorities (for example, the National Biodiversity Subcommittee) and other key stakeholders (ministries interested in their approval).
- Submit the drafts of regulations to the General Secretary of Government.
- Conduct a detailed assessment of the cumulative project-wide risks under the upstream planning, policy, and strategic components (SESA) in line with the project's ESMF included in Annex 9. The SESA will be focused on the impacts of Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 1.3.4, 2.2.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.4.

Outcome 1.2. Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law.

1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented includes:

a) Training/certification workshops for relevant national government agencies (environment, agriculture, fisheries, water and forestry, scientific research, etc.) on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework.

40. An institutional capacity development strategy will be developed and implemented to ensure that staff from key government agencies (for example, MTEDD, MAPMDREF, NWFA, and the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education, and Scientific Research [MENFPESRS according to its acronym in French]) fully understand the ABS rules and procedures, including granting permits, evaluating access applications, the core principles of PIC and MAT and their application, and the rights and roles of local communities and vulnerable groups in line with Article 22 (Capacity) of the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, it will emphasize a better the understanding of the ABS provisions of the ABS Law and associated regulations, the Nagoya Protocol, and the CBD. Skills for negotiating ABS agreements and compliance will be enhanced. Training activities will ensure a better understanding of national and international provisions of ABS and enhance the implementation of the proposed national ABS Law at all levels. The project will build on the findings of the assessment conducted as part of the PPG phase using the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Scorecard to assess institutional capacity for ABS. As part of the implementation of the ABS training program, the following activities will be conducted.

- Assess the training needs of key national government agencies (for example, MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF-DA, NWFA, MENFPESRS) using as a starting point those identified during the PPG phase.
- Develop a comprehensive capacity-building plan for the implementation of the ABS Law and the ABS agenda in the country.
- Conduct national and international training (for example, ABS workshops, seminars, short courses, field visits, and exchanges) according to the needs assessment results. Training may include PIC, MAT, ABS contract negotiations, industry business models (for example, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, and agriculture) that use genetic resources and their implications for benefit-sharing models, ABS permit granting process, ABS control points and genetic resources use, monitoring, benefit-sharing mechanisms and biodiversity benefits, and an online platform for ABS access requests (for example, the IRCC procedure and ABS CHM).
- Assess the training impact through surveys and the ABS Capacity Development Scorecard at the midpoint and the end of the project.
- Per Component 4, provide training on UNDP and GEF Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and management requirements and risks to social and environmental safeguards.

b) Training of key national/regional NGOs (e.g., FM6PE, FM6RSA, Ibn El Baytar) and relevant local stakeholders on technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.).

41. The ABS training program will include specific activities to enhance the participation of civil society and local communities in the implementation of the ABS agenda in Morocco. Training activities will be focused on building the capacity of national/regional NGOs and local stakeholders in relation to access and benefit-sharing and contributions to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components in line with Article 22 (Capacity)

of the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, the project will deliver training on topics such as ecosystem restoration, fundraising, and use of communication tools and internet-based systems that will complement capacity-building efforts for key stakeholders to play a central role in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS at the local level and contribute to the delivery of global environmental benefits. Training activities will consider biosafety protocols associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as needed. The planned activities are as follows:

- Assess the training needs of key stakeholders on technical and management topics for the successful implementation of ABS and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and develop a training plan.
- Conduct national and international training (for example, workshops, short courses, field visits, and exchanges) according to the training plan.
- Assess the training impact through surveys or other tools at the midpoint and the end of the project.
- Per Component 4, provide training on UNDP and GEF SES standards and management requirements and risks to social and environmental safeguards.

Output 1.2.2. A guide to negotiating ABS contracts is produced, adapted to Moroccan and international ABS legislation.

42. The project will support a participatory process (that is, with government, private sector, academia, civil society, and local communities and authorities, and women's participation) to develop a guide for negotiating ABS contracts (or access agreements) that will facilitate decision-making for access based on clear understandings. The negotiated contracts will provide the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of the genetic resources and associated TK. The guide will outline good practices regarding key elements for access and benefit-sharing arrangements for genetic resources, including: a) PIC; b) MAT; c) benefit-sharing; d) conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and biodiversity; e) TK associated with genetic resources; f) local communities' participation, including women; and g) information and transparency.

43. The project will take into account the Moroccan and international legislation on ABS, including the *Model Benefit-Sharing Contract for the Use of Genetic Resources and/or Associated Traditional Knowledge* included as part of the *Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic resources and to checkpoints*. In addition, it will emphasize that every ABS-related contractual situation has its own particular circumstances and specificities. The activities to be conducted as part of this project output are as follows:

- Compile relevant Moroccan and international ABS legislation and experiences regarding negotiation of ABS contracts.
- Conduct inclusive consultation with key stakeholders (for example, the government, private sector, NGOs, civil society and local communities, including women and other vulnerable groups).
- Draft and validate the guide with key stakeholders (same as above).
- Submit the draft guide for official approval by MTEDD-DDD.
- Publish/share the guide through the CHM on Biodiversity of Morocco (https://ma.chm-cbd.net), which will be updated to include information on ABS (Output 1.3.2). The guide will also be published in hard copy in French and Arabic and will be used a tool to increase knowledge and awareness regarding the use of genetic resources and benefit-sharing (Component 4).

Outcome 1.3. Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates.

Output 1.3.1. Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco.

44. The project will contribute to expanding the existing ABS-TK registry/database administered by MTEDD-DDD by conducting an assessment of TK associated with genetic resources that focuses on terrestrial species (for example, plants, animals, or micro-organisms) in the SM and FM Regions of Morocco. The assessment will consider a wide range of thematic areas including the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, seed, crop protection, horticulture, cosmetic and personal care, fragrance and flavor, botanicals, and food and beverage industries, among others, and applications for basic research or commercialization of products. The Government intends to emplace a new

approach to database management, to build the capacity of the different biodiversity stakeholders in terms of "market intelligence" to analyse market trends in key bioprospecting sectors as well as facilitate the identification of appropriate and suitable intellectual property linked to attractive genetic resources that present high potential for product development (patenting and licensing) in and for Morocco – inter alia to ensure that key stakeholders like government departments and research agencies are well equipped and organized to promote the establishment of effective ABS agreements along ABS compliant value chains. To this end, the following activities will be performed:

- Conduct TK surveys on potentially interesting ABS value chains and genetic resources, addressing multiple thematic areas and knowledge gaps within the SM and FM regions.
- Validate findings with TK holders within the two prioritized regions.
- Present results to the MTEDD-DDD for their inclusion in the existing ABS-TK registry/database. The information contained in the ABS-TK registry/database is limited in access and will only be available to potential users of TK associated with genetic resources with a formal request made to the MTEDD-DDD.

Output 1.3.2. Biodiversity National CHM (digital platform) updated to include information on ABS, facilitating access to information on genetic resources and ABS access procedures, and for monitoring the utilization of GR and for harmonizing and coordinating efforts.

45. Morocco has a well-established CHM on Biodiversity (https://ma.chm-cbd.net), which among other things is used to share information about the Nagoya Protocol (https://ma.chm-cbd.net/protocole-nagoya). However, the Nagoya Protocol information platform within the CHM on Biodiversity needs to be improved and made more user-friendly. Specific activities to be conducted are as follows:

- Assess information and software and hardware needs to improve the efficiency of the ABS component of the National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/webpage.
- Approve updates by the focal point of the CBD/MTEDD-DDD and the Focal Point for ABS.
- Explore the need to appoint a specific focal point for the CHM on Biodiversity of Morocco.
- Publicize the expansion of the Clearing House on Nagoya Protocol of Morocco.
- Periodically notify updates to stakeholders (for example, providers and users of genetic resources, knowledge holders, and decision-makers) using social media, email, and other mechanisms.
- Publish project-related and other information in the improved Clearing House on Nagoya Protocol of Morocco.

Output 1.3.3. Standardized online permit application system developed for use across relevant national institutions, to provide efficient access to genetic resources by national, regional and international bioprospectors.

46. The project will develop and operationalize a standardized electronic ABS permit system to apply for permits and for government authorities to review and approve applications, monitor compliance, and report access and benefit-sharing. The project will thus create a "one-stop shop" for bioprospectors to request access, considering the complex and diverse access procedures from the different departments constituting the national competent authority, the project will ease the access process and at the same time encourage the harmonization of technical processes among the departments in charge of the various ecosystems. Currently Morocco does not have a specific ABS permit procedure; what exists is paper-based. The standardized electronic ABS permit system will serve as source of information that feeds into the CHM on Biodiversity of Morocco (Output 1.3.2) and for the government to report on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. The standardized electronic ABS permit system will be housed in the MTEDD-DDD, which will act as the secretariat of the CNRG and will facilitate coordination with other government agencies (for example, MAPMDREF-DA, Water and Forest National Agency), in case the issuing of permits requires their involvement. The project will also coordinate with the new Ministry of Digital Transition and Administration Reform as the standardized electronic ABS permit system will be part of the digitalization policy promoted by the government as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The development of a standardized electronic ABS permit system is in line with Article 22 (Capacity) of the Nagoya Protocol, which calls for employing the best available communication tools and internet-based systems for access and benefit-sharing activities. The activities to be conducted are as follows:

- Review and compile similar experiences with ABS e-permitting systems in other African countries (for example, Kenya) and elsewhere.
- Assess system requirements (for example, structure, software, databases, hardware, staff, and training) on the local needs and capacities for operation, management, and use.
- Assess existing responsibilities regarding permitting among different ministries and government agencies, determine gaps and different and potentially conflicting provisions, and define mechanisms for coordination and information-sharing.
- Develop a standardized electronic platform for the ABS e-permitting system, including a user-friendly manual and ensuring that all permit applications will have a similar format and process.
- Publicize at the national and international levels the standardized electronic ABS permit system among potential bioprospectors.

Output 1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.

47. In addition to the conditions, obligations, and procedures already addressed through project outputs related to strengthening the ABS legal and institutional framework, a benefit-sharing arrangement should take into account the types, distribution, timing, and mechanisms relating to the benefits to be shared. In line with the ABS Law and the *Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic resources and to checkpoints Model Benefit-Sharing Contract for the Use of Genetic Resources and/or Associated Traditional Knowledge*, the project will operationalize monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts. These monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) will make use of the recommendations from the related study developed under Output 1.1.3. In line with the main goal of access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, the project will give special consideration to the fair distribution of benefits between the users (for example, national research teams and universities and biotech companies) and providers, such as the Government of Morocco and local communities. In addition, the project will consider the appropriate timing for access and benefit-sharing considering the availability of different benefits at different points in time will play an important role on the effectiveness of benefit-sharing arrangements. Finally, working in consultation with the legal tam of the MTEDD and the CNRG, the project will address issues related to non-compliance and propose proportionate sanctions in case of breach (for example, administrative fines and criminal penalties) and monitoring and reporting requirements by users of genetic resources to ensure compliance. The specific activities to be implemented are as follows:

- Assess the best mechanisms, including the feasibility of establishing a Trust Fund, which is projected under the national ABS framework (that is, the ABS Law) and has been under discussion within the MTEDD. Trust funds are recognized elsewhere[8] as mechanisms that help to organize benefit-sharing, to provide transparency of transactions, and to reduce the cost of compliance checks.
- Contribute to updating the draft ABS Law draft decree in coordination with the actions proposed under Output 1.1.4 and based on the assessment results.
- In consultation with key stakeholders, draft guidelines related to the fair distribution of benefits between the users and providers of genetic resources and for compliance and sanctions, including monitoring and reporting, and submit to the CNRG for approval and adoption.
- Publish guidelines in the National CHM on Biodiversity.
- Provide recommendations regarding monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) for inclusion in ABS agreements for the three pilot R&D projects (Cedar lichen, Saffron, and symbiosis between Argan and Saffron for the cosmetic industry) to be developed under Output 2.2.1.

[8] Sirakaya, A. 2019. "Balanced Options for Access and Benefit-Sharing: Stakeholder Insights on Provider Country Legislation." Front. In *Plant Sci.* 10:1175. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2019.01175.

Component 2. Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS Law.

Outcome 2.1. Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D.

Output 2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework.

48. In line with Article 22 (Capacity) of the Nagoya Protocol, the project will facilitate the private sector's participation to effectively implement the ABS agenda in Morocco. To this end, the project will consult with private sector groups (for example, agriculture, pharmaceutical, food, and cosmetics industries) that are already involved or have interest in advancing R&D of genetic resources (including biotechnological research activities) and TK associated with genetic resources, on how to develop an efficient ABS framework that would incentivize their participation in R&D. This will include consulting the private sector about their perspective on equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources; at which stage of the value chain should benefit-sharing occur, considering the complexity of the value chain; ABS compliance and fair sanctioning mechanisms; efficient information-sharing and awareness (for example, information about new legislative developments and the permitting process); establishing ABS agreements and agreeing on the type of monetary and non-monetary benefit mechanisms to be used; and the role of the private sector in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including directing benefits for this purpose; among other topics. Consultations will be prioritized for the MS and MF regions in Morocco with the following activities:

- Identify private sector stakeholders, including women-owned companies, who are interested in using genetic resources (for example, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and agriculture).
- Conduct workshops and meetings with representatives of the private sector on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework.
- Review, describe, and analyze the value chains that are identified.
- Verify the extent and potential of using the ABS process in the value chain (that is, the extent to which the value chain is operating within the ABS framework), and identify steps for ABS compliance.
- Make recommendations from the point of view of the private sector for their consideration in the further design of the ABS framework (Component 1) and its implementation (Component 2).
- Incorporate findings related to the private sector for the implementation of the project's Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan (Annex 8) and Gender Action Plan (Annex 10).

Output 2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering *inter alia* the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management.

49. To facilitate the implementation of the ABS framework, and in line with Article 22 (Capacity) of the Nagoya Protocol, the project will train individuals from providers such as cooperatives and women's groups), as well as private companies, academia, and researchers, including women. Workshops, simulations, field visits, exchanges, etc., will be conducted to develop and strengthen capacities around the Nagoya Protocol and the national ABS framework, and for the development and negotiation of ABS contracts (for example, minimum requirements for MAT, definition of model contract clauses, establishment of best practices and/or standards, etc.). This will emplace the skills and technical knowledge regarding ABS locally and nationally when future R&D opportunities arise and for the implementation of three ABS pilots prioritized by the project. In addition, trainings will also emphasize the contributions of ABS to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Training activities will be based on the identified needs and priorities of the stakeholders involved and will use methods adapted to the local context (for example, oral communication and workshops), and will consider biosafety protocols associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as needed. More specifically, trainings will involve the following activities:

- Conduct a needs assessment for private companies, academia, and cooperatives (including women and women's groups) in the prioritized MS and MF regions of Morocco and the three project sites for the

implementation of ABS pilot initiatives (Ifrane/Itzer area – Cedar lichen; Talouine area – Saffron; and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate area – symbiosis Argan and Saffron).

- Design a training plan based on the results of the needs assessment.
- Provide training on ABS-related topics (Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management) to stakeholders from private companies, academia, and cooperatives (including women and women's groups).
- Produce and distribute training materials as needed (for example, brochures and leaflets); this may include ABS communication materials developed by the Secretariat of the CDB, some of which are in multiple languages, including Arabic and French (https://www.cbd.int/abs/awareness-raising/), and the Biodiversity E-learning Platform (https://scbd.unssc.org/course/index.php?categoryid=4&lang=en).
- Assess the impact of training through surveys at the midpoint and the end of the project; the baseline will be established as part of the needs assessment.
- As per Component 4, contribute to training on UNDP and GEF SES standards and management requirements and on social and environmental safeguards.

Output 2.1.3. ABS-compliant information on genetic resources and ABS value chains disseminated at the national and international levels to promote sustainable bio-prospecting investment opportunities.

50. As part of the project's strategy to engage providers and users of genetic resources in R&D and to promote sustainable bio-prospecting investment opportunities, the project will disseminate ABS-compliant information related to genetic resources and ABS value chains through the improved Nagoya Protocol information platform within the National CHM on Biodiversity (Output 1.3.2). In addition, the project will participate in the ABS Clearing House platform of the CBD to exchange information at the international level. Values chains identified as part of Output 2.1.1 will be monitored through the standardized online permit application system (Output 1.3.3) to ensure that they are in compliance with the ABS Law or regulatory requirements on ABS. Once the applications are approved, information that is not considered confidential will be disseminated. In addition, information regarding the three pilot R&D projects (Output 2.2.1) will also be disseminated as they progress in fulfilling all of the ABS-related requirements. The project's Knowledge Management Plan (Output 4.2.1) will be used a mechanism to disseminate ABS-compliant information on genetic resources and ABS value chains. Specific activities are as follows:

- Coordinate with the MTEDD-DDD to share and update information in the improved Nagoya Protocol information platform within the National CHM on Biodiversity.
- Identify specific cases for access to genetic resources/value chains that are in process of being ABS-compliant, including those that include women's participation.
- Request permission from users of genetic resources to disseminate information on the value chains of interest.
- Assess the interest of third parties in participating in sustainable bio-prospecting investment opportunities that are related to the genetic resources/value chains being promoted, using different information-sharing mechanisms.

Outcome 2.2. R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing.

Output 2.2.1 At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation.

51. The project will facilitate the negotiation and establishment of ABS contracts in compliance with the regulatory and institutional framework developed under Component 1. These contracts will establish favorable conditions with clear monetary and non-monetary benefits for providers and users of genetic resources to develop ABS value chains and products for the cosmetics industry. The project will also support the development of favorable institutional and operational environments to develop R&D activities for three genetic resources that are identified as having potential commercial value; these will be funded through project co-financing from the two private sector companies, GREENTECH and PharmAfrican. A description of each ABS product/value chain is provided in the following table.

	Product / Value Chain 1	Product / Value Chain 2	Product / Value Chain 3
Species	Cedar lichen (*Pseudevernia furfuracea*)	Saffron (*Crocus sativus*)	Symbiosis of Argan Tree (*Argania spinosa)* and Saffron (*Crocus sativus*)
Primary material	Lichen	Flower and stigmata	Argan: fruit oil Saffron: flower and stigmata
Targeted regions (maps included in Annex 3)	Ifrane/ Itzer area – Atlas Mountains (Fès-Meknès Region)	Talouine area – Atlas Mountains (Souss-Massa Region)	Aoulouz and Ouarzazate areas (Souss-Massa Region)
R&D	Confidential	Anti-oxidation properties: safranal extracts	Combined effect of anti-oxidation properties/extracts of Argan and Saffron
Private sector company involved in R&D	GREENTECH (www.greentech.fr)	PharmAfrican (www.pharmafrican.org)	PharmAfrican (www.pharmafrican.org)
National research partners and other collaborators	University Mohammed V	BDA Foundation (www.bdafoundation.org)	University Mohammed V and Mohammed VI Foundation for the Research and the Protection of the Argan tree
Potential Product / industry	Cosmetics	Cosmetics: skincare (anti-aging)	Cosmetics: skincare Nutritional supplement

52. One ABS contract for each ABS value chain will be drafted and signed after the following takes place: a) PIC is granted in compliance with all the related applicable laws and regulations in force in the country and all the identified requirements for compliance with PIC obligations are met; b) MAT are negotiated and conditions, obligations, procedures, types, timing, and benefit-sharing mechanisms are established; and c) MTA are signed to transfer specimens and samples for R&D, as well as other information such as collecting permits and regulating the rights and obligations of both providers and users of genetic resources; MTA will be a key condition for material to leave the country as R&D activities for all ABS value chains will happen partially (symbiosis Argan-Saffron) or totally (Cedar lichen and Saffron) outside Morocco.

53. The project will consider the *Model Benefit-Sharing Contract for the Use of Genetic Resources and/or Associated Traditional Knowledge*, which is included as part of the *Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic resources and to checkpoints*, for the negotiations and signing of ABS contracts to develop new ABS products. In addition, available tools to guide parties that may be involved in or are preparing to enter into an ABS contract will be considered, such as the ABS Contract Tool: Version 2.0[9] developed as part of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, a partner of the CBD Secretariat.[10] The specific activities to be conducted are as follows:

- Support the granting of PIC from the CNA to access genetic resources, and associated TK as it applies, for each value chain.
- Support negotiations of MAT regarding benefit-sharing between providers and users of the genetic resources, including benefits for the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use, and draft and sign MTA agreements for each value chain.
- Provide legal advice in the drafting and signing of equitable ABS contracts.
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of ABS contracts, including an assessment of the flow of monetary and non-monetary benefits, including benefits for the conservation of biodiversity present in the landscapes where raw material for ABS value chains will be collected or harvested.

Output 2.2.2 At least three Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs), registered and submitted to the CBD Secretariat's ABS Clearing House (ABSCH).

54. To monitor and enhance transparency about the use of genetic resources along the three value chains considered (Cedar lichen, Saffron, and symbiosis between Saffron and Argan), the project will support the issuance

[9] https://absch.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/B1C6A46D-5EC6-E5BA-45A2-2F3E406DCB49/attachments/212304/ABS_Contract-Tool_EN_ANSICHT.pdf
[10] https://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/actors/partners/213096

of an IRCC for each of the genetic resources to be accessed. The IRCCs will serve as evidence that the genetic resources were accessed in accordance with the PIC of the CNA and/or indigenous and local communities providing such resources and that MAT were established. Accordingly, the following activities will be conducted:

- Apply for permit to access the genetic resources reflecting the MAT between the applicant (the three private companies/research teams to whom PIC was granted) and the CNA/National Focal Point (NFP) and providing the required information (for example, description of the species accessed, description of the sites where collection is permitted, number/volume of samples to be collected, consent of any group or community involved, and requirements for benefit-sharing, and reporting).
- Publish information by the CNA/NFP in the ABSCH for the issuance of the IRCCs (one for each value chain) and provide the minimum required information requested by the CBD Secretariat's ABSCH provided that it is not confidential and according to Article 17 (Monitoring the Utilization of Genetic Resources) of the Nagoya Protocol.
- Receive and share the IRCC: CNA/NFP, the providers of the genetic resources, and the three private companies/research teams to whom PIC was granted.

Output 2.2.3 ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.

55. The project will ensure that collection and/or harvest of raw material needed for R&D activities are done in a sustainable way. In the case of the Cedar lichen and Argan oil (the latter obtained from the endemic Argan tree), which will be collected as wild genetic resources, collection will be done in a manner that does not exceed the sustainable yield or impair the cedar forest and the Argan forest ecosystem's structure, functions, or services. In the case of Saffron, which was introduced to Morocco in the 10th century[11] and is believed to be a cultivated variety, growing and harvesting will be conducted so that the genetic variation of the population is maintained. In addition to providing training to providers of raw material to ensure sustainable collection and harvesting, conservation and sustainable use plans (one for each species/ABS value chain) will be developed in coordination with environmental authorities, who will serve as checkpoints and grant collection/harvesting permits, as needed, as well as with the participation of universities/research institutions and cooperatives of collectors and harvesters. Training activities will use methods adapted to the local context, such as oral communication and workshops, and will consider biosafety protocols associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as needed. The activities to be conducted are the following:

- Conduct consultation between resource suppliers and the competent authority, such as the Water and Forest National Agency, to ensure a continuous and sustainable supply of raw material from authorized collection/harvesting sources.
- Set up a control system (collection/harvesting permits and checkpoints points at the local level as per the *Decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic resources and to checkpoints* – Output 1.1.4) to ensure the sustainable harvesting/collection of raw material for the three value chains prioritized by the project and compliance with ABS regulations and contracts.
- Train local resource suppliers (including women's cooperatives) to provide/collect required raw materials to the required standards for R&D and in a sustainable way, and to strengthen their organizational structures for effective participation in the ABS value chains, as needed.
- Develop three participatory Conservation and Sustainable Use Plans (one for each ABS value chain/pilot project) that include the following: a) assessment of the current conservation status of the species and the population to be sampled/collected, as well as their habitat and/or associated ecosystems (such as Argan forest, oak forest, cedar forest, juniper forest, and high-mountain spine xerophytic ecosystems); b) obtaining TK about the status of targeted species and their habitats; c) defining collection/harvesting protocols; and d) conducting monitoring activities periodically to assess the status of collected species and their habitat/ecosystems.

[11] L. Zaazaa, I. Mohammed, and M. Lage. 2017. "Contribution to the study of historical introduction about saffron (*Crocus sativus* L.) culture in Morocco." In *Acta Horticulturae*; DOI: 10.17660/ActaHortic. 2017.1184.27.

- Publish (electronically and in hard copy) and distribute the Conservation and Sustainable Use Plans and collection/harvesting protocols among key stakeholders along the three ABS value chains.
- Conduct a study on the usefulness and feasibility of a Morocco ABS Product Label as a way to certify that the development of ABS value chains and products contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with consideration given to the lessons learned from the UNDP/GEF/MAMA project *A Circular Economy Approach to Agro-Biodiversity Conservation in the Souss Massa Draa Region of Morocco* (GEF Project ID 3989, 2014-2020). This assessment will also take into account experiences in labelling, such as in the case of Saffron, which has already received the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and could also be certified Bio (Organic certificates for local products) as part of an initiative with the Economic Interest Grouping (EIG; composed of 33 cooperatives of Saffron producers). This certificate will strengthen the place of Saffron in international markets, which will undoubtedly have a positive impact on local and regional socio-economic development.
- Ensure compliance with the project's ESMF/IP-LC PF (Annex 9), including free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) requirements, and develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan, ESIA, ESMP, and IPP for each region/value chain.

Component 3. Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in three target regions.

Outcome 3.1. Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in the Souss-Massa (SM) and Fès-Meknès (FM) Regions

Output 3.1.1 Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles integrated in Regional Development Programmes.

56. As part of the strategy to strengthen local governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and ABS implementation, the project will update the Regional Development Programmes for the SM and FM regions in Morocco to ensure that biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration principles and measures are included; in particular, how ABS contributes to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components. Although the Regional Development Programmes already include principles related to the protection of biodiversity and the regional ecological system, they are very general and their roles and links to ABS are lacking. Accordingly, in coordination with the Regional Council of the SM and FM regions, the Regional Development Programmes will be updated through a participatory process. To that end, the following activities will be conducted:

- Review the extent to which biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and ABS principles are already included in the Regional Development Programmes for the SM and FM regions.
- Integrate/complement, through a participatory process (including the *Instances Consultatives*[12]), biodiversity conservation and restoration strategies, programs, and actions into the Regional Development Programmes for the SM and FM regions based on the previous assessment.
- Integrate ABS principles, through a participatory process, into the Regional Development Programmes for the SM and FM regions.
- Submit the updated Regional Development Programmes to Water and Forest National Agency and local authorities related to the Ministry of the Interior (municipalities and Regional Councils) for approval.
- Publish the updated Regional Development Programmes on the official websites of the SM and FM regions.

Output 3.1.2 Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency.

57. To enhance governance and the capacity for biodiversity conservation and for ABS associated with genetic resources at the local level, the project will strengthen the existing Regional Biodiversity Committees of the SM and FM regions recently created by the representative of the central power at the regional level (know as *Wali*). At the

[12] Participatory mechanisms for dialogue and consultation with citizens and associations to prepare for and monitor development programs.

regional level, these committees are equivalent to the Sub-commission on Biological Diversity, which is part of the National Commission on Climate Change and Biological Diversity, which was established in 2020 (Decree No. 2-19-721 of Ramadan 3, 1441). Although they have no direct connection with the National Commission on Climate Change and Biological Diversity (or the Sub-commission on Biological Diversity), they include the same governmental and non-governmental entities in their structures, including delegations from the MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency. The Regional Biodiversity Committees should play the same role at the regional level as the National Sub-Commission on Biological Diversity; however, they are currently limited to just collecting data on biodiversity. Accordingly, the project will strengthen the role of the Regional Biodiversity Committees in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, support and monitor the local use of genetic resources and the associated TK in line with the national legal framework, and enhance coordination with the Sub-Commission on Biodiversity. To achieve this, the following activities will be supported:

- Revise and update the functions of the Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM in close coordination with regional authorities (such as municipalities and regional councils) and local stakeholders (such as NGOs and representatives of local communities and groups, including women and women's groups), considering the functions of the National Commission on Climate Change and Biological Diversity[13] and the Sub-commission on Biological Diversity as defined in Decree No. 2-19-721 of Ramadan 3, 1441 (2020), and local and regional priorities.
- Define mechanisms and a workplan to strengthen regional collaboration between different stakeholders, particularly with the delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and the Water and Forest National Agency.
- Emplace regional focal points of the National Commission on Climate Change and Biological Diversity within the Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM, and establish thematic regional sub-committees (including an ABS subcommittee), as appropriate, with representation from of the municipalities, local authorities (Ministry of Interior, regional councils), NGOs, and civil society organizations.
- Ensure the participation of women and representation from other vulnerable groups in the Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM and thematic regional sub-committees, as appropriate, and in line with the Gender Action Plan (Annex 10).

Output 3.1.3 Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.

58. For the effective implementation of strategies, programs, and plans related to the updated Regional Development Programmes (Output 3.1.1) and the strengthened Regional Biodiversity Committees of the SM FM regions (Output 3.1.2), the project will train key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, restoration, and the role that ABS plays. In addition to training in key aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, which will be determined through a needs assessment, the training will focus on how the ABS framework channels benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. It will also highlight how agreements between providers and users of genetic resources can lead to biodiversity conservation and the roles that local authorities and ministerial delegations can play through effective monitoring, to ensure biodiversity conservation benefits. Training activities will consider biosafety protocols associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as needed. The following activities will be implemented under this output:

[13] 1. Contribute to the development and monitoring of the implementation of national and regional policies related to climate change and biodiversity; 2. Ensure coordination between the different departments for the implementation of the commitments of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the CBD and their Protocols, as well as the Paris Agreement, in particular the nationally determined contribution (NDC); 3. Ensure coherence between national policies for the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda and national policies for the implementation of the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, and the CBD; 4. Propose and examine draft plans and programs about issues related to biodiversity and to follow up on their implementation; 5. Provide technical assistance to support the implementation of programs for the conservation, protection, and development of biodiversity; 6. Propose programs for raising awareness, information, training, and transfer of clean technologies and to ensure their implementation; 7. Promote research in the fields relative to the conservation, protection, and development of biodiversity; 8. Seek financing mechanisms for the implementation of national and regional plans, projects, and programs related to biodiversity; and 9. Contribute to the draft legislative and regulatory texts aimed at implementing the provisions of the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, and the CDB.

- Conduct a needs assessment that focuses on the practical aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation at the local level and the link between the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources and the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the sustainable use of its components as per the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol and the CBD.
- Organize training events (such as workshops and short courses) to benefit key regional government stakeholders (for example, representatives of provincial governments, regional governments, municipalities and rural communities, including women representatives) and ministerial delegations (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Culture, Water and Forest National Agency, Departments of Agriculture, and Department of the Environment, etc.) on the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems and the ABS process.
- Assess the training impact through surveys or other tools at the midpoint and the end of the project.
- Per Component 4, provide training on UNDP and GEF SES standards and management requirements, as well as the risks to social and environmental safeguards.

Output 3.1.4 Governance, mechanisms, and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and legal enforcement).

59. To strengthen governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and ABS principles at the local level, the project will work closely with local governments (such as municipalities and communes—urban and rural areas of Ifrane, Itzer, Taliouine, Aoulouz, and Ouarzazate in the SM and FM regions where pilot ABS projects will be implemented). This will include strengthening decision-making and institutional mechanisms for: a) establishing ABS-related collaborative partnerships across jurisdictions (also considering the provincial and regional governments), including enforcing and monitoring the implementation of ABS regulation at the local level; b) increasing local awareness about benefit-sharing as a mechanism for biodiversity conservation; and c) and increasing local investments and financing to complement benefits for biodiversity conservation derived from ABS agreements. In addition, the project will increase coordination between local governments and resource supplier communities (for example, the Argan Cooperative Taitmatine, the Union des Coopératives des Femmes de l'Arganier, and the Federation of Saffron Cooperatives in the region of Taliouine) to ensure benefits for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use, emphasizing the role of women as agents of positive change in conservation efforts. The following activities will be carried out under this output:

- Contact local authorities, present the project and its objective, and establish mechanisms for collaboration and complementarity, including a needs assessment for their involvement in enforcing and monitoring the implementation of ABS regulations at the local level.
- Strengthen coordination between the regional government representatives (for example, the Regional Biodiversity Committees), the municipalities, and resource supplier communities to enhance the benefits for ecosystem restoration and the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services under ABS and to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources (using as basis the three ABS pilot projects).
- Establish focal points within regional delegations, municipalities, and rural communities to monitor and enforce ABS regulations at the local level.
- Establish coordination and discussion groups between local government stakeholders and resource supplier communities (for example, cooperatives of collectors and harvesters of raw material for ABS value chains) to ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing and sustainable resource use with biodiversity benefits.
- Assess risks as part of the SESA in line with the project's ESMF, which is included in Annex 9.

Output 3.1.5 New resources mobilized via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency and other key agencies.

60. As part of three ABS contracts that will be signed for the development of new ABS products (Output 2.2.1), clauses will be included to ensure that benefit-sharing includes financial support and other measures for the conservation programs to benefit the species being used in R&D, as well as their habitats and associated biodiversity and ecosystems. The project will promote a collaborative working relationship between the genetic resource

providers (government and local communities) and users (private business companies and researchers from national universities) so that agreement is reached regarding benefits for conservation and included as part of MAT. New resources that will be mobilized for the two target regions (SM and FM) by the MTEDD-DDD and the Water and Forest National Agency will complement resources from ABS agreements. Baseline assessments conducted as part of the PPG indicate that the current level of investment of the MTEDD-DDD for conservation purposes in the SM and FM regions are USD 700,000 and USD 600,000, respectively; while the Water and Forest National Agency invests USD 3,654,700 and USD 3,238,900 in these regions, in that same order. It is expected that new resources that will be mobilized for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by these agencies will be approximately USD 140,000 and USD 1,900,00 by project end, respectively. Activities to be implemented are as follows:

- Conduct a meeting to assess biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration financial needs for each project in line with the participatory Conservation and Sustainable Use Plans (Output 2.2.3) and considering the conservation and restoration priorities from the MTEDD-DDD, the Water and Forest National Agency, and those defined with various local-level stakeholders (Output 3.2.1).
- Agree upon realistic monetary and non-monetary benefits for conservation and include them as part of MAT and the three comprehensive ABS contracts.
- Draft short-, medium-, and long-term investment plans for each pilot area considering the resources expected as a result of ABS agreements and additional financial resources leveraged by the MTEDD-DDD and the Water and Forest National Agency to reduce dependency on domestic budgets.
- Publish the investment plans through the CHM on Biodiversity of Morocco and in hard copy.

Outcome 3.2. ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier communities and biodiversity/ecosystems.

Output 3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats.

61. Consultations conducted during the PPG indicated that the Water and Forest National Agency has among its priorities the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity for the SM and FM regions, as well as the restoration of Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) and Argan (*Argania spinosa*) forest ecosystems, including actions to promote their natural regeneration and implementing low-intensity livestock grazing practices to reduce pressure on these ecosystems. Consultations conducted with MTEDD-DDD officials showed similar interests regarding conservation and restoration needs, including natural regeneration and fencing actions, in addition to establishing a green belt in the two target regions (SM and FM). These priorities will be discussed with the Regional Biodiversity Committees (Output 3.2.1), local governments, and communities (including resource providers for the ABS pilot projects) in order to obtain local support for the implementation of specific actions.

The activities to be performed under this output are the following:

- Conduct consultations with various local-level stakeholders including communities and resource providers for the three ABS value chain suppliers in order to define biodiversity conservation and habitat/ecosystem restoration priorities in the project sites (for example, cedar forest, Argan forest, juniper forest, and high-mountain spine xerophytic ecosystems) in line with the national agencies' priorities.
- Implement agree upon/participatory programs (one for each project area) for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of ecosystems and habitats in line with the participatory Conservation and Sustainable Use Plan for each ABS value chain/pilot project (Output 2.2.3) and the updated Regional Development Programmes (3.1.1). Conservation and restoration actions to be considered may include: a) practicing social forestry management (for example, culling, thinning, and avoiding excessive fuel accumulation) to reduce the risk of wildfires in all forest habitats/ecosystems of interest; b) selecting healthy plants for restoration (in the case of Argan); c) using appropriate fruit collection/harvesting periods to ensure long-term forest sustainability (in the case of Argan); d) reducing harvesting of forest resources (in the case of Argan trees and cedar forest) as firewood and promoting the use of dead wood or wood from unhealthy trees as a source of energy; e) establishing forest set-asides, including fencing, for protection and to promote natural regeneration; f) reducing the area under cultivation

of Saffron in the Aoulouz site and combining with Argan trees through regrowth and restoration over the medium and long-term to reintroduce Argan to this area; and g) making use of monetary and non-monetary benefits from ABS contracts to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, including women, and reduce pressure on- and increase the resilience of forest ecosystems.

- Design and implement a participatory monitoring system to periodically assess the impact of ABS as a mechanism to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and restoration of habitats and ecosystems in the project sites. Training will be provided to local stakeholders for their participation in monitoring activities; training and participatory monitoring activities will take into account the biosafety conditions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project component 4. Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management

Outcome 4.1. Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks.

Output 4.1.1. Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements.

62. UNDP's SES require that the project enhances positive social and environmental opportunities and benefits, and that it ensures that adverse social and environmental risks and impacts are avoided, minimized, mitigated, and managed. As part of the project strategy to comply with UNDP'S SES, a training program will be implemented for institutional partners and stakeholders present in the project sites and participating in the prioritized ABS value chains. Training activities will enhance the capacity of key stakeholders for managing social and environmental risks and for the implementation of SES-related plans (ESMP, IP-LCP, ESIA, Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, Livelihood Action Plan, and Gender Action Plan). The project will also provide training to staff from the Project Management Unit (PMU) to ensure that project activities that may present certain risks and/or impacts are considered as part of project planning, implementation, and monitoring in line with the ESMF and the SESP. Training activities will consider biosafety protocols associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as needed. To that end, the following activities will be implemented:

- Training on UNDP and GEF SES standards and management requirements to key stakeholders.
- Training on social and environmental safeguards risks to key stakeholders.
- Capacity-building and training on ESMF implementation to key stakeholders.
- Information to key stakeholders on SES standards and tools implementation (Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, ESIA, ESMP, Gender Action Plan, Livelihood Action Plan and IP-LC P).
- Training to key stakeholders on gender-based approach and on UNDP Principle 3 – Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

4.1.2. Social and environmental safeguards risks mainstreamed across the work under Components 1-3, necessary management measures implemented and monitored.

63. Social and environmental safeguards risk management has been incorporated into the project design in line with the risk assessment conducted using UNDP's SESP and the ESMF developed during the PPG. Appropriate risk management measures have been defined and additional risk assessments needed have been identified in line with UNDP's SES. The FPIC was begun during PPG and will continue during project implementation with the aim of achieving initial consent from the specific rights-holders, as needed. Project activities that cannot start until specific risk mitigation measures are in place (SESA/ESIA/ESMP) and that are required to comply with FPIC have been identified as part of the ESMF. These steps will ensure that all activities under Components 1-3 of the project will be in compliance with UNDP and GEF requirements regarding social and environmental safeguards. To this end, the following activities will be implemented.

- Update of SESP, per location (if needed and if new activities will be included as part of the project strategy).
- Conduct a detailed assessment of the cumulative project-wide risks under the upstream planning, policy, and strategic components (SESA), focusing on the impacts of Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 1.3.4, 2.2.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.4.
- Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, ESIA, ESMP, and Gender Action Plan for each ABS value chain.
- Develop an IP-LCP for each targeted geographical area.

- Update the Gender Analysis and Action Plan.
- Fully design, operationalize, and disseminate the project Grievance Redress Mechanism.
- Conduct and develop Economic Displacement Risk Assessments and Livelihoods Action Plans included in the ESIA.
- Openly disclose and disseminate the ESMP(s).
- Periodically monitor and evaluate all risk management measures as part of the project's M&E Plan (Section VII).

4.1.3. Gender Action Plan implemented and monitored.

64. Principle 2 of the UNDP's SES indicates that the project must promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. In addition, the project will seek to reduce gender inequalities in access to and control over resources and the benefits of development, and will ensure that both women and men are able to participate meaningfully and equitably, have equitable access to project resources, and receive comparable social and economic benefits. In compliance with Principle 2 of the UNDP's SES and as part of the PPG, a Gender Action Plan was developed following a gender analysis to ensure equitable participation of women and men in the project and effective gender mainstreaming. The Gender Action Plan will be implemented and monitored as follows:

- Update the Gender Action Plan at project inception phase.
- Identify and engage key stakeholders for implementing and monitoring the Gender Action Plan.
- Implement the Gender Action Plan activities at upstream and downstream levels.
- Inform key stakeholders on Gender Action Plan implementation.
- Periodically monitor and evaluate the Gender Action Plan as part of the project's M&E Plan (Section VII).
- Identify and systematize lesson learned regarding gender mainstreaming and ABS.

Outcome 4.2. Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

Output 4.2.1. Knowledge Management Plan implemented and products delivered.

65. A Knowledge Management Plan will be developed and implemented, which will allow key stakeholders to make use of information and mechanisms for sharing lessons learned and new knowledge as a result of project implementation and for scaling up and replication of successful experiences and best practices related to ABS. These include the ABS Clearing House of the CBD and the updated National CHM on Biodiversity. Lessons learned and best practices will be documented and systematized periodically; specific products such as newsletters, scientific publications, and specific technical reports will allow disseminating new knowledge and information regarding ABS. The Knowledge Management Plan will be aligned with the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan developed as part of the PPG, which includes a communication strategy to share lessons learned and experiences with project stakeholders, among other aspects related to project implementation. The communication strategy will make use of social media (for example, Facebook and WhatsApp), printed and digital materials designed as newsletters, non-technical summary documents and reports, and project progress and monitoring reports, among other means, to share knowledge and information.

66. The project will also enhance outreach and collaboration among key stakeholders (for example, national and local governments, private sector companies, academia and national research centers, NGOs, and indigenous peoples and local communities). In addition, the results from the project may be disseminated through a number of existing UNDP information-sharing networks and forums and other international platforms such as platforms such as the Panorama Portal "Solutions for a Healthy Planet."

Component 5. Monitoring & Evaluation

Outcome 5.1. M&E duly implemented.

5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management.

67. Project monitoring will be guided the project's M&E Plan include in Section VII of this Project Document and which was developed in compliance with UNDP requirements for project-level M&E. The implementation of the project will be launched through a project inception workshop with the participation of the key project stakeholders from the national and local government, the private sector, academia, NGOs, and local communities, among others. Project results as described in the Project Results Framework (PRF) will be monitored annually and periodically evaluated during project implementation to ensure that the project achieves these results, including gender-related indicators. The M&E Plan will also be used to support adaptive management in such a way that the experiences resulting from the implementation of activities can be integrated into the annual project programming, including the adaptation of the PRF (including indicators and targets), organizational structure and/or PMU, gender and stakeholder participation approach, timelines and work plans, and of priorities as a result of changes in context and needs including evolving and/or new social and environmental risks or other risks.

68. Annual GEF Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) will be delivered, which will allow for periodically monitoring of project progress toward its development objective/outcomes and implementation. In additional, they will allow identifying difficulties as they arise during implementation and ensuring that the required corrective actions are taken. In addition, an independent Mid-term Review (MTR) and an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) will be conducted at mid-point and end of project implementation, respectively, with all tracking tools, core indicators, and financial indicators assessed. Although Medium sized projects (MSP) are not required by the GEF to prepare a MTR, or to update the GEF core indicators at mid-point, and MTR will be prepared to support adaptive management. MTR, TE and PIR quality ratings are expected to be satisfactory (S) or better.

Partnerships:

69. The project will take into account lessons learned from the UNDP/GEF/MEME project *Developing a National Framework on Access to and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge as a Strategy to Contribute to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of biodiversity in Morocco* (GEF # 5605, 2014-2019). This is the immediate predecessor project on which the project builds – regarding the adoption of the legal and institutional framework (ABS NP ratification, ABS law, ABS CNA designation, etc.), capacity development and communications, and outreach to academia and private sector. The government staff in MEME-DE (now MTEDD-DDD) remains the same and they and the former Project Manager provided significant input to the here-proposed project and will continue to be involved during project implementation.

70. The project will also consider lessons learned from the UNDP/GEF/MAMA project *A Circular Economy Approach to Agro-Biodiversity Conservation in the Souss Massa Draa Region of Morocco* (GEF # 3989, 2014-2020). Both projects deal with the endemic Argan ecosystem in the Souss Massa region and work with rural communities. There is good learning in the complications the GEF-4 project faced in establishing a good understanding of a complex concept like PES amongst government and community stakeholders in the region, and the challenges in linking the rural development interventions to sustainable ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. The ABS project is prone to face similar challenges. Product Label as way to certify that the development of ABS value chains and products contribute the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, considering lessons learned from the project.

71. The project proposed herein would coordinate action with GCF/ADA/ANDZOA/DRA Souss Massa project *Development of Argan orchards in degraded environment (DARED)* (GCF FP 022, 2017-2022). There are important connections with this project because both deal with the endemic Argan ecosystem in the Souss Massa region and work with rural communities. However, the approach is different. While the GCF project directly commits GCF resources to reforestation under the project and aims to introduce a plantation-based recovery and expansion of the Argan resource with a focus on severely degraded lowlands with limited biodiversity co-benefits, the here-proposed project aims to provide incentives to communities and additional sustainable resources to achieve a better conservation and sustainable use of the natural Argan forest ecosystem and its biodiversity. In addition, the GCF

project focuses on the southern parts of the Argan range near Tiznit, while the here-proposed project will be active further north where there are no plans for Arganiculture plantations.

72. The project will build on the GEF-UNDP Global ABS project *Strengthening Human Resources, Legal Frameworks and Institutional Capacities to Implement the Nagoya Protocol (GEF Project ID 5731)* to assist countries in the development and strengthening of their national ABS frameworks, human resources, and administrative capabilities to implement the NP. In particular the project will make use of training and other tools developed under the Global ABS project.

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount	Included in project results?	If yes, list the relevant outputs
Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Sustainable Development	Grant	200,000	No	
	In-kind	1,650,000	No	
GREENTECH	In-kind	300,000	No	
PharmAfrican	In-kind	700,000	No	
UNDP Morocco	Grant	100,000	Yes	Project Management Costs

73. As per the Guidance on Application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards for Co-Financing (and Parallel Funding) - Environmental Vertical Funds - December 2021, the Project is included in option 1b, where the co-financing is included in project results and is not administered by UNDP. Therefore:

- UNDP is accountable to monitor all project results, including those delivered by co-financing, to ensure consistency with UNDP policies/procedures, including SES.
- While the co-financing partner applies their own policies & procedures, the UNDP project's governance, management, assurance, monitoring arrangements apply.
- UNDP is accountable for ensuring Option 1b activities are "consistent" with SES and grievances may be eligible for SECU investigation.

74. To ensure consistency with SES, a Social and Environmental Commitment Plan, summarizing key commitments they agree to implement per the framework that has been developed for the project, will be prepared and signed by the co-financing partners prior to initiation of co-financing activities.

Risks:

75. The project activities are designed to ensure that there is minimal or no risks of adverse social or environmental impacts, and those risks to project success are identified and duly managed.

76. During the project design stage, the social and environmental screening (UNDP SESP) was updated (see Annex 5) and an ESMF was developed (see Annex 9), for the purpose of guiding the assessment and management of the identified social and environmental risks during the implementation of the project. The overall project risk categorization is Substantial. An Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Planning Framework (IP-LCPF) was prepared to set out the requirements of UNDP SES Standard 6, organizational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to the project components that are not yet defined and will be prepared during project implementation. The ESMF identifies the steps for detailed screening and assessment (e.g., ESIA and SESA) for the project's potential social and environmental risks, and for preparing and approving the required management plans (e.g., ESMP, IP-LC P, and Livelihood Action Plan) for avoiding, and where avoidance is not possible, reducing, mitigating and managing these potential adverse impacts. In addition, a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan (see Annex 8) was developed.

77. As per standard UNDP requirements, the Project Manager will monitor risks quarterly and report on the status of risks to the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP Country Office will record progress in the UNDP ATLAS risk

register. Management responses to high risks, as well as environmental and social grievances will also be reported to the GEF in the annual PIR. The detailed risk management strategy for the project is included in Annex 6.

78. Climate change risks: Morocco's climate is varied experiencing a typical Mediterranean climate, with mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. The Atlas Mountains run through the center of the country forming a natural divide between the Mediterranean northern coastal zone and the southern interior regions, which lie on the edge of the Sahara Desert. Morocco is highly vulnerable to climate variability and change; the country is experiencing rising temperatures, less precipitation, and an increase in drought, creating a deficit between water supply and demand. Average temperatures are expected to rise between 2 and 5 ºC by the end of this century, while rainfall is predicted to decline 20 to 30%.[14] Expected increases in frequency and intensity of droughts will greatly impact the agricultural sector and will affect both rural livelihoods and the national economy as a whole. Climate change and variability in semi-arid areas makes communities vulnerable to food insecurity and leads to unsustainable agroecological systems, crop failure, and unproductive rangelands. Water shortages have already put pressure on the country's natural resources, affecting the resilience of forest ecosystems and the agriculture sector.[15]

- Vulnerability and exposure. The project's vulnerability to climate change is related primarily to prolonged drought. The exposure of the project to climate change is moderate.
- The likelihood of the occurrence of climate-related events has been rated as moderate (Likelihood = 3; Impact = 3, on a scale of 1 to 5 according to UNDP SES rating scale to assess the impact of risk)[16]. This rating considers primarily the vulnerability of the three project areas (Ifrane/Itzer, FM Region; Talouine, SM Region; and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate, SM Region) and key habitats in particular for the Cedar lichen/cedar forest and Argan trees where ABS projects will be piloted, especially due to prolonged drought and water shortages. This risk will be further examined in the course of the ESIA, based on the ESMF (Annex 9), and included in the ESMP as determined necessary.

79. COVID-19 risk: The risk mitigation strategy includes mitigation measures related to risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the pandemic has receded in Morocco and current infections are 17% of peak, there is a risk of new related outbreaks. This means that COVID-19 may pose a risk to project implementation. Accordingly, the project design has considered the following: a) during project implementation, various mechanisms will be used, depending on the degree of involvement required of the stakeholders and their role in the project; these may include workshops, meetings, field visits, and interviews, etc.; the Project Management Unit (PMU) in coordination with the Department of Sustainable Development and project partners (e.g., MAPMDREF and the Water and Forest National Agency) will determine if these methods involving stakeholders will be held in-person or virtually, depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves in the project target landscapes; b) the project budget includes resources to purchase biosafety supplies to minimize exposure to COVID-19, as needed (hand sanitizers, masks and face shields, disinfectant sprays, disposable gloves, etc.); c) videoconferencing equipment (also budgeted) will be used for virtual meetings and workshops; and d) the annual work plans/timelines will be adjusted to allow some activities to be conducted in virtual mode and travel restrictions for technical experts because of COVID-19.

Stakeholder engagement and south-south cooperation:

80. The successful implementation of the project will largely depend on effective communication and coordination with the multiple project stakeholders and the implementation of mechanisms to ensure their participation in project's activities. The key national and sub-national stakeholders include the MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, the Water and Forest National Agency, Regional Council of the SM and FM regions, and the Regional Biodiversity Committees, and NGOs (e.g., Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment). At the local level, the most relevant stakeholders are municipal governments, local communities in the rural areas of Ifrane/Itzer (DT Region), Talouine (SM Region), and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate (SM Region), including family/ groups of farmers and women's cooperatives involved in the value chains targeted by the project, and NGOs that are active in

[14] https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/arab-states/morocco

[15] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/morocco

[16] Guidance Note. UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES): Social and Environmental Screening Procedure. 2019.

the target areas. In addition, two private sector companies (GREENTECH and PharmAfrican from the cosmetics sector) and national research teams from the University Mohammed V are the main users of genetic resources for research and commercial purposes, and are therefore critical in the project and in the implementation of the Morocco's ABS framework more widely.

81. During the PPG, a stakeholder analysis was conducted, which served as the basis for the development of the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan (Annex 8) and where the main stakeholders of the project, participation mechanisms and consultations during project formulation, governance aspects of the project, the communication and information management strategy, dispute resolution mechanisms, among others, are identified. In addition, the role of each stakeholder in project implementation is detailed. Stakeholder engagement during the PPG included multiple virtual and face-to face consultations. A Validation Workshop was held under virtual modality during which the project components, activities, budget, management arrangements, and environmental social safeguards were discussed and validated. Specific information about the main activities that will be carried out with stakeholder involvement during the PPG phase is included in Annex 8: Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan. During project implementation, various mechanisms depending on the degree of involvement required of the stakeholders and their role in the project will be used, these may include workshops, meetings, field visits, and interviews, etc.; the Project Management Unit (PMU) in coordination with the Department of Sustainable Development and project partners (e.g., MAPMDREF and the Water and Forest National Agency) will assess if these methods to involve stakeholders will be held in person or virtually depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves in the project target landscapes.

82. To present opportunities for replication in other countries, the project will promote the project will promote south-south and triangular cooperation by participating in international platforms such as the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform[17]; Panorama – Solutions for a Healthy Planet[18]; and the ABS Clearing-House platform for exchanging information on ABS established by Article 14 of the Nagoya Protocol, as part of the Clearing-House of the CBD established under Article 18, paragraph 3 of the CBD. In addition, to bring the voice of Morocco to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on ABS. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in Morocco.

Gender equality and Women's Empowerment:

83. According to the UNDP Gender Marker Rating, the project is categorized as GEN2: gender equality as a significant objective; results address differential needs of men or women and equitable distribution of benefits, resources, status, and rights, but do not address root causes of inequalities in their lives. The project will contribute to gender equality by improving women's ability to access genetic resources and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

84. During the PPG, a gender analysis and a detailed Gender Action Plan (included as Annex 10) were developed to ensure gender mainstreaming in the project. The Project Results Framework includes gender-sensitive indicators (see Section VI) and specific gender-based indicators will be used for monitoring.

Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up:

85. Innovation. The project will introduce innovative approaches to solving long-enduring issues in biodiversity governance and management, sustainable financing and on the ground action in the targeted areas and ecosystems, through:

- Operationalization of the ABS CNA in Morocco already institutionalized by the national ABS Law to be submitted to Parliament for adoption;

[17] https://www.unsouthsouth.org/south-south-galaxy/
[18] https://panorama.solutions/en

- Strengthening of coordinating units and entities between agencies governing ecosystems and biological resources in Morocco at the national and regional levels, including the multi-sector National Biodiversity Sub-Committee and the Regional Biodiversity Committees of the SM and FM regions, which are expected to have wider implications for biodiversity governance and provide entry points for further future improvements;
- Establishment of a "one-stop shop" for bio-prospectors and investors in genetic resources, streamlining the different access procedures of the different departments in charge of agriculture, forestry, marine resources and micro-organisms and the harmonization of biodiversity databases for easier "marketing" of the genetic resources of Morocco;
- The involvement of different mechanism including a Trust Fund and sustainable trade approaches (within ABS contractual clauses) to motivate private sector investment in the long-term and create sustained sources of income for the production and transformation of genetic resources in ABS value-chains; and,
- The strengthening of three value chains through innovating bioprospecting for the identification of compounds with anti-oxidation properties from three selected genetic resources (Cedar lichen, Saffron, and a symbiosis of Argan tree and Saffron) and the commercialization of ABS products for the cosmetics sector.

86. These practices will also be integrated to regional development plans in order to ensure continued sustainable practices that create revenue and protect local ecosystems simultaneously.

87. Sustainability. The project will achieve sustainability through: the final setup of the ABS framework; growing existing links private sector companies interested in ABS genetic resource value chains and benefit sharing; the establishment of a benefit sharing mechanism benefitting both rural populations and government agencies responsible for biodiversity/ecosystem management (Water and Forest National Agency and Regional Biodiversity Committees); and integration of ABS value chains, principles and benefit-sharing in regional development plans, as part of the government's biodiversity mainstreaming strategy and in line with the COP13 Cancun declaration.

88. Upscaling. The outcomes of the project will be scaled up through the dissemination of project results, lessons learned and experiences including demonstration of best practices in the development of ABS contracts, products, and value chains. This will be achieved through making project information available in a timely manner through different mechanisms including the CHM and the updated National CHM on Biodiversity, and by proactive outreach to companies and research institutions engaged in ABS-related R&D. Finally, the project will also encourage South-South cooperation to build capacity and share knowledge with other African countries (for example, Kenya, Namibia, and Ethiopia).

VI. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s):

- SDG 1 (Targets 1.1, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.7): promote resource ownership and associated rights, justice and legal certainty, and local development and empowerment;
- SDG 2 (All targets): sustainable management of global genetic resources diversity contributing to food security, enhanced nutrition, sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- SDG 3 (Target 3.11): sustainable use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge contributing to use of traditional medicine and discovery of new medical treatment for overall human well-being and health care needs;
- SDG 8 (Targets 8.2, 8.3 and 8.6): promote new opportunities of productive employment, job creation, entrepreneurship and partnerships contributing to economic and social growth for all, including indigenous peoples;
- SDG 13 (Targets 13.2, 13.3 and 13.5): promote high diversity and climate appropriate genetic resources for climate change adaptation;
- SDG 15 (Target 15.10): promote additional financial resources and incentives for sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems;
- SDG 16 (Targets 16.3 and 16.6): strengthen legal and institutional frameworks contributing to effective and transparent partnerships and cooperation.

This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): Outcome 2 - Public policies and national strategies for industrial development, environment, and land use planning incorporate the principles of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project Objective:	To consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems			
	Mandatory Indicator 1 (GEF Core Indicator 11): # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	0	1,000 (500 female; 500 male)	3,000 (1,500 female; 1,500 male)
	Indicator 2: # Indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	0	3,500 (1,750 female; 1,750 male)	10,000 (5,000 female; 5,000 male)
	Mandatory Indicator 3 (GEF Core Indicator 4) Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, excluding protected areas)	0	12,000	34,000
Project component 1	**Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge**			
Project Outcome 1.1 Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework	Indicator 4: Revised national ABS Law submitted for adoption within first year of project implementation	Not submitted	Submitted	Submitted
	Indicator 5: Further required legal and regulatory texts submitted for adoption within three years of project implementation	Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use	Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints submitted for adoption Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use submitted for adoption	Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints submitted for adoption Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use submitted for adoption

Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1	1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS Law, etc.). 1.1.2. Multi-tier National Commission for Genetic Resources designated as ABS Competent National Authority, established and operational across the relevant sectors. 1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework. 1.1.4. Complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g. directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA interior regulations, TK protection system, benefit-sharing mechanisms, biodiversity conservation benefits) prepared, validated by National Biodiversity Subcommittee and submitted to General Government Secretariat.			
Outcome 1.2. Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law	Indicator 6: Capacity of relevant government agencies as measured using the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Scorecard	MTEDD-DDD: 71% MAPMDREF-DA: 27% Water and Forest National Agency: 24%	MTEDD-DDD: 80% MAPMDREF-DA: 40% Water and Forest National Agency: 35%	MTEDD-DDD: 90% MAPMDREF-DA: 60% Water and Forest National Agency: 50%
	Indicator 7: Number of people trained differentiated by gender	Female: 0 Male: 0	Female: 100 Male: 100	Female: 300 Male: 300
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2	1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented includes: a) Training/certification workshops for relevant national government agencies (environment, agriculture, fisheries, water and forestry, scientific research, etc.) on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework. b) Training of key national/regional NGOs (e.g., FM6PE, FM6RSA, Ibn El Baytar) and relevant local stakeholders on technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.). 1.2.2. A guide to negotiating ABS contracts is produced, adapted to Moroccan and international ABS legislation.			
Outcome 1.3. Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates	Indicator 8: Number of new ABS-TK registries	Souss Massa region: 639 Fès-Meknès region: 0	Souss Massa region: 659 Fès-Meknès region: 200	Souss Massa region: 689 Fès-Meknès region: 500
	Indicator 9: Number of ABS information management mechanisms established	0	0	Four (4): (i) Standardized online ABS permit issuance; (ii) Online knowledge management and monitoring system; (iii) National mechanism for receiving and sharing monetary and non-monetary benefits from ABS agreements, for the benefit of local communities (including women) /genetic resources suppliers and biodiversity conservation; (iv) Standardized procedure to report to the CBD via the ABS CHM
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.3	1.3.1. Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco.			

	1.3.2. Biodiversity National CHM (digital platform) updated to include information on ABS, facilitating access to information on genetic resources and ABS access procedures, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources and for harmonizing and coordinating efforts. 1.3.3. Standardized online permit application system developed for use across relevant national institutions, to provide efficient access to genetic resources by national, regional and international bioprospectors. 1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.			
Project component 2	**Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law**			
Outcome 2.1. Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D	Indicator 10: Number of private companies and cooperatives (including cooperatives of women and other vulnerable groups) active in bio-prospecting in the target regions	Private companies: 2 Cooperatives: 0	Private companies: 2 Cooperatives: 5	Private companies: 2 Cooperatives: 10
	Indicator 11: Number of new ABS permit applications	0	At least three (3)	At least three (3)
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework. 2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management. 2.1.3. ABS-compliant information on genetic resources and ABS value chains disseminated at the national and international levels to promote sustainable bio-prospecting investment opportunities.			
Outcome 2.2. R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing	Indicator 12: Number of new ABS-based products and value chains developed through R&D and genetic resources manipulation by private companies	0	0	At least three (3): a) Cedar lichen; b) Saffron; and c) Symbiosis Argan-Saffron
	Indicator 13: Performance of developing and implementing ABS agreements in the context of bioprospecting three pilot efforts as measured by Section 2 of the GEF 6 BD-ABS tracking tool (Objective 3, Program 8) Note: out of a maximum of 10 points	a) Cedar lichen – GREENTECH: 0 b) Saffron – PharmAfrican: 0 c) Combined Argan-Saffron – PharmAfrican: 0	a) Cedar lichen – GREENTECH: 4 b) Saffron – PharmAfrican: 4 c) Combined Argan-Saffron – PharmAfrican: 4	a) Cedar lichen – GREENTECH: 9 b) Saffron – PharmAfrican: 9 c) Symbiosis Argan-Saffron – PharmAfrican: 9
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2	2.2.1. At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation. 2.2.2. At least three Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs), registered and submitted to the CBD Secretariat's ABS Clearing House (ABSCH). 2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.			
Project component 3	**Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions**			
Outcome 3.1. Governance and capacity for biodiversity	Indicator 14: Number of Regional Biodiversity Committees operationalized with women	0	2	2

conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa (SM) and Fès-Meknès (FM) Regions	participation that include biodiversity conservation with roles for ABS	(Regional biodiversity committees exist but with not ABS roles)		
	Indicator 15: New resources (USD) mobilized for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency (WFNA) and Forest and the MTEDD-DDD in the SM and FM regions, to reduce dependency on ODA and domestic budgets	MTEDD-DDD: USD 700,000 WFNA: USD 6,893,600	MTEDD-DDD: USD 747,500 WFNA: USD 7,436,600	MTEDD-DDD: USD 840,000 WFNA: USD 8,793,600
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1	3.1.1. Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles integrated in Regional Development Programmes. 3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency. 3.1.3. Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS. 3.1.4. Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and legal enforcement). 3.1.5. New resources mobilized via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency and other key agencies.			
Outcome 3.2. ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier communities and biodiversity/ecosystems	Indicator 16: Number of biodiversity management plans developed and implemented	0	3 (developed)	3 (implemented, >80%)
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.2	3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats.			
Project component 4	**Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management**			
Outcome 4.1. Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks	Indicator 17: Safeguards standards met throughout project	0%	50%	100%
	Indicator 18: Percent of Gender Action Plan targets met	0%	>30%	>80%
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.1	4.1.1. Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements. 4.1.2. Social and environmental safeguards risks mainstreamed across the work under Components 1-3, necessary management measures implemented and monitored. 4.1.3. Gender Action Plan implemented and monitored.			
Outcome 4.2. Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing	Indicator 19: Percent of Knowledge Management Plan deliverables met	0%	>30%	>80%
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.2	4.2.1. Knowledge Management Plan implemented and products delivered.			
Project Component 5	**Monitoring & Evaluation**			

Outcome 5.1. M&E duly implemented	Indicator 20: MTR, TE and PIR quality rating	N/A	S or better	S or better
Outputs to achieve Outcome 5.1	5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management.			

VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) PLAN

89. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP (including guidance on GEF project revisions) and UNDP Evaluation Policy. **The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project M&E requirements including project monitoring, UNDP quality assurance requirements, quarterly risk management, and evaluation requirements.**

90. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies[19]. The M&E plan and budget included below will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

91. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed – including during the Project Inception Workshop - and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

Minimum project monitoring and reporting requirements as required by the GEF:

92. Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within 2 months from the First disbursement date, with the aim to:

a. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
b. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
c. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
d. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
e. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework (where relevant) and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
f. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
g. Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan. Finalize the TOR of the Project Board.
h. Formally launch the Project.

93. GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR): The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. UNDP will undertake quality assurance of the PIR before submission to the GEF. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. UNDP will conduct a quality review of the PIR, and this quality review and feedback will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent annual PIR.

94. GEF Core Indicators: The GEF Core indicators included as Annex will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status. The updated monitoring data should be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent groundtruthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF website.

[19] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

95. Independent Mid-term Review (MTR): The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard UNDP templates and UNDP guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

96. The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review.

97. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate.

98. The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by 01 October 2025. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report's completion.

99. Terminal Evaluation (TE): An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center. The TE should be completed 3 months *before* the estimated operational closure date, set from the signature of the ProDoc and according to the duration of the project. Provisions should be taken to complete the TE in due time to avoid delay in project closure. Therefore, TE must start no later than 6 months to the expected date of completion of the TE (or 9 months prior to the estimated operational closure date).

100. The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

101. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate.

102. The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by 31 December 2027. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report's completion.

103. Final Report: The project's terminal GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

104. Agreement on intellectual property rights and use of logo on the project's deliverables and disclosure of information: To accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing grant funding, the GEF logo will appear together with the UNDP logo on all promotional materials, other written materials like publications developed by the project, and project hardware. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the GEF will also accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP Disclosure Policy[20] and the GEF policy on public involvement[21].

[20] See http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/transparency/information_disclosurepolicy/
[21] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

105. **Monitoring Plan:** The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored by the Project Management Unit annually, and will be reported in the GEF PIR every year, and will be evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. Project risks, as outlined in the risk register, will be monitored quarterly.

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Project objective To consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the	***Indicator 1*** **Mandatory** Indicator 1 (GEF Core Indicator 11): # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	Mid-term: 1,000 (500 female; 500 male) End: 3,000 (1,500 female; 1,500 male)	Direct beneficiaries are defined as individual people who measurably benefit from the existence of the project, or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Direct beneficiaries must be aware that they are receiving this project support. Direct beneficiaries include: a) Government: 300 people b) NGOs: 200 people c) Cooperatives, including women cooperatives: 2,500	Surveys / interviews with local population and other stakeholders GEF 7 Core Indicator	Annually	Project manager Gender/ Safeguards Expert	Results of surveys/interviews with members of cooperatives and other stakeholders (unstructured and/or semi-structured) Updated Gender Action Plan	Risks: The project team and Implementing Partner fail to involve all key project partners and stakeholders Assumptions: There is willingness on the part of cooperatives and other stakeholders to participate in the project

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems	***Indicator 2*** # Indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	Mid-term: 3,500 (1,750 female; 1,750 male) End: 10,000 (5,000 female; 5,000 male)	Wider stakeholders of the project areas (e.g., farmers'-cooperative members families, cooperatives of producers not directly involved with the selected value chains, etc.) Indirect beneficiaries are individual people who are not directly connected to the project but will still benefit from it either through a connection to the direct beneficiary such as the family members of the direct beneficiaries, or because they live within the project's geographical area of influence. Indirect beneficiaries can include people benefitting from the enactment of a government policy or	Surveys / interviews; census data	Annually	Project manager Gender/ Safeguards Expert	Results of surveys / interviews Updated census data	Risks: The project team and the IP fails to involve all project stakeholders Assumptions: Optimal sampling

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
			law. Unlike direct beneficiaries, indirect beneficiaries may or may not be aware that they are receiving project support					
	Indicator 3 **Mandatory** GEF Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, excluding protected areas)	Mid-term: 12,000 End: 34,000	Area of habitat and surrounded landscape of selected species species/genetic resources, which are of conservation importance and include unique biodiversity and ecosystems (excluding protected areas). Area includes: a) Cedar lichen habitat: 5,000 ha of cedar forest (Middle Atlas Mountains/ Fès-Meknès Region); b) Landscape/forest surrounding saffron crops: 20,000 ha of oak forest, juniper	GEF 7 Core Indicator Field surveys	Midterm and end of the project	M&E Expert	Monitoring and field reports	Risks: Limited benefits resulting for ABS agreements Assumptions: Users and providers of genetic resources are willing to include biodiversity conservation benefits considered as part of MAT and ABS agreements Climate variability within normal range Optimal sampling efforts

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
			forest, and high-mountain spine xerophytic ecosystems (Siroua massif – Middle to High Atlas Mountains/Souss-Massa Region); and c) Native argan forest: 9,000 ha (Aoulouz area/ Souss-Massa Region).					
Project Outcome 1.1 Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework	***Indicator 4*** Revised national ABS Law submitted for adoption within first year of project implementation	Mid-term: Submitted End: Submitted	Revised text of the ABS law and validation by key ministries	Document content analysis	End for first year of project implementation	Project Manager ABS Law Expert	Updated draft of the ABS Law Official Certification of submission	Risk Estimated time for revision and submission is not long enough Assumptions Continued interest of decision-makers to update and submit the ABS Law for approval
	Indicator 5 Further required legal and regulatory texts submitted for adoption within three	Mid-term: Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints	Revised text of ABS regulations and validation by key ministries	Document content analysis	End for first year of project implementation	Project Manager ABS Law Expert	Updated draft of the ABS Law Official Certification of submission	Risk Estimated time for revision and submission is not long enough Assumptions Continued interest of decision-makers

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	years of project implementation	submitted for adoption Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their use submitted for adoption <u>End:</u> Draft decree relating to the National Commission of Genetic Resources and to checkpoints submitted for adoption Draft decree on request for access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and						to update and submit the ABS Law for approval

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
		the sharing of benefits arising from their use submitted for adoption						
Project Outcome 1.2 Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law	***Indicator 6*** Capacity of relevant government agencies as measured using the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Scorecard	Mid-term: MTEDD-DDD: 80% MAPMDREF-DA: 40% Water and Forest National Agency: 35% End: MTEDD-DDD: 90% MAPMDREF-DA: 60% National Agency for Water and Forest: 50%	Scores based on the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Tracking Tool for national level institutions Targets estimated considering Project activities for capacity development to implement the ABS Law	ABS Capacity Development Scorecard	Midterm and end of the project	M&E Expert	Updated ABS Capacity Development Scorecard and report	Risks: Loss of capacities due to personnel changes in government agencies Assumptions: Beneficiaries apply acquired knowledge and use available tools and resources Sampling efforts are optimal
	Indicator 7 Number of people trained differentiated by gender	Mid-term: Female: 100 Male: 100 End: Female: 300 Male: 300	People form national/regional NGOs and local stakeholders on technical and management issues relate to access to genetic resources and benefit sharing	Lists of attendees	Annually	M&E Expert Gender/Safe guards Expert	Training event minutes Lists of attendees	Risks: Training opportunities are limited due to delay in implementation and other management constraints Assumptions:

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
								Interest from stakeholders
Project Outcome 1.3 Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates	***Indicator 8*** Numbers of new ABS-TK registries	Mid-term: Souss Massa region: 659 Fès-Meknès region: 200 End: Souss Massa region: 689 Fès-Meknès region: 500	Measures how the existing ABS-TK registry/database administered by MTEDD-DDD is updated with new TK information associated with genetic resources (terrestrial species) from the SM and FM regions	Data base entries TK surveys	Annually	ABS-TK Expert Project Manager	Updated ABS-TK registry/data base TK survey reports	Risks: Limited access the ABS-TK registry/database Assumptions: Willingness of TK holders to share information Sampling efforts are optimal
	Indicator 9 Number of ABS information management mechanisms established	Mid-term: 0 End: 4	The information management mechanisms expected are: (i) Standardized online ABS permit issuance; (ii) Online knowledge management and monitoring system; (iii) National mechanism for receiving and sharing monetary and non-monetary benefits from ABS agreements, for the		Midterm and end of the project	Information Technology Expert Project Manager	National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/ web-page with and updated/ improved ABS-related information platform	Risks: Potentially conflicting provisions and mandates are difficult to overcome Assumptions: Effective coordination among government agencies with responsibilities in collecting information, issuing permits, etc. Technical feasibility

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
			benefit of local communities (including women) / genetic resources suppliers and biodiversity conservation; (iv) Standardized procedure to report to the CBD via the ABS CHM					
Project Outcome 2.1 Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D	***Indicator 10*** Number of private companies and cooperatives (including cooperatives of women and other vulnerable groups) active in bio-prospecting in the target regions	Mid-term: Private companies: 2 Cooperatives: 8 End: Private companies: 2 Cooperatives: 10	Private biotech companies involved in R&D: GREENTECH and PharmAfrican Cooperatives supplying raw material for R&D purpose by project end: a) 1 (Cedar lichen); b) 2 (Saffron); and c) 7 (symbiosis Argan-Saffron)	Surveys/interviews with providers and users of genetic resources for the three ABS value chains	Midterm and end of the project	ABS Technical Expert	Signed ABS contracts Records of negotiation meetings Results and reports for surveys/interviews	Risks: Bioprospecting efforts are cut short due to failure to identify promising extracts and compounds for developing ABS products Assumptions: Agreements and MAT reached for bioprospecting and benefit sharing Legal certainty, ABS Law and related regulations timely approved

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
	Indicator 11 Number of new ABS permit applications	Mid-term: At least three (3) End: At least three (3)	Measures if users of genetic resources have applied for permission to access genetic resources: a) Cedar lichen; b) Saffron; and c) Symbiosis Argan-Saffron	Registration in the standardized online permit application system	Midterm and end of the project	Biotech companies ABS Technical Expert	Certification of permit applications issued by the CNA or other related authority	Risks: Users and providers of genetic di no reach and agreement for undertaking R&D Assumptions: Continued interest from biotech companies to conduct R&D related to the prioritized species Technical and legal feasibly
Project Outcome 2.2 R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing	***Indicator 12*** Number of new ABS-based products and value chains developed through R&D and genetic resources manipulation by private companies	Mid-term: 0 End: At least three (3)	Measures successful R&D related to the thee selected value chains: a) Cedar lichen; b) Saffron; and c) Symbiosis Argan-Saffron	Scientific data related to extracts and compound identified and products developed to the cosmetic industry	Midterm and end of the project	ABS Technical Expert	Technical publications Project reports	Risks: Bioprospecting efforts are cut short due to failure to identify promising extracts and compounds for developing ABS products Assumptions: Legal certainty, ABS Law and related regulations timely approved

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
								Permits granted
	Indicator 13 Performance of developing and implementing ABS agreements in the context of bioprospecting three pilot efforts as measured by Section 2 of the GEF 6 BD-ABS tracking tool (Objective 3, Program 8)	Mid-term: a) Cedar lichen – GREENTECH: 4 b) Saffron – PharmAfrican: 4 c) Combined Argan-Saffron – PharmAfrican: 4 End: a) Cedar lichen – GREENTECH: 9 b) Saffron – PharmAfrican: 9 c) Combined Argan-Saffron – PharmAfrican: 9	Assesses the level of and implementation of ABS agreements in the context of bioprospecting for the three ABS pilot projects based on five questions with total maximum score of 10 points	Section 2 of the GEF 6 BD-ABS tracking tool (Objective 3, Program 8)	Midterm and end of the project	M&E Expert ABS Technical Expert	Updated GEF 6 BD-ABS tracking tool (Objective 3, Program 8) Project technical reports	Risks: Bioprospecting efforts are cut short due to failure to identify promising extracts and compounds for developing ABS products Assumptions: Agreements and MAT reached for bioprospecting and benefit sharing Legal certainty, ABS Law and related regulations timely approved
Project Outcome 3.1 Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa	***Indicator 14*** Number of regional committees operationalized with women participation that include biodiversity conservation	Mid-term: 2 End: 2	Assesses how governance at the regional level is enhanced by updating the functions of the existing Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM regions by including ABS roles	Surveys/interviews Document content analysis	Midterm and end of the project	Biodiversity Conservation Expert Project Manager	Manual of duties and responsibilities for the Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM regions	Risks: Limited coordination among committee members and with project team Assumptions: Interest from Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
(SM) and Draâ-Tafilalt (DT) Regions	with roles for ABS						Results of surveys/interviews Records of meetings	and DT regions in ABS
	Indicator 15 New resources (USD) mobilized for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency (WFNA) and Forest and the MTEDD-DDD in the SM and DT regions, to reduce dependency on ODA and domestic budgets	Mid-term: MTEDD-DDD: USD 747,500 WFNA: USD 7,436,600 End: MTEDD-DDD: USD 840,000 WFNA: USD 8,793,600	Baseline: MTEDD-DDD: USD 700,000 (SM region: USD 600,000; DT region: USD 100,000) WFNA: USD 6,893,600 (SM region – USD 3,654,700; DT region: USD 3,238,900). Change Mid-term: MTEDD-DDD: a) SM region: USD 640,000; b) DT region. USD 107,500. Increase by 6.4%. WFNA: a) SM region: USD 4,004,700; b) DT region: USD 3,838,900. Increase by 7.2%. Change End: MTEDD-DDD: a) SM region: USD 720,000; b) DT region: USD	Financial gap and progress assessments Survey/interviews with WFNA and MTEDD-DDD	Midterm and end of the project	Biodiversity Financing Expert Project Manager	Draft short-, medium- and long-term investment plans for each pilot area Financial records and reports from WFNA and MTEDD-DDD	Risks: Efforts form agencies to leverage new resources are limited by budget shortages Assumptions: Economic conditions remain stable

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
			120,000. Increase by 16.7%. WFNA: a) SM region: USD 4,354,700; b) DT region: USD 4,438,900. Increase by 21.6%.					
Project Outcome 3.2 ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier communities and biodiversity/eco systems	***Indicator 16*** Number of biodiversity management plans developed and implemented	Mid-term: 3 (developed) End: 3 (implemented, >80%)	Management plans will allow to assess that that collection and/or harvest of raw material needed for R&D activities are done in a sustainable way and that their habitats/ecosystems are not degraded	Survey applied to the Water and Forest National Agency and to the Regional Biodiversity Committees of to determine the status of management plans	Midterm and end of the project	Biodiversity Conservation Expert Project Manager	Drafts of biodiversity management plans Project technical progress reports Survey results	Risks: Assumptions: Effective coordination between institutional and local stakeholders for the formulation and implementation of management plans
Project Outcome 4.1 Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks	***Indicator 17*** Safeguards standards met throughout project	Mid-term: 50% End: 100%	Assesses the level of implementation of the different management plans to mitigate social and environmental risks as per the ESMF included as Annex 9	Surveys / interviews with local community members	Annually	Gender /Safeguards Expert Safeguards and Gender M&E Expert	Results of surveys / interviews Updated management plans to mitigate social and environment al risks,	Risks: Measures implemented are not sufficient to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or manage irks Assumptions: Project implemented in in line with the

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
							including the SESP	implementation schedule of the ESMF
	Indicator 18 Percent of Gender Action Plan targets met	Mid-term: >30% End: >80%	Assesses the level of implementation of the Gender Action Plan to ensure gender mainstreaming in the project	Surveys / interviews with women participating in the project	Annually	Gender /Safeguards Expert Safeguards and Gender M&E Expert	Results of surveys / interviews Updated Gender Action Plan	Risks: The project team and the IP fail to involve woman in the project Assumptions: Project implemented in in line with the gender mainstreaming framework of the gender action plan
Project Outcome 4.2 Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing	***Indicator 19*** Percent of Knowledge Management (KM) Plan deliverables met	Mid-term: >30% End: >80%	Assesses the use of information and mechanisms for sharing lessons learned and new knowledge as a result of project implementation and for scaling up and replication of successful experiences and best practices related to ABS	Surveys/interviews with project beneficiaries Systematization of lessons learned	Annually	Knowledge Management Expert	Results of surveys / interviews KM database Completed KM products	Risks: Limited communication with project stakeholders Assumptions: Broad and timely dissemination of information

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/ Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Project Outcome 5.1	***Indicator 20*** MTR, TE and PIR quality rating	Mid-term: S or better End: S or better	Assess the quality of the PIRs, MTR, and TE as per GEF requirements	PIRs Evaluation reports	Annually (PIRs) Midterm and end of the project (evaluations)	Project Manager UNDP CO UNDP Regional Technical Advisor	PIRs scoring reports Evaluations scoring reports	Risks: Low project level of project implementation, including technical and budget deficiencies Assumptions: Project outcomes satisfactorily delivered within the expected timeline

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:		
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)	**Indicative costs (US$)**	**Time frame**
Inception Workshop and Report	3,000	Inception Workshop within 2 months of the First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	11,250	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	No cost (covered by the salary of the Project Manager)	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring of ESMP/IPP, Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, and other related plans	11,250	On-going.
Supervision missions	No cost	Annually
Learning missions	No cost	As needed
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	20,750	01 Oct 2025
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	34,505	31 Dec 2027
TOTAL indicative COST	**80,755**	

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects' governance mechanism

106. Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Sustainable Development.

107. The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

108. The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

109. Responsible Parties: No Responsible Parties are foreseen for this project. Should the need arise during implementation based on specific needs to implement project outputs, any Responsible Party will be designated in compliance with UNDP rules and procedures.

110. Project stakeholders and target groups: The key national and sub-national stakeholders include the MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, the Water and Forest National Agency, Regional Council of the SM and DT regions, and the Regional Biodiversity Committees, and NGOs (e.g., Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment). Target groups municipal governments, local communities in the rural areas of Ifrane/Itzer (DT Region), Talouine (SM Region), and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate (SM Region), including family/ groups of farmers and women's cooperatives involved in the value chains targeted by the project, and NGOs that are active in the target areas. In addition, two private sector companies (GREENTECH and PharmAfrican) and national research teams from the University Mohammed V are the main users of genetic resources for research and commercial purposes.

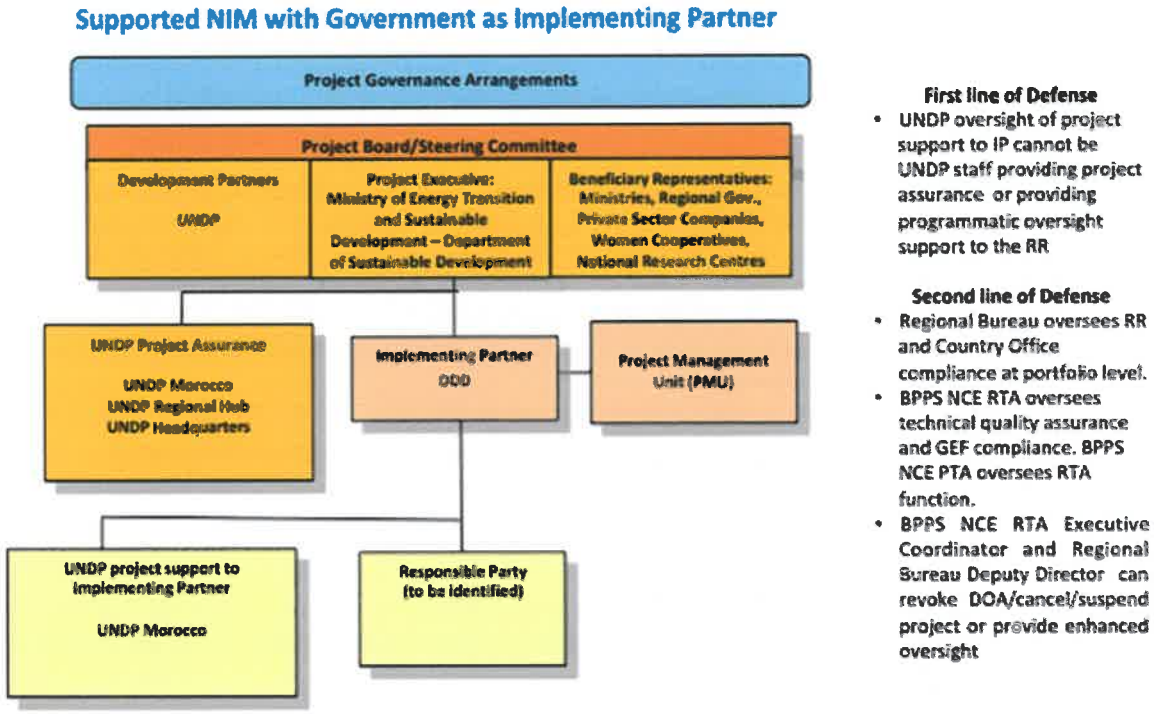
111. Project target groups will be engaged in decision making for the project through their participation in PIC and MAT as providers of genetic resources, as potential signatories of at least three comprehensive ABS contracts for the development of new ABS products, and through there participation in the Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and DT regions and thematic regional sub-committees, as appropriate. Additional engagement mechanisms are detailed in the project's Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan (Annex 8).

112. UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

113. A firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and charged to the GEF Fee and any support to project execution performed by UNDP (as requested by and agreed to by both the Implementing Partner and GEF) and may be charged to the GEF project management costs

(only if approved by GEF). The segregation of functions and firewall provisions for UNDP in this case is described in the next section.

Section 2: Project governance structure



114. The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

115. **UNDP project support:** The Implementing Partner and GEF OFP have requested UNDP to provide support services in the amount of USD 20,000 for the full duration of the project, and the GEF has agreed for UNDP to provide such execution support services and for the cost of these services to be charged to the project budget. The execution support services – whether financed from the project budget or other sources - have been set out in detail and agreed between UNDP Country Office and the Implementing Partner in a Letter of Agreement (LOA). This LOA is attached to this Project Document.

116. To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independent from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-à-vis UNDP representation on the project board:

117. As noted in the Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and

executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

118. *In* this case, UNDP's implementation oversight role in the project – as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function – is performed by the Resident Representative and the Head of the Environment Unit. UNDP's execution role in the project (as requested by the implementing partner and approved by the GEF) is performed by the Head of Finance, who will report to the Operations Manager.

Section 4: Roles and Responsiblities of the Project Organization Structure:

a) Project Board: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

119. The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the "Provide Oversight" section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.
2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the "Manage Change" section of the POPP).

Requirements to serve on the Project Board:

- ✓ Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- ✓ Meet annually; at least once.
- ✓ Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
- ✓ Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.
- ✓ Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the Project Board

- ✓ Consensus decision making:
  - The project board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
  - Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
  - The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
  - In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
  - In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.
- ✓ Oversee project execution:

- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
- Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
- Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
- Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
- Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
- Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

✓ Risk Management:
- Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
- Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
- Address project-level grievances.

✓ Coordination:
- Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the Project Board: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation (DIM). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is: Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Sustainable Development
2. **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfill this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are: Members of the National Biodiversity Subcommittee (incl. *inter alia* MTEDD-DDD; Water and Forest National Agency, MAPMDREF-DA, MENFPESRS); Regional Governments of Souss-Massa and Fès-Meknès; representatives of women cooperatives (incl. *inter alia*, the Argan Cooperative Taitmatine, the Union des Coopératives des Femmes de l'Arganier, and the Federation of Saffron Cooperatives in the region of Taliouine), and University Mohammed V.

3. **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is/are: UNDP.

b) **Project Assurance:** Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is/are: Amal Nadim, Head of Environment Unit.

c) **Project Management – Execution of the Project:** The Project Manager (PM) (also called project coordinator) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The PM typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers.

   A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative.

   The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is: TBD at inception.

IX. FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

120. The total cost of the project is USD 4,726,620. This is financed through a GEF grant of USD 1,776,620 administered by UNDP, USD 100,000 of UNDP Resources and USD 200,000 of government cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP and additional support of USD 2,650,000. UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, is responsible for the oversight of the GEF resources and the cash co-financing transferred to UNDP bank account only.

121. **Co-financing**: The actual realization of project co-financing amounts will be monitored by the UNDP Country Office and the PMU on an annual basis in the GEF PIR and will be reported to the GEF during the mid-term review and terminal evaluation process as follows:

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount (PRODOC)	Co-financing amount realized
Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Sustainable Development	Grant	200,000	
Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Sustainable Development	In-kind	1,650,000	
GREENTECH	In-kind	300,000	
PharmAfrican	In-kind	700,000	
UNDP Morocco	Grant	100,000	
Total		**2,950,000**	

122. **Budget Revision and Tolerance**: As per UNDP POPP, the project board may agree with the project manager on a tolerance level for each detailed plan under the overall multi-year workplan. The agreed tolerance should be written in the project document or approved project board meeting minutes. It should normally not exceed 10 percent of the agreed annual budget at the activity level, but within the overall approved multi-year workplan at the activity level. Within the agreed tolerances, the project manager can operate without intervention from the project board. Restrictions apply as follows:

123. Should the following deviations occur, the Project Manager/IP through UNDP Country Office will seek the approval of the BPPS/NCE-VF team to ensure accurate reporting to the GEF. It is **strongly encouraged** to maintain the expenditures within the approved budget at the budgetary account and at the component level:

a) Budget reallocations must prove that the suggested changes in the budget will not lead to material changes in the results to be achieved by the project. A strong justification is required and will be approved on an exceptional basis. Budget re-allocations among the components (including PMC) of the approved Total Budget and Work Plans (TBWP) that represent a value greater than 10% of the total GEF grant.

b) Introduction of new outputs/activities (i.e. budget items) that were not part of the agreed project document and TBWP that represent a value greater than 5% of the total GEF grant. The new budget items must be eligible as per the GEF and UNDP policies.

c) Project management cost (PMC): budget under PMC component is capped and cannot be increased.

124. Any over expenditure incurred beyond the available GEF grant amount must be absorbed by non-GEF resources (e.g. UNDP TRAC or cash co-financing).

125. **Project extensions:** The UNDP Resident Representative and the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator must approve all project extension requests. Note that all extensions incur costs and the GEF project budget cannot be increased. A single extension may be granted on an exceptional basis and subject to the conditions and maximum durations set out in the UNDP POPP; the project management costs during the extension period must remain within the originally approved amount, and any increase in PMC costs will be covered by non-GEF resources; the additional UNDP oversight costs during the extension period must be covered by non-GEF resources, in accordance with UNDP's guidance set out in UNDP POPP.

126. Audit: The project will be audited as per UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies. Audit cycle and process must be discussed during the Inception workshop. If the Implementing Partner is an UN Agency, the project will be audited according to that Agencies applicable audit policies.

127. **Project Closure**: Project closure will be conducted as per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP. All costs incurred to close the project must be included in the project closure budget and reported as final project commitments presented to the Project Board during the final project review. The only costs a project may incur following the final project review are those included in the project closure budget.

128. **Operational completion**: The project will be operationally completed when the last UNDP-financed inputs have been provided and the related activities have been completed. This includes the final clearance of the Terminal Evaluation Report (that will be available in English) and the corresponding management response, and the end-of-project review Project Board meeting. **Operational closure must happen at the end date calculated by the approved duration after the Project Document signature or at the revised operational closure date as approved in the project extension. Any expected activity after the operational date requires project extension approval.** The Implementing Partner through a Project Board decision will notify the UNDP Country Office when operational closure has been completed. At this time, the project should have completed the transfer or disposal of any equipment that is still the property of UNDP.

129. **Transfer or disposal of assets**: In consultation with the Implementing Partner and other parties of the project, UNDP is responsible for deciding on the transfer or other disposal of assets. Transfer or disposal of assets is recommended to be reviewed and endorsed by the project board following UNDP rules and regulations. Assets may be transferred to the government for project activities managed by a national institution at any time during the life of a project (it is strongly encouraged to be done before the operational closure date). In all cases of transfer, a transfer document must be prepared and kept on file[22]. The transfer should be done before Project Management Unit complete their assignments.

130. **Financial completion (closure):** The project will be financially closed when the following conditions have been met: a) the project is operationally completed or has been cancelled; b) the Implementing Partner has reported all financial transactions to UNDP; c) UNDP has closed the accounts for the project; d) UNDP and the Implementing Partner have certified a final Combined Delivery Report (which serves as final budget revision).

131. The project will be financially completed **within 6 months of operational closure or after the date of cancellation**. If Operational Closure is delayed for any justified and approved reason, the Country Office should do all efforts to Financially Close the project within 9 months after TE is completed. Between operational and financial closure, the implementing partner will identify and settle all financial obligations and prepare a final expenditure report. The UNDP Country Office will send the final signed closure documents including confirmation of final cumulative expenditure and unspent balance to the BPPS/NCE-VF Unit for confirmation before the project will be financially closed in Atlas by the UNDP Country Office.

132. Refund to GEF: Should a refund of unspent funds to the GEF be necessary, this will be managed directly by the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate in New York. No action is required by the UNDP Country Office on the actual refund from UNDP project to the GEF Trustee.

[22] See https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PPM_Project%20Management_Closing.docx&action=default.

X. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

Total Budget and Work Plan			
Atlas Award ID:	00143897	Atlas Output Project ID:	01000687
Atlas Proposal or Award Title:	Projet APA II		
Atlas Business Unit	MAR10		
Atlas Primary Output Project Title	Projet APAII- Nagoya Protocol		
UNDP-GEF PIMS No.	6372		
GEF ID	10842		
Implementing Partner	Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Sustainable Development		

Atlas Activity (GEF Component)	Atlas Implementing Agent (Responsible Party/, IP, or UNDP)	Atlas Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Account Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Amount Year 5 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
COMPONENT 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge	**MTEDD-DDD**	**62000**	**GEF Trustee**	71300	Local Consultants	87,250	116,000				**203,250**	*1*
				71600	Travel	13,000	13,000	8,000			**34,000**	*2*
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	44,000	62,000	14,000			**120,000**	*3*
				72800	Information Technology Equipmt	7,500					**7,500**	*4*
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs		10,000				**10,000**	*5*
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	19,500	12,000				**31,500**	*6*
					Total Component 1	**171,250**	**213,000**	**22,000**			**406,250**	
COMPONENT 2: Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS Law	**MTEDD-DDD**	**62000**	**GEF Trustee**	71200	International Consultants	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	**45,000**	*7*
				71300	Local Consultants		50,000	86,000			**136,000**	*8*
				71800	Contractual Services-Imp Partn	11,356	11,356	11,356	11,356	11,356	**56,780**	*9*
				71600	Travel	7,000	21,375	16,375	9,375	9,375	**63,500**	*10*
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	12,500	12,500	12,500			**37,500**	*11*
				72200	Equipment and Furniture		5,000				**5,000**	*12*
				72300	Materials & Goods		9,375	9,375	9,375	9,375	**37,500**	*13*

				72400	Communic & Audio Visual Equip		10,000				**10,000**	*14*
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs			15,000			**15,000**	*15*
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	3,000	33,750	38,750	8,750	8,750	**93,000**	*16*
					Total Component 2	**42,856**	**162,356**	**198,356**	**47,856**	**47,856**	**499,280**	
COMPONENT 3: Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions	**MTEDD-DDD**	**62000**	**GEF Trustee**	71300	Local Consultants		23,000	63,000	23,000	23,000	**132,000**	*17*
				71600	Travel		12,500	20,000	4,000	4,000	**40,500**	*18*
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	15,000	15,000	33,000	18,000	18,000	**99,000**	*19*
				72200	Equipment and Furniture			7,500			**7,500**	*20*
				72300	Materials & Goods			15,000	15,000	15,000	**45,000**	*21*
				72400	Communic & Audio Visual Equip		2,574				**2,574**	*22*
				72500	Supplies		750	750	750	750	**3,000**	*23*
				72800	Information Technology Equipmt		5,000				**5,000**	*24*
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs			6,000			**6,000**	*25*
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	4,000	17,000	13,000			**34,000**	*26*
					Total Component 3	**19,000**	**75,824**	**158,250**	**60,750**	**60,750**	**374,574**	
COMPONENT 4: Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management	**MTEDD-DDD**	**62000**	**GEF Trustee**	71200	International Consultants	80,500					**80,500**	*27*
				71300	Local Consultants	50,750	15,750	15,750	15,750	15,750	**113,750**	*28*
				71600	Travel	22,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	**30,000**	*29*
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs		1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	**6,000**	*30*
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	6,000	6,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	**24,000**	*31*
					Total Component 4	**159,250**	**25,250**	**23,250**	**23,250**	**23,250**	**254,250**	
COMPONENT 5: Monitoring & Evaluation	**MTEDD-DDD**	**62000**	**GEF Trustee**	71200	International Consultants			15,000		20,000	**35,000**	*32*
				71300	Local Consultants	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	11,000	**25,000**	*33*
				71600	Travel	1,000	1,000	4,000	1,000	5,125	**12,125**	*34*
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs			1,750		1,750	**3,500**	*35*

				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	3,000		1,000		1,130	**5,130**	*36*
					Total Component 5	**7,500**	**4,500**	**25,250**	**4,500**	**39,005**	**80,755**	
Project Management Costs (PMC)	**MTEDD-DDD**	**62000**	**GEF Trustee**	71800	Contractual Services-Imp Partn	24,387	24,387	24,387	24,387	24,385	**121,933**	*37*
				72200	Equipment and Furniture	2,000					**2,000**	*38*
				72500	Supplies	766	766	766	766	766	**3,830**	*39*
				72800	Information Technology Equipmt	3,748					**3,748**	*40*
				74100	Professional Services	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	**10,000**	*41*
				64397	Direct Project Cost - Staff	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	**20,000**	*42*
					Subtotal GEF	**36,901**	**31,153**	**31,153**	**31,153**	**31,151**	**161,511**	
	UNDP	**4000**	**UNDP**	71400	Contractual Services - Individ	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	**100,000**	*43*
					Subtotal UNDP	**20,000**	**20,000**	**20,000**	**20,000**	**20,000**	**100,000**	
					Total Management	**56,901**	**51,153**	**51,153**	**51,153**	**51,151**	**261,511**	
SUB-TOTAL GEF						**436,757**	**512,083**	**458,259**	**167,509**	**202,012**	**1,776,620**	
SUB-TOTAL UNDP						**20,000**	**20,000**	**20,000**	**20,000**	**20,000**	**100,000**	
PROJECT TOTAL (GEF + UNDP)						**456,757**	**532,083**	**478,259**	**187,509**	**222,012**	**1,876,620**	

Budget Notes

Budget Note No.	Project Output (Description)
	Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge
1	**71300 - Local Consultants: $203,250** • ABS Legal Expert to support the adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework - Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4 ($400 daily rate x 200 days = $80,000; years 1 and 2) • ABS Expert to produce a guide for negotiating ABS contracts- Output 1.2.2 ($400 daily rate x 90 days = $36,000; year 2) • ABS-TK Expert to conduct an assessment of TK associated to genetic resources in the Souss-Massa (SM) and Fès-Meknès (FM) regions to expand the existing ABS-TK registry/database - Output 1.3.1 ($400 daily rate x 90 days = $36,000; year 1) • ABS Legal Expert to establish and operationalize monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) under ABS law and/or ABS contracts (including feasibility analysis and drafting of guidelines) - Output 1.3.4 ($400 daily rate x 100 days = $40,000; year 2) • Information Technology Expert to assess needs and improve the efficiency of the ABS component of the National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/web-page - Output 1.3.2 ($375 daily rate x 30 days = $11,250; year 1)
2	**71600 – Travel: $34,000**

	• Travel cost associated to consultations with local stakeholders regarding the adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework- Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 ($5,000; years 1 and 2) • Travel costs to participate in national and international ABS-related training events (e.g., ABS workshops, seminars short courses, field visits, exchanges) - Output 1.2.1 ($24,000; years 1 to 3) • Travel cost associated to consultations with local stakeholders to establish a functional national ABS information management system - Outputs 1.3.1 and 1.3.4 ($5,000; years 1 and 2)
3	**72100 - Contractual Services-Companies: $120,000** • Company to conduct ABS-related benchmarking studies: monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation - Output 1.1.3 ($30,000; year 1) • Company to develop and implement an ABS training program for government agencies on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework, and to key national/regional NGOs and local stakeholders on technical and management issues - Output 1.2.1 ($42,000; years 1 to 3) • Company to develop and operationalize a standardized electronic ABS permit system - Output 1.3.3 ($48,000; year 2)
4	**72800 - Information Technology Equipmt: $7,500** • Software and hardware to update the ABS component of the National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/web-page - Output 1.3.2 ($7,500; year 1)
5	**74200 - Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs: $10,000** • Printing of guide for negotiating ABS contracts in French and Arabic- Output 1.2.2 ($10,000; year 2)
6	**75700 - Training, Workshops and Confer: $31,500** • Workshops and meetings to conduct consultations, raise awareness, and validate with key stakeholders the updated drafts of the ABS Law and complementary legal and regulatory texts - Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4 ($10,000; years 1 and 2) • Workshops to train the staff of the legal department of the METSD and other stakeholders on legal aspects regarding the ABS Law and its implementation - Output 1.1.1 ($7,000; years 1 and 2) • Workshops and meetings for conducting TK surveys on potentially interesting ABS value chains and genetic resources within the SM and FM regions - Output 1.3.1 ($7,500; year 1) • Workshops for drafting guidelines related to the fair distribution of benefits between the users and providers of genetic resources and for compliance and sanctions - Output 1.3.4 ($7,000; years 1 and 2)
	Component 2: Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law
7	**71200 - International Consultants: $45,000** • International ABS Expert to provide ABS backstopping related to the development of ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources. Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3 ($600 daily rate x 75 days = $45,000; years 1 to 5).
8	**71300 - Local Consultants: $136,000** • ABS Legal Advisor for the signing of three comprehensive ABS contracts - Output 2.2.1 ($400 daily rate x 100 days = $40,000; years 2 and 3) • Biodiversity Conservation Expert to develop conservation and sustainable use plans related to the three ABS value chains/pilot projects prioritized by the project - Output 2.2.3 ($400 daily rate x 150 days = $60,000; years 2 and 3) • Environmental Economics Expert to conduct a study on the usefulness and feasibility of a Morocco ABS Product Label - Output 2.2.3 ($400 daily rate x 90 days = $36,000; year 3)
9	**71800 - Contractual Services-individuals hired by Implementing Partner: $56,780** • ABS Technical Expert for engaging providers and users of genetic resources for undertaking R&D and providing technical support to R&D pilots for benefit sharing - Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3 ($56,780; $3,340 per month for 17 months; years 1 - 5)
10	**71600 - Travel: $63,500**

	• Travel costs to participate in national and subnational (SM and FM regions) ABS-related training events (workshops, simulations, etc.) - Output 2.1.2 ($21,000; years 1 to 3) • Travel costs associated with the drafting, signing, and monitoring of ABS contracts - Output 2.2.1 ($22,500; $7,500/value chain; years 2 to 5) • Travel costs for the assessment of the current conservation status of the species and the population to be sampled/collected as part of each ABS value chain and of their habitat/ecosystems - Output 2.2.3 (5,000; year 2) • Travel costs to support cooperatives (including women cooperatives) to participate in sustainable ABS value chains - Output 2.2.3 ($15,000; $5,000/value chain; years 2 to 5)
11	**72100 - Contractual Services-Companies: $37,500** • Company to provide training for private companies, academics and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains, at national and regional levels - Output 2.1.2 ($37,500; year 1 to 3)
12	**72200 - Equipment and Furniture: $5,000** • Field equipment for the assessment of the current conservation status of the species and the population to be sampled/collected and of their habitat/ecosystems - Output 2.2.3 (5,000; year 2)
13	**72300 - Materials & Goods: $37,500** • Materials & goods to support the sustainable collection, growing, and harvesting of raw material by local cooperatives (including women cooperatives) to supply three ABS value chains - Output 2.2.3 ($37,500; $12,500/value chain; years 2 to 5)
14	**72400 - Communic & Audio Visual Equip: $ 10,000** • Purchase of audio visual equipment (e.g., video projector; camera; binoculars) in support of workshops, training, etc. for the sustainable supply of ABS-product raw material; and for virtual meetings and workshops due to COVID-19, where necessary - Output 2.2.3 ($10,000; year 2)
15	**74200 - Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs: $15,000** • Printing costs for three participatory Conservation and Sustainable Use Plans - Output 2.2.3 ($9,000; $3,000/publication; year 3) • Printing costs for three collection/harvesting protocols - Output 2.2.3 ($6,000; $2,000/publication; year 3)
16	**75700 - Training, Workshops and Confer: $93,000** • Workshops and meetings for identifying and conducting in-depth consultations with relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework - Output 2.1.1 ($9,000; years 1 to 3) • Workshops and meetings for obtaining PIC, defining MAT, and signing MTA - Output 2.2.1 ($12,000; $4,000/value chain; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meeting for drafting and signing ABS contracts - Output 2.2.1 ($9,000; $3,000/value chain; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meeting for monitoring and evaluation of ABS contracts - Output 2.2.1 ($15,000; $5,000/value chain; years 3 to 5) • Workshops and meetings for consultations between resource suppliers and the Water and Forest National Agency to ensure a continuous and sustainable supply of raw material from authorized collection/harvesting sources - Output 2.2.3 ($6,000; $2,000/value chain; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meetings to develop conservation and sustainable use plans related to the three ABS value chains/pilot projects prioritized by the project - Output 2.2.3 ($12,000; $4,000/plan; years 2 and 3) • Training workshops for local suppliers for the sustainable harvesting/collection of raw material for the three prioritized ABS value chains - Output 2.2.3 ($15,000, $5,000/value chain; years 2 and 3) • Training workshops and meetings to strengthen and support the organization structures of cooperatives of local suppliers of raw material for the three prioritized ABS value chains - Output 2.2.3 ($15,000; $5,000/value chain; years 2 to 5)
	Component 3: Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions
17	**71300 - Local Consultants: $132,000**

	• Biodiversity Conservation Expert to provide support strengthening biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS governance and compliance of ABS value chains with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits in three target regions - Outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.4, and 3.2.1 ($400 daily rate x 230 days = $92,000; years 2 to 5) • Biodiversity Financing Expert to support the assessment of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration financial needs and to draft short-, medium- and long-term investment plans for each pilot area -Output 3.1.5 ($400 daily rate x 100 days = $40,000; year 3)
18	**71600 – Travel: $40,500** • Travel costs related to enhancing governance for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS in the SM and FM Regions- Outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.4 ($10,000; years 2 and 3) • Travel costs related to training of key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS - Output 3.1.3 ($15,000; years 2 and 3) • Travel costs related to assessment and consultations for mobilizing new resources via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration - Output 3.1.5 ($3,500; year 3) • Travel costs for monitoring the species and the population to be sampled/collected as part of each ABS value chain and of their habitat/ecosystems - Output 3.2.1 ($12,000; years 3 to 5)
19	**72100 - Contractual Services-Companies: $99,000** • Company to provide training to key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS - Output 3.1.3 ($45,000 years 1 to 3) • Company to design and implement a participatory monitoring system (including training to local stakeholders) to assess the impact of ABS as a mechanism to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration - Output 3.2.1 ($54,000; years 3 to 5)
20	**72200 - Equipment and Furniture: $7,500** • Field equipment for participatory monitoring of the impact of ABS as a mechanism to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration - Output 3.2.1 ($7,500; year 3)
21	**72300 - Materials & Goods: $45,000** • Materials & goods in support of the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of habitats - Output 3.2.1 ($45,000; years 3 to 5)
22	**72400 - Communic & Audio Visual Equip: $2,574** • Audio visual equipment (video projectors, digital cameras, projection screens, etc.) to support ABS value chains compliance with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource-supplier communities and biodiversity/ ecosystems; and for virtual meetings and workshops due to COVID-19, where necessary - Output 3.2.1 ($2,574; year 2)
23	**72500 – Supplies: $3,000** • Office stationeries and supplies in support of strengthening biodiversity governance and conservation through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in three target regions, including biosafety supplies to minimize exposure to COVID-19, as needed: hand sanitizers, masks and face shields, disinfectant sprays, disposable gloves, etc. - Outputs 3.1.1 and 3.2.1 ($3,000; years 2 to 5)
24	**72800 - Information Technology Equipmt: $5,000** • Computers (2) and software licenses to support ABS value chains compliance with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource-supplier communities and biodiversity/ ecosystems - Output 3.2.1 ($5,000; year 2)
25	**74200 - Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs: $6,000** • Printing costs of investment plans for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration in three pilot areas - Output 3.1.5 ($6,000; $2,000/plan; year 3)
26	**75700 - Training, Workshops and Confer: $34,000**

	• Workshops and meetings to integrate biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles into the Regional Development Programmes for the SM and FM regions - Output 3.1.1 ($9,000; $4,500/region; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meetings to strengthen Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM, in close coordination with key stakeholders - Output 3.1.2 ($8,000; $4,000/region; years 1 and 2) • Workshops and meetings to strengthen governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles at the local level - Output 3.1.4 ($6,000; $3,000/region; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meetings to conduct consultations for mobilizing new resources via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration - Output 3.1.5 ($5,000; $2,500/region; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meetings to conduct consultations with various local-level stakeholders for defining biodiversity conservation and habitat/ecosystem restoration priorities in the project sites - Output 3.2.1 ($6,000; $3,000/region; years 2 and 3)
	Component 4: Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management
27	**71200 - International Consultants: $80,500** • International Safeguards Expert to develop the ESIA and SESA, ESMP, IP-LC P, and other plans - Outputs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 ($575 daily rate x 140 days = $80,500; year 1)
28	**71300 - Local Consultants: $113,750** • Gender /Safeguards Expert to implement all safeguards plans, as appropriate (ESMP/ IP-LC P; Gender Action Plan; Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan) - Outputs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 ($45,000; $3,000/month; 15 months during years 1 to 5) • Knowledge Management Expert for the development of the KM Plan and systematization of lessons learned - Output 4.2.1 ($375 daily rate x 90 days = $33,750; years 1 to 5) • National Safeguards Expert to support locally the development of safeguards assessments and plans - Outputs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 ($250 daily rate x 140 days = $35,000; year 1)
29	**71600 – Travel: $30,000** • Travel expenses and DSA related to the development of social and environmental safeguard related plans - Outputs 4.1.2, 4.1.3 ($20,000; year 1) • Travel expenses related to the implementation and monitoring of the ESMP and other management plans - Outputs 4.1.2, 4.1.3 ($5,000; $1,500/yr.; years 1 to 5) • Travel expenses related to knowledge management - Outputs 4.2.1 ($5,000; $1,000/yr.; years 1 to 5)
30	**74200 - Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs: $6,000** • Development of knowledge management related products (publications, videos, etc.) - Output 4.2.1 ($6,000; $1,500/yr.; years 2 to 5)
31	**75700 - Training, Workshops and Confer: $24,000** • Training the PMU, institutional partners, and private sector companies on environmental and social safeguards as per UNDP standards - Output 4.1.1 ($4,000; $2,000/yr.; years 1 and 2) • Workshops for ESIA public consultations and to ensure stakeholder engagement - Output 4.1.2 ($7,500, $1,500/yr.; years 1 to 5) • Workshops on gender mainstreaming - Output 4.1.3 ($7,500, $1,500/yr.; years 1 to 5) • Workshops and meetings related to knowledge management - Outputs 4.2.1, ($5,000; $1,000/yr.; years 1 to 5)
	Component 5: M&E
32	**71200 - International Consultants: $35,000** • International consultant for Mid Term Review - Output 5.1.1 ($600 daily rate x 25 days = $15,000; year 3) • International consultant for Terminal Evaluation - Output 5.1.1 ($625 daily rate x 32 days = $20,000; year 5)
33	**71300 - Local Consultants: $25,000**

	• M&E of GEF core indicators and the PRF - Output 5.1.1 ($350 daily rate x 25 days = $8,750; years 1 to 5) • Monitoring of ESMP/IPP, Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, and other related plans - Output 5.1.1 ($350 daily rate x 25 days = $8,750; years 1 to 5) • National consultant for Terminal Evaluation - Output 5.1.1 ($375 daily rate x 20 days = $7,500; year 5)
34	**71600 – Travel: $12,125** • Travel expenses for Mid Term Review - Output 5.1.1 ($3,000; year 3) • Travel expenses for Terminal Evaluation - Output 5.1.1 ($4,125; year 5) • Travel expenses related to the monitoring of GEF core indicators and PRF, and social and environmental safeguards - Output 5.1.1 ($5,000; $1,000/yr.; years 1 to 5)
35	**74200 - Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs: $3,500** • Translation of the Mid Term Review report and the Terminal Evaluation report - Output 5.1.1 ($3,500; $1,750/translation; years 3 and 5)
36	**75700 - Training, Workshops and Confer: $5,130** • Project Inception Workshop - Output 5.1.1 ($3,000; year 1) • Mid Term Review workshop - Output 5.1.1 ($1,000; year 3) • Terminal Evaluation workshop - Output 5.1.1 ($1,130; year 5)
	Project Management Cost
37	**71800 - Contractual Services-individuals hired by Implementing Partner: $121,933** • Project Manager - ($43,333; $3,333.32 per month for 13 months; years 1 to 5) • Project/Finance Assistant - ($78,600; $1,310 per month for 60 months; years 1 to 5)
38	**72200 - Equipment and Furniture: $2,000** • Office furniture - ($2,000; year 1)
39	**72500 – Supplies: $3,830** • Office and IT Supplies and Consumables, including biosafety supplies to minimize exposure to COVID-19, as needed: hand sanitizers, masks and face shields, disinfectant sprays, disposable gloves, etc. ($3,830 $766/year; years 1 to 5)
40	**72800 - Information Technology Equipmt: $3,748** • Computer (2)- ($3,000; $1,500/unit; year 1) • Printer (1) - ($748; year 1)
41	**74100 – Professional Services: $10,000** • Project audits - ($10,000; $2,000/year; years 1 to 5)
42	**64397 - Services to projects - CO staff: $20,000** • Execution support services provided by UNDP, as per signed LoA between Government and UNDP-Morocco and as agreed with GEF - ($20,000; $4,000/yr.; years 1 to 5)
43	**71400 - Contractual Services – Individ: $100,000** • Project Manager - ($100,000; $3,33.33 per month for 30 months; years 1 to 5)

XI. LEGAL CONTEXT

133. This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Morocco and UNDP, signed on 13 May 1982. All references in the SBAA to "Executing Agency" shall be deemed to refer to "Implementing Partner."

134. This project will be implemented by the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Sustainable Development ("Implementing Partner") in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

135. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

XII. RISK MANAGEMENT

Option a. Implementing Partner is a Government Entity (NIM)

136. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA *[or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document]*, the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:

a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;

b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

137. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

138. The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml.

139. The Implementing Partner acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the Implementing Partner, and each of its responsible parties, their respective sub-recipients and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.

(a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").

(b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

140. a) In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, the Implementing Partner will and will require that such sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:

i. Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;

ii. Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;

iii. Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;

iv. Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and

v. Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. The Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 with respect to their activities under the

Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.

b) The Implementing Partner shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4, to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.

141. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm).

142. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

143. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

144. The Implementing Partner will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or using UNDP funds. The Implementing Partner will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

145. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to the Implementing Partner: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. The Implementing Partner agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.

146. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP has the obligation to conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP projects and programmes in accordance with UNDP's regulations, rules, policies and procedures. The Implementing Partner shall provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to the Implementing Partner's (and its consultants', responsible parties', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with the Implementing Partner to find a solution.

147. The signatories to this Project Document will promptly inform one another in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

148. Where the Implementing Partner becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, the Implementing Partner will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). The Implementing Partner shall provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

149. UNDP shall be entitled to a refund from the Implementing Partner of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the Implementing Partner under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

150. Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the Implementing Partner agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to the Implementing Partner for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.

151. *Note:* The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

152. Each contract issued by the Implementing Partner in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from the Implementing Partner shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.

153. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.

154. The Implementing Partner shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are included, *mutatis mutandis*, in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

Special Clauses. In case of government cost-sharing through the project, the following clauses should be included:

1. The schedule of payments and UNDP bank account details:

   Schedule of Payments:

   USD 100,000.00 on 06/2024

   USD 100,00.00 on 06/2025

   UNDP Morocco Bank Account:

   Account Name: UNDP-Representative

   Bank Name: CITIBANK MAGHREB

   Account Number:

Code Banque	Code Ville	Numéro de compte	Clé RIB	Nature
028	810	0000000610100511	11	Mad Convertible

   Address : Zénith Millenium Immeuble 1, Lotissement Attaoufik. Sidi Maarouf, Casablanca. SWIFT Code: CITIMAMC

2. The value of the payment, if made in a currency other than United States dollars, shall be determined by applying the United Nations operational rate of exchange in effect on the date of payment. Should there be a change in the United Nations operational rate of exchange prior to the full utilization by the UNDP of the payment, the value of the balance of funds still held at that time will be adjusted accordingly. If, in such a case, a loss in the value of the balance of funds is recorded, UNDP shall inform the Government with a view to determining whether any further financing could be provided by the Government. Should such further financing not be available, the assistance to be provided to the project may be reduced, suspended or terminated by UNDP.

3. The above schedule of payments takes into account the requirement that the payments shall be made in advance of the implementation of planned activities. It may be amended to be consistent with the progress of project delivery.

4. UNDP shall receive and administer the payment in accordance with the regulations, rules and directives of UNDP.

5. All financial accounts and statements shall be expressed in United States dollars.

6. If unforeseen increases in expenditures or commitments are expected or realized (whether owing to inflationary factors, fluctuation in exchange rates or unforeseen contingencies), UNDP shall submit to the government on a timely basis a supplementary estimate showing the further financing that will be necessary. The Government shall use its best endeavors to obtain the additional funds required.

7. If the payments referred above are not received in accordance with the payment schedule, or if the additional financing required in accordance with the preceding paragraph is not forthcoming from the Government or other sources, the assistance to be provided to the project under this Agreement may be reduced, suspended or terminated by UNDP.

8. Any interest income attributable to the contribution shall be credited to UNDP Account and shall be utilized in accordance with established UNDP procedures.

In accordance with the decisions and directives of UNDP's Executive Board:

The contribution shall be charged:

(a) 5% cost recovery for the provision of general management support (GMS) by UNDP headquarters and country offices

(b) Direct cost for implementation support services (ISS) provided by UNDP and/or an executing entity/implementing partner.

9. Ownership of equipment, supplies and other properties financed from the contribution shall vest in UNDP. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by UNDP shall be determined in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of UNDP.

10. The contribution shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in the financial regulations, rules and directives of UNDP."

XIII. MANDATORY ANNEXES

Annex 1: GEF Budget Template

To be provided by MPSU after TBWP clearance.

Annex 2: GEF OFP Letter for Execution Support

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Royaume du Maroc

MINISTÈRE DE LA TRANSITION ÉNERGÉTIQUE ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
- DÉPARTEMENT DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE -

وزارة الانتقال الطاقي والتنمية المستدامة
- قطاع التنمية المستدامة -
ⵜⴰⵎⴰⵡⴰⵙⵜ ⵏ ⵜⵣⵔⴼⵜ ⵜⴰⵎⴰⵡⴰⵙⵜ ⴷ ⵜⵎⵙⵓⵔⵉ ⵜⵉⵎⵙⵙⵓⵔⵉⵏ
- ⵜⴰⵏⴰⵎⵓⵔ ⵏ ⵜⵎⵙⵓⵔⵉ ⵜⵉⵎⵙⵙⵓⵔⵉⵏ -

D.P.C.C

01 SEP. 2022

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003492

To: **Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya,**
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
304 East 45th St. FF Bldg., 10th floor
New York, NY 10017

Subject: **Letter of Support to request GEF Agency Execution for the Project "Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation" [GEF ID 10842]**

1. In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Morocco, I hereby request UNDP, the GEF implementing agency for the aforementioned project, to also carry out execution services for the above project, on an exceptional basis.

2. The execution services provided by UNDP are expected to include:

- Direct Payments, applicable to 100% of the GEF grant of USD 1,776,620. With Direct Payments, the Implementing Partner assumes responsibility for the contracting process, performs recruitment or procurement, and signs the contract according to its own rules and regulations. The Direct Payment services by UNDP will include the creation of vendor forms and managing vendor profiles; issuance of cheques; monitoring, adjustment and review of financial transactions; and management of cash and bank accounts.

3. Execution activities, including those provided by UNDP, will be further described in the GEF CEO Endorsement/Approval request and accompanying project document, including the project budget.

Sincerely,

The GEF Operational Focal Point

Directeur du Partenariat, de la Communication et de la Coopération

Rachid FIRADI

9, Avenue Al Araar, Secteur 16, Hay Riad - Rabat
Tél. : 05 37 57 04 68 - Fax : 05 37 57 04 68

www.mtedd.gov.ma

9، شارع العرعار، قطاع 16، حي الرياض - الرباط
الهاتف : 05 37 57 04 68 - الفاكس : 05 37 57 04 68

Annex 3: Project map and geospatial coordinates of project sites

The project will target 34,000 ha across three sites, as follows:

Project site 1: Itzer area (Middle Atlas Mountains/ Fès-Meknès Region)

Cedar lichen habitat: 5,000 ha of cedar forest

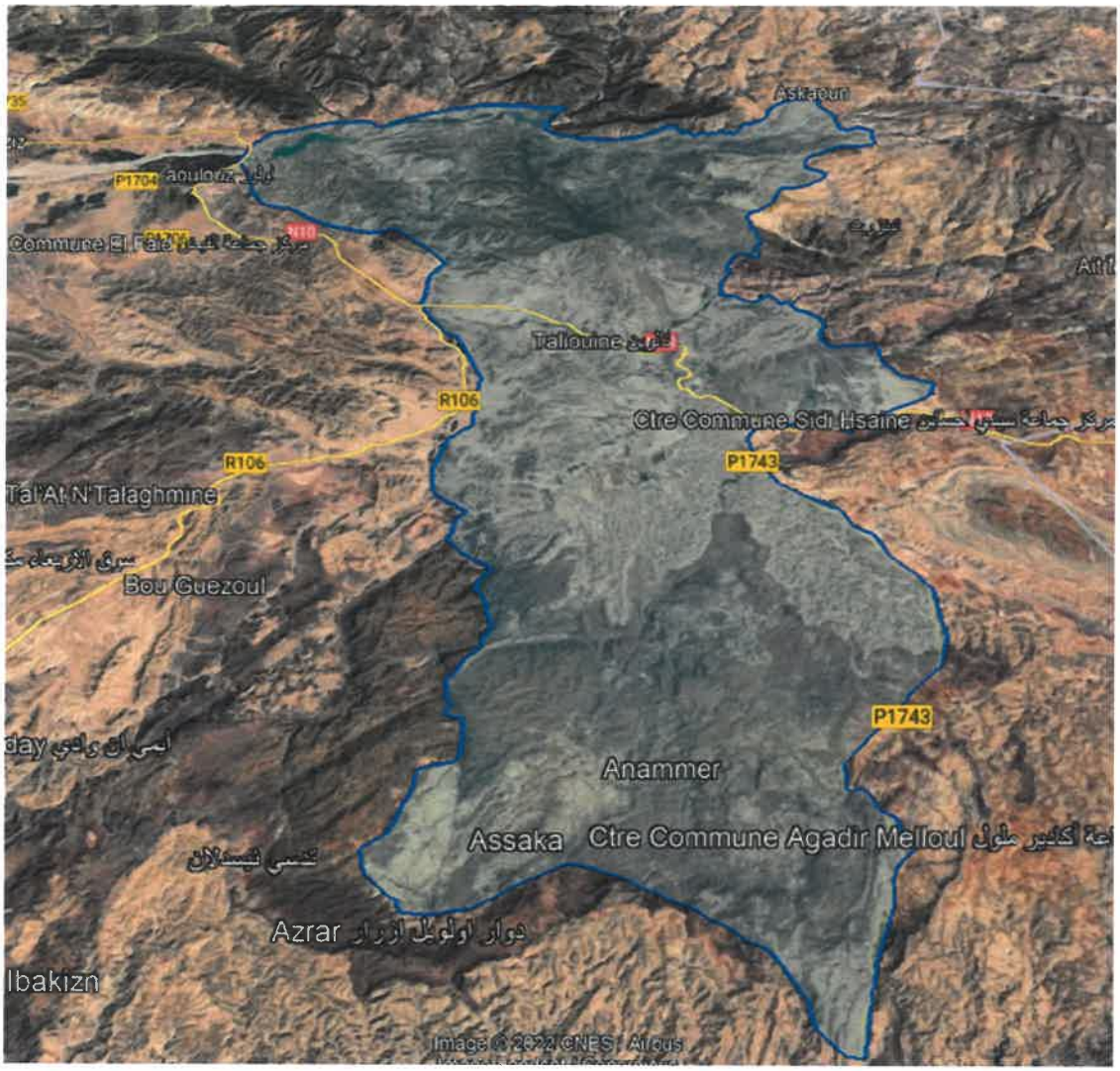
Geospatial coordinates: East location: N 32°57'24" W 4°55'45", West location: N 32°5239 W 5°15'50", North location: N 33°0024 W 5°04'04", South location: N 32°5101 W 5°03'56"



Project site 2: Talouine area (Souss-Massa Region)

Landscape/forest surrounding saffron crops: 20,000 ha of oak forest, juniper forest, and high-mountain spine xerophytic ecosystems (Siroua massif – Middle to High Atlas Mountains/Souss-Massa Region)

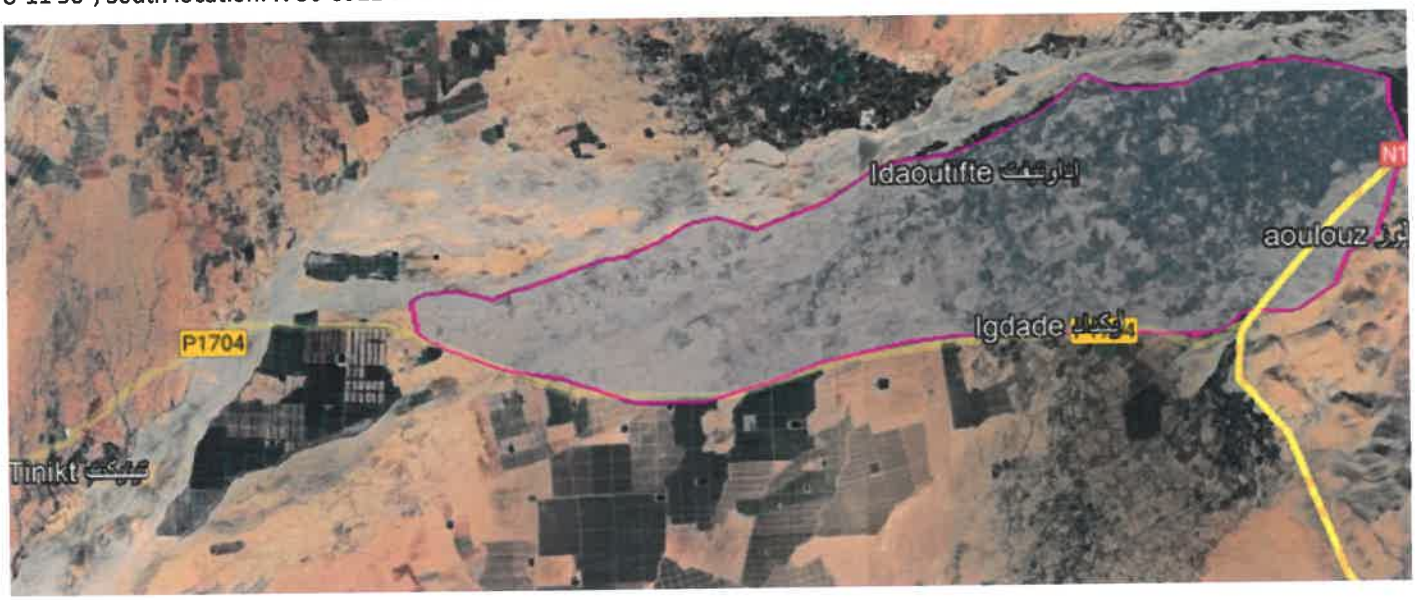
Geospatial coordinates: East location: N 30°2828 W 7°44'03", West location: N 32°5239 W 5°15'50", North location: N 30°4331 W 8°00'31", South location: N 30°0721 W 7°50'00"



Project site 3: Aoulouz area (Souss-Massa Region)

Native Argan forest: 9,000 ha

Geospatial coordinates: East location: N 30°4033 W 8°08'39", West location: N 30°2932 W 8°00'26", North location: N 30°4154 W 8°11'56", South location: N 30°3922 W 8°10'59"



Annex 4: Multi Year Work Plan

	Outcomes	Outputs	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Component 1 Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge	1.1. Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework	1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS Law, etc.)																				
		1.1.2. Multi-tier National Commission for Genetic Resources designated as ABS Competent National Authority, established and operational across the relevant sectors																				
		1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework																				
		1.1.4. Complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g. directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA interior regulations, TK protection system, benefit-sharing mechanisms, biodiversity conservation benefits) prepared, validated by National Biodiversity Subcommittee and submitted to General Government Secretariat																				
	1.2. Enhanced technical	1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented includes:																				

	and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law	a) Training/certification workshops for relevant national government agencies (environment, agriculture, fisheries, water and forestry, scientific research, etc.) on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework. b) Training of key national/regional NGOs (e.g., FM6PE, FM6RSA, Ibn El Baytar) and relevant local stakeholders on technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.).																				
		1.2.2. A guide to negotiating ABS contracts is produced, adapted to Moroccan and international ABS legislation																				
	Outcome 1.3. Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates	1.3.1. Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco																				
		1.3.2. Biodiversity National CHM (digital platform) updated to include information on ABS, facilitating access to information on genetic resources and ABS access procedures, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources and for																				

		harmonizing and coordinating efforts																					
		1.3.3. Standardized online permit application system developed for use across relevant national institutions, to provide efficient access to genetic resources by national, regional and international bioprospectors																					
		1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.																					
Component 2 Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law	2.1. Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D capacity for undertaking R&D	2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework																					
		2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management																					
		2.1.3. ABS-compliant information on genetic resources and ABS value chains disseminated at the national and international																					

		levels to promote sustainable bio-prospecting investment opportunities																					
	2.2. R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing	2.2.1. At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation																					
		2.2.2. At least three Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs), registered and submitted to the CBD Secretariat's ABS Clearing House (ABSCH)																					
		2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced																					
Component 3 Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions	Outcome 3.1. Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa (SM)	3.1.1. Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles integrated in Regional Development Programmes																					
		3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency																					

	and Fès-Meknès (FM) Regions	3.1.3. Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS																					
		3.1.4. Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and legal enforcement																					
		3.1.5. New resources mobilized via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration by the Water and Forest National Agency and other key agencies																					
	Outcome 3.2. ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier communities and biodiversity/ ecosystems	3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats																					

Component 4 Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management	Outcome 4.1. Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks	4.1.1. Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements																				
		4.1.2. Social and environmental safeguards risks mainstreamed across the work under Components 1-3, necessary management measures implemented and monitored																				
		4.1.3. GAP monitored and implemented																				
	Outcome 4.2. Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing	4.2.1. Knowledge Management Plan implemented and products delivered																				
Component 5 Monitoring & Evaluation	5.1. M&E duly implemented	5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management																				

Annex 5: UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

Social and Environmental Screening Template (2022 SESP Template, Version 2)

The completed template, which constitutes the Social and Environmental Screening Report, must be included as an annex to the Project Document at the design stage. Note: this template will be converted into an online tool. The online version will guide users through the process and will embed relevant guidance.

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	PIMS 6372
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Morocco
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design / CEO Endorsement
5. Date	September 2022

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach
The project will apply a human rights-based approach and actively engage stakeholders at all levels through targeted outreach and consultation efforts, including a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process and Grievance Redress Mechanism where relevant, given the involvement of Amazigh indigenous peoples (IPs) and other local communities in the project. The FPIC was structured in the ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework) during the PPG and it will be ensured at project inception phase and during project implementation. Based on the findings of the stakeholder consultations done during the PPG, Amazigh communities will be included also in the overall category of local communities. In the ESMF is included an Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Planning Framework (IPPF), that is the guidance for an Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan (IP-LC P) that will be developed following the IPP UNDP template during the first year of the project. This process has been structured during the PPG considering the local perception about Amazigh communities, Indigenous Peoples and other local communities, involved in the Cedar lichen, Saffron, and the combined Saffron-Argan value chains. The project will engage Amazigh umbrella associations and cooperatives working with local peoples and farmers. Local communities will be involved in decision-making processes relevant to their rights and livelihoods such as on access to pastoral resources. The project will provide capacity enhancement support, regular meetings, and ensure involvement in each stage of the process. The above dynamics are important elements underpinning a human rights-based approach, which will be mainstreamed especially thanks to the activities planned under components 2, 3 and 4, but it is well integrated in all the projects components.
Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment
In all the targeted regions women play a key role in natural resource-based livelihoods – in collection, transformation and trade. They have a strong role in numerous cooperatives. The project intends to reinforce their prominent socio-economic role in the ABS value chains, and thereby contribute to women empowerment. During PPG a Gender Analysis and a Gender Action Plan have been developed, based on secondary information focusing on women empowerment in the economic & SMEs sector and from stakeholder consultations done by the PPG team. During project implementation, the Gender Analysis will be updated, and a Gender Action Plan will be developed for each region and each value chain targeted by the project, using the Mind your step! Tool focusing on mainstreaming gender in the value chains. Risks of negative discrimination of women will be actively addressed through the project under its safeguards work. This will be done especially for the value chains that are not fully in line with a Gender balanced approach. The project will contribute to gender equality in the following results areas: closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; improving women's participation and decision-making; generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. The project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators In accordance with UNDP SES standards, a Gender Analysis has been conducted during the PPG phase, focused on identifying the needs, priorities, roles of women and men engagement in value chains in the targeted regions

The project is assigned the gender marker GEN-2, indicating that gender equality is incorporated as a 'significant objective' during project design and implementation. The Project Document provides a detailed plan to ensure that men and women have equal opportunities for participation in project implementation and M&E. The project will target women and women's cooperative to mainstream their participation in local initiatives and particularly in interventions aimed at generating income. Specific activities have been incorporated into the Project Document to help the project deliver a gender-transformative approach. The project will improve gender equality and women's empowerment especially through activities planned under component 2, 3 and 4; however, the gender sensitive approach is strongly integrated in all project components. In addition, to monitor success, gender-disaggregated data will be collected against the indicators.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

The project will mainstream sustainability and resilience at three levels – at local levels by promoting sustainable resource use and ecosystem management towards rural populations, at regional levels by training regional government delegations on these matters and by integrating them into regional development plans, and at national level by integrating sustainability more strongly into the emerging ABS framework.

The project will achieve sustainability through: the final setup of the ABS framework; growing existing links with private sector companies interested in ABS genetic resource value chains and benefit sharing; the establishment of a benefit sharing mechanism benefitting both rural populations and government agencies responsible for biodiversity/ecosystem management; and integration of ABS value chains, principles and benefit-sharing in regional development plans, as part of the government's biodiversity mainstreaming strategy and in line with the COP 10 Decision X/1.

The project is in line with UNDP objectives to strengthen the resilience of societies to the impact of shocks, disasters, conflict and emergency situations, to implement the sustainable management, conservation and rehabilitation of natural habitats (and their associated biodiversity and ecosystem functions), and to develop and implement sustainable development pathways. The project will address poverty and inequality and will reduce vulnerabilities while maintaining and enhancing natural capital. Finally, the project will promote sustainable solutions that will respect the sociocultural and economic landscapes, enhance livelihood practices already developed in the project areas and ensure that practices are adapted to the challenges the country and the population will face in terms of access to natural resources.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

Stakeholders, especially amongst less educated rural populations, some of which are indigenous peoples, will be proactively informed about their rights as well as FPIC and the Grievance Mechanisms. FPIC have been emplaced during the PPG and will be ensured all along project implementation and M&E.

A Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan has been developed during PPG and a value-chain and site-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed during the first year of the project. In addition, an Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Planning Framework (IP-LCPF) is included in the ESMF and an Indigenous Peoples- Local Communities Plan (IP-LCP) will be prepared and implemented throughout project implementation for each value chain and for each region targeted by the project.

The project, in line with UNDP principles, promotes accountability to stakeholders by: (i) enabling active local community engagement and participation in decision-making, particularly those at risk of being left behind; (ii) ensuring transparency of interventions through provision of timely, accessible and functional information regarding supported activities, including on potential environmental and social risks and impacts and management measures; (iii) ensuring stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to rights-compatible complaints redress processes and mechanisms; and (iv) ensuring effective monitoring—and where appropriate, participatory monitoring with stakeholders—and reporting on implementation of social and environmental risk management measures.

The Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, the Grievance Redress Mechanism, the Gender Action Plan, the IP-LCPF, the IP-LCP and the ESMP will put in place a mechanism that will ensure the accountability to stakeholders. The IP-LCPF (included in the ESMF) is adapted to the local context. Indigenous Peoples - Local communities involved in the project in Morocco can be included in the UNDP Indigenous peoples' definition, based on the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) reports, where Amazigh communities in Morocco are identified as Indigenous Peoples.

Considering the consultations done during PPG with local stakeholders, in order to integrate the IPs involvement process in the local context, during project design and implementation the reference to Indigenous Peoples will be integrated with the reference to Local Communities. This will allow the project to take into consideration the level of integration of Amazigh communities in Morocco. Local stakeholders aim to integrate Amazigh communities in the more general definition of Local Communities.

The IPP will be developed using the UNDP IPP template and will integrate information about the level of integration of Amazigh communities in the broader concept of Local Communities. An IPP will be prepared for each region and for each value chain selected, by the first year of the project, based on the risk assessment, in line with the UNDP SES. No relevant project activities that can affect indigenous peoples' rights will begin until this plan has been drafted, disclosed (in line with UNDP's policy) (including FPIC achieved), approved by the Project Steering Committee, and its measures put in place.

Accountability to stakeholders includes all the mechanisms and systems identified to collect feedback from project beneficiaries and project stakeholders and integrate this feedback

into project's design, monitoring and evaluation. The project includes all the elements of the Accountability to stakeholders: Stakeholder engagement and response mechanism, Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance and Access to Information. The monitoring process will involve stakeholders - such as affected communities, independent experts, and CBOs/NGOs - to complement or verify the monitoring activities.

The project's Comprehensive Stakeholder and Communications Engagement Plan identifies the different ways of involving stakeholders, such as information, communication, consultation, and direct involvement in project activities. All these processes will be reported – through the most appropriate mechanism, adapted to the local context – and will be part of project monitoring and reporting processes.

Accountability to stakeholders is one of the most important dimensions integrated in the project's M&E process. This step will ensure the sustainability of the intervention. The project strengthens accountability to Stakeholders through all the project's components.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? *Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.*	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? *Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5below before proceeding to Question 5*			QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High
Risk Description (broken down by event, cause, impact)	***Impact and Likelihood (1-5)***	***Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)***	***Comments (optional)***	***Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High***
Risk 1. Rights-holders do not have the capacity **to claim relevant rights**, especially amongst less educated rural populations, some of which are indigenous peoples/local communities. Principles: Human Rights: (Question: P3) Accountability (Question: P14) Project level standards: 6 – Indigenous peoples (Question: 6.4)	I = 3 L = 3	Moderate	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **1.3.4.** Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc. **2.1.1.** In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework. **2.1.2.** Trainings for private companies, academic entities,	Screening: To assess and manage all the identified risks will be screened on a site and value chain specific basis using the SESP. Based on the impacts identified, appropriate impact management measures will be integrated in the ESMP, that will be prepared by the first project year, for each region and each value chain targeted. This SESP will be revised as part of regular project monitoring and based on further assessments and on information/details gathered during project implementation. Revisions of the SESP will inform the ESIA and ESMP over the course of the project. Assessment: As the project is Substantial risk with potential downstream and upstream impacts, the ESIA is required at field-level activities and the SESA is required for the policy-level activities and will focus especially on Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 1.3.4, 2.2.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.4 The ESIA and SESA will take place during the first project year. No activities which might have adverse impacts on the rights, lands, resources and territories of Indigenous Peoples and

			and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management. **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced, [includes training of local resource suppliers to provide required primary materials to standard and in a sustainable way (activity); and a Study on the usefulness and feasibility of a Morocco ABS Product Label **3.1.1.** Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles integrated in Regional Development Programmes. **3.1.4.** Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and law enforcement)	Local Communities will commence until the ESIA/SESA is completed, impact management measures established, and FPIC has been obtained. The SESA will be developed to ensure the impacts of upstream activities, in Component 1, are assessed and mitigation measures are identified in the Action Matrix. The ESMF will inform further Stakeholder Engagement, establish the ToR for ESIA/SESA, and strategies and plans to ensure the involvement of all project affected groups. Further assessments of the roles of individuals and groups, with a focus on women and on the participation to decision making process of the different groups, have been done during the PPG. The potential impacts of the project on rights and interests, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods have been pre-assessed. Consultations with relevant stakeholder groups have been undertaken by national and international consultants. The findings have been incorporated into the project design. The FPIC has begun during PPG and will continue during project implementation with the aim of achieving initial consent from the specific rights-holders, in line with Standard 6 requirements. FPIC will be applied to all project's beneficiaries, vulnerable individuals and communities with respect to project activities and plans, and the principles and key concepts of Standard 6 will be fully reflected in the ESMF/ESMP, and the approach to Stakeholder Engagement. Stakeholder identification and prioritization will be updated at the project inception phase, ensuring that a consultation process is in place throughout the project's implementation <u>Management:</u> During the PPG, a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, Gender Action Plan and a Grievance Redress Mechanism have all been developed and will ensure local communities and vulnerable people, such as women, are involved in project implementation and can have access to a feedback mechanism ensuring their meaningful participation to project activities. Further Stakeholder consultation will be done all along the project: stakeholder consultation will be central to the methodology of the additional targeted studies which will, in all its aspects, pay particular attention to the needs of the

				poorest sections of society, and mitigation/management strategies will be developed specifically targeted towards the needs and concerns of poor and vulnerable groups. An Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan will be developed for each region (by the first project year), considering the presence of marginalized local communities. The Plans will be developed in line with the UNDP requirements of Indigenous Peoples Plan, with a focus on assessing and monitoring the relations between groups, to be able to avoid increasing any conflict already existing between the local communities present in the project area. The Plans will ensure that the project will engage all communities at project sites in the ABS dialogue and provide culturally sensitive training that consider traditional practices and natural resource uses, while promoting sustainable natural resources management mechanisms. An ESMP will be developed for each value chain targeted by the project.
Risk 2. Duty-bearers (government and private sector partners) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations **in respecting and protecting the human rights of affected populations.** Principles: Human Rights Question: P.2 Project Level Standards: 6 – Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.3	I = 3 L = 4	Moderate	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **1.1.1.** Strategic advocacy Programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.) **1.1.3.** Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework **1.1.4.** Complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g. directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA interior regulations, TK protection system, benefit sharing mechanisms, biodiversity	<u>Assessment and Management:</u> The SESA and ESIA will include the impacts of upstream and downstream activities on human rights of the affected population. The SESA will focus especially on Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 1.3.4, 2.2.1, 3.1.1 3.1.4 An ESIA will be developed for each value chain and propose safeguards including monitoring arrangements, which will be integrated into the ESMPs. The SESA – and the related reports and Action Matrix - will also include study on how ABS related intervention might affect human rights of the most vulnerable groups.

			conservation benefits) prepared, validated by National Biodiversity Sub-committee and submitted to General Government Secretariat **1.2.1.** ABS training program developed and implemented includes: a) Training/ certification workshops for relevant national government agencies (environment, agriculture, fisheries, water and forestry, scientific research, etc.) on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework, including inter alia PIC, MAT, ABS contract negotiations, business models of industries (pharmaceutical, cosmetics, agriculture, etc) that use genetic resources and their implications on benefit-sharing models, ABS permit granting process, ABS control points and genetic resources use monitoring, benefit-sharing mechanism and biodiversity benefits, online platform for ABS access requests, IRCC procedure, ABS CHM, etc. b) Training of key national/regional NGOs (FM6PE, FM6RSA, Ibn El Baytar) and relevant local stakeholders on technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.) **1.2.2.** A guide to negotiating ABS contracts is produced, adapted to Moroccan and international ABS legislation **1.3.4.** Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing	

			mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc **2.1.2.** Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management. **2.2.1.** At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation. **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.	
			3.1.1. Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles integrated in Regional Development Programmes.	
			3.1.3. Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on	

			biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS. **3.1.4.** Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and law enforcement) **3.2.1.** Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats	
Risk 3. Project support directly or indirectly linked to rural livelihoods lead to **child labour** (boys and girls) especially in the collection of primary materials or other tasks for ABS value chains. Principles: Human Rights Questions P.2, P.3, P.4, P.5 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Questions P.9, P10 Project level Standards 7. Labour and Working Conditions Questions: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.5	I = 3 L = 3	Moderate	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **2.2.1.** At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation. **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.	<u>Screening:</u> The risk has been reassessed during the PPG and scored as Moderate. The risk has been incorporated into the ESMF, and into site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs. As Moderate, the requirements of UNDP's SES Standard 7 will apply. <u>Assessment and Management:</u> The SESA (for output 2.2.1) and ESIA will include a review of labour standards foreach value chain targeted by the Project, and propose safeguards including monitoring arrangements which will be integrated into the ESMPs The SESA – and the related reports and Action Matrix - will also include study on how ABS related intervention might affect labour requirements, potentially increasing pressure to employ children

Risk 4. Project support directly or indirectly linked to rural livelihoods lead to unduly modified work or **enhanced workloads for women, that could lead to gender-based violence**, especially in the collection of primary materials or other tasks for ABS value chains. Principles: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P.9 Accountability Question: P.14 Project level Standards: 7 - Labour and Working Conditions Questions: 7.1, 7.5	I = 3 L = 3	Moderate	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **1.3.4.** Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc. **2.2.1.** At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation. **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced, [includes training of local resource suppliers to provide required primary materials to standard and in a sustainable way (activity); and a Study on the usefulness and feasibility of a Morocco ABS Product Label	Assessment: A full Gender Analysis has been developed to clarify relevant gender concerns and identify how the mainstreaming of gender into the project interventions can be achieved. In this regard as part of the PPG consultations with relevant women's groups/leaders have been conducted by the project's development team, to better understand the role of women and men in project related sectors, such as access to natural resources, income generating activities and participation to cooperatives and farmer organizations. The risk will be assessed through the ESIA. The planned SESA will assess the impact of outputs 1.3.4 and 2.2.1. Management: The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: • The Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plans will include the Gender approach, considering the differences among groups/communities. • The consultation of women and girls will be ensured during project implementation, especially in planning, monitoring and reporting processes. • Informed by the Gender Analysis, the Gender Action Plan has been developed to actively promote the role of women and girls in the project and will be updated by the first six months of the project. • A Gender Action Plan, for each value chain, will be developed during the first year of the project and will include the use of the Mind your step! Tool, to mainstream Gender in value chains. The Gender Action Plans will include mitigation measures for any possible risk of gender based violence. • The comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan includes women's engagement in project related activities. • As Stakeholders and as project beneficiaries, women will have access to the project Grievance Redress Mechanism. • The SESA findings will be included in the Action Matrix
Risk 5. Given the prevailing cultural context, groups marginalised for socio-economic, tribal (especially indigenous peoples) or gender (especially women) reasons are **not duly consulted and involved** in the project, do not benefit equally, and that the project	I = 3 L = 3	Moderate	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **1.1.1.** Strategic advocacy Programme defined and delivered to leverage final	Assessment: At PPG stage, an ESMF, an IP LC F and a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan have been developed for the entire project to ensure meaningful stakeholder consultation and engagement across all elements of the project. The findings from the ESIA to be developed for

and its stakeholders reproduce established discriminations, potentially leading to inadvertent harm. Principles: Human Rights Question: P3 Accountability Question: P13, P14 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P10 Project level Standards: 6 - Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.4			adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.) **1.1.3.** Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework 1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented includes: a) Training/ certification workshops for relevant national government agencies (environment, agriculture, fisheries, water and forestry, scientific research, etc.) on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework. b) Training of key national/regional NGOs (FM6PE, FM6RSA, Ibn El Baytar) and relevant local stakeholders on technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.) **1.2.2.** A guide to negotiating ABS contracts is produced, adapted to Moroccan and international ABS legislation **1.3.1.** Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco **1.3.4.** Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and	each value chain will focus also on the impacts of the projects on the most marginalized groups. A full Gender Analysis has been developed to clarify relevant gender concerns and identify how the mainstreaming of gender into the project interventions can be achieved. In this regard during the PPG specific consultations with relevant women's groups/leaders have been conducted by the project's development team, to better understand the role of women and men in project related sectors, such as access to natural resources, income generating activities and participation to cooperatives and farmer organizations. The SESA will assess the impacts of outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, 1.3.4 and 3.1.4. <u>Management:</u> The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: • The Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plans will include the Gender approach, considering the differences among groups/communities. • The consultation of women and girls will be ensured during project implementation, especially in planning, monitoring and reporting processes. • Informed by the Gender Analysis, the Gender Action Plan has been developed to actively promote the role of women and girls in the project and will be updated by the first six months of the project. A Gender Action Plan, for each value chain, will be developed during the first year of the project and will include the use of the Mind your step! Tool, to mainstream Gender in value chains. • The comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan includes women's engagement in project related activities. • In addition, site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs may be developed that include site-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans and Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities Plan (including FPIC processes), where relevant. • Stakeholders will also have access to a project Grievance Redress Mechanism, to be in place. Project-affected peoples will be informed about the existence of these processes and mechanisms. • The SESA findings will be included in the Action Matrix

			operationalized, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc. **2.1.1.** In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework **2.1.2.** Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management **3.1.2.** Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency **3.1.4.** Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and law enforcement) **3.2.1**Water and Forest National Agency and other key	

			government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats **4.1.1.** Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements.	
Risk 6. The Project or the wider ABS framework leads to the **commercial exploitation of traditional knowledge** without due consultations and recognition, without a fully functional ABS law and framework in place, and/or without due benefit sharing with TK holders, potentially leading to inadvertent harm to indigenous peoples (Amazigh) or other local communities and their heritage and traditions. Principles: Human Rights Questions: P2, P3, P4, P5, P6 Accountability Questions: P13, P14. Project level Standards 1 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Questions: 1.2, 1.3, 1.6 4 - Cultural Heritage Questions: 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 6 – Indigenous Peoples Questions: 6.4, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9	I = 4 L = 3	Substantial	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **1.1.4.** Complementary legal and regulatory texts (e.g. directives for the application of the ABS Law, CNA interior regulations, TK protection system, benefit sharing mechanisms, biodiversity conservation benefits) prepared, validated by National Biodiversity Sub-committee and submitted to General Government Secretariat **1.3.1.** Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco **1.3.4.** Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc. **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users,	<u>Assessment and Management</u> At PPG stage, an ESMF, an IP LC F and a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan have been developed for the entire project to ensure meaningful stakeholder participation, consultation and engagement across all elements of the project. An ESIA will be developed for each value chain, an IP-LC P will be developed for each region and a SESA will be developed including the impacts of Output 1.1.4 and 1.3.4 Stakeholders will also have access to a project Grievance Redress Mechanism, to be in place. Project-affected peoples will be informed about the existence of these processes and mechanisms. In addition, site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs will be developed that include the site-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans and Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities Plans (including FPIC processes), where relevant. Moreover, the project will ensure that ABS-related TK is safely documented and registered, and that no genetic resource agreements are struck with commercial entities before the ABS law and framework are fully adopted and operational. This process will be ensured also through FPIC.

			with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced, **3.2.1.** Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats	
Risk 7. The project leads to **economic displacement** in some parts of the population including women and indigenous peoples, considering that the project is expected to catalyze more sustainable land use, natural resource exploitation and ecosystem management, which could curtail access to traditional natural resources and harm local livelihoods, Principles: Human Rights Questions: P4, P5, P6. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Questions: P9, P10, P11. Accountability Question: P14. Project Level Standards: 1 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Question: 1.3, 1.6, 1.9 5 - Displacement and Resettlement Questions: 5.2, 5.4 6 – Indigenous Peoples Questions: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7.	I = 4 L = 4	Substantial	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced, Specific attention will be put on the combined Saffron-Argan value chain. This new value chain will support the re-introduction of Argan in an area where local communities left Argan to move to Saffron value chain, due to economic reasons and to the depletion of Argan resources. This change must be proposed through a strong participatory approach, ensuring the involvement of all the stakeholders in the areas – especially the most vulnerable groups.	Assessment: As indicated in the ESMF, an ESIA for each targeted value chain and the SESA will be prepared by the first project year and will include the impacts of the activities included in output 2.2.3. The ESIA will include a Displacement Risk Assessments. Management: The risk will be managed through the ESIAs/ESMPs, SESA Action Matrix and Stakeholder consultations, in line with the Stakeholder Engagement Plans and the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plans, ensuring that livelihoods are not adversely impacted by the project. The impact assessment will identify any economic displacement, and strategies will be included to avoid, minimize or manage any such impacts. Where necessary, a Livelihood Action Plan will be produced to ensure that any such impacts are appropriately managed. The Livelihood Action Plan will be developed – where needed – to ensure that in all the communities who could be impacted by the project the risk identified is mitigated, in case the impacts will affect livelihood ecosystems of which the targeted value chains are part.
Risk 8. The project affects the **development priorities and cultural heritage** (transhumance, value systems, wealth management) **or natural features with cultural significance** of some indigenous peoples, considering that the project is	I = 4 L = 4	Substantial	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users,	Assessment: The ESIAs will assess whether natural features with cultural significance will be impacted by the project in each targeted region. Where they are found to be project-affected, FPIC consultations will be carried out with the objective of achieving initial consent from specific rights-holders, in line

expected to catalyze more sustainable land use, natural resource exploitation and ecosystem management, which could curtail access to traditional natural resources and harm local livelihoods. Principles Human Rights Question: P4, P6. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P11. Accountability Question: P14. Project level Standards 1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Question: 1.2, 1.3, 1.6 4. Cultural Heritage Questions: 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 5.Displacement and Resettlement Questions: 5.2, 5.4 6. Indigenous Peoples Questions: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9			with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced **3.1.4.** Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and law enforcement) **3.2.1.** Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional biodiversity committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats	with Standard 6 requirements. Further FPIC consultations will be on-going and followed during project implementation, following the measures summarized in the ESMF, in the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Planning Framework (as IPPF) and in the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plans that will be prepared as part of the subsequent ESMPs as required by ESIA assessment reports. ESIAs will include a focus on natural features with cultural significance identification and analysis, with a strong participatory approach, to collect information from local communities about the meaning of the natural features, A community mapping will be included in the ESIAs to ensure the communities' perception of the landscape and of the natural resources is taken into consideration and will inform the ESMPs. <u>Management</u> The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: • The Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan - in which inputs from the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plans will be considered - will include consultations with stakeholders involved in cultural heritage management. • The management of this risk will be included into the ESMPs, based on ESIAs findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports.
Risk 9. The successful establishment of new value chains <u>directly</u> lead to increased **exploitation of natural resources and ecosystems/biodiversity** in the regions where the project is implemented Principles: Human Rights Questions: P4, P5, P6 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P11 Accountability Question: P14 Project Level Standards	I = 4 L = 3	Substantial	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **2.2.1.** At least three comprehensive ABS contracts signed for the development of new ABS products that include inter alia bio-prospecting permits, PIC, MAT, material transfer agreements with measures for sustainable use, and benefit-sharing for community benefit and ecosystem conservation **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users,	<u>Assessment:</u> At PPG stage, an ESMF has been developed for the entire project, which is required to incorporate anESIA, and comprehensive assessments of value chains targeted by the project that define needs in terms of raw materials for harvesting, carrying capacity and sustainable exploitation levels, risks to valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. Related impacts from upstream national-level work (ABS framework) will be assessed by the SESA, planned in the ESMF, at project inception phase. <u>Management</u> The management of this risk will be included into the ESMPs, based on ESIAs findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports. The project will ensure that the safeguards requirements are

1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Questions: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13 6 -Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.3 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency Question: 8.2			with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced As indicating at PIF stage, both regarding the taxa targeted under the project, but also more widely through the implementation of the ABS framework, this risk can happen if collection is not embedded in a sustainable management approach, especially given that rural populations and administration by default expect value chains that generate local returns based on continuing collection of primary matter. In addition, upscaling of the ABS framework, could replicate the same direct impacts in other resources/areas in Morocco. Considering that Saffron is a cultivar, the project inadvertently may serve as an incentive to expand the cultivation area of Saffron with potential impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.	reflected in the emerging ABS framework over the course of the project. In replication efforts, which are linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks.
Risk 10. The successful establishment of new value chains (ABS, or inadvertently Biotrade) <u>indirectly</u> lead **to increased pressures on natural resources** and ecosystems/biodiversity Principles: Human Rights Questions: P4, P5, P6, P7 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P11 Accountability Question: P14 Project level Standards:	I = 4 L = 2	Moderate	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced As highlighted at PIF stage, successful investment by government and donors in the target area might attract additional populations, and secondly successful livelihood interventions could offer	<u>Assessment:</u> For the upstream national-level work (ABS framework), the SESA will be conducted at project inception phase and will ensure that the emerging requirements are reflected in the emerging ABS framework over the course of the project. Government and project team will monitor for such trends and intervene especially where significant immigration and behavioral or wealth changes could undermine project success. At PPG stage, an ESMF has been developed for the entire project, which is required to incorporate an ESIA, and comprehensive assessments of value chains targeted by the project that define raw material sourcing needs, carrying capacity and sustainable exploitation levels, risks to valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. <u>Management:</u>

1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Questions: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13 6 -Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.3 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency Question: 8.2			beneficiaries the resources needed to acquire new technologies/ equipment/ pesticides and greater livestock numbers with consequential environmental impacts. In addition, upscaling of the ABS framework, if not embedded in a sustainable ecosystem management approach, could replicate the same indirect impacts in other resources/areas in Morocco. Considering that Saffron is a cultivar, the project inadvertently may serve as an incentive to expand the cultivation area of Saffron with potential impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.	In replication efforts, which are linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks. The management of this risk will be included into the ESMPs, based on ESIAs findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports.
Risk 11. Project's activities increase the vulnerabilities of populations (especially women living in rural areas) to the **effects of climate change.** Principles: Human Rights Questions: P4, P5, P6, P7 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P11 Accountability Question: P14 Project level Standards: 2 - Climate Change and Disaster Risks Questions: 2.2, 2.3	I = 3 L = 3	Moderate	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced, During Stakeholder consultations in PPG phase and as per Gender analysis findings, women (especially young women) living in rural areas are affected by the impacts of climate change. All the project stakeholders need to be informed about the risk of increasing this vulnerability. The vulnerability can increase when the ABS product raw material supply chain is operationalized, considering the activities can have impact on areas affected by climate change	<u>Assessment and Management:</u> The project must promote climate-smart value chains development targeting natural resources, for climate-smart livelihoods. This risk has been managed through the design of the project and will be further examined in the course of the ESIAs, based on the ESMF, and included in the ESMPs as determined necessary.

			and the effect of cumulative impacts (for instance on water resources) can increase the vulnerability of local communities, especially of the most vulnerable groups. Considering the project will focus on three new value chains (Cedar lichen, Saffron, and the combined Saffron-Argan value chain), at project design phase there are not yet enough elements to identify how these value chains can impact on availability of resources used for value chains development. This could be especially the case of the Cedar lichen value chain that will be structured from zero. Data collection and analysis, especially for the Gender Analysis, highlighted how one of the most relevant reasons of people's vulnerabilities is the effect of climate change. For this reason this risk will be assessed and monitored. Changes in climate could have an impact on project's outputs and on vulnerability of communities. The project areas will be sensitive to increased droughts and deterioration of habitat as a result of climate change. However, planned project activities (such as the ones under Component 4, that will raise awareness on risk related to Climate change) and activities planned in the Gender Action Plan (such as the support to access to water and transports) will contribute towards increased	

			resilience to climate change effects in the area. The vulnerability of communities will be monitored and reported at national level, and these processes must ensure the consultation with local communities, to include their feedback.	
Risk 12: The wild harvesting by local communities and the traditional value chain structure is impacted by new value chain's structure, with an impact on gender balance and on traditional **social roles in the local communities.** Principles: Human rights Questions: P4, P5, P6, P7 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Questions: P9, P10, P11 Project level Standards: 1 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Question: 1.3, 1.6 4 - Cultural Heritage Question: 4.4, 4.5 5 - Displacement and Resettlement Question: 5.4 6 – Indigenous Peoples Question: 6.3 7 - Labour and Working Conditions Question: 7.5	I = 4 L = 4	Substantial	Here below the relevant Outputs that can lead to the identified risk: **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced During stakeholder consultations, data showed that possible project partners are structuring value chain targeting resources that are traditionally collected in an not organized and not structured way and collect both by men and women. The Implementation of ABS framework has to take into consideration traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices), such as the practices related to economic activities and the roles of the different social groups.	<u>Assessment:</u> Stakeholder identification and analysis and Stakeholder engagement plan developed during PPG will be updated and monitored during the implementation phase. The Stakeholder Analysis at value chain level will focus on assessing the sociocultural context, identifying social roles in local communities. An ESIA per each value chain will be prepared by the first project year and will include the elements explained above and the impacts the project can have on the existing dynamics, identifying the mitigation measures. <u>Management:</u> The mitigations measures will be included in the ESMPs. This risk will be managed also through the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan that will be prepared for each region by the first project year and through the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plans. The Grievance Redress mechanism that will take into consideration the local grievance mechanism already in place will be implemented during the project's implementation and will support the mitigation of the identified risk.
Risk 13: Involvement – also in co-financing the project (co-financing "as project results") - of the private sector has an impact on **respect of Safeguards standards** (respect of Human Rights, Gender balance, etc...) All the principles and standards identified for the other risks	I = 4 L = 4	Substantial	Involvement of private sector need an additional screening/assessment of the value/supply chain Principal relevant Output that can lead to the identified risk:	<u>Assessment and Management</u> As per the Guidance on Application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards for Co-Financing (and Parallel Funding) - Environmental Vertical Funds - December 2021, the Project has co-financing included in project results that is not administered by UNDP. Therefore:

			2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced,	UNDP is accountable to monitor all project results, including those delivered by co-financing, to ensure consistency with UNDP policies/procedures, including SES. While the co-financing partner applies their own policies & procedures, the UNDP project's governance, management, assurance, monitoring arrangements apply. UNDP is accountable for ensuring Option 1b activities are "consistent" with SES and grievances may be eligible for SECU investigation. These measures are included in the ESMF. Under component 4, trainings and activities have been detailed to ensure the UNDP Safeguards standards are known and addressed by the main Stakeholders. ESIAs, SESA, Gender Action Plans, Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plans and ESMPs will be developed through a strong participatory approach and the main findings and concerns will be shared also with private sector actors. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan that will be developed for each value chain will support the mitigation of the identified risk. In the ESMP that will be developed for each value chain a specific focus will be on private sector involvement in the project. A Social and Environmental Commitment Plan, summarizing key commitments they agree to implement per the framework that has been developed for the project, will be prepared and signed by the co-financing partners prior to initiation of co-financing activities.
Risk 14: Access to economic resources and natural resources facilitated through interventions create or **exacerbate conflicts** between groups or increase the risk of violence between project-affected communities and individuals. Principle: Human rights Question: P.7 Accountability Questions: P13, P14 Project level Standards: 6 - Indigenous Peoples	I = 4 L = 3	Substantial	Principal relevant Output that can lead to the identified risk: **2.2.3.** ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced, The communities and groups living in the project areas are involved in different livelihood activities related to access to land and other natural resources.	<u>Assessment:</u> Stakeholder identification and analysis and Stakeholder engagement plan developed during PPG will be updated and monitored during the implementation phase A SESA will be developed for assessing the impact of output 2.2.3 and an ESIA per each value chain will be prepared by the first year of the project and will include conflict analysis and assessment. The ESIAs and the SESA will have a focus on the current anthropological scenario, identifying the nature of the relations between different groups at all levels (national, regional and local) and the impact the project's outputs can have on these relations. <u>Management:</u>

Questions: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.9			There are sedentary and nomadic communities. Between different communities and groups there may already exist disputes and conflicts that could be exacerbated by the identified outputs. In particular, the selection of location and the selection of beneficiaries can lead to exacerbating inequality and potential conflicts, if a participatory approach is not granted and if the impacts are not identified at site level.	This risk will be managed through an Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan that will be prepared for each region by the first project year and through the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plans, integrating the findings of the conflict assessment/ESIAs/SESA. A Grievance Redress mechanism, which will take into consideration the local grievance mechanism already in place, will be implemented during the project's implementation. Where necessary, inter-groups stakeholder consultations will be held to resolve "territorial" disputes relating to resource use. An ESMP per each value chain will be prepared by the first year of the project and will include mitigation measures based on ESIAs findings, including the ones identified through the conflict assessment.
Risk 15: Participation in project activities could pose a potential risk of increased exposure to COVID-19 and other occupational risks. Principles Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Question: P.11 Accountability Question: P14 Project Level Standards: 3 – Community Health, Safety and Security Question: 3.4 7 - Labour and Working Conditions Question: 7.6	I = 4 L= 2	Moderate	Initial project arrangements and inter-institutional coordination with government partners at the national, regional and local level may be delayed. Activities could be postponed and even come to a halt due to restrictions in movement.	This risk will be managed on the basis of the national regulations from the Health Authority to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The design of the project interventions will take into account the specific measures necessary to mitigate any potential risk of exposure during implementation. Consistent with current health constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, project implementation will employ videoconferencing equipment for virtual meetings and workshops, where necessary; adjust the annual work plans/timelines to allow some field or ongoing consultation-related activities to be conducted in virtual mode, as needed; and/or provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent exposure to stakeholders and project participants. The availability travel restrictions of technical expertise and capacity due to COVID-19 will also be considered.

	QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?		
	Low Risk	☐	
	Moderate Risk	☐	
	Substantial Risk	X	Overall, the risk rating for this project is Substantial (A total of 15 risks have been identified: 7 risks are rated as *Substantial,* 8 risks are rated as *Moderate).*

				To meet the SES requirements the following have been prepared: (1) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); (2) Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan; (3) Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan; (4) Grievance Redress Mechanism. To mitigate the identified risks an ESIA for each region and each targeted value chain is required for the field-level activities and a SESA is required for Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 1.3.4, 2.2.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.4 as detailed assessment of the cumulative project-wide risks under the upstream planning, policy and strategic components. Both assessments will be developed within the first project year. The ESIA will inform the development of the required ESMP, one for each region and for each targeted value chain, to be developed within the first year of the project. Considering the risks related to Standard 6, an Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan will be developed for each region and each targeted value chain within the first year of the project. To manage specific risks related to economic displacement and livelihoods, an Economic Displacement Risk Assessments and Livelihoods Action Plans will be included in the ESIA. ESIAs will assess if there are specific safeguards commitments to be implemented by the co-financing partners. If it is confirmed, a Social and Environmental Commitment Plan, summarizing key commitments they agree to implement per the framework that has been developed for the project, will be prepared and signed by the co-financing partners prior to initiation of co-financing activities. An effective, transparent, free-to-access project-level grievance mechanism will be put in place to ensure that all issues and concerns will be reported, discussed and addressed.
	High Risk	☐			
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)				
	Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
	Is assessment required? (check if "yes")	**X**			***Status? (completed, planned)***
			X	Targeted assessment(s) Gender Analysis	Completed

			X	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment) (one for each value chain) – for downstream components of the project - with Economic Displacement Risk Assessments and Livelihoods Action Plans.	Planned
			X	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment) -for upstream planning, policy and strategic components of the project (for identified outputs)	Planned
	Are management plans required? (check if "yes)	X			
	If yes, indicate overall type		X	Targeted management plans: Gender Action Plan	Completed
				Gender Action Plan for each region and value chain	Planned
				Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan	Completed
				Stakeholder Engagement Plan (one for each region and value chain)	Planned
				Indigenous Peoples -Local Communities Plan (IPP format) (one for each region)	Planned
				Livelihood Action Plans	Planned
			X	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan) (one for value chain)	Planned
			X	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework), including IP-LC PF (Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Planning Framework)	Completed
	Based on identified <u>risks</u>, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		**Comments (not required)**		
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind				
	Human Rights	X			

	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	X	
	Accountability	X	
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	X	
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	X	
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	X	
	4. Cultural Heritage	X	
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	X	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	X	
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	X	
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	X	

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

Signature	*Date*	*Description*
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have "cleared" the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind **Human Rights**		**Answer (Yes/No)**
P.1	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	N
P.2	Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project?	Y
P.3	Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	Y
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
P.4	adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	Y
P.5	inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? [16]	Y
P.6	restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	Y
P.7	exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	Y
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
P.8	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	N
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
P.9	adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	Y
P.10	reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participationin design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	Y
P.11	limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into accountdifferent roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? *For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being*	Y
P.12	exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? *For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.*	N

16 Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below		
Accountability		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
P.13	exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	Y
P.14	grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	Y
P.15	risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concernsor grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	N
Project-Level Standards		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
1.1	adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? *For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes*	Y
1.2	activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	Y
1.3	changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard5)	Y
1.4	risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	Y
1.5	exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	N
1.6	introduction of invasive alien species?	Y
1.7	adverse impacts on soils?	N
1.8	harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	Y
1.9	significant agricultural production?	Y
1.10	animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	N
1.11	significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? *For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction*	N
1.12	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms?[17]	N
1.13	utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)[18]	Y
1.14	adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	N

[17] See the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
[18] See the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
2.1	areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severewinds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	N
2.2	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters? *For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes*	Y
2.3	increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? *For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding*	Y
2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	N
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	N
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	N
3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	N
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	Y
3.5	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	N
3.6	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	N
3.7	influx of project workers to project areas?	N
3.8	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	N
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	Y
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	N
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	Y
4.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	Y
4.5	utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	Y
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		

5.1	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	N

5.2	economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	Y
5.3	risk of forced evictions?[19]	N
5.4	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	Y
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
6.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	Y
6.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	Y
6.3	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)? *If the answer to screening question 6.3 is "yes", then Standard 6 requirements apply, and the potential significance of risks related to impacts on indigenous peoples must be Moderate or above.* *	Y
6.4	the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	Y
6.5	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	Y
6.6	forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources? *Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above*	Y
6.7	adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	Y
6.8	risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	N
6.9	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices? *Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.*	Y
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	Y
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	Y
7.3	use of child labour?	Y
7.4	use of forced labour?	N
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	Y

[19] Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

* Note: revised February 2022 modifying presumption of risk significance from Substantial to Moderate.

Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
8.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	N
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	Y
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	N
8.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? *For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention*	N
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	N
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	N

Annex 6: UNDP Risk Register

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
1	National ABS Law not adopted by the end of first year of project implementation	Political Regulatory	Incomplete legal ABS framework will limit R&D and benefit-sharing based on selected genetic resources L = 2 I = 4 Moderate	The ratification of the Nagoya Protocol in April 2022 is a significant development in the consolidation of the national ABS framework for Morocco. This has resulted in a renewed interest in ABS at the country's institutional and ministerial levels, and presents an opportunity to promote the adoption of the ABS Law. To promote the adoption of the Law starting at its inception, the project will develop and deliver a strategic advocacy programme to leverage the final adoption of the ABS Law.	MTEDD-DDD
2	Lack of political will and lengthy process for the full national ABS framework to be adopted and operationalised	Political Regulatory	Incomplete legal ABS framework will limit R&D and benefit-sharing based on selected genetic resources L = 2 I = 4 Moderate	The project will seek to help the development of pilot value chains and establish ABS agreements on key resources by using already-existing procedures and mechanisms for accessing biological resources, in the various departments managing and monitoring the different involved ecosystems. This way, no new specific policies will be required to provide access and to establish value chains, while the political and parliamentary process takes place for the adoption of the national ABS legal framework. ABS agreements will be developed under the existing guidelines of existing laws on biodiversity (namely CITES) and will establish benefit-sharing clauses between private entities (users and providers of genetic resources) that will require minimal input from government authorities. The departments involved in the future National Competent Authority will be consulted on an individual and case-by-case basis to simulate and test their ABS processes without hindering the establishment of prospective ABS agreements between private parties, on an observational basis only. If the ABS legal framework is adopted during the project implementation, the ABS agreements will be subject to validation by the National Competent Authority, whose sub-committee will have been involved in the development of said pilot agreements at an early stage.	MTEDD-DDD
3	The genetic resource value chain is insufficiently developed to bioprospecting and industry standards	Technical Strategic	Project activities related to R&D cannot proceed limiting the impact of the project L = 3 I = 4 Substantial	The genetic resources chosen to build the value chains around were carefully selected based on a feasibility assessment, regional specificities, and the interest of private companies, national research teams, and the civil sector in promoting the value chains	MTEDD-DDD

				with high economic potential. Only genetic resources that have been subject to high previous demand from bioprospectors, and where Morocco is a recognized high-level producer at the regional level, were considered.	
4	PIC (or permits) is not granted and/or MAT (or ABS contracts) are not reached	Regulatory Strategic	Project activities related to R&D cannot proceed limiting the impact of the project L = 3 I = 4 Substantial	The project through its multiple activities will promote conditions (legal clarity, access to information, training, consultations, collaborative research, etc.) that are conducive to PIC, MAT, and the singing of three comprehensive ABS contracts for the development of innovative ABS products	MTEDD-DDD
5	Failure from biotech companies to identify promising extracts and compounds for developing ABS products	Technical	The development of ABS products is not feasible; thus, the development of ABS products and benefit-sharing is not possible limiting the impact of the project L = 3 I = 4 Substantial	The project, in coordination with users of genetic resources, may explore and incorporate alternative genetic resources and other value chains into the project as part of adaptive management, as time and resources permit	MTEDD-DDD Biotech companies
6	Lack of capacity and political will to add value to genetic resources and to develop, negotiate and monitor benefit-sharing agreements.	Technical	Project activities related to R&D cannot proceed limiting the impact of the project L = 2 I = 4 Moderate	Key genetic resources will be selected for the pilot ABS value chains development, that are proritized in the local development plans for forestry and agriculture at the regional level, and where local authorities have already experience in dealing with producers and local communities on said resource. ABS and biodiversity in general will be integrated into the local and regional development strategies in order to ensure that local decision-makers are in line and supportive of the establishment of value chains and ABS agreements on the targeted resources.	MTEDD-DDD
7	Risks emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic	Environmental	Although the COVID-19 pandemic is receding in Morocco, new outbreaks may affect project beneficiaries and the PMU participating in project activities, which could be postponed and delaying project implementation L = 2 I = 4 Moderate	The main risk is that the reactivation of the COVID-19 pandemic will likely reduce the resources available in the Moroccan Government for environmental management. Activating the ABS framework and engaging the private sector in developing more sustainable business models and rural livelihoods therefore seems well aligned with the desired green recovery. At the same time, the risk that ABS product development could be reduced seems very marginal, given how little the cosmetic sector has been affected by the pandemic to this date.	MTEDD-DDD
8	**SESP Risk** 1: Rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim relevant rights, especially amongst less educated rural populations, some of which are indigenous	Social	There may be some of marginalized Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities that may be not fully involved and cannot participate and/or claim their rights due to their own limitations of knowledge/capacity/power/cultural	<u>Screening:</u> To assess and manage all the identified risks will be screened on a site and value chain specific basis using the SESP. Based on the impacts identified, appropriate impact management measures will be integrated in the	MTEDD-DDD

	peoples/local communities		norms, etc., actions that limit their participation in the project L = 3 I = 3 Moderate	ESMP, that will be prepared by the first project year, for each region and each value chain targeted. This SESP will be revised as part of regular project monitoring and based on further assessments and on information/details gathered during project implementation. Revisions of the SESP will inform the ESIA and ESMP over the course of the project. <u>Assessment:</u> As the project is Substantial risk with potential downstream and upstream impacts, the ESIA is required at field-level activities and the SESA is required for the policy-level activities. The ESIA and SESA will take place during the first project year. No activities which might have adverse impacts on the rights, lands, resources and territories of marginalized Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will commence until the ESIA/SESA is completed, impact management measures established, and broad community consent has been obtained. The FPIC has begun during PPG and will continue during project implementation with the aim of achieving initial consent from the specific rights-holders, in line with Standard 6 requirements. <u>Management:</u> During the PPG, a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, Gender Action Plan and a Grievance Redress Mechanism have all been developed and will ensure local communities and vulnerable people, such as women, are involved in project implementation and can have access to a feedback mechanism ensuring their meaningful participation to project activities. Further Stakeholder consultation will be done all along the project An Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan will be developed for each region and for each targeted value chain (by the first project year), considering the presence of marginalized local communities. The Plans will ensure that the project will engage all communities at project sites in the ABS dialogue.	

				An ESMP will be developed for each region and for each value chain targeted by the project.	
9	**SESP Risk 2.** Duty-bearers (government and private sector partners) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in respecting and protecting the human rights of affected populations.	Organizational Regulatory	Weak governance and capacity for enforcement of project partners (national and local government) may have limitations in fulfilling the obligations derived from the execution of the activities anticipated by the project and compliance with safeguard guidelines L = 4 I = 3 Moderate	Assessment and Management: The SESA and ESIA will include the impacts of upstream and downstream activities on human rights of the affected population. The SESA will focus especially on Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.4, 1.2.2, 2.2.1, and 3.1.4 An ESIA will be developed for each region where the activities will be implemented and for each value chain and propose safeguards including monitoring arrangements which will be integrated into the ESMPs. The SESA – and the related reports and Action Matrix - will also include study on how ABS related intervention might affect human rights of the most vulnerable groups.	MTEDD-DDD Private sector companies
10	**SESP Risk 3.** Project support directly or indirectly linked to rural livelihoods lead to child labour (boys and girls) especially in the collection of primary materials or other tasks for ABS value chains.	Social	Morocco is consolidating important efforts to eliminate child labor, however, in rural areas child labor (boys, girls, youth) is used, mainly in agricultural activities. L = 3 I = 3 Moderate	Screening: The risk has been reassessed during the PPG and scored as Moderate. The risk has been incorporated into the ESMF, and into site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs. As Moderate, the requirements of UNDP's SES Standard 7 will apply. Assessment and Management: The SESA (for output 2.2.1) and ESIA will include a review of labour standards in each region where the activities will be implemented, and propose safeguards including monitoring arrangements which will be integrated into the ESMPs The SESA – and the related reports and Action Matrix - will also include study on how ABS related intervention might affect labour requirements, potentially increasing pressure to employ children.	MTEDD-DDD
11	**SESP Risk 4.** Project support directly or indirectly linked to rural livelihoods lead to unduly modified work or enhanced workloads for women, especially in the collection of primary materials or other tasks for ABS value chains.	Social	There may be gender disparities that are much more exacerbated in rural women. L = 3 I = 3 Moderate	Assessment: The risk will be assessed through the ESIA. The planned SESA will assess the impact of output 2.2.1. Management: The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: • The Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan will include the Gender approach, considering the differences among groups/communities. • The consultation of women	MTEDD-DDD Gender /Safeguards Expert

				and girls will be ensured during project implementation, especially in planning, monitoring and reporting processes. • Informed by the Gender Analysis, the Gender Action Plan has been developed to actively promote the role of women and girls in the project and will be updated by the first six months of the project. • A Gender Action Plan, for each region and each value chain, will be developed during the first year of the project and will include the use of the Mind your step! Tool, to mainstream Gender in value chains. • The comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan will also include women's engagement in project related activities. • As Stakeholders and as project beneficiaries, women will have access to the project Grievance Redress Mechanism. The SESA findings will be included in the Action Matrix	
12	**SESP Risk 5**. Given the prevailing cultural context, groups marginalised for socio-economic, tribal (especially indigenous peoples) or gender (especially women) reasons are not duly consulted and involved in the project, do not benefit equally, and that the project and its stakeholders reproduce established discriminations, potentially leading to inadvertent harm.	Social Strategic	Although FPIC was initiated during project design, the project management may fail to properly consult with vulnerable groups about the project and its activities as outlined in the ESMF. L = 3 I = 3 Moderate	<u>Assessment:</u> The SESA will assess the impacts of outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 <u>Management:</u> The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: • The Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan will include the Gender approach, considering the differences among groups/communities. • The consultation of women and girls will be ensured during project implementation, especially in planning, monitoring and reporting processes. • Informed by the Gender Analysis, the Gender Action Plan has been developed to actively promote the role of women and girls in the project and will be updated by the first six months of the project. A Gender Action Plan, for each region and each value chain, will be developed during the first year of the project and will include the use of the Mind your step! Tool, to mainstream Gender in value chains. • The comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan will also include women's engagement in project related activities. • In addition, site-specific	MTEDD-DDD Gender /Safeguards Expert

				(value-chain specific) ESMPs may be developed that include site-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans and Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities Plan (including FPIC processes), where relevant. • Stakeholders will also have access to a project Grievance Redress Mechanism, to be in place. Project-affected peoples will be informed about the existence of these processes and mechanisms. The SESA findings will be included in the Action Matrix	
13	**SESP Risk 6.** The Project or the wider ABS framework leads to the commercial exploitation of traditional knowledge without due consultations and recognition, without a fully functional ABS law and framework in place, and/or without due benefit sharing with TK holders, potentially leading to inadvertent harm to indigenous peoples (Amazigh) or other local communities and their heritage and traditions.	Social Strategic	Access to genetic and the associated traditional knowledge related to three ABS value chains may potentially affect the right holders. L = 3 I = 4 Substantial	<u>Assessment and Management</u> An ESIA and an IP-LC P will be developed for each region and value chain and a SESA will be developed including the impacts of Output 1.1.4. Stakeholders will also have access to a project Grievance Redress Mechanism, to be in place. Project-affected peoples will be informed about the existence of these processes and mechanisms. In addition, site-specific (value-chain specific) ESMPs will be developed that include the site-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans and Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities Plan (including FPIC processes), where relevant. Moreover, the project will ensure that ABS-related TK is safely documented and registered, and that no genetic resource agreements are struck with commercial entities before the ABS law and framework are fully adopted and operational.	MTEDD-DDD
14	**SESP Risk 7.** The project leads to economic displacement in some parts of the population including women and indigenous peoples, considering that the project is expected to catalyze more sustainable land use, natural resource exploitation and ecosystem management, which could curtail access to traditional natural resources and harm local livelihoods.	Social	Some farmers and their families may have to change their production practices to more sustainable alternatives resulting in temporary losses of economic opportunities. L = 4 I = 4 Substantial	<u>Assessment:</u> An ESIA for each region and each targeted value chain and the SESA will be prepared by the first project year and will include the impacts of the activities included in output 2.2.3. The ESIA will include a Displacement Risk Assessments. <u>Management:</u> The risk will be managed through the ESIA/ESMP, SESA Action Matrix and Stakeholder consultations, in line with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan, ensuring that livelihoods are not adversely impacted by the project. The impact assessment will identify any economic displacement, and strategies will be included to avoid, minimize or manage any such impacts. Where necessary, a	MTEDD-DDD

				Livelihood Action Plan will be produced to ensure that any such impacts are appropriately managed.	
15	**SESP Risk 8.** The project affects the development priorities and cultural **heritage** (transhumance, value systems, wealth management) or natural features with cultural significance of some indigenous peoples, considering that the project is expected to catalyze more sustainable land use, natural resource exploitation and ecosystem management, which could curtail access to traditional natural resources and harm local livelihoods.	Social	The project may promote changes in land use and or modes of production for conservation purposes and/or to adopt sustainable value chains that may be in conflict with traditional and cultural values regarding access to natural resources L = 4 I = 4 Substantial	Assessment: The ESIA will assess whether natural features with cultural significance will be impacted by the project in each targeted region. Where they are found to be project-affected, FPIC consultations will be carried out with the objective of achieving initial consent from specific rights-holders, in line with Standard 6 requirements. Further FPIC consultations will be on-going and followed during project implementation, following the measures summarized in the ESMF, in the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Planning Framework (as IPPF) and in the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan that will be prepared as part of the subsequent ESMP as required by ESIA assessment reports. ESIA and SESA will include a focus on natural features with cultural significance identification and analysis, with a strong participatory approach, to collect information from local communities about the meaning of the natural features, A community mapping will be included in the ESIA to ensure the communities' perception of the landscape and of the natural resources is taken into consideration and will inform the ESMP. Management The following are the management measures to mitigate this risk: • The Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan - in which inputs from the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan will be considered - will include consultations with stakeholders involved in cultural heritage management. • The management of this risk will be included into the ESMP, based on ESIA findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports.	MTEDD-DDD
16	**SESP Risk 9.** The successful establishment of new value chains (ABS, or inadvertently Biotrade) directly lead to increased exploitation of natural	Environmental	Project activities related to the supply of raw material for ABS value chains may result in unintended negative ecological impacts limiting the project's ability	Assessment: At PPG stage, an ESMF has been developed for the entire project, which is required to incorporate an ESIA, and comprehensive assessments of value chains targeted by the project	MTEDD-DDD

	resources and ecosystems/biodiversity		to deliver global environmental benefits L = 3 I = 4 Substantial	that define needs in terms of raw materials for harvesting, carrying capacity and sustainable exploitation levels, risks to valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. Related impacts from upstream national-level work (ABS framework) will be assessed by the SESA, planned in the ESMF, at project inception phase. Management The management of this risk will be included into the ESMP, based on ESIA findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports. The project will ensure that the safeguards requirements are reflected in the emerging ABS framework over the course of the project. In replication efforts, which are linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks.	
17	**SESP Risk 10.** The successful establishment of new value chains (ABS, or inadvertently Biotrade) indirectly lead to increased pressures on natural resources and ecosystems/biodiversity	Environmental	Project activities related to the supply of raw material for ABS value chains may result in unintended negative ecological impacts limiting the project's ability to deliver global environmental benefits L = 2 I = 4 Moderate	Assessment: For the upstream national-level work (ABS framework), the SESA will be conducted at project inception phase and will ensure that the emerging requirements are reflected in the emerging ABS framework over the course of the project. Government and project team will monitor for such trends and intervene especially where significant immigration and behavioral or wealth changes could undermine project success. Conduct an ESIA, and comprehensive assessments of value chains targeted by the project that define raw material sourcing needs, carrying capacity and sustainable exploitation levels, risks to valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. Management: In replication efforts, which are linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks. The management of this risk will be included into the ESMP, based on ESIA findings, and in the Action Matrix, included in the SESA reports.	MTEDD-DDD
18	**SESP Risk 11.** Project's activities increase the vulnerabilities of populations (especially women living in rural areas) to the effects of climate change.	Social	Morocco is vulnerable to climate change, in particular to drought. The impacts of climate change may include alterations in biodiversity patterns and to biodiversity loss, as well as modifications in the dynamics of	Assessment and Management: The project must promote climate-smart value chains development targeting natural resources, for climate-smart livelihoods. This risk has been managed through	MTEDD-DDD

			ecological processes. L = 3 I = 3 Moderate	the design of the project and will be further examined in the course of the ESIA, based on the ESMF, and included in the ESMP as determined necessary.	
19	**SESP Risk 12**: The wild harvesting by local communities and the traditional value chain structure is impacted by new value chain's structure, with an impact on gender balance and on traditional social roles in the local communities.	Social	The project may promote changes traditional value by promoting the ABS associated to genetic resources L = 4 I = 4 Substantial	Assessment: . An ESIA per each region and value chain will be prepared by the first project year and will include the elements explained above and the impacts the project can have on the existing dynamics, identifying the mitigation measures. Management: The mitigations measures will be included in the ESMP in each region. This risk will be managed also through the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan that will be prepared for each region and each value chain by the first project year and through the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The Grievance Redress mechanism that will take into consideration the local grievance mechanism already in place will be implemented during the project's implementation and will support the mitigation of the identified risk.	MTEDD-DDD
20	**SESP Risk 13**: Involvement – also in co-financing the project (co-financing option 1b) - of the private sector has an impact on respect of Safeguards standards (respect of Human Rights, Gender balance, etc...)	Social Financial	Most of the co-financing falls under category 1.b: Co-financing not administered by UNDP but included in UNDP project, of the categories for co-financing and UNDP accountability. L = 4 I = 4 Substantial	Assessment and Management As per the Guidance on Application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards for Co-Financing (and Parallel Funding) - Environmental Vertical Funds - December 2021, the Project is included in option 1b, where the co-financing is included in project results and is not administered by UNDP. Therefore: UNDP is accountable to monitor all project results, including those delivered by co-financing, to ensure consistency with UNDP & GEF policies/procedures, including SES. While the co-financing partner applies their own policies & procedures, the UNDP project's governance, management, assurance, monitoring arrangements apply. UNDP is accountable for ensuring Option 1b activities are "consistent" with SES and grievances may be eligible for SECU investigation.	MTEDD-DDD

				UNDP needs to ensure consistency with SES. Under component 4, trainings and activities have been detailed to ensure the UNDP Safeguards standards are known and addressed by the main Stakeholders. ESIA, SESA, Gender Action Plan, Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan and ESMP will be developed through a strong participatory approach and the main findings and concerns will be shared also with private sector actors. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan that will be developed for each region and each value chain will support the mitigation of the identified risk. In the ESMP that will be developed for each region and each value chain a specific focus will be on private sector involvement in the project. ESIAs will assess if there are specific safeguards commitments to be implemented by the co-financing partners. If it is confirmed, a Social and Environmental Commitment Plan, summarizing key commitments they agree to implement per the framework that has been developed for the project, will be prepared and signed by the co-financing partners prior to initiation of co-financing activities.	
21	**SESP Risk 14**: Access to economic resources and natural resources facilitated through interventions create or exacerbate conflicts between groups or increase the risk of violence between project-affected communities and individuals.	Social	The project may promote changes in land use and or modes of production for conservation purposes and/or to adopt sustainable value chains. These change could result in social conflict limiting the impact od the project. L = 3 I = 4 Substantial	<u>Assessment:</u> A SESA will be developed for upstream activities and an ESIA per each region and value chain will be prepared by the first year of the project and will include conflict analysis and assessment. The ESIA and the SESA will have a focus on the current anthropological scenario, identifying the nature of the relations between different groups at all levels (national, regional and local) and the impact the project's outputs can have on these relations. <u>Management:</u> This risk will be managed through an Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan that will be prepared for each region and each value chain by the first project year and through the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, integrating the findings of the conflict assessment/ESIA/SESA. A Grievance Redress mechanism,	MTEDD-DDD

				which will take into consideration the local grievance mechanism already in place, will be implemented during the project's implementation. Where necessary, inter-groups stakeholder consultations will be held to resolve "territorial" disputes relating to resource use. An ESMP per each region will be prepared by the first year of the project and will include mitigation measures based on ESIA findings, including the ones identified through the conflict assessment.	
22	**SESP Risk 15**: Participation in project activities could pose a potential risk of increased exposure to COVID-19 and other occupational risks.	Environmental Operational	Although the COVID-19 pandemic is receding in Morocco, new outbreaks may affect project beneficiaries and the PMU participating in project activities, which could be postponed and delaying project implementation L = 2 I = 4 Moderate	This risk will be managed on the basis of the national regulations from the Health Authority to combat the COVID 19. The design of the project interventions will take into account the specific measures necessary to mitigate any potential risk of exposure during implementation. Consistent with current health constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, project preparation and implementation will employ videoconferencing equipment for virtual meetings and workshops, where necessary; adjust the work plan to allow some field or ongoing consultation-related activities to be conducted in virtual mode, as needed; and/or provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent exposure to stakeholders and project participants.	MTEDD-DDD

Annex 7: Overview of Project Staff and Technical Consultancies

Consultant	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
		For Project Management
Local / National contracting		
Project Manager/Coordinator Rate: $3,333/month	43 months over 5 years	The Project Manager (PM) will be responsible for the overall management of the project, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. Duties and Responsibilities • Manage the overall conduct of the project. • Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the approved workplan. • Execute activities by managing personnel, goods and services, training and low-value grants, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications, and overseeing all contractors' work. • Monitor events as determined in the project monitoring plan, and update the plan as required. • Provide support for completion of assessments required by UNDP, spot checks and audits. • Manage requests for the provision of UNDP financial resources through funding advances, direct payments or reimbursement using the FACE form. • Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports. • Monitor progress, watch for plan deviations and make course corrections when needed within project board-agreed tolerances to achieve results. • Ensure that changes are controlled and problems addressed. • Perform regular progress reporting to the project board as agreed with the board, including measures to address challenges and opportunities. • Prepare and submit financial reports to UNDP on a quarterly basis. • Manage and monitor the project risks – including social and environmental risks - initially identified and submit new risks to the Project Board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log; • Capture lessons learned during project implementation. • Prepare revisions to the multi-year workplan, as needed, as well as annual and quarterly plans if required. • Prepare the inception report no later than one month after the inception workshop. • Ensure that the indicators included in the project results framework are monitored annually in advance of the GEF PIR submission deadline so that progress can be reported in the GEF PIR. • Prepare the GEF PIR; • Assess major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF; • Monitor implementation plans including the gender action plan, stakeholder engagement and communications plan, and any environmental and social management plans; • Monitor and track progress against the GEF Core indicators. • Support the Mid-term review and Terminal Evaluation process. • Add technical tasks as necessary

Consultant	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
Project/Finance Assistant Rate: $1,310/month	60 months over 5 years	Duties and Responsibilities Under the guidance and supervision of the Project Manager, the Project Assistant will carry out the following tasks: • Assist the Project Manager in day-to-day management and oversight of project activities; • Assist the M&E officer in matters related to M&E and knowledge resources management; • Assist in the preparation of progress reports; • Ensure all project documentation (progress reports, consulting and other technical reports, minutes of meetings, etc.) are properly maintained in hard and electronic copies in an efficient and readily accessible filing system, for when required by PB, TAC, UNDP, project consultants and other PMU staff; • Provide PMU-related administrative and logistical assistance. • Keep records of project funds and expenditures, and ensure all project-related financial documentation are well maintained and readily available when required by the Project Manager; • Review project expenditures and ensure that project funds are used in compliance with the Project Document and GoI financial rules and procedures; • Validate and certify FACE forms before submission to UNDP; • Provide necessary financial information as and when required for project management decisions; • Provide necessary financial information during project audit(s); • Review annual budgets and project expenditure reports, and notify the Project Manager if there are any discrepancies or issues; • Consolidate financial progress reports submitted by the responsible parties for implementation of project activities; • Liaise and follow up with the responsible parties for implementation of project activities in matters related to project funds and financial progress reports.
For Technical Assistance		
Outcome 1		
Local / National contracting		
ABS Legal Expert Rate: $400/day	240 days during years 1 and 2	Duties and Responsibilities • Support the adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework
ABS-TK Expert Rate: $400/day	90 days during year 2	Duties and Responsibilities • Produce a guide for negotiating ABS contracts
ABS-TK Expert Rate: $400/day	90 days during year 1	Duties and Responsibilities • Conduct an assessment of TK associated to genetic resources in the Souss-Massa (SM) and Fès-Meknès (FM) regions to expand the existing ABS-TK registry/database
ABS Legal Expert Rate: $400/day	120 days during year 2	Duties and Responsibilities • Establish and operationalize monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) under ABS law and/or ABS contracts (including feasibility analysis and drafting of guidelines)
Information Technology Expert	30 days during year 1	Duties and Responsibilities • Assess needs and improve the efficiency of the ABS component of the National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/web-page

Consultant	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
Rate: $375/day		
Outcome 2		
Local / National contracting		
ABS Legal Advisor Rate: $400/day	120 days during year 2 and 3	Duties and Responsibilities • Legal support to the signing of three comprehensive ABS contracts
Biodiversity Conservation Expert Rate: $400/day	180 days during years 2 and 3	Duties and Responsibilities • Develop conservation and sustainable use plans related to the three ABS value chains/pilot projects prioritized by the project
Environmental Economics Expert Rate: $400/day	120 days during year 3	Duties and Responsibilities • Conduct a study on the usefulness and feasibility of a Morocco ABS Product Label
ABS Technical Expert Rate: $3,340 /month	17 months during 5 years	Duties and Responsibilities • Engage providers and users of genetic resources for undertaking R&D and providing technical support to R&D pilots for benefit sharing
International / Regional and global contracting		
International ABS Expert Rate: $600/day	75 days during 5 years	Duties and Responsibilities • Provide ABS backstopping related to the development of ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources
Outcome 3		
Local / National contracting		
Biodiversity Conservation Expert Rate: $400/day	270 days during year 3	Duties and Responsibilities • Provide support strengthening biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS governance and compliance of ABS value chains with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits in three target regions
Biodiversity Financing Expert Rate: $400/day	120 days during year 3	Duties and Responsibilities • Support the assessment of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration financial needs and to draft short-, medium- and long-term investment plans for each pilot area
Outcome 4		
Local / National contracting		
Gender /Safeguards Expert Rate: $3,000/month	15 months during 5 years	Duties and Responsibilities • Monitor progress in implementation of the project Gender Action Plan ensuring that targets are fully met and the reporting requirements are fulfilled; • Oversee/develop/coordinate implementation of all gender-related work; • Review the Gender Action Plan annually, and update and revise corresponding management plans as necessary; • Work with the project Manager and Safeguards Officer to ensure reporting, monitoring and evaluation fully address the gender issues of the project

Consultant	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
		• Monitor progress in development/implementation of the project ESMP/ESMF ensuring that UNDPs SES policy is fully met and the reporting requirements are fulfilled; • Oversee/develop/coordinate implementation of all safeguard related plans; • Ensure social and environmental grievances are managed effectively and transparently; • Review the SESP annually, and update and revise corresponding risk log; mitigation/management plans as necessary; • Ensure full disclosure with concerned stakeholders; • Ensure environmental and social risks are identified, avoided, mitigated and managed throughout project implementation; • Work with the Project Manager to ensure reporting, monitoring and evaluation fully address the safeguard issues of the project
Knowledge Management Expert Rate: $375/day	90 days during years 1 to 5	Duties and Responsibilities • Development of the KM Plan; • Systematization of lessons learned; • Contribute to the development of KM products.
National Safeguards Expert Rate: $250/day	140 days during year 1	Duties and Responsibilities • Support locally the development of safeguards assessments and plans
International / Regional and global contracting		
International Safeguards Expert Rate: $575/day	140 days during year 1	Duties and Responsibilities • Develop the ESIA and SESA, ESMP, IP-LC P, and other plans
Outcome 5: M&E		
Local / National contracting		
M&E Expert Rate: $350/day	25 days during years 1 to 5	Duties and Responsibilities • M&E of GEF core indicators and the PRF
Safeguards and Gender M&E Expert Rate: $350/day	25 days during years 1 to 5	Duties and Responsibilities • • Monitoring of ESMP/IPP, Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, and other related plans
M&E Expert Rate: $375/day	20 days during year 5	Duties and Responsibilities • Conduct the Project TE
International / Regional and global contracting		
M&E Expert Rate: $600/day	25 days during year 3	Duties and Responsibilities • Conduct the Project MTR
M&E Expert Rate: $625/day	32 days during year 5	Duties and Responsibilities • Conduct the Project TE

Annex 8: Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan

1. Introduction

As highlighted in the Guidance Note UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) - Stakeholder Engagement- a project with great complexity and potentially significant adverse social and environmental impacts (e.g. complex Moderate Risk projects, Substantial/High Risk projects) will require a more strategic plan for stakeholders engagement. The Project "Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation" has been rated as Substantial Risk project. Therefore, this Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan outline mechanisms that will ensure iterative consultations and consent processes over the course of the social and environmental assessment process, development of mitigation and management plans, monitoring project implementation, and evaluation. This Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan is a management instrument aimed at achieving the successful involvement and active participation of stakeholders linked to the project.

The project aims to consolidate and operationalise the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems.

The project, with a duration of 60 months, will focus on the following interrelated components:

1. Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge
2. Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law
3. Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in three target regions
4. Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management
5. Monitoring & Evaluation

The project will target value chains regarding saffron, cedar lichen and a combined value chain saffron-argan in the following geographical areas: a) Cedar lichen: Ifrane Province in the region of Fès-Meknès; and b) Saffron and combined saffron-argan: Talouine municipality and Aoulouz rural commune, Taroudant province, Souss-Massa-Region.

The five project components are integrated and requires a Comprehensive Stakeholder and Communications engagement plan that is based on a comprehensive stakeholder's identification, analysis, and prioritization, to ensure the sustainability of the intervention.

This Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan was developed with the objective of consolidating the social management of the project, complying with the policies and norms of GEF participation, as well as with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) for Stakeholder Participation. This plan recognizes the importance of effective participation for the different stakeholders as a way to improve the transparency, accountability, integrity, effectiveness and sustainability of the project. In addition, such participation will, on the one hand, promote national, regional and local interests to forge stronger relationships, particularly with civil society, local communities and the private sector; on the other hand, respect for human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability is ensured during project implementation activities.

Following the Guidance Note UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) – Stakeholder Engagement (Update November 2020), it is important to take into consideration the following points:

- Strengthened focus on accessibility preferences and need for differentiated measures to allow effective participation of **disadvantaged or vulnerable groups**, including persons with disabilities.
- Added focus regarding stakeholder **engagement in challenging environments**, including areas experiencing infectious disease outbreaks
- Clarified guidance regarding need to establish **project-level grievance mechanisms** for complex Moderate Risk, and all Substantial Risk and High-Risk projects
- New section added on addressing **risks of reprisals and retaliation** against project stakeholders
- Strengthened section on **access to information,** including focus on accessibility of information and need to disclose a public record of stakeholder consultations throughout the project cycle.
- Use of frameworks and differentiated measures for effective participation of marginalized and disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities, and addressing risks of reprisals and retaliation

This Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan takes into consideration the potential social and environmental issues highlighted in the SESP, where the main risks (and related management plans) on safeguards have been identified.

The Plan, and all the other Safeguards documents have been developed considering with particular attention the following social components:

- Involvement of women in the targeted value chains
- Presence of Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities in the project areas
- Involvement of private sector, also as co-funding contributors.

2. Regulations and requirements

The Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan is developed following the requirements and policies of the Government of Morocco and the policies, procedures, and standards of UNDP and GEF.

UNDP policies are focused on principles and standards where FPIC is required, and are structured around the following Programming principles:

1. Leave No One Behind
2. Human Rights
3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
4. Sustainability and Resilience
5. Accountability

The Moroccan Constitution of 2011

Political rights and territorial organization: This Constitution stipulates Morocco's commitment to the principle of participation, pluralism and good governance and stresses that the Constitutional Regime of the Kingdom is based on the separation, balance and collaboration of powers, as well as on citizen and participatory democracy, and the principles of good governance and the correlation between responsibility and accountability (Article 1). As far as governance is concerned, Title II provides for the creation of several institutions of good governance that should be given status granting them the necessary autonomy to carry out their missions (the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication, the Competition Council, the national body for probity, prevention and fight against corruption, the Higher Council for Education, Training and Scientific Research, the Advisory Council on The Family and Children and the Advisory Council on Youth and Associative Action).

At the regional level, the Constitution dedicates from its first article the provision relating to decentralized territorial organization and advanced regionalization. Article 139 provides for the adoption of participatory mechanisms for dialogue and concentration that local authorities must promote for the involvement of citizens and associations in the development and monitoring of development programs.

Regarding freedoms and particularly political freedoms, Title 1 (Article 2) states that *"Sovereignty belongs to the Nation which exercises it directly, by referendum, and indirectly, through its representatives. The Nation chooses its representatives from the institutions elected by free, sincere and regular* votes." Article 6 states that «*Governments are working to create the conditions for generalizing* the *effectiveness of the freedom and equality of citizens, as well as their participation in political, economic, cultural and social* life." Sections 14 and 15 give citizens the right to present legislative motions and petitions to the government.

Individual freedoms: In addition to these political rights, the 2011 constitution proclaims fundamental individual freedoms, which are grounded in Morocco's commitment to human rights as universally recognized and in its determination to "protect and promote human rights *arrangements, banish and combat discrimination against* anyone." A clear conformity with international human rights conventions, ratified by Morocco, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Thus, a series of freedom rights are instituted: freedom of thought, opinion and expression, the right to health care, work, housing, education, equality between men and women in the various economic, social, civil and political fields, the right to safety, the legality of sentences and offences, the right to a fair trial, the inviolability of the home, the prohibition of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment, etc.

3. Summary of previous stakeholder engagement activities

The stakeholder engagement activities started at the project design phase. Here below an updated list of the main stakeholders identified and consulted during PIF and PPG phases

Entity	Phase	Mandate and role in the project
UNDP	PIF and PPG	UNDP will act as the GEF Implementing Agency and in this role will provide technical and administrative oversight (incl. on social and environmental safeguards) as well as co-financing.
Government at central level		
MTEDD–DE Ministre de la Transition Energétique et du Développement Durable-Département de l'Environnement (Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development)	PIF and PPG	The main functions of MTEDD-DE are to facilitate, promote and coordinate with other departments all government action to protect the environment and monitor its implementation. MTEDD-DE will be the project Implementation Partner/Executing Agency in Morocco, nominate a senior staff as National Project Director, head the PSC (Project Steering Committee), and host the PMU. MTEDD-DE will therefore be key for all project interventions at national level and at the regional level in the targeted via its regions delegations. It will be responsible to lead international partners such as the CBD Secretariat. MTEDD-DE is the lead government agency on ABS in Morocco and hosts core ABS-NCA.
CNB – Comité National de la Biodiversité (National Committee on Biological Diversity)	PIF	In May 2020, the Comité National sur les Changements Climatiques et la Biodiversité was eventually officially institutionalised. It comprises two technical "sub-committees", one on climate change and another on biodiversity, each supported by an administrative/operational sub-committee. The biodiversity sub-committee comprises two Working Groups, one on CBD Protocols (ABS, Cartagena), and one Science (IPBES). The CNB will have a central role in project implementation and governance, including in the PSC, and will therefore be key in project monitoring and strategic guidance. Given its multi-sector nature it will play a major role in mobilising stakeholders (other ministries, academia, NGOs, private sector, etc.)
CNRG - Commission nationale des ressources génétiques (National Commission on Genetic Resources)	PIF	The CNRG will be created under the ABS Law and is expected to become the ABS National Competent Authority (ANC/NCA). It comprises ministerial representatives from fisheries, agriculture, forestry, water as well as research institutes etc. Once established, the CNRG/ANC should assume a role in project governance similar to that of the CNB.
MAPMDREF-DA – ministère de l'Agriculture, de la pêche maritime, du développement rural et des eaux et forêts – Département de l'Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and	PIF	MAPMDREF-DA is a key government agency as it oversees and supports all public and private agricultural lands including all those that are not public forest areas. MAPMDREF-DA engages in projects on natural resources important to the two targeted ABS value chains and will therefore be key to support new value chain development in the targeted regions. MAPMDREF-DA will be on the PSC.

Forests – Department of Agriculture)		
INRA – Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Maroc (under the department of agriculture) (National Institute for Agricultural Research of Morocco)	PIF and PPG	INRA is a public institution whose mission is to undertake research for agricultural development. The strategic axes of research at INRA cover i) Characterisation, preservation and enhancement of natural resources; ii) Improving the productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of agricultural production; iii) Improving the quality, value and diversification of plant and animal production; iv) Analysis of the social demand for production systems and agricultural policies related to regional and local development. The conservation of genetic diversity is an important pillar at INRA. Despite the interest generated by the Argan tree and the multitude of research carried out on this tree, no approach to genetic improvement of the Argan tree has been envisaged. A new vision has emerged at INRA that aims at making the Argan tree a fruit tree and establishing Arganiculture, for which INRA has initiated a selection programme to create Argan varieties. Random samples were taken from different regions of Morocco. The analysis of the database compiled through the results of the genetic diversity studies allowed the selection of trees for crossing and the determination of their adaptation type. The results of the determination of the effects of the environment on adaptation, quality and productivity, allow the determination of the trees best suited for extension to other regions. INRA is one of the main beneficiaries of the project and will be able to intervene as an institution that covers research projects related to the conservation and restoration of biological/genetic resources as well as overseeing thematic programmes with a national scope that have more of a horizontal connotation serving all agrosystems and production chains.
Agence Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (National Water and Forests Agency)	PIF	National Water and Forests Agency is a key semi-autonomous government agency, under MAPMDREF, responsible for the development and implementation of government policies regarding the conservation and sustainable use of public forest lands, hunting, inland fishing, protected areas and biodiversity management, sustainable collection of wild medicinal and aromatic plants, and the fight against desertification. It issues and controls collecting permits and arranges for rangeland set-asides by paying resource users a fee. National Water and Forests Agency oversees c 70-80% of the lands and resources for the targeted species and regions. HCEFLCD will therefore be key on all the project's aspects related to the sustainability of the value chain and resource collection. The precise scope and modality of the engagement of National Water and Forests Agency have been detailed during the PPG – this considers *inter alia* the design of the benefit sharing mechanism, the signing of ABS contracts for resources overseen by National Water and Forests Agency, the issuance of GR access permits, oversight of PIC and MAT, and the emplacement of improved ecosystem/biodiversity management in the targeted regions. National Water and Forests Agency will be part of the PSC.
MESRSI - Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation (Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation)	PIF	MESRSI oversees all educational matters and public scientific research in Morocco. As such, the MESRSI coordinates the national research system, a set of bodies and structures belonging to the public and private sector whose actions and interactions make it possible to design and implement national research policy. This system is made up of the following bodies and structures: i) The public authorities that formulate national research policy through legislation, regulation, coordination, guidance, planning, programming, funding and evaluation of research activities; ii) The structures for implementing the national research policy, namely universities, non-university establishments and public research establishments; iii) The structures for promoting the results of research activities planned within the framework of the national research policy, namely the structures of university-business interfaces, incubators for the creation of innovative businesses, centers of expertise, incubators for companies, clusters, innovation cities, technopoles, etc.; iv) The structures for internal and external evaluation of research activities. MESRSI is home to the Scientific Institute in Rabat, which is part of the national research system and the entity responsible for development of scientific research in several fields. The activities developed at the IS are essentially focused on fundamental research themes. They relate to

		most fields of natural sciences, in particular earth sciences (physics of the globe, geology, geomorphology and cartography, remote sensing applied to geology) and life sciences (zoology and animal and botanical ecology and plant ecology) and aim to make an inventory of all of Morocco's natural resources (fauna, flora and subsoil resources), in harmony with national priorities for the conservation of the natural heritage, the environment, education and development. The Scientific Institute is part of the National Committee on Genetic Resources (CNRG - future Competent National Authority under the new ABS law), responsible for monitoring the use of and research into genetic resources of micro-organisms and hence of related ABS access requests. MESRSI will part of the PSC.
MENPS - Ministère de l'Education Nationale, du Préscolaire et des Sports (Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports)	PIF	MESNPS develops programs and actions for biodiversity conservation, awareness, and sustainable development.
*MAE – Ministre des Affaires étrangères, de la Coopération africaine et des Marocains résidant à l'Étranger (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Abroad)	PIF	Donor coordination, monitoring and international cooperation. MAE will be part of the PSC.
*MICIEN – Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de l'Investissement et de l'Économie Numérique ; OMPIC – Office Marocain de la Propriété Industrielle et Commerciale (*Ministry of Industry, Trade, Investment and the Digital Economy*;* Moroccan Office for Industrial and Commercial Property)	PIF	MICIEN-OMPIC is the office responsible for the protection of industrial and intellectual property (trademarks, patents, industrial designs) and for keeping the central commercial register in Morocco. As most commercial R&D processes involving genetic resources aim to develop and register patents in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic or biotechnology sectors, OMPIC is an important entity for ABS in Morocco, having contributed to the study on registering genetic resources-based patents in Morocco in 2018, and having a role in the filing of ABS-related patents. OMPIC would be one of the checkpoints in the ABS mechanism in Morocco.
Government at regional level		
Regional Delegations of MEME-DE in Souss-Massa and Fes -Meknes	PIF	The delegations will provide coordination and leadership at regional and local levels in the two targeted regions holding the ABS resources and value chains.

Regional Councils of Souss-Massa and Fes -Meknes	PIF	Key functions include: (i) the development of economic and social development plans for the region; (ii) the collection of taxes, fees and other charges levied on behalf of the region; (iii) promoting private investment; (iv) taking all measures to protect the environment; and (v) adopting measures to streamline the management of water resources.
Ministry of internal affairs - local authorities - Municipalities and Rural municipalities/Rural Communes: officials elected	PIF	Municipalities and Rural Municipalities are part of Ministry of Interior and plays important role at local level in terms of stakeholder engagement and as facilitators of all the processes regarding project implementation.
ANDZOA – Agence Nationale pour le Développement des Zones Oasiennes et de l'Arganier http://andzoa.ma/fr/andzoa/missions/	PIF and PPG	Created under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Fishing in 2010, under instructions of HM King Mohammed VI. ANDZOA's mission is to draw up, in coordination with the government authorities, a comprehensive development programme for the areas in which it operates, to ensure its implementation, monitoring and evaluation, within the framework of sustainable development at the economic, social, cultural, environmental and human levels in accordance with the guidelines and strategies decided upon. To carry out these tasks, the Agency shall take all necessary measures, in particular: – Carrying out the necessary technical, socio-economic and environmental studies; Drawing up, in coordination with the ministerial departments and bodies concerned, of socio-economic programmes, in particular those relating to the construction of infrastructure and basic facilities in the fields of education, culture, vocational training, health, housing, tourism, crafts and services, in particular through the conclusion of programme contracts or agreements; Participation in the preparation and implementation of local development projects aimed at improving the living conditions of the populations of these areas and encouraging them to organize their activities with a view to developing their production and improving their income; Propose to the government any legislative and regulatory measures to encourage and support all initiatives for the development of these areas; Organization of communication, sensitization and information campaigns in favour of investors and the various stakeholders for the realization of the development programs of these zones. – And specifically for the Arganeraie: Ensure the preservation, protection and development of Argan tree areas, particularly through the implementation of socio-economic projects; Carry out operations to extend the Argan tree stands in accordance with the legislative and regulatory provisions relating to forestry; Carry out or supervise the implementation of projects for the development, marketing, promotion and labelling of argan tree products, particularly in the framework of programme contracts or agreements to be concluded with the Agency; Structure the production and marketing of argan products in the context of partnerships with the various stakeholders and in particular the populations concerned; Encourage scientific research relating to the protection and development of the argan tree and the promotion of its products. ANDZOA's role in the project has been assessed during the PPG. It could have a role in the development of legal regulations and capacity development in the Argan distribution area in the targeted regions and could potentially be tasked with Arganeraie conservation/restoration under the RBA-ABS benefit-sharing scheme. ANDZOA could also participate in one of the projects governance bodies.
Multilateral and bilateral agencies		
GIZ – German Agency for International Cooperation	PIF	GIZ in Morocco runs a large programme working on 5 pillars, including one on Environment and Climate Change, which is based at the MEME-DE and comprises relevant interventions, most notably the *Project on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (USD 4.7m, 2018-2022): quantification

		and economic valuation of ES (ValueLinks, Natural Capital Accounting), mainstreaming into regional and sectoral development plans, emplacing economic mechanisms and incentives such as PES and PPP for private sector participation, and work on value chains. GIZ has chosen 2 pilot regions for their project, Souss-Massa and Beni Mellal-Khenifra. Souss-Massa overlap with the project's areas here proposed. ABS being a key ecosystem service (providing valuable GRs), the new project could look to build upon GIZ's work by integrating clauses of payments for ecosystem services within ABS agreements for GRs from pilot value chains. GIZ maintains regional offices with personnel that are working on this project and who can provide insight and support to the here-project future activities in the target regions, especially for liaising with local authorities and mobilizing local stakeholders. The project might coordinate and exchange lessons closely with GIZ and their ongoing and any follow-up projects.
Cooperation française/ French cooperation	PIF	French cooperation continues (and will probably continue) to support research on the Argan tree and the argan tree. Other actions are being put in place, at the level of research or development. Faced with the urgency of certain situations, some think that research is a useless luxury and that it would be appropriate to focus only on the "development" aspects. Let us simply recall that in 1978 an F.A.O. expertise concerning Moroccan forests indicated that, for the Argan tree, it was illusory to want to set up a reforestation program, the basic knowledge of this species being insufficient. Scientists working on the Argan tree are also convinced that it is necessary to take into consideration the human aspect and therefore integrate the human component in the definition of lines of research capable of meeting real needs, both ecological and economic. In this respect, one can regret the weakness of research in sociology and economics. It is necessary to fill this gap very quickly and to encourage work in these fields of social sciences, as important for the future of the Argan tree as the life and environmental sciences. Finally, interesting prospects are now opening up for collaboration between scientists and the bodies responsible for forest management or development. It is not a question (at least not yet) of setting up any "coordination" structure, but of ensuring that all the information circulates, in all directions. The Argan tree and the argan ecosystem have always been the subject of sustained interest on the part of researchers, regardless of their nationality, as evidenced by the numerous publications on this subject since the 19th century. Due to the historical ties that unite France and Morocco, it is understandable that many works have continued within the framework of bilateral cooperation since the independence of Morocco.
Coopération belge/ Belgian cooperation	PIF	As far as we know, this is a program between Belgium and the Moroccan High Commission for Water and Forests. The objective is to set up a computerized and centralized management of the argan tree, by collecting as much socio-economic data as possible on this environment, of which it is necessary to improve knowledge in order to properly guide its development.
FAO	PIF	This organization pays close attention to the female component in the development of its action programs. In 2018, FAO recognized the cultural and agricultural importance of Argan ecosystems in Morocco by inscribing the Aït Souab-Aït Mansour region on the list of Ingenious World Agricultural Heritage Sites (GIAHS). In doing so, it recognized not only the agricultural know-how and unique biodiversity of the argan agrosilvopastoral system, but also the sustainable management of natural resources and the landscape shaped by generations of agropastoralist.
UNESCO	PIF	The argan "practices and know-how related to the argan tree" has been registered by UNESCO on the representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. international recognition for the hundreds who work in this sector. The argan "practices and know-how related to the argan tree" was registered in 2014 by UNESCO on the representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. international recognition for the hundreds who work in this sector. This inscription constitutes a recognition by UNESCO of the practices and know-how related to the argan tree which are particularly held and practiced by women who gather today within cooperatives and economic interest groups to better draw profit from their production

NGOs		
FM6PE – Fondation Mohammed VI pour la Protection de l'Environnement Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment www.fm6e.org	PIF	The mission of FM6PE is the promotion of environmental protection and the improvement of living conditions. This is done via: Raising awareness and educating all audiences about sustainable development, especially the youngest ones; The mobilisation of all the actors concerned (international institutions, national and regional administrations, businesses, civil society) around innovative education and awareness programmes on sustainable development; The training of these actors and the strengthening of their capacities to take charge of these programmes. At the same time, the work of FM6PE on biodiversity is limited (management of botanical gardens, coordination of IUCN representatives in Morocco); and does not include any on the ABS topic or on the two targeted ABS resources and value chains targeted by the project. However, it could provide support at national level for communication and capacity-building, given it is an important player in terms of advocacy and outreach (political, media, etc). FMVI-RSA plays a considerable role in the safeguarding and development of the argan tree
FM6RSA – Fondation Mohammed VI pour la Recherche et la Sauvegarde de l'Arganier Mohammed VI Foundation for the Research and Safeguarding of the Argan Tree Directrice Prof. Katim Alaoui, Laboratoire de Pharmacologie et Toxicologie, Faculté de Médecine et Pharmacie, Université Mohammed V, Rabat	PIF	Association with 40 members, created in May 2004 in Essaouira, out of a research group at the University Mohammed V in Rabat. Its objectives are Coordination of scientific research on the Argan tree; Development and protection of natural balances; Legal protection of the exploitation of Argan forests; Improvement of the living standard of populations in the Arganeraie; Quality assurance of Argan tree products; Continuous updating of data on the Argan tree. FM6RSA focuses mainly on an intervention area around Essaouira (Marrakech-Safi) in the north western region of the Argan distributional area. FM6RSA plays a major role in the channelling of laws on Argan. FM6RSA with its political and academic links will help on several fronts: high level support for the ratification of the ABS-NP and the adoption of the legal and institutional framework including of all new work emerging under this new 2nd ABS project; identification of international bioprospecting companies, academic partners and new potential Argan-based ABS value chains; identification of the most suitable intervention areas and types in the targeted regions and communities in the Arganeraie; engagement of local communities such as Amazigh communities and cooperatives active in the Arganeraie. FM6RSA receives no regular budget but fundraises for projects, for Argan tree planting with HCEFLCD, the promotion of solar cookers, PV electricity. It could benefit from the project to help build its capacity yet has not yet shown interest in intensifying and expanding its work.
AIAB – Association Ibn Al Baytar www.facebook.com/AssoIbnalbaytarMA President Prof. Zoubida Charouf, Université Mohammed V, Rabat	PIF	Like FM6RSA, AIAB was created out of a research group at the University Mohammed V in Rabat. AIAB focuses on research and conservation of the Argan tree, with a focus on supply chain and market development, empowerment of local communities such as Amazigh communities (targeting especially women), and Argan forest protection and restoration working with communities and the HCEFLCD through planting and rangeland set-asides. AIAB focuses much of its work on the area of Essaouira (Marrakech-Safi). AIAB with its academic links could help on several fronts: identification of international bioprospecting companies, academic partners and new potential ABS value chains including beyond Argan-based ones; identification of the most suitable intervention areas and types in the targeted regions and communities; engagement of local communities such as Amazigh communities and cooperatives active in the Arganeraie. The project could help build the foundation's capacity and explore avenues for intensifying and expanding its work.
RARBA – Réseau des Associations de la Réserve de Biosphère Arganeraie	PIF	Founded in 2002 with the aim of ensuring sustainable development in the Arganeraie, RARBA's key functions include: (i) supporting community action for the preservation and proper management of natural resources, (ii) maintaining and enhancing cultural heritage, (iii) enabling and operationalising the Argan Biosphere Reserve (ABR), (iv) technical and institutional support to member associations.

(Network of Associations of the Argan Biosphere Reserve)		RARBA's relevance and role in the project will be defined at project inception phase. RARBA could contribute to the training and promotional efforts on ABS with local populations managing and depending on key natural resources.
ASMEL RBA – Association Marocaine de l'Ecolabel de la Réserve de Biosphère de l'Arganeraie	PIF	Recently created under the UNDP/GEF/MAMA project *A Circular Economy Approach to Agro-Biodiversity Conservation in the Souss Massa Draa Region of Morocco* (GEF # 3989), this platform advances a single bundled PES pilot scheme for the Arganeraie, linked to premium price labelling under the RBA label and conditional on enhanced management of the Arganeraie. The role in project will be defined at project inception phase. ASMEL could potentially be tasked with Arganeraie conservation/restoration under the RBA-ABS benefit-sharing scheme, given that ultimately ABS is a PES mechanism too. However, it is not yet institutionalised by decree and cannot therefore represent government, so cannot play a role in governance. Also it must still prove its value.
AESVT: Association of Teachers of Life and Earth Sciences	PIF	Through its various national and local programs and projects, AESVT MAROC aims to promote scientific culture in environmental education, health and sustainable development. It promotes the theoretical and practical knowledge allowing to lead to durable changes, individuals, but also collectives to behaviour and values, and environment friendly habits in subjects linked to environment, health, but also development.
BDA Foundation	PPG	BDA is an international non-profit organization that trains, equips, certifies, and provides the necessary professional and business support for ecopreneurs (entrepreneurs in professional agri-business with environmental and sustainable development best practices) to succeed in Africa's emerging agricultural and botanical industry. BDA Foundation supports the transition from subsistence farmer to 21st century Pharmer™--educated, trained, equipped, and supported to provide high-quality pharmaceutical grade raw materials and finished products for the pharmaceutical, food, and cosmetic industries. BDA Foundation is partner in the project
Oxfam-Québec	PIF	It is a non-profit international development association. This NGO has been active in Morocco since 1994. Its mission is to work with the local population and local associations for sustainable development. It exercises its support in three ways: either by sending volunteer cooperators, by financing small projects and by managing large community development projects. Its intervention priorities in Morocco are twofold: on the one hand, the socio-economic integration of women through the promotion and support for the start-up of women's cooperatives, vocational training, micro-credit for women and on the other hand, social support in the water sector. Oxfam-Québec's philosophy is that one of the best ways to ensure real development is to give women all the space that will allow them, in relation to men, to produce development. This NGO is behind, in association with some researchers and local development associations, the creation of a few cooperatives for the extraction and marketing of high-tech argan oil that meets international standards.
Regional project committee in Souss-Massa	PIF	The following local institutions/NGOs could be considered: The Souss Massa Regional Council; The Federation of Argan Grove Rights Owners; The Regional Network of Associations of the Araganeraie Biosphere Reserve (RARBA); The Souss Massa Hydraulic Basin Agency; The Regional Land Use Planning Inspectorate; Ibn Zohr and Cadi Ayyad Universities; The Regional Tourism Delegation; The Regional Delegation of Culture; Provincial Tourism Delegation of Essaouira; The provincial delegation of culture of Essaouira; The Provincial Directorate of Agriculture of Essaouira; The Regional Rural Tourism Development Network; The Souss Massa Regional Tourism Council; The sustainable tourism development company;
Private sector, professional associations, cooperatives: GENERAL		
UEBT Union for Ethical BioTrade	PIF and PPG	UEBT is a non-profit association that promotes ethical biotrade – sourcing with respect, working to regenerate nature and secure a better future for people through ethical sourcing of ingredients from biodiversity. UEBT aims to contribute to a world in which all people and biodiversity thrive, setting good practices for how companies and their suppliers source specialty ingredients for the food, cosmetics and natural pharmaceutical sectors.

		UEBT organises trainings in support of companies involved in ABS, to clarify international procedures and how to liaise with national competent authorities for access to resources according to the standards of the Nagoya Protocol. UEBT has a partnership with the CBD Secretariat and recently launched their own "UEBT ethical sourcing system certification". UEBT has been involved in several ABS activities/ projects, especially in Africa, given their strong networks of private companies who have sustainability/eco-friendly/green departments. UEBT have already expressed interest in collaborating on ABS projects in Morocco given that the country is of "strategic value to private companies". Given the importance of the private sector participation to this project, they could help identify ideal candidates for the establishment of pilot ABS agreements who are interested in key Moroccan GRs and are willing to meet PIC/MAT conditions. Also, given their experience in working with African countries and the private sector, they could also train national and/or local stakeholders on ABS-relevant matters. Finally, UEBT could function as or offer to create an ABS-specific private sector engagement platform.
Private sector, professional associations, cooperatives: ARGAN		
SERDEX / SEPPIC www.seppic.com	PIF	Based in France, SEPPIC and its subsidiary SERDEX are Air Liquide Healthcare companies. SEPPIC has been designing, manufacturing, and marketing unique ingredients for over 75 years. These ingredients are used by consumers, patients, and professionals, for health, well-being, and beauty. SEPPIC's vision is to help everyone enjoy a healthy life in a healthy environment. SERDEX specializes in the botanical extraction of cosmetic and pharmaceutical active ingredients. SERDEX/SEPPIC was identified during PIF as a potential project partner regarding a new ABS value chain based on Argan. SERDEX/SEPPIC is one of the companies engaged in R&D that cannot be made available due to confidentiality issues.
GREENTECH www.greentech.fr	PIF and PPG	A pioneer in plant biotechnology, GREENTECH develops and produces for cosmetic, pharmaceutical and nutraceutical fields high-tech active ingredients from plant, marine and microbial worlds. GREENTECH was identified during PIF as a potential project partner regarding a new ABS value chain based on Argan. GREENTECH works with women cooperatives mainly and could share best practices they have developed to ensure equitable sharing of benefits to the local population, as well as integrate new biodiversity preservation clauses (reforestation, financing of conservation activities) as part of a new ABS agreement sanctioned by national authorities. GREENTECH is one of the companies engaged in R&D that cannot be made available due to confidentiality issues.
Argan Cooperatives & Groupements d'intérêt économique (GIE)	PIF and PPG	Professional associations of Argan product collectors, manufacturers and traders, often buying Argan from individual users. They are main beneficiaries at regional and local community levels, in terms of capacity development, resource users/suppliers/managers and benefit sharing, and could play a role in disseminating information, supporting capacity-building initiatives to local cooperatives working with the private sector on ABS and asking local officials for the integration of biodiversity and ABS components in the regional development plans.
FIMARGANE – Fédération Interprofessionnelle Marocaine d'Argane	PIF	FIMARGANE brings together ANCA, FNADUA, AMIGHA, ANCUAD and AMSPA. FIMARGANE is a signatory with ANDZOA of the programme contract for the development and preservation of the Arganeraie. Its objectives are to facilitate coordination and consultation between the various partners active in the Argan sector. In the project, FIMARGANE could support the coordination, training and mobilisation of stakeholders on ABS, sustainable exploitation and ecosystem management.

Taitmatine – Women cooperative, Argan	PPG	The Taitmatine Cooperative was created on 27 October 2002 in the rural commune of Tiout, province of Taroudant in southern Morocco. With a membership of over 100 women, the cooperative is committed to produce high quality culinary and cosmetic oils. The aim of the cooperative is to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural women by increasing their income, their literacy (compulsory courses to be a member) and work outside the home in a common room. Thus the conservation of the argan tree and the valorisation of the products.
AYA Gold & Silver	PPG	Aya is a Canadian-based silver producer with a strong footprint in Morocco. Listed on the TSX, the Corporation operates the Zgounder Silver Mine, an underground silver mine located 260km east of Agadir in Morocco. In addition to advancing its Boumadine polymetallic project, Aya has a number of exploration properties located along the prolific Anti-Atlas belt that is host to Zgounder and Managem's Imiter Mine. AYA Gold & Silver has been consulted during the meeting with BDA Foundation (see table below, on consultations done during PPG).
ANCA – Association Nationale des Coopératives d'Argane HQ in the Chamber of Agriculture, Souss Massa Region	PIF	ANCA was created in 2004, under an EU funded project, by a group of cooperatives operating in the Argan sector. Today ANCA has 60 cooperatives with a total of 3,000 women Argan oil producers throughout the territory of the Arganeraie. ANCA's mission is to organise cooperatives operating in the Argan value chain, to support member cooperatives and defend their interests before national and international administrative bodies. ANCA's objectives are to: Support the upgrading of Argan cooperatives; strengthen organizational and managerial capacities of Argan cooperatives; support Geographical/AOC labelling; communicate around the cooperatives and the Arganeraie; raise awareness about the problem of Argan tree conservation (organization of workshops, information days, etc.). In the project, ANCA could support the training and mobilisation of cooperatives including on ABS, sustainable exploitation and ecosystem management.
FNADUA – Fédération Nationale des Associations Provinciales des Ayants Droits Usagers de l'Arganeraie	PIF	FNADUA's aims are inter alia to propose and encourage research, training, development and supervision programs with the aim of improving the sector's profitability and introducing modern technologies to improve product quality; and encouraging and implementing annual programs for the succession and planting of the Argan Tree; and establishing and encouraging a policy of consultation, coordination and contracting between the various actors. In the project, FNADUA could support the training and mobilisation of local right holders (indigenous people/local communities marginalised or at risk of marginalisation) including on ABS, sustainable exploitation and ecosystem management, and safeguards issues.
AMIGHA – Association Marocaine de l'Indication Géographique de l'huile d'Argane	PIF	AMIGHA is made up of ANCA, 4 GIEs, 2 Unions, 5 private companies, the Souss Massa Regional Council and the Souss Massa Chamber of Agriculture; it has registered the Argan IGP and is in charge of its follow-up, promotion and defence.
ANCUAD – Association Nationale des Commerçants et Utilisateurs de l'Argane et ses Dérivés	PIF	Created in 2011, the objectives of ANCUAD are: Representing traders and producers of Argan oil and its derivatives before FIMARGANE; ensuring the quality of services provided and the conditions for product evaluation; strengthening and evaluating the professional links in the work sector. ANCUAD seeks to implement the directions that have been set for the development of the Argan tree sector, built around five strategic objectives: i) Rehabilitating 200,000 hectares of Argan forest; ii) domestication of the Argan tree and the expansion of its cultivation with modern technologies to more than 5,000 hectares; iii) supporting promotion with the aim of creating uniqueness for all its products and derivatives in the international market; iv) Increasing the production of Argan oil to reach 10,000 tons annually by 2020; v) establishing projects within the framework of the "Green Morocco Plan" for the effective evaluation and integration of Argan products.

		Within the context of a UNIDO project, ANCUAD worked with FIMARGANE and others in the past on the establishment of sustainable Argan value chains and the development of economic activities in the Argan Biosphere Reserve. Yet in practice, ANCUAD has mainly focused on improving market access (national and export) and the socio-economic conditions of Argan oil operators. Given that Argan-based ABS products would be considered derivatives of Argan, ANCUAD might be targeted for awareness raising about ABS and for potential inclusion of ABS under its remit on derivatives.
Association « les Amis de l'Arganier : Association "Friends of the Argan tree	PIF	The Association of Friends of the Argan Tree, which was formed in June 1989, campaigns for the achievement of short, medium and long-term objectives. The association is the pioneer in terms of research and development in the field of the Argan tree. The importance and diversity of the activities undertaken within its framework bear witness to this, and particularly the ambitious program currently being finalized for the recovery system. It has set itself several short, medium and long-term objectives, including: Sensitization of higher authorities on the need to mobilize the means necessary for the development of the argan sector which gives Morocco a privileged status both botanically and in terms of the international trade in vegetable oils; an efficient industrialization allowing an optimal valorisation of the oil and the by-products of the Argan tree; raising the awareness of international development bodies on the need for active cooperation with Morocco for the safeguarding and development of the Arganeraie as a world biological reserve; introduction of argan oil on foreign markets; reconstruction of the area of the degraded argan tree; the Friends of the Argan Tree Association has set up a pilot project for the mechanized extraction of argan oil in Tamanar. This project includes all the machines that are part of the extraction chain. The start of the tests of this unit began in July 1993.
AMSPA – Association Marocaine des Sociétés de Production d'Argane	PIF	The mandate of AMSPA is similar to that of ANCUAD, as an association for commercial entities who sell Argan-related products directly to market.
Les coopératives féminines d'extraction de l'huile d'argan - Women's cooperatives for the extraction of argan oil	PIF and PPG	Women cooperatives are a key stakeholder and are direct beneficiaries of the project. Women cooperative's representatives have been consulted during PPG and the main findings have been included in the Safeguards documents and in the Gender Analysis and Action Plan.
Les populations nomades - Nomads	PIF	The nomads are a group of camel and/or sheep and goat herders of South of Morocco who move from south to north of Morocco to its north to find a new routes for their livestock. There is strong pressure during periods of drought on argan tree resources, which sometimes leads to violent conflicts with the local population. Sometimes they adopt a destructive behaviour regarding the resources of the argan tree which makes the population appeal to the local authorities, who tends to protect the interest of the nomads first because of the political nature of the problem. For these mobile (nomadic) herders, the forest presents itself as a space for grazing.
Les agriculteurs et agricultrices - Farmers	PIF and PPG	Farmers are a key stakeholder in the project. They have been consulted during PPG and the main findings have been included in the Safeguards documents and in the Gender Analysis and Action Plan.
Private sector, professional associations, cooperatives: EUPHORB		
Groups working on Euphorb, in Beni Mellal-Khenifra: Euphorb Honey Cooperatives	PIF	The only agricultural cooperatives in the region, which would also benefit from a better protection of the Euphorb ecosystem. They have been assessed during PIF as key beneficiaries of the project, in terms of training and potentially as resource providers and land managers. During PPG the Euphorb value chain has not been confirmed as target of the project.
INDENA	PIF and PPG	Headquartered in Milan, Indena is a company dedicated to the identification, development and production of high quality active principles derived from plants, for use in the pharmaceutical and health food industries. Backed up by almost a century of botanical experience, the

		company holds more than 100 primary patents, has published more than 1000 scientific studies and co-operates with the world's most prestigious universities and private research institutions. Indena employs about 800 staff, investing a significant amount of its annual turnover in research, making this activity the key to its success. INDENA was the primary tentative project partner regarding a new ABS value chain and ABS agreement based on the Resin Spurge *Euphorbia resinifera*, given their research on the species in the Beni-Mellal region conducted in partnership with Prof. Zoubida Charrouf. INDENA has also expressed interest in contributing to the protection and rehabilitation of the Euphorbe ecosystem in the region. INDENA is one of the companies engaged in R&D that cannot be made available due to confidentiality issues. After consultations during PPG, the partnership with INDENA has not been confirmed.
Private sector, professional associations, cooperatives: SAFFRON		
Pharmafrican	PPG	PharmAfrican is a world class bio-manufacturing and sustainable bio-pharma pipeline company. Africa is known to possess one of the highest pools of active substances/extracts coming from its green and blue biomass. PharmAfrican proposes to become a game changer in becoming an alternate active substances supplier by implementing GACP, GMP and ICH compliance in all its facilities PharmAfrican will be partner in the project, considering also its experiences developed in Morocco.
Union Nationale des Femmes du Maroc of Talouine	PPG	At national level, the UNFM's objectives are: to encourage pioneering and innovative initiatives led by women and geared towards the promotion of the social and solidarity economy at local, regional and national level in order to contribute to the reduction of social inequalities and to initiate a dynamic of inclusive, balanced and sustainable growth; to strengthen and promote the capacities of women and young people through the organisation of a series of activities and training programmes relating to education, vocational training, guidance, integration into the social environment or through social and cultural intermediation; to organise awareness-raising activities aimed at preserving and promoting the ethics and values of national belonging; to provide health care and medical assistance, and to contribute to the dissemination of the basic principles of healthy living, immunisation against malnutrition and the preservation of maternal and child health. The UNFM is present and active in Talouine, working and supporting women cooperatives involved in the saffron value chain.
FIMASAFRAN - Federation Interprofessionnelle Marocaine du Safran	PPG	The main objectives of the Federation – created in Talouine - are: to support the development of the saffron value chain; the promotion of the saffron value chain at national and international level; to support to the saffron value chain in terms of R&D; to support to trainings for women and men involved in the saffron value chain, to increase the quality of the products; to represent the producers at institutional and public level, in order to support their interests; to support the coordination of the actors involved in the saffron value chain and to support the policies regarding contracts for producers involved in the value chain.
Academia		
UM5 – University Mohammed V, Rabat	PIF and PPG	One of the major universities in Morocco, home to key faculties for scientific research in Morocco. It also hosts the Scientific Institute, member of the National Biodiversity Committee, and the only academic institution that proposes programmes and research in the fields of zoology, botany, phytopathology and parasitology. Both Prof. Alaoui (FM6RSA) and Prof. Charrouf (AIAB) are at UM5. As such, the university is a prime candidate for partnerships on R&D (knowledge and technology transfers, implication of students, etc.), including in work with private companies.

A broad **consultation process** was carried out during the project identification phase involving key stakeholders, including:

- Numerous meetings and exchanges with the National Biodiversity Committee
- Bilateral meetings and/or video calls with NGOs and Academia
- Bilateral meetings and/or video calls with GIZ Morocco.
- Several bilateral meetings and/or video calls with private sector representatives, to understand their plans on ABS-related work in Morocco and interest in working with the project.
- Consultations led by METSD-DE with the regional governments and ministerial delegations.
- Consultations and views of local communities and associations in the target areas were conveyed and represented by the MEDD-DE and its regional delegations, as well as by NGOs and academic groups and ongoing projects/initiatives with existing working relationships.

During PIF development, it has been highlighted that:

- during project implementation, local communities will be key beneficiaries of the project as the Nagoya Protocol is further implemented, in reflection of the strong regionalization process taking place in Morocco. Focusing on pilot programmes to integrate biodiversity in local policies as well as ABS practices in the use of genetic resources, the project will ensure that local populations are involved on a continuous basis to help shape the local strategies and practices of local governing bodies and streamline biodiversity protection in their policies.
- Civil Society organizations will have a key role to play in continuing to promote and defend local populations rights, especially providers of genetic resources, and support the capacity-building efforts in the field. Civil society will also be key in guiding mobilization and communication efforts to accelerate the implementation of the ABS framework in Morocco and finalize its ratification promptly. Given their high media visibility and heavy presence in rural areas, they will be an important factor in ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the pilot and future ABS value chains in Morocco.
- Local communities and CSOs in the targeted regions will be moreover involved in project implementation through local project committees in the targeted regions.
- The project will also seek to integrate young professionals into project staffing under new work modalities, to build careers.

Stakeholder engagement activities at Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase

Based on the preliminary Stakeholders list and analysis done during project design, stakeholders have been consulted during the PPG phase, through interviews with key informants, focused on collecting data about the context and the main elements that can be included in the Project Document, such as:

- Opportunity for stakeholder involvement in project's activities
- Description of the project areas
- Main concerns related to the project's activities
- Main stakeholders' expectations
- Inputs for Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan
- Main issues related to marginalized groups
- Main issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment, with a focus on the role of women in the project's activities
- Main issues related to social and economic dynamics between the stakeholder's groups, related to the access to land and natural resources.
- Possible impacts of the project

Stakeholder consultations done during the PPG phase are summarized in the table here below:

Date	Stakeholder engaged (Individuals, groups, Organizations)	Activity (i.e Consultation, information, collection of data, ...),	Type of information disclosed	Forms and language	Location	Remarks/key issues discussed	Key concerns raised	Responses to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions	Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders
08.05.2019	Department of Sustainable Development - Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development	Consultation	Submission of a project on ABS under GEF7 by government of Morocco	Oral, French and Arabic	In-person with Ali Benryane and Amal Nadim - UNDP	Discussion to establish a GEF project to strengthen the capacity of local populations in the area of biodiversity conservation, the development of value chains for genetic resources with high potential at the territorial level, as well as the operationalization of legal frameworks relating to biodiversity and its conservation, and this, in complementarity with the ABS-Nagoya project, implemented with the support of UNDP. UNDP was designated as the GEF Implementing Agency, to assist the Department in the development and implementation of the project.	N/A	N/A	N/A
February to August 2020	Department of Sustainable Development, UNDP team and with biodiversity and ABS national experts	Consultation	Several Consultations with UNDP RTA and UNDP Morocco for the development of the PIF	Oral, French and English	Online	Series of meeting to establish baseline and draft the PIF document for the UNDP/GEF ABS project.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Date	Stakeholder engaged (Individuals, groups, Organizations)	Activity (i.e Consultation, information, collection of data, ...),	Type of information disclosed	Forms and language	Location	Remarks/key issues discussed	Key concerns raised	Responses to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions	Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders
05.10.2020	UEBT	Consultation, sharing of information	Content of the project, main objectives	Oral, French and English	Online	Early discussion on a potential collaboration in the project activities, consultation on proposed private sector companies interested in ABS to may be interested to work in Morocco and/or use Moroccan genetic resources.	N/A	N/A	N/A
09.03.2022	BDA Foundation, AYA Gold&Silver Mining company (ESR Director)	Consultations	Content of the project, main objectives. Potential for collaboration on ABS value chains	Oral, French and English	Online	Meeting presented the BDA-AYA project for the creation and training of "ecopreneurs" in the Taroudant region of Sousse-Massa. The project has an ABS training component as aromatic and medicinal plants will be the focus of value chain development, as well as access to markets.	N/A	N/A	N/A
14.03.2022	Researcher University Mohammed V, Rabat	Consultation, sharing of information, data collection	Information about the value chains already in place in Morocco (and the related species) and about the companies involved in these value chains	Oral, French and English	Online	Meeting focused on collecting and sharing information about the value chains already in place in Morocco (and the related species) and about the companies involved in these value chains and who can be partners in the project	N/A	N/A	N/A
16.03.2022	Greentech	Consultation, sharing of information,	Work done by Greentech	Oral, French	Online	Discussion focused on the work done by Greentech, the species targeted	N/A	N/A	N/A

Date	Stakeholder engaged (Individuals, groups, Organizations)	Activity (i.e Consultation, information, collection of data, ...),	Type of information disclosed	Forms and language	Location	Remarks/key issues discussed	Key concerns raised	Responses to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions	Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders
		data collection		and Arabic		and the method of work (working with women cooperatives)			
18.03.2022	Indena	Consultation, sharing of information, data collection	Work done by Indena	Oral, French and English	Online	Presentation of the work done by Indena, main interesting points, approaches and focus of their work	N/A	N/A	N/A
21.03.2022	Mohammed VI Foundation for the Research and the Protection of the Argan tree	Consultation, sharing of information, data collection	Protection of the environment in Morocco; Local context and possible project partners; Traditional Knowledge in Morocco	Oral, French and English	Online	Sharing of information about Protection of the environment in Morocco; sharing of information about the context and possible project partners; interesting information about TK (traditional knowledge).	N/A	N/A	N/A
12.04.2022	Greentech	Follow up	Most suitable species to be targeted by the project.	Oral, French and English	Online	Sharing of information about the most suitable species to be targeted by the project.	N/A	N/A	N/A
13.04.2022	UEBT	Consultation, sharing of information, data collection	Work done by UEBT	Oral, French and English	Online	Presentation of UEBT work (in ABS); Discussion on a potential collaboration in the project activities.	N/A	N/A	N/A
19.04.2022	Institut National de Recherche pour agriculture (INRA), Aya Gold&Silver mining company, BDA Foundation	Consultation	Information sharing from their database, on the species already	Oral, French and English	Online	Consultation on involvement of INRA in the ABS value chain development under the BDA programme. Information sharing from their database, on the species already	N/A	N/A	N/A

Date	Stakeholder engaged (Individuals, groups, Organizations)	Activity (i.e Consultation, information, collection of data, ...),	Type of information disclosed	Forms and language	Location	Remarks/key issues discussed	Key concerns raised	Responses to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions	Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders
	and Department of Sustainable Development		database, the species already listed in the region.			database, the species already listed in the region. INRA agreed to provide the maximum of botanical data and markets inked to specific species, like saffron. A correlation mapping of the activities/components of the UNDP/GEF project with the BDA-AYA Project was made to establish the complementary and validated by both INRA and the Department of Sustainable Development, for activities specific to ABS.			
April and May 2022	Greentech, Pharmafrican	Consultation	Several follow up meetings	Oral, French and English	Online	Focus on collecting information about species to be targeted and involvement of Greentech and Pharmafrican as partners in the project	N/A	N/A	N/A
10.05.2022	UNDP Morocco Gender/Private Sector Focal Point	Consultation and data collection	Content of the project, main objectives	Oral, French and English	Online	Sharing of information about the Moroccan context, focusing on Gender equality. Sharing of relevant documents on local context and on Gender. Presentation of the project contents.	Suggestions to strengthening the Gender approach	Suggestions integrated in the Gender Action Plan, regarding especially the collection of data disaggregated by gender	Gender Action Plan implementation and M&E framework
18.05.2022	Women cooperative representative (Argan Cooperative: Taitmatine) President	Information and consultation	Content of the project, main objectives	Oral, French and Arabic	Online meeting – with Morocco PPG team components	FPIC, sharing information about the project, Collection of data about the local context, especially the women's involvement in value chain (main weaknesses and strengthens), expectations regarding the project, main stakeholders for women	N/A	N/A	N/A

Date	Stakeholder engaged (Individuals, groups, Organizations)	Activity (i.e Consultation, information, collection of data, ...),	Type of information disclosed	Forms and language	Location	Remarks/key issues discussed	Key concerns raised	Responses to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions	Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders
						cooperatives, data collection for Gender Analysis and Action Plan See questionnaire in Annex			
25.05.2022	President of regional UNFM (Union Nationale des Femmes du Maroc) of Taliouine (involved in the saffron value chain) and representatives of FIMASAFRAN (Federation Interprofessionnelle Marocaine du Safran)	Information and consultation	Content of the project, main objectives	Oral, French and Arabic	Online meeting – with Morocco PPG team components	FPIC, sharing information about the project, Collection of data about the local context, especially the women's involvement in value chain (main weaknesses and strengthens), expectations regarding the project, main stakeholders for women cooperatives, data collection for Gender Analysis and Action Plan See questionnaire in Annex	Concern about the cooperatives working alone (not included in Unions of cooperatives/Groupements d'Interet Economique)	Included in the Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan	Gender Action Plan implementation
02.06.2022	Mohammed VI Foundation for the Research and the Protection of the Argan tree and BDA Foundation	Information and consultation	Sharing of information about the combined saffron-argan value chain	Oral, French and English	Online meeting – with Morocco PPG team components	Description of the local context and of the elements related to the combined saffron-argan value chain.	PPG team asked clarifications about the operationalization of the value chain.	Information shared by email by Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment and BDA Foundation	N/A

Date	Stakeholder engaged (Individuals, groups, Organizations)	Activity (i.e Consultation, information, collection of data, ...),	Type of information disclosed	Forms and language	Location	Remarks/key issues discussed	Key concerns raised	Responses to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions	Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders
07.06.2022	Director of UCFA (Union des Coopératives des Femmes de l'Arganier), President of the Fédération Nationale des Femmes de la filière Argan	Information and consultation	Content of the project, main objectives	Oral, French	Online meeting – with Morocco PPG team components	FPIC, sharing information about the project, Collection of data about the local context, especially the women's involvement in value chain (main weaknesses and strengthens), expectations regarding the project, main stakeholders for women cooperatives, data collection for Gender Analysis and Action Plan See questionnaire in Annex	Concern about the capacities of local communities/women working in the cooperatives to understand the contents of ABS framework/Nagoya Protocol, considering the level of alphabetization is low.	The information channel and communication processes will be adapted to the local context – oral communications, organization of workshops	Gender Action Plan implementation

Women cooperatives representatives and the representatives of organizations working with women are part of local communities and Amazigh communities who are involved in project implementation. Women cooperatives representatives and the representatives of regional associations are strongly rooted in the areas where the project will be implemented. During consultations, the persons involved explained that the targeted regions are mostly populated by Amazigh communities. Although we didn't ask directly (in order to have a culture sensitive approach), we can assume that the persons consulted are part of Amazigh communities. The region and value chain-specific SEPs will go more in-depth, when the groups involved in the project will be identified and specified.

4. Project Stakeholders

The identification of key stakeholders for the project was made from the stakeholder analysis, through which it was made sure that all their interests are well understood in order to effectively plan their participation in the project. The methodology used for the preparation of this analysis responded to the UNDP, SES and included the following components: a. identification of stakeholders directly and/or indirectly affected by the project, b. identification of stakeholder interests, c. identification of stakeholders potential influence on project outcomes or operations, d. consideration of the capacities of the various stakeholder groups to effectively participate in the stakeholder engagement activities (and identification of measures to support them where capacity is limited), e. Identification of project-affected marginalized and disadvantaged stakeholders, including persons with disabilities.

Based on the preliminary list and on the work done during PPG, here below the key and strategic stakeholders:

- **Family/ groups farmers** already involved in the value chains identified as target of the project
- **Women's cooperatives**, involved in the value chains targeted by the project or other value chains with similar structure.
- **Youth's cooperatives,** involved in the value chains targeted by the project or other value chains with similar structure.
- **Indigenous Peoples-Local communities,** who are at risk of marginalization and will be involved in the project also through the Indigenous Peoples- Local communities Plan (IP-LC P)
- **Any other marginalised (or at risk of marginalization) groups** who can be involved in the development of value chains under the ABS framework.
- **UNDP staff** involved in similar projects implemented in Morocco and focusing on partnership with the private sector.
- **Representatives of the private** sector interested on ABS and already involved in value chains development in Morocco
- **NGOs and Civil Society Organisations** (CSOs) that are active in the target areas.
- **University and Research institutions** working on ABS framework and biodiversity
- **National, regional and traditional leaders and authorities**, through whom/which decision making and participatory planning will be coordinated.

The Stakeholders analysis provided the basis for the development of this Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan., where measures to support and accommodate engagement of the most vulnerable groups are identified. The plan follows UNDP and GEF guidelines to help the project identify stakeholders and establish effective lines of communication and working relationships. The following table identify the common stakeholders for the entire project, taking into account the level of impact and influence.

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Interest	Perception of the impacts of the project on interests (+, -, neutral)	Importance 1=Low/No Importance 2=Some Importance 3=Moderate Importance 4=Very Important 5=Critical player	Resources/influence 1=Low/No Influence 2=Some influence 3=Moderate Influence 4=Significant Influence 5=Very Influential	Direct/Indirect beneficiaries
Farmers	Access to land and genetic resources and involvement in project activities	+	5	5	Direct
Traders	Access to resources	+	4	5	Indirect
Women/women groups and cooperatives	Access to land and genetic resources and involvement in project activities. Traditional Knowledge holders in the argan value chain	+	5	5	Direct
Youths/Youths groups and cooperatives	Access to land and genetic resources and involvement in project activities	+	5	5	Direct
Men/head of Household	Decision making on land and genetic resources use	+	5	4	Indirect
Migrants/Displaced peoples	Access to land and natural resources	+	2	1	Indirect
Nomads	Access to land and natural resources	Neutral	3	3	Indirect
Landowners	Decision making on land and genetic resources use.	+	5	3	Indirect
Morocco Government agencies	Influence on policies, decision making processes, possible role on conflict prevention and resolution, involvement in project activities	+	5	5	Direct
Morocco regional authorities	Influence on policies, decision making processes, possible role on conflict prevention and resolution, involvement in project activities	+	5	5	Direct
Municipalities	Influence on policies, decision making processes, possible role on conflict prevention and resolution, involvement in project activities	+	5	4	
Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes	Influence on policies, decision making processes, possible role on conflict prevention and resolution, involvement in project activities	+	5	4	Direct

Contractors and subcontractors	Involvement in project activities	+	5	3	Direct
Private sector	Involvement in the market and in project activities	+	5	5	Direct
Consumers of goods	Involvement in the market and in project activities	+	5	4	Direct
Donors agencies	Support to policy makers, investment in ABS initiatives, Advocacy	+	5	3	Indirect
UNDP	Facilitate the project implementation, support policy makers, support stakeholder engagement	+	5	4	Indirect
Universities and Research Institutions	Support to policy makers, evidence-based research on ABS, data driven advocacy, involvement in project activities	+	5	5	Direct
NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and CBOs (Community Based Organizations)	Support to policy makers, support to advocacy on ABS, support to and involvement in project activities	+	5	5	Direct

The identified stakeholders are summarized in the below Stakeholder impact and influence matrix.

The prioritization of the stakeholders is made through this matrix that organizes the interested parties according to "impact" and "influence", into four groups: 1) stakeholders with high impact / low influence; 2) high impact / high influence stakeholders; 3) low impact / low influence stakeholders; and 4) low impact / high influence stakeholders.

Impact Low----------->High	**Group 1:** Stakeholders with high importance / low influence: • Landowners • Contractors and Subcontractors • Donor Agencies	**Group 2:** Stakeholders with high importance / high influence: • Farmers • Women/women groups and cooperatives • Youths/Youths groups and cooperatives • Men/head of Household • Morocco Government agencies • Morocco regional authorities • Municipalities • Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes • Private sector • Consumers of goods • UNDP • Universities and Research Institutions • NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and CBOs (Community Based Organizations)
	Group 3: Stakeholders with low importance / low influence: • Migrants/Displaced peoples • Nomads	**Group 4:** Stakeholders with low importance / high influence: civil society and social movements • N/A
	Influence **Low----------->High**	

5. Stakeholder engagement program

Purpose and goals of the Program

This Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan is a management instrument aimed at achieving the successful involvement and participation of stakeholders linked to the design and implementation of the project. The main objective of this Plan is "to support the development of solid, constructive and responsive relationships for the design and implementation of the project."

Inclusive, open, transparent and culturally appropriate stakeholder participation is essential for the project's formulation, implementation and monitoring process. Properly designed and implemented stakeholder participation can improve environmental and social sustainability, increase acceptance by and capacity building of the communities, and support risk management.

This Plan will support effective coordination mechanisms to have a positive impact on the overall management of the project. This should be applied in conjunction with the other project's safeguard processes, especially with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Gender Analysis and Action Plan, the Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities Planning Framework (IP-LC PF) and the Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities Plan (IP-LC P).

Stakeholder engagement is an overarching term that encompasses a range of activities and interactions with stakeholders throughout the project cycle. The SES (Social and Environmental Standards) defines stakeholder engagement as an on-going process that may involve, to varying degrees, the following elements:

- Stakeholder analysis and planning
- Disclosure and dissemination of information
- Consultation and meaningful participation
- Dispute resolution and grievance redress
- Stakeholder involvement in monitoring and evaluation
- On-going reporting to affected communities and other stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement supports the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships that are critical for sound project design and implementation. Effective stakeholder engagement enhances project acceptance and ownership and strengthens the social and environmental sustainability and benefits of supported interventions.

It is both a goal in itself – upholding the rights of citizens and others to participate in decisions that may affect them – as well as an effective means for achieving project outcomes, including those related to democratic governance, protecting the environment, promoting respect for human rights, and preventing and resolving conflict.

Full and effective stakeholder engagement is one of the six overarching SES policy objectives and seeks to:

- Provide meaningful access to dialogue and decision-making in development processes
- Strengthen development results through effective partnerships
- Identify stakeholder priorities to better tailor project activities, opportunities and benefits
- Seek to ensure no one is left behind and disadvantaged and vulnerable project stakeholders have a voice in project development and implementation
- Identify potential constraints and conflicts that could affect project effectiveness
- Ensuring transparency, accountability and integrity
- Learn from and incorporate local knowledge to improve project design and avoid and mitigate project-related risks and impacts
- Provide a feedback and monitoring mechanism to ensure the project is achieving its intended results, and identifies potential unintended consequences

The project has to take into consideration the key SES stakeholder engagement requirements:

- Ensure meaningful, effective, informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of UNDP programmes and projects, providing stakeholders opportunities to express their views at all points in the project decision-making process on matters that affect them
- Conduct stakeholder analysis and engagement in a gender-responsive, culturally sensitive, non-discriminatory and inclusive manner, identifying potentially affected vulnerable and marginalized groups and providing them opportunities to participate
- Develop appropriately scaled Stakeholder Engagement Plans, with level and frequency of engagement reflecting the nature of the activity, magnitude of potential risks and adverse impacts, and concerns raised by affected communities
- Meaningful, effective and informed consultation processes need to be free of charge and meet specified criteria, including free of intimidation and external manipulation; initiated early and iterative; inclusive; gender and age responsive; culturally appropriate and tailored to language preferences; and based on timely disclosure of relevant, accessible information regarding the project and its social and environmental risks and impacts
- Include differentiated measures to allow effective participation of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities
- Undertake measures to ensure effective stakeholder engagement occurs where conditions for inclusive participation are unfavourable
- Document consultations and report them in accessible form to participants and the public
- Ensure early and iterative meaningful stakeholder engagement throughout the assessment and management of potential social and environmental risks and impacts
- Ensure that stakeholders who may be adversely affected by the project can communicate concerns and grievances through various entry points, including, when necessary, an effective project-level grievance mechanism, and also UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism and Social and Environmental Compliance Unit

- For projects that affect rights, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples/local communities marginalised or at risk of marginalization, ensure meaningful consultations and free, prior informed consent (FPIC)
- For projects that may involve physical or economic displacement, ensure activities are planned and implemented collaboratively with meaningful and informed participation of those affected
- Provide ongoing reporting to affected communities and individuals for projects with significant adverse social and environmental impacts
- Seek to identify, reduce and address the risk of retaliation and reprisals against people who may seek information on and participation in project activities, express concerns and/or access project-level grievance redress processes/mechanisms or UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism or Social and Environmental Compliance Unit

The main goals of the Stakeholder Engagement Program are:

- Provide meaningful access to dialogue and decision-making, allowing **stakeholder views** to be taken into account in project design and environmental and social performance.
- In order to better adapt the activities, opportunities and benefits in the design and implementation of the project and in order to avoid and mitigate risks and impacts related to the project, take into account the experiences, **knowledge,** and skills of each stakeholder.
- **Promote inclusive and effective participation** of affected parties throughout the project cycle in relation to issues that could have an impact on them and provide the necessary means for such participation.
- Ensure that adequate **information** on environmental and social benefits, risks, and impacts is **disclosed** to stakeholders in a format and in a manner that is accessible, timely, understandable, and appropriate.
- Provide project-affected parties with **accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and complaints and manage a timely response to them.**

This Plan promotes effective participation in the design and implementation cycle, which includes the appropriate tasks for the inclusion and distribution of the project's benefits, against which the following **strategic actions** are proposed:

- The project will have within its management unit different professionals to coordinate the project, with which the full and effective participation of the interested parties will be promoted. A Safeguards and Gender specialist will be hired (part time) to establish intercommunication mechanisms for project stakeholders and to guarantee successful implementation of the project's safeguards plans.
- This specialist will guarantee the involvement of the various stakeholders, especially vulnerable groups (women, youths, older adults, Indigenous Peoples - Local Communities), to support local consultation and participation activities of each one of the project components, ensure their participation in the project life cycle, and to communicate the results of this work.
- Local facilitators will be involved to work with the rural communities and Indigenous peoples, to have a relationship with the stakeholders within the territory, and to be able to stimulate the actions of each component.
- The project will have several spaces for participation, such as: Workshops, trainings, and community and institutional meetings.
- Different information and consultation meetings will be held in each region, paying attention to the diversity of stakeholders. The spaces will be provided with suitable and specialized personnel for each topic to be addressed and their contents and methods of communication will be adapted to the need of each audience.
- There will be close work with Indigenous Peoples, guaranteeing FPIC. Different spaces for dialogue will be enabled and FPIC will be carried out at the beginning the project with Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities.
- The authorities at region, province and municipality levels will play a central role during the life of the project. The Regional Committees will facilitate the dialogue with local communities, and their participation and involvement in the decision-making processes.
- Community-based organizations (CBOs) and NGOs that have roots and projects in the intervention areas will also play a central role in the project's implementation. For this, different ways of articulating agreements, alliances, grants will be analyzed to work together and take advantage of local presence, knowledge, capacities and specific practices, as well as the network of stakeholders within the regions targeted by the project.

- There are several Foundations that are working on the selected value chains (especially the argan value chain), supporting development projects focused on empowering the role of women and on responding to their needs. The involvement of these Foundations will be strategic to achieve the project's results and objectives.
- There are several Associations that are supporting cooperatives in saffron and argan value chain, that have a strategic role in terms of projects implementation, considering their knowledge about local communities and their relationships with local cooperatives. These Associations will be strongly involved all along the project, for activities implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Dissemination of the overall Gender Action Plan and the Gender Action Plan specific for each region and value chain to the interested parties and regular consultations, particularly with women in the implementation sites (in their capacity as local communities and/or members of groups) on necessary advancements and changes.
- Periodic consultations and review mechanisms facilitated through the regular delivery of documents in advance, local meetings, dissemination of information through the local communication channels, and the coordination with the civil society, local officials and representatives of the entities involved in the project's areas. These mechanisms will help address potential risks and adverse impacts directly with local stakeholders and in accordance with their feedback and allow the project to periodically implement necessary adjustments and corrections.
- Since this project may have possible adverse social and environmental impacts (substantial project risk category), stakeholders will need to have timely, accessible and appropriate information from the specific assessments (ESIA) and management plans (IP-LC P, ESMP, Livelihoods Action Plan). This information will be disclosed in advance as part of the stakeholder consultation process, in an accessible place, and in a form and language understandable to affected individuals and other stakeholders.
- Intercommunication channels are established for the reciprocal transmission of information, knowledge and experiences resulting from the project, using different participation methods such as: correspondence by email/telephone, meetings, workshops, website, videos, memories and learning documents, etc.
- The necessary mechanisms are provided to ensure the adequate incorporation of comments, visions, needs and concerns from the stakeholders involved in the project.

After identifying the strategic actions that will make up this plan, the various engagement mechanisms that the project will require are identified below:

a. **Inform:** with the aim of allowing stakeholders to understand the situation, the processes developed, the different alternatives and their implications. It is a one-way communication.
b. **Capacitate:** with the objective of responding to the key stakeholders' knowledge demands on more specific issues from each component in order to strengthen their capacities and broaden their range of understanding and action on the subject.
c. **Consult**: in order to obtain feedback from stakeholders on situations, alternatives, scenarios and decisions. It is a two-way communication. It allows the project to take into account interests, priorities, needs and concerns.
d. **Involve:** includes a mechanism for integrating relevant stakeholders into the different stages of the project in order to generate open and participatory processes which allows for their observations, needs and/or contributions to be included in each of the four components.
e. **Decision-making:** it is the highest degree of integration, the objective of which is that stakeholders can make informed decisions about the processes developed within the project's framework.

Information dissemination process

The project will develop a communication strategy, which will take into account the comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan. In order to guarantee and ensure the effective participation of stakeholders, respecting the right and access to information of all the project's intervening parties, stakeholders and partners, the PMU, in constant coordination with the Safeguards and Gender Expert and the Knowledge Management Expert hired by the project, will work jointly. Their work will have the aim of collecting, analyzing and disseminating information about the project and promoting feedback from stakeholders in different dialogue spaces. The information will be disseminated through culturally appropriate forms. Methods for communicating may vary depending on the target audience.

The Project Management Unit will be in charge of maintaining a flow of communication with the group of stakeholders involved through both traditional media and using new information technologies. Below is a list of the methods that will be used to engage and/or consult the stakeholders.

- **Email/phone correspondence**: distribute project information to partners and stakeholders and inform stakeholders about meetings, consultations, workshops, etc.
- **Use of virtual institutional channels, live broadcasts and social networks**: to communicate through conversations, forums, congresses or any type of massive event.
- **Communication via printed matter, newsletters, and documents**: Documents (brochures, bulletins, booklets, infographics) to disseminate information about the project will be in a format that is accessible to the general public (visually attractive, in simple language and pedagogically appropriate to groups of interest).
- **Radio, television, local newspapers, and video**: to convey project information such as project announcements, achievements, lessons learned, and will include testimonials from key stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- **Technical documents**: Documents that contain information organized in a structured way and that efficiently present information about the project.

Stakeholder engagement methods

The stakeholder consultation processes began during the project's PPG phase. Likewise, in order to successfully achieve the proposed objectives, these processes will continue to be sustained throughout the project cycle. There are several proposed consultation methods, including in-person spaces where biosafety protocols required for these spaces will be implemented.

The project design includes participation mechanisms such as:

- **Interviews:** Build personal relationships with stakeholders; ask for opinions. These can be done digitally, by phone, or in person. Likewise, surveys could be used if deemed necessary. This mechanism will be key for project feedback, and will integrate monitoring and reporting processes.
- **Formal meetings**: Build relationships with project partners; distribute technical documents, and present information using PowerPoint. Support documents are prepared for the discussions, comments/questions posed, and answers. These can be developed through the use of information and communication technologies.
- **Focus group meetings**: Small group meetings of 5-10 people will be facilitated to allow them to share their views and opinions about the project. Support documents for the discussions, comments/questions posed, and answers will be prepared.
- **Workshops**: Present project information to a group of key stakeholders, use participatory exercises to facilitate group discussions, exchange ideas, analyze information, and develop recommendations and strategies. Support documents for the discussions, comments/questions posed, and answers will be prepared.
- **Site visit:** Gather feedback from individual stakeholders by visiting project areas.
- **Exchanges of experiences** includes socialization processes and knowledge exchange between stakeholders from different project areas. This will mainly link stakeholders who play an important role in the incorporation of best practices for ABS framework in the project areas.
- **Community networks:** facilitate the creation of networks of groups of direct beneficiaries for the implementation of monitoring systems and comprehensive information on use of Genetic resources under the ABS framework.
- **Consultations with experts:** these consultations can be made for each of the project's components and for their subsequent strategic aspects. They can be carried out personally, through focus groups, or specific workshops.

Participation and consultation with relevant groups such as women, youths, the elderly, and other marginalized groups will be taken into account throughout the project's implementation. These stakeholders will participate in project inception workshops, in annual progress meetings, and in the project closure workshop. Participatory methodologies will be used, to collect all the opinions and feedback.

The participation and the engagement in the decision-making processes of women, youths, Indigenous Peoples-Local communities and other marginalized groups will be ensured especially through the Gender Action Plan and the Indigenous Peoples – Local Communities Plan that will be development for each region and value chain.

Undertaking a FPIC process

When an FPIC process is required, the project team will engage the potentially affected indigenous peoples to reach agreement on the scope and format of the FPIC process and the scope of the IP-LC P/IP-LC PF. This process will be launched at project inception phase.

During PPG consultations, women cooperatives and associations representative have been informed about the project contents and about the FPIC process.

In all cases, no activities predicated on the granting of FPIC should be initiated until the outcomes of the FPIC process and the associated IP-LC P/IP-LC PF are validated, and any required mitigation measures are in place.

The indigenous peoples who may be affected by the project will have a central role in defining the FPIC process and the establishment of the IP-LC P/IP-LC PF. A facilitator who speaks the necessary languages should be hired to lead the process. The facilitator needs to be available throughout the project, be aware of the project context, and be culturally and gender-sensitive. If possible, the facilitator should be identified by the affected indigenous peoples. It will also be helpful to involve other stakeholders which are likely to be involved in implementing the FPIC process, such as local or national authorities.

Facilitators, in cooperation with the government and stakeholders, are responsible for ensuring, among other things, that the following key arrangements are part of the FPIC process:

- Full, accurate information regarding the project (e.g. positive and negative, potential risks and short and/or long term impacts, benefits) is communicated in the most appropriate language and medium, ensuring that is easily understandable and accessible (innovative and creative forms of communication may be required)
- Information reaches all members of affected indigenous community and is consistent with the community's mechanisms for information sharing
- A secure, culturally appropriate and trusted environment for discussions is provided
- Decision-making processes, timelines, and languages for communicating are determined by the affected indigenous peoples without interference
- Customary laws and practices of the affected indigenous peoples are respected.

The overall aim of the FPIC process with all stakeholders is to obtain a signed agreement or oral contract witnessed by an independent entity agreed to by both parties, ensuring that the greatest number of community members are involved and represented, including potentially marginalized groups. The community's customs and norms for participation, decision making, and information sharing are to be respected.

While the objective of the FPIC process is to reach an agreement (consent) on the project or project components and the IP-LC P/IP-LC PF between the relevant parties—be it a signed agreement or otherwise formalized oral contract—this does not mean that all FPIC processes will lead to the consent of and approval by the rights-holders in question.

At the core of FPIC is the right of the peoples concerned to choose to engage, negotiate and decide to grant or withhold consent, as well as the acknowledgement that under certain circumstances, it must be accepted that the activities (or project) for which FPIC could not be ascertained will not proceed and/or that engagement must be ceased if the affected peoples decide that they do not want to commence or continue with negotiations or if they decide to withhold their consent to the activities and/or project.

A few key points:

- Understand what constitutes consent within the community, including both the process as well as the actual indicators that consent has been achieved (e.g. show of hands, ballots, decision among elders, etc.).
- Document the process (see below) followed and decisions made, using methods that are relevant and useful to all parties. It may be necessary to document the process and decisions in more than one way, for example in both a written document and a recording of the representative speaking the decision.
- If the project/activities will be moving forward, work in partnership with the indigenous peoples' community to determine the next steps and move forward with the project planning and implementation phase per the agreements reached.

- Conduct periodic review of the agreements with the community throughout the lifecycle of the project. The frequency of review should be determined with the community and modified as needed with the agreement of the parties once the project or is underway.

Recording and documenting the FPIC process. The FPIC process should be well-documented in writing and reflected in the IP-LC P/IP-LC PF and made publicly available. The outcomes documentation should clarify if consent was provided or withheld and record whether the community provided consent through an oral contract.

It is important to document the whole FPIC process in the IP-LC P/IP-LC PF (or subsequent reports), including commitments and requirements agreed upon to reach such agreement as well as ideas, questions and concerns raised, so that it is possible to review the whole process during monitoring and in the event a grievance or dispute arises. Rights-holders may choose to grant their consent on the basis of certain conditions to be documented and operationalized (e.g. benefits continue to be derived from the project, restrictions on access to certain areas, limitations on contact with certain sectors of society or members living in voluntary isolation, etc.). These should be noted in the IP-LC P/IP-LC PF. If these conditions are not met, the community may review and either reaffirm or refuse consent. This option may be invoked at any stage of project implementation. Consent is an iterative process, not a single decision point. The same approach will be ensured in any other consultations planned at project inception phase.

The activities that require prior consultation and FPIC from Indigenous Peoples-Local Communities are listed in the IP-LC PF included as Annex in the ESMF. Based on the information collected and analysed during PIF and PPG, and considering the stakeholder analysis, the following Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan have been developed.

Comprehensive Stakeholder engagement plan

Stakeholder Group	Why included (interests)	Participation methods		Timeline	Cost est.
		Method	Responsibility		
Farmers	Access to land and genetic resources and involvement in project activities	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and along project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + beginning of every project year	Included in project management costs
Traders	Access to resources	Sharing Information with individuals and groups during project inception phase. Collection of feedback based on the M&E plan.	PMU	Inception phase + based on the M&E plan	Included in project management costs
Women/women groups and cooperatives	Access to land and genetic resources and involvement in project activities Traditional Knowledge holders in the argan value chain	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
Youths/Youths groups and cooperatives	Access to land and genetic resources and involvement in project activities	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
Men/head of Household	Decision making on land and genetic resources use	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
Migrants/Displaced peoples	Access to land and natural resources	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan	Included in project management costs
Nomads	Access to land and natural resources	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan	Included in project management costs

Landowners	Decision making on land and genetic resources use.	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan	Included in project management costs
Morocco Government agencies	Influence on policies, decision making processes, possible role on conflict prevention and resolution, involvement in project activities	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
Morocco regional authorities	Influence on policies, decision making processes, possible role on conflict prevention and resolution, involvement in project activities	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
Municipalities	Influence on policies, decision making processes, possible role on conflict prevention and resolution, involvement in project activities	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes	Influence on policies, decision making processes, possible role on conflict prevention and resolution, Ensure contact between Local Population and Government. Share the population's problems and aspiration with the decisions-makers. Involvement in project activities	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback. Could intervene throughout the project. Their role is very decisive.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
Contractors and subcontractors	Involvement in project activities	Sharing Information with individuals and groups during project inception phase.	PMU	Inception phase	Included in project management costs

Private sector	Involvement in the market and in the project activities. involvement in co-financing the project	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
Consumers of goods	Involvement in the market and in the project activities	Individuals and groups consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + beginning of every project year	Included in project management costs
Donors agencies	Support to policy makers, investment on ABS initiatives, Advocacy	Consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + beginning of every project year	Included in project management costs
UNDP	Facilitate the project implementation, support policy makers, support stakeholder engagement	Consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
Universities and Research Institutions	Support to policy makers, evidence-based research ABS, data driven advocacy, Involvement in project activities	Consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs
NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and CBOs (Community Based Organizations)	Support to policy makers, support to advocacy ABS framework, support to and involvement in project activities	Consultation during project inception phase and during project implementation. Disclosure of assessment and management plans. Collection of feedback.	PMU	Inception phase + based on M&E plan + regular meetings to collect feedback	Included in project management costs

The stakeholders' roles will be detailed at outcome level, for each geographical area where the project will be implemented, based on the following first analysis and using STAP's guidance on Multistakeholder engagement for transformational change", focused on establishing stakeholder engagement processes to achieve long-term drivers through scaling and transformative change.[23]

OUTCOME	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGED
COMPONENT 1 - CONSOLIDATING THE NATIONAL ABS FRAMEWORK AND RELATED CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE	
Outcome 1.1 Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework	Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes Donors agencies UNDP Universities and Research Institutions NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and CBOs (Community Based Organizations)
Outcome 1.2. Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS law	Farmers Traders Women/women groups and cooperatives Youths/Youths groups and cooperatives Men/head of Household Migrants/Displaced peoples Nomads Landowners Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes Contractors and subcontractors Private sector Consumers of goods (agricultural products, others) Donors agencies UNDP NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and CBOs (Community Based Organizations)
Outcome 1.3. Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates	Farmers Traders Women/women groups and cooperatives Youths/Youths groups and cooperatives Men/head of Household Migrants/Displaced peoples Nomads Landowners Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes Contractors and subcontractors Private sector Consumers of goods (agricultural products, others) Donors agencies UNDP
COMPONENT 2 - DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ABS PRODUCTS AND VALUE CHAINS DERIVED FROM GENETIC RESOURCES UNDER NATIONAL ABS LAW	

[23] https://www.stapgef.org/multi-stakeholderdialogue

Outcome 2.1. Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D.	Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes Donors agencies UNDP Universities and Research Institutions NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and CBOs (Community Based Organizations)
Outcome 2.2. R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit sharing	Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes UNDP Universities and Research Institutions NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and CBOs (Community Based Organizations)
COMPONENT 3 - BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE AND CONSERVATION STRENGTHENED THROUGH MAINSTREAMING AND BENEFIT-SHARING IN THREE TARGET REGIONS	
Outcome 3.1. Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa and Fès-Meknès Regions.	Farmers Traders Women/women groups and cooperatives Youths/Youths groups and cooperatives Men/head of Household Migrants/Displaced peoples Nomads Landowners Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes Contractors and subcontractors Private sector Consumers of goods (agricultural products, others) Donors agencies UNDP
Outcome 3.2. ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource-supplier communities and biodiversity/ ecosystems.	Farmers Traders Women/women groups and cooperatives Youths/Youths groups and cooperatives Men/head of Household Migrants/Displaced peoples Nomads Landowners Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes Contractors and subcontractors Private sector Consumers of goods (agricultural products, others) Donors agencies UNDP
COMPONENT 4 - SAFEGUARDS, GENDER & KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	

Outcome 4.1. Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks	Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes UNDP
Outcome 4.2. Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing	Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes UNDP
COMPONENT 5 - MONITORING & EVALUATION	
Outcome 5.1. M&E duly implemented	Morocco Government agencies Morocco regional authorities Municipalities Rural Municipalities/Rural Communes UNDP

Stakeholder Engagement Plan per region and value chain

The project will adopt an overarching Stakeholder Engagement Plan, as detailed above, based on the Stakeholder Engagement Program. In addition, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed for each region and for each value chain identified, during the first year of the project. The stakeholder engagement plans will describe:

- What information will be disclosed, in what formats and languages, and the types of methods that will be used to communicate this information to each of the stakeholder groups
- The methods that will be used to engage and/or consult with each of the stakeholder groups identified.
- How the views of women and other relevant groups (e.g. minorities, elderly, youths, other marginalized groups) will be taken into account and their participation facilitated.
- Where relevant, define activities that require prior consultation and FPIC from indigenous peoples/local communities marginalised or at risk of marginalisation.
- Outline methods to receive feedback and to ensure on-going communications with stakeholders (outside of a formal consultation meeting)
- Describe any other engagement activities that will be undertaken, including participatory processes, joint decision-making, and/or partnerships undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders.

In the Stakeholder Engagement plans, a specific focus will be put on the following processes:

- Engagement of women, especially young women.
- Identification of the indigenous peoples/local communities marginalised or at risk of marginalisation impacted by the project
- Identification of the power relations between different stakeholders groups, including the ones coming from abroad – migrants from Sub-Saharan countries.
- Engagement of marginalised (or at risk of marginalisation) groups and of any group considered as cultural minority
- The involvement of youths is ensured all along the project cycle (from designing phase, to implementation and M&E) to fulfil the project objectives, especially to open opportunities of sustainable livelihoods
- Map out different social characteristics (e.g. power, political and cultural dimensions, gender) required to implement an effective and equitable governance
- Careful attention will be paid to identifying stakeholders that are essential for achieving long-term impacts and scaling.

The aim of the Stakeholder engagement process is to be inclusive; at times it may be needed to adapt engagement activities to enable some communities or individuals to fully participate.

Specific groups include, but not limited to, the groups listed above and, in particular, minorities groups, older people, women, young people, and people with disability. Things to be mindful of while engaging with specific groups include:

- Identify local representatives.
- Communicate consistently.

- When possible, provide opportunities smaller meetings.
- Timing and location of meetings.
- Allowing enough time for the groups to participate.
- Accessible meeting locations and venues.
- Accessible and respectful information.
- Work with existing community networks.

The stakeholders are mapped in the Theory of Change, to anticipate their role in the phases of project implementation, and to anticipate whether barriers could exist for their engagement (e.g. levels of literacy, cultural barriers). A strong focus will be on engaging with women and youths beyond merely 'consulting' and awareness raising, ensuring that gender and youths-focused NGOs and CBOs are invited to participate at meetings, seminars, workshops and discussion groups that address the objectives of the project.

All along the project cycle a specific attention is put on processes to involve gender and youths-focused NGOs and CBOs in project implementation and capacity development at national and local levels. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan that will be developed for each region and value chain targeted will include detailed information about Participation and communication levels and about Stakeholder engagement methods, using the following tables:

Participation and communication levels

Stakeholder group	Participation levels					Communication levels				
	Inform	Capacitate	Consult	Involve	Decision-making	Email/phone correspondence	Institutional virtual channels, live broadcasts and social networks	Communication via printed matter, newsletters, documents	Radio, TV, local newspapers, video	Technical documents

Stakeholder engagement methods

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder engagement/consultation methods							
	Interviews	Formal meetings	Focus group meetings	Workshops	Site visits	Exchange of experiences/tours	Community networks	Consultation with experts

Engagement Materials

When possible, the Project will make the materials available to the stakeholders prior to the meetings to allow them some time to review and submit their comments. The Project will then agree with relevant stakeholders, including minorities groups, on the date/format of formal stakeholder engagement meetings.

The stakeholders will also share their concerns and inquiries during the formal stakeholder engagement meetings.

Data collection and analysis

Tracking and reporting on the progress of the engagement is key to the success of the Project, so it is critical to have a system to collate the information and ultimately help analyse input received upon conclusion of the engagement period. This will also help to manage follow-up engagement activities for the project team.

The Project will maintain a register of stakeholder engagement details and interactions in a spreadsheet such as Microsoft® Excel. A screen shot showing an example Excel community database is provided below.

Date	Interaction Type	Your Project Officer	Name of community member	Their organisation or group	Contact Details	Summary of contact	Issue raised	Follow-up action	Complete

The table can be adapted by the Project team, based on the needs in terms of data collection and analysis. The data can be taken into consideration also for informing the M&E processes. The analysis of the stakeholder engagement data will be included in the final project report, which be made available to relevant stakeholders.

The Project will provide feedback to participants of the engagement process. It is particularly important to provide feedback on engagement processes where there is a significant difference of opinion between participants. At the end of the engagement activity, information to provide back to stakeholders includes:

- How participant input has been used to inform the decision-making process.
- The next steps of the project.
- Details about future opportunities for input.

6. Timetable

An indicative timetable of key stakeholder engagement activities is presented in the table:

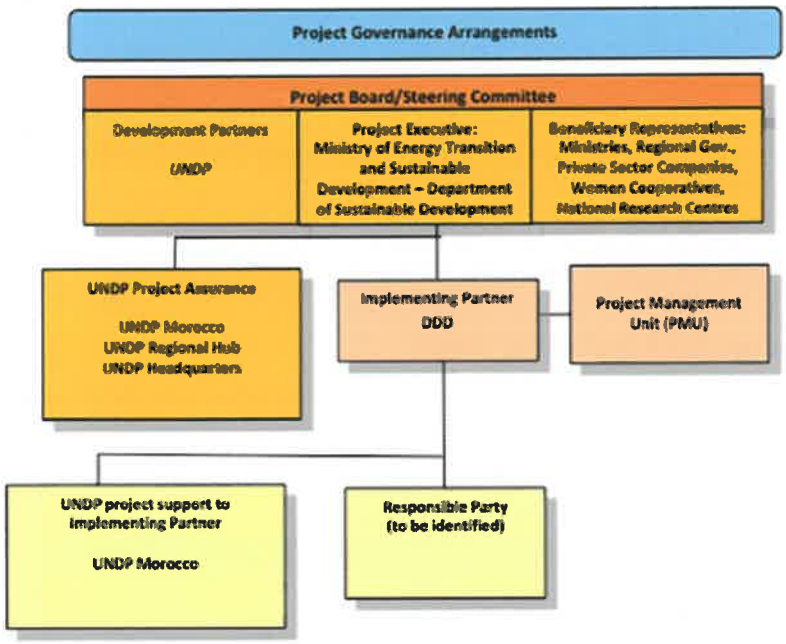
Activity	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
Project inception workshop with STK	X				
Field visits and consultations and STK engagement plans update	X	X	X	X	X
STK information on project implementation	X	X	X	X	X
Multi-level, multi-stakeholder meetings	X	X	X	X	X
Meetings with women groups – collection of feedback	X	X	X	X	X
Workshop for development of the annual project work plan	X	X	X	X	X
Workshop for project's results presentation					X

The timetable will be updated at project's inception phase and a detailed timetable will be developed in each Stakeholder Engagement Plans.

7. Resources and responsibilities

The implementing agency for the project is UNDP, and the executing partner is Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Environment (METSD – DE), who will be responsible for carrying out all the specific participatory activities for the stakeholders. The project will have a Project Steering Committee, which is the project's strategic political body, responsible for approving strategies and taking the necessary corrective measures to guarantee that the project achieves its desired results. In order to ensure the ultimate accountability of UNDP, Project Steering Committee decisions must be made in accordance with standards that ensure the management of results for development, better value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. The Project governance structure is as follows:

Supported NIM with Government as Implementing Partner



First line of Defense

- UNDP oversight of project support to IP cannot be UNDP staff providing project assurance or providing programmatic oversight support to the RR

Second line of Defense

- Regional Bureau oversees RR and Country Office compliance at portfolio level.
- BPPS NCE RTA oversees technical quality assurance and GEF compliance. BPPS NCE PTA oversees RTA function.
- BPPS NCE RTA Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight

Local stakeholders will have an additional mechanism to influence the project through two regional committees (one per region), which are made up of elected members whose composition, responsibilities and functions will be determined directly by local stakeholders. These committees will meet periodically to evaluate the project's progress and communicate interests and concerns to the Project Manager, and the METSD - DE as executing entity.

Those who ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan in the highest instance are the implementing agency, UNDP, and the project's executing partner, METSD -DE. Those responsible for the execution of the plan are the Project Manager and the Safeguards and Gender specialist, with the support of the SES professional who are part of the Project Management Unit and who will guarantee the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the proposed activities. Here below are summarized the Roles and Responsibilities regarding the Stakeholder Engagement Process:

Position / Function	Roles and Responsibilities	Budget
Project Manager	The Project Manager, (in collaboration with the Project Management Unit) will have responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of the project. He/she will ensure that stakeholders are engaged according to plan. He/she will oversee the implementation of project activities and be accountable that stakeholder engagement is inclusive and according to plan.	See budget in ProDoc
Project Steering Committee	The Project Steering Committee will provide strategic oversight to the project, providing guidance and assisting in the decision-making process. The project steering committee will ensure that the interests of all stakeholders are considered.	See budget in ProDoc
Safeguards and Gender Specialist	Safeguards and Gender Specialist will be responsible to ensure local stakeholders are engaged in the project, with particular emphasis on participation of Indigenous Peoples, minorities, women and youths.	See budget in ProDoc

8. Grievance mechanism

The grievance mechanism describes:

- The process by which people concerned with or potentially affected by the project can express their grievances for consideration and redress.
- Who will receive grievances, how and by whom will they be resolved, and how will the response be communicated back to the complainant.

The grievance mechanism ensures reference is made to and stakeholders are informed of the availability of UNDP's Accountability Mechanism as additional avenues of grievance redress.

The Grievance mechanism is based on the following UNDP standards and documents:

- UNDP SES Supplemental Guidance_Grievance Redress Mechanisms
- Sample Terms of Reference - Project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism

UNDP's SES recognize that even with strong planning and stakeholder engagement, unanticipated issues can still arise. Therefore, the SES are underpinned by an Accountability Mechanism with two key components:

1. A Social and Environmental Compliance Review Unit (SECU) to respond to claims that UNDP is not in compliance with applicable environmental and social policies; and
2. A Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) that ensures individuals, peoples, and communities affected by projects have access to appropriate grievance resolution procedures for hearing and addressing project-related complaints and disputes.

UNDP's Accountability Mechanism is available to all of UNDP's project stakeholders.

The Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) investigates concerns about non-compliance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and Screening Procedure raised by project-affected stakeholders and recommends measures to address findings of non-compliance.

The Stakeholder Response Mechanism helps project-affected stakeholders, UNDP's partners (governments, NGOs, businesses) and others jointly address grievances or disputes related to the social and/or environmental impacts of UNDP-supported projects. Further information, including how to submit a request to SECU or SRM, is found on the UNDP website at:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/accountability/secu-srm/

The project will establish a Project Level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) within the first six months of the project, in order to receive and facilitate resolution of any complaints and grievances. The GRM will be established at the three project sites and at the national level in Rabat to address grievances that are escalated to higher levels. Information about the GRM will be widely disseminated, and a system for tracking complaints will be established. Interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the Project Management Unit, UNDP or the GEF.

During project implementation, interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the Project Management Unit (PMU), to the Executing Agency (Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development – Department of Environment) or to the GEF Implementing Agency (UNDP).

Due diligence efforts will be made by the local project representatives to first resolve grievances locally, in a manner sensitive to local social and cultural norms. If the local process does not result in resolution of a grievance, the case will be upgraded to the PMU, with the process managed by the Project Manager providing guidance and signing off on written responses to grievances.

The UNDP Country Office, as the GEF Implementing Agency, will be the next reference for resolving grievances if the case is not resolved at the local level or by the Executing Agency. The Resident Representative will identify a member of the Country Office management team to oversee and manage the grievance through the UNDP Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM). The SRM ensures individuals, peoples, and communities affected by projects have access to appropriate grievance resolution procedures for hearing and addressing project-related complaints and disputes.

9. Monitoring and reporting

The implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plans will be monitored and evaluated through the 60 months of project implementation. Stakeholder engagement activities will be added in project reports and the consultations and information activities reports will be supported by minutes of meetings, with a focus on the feedback from project beneficiaries and the other stakeholders. The feedback from vulnerable groups and marginalized groups will be taken into consideration as inputs to adapt the project and the method of work.

Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the stakeholder engagement plans are part of the project M&E plan as outlined in Section VII of the ProDoc. The project team will review and update the Stakeholder Engagement Plans once a year, to keep updated the list, the analysis of stakeholders and the activities for stakeholder engagement that can change during the project implementation period. In addition, the project team will ensure to communicate with and inform the stakeholders when some change in project's activities can affect their interests and their participation.

Annex 1 - Questionnaire for interview with key informant/Cooperatives representatives

- Présentation des participants et remerciements.
- Introduction du processus de Safeguards UNDP/GEF et explication du rôle des consultations avec les parties prenantes (avec un focus sur le FPIC - Free, Prior and Informed Consent).
- 5 minutes de présentation générale du projet/ABS Framework de la part de l'équipe PPG.
    - On va lui demander si elle a des questions et des commentaires par rapport au projet.
- Questions autour des sujets suivants:
    - Petite présentation du travail de la coopérative et du rôle de la personne au sein de la coopérative
    - Résultats positifs et difficultés rencontrés par la coopérative/ lessons apprises.
        - Est ce qu'il y a des besoins qui ne sont pas encore adressés (par exemple, formation, ressources monétaires, ressources humaines, etc.)?
    - Quelques questions sur le contexte socio-culturel dans lequel la coopérative travaille
        - Est ce qu'il y a des groupes d'appartenance différente dans la zone dans laquelle la coopérative travaille?
        - Est-ce que dans cette zone il y a des groupes qui sont marginalisés, plus vulnérables que d'autres (par exemple, personnes handicapées, personnes qui sont jugées moins capable d'autres dans le travail, etc)
    - Quels sont traditionnellement les rôles des femmes et des hommes liés à l'argan/la chaine de la valeur dans laquelle la personne est impliquée? Et dans les autres chaines de valeur impliquées dans le projet ?
    - Est-ce que vous voyez des possibles impacts/retombées positives ou négatives du projet ABS ?
    - D'autres questions qui peuvent être soulevées pendant la discussion.
- Conclusion et remerciements.

Annex 9: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

Included as a separate annex.

Annex 10: Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan

1. Executive Summary

This document presents a gender analysis and Gender Action Plan for the UNDP-GEF project "Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation" in Morocco. The objective of a Gender Action Plan is to establish the considerations necessary to integrate the gender dimension into the development of projects. These considerations are based on an analysis of the context, which includes the regulatory framework and the characteristics of the situation of women in three the project areas considered (Ifrane/Itzer area in the Fès-Meknès Region; and Talouine area and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate area in the Souss-Massa Region). The gender analysis provides the necessary elements to develop a Gender Action Plan with specific indicators on how the project contributes to equity and the empowerment of women.

This document present indicatives gender-response activities/Gender Action Plan. One Gender Action Plan will be developed for each region and each value chain (Saffron and Cedar Lichen), using the Mind your step! Tool.

The **main highlights coming from the Gender Analysis** are related to the following indicators:

- Illiteracy rate, especially for women living in rural areas
- Access to activity and resources
- Maternal mortality rate
- Exclusion of women from the impact of public policies
- Exclusion of women from social safety nets and protection nets
- Vulnerability rate of rural women, elderly women, poor women, women and girls with disabilities, and single mothers.
- Access to decent and paid employment
- Women entrepreneurship
- Access to land

The main actions identified in the Gender Action Plan are surrounded by the **project's gender mainstreaming strategy** that is cognizant of differences between men and women in terms of needs, priorities, the division of labour and access to knowledge and resources, and includes the following aspects, among others:

- Ensuring equitable representation of women and men in project activities and related groups, which are established and/or strengthened under the project.
- Allocating targeted budgets and other relevant resources for activities that promote the active and meaningful involvement of women, including in the monitoring and evaluating of these activities.
- Ensuring that opportunities for active participation, trainings, skills- and capacity- building for women are identified and budgeted for in the relevant project outcomes.
- Ensuring consultation with women, and where possible, key women's groups on needs and priorities related to project activities and/or interventions.
- Ensuring that any and/or all strategic and planning documents are developed in consultation with women and/or key women's groups.
- Providing equal opportunities for women in the recruitment of project implementation staff, including any relevant third-party service providers (e.g., consultancies).
- Promoting, and whenever possible ensuring, equal pay and benefits for women and men.

The Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan have been developed collecting and analysing secondary and primary data. Secondary data have been shared by UNDP Morocco and by the stakeholder consulted during PPG. Primary data have been collected through semi-structured interview with key informants from UNDP Morocco and from key stakeholders such as women cooperatives and associations working in saffron and argan value chains, in Souss Massa region.

2. Introduction

Project overview

This document presents a Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan for the UNDP-GEF project "Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation" in Morocco.

The project aims to consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems. The project, with a duration of 60 months, will focus on the following components:

1. Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge
2. Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law
3. Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in three target regions
4. Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management
5. Monitoring & Evaluation

The project will target value chains regarding saffron, cedar lichen, and the combined value chain saffron-argan in the following geographical areas: Ifrane/Itzer area, Fès-Meknès Region; Talouine area Souss-Massa Region; and Aoulouz/Ouarzazate area Souss-Massa Region.

The main possible **impacts and risks** on gender equality are the following:

- Lack of women and youth inclusion in sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits
- Lack of women and youth participation in data collection, data analysis and decision making processes
- Exacerbation of women and youth discrimination in the targeted value chain, especially for cedar lichen value chain, where the cooperatives structures are not yet in place
- Exacerbation of gender inequality in the targeted value chains

This document has been developed in line with the following UNDP and GEF Principles and Standards related to Gender and Social inclusion:

UNDP:

- UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES), with a focus on:
  - Principle 1: Leave No One Behind
  - Principle 2: Human Rights
  - Principle 3: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
  - Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience
  - Principle 5: Accountability
  - Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples
  - Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions
- UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017
- Theory of Change for Strategic Plan Outcome 4
- Gender in Strategic Plan IRRF
- Gender Parity Strategy

GEF:

- Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards
- Guidelines on GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards
- Policy on Gender Equality
- Guidelines on Gender Equality
- Policy on Stakeholder Engagement
- Guidelines on the Implementation of the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement

3. Methodology

The Gender Analysis has been developed in collaboration with the PPG team and through consultation with key informants:

- UNDP Gender Focal Point
- UNDP PPG team components
- Women involved in the saffron and argan value chains, in Souss Massa region.
- NGOs and Civil Society Organization that are interested/involved in the project

The information has been collected through the interviews and through desk research, mainly focused on the documents shared by UNDP Morocco (and on online sources).

- USAID Morocco Gender Analysis Report 2020
- Bilan commun pays Maroc 2021, United Nations Morocco
- Strengthening Arab Economic Integration for Sustainable Development Project (AEISD) Proposed Pilot Enhancing the Participation of Women in Trade Activities in the Argan Oil Sector in Morocco Concept Note (2021)
- Gender mainstreaming made easy: Handbook for programme staff – UNDP 2013
- Coopératives D'Argane, Diagnostic des besoins en renforcement des capacités pour l'élaboration d'un système de digitalisation de l'exportation des produits arganiers, Mustapha Boujrad, 2020
- Projet de plan de l'etude - analyse du secteur des cooperatives de l'huile d'argane et autres produits agricole (terroir) au Maroc et de l'impact de leur activite sur l'emploi des femmes et des jeunes, document du 28-06-2021, Nabil Boubrahimi--expert PNUD
- Pestel Analysis of the Moroccan context SGD5
- Piloting an SDG Integrated Accelerator for informal women led MSMEs in Morocco: technical advisory, digital financial inclusion, and data driven public policy. North Africa/Morocco - 25 February 2022
- Guidance to Advance Gender Equality in GEF projects and programs, December 2018

The Gender Analysis and Action Plan have been developed considering the following list of sex-disaggregated indicators – from GEF guidelines:

CONSULTATION/PARTICIPATION

- Number and percentage of men and women actively participating in consultations, workshops, and committee meetings
- Number of women and men in decision-making positions relating to the activities or in the project context
- Number and percentage of women and men serving in leadership positions relating to the areas of intervention or in the project context
- Number and percentage of men and women, by social group, consulted about project plans

BENEFIT SHARING

- Number of women and men benefitting from organized workshops and trainings opportunities within the program or project
- Number of women and men receiving program or project benefits
- Number of women and men benefitting from tools and resources
- Number of women and men benefiting from financial investments, due to program interventions
- Number of women and men engaged in benefit-sharing discussions
- Number of poor households that are project beneficiaries; number headed by men/women

ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND ASSETS

- Number of men who have ownership of land in their name
- Number of women and men who have access to land, water and forest resources.
- Number of women and men who have knowledge of laws relating to areas of intervention
- Number of women and men trained on land-right issues (e.g., land tenure/security rights)
- Number of women who have ownership of land in their name (e.g., land titles and tenure security)
- Number of women of in a leadership position with regard to land, water, forest and other biological resources (e.g., entrepreneur, manager, lead farmer).

4. Gender Analysis

Socio economic, cultural and political context

To understand the socio economic and cultural context as bases for the Gender Analysis, it is important to refer to the "Bilan commun pays Maroc 2021" (United Nations, Morocco) where the categories likely to be left behind are highlighted. According to information provided by national institutions, statistical producers and ministerial departments, these categories are characterised by the intersectionality of the factors of socio-economic exclusion, which aggravate the consequences. These include:

- Women and girls experiencing intersectional discrimination,
- Children in difficult circumstances,
- NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) people,
- Vulnerable older people,
- People with disabilities,
- Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,

- People living with HIV or at high risk of infection.

In Morocco women and girls are facing intersectional discrimination[24]. There are many socio-economic indicators to which women continue to perform poorly and lag significantly behind men.

Education and literacy

Illiteracy is still most prevalent among women: the illiteracy rate at age 10 is twice as high among women (42.1%) than among men (22.2%). Other indicators have worsened, and the gaps have widened further, notably in terms of access to activity and resources, which remains the most women's activity rate (22.1%) is more than three times lower than that of men (70.4%), the employment rate of women is almost a quarter of that of men (16.7% compared to 62.9%), while the rate of unpaid employment is four times higher for women (35%) than men (8.6%).

These national averages hide disparities that become more pronounced when we look at the most economically and socially vulnerable female populations. The illiteracy rate peaks at 60.1% for rural women, while the activity rate falls to 19.5% when only urban women are taken into account. Maternal mortality is 111.1 deaths per 100,000 live births in rural areas and 44.5 in urban areas. As for the prevalence of violence against women, it affected 58.3% of women living in urban areas and 55% of women in rural areas.

Today, young women make up 80% of NEETs. And increases with age, much more rapidly than of young men: while about 60% of 18-year-old women are at school, only one in ten is in this situation at the age of 24. More than 70% of them are NEET at this age, while around 60% of 24 year old men working. Education levels and family background further increase the risk women to become NEET, especially in rural areas. A significant share of NEETs in Morocco are young married women with a lower level of education. The analysis of the economic costs of gender inequalities in the market shows that an elimination of the employment gaps between women and men would generate an increase in GDP of up to 37.4%.

Socio-political context

Morocco has made progress in ensuring a legal and institutional framework prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, colour, creed, social or regional origin, language and disability, and providing protection of the most categories of the population. However, several categories of women and girls, generally poor and from remote rural areas continue to be directly or indirectly excluded. Most often, these are girls and women disabled, widowed, illiterate unregistered, engaged in domestic activities, etc.

Public policies are therefore called upon to take into account the strong geographical, demographic and social disparities, which are sources of vulnerability, and which accumulate and exclude many women from the impact of public policies, and in particular social safety nets and protection nets: rural women, elderly women, poor women, women and girls with disabilities, and single mothers.

The main challenge is therefore to improve the quality of life of women and to improve coordination for a comprehensive approach, while keeping in mind the insidious nature of discrimination against women, which does not spare any women (e.g. women with a high school diploma or secondary level are more likely to face gender based violence than women with no education at all, with a prevalence rate of 65% versus 49.6%).

Economic context

Access to decent and paid employment is a necessary condition for escaping from poverty. However, Moroccan women face major obstacles in this area. In decline compared to 2009 (26.5%), the activity rate for women in 2019 reached 23.8% of the working age population. In the same year, women accounted for only 22.7% of the employed. The health crisis has further reduced to 19.9% in 2020, compared to 70.4% for men. The unemployment rate for women increased significantly between 2009 and 2019 (from 27,6% à 35%). However, this figure conceals more complex realities.

In rural areas, women have higher activity rates than in urban areas (25% vs. 12%). This rate, in urban areas remains stable at around 20%. Due to the significant importance of the agricultural sector in the rural economy, it fluctuates between 30 and 40% in rural areas, with a downward trend in recent years. A significant proportion of these active rural women work as family helpers.

It is estimated that they represent, in these areas, at least two thirds of the workers in this category. Thus, nationally, 35% of women are in unpaid employment. As for the sectors where they are in paid employment, the highest rates of feminisation are found in sectors with low productivity and remuneration: social services provided to the community (48.3%), textile industry (47.6%) and personal and domestic services (36.6%).

In addition, in both urban and rural areas, women are still struggling to enter the field of entrepreneurship: there are three times fewer women than male entrepreneurs. Also, the low level of social capital seems to be a more important barrier for them, whether

[24] From *Bilan commun pays Maroc 2021* (United Nations, Morocco)

it is in setting up a business or looking for a job: in 2017, 32.3% of women said they could rely on social capital to set up a business, compared to 42.6% of men.

Institutional and legal context

Vulnerabilities related to the legal framework: The Constitution prohibits all forms of discrimination, enshrines equality between men and women in all areas and guarantees to ensure the reality of these rights. Indeed, the preamble to the 2011 Constitution enshrines the principle of equality, dignity and freedom and its article 19 enshrines parity as a commitment of the State. Moreover, as a State party to the CEDAW and the CRC, Morocco is committed to harmonising laws and establishing institutional mechanisms and instruments facilitating the consecration of equality between men and women. However, despite this progress, some provisions of the legal framework constitute a factor of vulnerability of the population, particularly women. Thus, discriminatory provisions persist particularly in the Family Code, in terms of equality in marriage and its dissolution, marriage of minors, inheritance rules and in the Criminal Code. The provisions surrounding the recognition of the rights of children born out of wedlock the situation of single mothers, as well as of their children. These are the provisions of Article 16 of Law n°37-99 on civil status, as well as the articles relating to parental and paternal filiation of the Family Code (Book III). The Family Code provides that "illegitimate filiation does not produce any effects of legitimate filiation vis-à-vis the father" (Art. 148), mothers "have only limited access to material assistance or allowances.

The legal framework also places limits on access to property, through the rules of inheritance applied to women. As a result of efforts by the Ministry of Interior to revise the legal framework relating to access to land, the recognition of women as full beneficiaries of collective right to communal land has removed discrimination that had weighed on them for generations.

The question of the legal framework arises for other vulnerable groups, such as migrants and refugees. Massive regularisation campaigns were launched in 2014 and 2016, which regularised at least 50,000 migrants.

The socio-economic integration of the part of this population that did not benefit from the regularisation campaigns is dependent on obtaining residence documents. The rapid adoption of the legislation for immigration and asylum is of paramount importance for the integration of these populations.

Article 19 of the Constitution has enshrined gender equality in all areas. Another important reform is the inclusion of the gender approach in the organic law on the Finance Law (2015), which provides for the taking into account of the gender dimension in the setting of objectives of government programmes, as well as in the results-based budgeting.

More than 8 out of 10 women and girls aged 15-74 have experienced at least one act of violence in their lifetime (82.6% - 83.1% in urban areas and 81.6% in rural areas). In legal terms, the adoption of law n°103-13 on the fight against violence against women (2018) was a step forward in strengthening the means of the State to fight against this scourge. However, a greater alignment of this new legal framework would strengthen its protective impact on rights-holders.

Morocco has also adopted a Governmental Plan for Equality, which is now in its second phase (2017-2021). This plan aims to provide a reference framework for monitoring the government's efforts in the area of gender equality and discrimination.

The internal and external consultations carried out by the United Nations Development System (UNDS) in Morocco, as well as the reflection, analysis and compilation work carried out, have made possible to identify **three priority dimensions**. Each dimension is broken down into levers, which constitute a proposal for the future preparation of joint programming between the Government of Morocco and the UNDP, as well as general recommendations for the consideration of stakeholders, with a view to accelerating development in Morocco.

The project will take into consideration these dimensions, to contribute to SDGs achievement in the Country.

Dimension 1: Sustained growth, creating decent jobs, especially for women and young people, sustainable and respectful of the environment.

- Lever 1.1 Strengthen investments in human capital, notably through equitable access to quality social services
- Lever 1.2 Innovation, structural transformations, and increased productivity as drivers of sustained growth
- Lever 1.3 Protect the environment by ensuring the sustainability of resources for future generations
- Lever 1.4: Strengthen regional integration for development

Dimension 2: Structural reforms in democratic governance and institutional capacity

- Lever 2.1: Further consolidation of the rule of law
- Lever 2.2: Support for the implementation of advanced regionalisation, in particular through capacity building at all levels, from local to central
- Lever 2.3: The coherence of public policies based on evidence

Dimension 3: Tackling social inequalities and social vulnerabilities

Lever 3.1: Reform and mainstream protection mechanisms and services for all

Lever 3.2: Promote the inclusion and participation of women, vulnerable and neglected populations, especially young people.

Lever 3.3: Reduce the gap between rural and urban areas

MSMEs and Cooperatives

Considering the Project will involve especially women cooperatives, the following data on MSMEs[25] (Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) are interesting for understanding the economic context in which the project will be implemented. MSMEs are a key engine of growth in the Moroccan economy. According to Bank Al-Maghrib (2021), they account for more than 95 percent of the total number of operating enterprises, are estimated to contribute to over 20 percent of GDP, over 30 percent of exports and to create a substantial portion of informal jobs, notably for women.

The informal sector is estimated to represent over 80% of MSMEs and 60% of private sector jobs in Morocco. Though gender-disaggregated data on the informal sector remains scarce, this is understood to be particularly so for enterprises run by women – the majority of which operate in the informal sector.

MSME run by women (WMSME) in Morocco, notably those operating in the informal sector, face several constraints – the most significant being:

Constraint 1: Weaknesses in structural capacities, productivity, and competitiveness. The MSMEs sector suffers from several structural deficiencies, which are particularly acute for women entrepreneurs. A very large proportion of WMSMEs in Morocco are microenterprises with limited management skills, many of which operate in the informal economy, lacking both corporate governance and record-keeping systems, concentrated in low value-added sectors, poorly diversified, with weak linkages to foreign direct investment activities. On the whole, WMSMEs in Morocco produce low value products that are sold through intermediaries in local and foreign markets, generating little profit for women. Moreover, raw products produced by WMSMEs in Morocco (e.g., raw argan oil) are oftentimes transformed into high value products abroad (e.g. Argan oil-based cosmetics are primarily produced in Europe) – thereby depriving women producers in Morocco of an extra source of profit.

Constraint 2: Low access to finance. Access to financing is a key obstacle for MSMEs operating in Morocco, with women entrepreneurs, notably those living in rural areas, being disproportionally affected. WMSMEs in the informal sector are unable to access traditional financing (grants, loans of honour), and in some cases have difficulty accessing microcredit and other digital financial tools (crowdfunding and mobile payment, etc.) also due to **a lack of knowledge. This is reflected** in the relatively low share of women with an account at a financial institution in Morocco, with only 17 percent of women having an account, compared to 29 percent of the total adult population.

Constraint 3: Regulatory obstacles and lack of data. Although several reforms have been implemented in Morocco in recent years, the environment remains cumbersome to MSMEs in many areas. Informal MSMEs are still deterred to formalise their activities, notably owing to several complexities associated with registering a business and fiscal burden. The persistent **lack of official data, notably gender-disaggregated, on the MSME sector, is an additional hindrance to effective policy development in favour of MSME development, formalisation and monitoring.**

The result of these three key constraints – together with other compounding factors (e.g. gender imbalances and unequal access of knowledge) – is an entrepreneurial environment for women overly dominated by informal microenterprises and concentrated in traditional, low value-added sectors of activity, with low growth in formal job creation, low innovation and export activity – making women more vulnerable to external shocks like Covid-19.

The socio-economic status of WMSMEs in Morocco is best illustrated through following key data from the latest USAID Morocco Gender Analysis Report 2020:

- Morocco has one of the lowest female employment rates in the world, ranked 146 out of 153 countries.
- Women's labour force participation is concentrated in lower productivity sectors, primarily in the textile and clothing industry (46.4 percent), community social services (46.2 percent), personal and domestic services (37.3 percent), and agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors (33.6 percent).
- Only 13 percent of over 46,033 enterprises are led by women, with low representation of women in executive positions. Just 3.5 percent of companies have female majority ownership.

[25] From *Piloting an SDG Integrated Accelerator for informal women led MSMEs in Morocco: technical advisory, digital financial inclusion, and datadriven public policy* (2022)

WMSMEs in Morocco, notably those operating in the informal sector, further face significant barriers to accessing financial resources: "despite Morocco's ranking as a leader in the MENA region in terms of access to bank loans for SMEs, no distinction has been made between the practical needs and strategic interests of women and men entrepreneurs, and there are hardly any specific financing products and instruments to respond to gender barriers and promote women's access to guarantees, venture capital, financial training and education, and financial mentoring and coaching."

Institutional framework for gender equality in Morocco

Morocco has implemented major gender equality reforms over the past two decades. Actions confirming the desire to root egalitarian values between the sexes in institutions and within Moroccan society have multiplied and accelerated, while being part of a coherent and converging framework.

The main institutional advances relating to the implementation of gender-sensitive public policies, particularly in the sustainable development sector and considering the regional dimension were:

1. The adoption in 2006 of the National Strategy for Gender Equality and Equity by integrating the gender approach into development policies and programs. A circular from the Prime Minister, dated March 8[26], 2007, confirms the legitimacy of this national strategy by asking the ministries, Walis and governors to proceed with the integration of gender in all policies and in sectoral and regional development programs. Several ministries have embarked on a process of institutionalizing the integration of gender equality in their respective sectors through the development, adoption and implementation of medium-term programs for the institutionalization of gender equality.

2. The implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy in all national policies was boosted by the adoption of the 2011 Constitution. This Constitution reaffirms Morocco's commitment to human rights as they stand, are universally recognized, thus paving the way for broadening the normative frame of reference in matters of equality and law. It guarantees gender equality and extends it to the economic, social, cultural and environmental fields[27].

3. The ministerial department responsible for sustainable development presented its Strategy for institutionalizing the integration of gender equality in 2018[28]. This strategy offers an appropriate operational framework for setting up projects aiming at equitable access to the right to a healthy environment, while respecting the provisions of the Finance Law in terms of the application of an efficient approach sensitive to gender[29].

4. This strategy (2018-2021) is structured around two axes: (i) Creation and development of a lasting institutional capacity to ensure the anchoring of gender equality in the sustainable development sector, and (ii) Integration of the gender approach in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programs and projects in the sustainable development sector. This second axis is broken down into three projects, one of which consists of "the development and implementation of a methodological guide and a training program for executives of the Department of Sustainable Development in gender analysis and its use in the design, planning and implementation of environmental protection projects". To date, this project has not yet been implemented, besides generally speaking, the projects of this strategy when they are implemented, they are implemented at the central level while they remain little known at regional level.

5. The Advanced Regionalization project[30] has pronounced itself in a precise and relevant manner on the issue of gender equality, from its "General conception", through its "Gender Equity" section through an "*affirmative action in favor of a greater participation of women in the management of regional and local affairs*". "*The gender approach will be systematically integrated into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategies and governance at the regional level*", and "*gender-sensitive budgeting, currently being tested at the national level and municipal, will be introduced at regional, prefectural and provincial level*".

6. The 2009 Municipal Charter[31] also saw the introduction of new provisions such as: (i) the establishment in each municipality of consultative committees for parity and equal opportunities, and (ii) the need to develop the communal development plan (PDC) according to a gender-sensitive participatory approach.

[26] The date of the circular's issue coincided with International Women's Day

[27] Previously, the constitutional principle of equality was limited to the political domain

[28] Étude de la stratégie d'institutionnalisation de l'intégration du genre dans le secteur du Développement Durable, Ministère chargé du développement durable - ONU Femmes, 2018

[29] Rapport sur le budget axé sur les résultats tenant compte de l'aspect genre, Projet de Loi de Finances pour l'année budgétaire 2019

[30] Rapport sur la régionalisation avancée soumis à Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI, Commission consultative de la régionalisation, Mars 2011

[31] La charte communale, Ministère de l'Intérieur, Direction Générale des Collectivités locales, 2009

7. In addition, it should be noted that the Water and Forest National Agency has set up, since 2006, a national strategy for the development and management of urban and peri-urban forests[32]. This strategy is based on the preservation and sustainable enhancement of the precious role that these spaces play for the well-being of city dwellers and for the enhancement of the landscapes of our cities. In fact, urban women are also involved in planning the development of urban and peri-urban forests, knowing that these natural spaces are places of visit and leisure for families in all its components (women, men and children).

The identified gaps/points of attention in terms of Gender Equality in the institutional and legal framework are the followings:

- Availability of disaggregated data by Gender, to ensure policies and strategies are correctly operationalised
- Facilitate processes that ensure gender equality in the economic, social, cultural, and environmental fields
- Facilitate access to institutional and legal resources and information, including to finance processes, by ensuring that the gender gap in terms of literacy is overcome
- Implementation of the project focused on the development and implementation of a methodological guide and a training program for executives of the Department of Sustainable Development in gender analysis and its use in the design, planning and implementation of environmental protection projects, as planned in the Gender Equality Strategy.
- As per the Regionalisation process, facilitate affirmative action in favour of a greater participation of women in the management of regional and local affairs
- Ensure that the gender approach is systematically integrated into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategies and governance at the regional level.
- Ensure that gender-sensitive budgeting, currently being tested at the national level and municipal is introduced at regional, prefectural and provincial level.
- Facilitate the establishment in each municipality of consultative committees for parity and equal opportunities
- Facilitate the development of the communal development plan (PDC) according to a gender-sensitive participatory approach.

Gender in the project areas

An updated Gender Analysis and Action Plan will be done, using the Step your Mind! Tool , developed by the GEF- UNDP ABS Global project *Strengthening Human Resources, Legal Frameworks and Institutional Capacities to Implement the Nagoya Protocol* (GEF Project ID 5731), during the first year of the project, targeting each value chain and each geographical areas where the project will be implemented.

These documents will have to include the following component:

- Women access to land and natural resources
- Women access to employment
- Level of representation of women in the decision-making process
- Level of participation of women in the decision-making process

The Mind your step! Toolkit has been prepared to guide country teams working on ABS in their efforts to mainstream gender considerations into ABS value chains and ensure that women, men, youth and elderly have equal opportunities to benefit from various ABS intervention. The tool was designed with the idea of prototyping a user-friendly, low-cost and rapidly actionable analytical framework to understand the underlying gender dynamics within a given context applicable to genetic resources management and associated traditional knowledge and identify entry points to design gender smart and ABS value chains.

Gender-responsive ABS scheme is essential to enable effective participation of both women and men in the design, negotiation, distribution and use of benefits. Gender-blind ABS schemes may overlook the vital roles played by women and fail to preserve and value their skills and knowledge. Consequently, without mainstreaming gender considerations into ABS interventions it will not be possible to ensure effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol or achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mainstreaming gender into ABS projects entails a strategy to address the particular needs, priorities, power structures, status and relationships between men and women within a given context. By conducting a gender analysis, development professionals will have an informed understanding of the roles of different social groups involved in ABS value chains to ensure that their interventions are more inclusive of those groups. This will inform the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ABS interventions so that all the social groups involved, in particular women, youth and elderly benefit equally. Since women's roles are usually overlooked far more than men's, gender-smart ABS value chains place a specific emphasis on women's involvement in value chains as a key point of intervention for the transformation of power relations and gender roles. Addressing the drivers of gender inequalities in ABS schemes will transform over time the social structures that inhibit women from having a fair and equitable share of benefits.

[32] Programme à moyen terme (2014 – 2016) pour l'institutionnalisation de l'égalité de genre dans le Haut-Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification, HCEFLCD – GIZ, Décembre 2013

The Mind your Step! Tool will be used for each region and value chain targeted by the project: Sous-Massa and Fès-Meknes regions, and the cedar lichen and the saffron value chains and the combined saffron-argan value chain.

During PPG the team consulted the cooperatives working on saffron and argan value chains and collected information included in the gender analysis and in the Gender Action Plan.

The main gaps in terms of gender and the main points of attention - identified during consultations - for project implementation are the following:

- Most vulnerable peoples are women and youth, in the areas targeted by the project
- Saffron value chain involves the whole family, and each component is involved for a specific task (i.e. women oversee the collection of the raw material)
- All the communities involved in the saffron and argan value chains are Amazigh, living in the mountain area
- Communities involved in the saffron value chain are living in very remote areas, with constraints in terms of access to resources (such as water) and in terms of access to market (considering the lack of means of transportation).
- Women and youth don't have enough access to formal education system; girls and boys very frequently leave school early, increase the number of out of school youth.
- Cedar lichen value chain is not yet structured, and the cedar lichen is collected in a non-structured way by local communities or by business companies.
- The most vulnerable cooperatives are the ones working alone and not being involved in unions of cooperatives/Groupements d'Interet Economique.

Gender Marker

The Project has a Gender Marker 2, considering that the activities have gender equality as **a significant** objective. The following outcome/outputs will have a major impact on gender equality:

Project Outputs
Component 1
1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)
1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework
1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented on - Technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework - Technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.)
1.3.1. Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco
1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalised, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.
Component 2
2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework.
2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management.
2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalised from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced
Component 3
3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination

Project Outputs
Component 1
between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency.
3.1.3. Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.
3.1.4. Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and legal enforcement)
3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of habitats.
Component 4
4.1.1. Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements.
4.2.1. Knowledge Management Plan implemented, and products delivered.
Component 5
5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management

Alignment with UNDP and GEF policies and strategies

UNDP and gender: The UNDP Gender Equality Strategy[33] emphasizes the critical importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and reaffirms that sustainable human development will only be fully achieved if women and girls are able to contribute on an equal footing with men and boys to their society.

GEF and gender: Equality for women and girls is a strategic and operational imperative for the GEF[34]. Men and women use natural resources differently and, therefore, are affected differently by changes to these resources. Gender inequality and social exclusion increase the negative effects of environmental degradation on women and girls. Despite recent promising policy and legal reforms in a large number of countries, persistent discriminatory gender social and cultural norms, unequal access to land, water and productive assets, and unequal decision-making continue to prevail and prevent women and men from participating, contributing and benefiting equally from environmental projects and programs.

The recognition that efforts to tackle environmental degradation and those to tackle gender inequality can be mutually supportive is also reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which recognizes equality gender and women's empowerment as a fully-fledged Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), as well as a catalyst for achieving other goals.

The GEF adopted a new gender equality policy at the end of 2017. This policy marks the increased ambition of the GEF to ensure gender equality and promote the empowerment of women in all of its operations. More specifically, this policy aims to ensure equal opportunities for women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from GEF-funded activities, all in support of efforts for a better environment at the global level.

5. Gender Action Plan

As per specific GEF gender guidance, results related to gender equality will be traced according to 3 areas:

1. Closing gender gaps in **access to and control over resources**;
2. Improving women's **participation and decision-making**; and
3. **Social and economic benefits or services** for women.

To this effect, the project will adopt the following operational gender principles:

- Relevant gender analysis and participatory assessments of **direct & indirect costs & benefits** for both women's & men's participation in interventions
- Incorporation of **sex-disaggregated data collection & gender-sensitive indicators** to help measure socio-environmental impacts in meaningful and consistent way

[33] Guide to Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP Supported GEF Financed Projects, October 2016
[34] Policy on GE, GEF, Nov. 2017

- Consideration of both **formal and informal land tenure, land and forest use & access to resources** when defining beneficiaries & direct & indirect benefits.
- Engagement of women, women's groups, & gender/women's ministries in discussions on incentives & fund mechanisms and incorporate gender considerations in operational modalities of incentive & financial mechanisms.

Both men and women will be involved in the planning and decision-making processes of the project's implementation, including all interventions. It should be noted that significant consideration will be given to funding project interventions that benefit both men and women.

The project will be supported operationally by a gender focal point (GFP) appointed in the Project Team, as well gender expert(s) contracted for specific technical inputs. Gender competency will be included in the Terms of Reference for all staff and consultants/contractors.

Gender mainstreaming framework

The project is dedicated to supporting women's participation and representation throughout its project activities. As a way to ensure that women equally benefit from the project's activities, a series of activities and corresponding actions are proposed in the gender-mainstreaming framework. These activities and actions facilitate the integration of gender sensitive considerations based on findings from the project's gender analysis.

The gender-mainstreaming framework will include the following considerations:

- **Dedicated consultation** with women during the ESIAs, and the identification and design of incentive mechanisms to ensure women's perspectives help shape the mechanisms developed, and to ensure that they reflect women's livelihood priorities. To organize separate consultations with women to ensure that they partake fully in the development and implementation of project activities, and to provide them with opportunities to voice their views, needs and preferences. Where communities consist primarily of customary peoples, communications will be conducted in local languages, using culturally- appropriate methods. Consultations with customary peoples will be structured to identify potential gender related concerns specific to affected customary communities.
- **Participatory integrated landscape assessments/context analysis and sustainable genetic resources use plans** will include the identification and development of activities where women play a key role in the access to Genetic Resources (GR) and as owners of Traditional Knowledge (TK), in the cultivation and processing of genetic resources targeted by the project.
- As part of developing and implementing sustainable landscape management plans (that could provide inputs to the Communal Development Plan (PDC) the project should identify and recognize the areas in which **women play a key role** through the value chain, from cultivation/harvesting to marketing/trading. Furthermore, attention should be given to identifying opportunities for women to further develop their existing roles.
- Meaningful consultations should be conducted with women during the identification and design of models of management, for the value chains framed under ABS approach, to ensure that **women's perspectives help in operationalise models and mechanisms to implement ABS framework.**. It will also ensure that these models and mechanisms reflect women's livelihood and subsistence priorities and needs. It is important that consultations be organized separately with women prior, to ensure that they receive information about specific activities and opportunities for them to voice their concerns, views, needs, and preferences. Lastly, for communities that consist mainly of customary peoples, communication will be delivered in local languages and dialects, using culturally appropriate methods and approaches.
- **Multi-stakeholder collaboration groups** will ensure equal representation of women and men.
- **Equal representation of women** in local agricultural associations and cooperatives, collaborative and partnership working groups, which will implement local, community-based activities.
- Targeted training on ABS framework to women farmers involved in the three selected value chains, **ensuring that at least 50% of the trainees are women** and that training supports them to achieve ABS objectives. As part of introducing training services, periodic needs assessments are required to determine the specific training and technical assistance women farmers require, such as specific technical production skills or specific training on ABS (see article 21 (Awareness raising) and article 22 (Capacity) of 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. This is to ensure that training and assistance is relevant and meets the needs and priorities of women farmers.
- Any relevant training of professionals **among municipal, provincial, regional and national governmental units** should ensure that at least 50% percent of the total trained staff are women.
- All targeted training and assistance should be organized separately for women to ensure that women **can receive information about activities and opportunities specific to their needs**, preferences priorities, and so that they may feel free to ask questions. Ideally, whenever possible, the trainings provided to women should be facilitated by women professionals.

- Targeted training should be provided for women farmers, when relevant, **on how genetic resources and Traditional Knowledge use is organized and managed under ABS framework**, to ensure that women farmers understand and exercise their rights.
- Targeted training and information should be provided to women farmers on **land ownership and tenure rights.**
- Establishment of cooperatives run by women or have a majority **women involvement as business owners or employees**. In addition, the project will facilitate opportunities for women and women groups to participate in the project's activities such as in improving farming practices and broadening partnership with agricultural associations and cooperatives under the ABS framework
- Ensure equal consideration of women in targeted awareness-raising actions for the project's integrated knowledge management strategy.
- Recruitment of a Safeguards/**Gender Specialist** (part – time) to support the gender mainstreaming objectives of the project including ensuring gender-sensitive monitoring and reporting.
- Ensure and **encourage equal opportunity recruitment** of women for positions within the project management office, consultancies, and other service providers.

The gender-mainstreaming framework for the project is outlined in the table here below:

Activity	Actions	Indicator	Target
1. Facilitating women empowerment	Ensure appropriate representation of women in the project's decision-making bodies.	Representation of women on project decision-making bodies, including the following: (a) Project steering committee, (b) Regional committees and working groups	Equitable proportion
2. Enhancing gender equality	Ensure equitable proportion of benefits accessed by and delivered to women from the project, including opportunities for training, access to financing, resources and capital for improved farming practices and market development and partnership development.	Representation of women as direct beneficiaries, including the following: (a) Institutional level stakeholders trained, (b) Farmers trained, (c) Agricultural associations and cooperatives with improved capacities of receiving financing, resources, and capital, (d) Membership to agricultural associations and cooperatives.	50%
3. Ensuring gender integration	Ensure that all relevant gender considerations are integrated into appropriate policies, strategies, plans, regulations and sectoral programmes.	Number of gender-responsive measures included in proposed policies, strategies, plans, regulations and sectoral programmes	100%
4. Promoting gender awareness	Promote gender awareness throughout all phases of project implementation. All gender awareness training and services should be delivered by qualified service providers. The project management team members, consultants and other service provider(s) staff involved in the project activities will be trained accordingly. Training on gender awareness for the staff of partners (including private sector) will be conducted, when appropriate and required. Training will also be including guidance on how to detect, intercept, respond to, and prevent gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and other problems that may emerge during project implementation.	The percentage of project management team members, consultants and other service provider(s) staff and partners receiving gender awareness training.	100%
5. Promoting equal opportunity employment	Promote equal opportunities for employment positions within the project management office, consultancies, and service providers, supporting the implementation of project activities. Ensure equal pay will be provided to both women and men for work of equal type in accordance with national laws and international norms. Ensure safe working conditions for both women and men workers will be provided.	Percentage of women employed as project management staff, consultancies, and service providers.	Equitable proportion

Indicative Gender-responsive Activities

The two tables summarize the Gender-responsive activities to be implemented and the relevant Outputs:

Project Outputs	Gender related Activity
Component 1	
1.1.1. Strategic advocacy programme defined and delivered to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)	• Ensure women's involvement in the definition and the delivery of the strategic advocacy programme to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.) • Collect feedback from women and youth on ABS framework and include them in the Strategic Advocacy Programme.
1.1.3. Benchmarking studies completed, most notably on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms taking into account gender considerations, and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework	• Ensure women are consulted in the development of benchmarking studies on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework
1.2.1. ABS training program developed and implemented on - Technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework - Technical (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, ABS, PES, etc.) and management issues (fundraising, communication strategy, etc.)	• Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to ensure women and youth are able to access to trainings. • During trainings, identify gaps and obstacles for a woman in accessing to monetary and non-monetary benefits in the identified value chains. • Ensure trainings on technical, managerial and safeguards aspects to women and youth. • Facilitate financial mentoring and coaching for women, under ABS framework
1.3.1. Pre-existing offline ABS-TK registry is further developed and expanded to include TK from other thematic areas and geographic regions of Morocco	• Involve women and youth in surveys on Traditional Knowledge • Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to facilitate access to information management system.
1.3.4. Monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalised, under ABS law and/or ABS contracts, with an equitable distribution of benefits for supplier communities (including women) and biodiversity management, penalties in case of non-compliance with sustainability clauses, etc.	• Ensure women are included in monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts,
Component 2	
2.1.1. In-depth consultations of relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework.	• Data collection -disaggregated by gender – on the targeted value chains. • Private sector stakeholder informed on Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.
2.1.2. Trainings for private companies, academic entities, and cooperatives interested	• Ensure 50% of trainees are women.

Project Outputs	Gender related Activity
Component 1	
in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains at the national and regional levels, covering inter alia the Nagoya Protocol, national ABS framework, ABS contracts and negotiation, benefit-sharing, sustainable resource use, and ecosystem management.	• Facilitate access to trainings to women and youth who are not literates. • Facilitate access to trainings to women and youth who are not literates, considering especially their role as GR providers
2.2.3. ABS-product raw material supply chain operationalized from resource suppliers to users, with sustainable sourcing guaranteed and the required control points emplaced.	• Carry out gender sensitive mapping of the famers and/or crop producers, ensuring that all rightful landowners are identified and considered, both men and women, in the selected regions. • Ensure data (on local context and on how the selected value chains are structured) disaggregated by gender are collected and shared with Government and the main stakeholders who can influence Gender equality. • Ensure that the three comprehensive ABS contracts include gender sensitive benefits sharing mechanisms • Facilitates women's role as entrepreneurs in the targeted value chains • Support to saffron, lichen or argan groups/cooperatives/federation to fill gaps in terms of infrastructures, constitution of Groupement d'Interet Economique, transports, and distribution of products, to ensure sustainable supply of raw materials • Support social safety and protection nets for women cooperatives, i.e. mutual funds. • If part of ABS agreements, ensure women and youth paid employment in the targeted value chains, in coordination with local and national authorities. • Design Gender smart ABS value chains
Component 3	
3.1.2. Regional committees on biodiversity and natural resources strengthened enhance coordination between regional governments and delegations of MTEDD-DDD, MAPMDREF, and Water and Forest National Agency.	• Women involvement as members of the regional committees.
3.1.3. Key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.	• Ensure 50% of trainees are women.
3.1.4. Governance mechanisms and processes further detailed and emplaced for enhancing biodiversity conservation benefits under the ABS framework (incl. benefit-sharing for resource supplier communities, sustainable resource extraction, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related monitoring and law enforcement)	• Ensure gender is mainstreamed in the governance mechanisms.
3.2.1. Water and Forest National Agency and other key government agencies, regional committees with ABS functions, other partners, and ABS resource suppliers engaged in the sustainable use, conservation, and	• Ensure that women and youth have access to information on ABS, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats.

Project Outputs	Gender related Activity
Component 1	
restoration of habitats.	
Component 4	
4.1.1. Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP standards and management requirements.	• Training to the main stakeholders on UNDP and GEF principles and standards on Gender approach. • Ensure 50% of trainees are women. • Ensure women engagement in the Stakeholder Engagement Plans (CSEP and SEP at regional and value chain level) • Collection and analysis of the practical needs and strategic interests of women and men entrepreneurs, as part of SEP and GAP at region and value chain level • Ensure gender aspects are included in the SESA
4.2.1. Knowledge Management Plan implemented, and products delivered.	• Ensure lessons learned on women and youth involvement in ABS value chains are part of the Knowledge Management process
Component 5	
5.1.1. Regular project monitoring delivered and informing adaptive management	• Implement a gender- responsive project's M&E framework Develop and organize awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, focused on specific themes including gender themes that are aimed at defined target groups (e.g., farmers, women's groups, governmental agencies, enterprises, and the public) through approaches and methods that are identified in the integrated knowledge action plan (e.g., social media, print media, radio, local television).

Gender Action Plan

Gender related Activity	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Budget	Timeline	Responsibility
Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge						
Outcome 1.1: Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework						
Ensure women's involvement in the definition and the delivery of the strategic advocacy programme to leverage final adoption of any pending ABS legal and institutional framework elements (ABS law, etc.)	% of women involved in meetings focused on strategic advocacy programme definition and delivery	50%	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure women are consulted in the development of benchmarking studies on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework	% of women involved in consultations done for benchmarking studies on monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and on maximising the benefits to biodiversity conservation under the ABS framework	50%	0		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, M&E
Collect feedback from women and youth on ABS framework and include them in the Strategic Advocacy Programme.	% of women and youth sharing feedback	50%	0		Year 2 and Year 3	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 1.2: Enhanced technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders facilitates the implementation of the national ABS Law						
Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to ensure women and youth are able to access to trainings.	Number of analyses including gender considerations, with focus on literacy Number of regional programs including gender considerations	3 3	0 To be assessed at project inception phase	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1 From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU
During trainings, identify gaps and obstacles for a woman in accessing to monetary and non-monetary benefits in the identified value chains.	% of women aware of gaps and obstacle in accessing to monetary and non-monetary benefits in the identified value chains Number of analyses including gender considerations on access to benefits	100% 3	To be assessed at project inception phase 0		From Year 1 to Year 5 Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure trainings on technical, managerial and safeguards aspects to women and youth.	% of women taking part in the trainings	50%	0		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Facilitate financial mentoring and coaching for women, under ABS framework	% of women taking part in the mentoring and coaching processes	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project

Gender related Activity	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Budget	Timeline	Responsibility
Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge						
Outcome 1.1: Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework						
						Manager
Outcome 1.3: Functional national ABS information management system facilitates implementation and compliance with ABS mandates						
Involve women and youth in surveys on Traditional Knowledge	Number of surveys on TK involving women	3	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Assess the level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area and support already existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetisation or other programs for women and youth, to facilitate access to information management system.	Number of analyses including gender considerations, with focus on literacy Number of regional programs including gender considerations	3 3	0 To be assessed at project inception phase		Year 1 From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU
Ensure women are included in monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) established and operationalized, under ABS Law and/or ABS contracts,	% of women receiving monetary and non-monetary benefits, under ABS Law and/or ABS contract	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 2: Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law						
Outcome 2.1: Platform to engage providers (e.g., women's cooperatives and local communities) and users (e.g., private sector and researchers) of genetic resources enhances the national capacity for undertaking R&D						
Data collection -disaggregated by gender – on the targeted value chains.	Number of analyses including gender disaggregated data	3	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Private sector stakeholders informed on Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.	% of private sector stakeholder informed and aware of Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.	100%	To be assessed at project inception phase		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure 50% of trainees are women.	% of women from private sector stakeholder informed and aware of Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Gender related Activity	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Budget	Timeline	Responsibility
Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge						
Outcome 1.1: Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework						
Facilitate access to trainings to women and youth who are not literates, considering especially their role as GR providers	% of women and youth not literates participating to project's trainings	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 2.2: R&D of key ABS products derived from selected genetic resources strengthens existing and/or new value chains and enables benefit-sharing						
Carry out gender sensitive mapping of the famers and/or crop producers, ensuring that all rightful landowners are identified and considered, both men and women, in the selected regions.	Number of analyses including gender sensitive mapping	3	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure data (on local context and on how the selected value chains are structured) disaggregated by gender are collected and shared with Government and the main stakeholders who can influence Gender equality.	Number of analyses including gender disaggregated data Number of meetings with Government and the main stakeholders for data sharing	3 5	0 0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure that the three comprehensive ABS contracts include gender sensitive benefits sharing mechanisms	Number of ABS contracts including gender sensitive benefits sharing mechanism	3	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Facilitates women's role as entrepreneurs involved in the targeted value chains	% of women entrepreneurs involved in the project	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Support to saffron, lichen or argan groups/cooperatives/federation to fill gaps in terms of infrastructures, constitution of Groupement d'Interet Economique, transports, and distribution of products, to ensure sustainable supply of raw materials	Number of GAP including actions to fill gaps in terms of infrastructures, constitution of Groupement d'Interet Economique, transports, distribution of products.	3	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Support social safety and protection nets for women cooperatives, i.e. mutual funds.	Number of GAP including actions to support social safety and protection nets for women cooperatives, i.e. mutual funds	3	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
If part of ABS agreements, ensure women and youth paid employment in the targeted value chains, in coordination with local and national authorities.	% of women and youth with paid employment in the target value chain.	100%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Gender related Activity	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Budget	Timeline	Responsibility
Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge						
Outcome 1.1: Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework						
Design Gender smart ABS value chains	% of women having access to financial services and technology-driven solutions in the ABS value chains supported by the project	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 3: Biodiversity governance and conservation strengthened through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in two target regions						
Outcome 3.1: Governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles strengthened in Souss-Massa (SM) and Fès-Meknès (FM) Regions						
Women involvement as members of the regional committees.	% of women involved as members of the regional committees	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU
Ensure women participation as key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS.	% of women trainees	50%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, PMU
Ensure gender is mainstreamed in the governance mechanisms.	% of projects documents including gender mainstream	100%	To be assessed at project inception phase		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 3.2: ABS value chains comply with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource supplier communities and biodiversity/ecosystems						
Ensure that women and youth have access to information on ABS, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats.	% of meetings with women and youth on ABS, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats.	50%	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 4: Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management						
Outcome 4.1: Compliance with social and environmental safeguards reduces project risks						
Training to the main stakeholders on UNDP and GEF principles and standards on gender approach	% of women taking part in the training	50%	0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	Year 1 and Year 2	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure women engagement in the Stakeholder Engagement Plans (CSEP and SEP at regional and value chain level)	Women consultations all along projects activities Number of SEP with women engagement activities included	100% 3	0 0		From Year 1 to Year 5 Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager

Gender related Activity	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Budget	Timeline	Responsibility
Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge						
Outcome 1.1: Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework						
Collection and analysis of the practical needs and strategic interests of women and men entrepreneurs, as part of SEP and GAP at region and value chain level	Number of analyses including gender considerations	3	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Ensure gender aspects are included in the SESA	% of actions included in the Action Matrix that include gender aspects	50%	0		Year 1	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Outcome 4.2: Increased knowledge and awareness regarding the utilization of genetic resources and benefit sharing						
Ensure lessons learned on women and youth involvement in ABS value chains are part of the Knowledge Management process	% of lessons learned focused on women and youth involvement included in the knowledge management process	50%	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager
Component 5: Monitoring & Evaluation						
Outcome 5.1: M&E duly implemented.						
Implement a gender- responsive project's M&E framework	% of women involved in reporting the progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework % of women involved in monitoring of ESMP/IPP, Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and other related plans % of women involved in collection of feedback and M&E process	50% 50% 50%	0 0 0	The cost has been included as part of the project's total budget	From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, M&E
Develop and organize awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, focused on specific themes including gender themes that are aimed at defined target groups (e.g., farmers, women's groups,	Number of awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, focused on specific themes including gender themes	4	0		From Year 1 to Year 5	Gender/Safeguards Specialist, Project Manager, M&E

Gender related Activity	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Budget	Timeline	Responsibility
Component 1: Consolidating the national ABS framework and related capacity and knowledge						
Outcome 1.1: Adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework						
governmental agencies, enterprises, and the public) through approaches and methods that are identified in the integrated knowledge action plan (e.g., social media, print media, radio, local television).						

Mainstreaming gender into ABS value chains

To mainstream Gender into ABS value chains, it is relevant to list the main concept to take into consideration to detail a Gender Action Plan for regions and value chains targeted by the project:

- Gender – Refers to "a crosscutting socio-cultural variable. It is an overarching variable in the sense that gender **can also be applied to all other crosscutting variables such as race, class, age, ethnic group**, etc. Gender systems are established in different socio cultural contexts, which determine what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman/man and girl/ boy in these specific contexts. **Gender roles are learned through socialization processes; they are not fixed but are changeable**. Gender systems are institutionalized through education systems, political and economic systems, legislation, and culture and traditions" (OSAGI, 2001).
- Gender- Responsive Approach – It "means that the particular needs, priorities, power structures, status and relationships between men and women are **recognized and adequately addressed in the design, implementation and evaluation of activities.**
- The approach seeks to ensure that women and men are **given equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from** an intervention and **promotes targeted measures to address inequalities and promote the empowerment of women**" (GEF Policy on Gender Equality, 2017).
- **Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)** – Refers to "the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how users and providers reach agreement on the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that might result from their use" (SCBD, 2011).
- **Associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK)** – In the context of Access and Benefit-Sharing, it refers to "the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities (ILCs) related to genetic resources. This traditional knowledge is developed through the experiences of communities over centuries, adapted to local needs, cultures and environments and passed down from generation to generation"
- **Bio-cultural community protocols (BCPs) -** In the field of ABS, according to the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines, "community protocols is a term that covers a broad array of expressions, articulations, rules and practices generated by communities to set out how they expect other stakeholders to engage with them". Various communities and organizations use terms such as "bio-cultural community protocols", "bio-cultural protocols" and "community protocols" interchangeably.
- **Traditional Knowledge** - Genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are essential for the development of agriculture, food and beverages, biotechnological and pharmaceutical products. These products support poverty alleviation, food security, human well-being, and underpin the Earth's life support systems. At the same time, it's necessary to ensure that different social-groups involved along ABS value chains, **particularly women, youth and elderly** are empowered to fully benefit from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

The MIND Your Step! Gender Tool developed by the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project features useful context, analysis, case studies and lessons learned to guide development professionals working on genetic and biological resources in their efforts **to mainstream gender considerations into ABS Value Chains** and ensure that different social-groups equally benefit from various ABS transactions and interventions. The gender toolkit is a living document and aims at igniting these ongoing dynamics in view of further stimulating reflections on **how ABS interventions can foster the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups** to ensure that no one is left behind in the share of the benefits that can potentially arise from the utilization of genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge.

A **specific Gender Action Plan** will be developed **for each target areas/candidate ABS value chain** during the first year of the project, using the following template:

Activity	Indicators	Target	Source of verification	Cost
Conduct a Gender Analysis of the candidate ABS value chain	% of ABS value chain that have conducted a gender analysis	• Baseline • Target	Report of the gender analysis	USD X
Design Gender smart ABS value chains and/or partnership	% of women, youth and elderly participated to PIC/MAT negotiations	• Baseline • Target	Reports Lists of participants	USD X
	% of women, youth and elderly participated in the design/drafting of BCPs	• Baseline • Target	Reports Lists of participants	USD X
	% of aTK databases containing sex and age-disaggregated data about aTK holders	• Baseline • Target	Reports	USD X

	The share of women having access to financial services and technology-driven solutions in the ABS value chains supported by the project	• Baseline • Target	Reports	USD X
	Number of advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about gender biases within the scientific community, pay-gap and glass ceiling issues in ABS value chains	• Baseline • Target	Reports	USD X
Design a gender-responsive M&E framework for the project	Percentage of ABS value chains or partnerships with gender-responsive results' frameworks	• Baseline • Target	Project Results Frameworks	USD X
	Percentage of ABS value chains or partnerships with gender-sensitive budgeting	• Baseline • Target	Budget	USD X

6. Resources, Roles and Responsibilities

The role and responsibilities allocated for implementing the project's gender action plan are summarized in the table below:

Position/Function	Roles and Responsibilities
Project Manager (PM)	The PM will have overall responsibility for the implementation of the project. The PM is responsible for ensuring that the project will operate according to relevant national and regional policies and procedures, these include all relevant gender mainstreaming objectives.
Project Board/Steering Committee (PB/SC)	The PB/SC is responsible for providing strategic oversight for the project. They will be responsible for ensuring that the interests of all the representative members and project beneficiaries are considered, these include the gender mainstreaming objectives.
Gender Specialist (part-time)	The project will recruit (on a part-time basis) the expertise of a gender specialist to support the implementation of the gender action plan. The responsibilities of the gender specialist include delivering trainings to project stakeholder and providing advice on gender mainstreaming in the development of key regulatory frameworks and work programs on conservation, restoration, and sustainable land use.
Multi-stakeholder collaboration spaces	Multi-stakeholder collaboration spaces are planned across different administrative levels, with representation by local governments, farmers, cooperatives, agricultural associations, civil society, and private sector. These collaborative groups will ensure gender mainstreaming objectives are incorporated into the Regional and municipal plans and community-level project interventions.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of the Gender Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated periodically throughout the project timeframe. The project's progress towards achieving its gender mainstreaming will be monitored, evaluated, and reported in the project's progress reports. As part of ensuring the optimal achievement of gender mainstreaming targets, adaptive management measures will be implemented, whenever needed, to adjust the plan to current situations and to support the findings of the monitoring and evaluation. As mentioned previously, the monitoring and evaluating of the implementation of the gender action plan will be included in the larger project monitoring and evaluation plan, with the required budget allocated to respective activities, accordingly.

The findings, results and lessons learned from the gender mainstreaming will be shared as part of the project's knowledge management plan.

Annex 11: Procurement Plan – Year 1

Budget item		List of Goods and Services required	Budget (US$)	Year	Brief description of anticipated procurement process
No.	Description				
	Staff & Personnel (including Consultants)				
71300	ABS legal framework (1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4)	ABS Legal Expert to support the adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework	40,000	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71300	Traditional Knowledge (1.3.1)	ABS Expert to conduct an assessment of TK associated to genetic resources in the Souss-Massa (SM) and Fès-Meknès (FM) regions to expand the existing ABS-TK registry/database	36,000	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71300	ABS information Management (1.3.2)	Information Technology Expert to assess needs and improve the efficiency of the ABS component of the National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/web-page	11,250	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71200	Support to R&D (2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3)	International ABS Expert to provide ABS backstopping related to the development of ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources	9,000	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71400	Support to R&D (2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3)	ABS Technical Expert for engaging providers and users of genetic resources for undertaking R&D and providing technical support to R&D pilots for benefit sharing	11,356	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71200	Social and environmental safeguards (4.1.2, 4.1.3)	International Safeguards Expert to develop the ESIA, SESA, ESMP, IP-LC P, and other related plans	80,500	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71300	Social and environmental safeguards (4.1.2, 4.1.3)	National Safeguards Expert to support locally the development of safeguards assessments and plans	35,000	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71300	Social and environmental safeguards (4.1.2, 4.1.3)	Gender /Safeguards Expert to implement all safeguards plans, as appropriate (ESMP/ IP-LC P; Gender Action Plan; Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan)	9,000	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71300	Knowledge management (4.2.1)	Knowledge Management (KM) Expert for the development of the KM Plan	6,750	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71300	M&E (5.1.1)	M&E of GEF core indicators and the PRF	1,750	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71300	M&E (5.1.1)	Monitoring of ESMP/IPP, Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and other related plans	1,750	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71400	PMU (PMC)	Project Manager	8,667	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71400	PMU (PMC)	Project/Finance Assistant	15,720	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
71400	PMU (PMC)	Project Manager (paid by UNDP through co-financing)	20,000	1	Competitive hiring process used by MTEDD-DDD
	Contract Services				
72100	ABS-related studies (1.1.1)	Company to conduct ABS-related benchmarking studies: monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation	30,000	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
72100	ABS training (1.3.3)	Company to develop and implement an ABS training program for government agencies on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and	14,000	1	Competitive contracting

		institutional framework, and to key national/regional NGOs and local stakeholders on technical and management issues			process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	ABS consultations and awareness (1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4)	Workshops and meetings to conduct consultations, raise awareness, and validate with key stakeholders the updated drafts of the ABS Law and complementary legal and regulatory texts	5,000	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	ABS training (1.1.1)	Workshops to train the staff of the legal department of the METSD and other stakeholders on legal aspects regarding the ABS Law and its implementation	3,500	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	TK surveys (1.3.1)	Workshops and meetings for conducting TK surveys on potentially interesting ABS value chains and genetic resources within the SM and FM regions	7,500	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	ABS-related guidelines (1.3.4)	Workshops for drafting guidelines related to the fair distribution of benefits between the users and providers of genetic resources and for compliance and sanctions	3,500	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
72100	ABS training (2.1.2)	Company to provide training for private companies, academics and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains, at national and subnational (SM and FM regions) levels	12,500	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	Private sector consultations (2.1.1)	Workshops and meetings for identifying and conducting in-depth consultations with relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework	3,000	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
72100	Conservation and ABS training (3.1.3)	Company to provide training to key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS	15,000	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	Governance strengthening (3.1.2)	Workshops and meetings to strengthen Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM, in close coordination with key stakeholders	4,000	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	Social and environmental safeguards training (4.1.1)	Training the PMU, institutional partners, and private sector companies on environmental and social safeguards as per UNDP standards and GEF requirements	2,000	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	Stakeholder engagement (4.1.2)	Workshops for ESIA public consultations and to ensure stakeholder engagement - Output 4.1.2	1,500	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	Gender mainstreaming (4.1.3)	Workshops on gender mainstreaming	1,500	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	Knowledge management (4.2.1)	Workshops and meetings related to knowledge management	1,000	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
75700	M&E (5.1.1)	Project Inception Workshop	3,000	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD
74100	Professional Services (PMC)	Audit	2,000	1	Competitive contracting process used by MTEDD-DDD

64397	Services to projects - CO staff (PMC)	Execution support services provided by UNDP, as per signed LoA between Government and UNDP-Morocco and as agreed with GEF	4,000	1	Direct payment
	Supplies, commodities & materials				
72500	PMU (PMC)	Office and IT Supplies and Consumables, including biosafety supplies to minimize exposure to COVID-19, as needed: hand sanitizers, masks and face shields, disinfectant sprays, disposable gloves, etc.	766	1	Direct purchases
	Equipment, Vehicles & Furniture				
72800	ABS information management (1.3.2)	Software and hardware to update the ABS component of the National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/web-page	7,500	1	Direct purchases
72200	PMU (PMC)	Office furniture	2,000	1	Direct purchases
72800	PMU (PMC)	Computer (2)	3,000	1	Direct purchases
72800	PMU (PMC)	Printer	748	1	Direct purchases
	Travel				
71600	Local travel (1.1.2, 1.1.3)	Travel cost associated to consultations with local stakeholders regarding the adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework	2,500	1	Direct purchases
71600	Local travel (1.3.1, 1.3.4)	Travel cost associated to consultations with local stakeholders to establish a functional national ABS information management system	2,500	1	Direct purchases
71600	Local and international travel (1.2.1)	Travel costs to participate in national and international ABS-related training events (e.g., ABS workshops, seminars short courses, field visits, exchanges)	8,000	1	Direct purchases
71600	Local travel (2.1.2)	Travel costs to participate in national and subnational (SM and FM regions) ABS-related training events (workshops, simulations, etc.)	7,000	1	Direct purchases
71600	Local and international travel (4.1.2, 4.1.3)	Travel expenses and DSA related to the development of social and environmental safeguard related plans	20,000	1	Direct purchases
71600	Local travel (4.1.2, 4.1.3)	Travel expenses related to the Implementation and monitoring of the ESMP and other management plans	1,000	1	Direct purchases
71600	Local travel (4.2.1)	Travel expenses related to knowledge management - Outputs 4.2.1	1,000	1	Direct purchases
71600	Local travel (5.1.1)	Travel expenses related to the monitoring of GEF core indicators and PRF, and social and environmental safeguards	1,000	1	Direct purchases
Total procurement Year 1			**456,757**		

Annex 12: Letter of Agreement between UNDP and IP requesting UNDP Support Services

STANDARD LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNDP AND THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Dear Mr. Rachid Firadi,

1. Reference is made to consultations between officials of the Government of Morocco (hereinafter referred to as "the Government") and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects. UNDP and the Government hereby agree that the UNDP country office may provide such support services at the request of the Government through its institution designated in the relevant programme support document or project document, as described below.

2. The UNDP country office may provide support services for assistance with reporting requirements and direct payment. In providing such support services, the UNDP country office shall ensure that the capacity of the Government-designated institution is strengthened to enable it to carry out such activities directly. The costs incurred by the UNDP country office in providing such support services shall be recovered as described in the Attachment hereto.

3. The UNDP country office may provide, at the request of the designated institution, the following support services for the activities of the programme/project:
(a) Identification and/or recruitment of project and programme personnel;
(b) Identification and facilitation of training activities;
(c) Procurement of goods and services;

4. The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of project and programme personnel by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

5. Support services shall be detailed in an annex to the programme support document or project document, in the form provided in the Attachment hereto. If the requirements for support services by the country office change during the life of a programme or project, the annex to the programme support document or project document is revised with the mutual agreement of the UNDP resident representative and the designated institution.

6. The relevant provisions of the UNDP standard basic assistance agreement with the Government signed in May, 13th, 1982 (the "SBAA"), including the provisions on liability and privileges and immunities, shall apply to the provision of such support services. The Government shall retain overall responsibility for the nationally managed programme or project through its designated institution. The responsibility of the UNDP country office for the provision of the support services described herein shall be limited to the provision of such support services detailed in the annex to the programme support document or project document.

7. Any claim or dispute arising under or in connection with the provision of support services by the UNDP country office in accordance with this letter shall be handled pursuant to the relevant provisions of the SBAA.

Attachment

DESCRIPTION OF UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Reference is made to consultations between the Department of Sustainable Development, the institution designated by the Government of Morocco and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the nationally managed project "Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation" (UNDP PIMS 6372, Atlas Award 00143897, Atlas Project 00131822), "the Project".

2. In accordance with the provisions of the letter of agreement signed on 31 AOUT 2022. and the project document, the UNDP country office shall provide support services for the Project as described below.

3. Support services to be provided:

Support services	Schedule for the provision of the support services	Cost to UNDP of providing such support services (where appropriate)	Amount and method of reimbursement of UNDP (where appropriate)
Direct Payments, applicable to 100% of the GEF grant of USD 1,776,620	Throughout the project's lifetime	USD 20,000	USD 20,000 will be recovered from GEF grant (Project Management Cost)

4. Description of functions and responsibilities of the parties involved:

With Direct Payments, the Implementing Partner assumes responsibility for the contracting process, performs recruitment or procurement, and signs the contract according to its own rules and regulations.

The Direct Payment services by UNDP will include the creation of vendor forms and managing vendor profiles; issuance of cheques; monitoring, adjustment and review of financial transactions; and management of cash and bank accounts.

8. The manner and method of cost-recovery by the UNDP country office in providing the support services shall be specified in the annex to the programme support document or project document.

9. The UNDP country office shall submit progress reports on the support services provided and shall report on the costs reimbursed in providing such services, as may be required.

10. Any modification of the present arrangements shall be effected by mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

11. If you are in agreement with the provisions set forth above, please sign and return to this office two signed copies of this letter. Upon your signature, this letter shall constitute an agreement between your Government and UNDP on the terms and conditions for the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects.

Yours sincerely,

Signed on behalf of UNDP

Dr. Edward A. Christow
Resident Representative

Directeur du Partenariat, de la Communication et de la Coopération

Rachid FIRADI

For the Department of Sustainable Development
Mr. Rachid Firadi

Annex 13: GEF Core indicators

Core Indicator 4	**Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)**				**34,000 ha**
		Hectares (4.1+4.2+4.3+4.4)			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		30,000	34,000		
Indicator 4.1	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity				34,000 ha
		Hectares			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		30,000	34,000		
Indicator 4.2	Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations				ha
N/A					
Indicator 4.3	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems				ha
N/A					
Indicator 4.4	Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided				ha
N/A					
Core Indicator 11	**Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment**				**3,000**
		Number			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
	Female	1,500	1,500		
	Male	1,500	1,500		
	Total	3,000	3,000		

Annex 14: GEF 7 Taxonomy

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
☒Influencing models			
	☒Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	☒Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	☒Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	☒Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	☒Deploy innovative financial instruments		
☒Stakeholders			
	☒Indigenous Peoples		
	☒Private Sector		
		☒Capital providers	
		☒Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		☒Large corporations	
		☒SMEs	
		☐Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		☐Non-Grant Pilot	
		☐Project Reflow	
	☒Beneficiaries		
	☒Local Communities		
	☒Civil Society		
		☒Community Based Organization	
		☒Non-Governmental Organization	
		☒Academia	
		☐Trade Unions and Workers Unions	
	☒Type of Engagement		
		☒Information Dissemination	
		☒Partnership	
		☒Consultation	
		☒Participation	
	☒Communications		
		☐Awareness Raising	
		☐Education	
		☒Public Campaigns	
		☐Behaviour Change	
☒Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	☐Enabling Activities		
	☒Capacity Development		
	☒Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	☐Targeted Research		
	☒Learning		
		☒Theory of Change	
		☒Adaptive Management	
		☒Indicators to Measure Change	
	☒Innovation		
	☒Knowledge and Learning		
		☒Knowledge Management	
		☐Innovation	
		☒Capacity Development	
		☒Learning	
	☒Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
☒Gender Equality			
	☒Gender Mainstreaming		
		☒Beneficiaries	
		☒Women groups	
		☒Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		☒Gender-sensitive indicators	

	☒ **Gender results areas**		
		☒ Access and control over natural resources	
		☒ Participation and leadership	
		☒ Access to benefits and services	
		☒ Capacity development	
		☐ Awareness raising	
		☐ Knowledge generation	
☒ **Focal Areas/Theme**			
	☐ **Integrated Programs**		
		☐ Commodity Supply Chains (Good Growth Partnership)	
			☐ Sustainable Commodities Production
			☐ Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐ Financial Screening Tools
			☐ High Conservation Value Forests
			☐ High Carbon Stocks Forests
			☐ Soybean Supply Chain
			☐ Oil Palm Supply Chain
			☐ Beef Supply Chain
			☐ Smallholder Farmers
			☐ Adaptive Management
		☐ Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa	
			☐ Resilience (climate and shocks)
			☐ Sustainable Production Systems
			☐ Agroecosystems
			☐ Land and Soil Health
			☐ Diversified Farming
			☐ Integrated Land and Water Management
			☐ Smallholder Farming
			☐ Small and Medium Enterprises
			☐ Crop Genetic Diversity
			☐ Food Value Chains
			☐ Gender Dimensions
			☐ Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		☐ Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			☐ Sustainable Food Systems
			☐ Landscape Restoration
			☐ Sustainable Commodity Production
			☐ Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			☐ Integrated Landscapes
			☐ Food Value Chains
			☐ Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐ Smallholder Farmers
		☐ Sustainable Cities	
			☐ Integrated urban planning
			☐ Urban sustainability framework
			☐ Transport and Mobility
			☐ Buildings
			☐ Municipal waste management
			☐ Green space
			☐ Urban Biodiversity
			☐ Urban Food Systems
			☐ Energy efficiency
			☐ Municipal Financing
			☐ Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			☐ Urban Resilience
	☒ **Biodiversity**		
		☐ Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			☐ Terrestrial Protected Areas
			☐ Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			☐ Productive Landscapes
			☐ Productive Seascapes
			☐ Community Based Natural Resource Management
		☐ Mainstreaming	
			☐ Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)

			☐ Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			☐ Tourism
			☐ Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			☐ Fisheries
			☐ Infrastructure
			☐ Certification (National Standards)
			☐ Certification (International Standards)
		☐ Species	
			☐ Illegal Wildlife Trade
			☐ Threatened Species
			☐ Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			☐ Crop Wild Relatives
			☐ Plant Genetic Resources
			☐ Animal Genetic Resources
			☐ Livestock Wild Relatives
			☐ Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		☐ Biomes	
			☐ Mangroves
			☐ Coral Reefs
			☐ Sea Grasses
			☐ Wetlands
			☐ Rivers
			☐ Lakes
			☐ Tropical Rain Forests
			☐ Tropical Dry Forests
			☐ Temperate Forests
			☐ Grasslands
			☐ Paramo
			☐ Desert
		☐ Financial and Accounting	
			☐ Payment for Ecosystem Services
			☐ Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			☐ Conservation Trust Funds
			☐ Conservation Finance
		☒ Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			☐ Biosafety
			☒ Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	☐ **Forests**		
		☐ Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			☐ REDD/REDD+
		☐ Forest	
			☐ Amazon
			☐ Congo
			☐ Drylands
	☐ **Land Degradation**		
		☐ Sustainable Land Management	
			☐ Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			☐ Ecosystem Approach
			☐ Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			☐ Community-Based NRM
			☐ Sustainable Livelihoods
			☐ Income Generating Activities
			☐ Sustainable Agriculture
			☐ Sustainable Pasture Management
			☐ Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			☐ Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			☐ Sustainable Fire Management
			☐ Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		☐ Land Degradation Neutrality	
			☐ Land Productivity
			☐ Land Cover and Land cover change
			☐ Carbon stocks above or below ground

		☐ Food Security	
	☐ **International Waters**		
		☐ Ship	
		☐ Coastal	
		☐ Freshwater	
			☐ Aquifer
			☐ River Basin
			☐ Lake Basin
		☐ Learning	
		☐ Fisheries	
		☐ Persistent toxic substances	
		☐ SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
		☐ Targeted Research	
		☐ Pollution	
			☐ Persistent toxic substances
			☐ Plastics
			☐ Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
			☐ Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
		☐ Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
		☐ Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
		☐ Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
		☐ Large Marine Ecosystems	
		☐ Private Sector	
		☐ Aquaculture	
		☐ Marine Protected Area	
		☐ Biomes	
			☐ Mangrove
			☐ Coral Reefs
			☐ Seagrasses
			☐ Polar Ecosystems
			☐ Constructed Wetlands
	☐ **Chemicals and Waste**		
		☐ Mercury	
		☐ Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		☐ Coal Fired Power Plants	
		☐ Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		☐ Cement	
		☐ Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		☐ Ozone	
		☐ Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		☐ Waste Management	
			☐ Hazardous Waste Management
			☐ Industrial Waste
			☐ e-Waste
		☐ Emissions	
		☐ Disposal	
		☐ New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		☐ Plastics	
		☐ Eco-Efficiency	
		☐ Pesticides	
		☐ DDT - Vector Management	
		☐ DDT - Other	
		☐ Industrial Emissions	
		☐ Open Burning	
		☐ Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		☐ Green Chemistry	
	☐ **Climate Change**		
		☐ **Climate Change Adaptation**	
			☐ Climate Finance

			☐ Least Developed Countries
			☐ Small Island Developing States
			☐ Disaster Risk Management
			☐ Sea-level rise
			☐ Climate Resilience
			☐ Climate information
			☐ Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
			☐ National Adaptation Programme of Action
			☐ National Adaptation Plan
			☐ Mainstreaming Adaptation
			☐ Private Sector
			☐ Innovation
			☐ Complementarity
			☐ Community-based Adaptation
			☐ Livelihoods
		☐ **Climate Change Mitigation**	
			☐ Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			☐ Energy Efficiency
			☐ Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			☐ Technology Transfer
			☐ Renewable Energy
			☐ Financing
			☐ Enabling Activities
		☐ **Technology Transfer**	
			☐ Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
			☐ Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			☐ Endogenous technology
			☐ Technology Needs Assessment
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
		☐ **United Nations Framework on Climate Change**	☐ Nationally Determined Contribution
☒ **Rio Markers**			
	☐ Paris Agreement		
	☒ Sustainable Development Goals		
	☒ Climate Change Mitigation 0		
	☐ Climate Change Mitigation 1		
	☐ Climate Change Mitigation 2		
	☒ Climate Change Adaptation 0		
	☐ Climate Change Adaptation 1		
	☐ Climate Change Adaptation 2		

Annex 15: ABS Capacity Development Scorecard

A Capacity Assessment is an analysis of desired capacities against existing capacities to generate an understanding of capacity assets and needs, which informs the formulation of a capacity development response to achieve the set goals and objectives. As part of the ABS Capacity Assessment to be developed by the project, an initial evaluation was conducted to establish the baseline of capacity development indicators related to ABS in key national institutions participating the implementation of the Project. The evaluation highlights the areas that are expected to improve as result of the implementation of specific Project's activities directed to strengthening the capacities of key institutions for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Morocco. The ABS Capacity Assessment will be developed using the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Scorecard allowing to assess five strategic area of support using specific indicators: (1) Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, laws, strategies and programmes; (2) Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes; (3) Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders; (4) Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge; and (5) Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn.

To assess the technical and administrative capacity of key stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the national ABS Law, three national level institutions; DDD, the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the WFNA were evaluated using the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Scorecard. Results of the baseline assessment were as flows:

Capacity Result/Indicator	Staged Indicators	Rating	DDD Score	DA Score	WFNA Score
CR 1: Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, laws, strategies and programmes					
Indicator 1.1: The Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) agenda is being effectively championed / driven forward	There is essentially no ABS agenda	0		0	0
	There are some persons in the institution actively pursuing an ABS agenda but they have little effect or influence	1			
	There are a number of ABS champions that drive the ABS agenda, but more is needed	2	2		
	There are an adequate number of able "champions" and "leaders" effectively driving forwards an ABS agenda	3			
Indicator 1.2: There is a legally designated institution(s) responsible for ABS with the capacity to develop a national ABS framework (i.e., laws, policies and/or regulations)	There is no legally designated person or institution responsible for ABS	0		0	0
	There is a legally designated person or institution responsible for ABS but has limited financial resources personnel and expertise	1	1		
	There is a legally designated person or institution responsible for ABS and has financial resources and personnel but limited expertise	2			
	There is a legally designated person or institution responsible for ABS with sufficient financial resources, personnel, and expertise	3			
CR 1 - Score		**6**	**3**	**0**	**0**
		100%	**50.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**
CR 2: Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes					
Indicator 2.1: There is a legally designated ABS institution responsible for ABS that can facilitate the implementation of the national ABS framework	The institution does not have the financial resources, personnel, and planning/management skills	0		0	0
	The institution has limited financial resources, personnel, and planning/management skills	1	1		
	The institution has financial resources and personnel but limited planning/management skills	2			
	The institution has sufficient financial resources, personnel and planning/management skills	3			
Indicator 2.2: The ABS institution is effectively led.	The ABS institution has a total lack of leadership	0		0	0
	The ABS institution has weak leadership and provides little guidance	1			
	The ABS institution has a reasonably strong leadership but there is still need for improvement	2	2		
	The ABS institution is effectively led	3			
Indicator 2.3: Human resources for ABS management are well qualified and motivated	Human resources are poorly qualified and unmotivated	0		0	0
	Human resources qualification is spotty, with some well qualified, but many only poorly and in general unmotivated	1			
	Human resources in general reasonably qualified, but some lack in motivation, or those that are motivated are not sufficiently qualified	2			
	Human resources are well qualified and motivated	3	3		
Indicator 2.4: The ABS institution is audited and publicly accountable	The ABS institution is not being held accountable and not audited	0		0	0
	The ABS institution is occasionally audited without being held publicly accountable	1			

	The ABS institution is regularly audited and there is a fair degree of public accountability but the system is not fully transparent	2			
	The ABS institution) is highly fully audited, and publicly accountable	3	3		
Indicator 2.5: Enforcement of ABS regulations	No enforcement of regulations is taking place	0	0	0	0
	Some enforcement of regulations is taking place but it is largely ineffective	1			
	ABS regulations are regularly enforced but are not fully effective	2			
	ABS regulations are highly effectively enforced	3			
Indicator 2.6: Individuals are able to advance and develop professionally	No career tracks are developed and no training opportunities are provided	0			
	Career tracks are weak and training possibilities are few and not managed based on needs	1			
	Clear career tracks developed and training available; HR management however has inadequate performance measurement system	2			
	Individuals are able to advance and develop professionally	3	3	3	3
Indicator 2.7: Individuals are appropriately skilled for their jobs	Skills of individuals do not match job requirements	0			
	Individuals have some or poor skills for their jobs	1			
	Individuals are reasonably skilled but could further improve for optimum match with job requirements	2	2	3	3
	Individuals are appropriately skilled for their jobs	3			
Indicator 2.8: Individuals are highly motivated	No motivation at all	0			
	Motivation uneven, some are but most are not	1			
	Many individuals are motivated but not all	2			
	Individuals are highly motivated	3	3	3	3
Indicator 2.9: There are appropriate mechanisms of training, mentoring, and learning in place to maintain a continuous flow of new staff	No mechanisms exist	0			
	Some mechanisms exist but unable to develop enough and unable to provide the full range of skills needed	1			
	Mechanisms generally exist to develop skilled professionals, but either not enough of them or unable to cover the full range of skills required	2	2		
	There are mechanisms for developing adequate numbers of the full range of highly skilled ABS professionals	3		3	3
CR 2 - Score		**27**	**19**	**12**	**12**
		100%	**70.37%**	**44.44%**	**44.44%**
CR 3: Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders					
Indicator 3.1: ABS has the political commitment	There is no political will at all, or worse, the prevailing political will runs counter to the interests of ABS	0			
	Some political will exists, but is not strong enough to make a difference	1		1	1
	Reasonable political will exists, but is not always strong enough to fully support ABS	2	2		
	There are very high levels of political will to support ABS	3			
Indicator 3.2: Degree of public support on ABS issues	The public has no interest in ABS and there is no significant lobby for ABS	0		0	0
	There is limited support for ABS	1	1		
	There is general public support for ABS and there are various lobby groups strongly pushing them	2			
	There is high public support in the country for ABS	3			
Indicator 3.3: The ABS institution can facilitate the partnerships between users and providers of	The ABS institution operate in isolation	0			
	The ABS institution has facilitated some partnerships but significant gaps and existing partnerships achieve little	1		1	1

genetic resources needed to implement the Nagoya Protocol	The ABS institution has facilitated many partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders but there are some gaps and partnerships are not always effective and do not always enable efficient achievement of ABS objectives	2			
	The ABS institution has facilitated effective partnerships to enable achievement of ABS objectives in an efficient and effective manner	3	3		
CR 3 - Score		**9**	**6**	**2**	**2**
		100%	**66.67%**	**22.22%**	**22.22%**
CR 4: Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge					
Indicator 4.1: The ABS institution has the information it needs to enforce the national legal/policy ABS framework and to facilitate ABS agreements (e.g., contracts, memorandum of understanding, etc.).	Information is virtually lacking	0		0	0
	The ABS institution has access to some information, but is of poor quality, is of limited usefulness, or is difficult to access	1			
	The ABS institution has access to information which is mostly of good quality, but there remain some gaps in quality, coverage and availability	2			
	The ABS institution has the information it needs to enforce the national legal/policy framework and facilitate ABS deals	3	3		
Indicator 4.2: Individuals from the ABS institution work together as a team, effectively mobilizing ABS information and knowledge	Individuals work in isolation and don't interact	0		0	0
	Individuals interact in limited way and sometimes in teams but this is rarely effective and functional	1			
	Individuals interact regularly and form teams, but this is not always fully effective or functional	2			
	Individuals interact well and form functional teams effectively mobilizing ABS information and knowledge	3	3		
CR 4 - Score		**6**	**6**	**0**	**0**
		100%	**100.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**
CR 5: Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report, and learn					
Indicator 5.1: There is a legally designated institution responsible for ABS and able to monitor and update the ABS national framework	The ABS institution does not have the financial resources, personnel, and expertise needed to monitor and update the ABS national framework	0			
	The ABS institution has limited financial resources personnel, and expertise to monitor and update the ABS national framework	1	1		
	The ABS institution has financial resources and personnel but limited expertise to monitor and update the ABS national framework	2		2	2
	The ABS institution has sufficient financial resources, personnel, and expertise to monitor and update the ABS national framework	3			
Indicator 5.2: ABS policy or law is continually reviewed and updated	There is no policy or law or it is old and not reviewed regularly	0		0	0
	Policy or law is only reviewed at irregular intervals	1	1		
	Policy or law is reviewed regularly but not annually	2			
	Policy or law is reviewed annually	3			
Indicator 5.3: Civil society monitors ABS projects	There is no dialogue between institution responsible for ABS and social stakeholders about the state of the ABS projects	0			
	There is some dialogue about the state of the ABS projects, but not with the wider public and restricted to specialized circles	1			

	There is a reasonably open public dialogue about the state of the ABS projects but certain issues remain unknown	2	2	2	
	There is an open and transparent public dialogue about the state of the ABS projects	3			3
Indicator 5.4: The ABS institution has effective internal mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation (data and analysis, validation, participation), reporting and learning on ABS projects	There are no mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting or learning	0		0	0
	There are some mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning but they are limited and weak	1			
	Reasonable mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning are in place but are not as strong or comprehensive as they could be	2			
	Institution has effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning	3	3		
Indicator 5.5: Institutions are highly adaptive, responding effectively and immediately to change promoted by implementation of the national ABS framework (i.e., laws, policies and/or regulations)	There is no implementation of the national ABS framework at the moment	0		0	0
	Institutions adapt to change but only very slowly	1			
	Institutions tend to adapt in response to change but not always very effectively or with some delay	2			
	Institutions are highly adaptive, responding effectively and immediately to change	3	3		
Indicator 5.6: Individuals from ABS institutions are adaptive and continue to learn	There is no measurement of performance or adaptive feedback	0		0	0
	Performance is irregularly and poorly measured and there is little use of feedback	1			
	There is significant measurement of performance and some feedback but this is not as thorough or comprehensive as it might be	2			
	Performance is effectively measured and adaptive feedback utilized	3	3		
CR 4 - Score		**18**	**13**	**4**	**2**
		100%	**72.22%**	**22.22%**	**11.11%**
Total Score		**66**	**47**	**18**	**16**
		100%	**71.21%**	**27.27%**	**24.24%**

Annex 16: Co-financing letters

المملكة المغربية
Royaume du Maroc

MINISTÈRE DE LA TRANSITION ÉNERGÉTIQUE ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
- DÉPARTEMENT DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE -

وزارة الانتقال الطاقي والتنمية المستدامة
- قطاع التنمية المستدامة -

D.P.C.C

30 MAI 2022

002122

Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya,
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
304 East 45th St. FF Bldg., 10th floor
New York, NY 10017

Subject: Cofinancing for the GEF7 Project Operationalising the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation.

Dear Mr. Kurukulasuriya,

On behalf of the Department of Sustainable Development in Morocco, I am pleased to express my full support of the above-mentioned project.

The goal of the project is to assist the country to consolidate and operationalise the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems.

To demonstrate our commitment to this important project that complements our institutional policies and plans, I would like to confirm that our department has allocated USD 200,000 as grant and USD 1,650,000 as in-kind co-financing to the project components and project management costs over the 5-year implementation period.

Sincerely,

The GEF Operational Focal Point

Mr. Rachid FIRADI

Directeur du Partenariat, de la Communica...
Rachid FIRADI

9, Avenue Al Araar, Secteur 16, Hay Riad - Rabat
Tél. : 05 37 57 04 66 - Fax : 05 37 57 04 68

www.mtedd.gov.ma

9، شارع العرعار، قطاع 16، حي الرياض - الرباط
الهاتف : 05 37 57 04 66 - الفاكس : 05 37 57 04 68

GREENTECH
INGENIERIE BIOLOGIQUE

Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya,
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
304 East 45th St. FF Bldg., 10th floor
New York, NY 10017

Saint-Beauzire, May 30th, 2022

Ref.: Cofinancing for the GEF7 Project "Operationalizing the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation *in Morocco*".

Dear Mr. Kurukulasuriya,

On behalf of the GREENTECH GROUP and as pioneer in plant technology, I am pleased to express my full support of the above-mentioned project, which will be implemented by the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development.

The goal of this project is to assist the country to consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems.

The project is aligned with the work of GREENTECH. Our company conducts biotechnological research in its laboratory in France and develops products in the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and nutraceuticals fields on the basis of high-tech active ingredients from plant, marine and microbial worlds. Greentech is very committed with protection of biodiversity, local production and development of local economy.

GREENTECH will allocate an estimated USD 300,000 in in-kind co-financing (covering staff, analyses, studies, reports, etc.), dedicated to biotechnological research on the cedar lichen for the cosmetic industry under Component 2: *Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law*, over the 5 years implementation period.

By issuing this letter, GREENTECH is declaring its commitment to promoting ABS in line with the Nagoya Protocol.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Jean-Yves BERTHON, CEO

PharmAfrican

14th of Jun 2022

Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya,
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
304 East 45th St. FF Bldg., 10th floor
New York, NY 10017

Ref.: Cofinancing for the GEF7 Project "Operationalising the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation"

Dear Mr. Kurukulasuriya,

On behalf of PharmAfrican, I am pleased to express my full support of the above-mentioned project, which will be implemented by the Ministry of Energy transition and Sustainable Development.

The goal of this project is to assist the country to consolidate and operationalize the national ABS legal and institutional framework, including through the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems.

The project is aligned with the work of PharmAfrican. Our company conducts biotechnological research and develops products for the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, cosmetic, and food industries.

PharmAfrican will allocate USD 700,000 as in-kind co-financing (covering staff, analyses, studies, reports, permitting, etc.), which will be dedicated to biotechnological research on Saffron (*Crocus sativus*) and Argan (*Argania spinosa*) for the cosmetic industry contributing to Component 2: *Development of new ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources under national ABS law*, over the 5 years implementation period.

By issuing this letter, PharmAfrican is declaring its commitment to promoting ABS in line with the Nagoya Protocol.

Sincerely yours,

For PharmAfrican Inc.
Carole Robert, MBA
President and CEO

PHARMAFRICAN INC.
201, rue Monseigneur-Bourget Lévis (Québec) G6V 6Z3 CANADA

DocuSign Envelope ID: 76C87474-2007-4EE3-9C32-DO7989CFF9AC

Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement

Rabat, June 20, 2022

Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya,
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
304 East 45th St. FF Bldg., 10th floor
New York, NY 10017

Ref.: Cofinancing for the GEF7 Project "Operationalising the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation".

Dear Mr. Kurukulasuriya,

On behalf of UNDP Morocco, I am pleased to express my full support of the above-mentioned project, which will be implemented by the Ministry of Energy transition and Sustainable Development.

The objective of this project is to support the Government of Morocco to implement the Nagoya Protocol through the operationalization of the national ABS legal and institutional framework, notably by the development of pilot ABS products and value chains, to enable appropriate access to genetic resources in Morocco and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, for sustainable development and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems.

To demonstrate UNDP Morocco support to this important project, I would like to confirm that UNDP Morocco has allocated USD 100,000 as cash co-financing contribution, over the five-year implementation period of the project. UNDP co-financing will complement GEF allocations across four project components and project management.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Dr. Edward Christow
UNDP Resident Representative

Adresse : 13, Avenue Ahmed Balafrej, Souissi, Casier ONU, Poste Rabat-Chellah, 10000 Rabat, Maroc
Tél. : +212 (0) 537 63 30 90 – Fax : +212 (0) 537 63 30 89 – Site web : www.pnud.org.ma

Annex 17: GEF TBWP

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	*Component 2*	*Component 3*	*Component 4*	*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Sub-component 1.1	*Sub-component 2.1*	*Sub-component 3.1*	*Su-component 4.1*					
Furniture/Equipment	Software and hardware to update the ABS component of the National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/web-page - Output 1.3.2 ($7,500; year 1)	7.500				7.500			7.500	MTEDD-DDD
Furniture/Equipment	Field equipment for the assessment of the current conservation status of the species and the population to be sampled/collected and of their habitat/ecosystems - Output 2.2.3 (5,000; year 2)		5.000			5.000			5.000	MTEDD-DDD
Furniture/Equipment	Materials & goods to support the sustainable collection, growing, and harvesting of raw material by local cooperatives (including women cooperatives) to supply three ABS value chains - Output 2.2.3 ($37,500; $12,500/value chain; years 2 to 5)		37.500			37.500			37.500	MTEDD-DDD
Furniture/Equipment	Purchase of audio visual equipment (e.g., video projector; camera; binoculars) in support of workshops, training, etc. for the sustainable supply of ABS-product		10.000			10.000			10.000	MTEDD-DDD

	raw material; and for virtual meetings and workshops due to COVID-19, where necessary - Output 2.2.3 ($10,000; year 2)									
Furniture/Equipment	Field equipment for participatory monitoring of the impact of ABS as a mechanism to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration - Output 3.2.1 ($7,500; year 3)			7.500		7.500			7.500	MTEDD-DDD
Furniture/Equipment	Materials & goods in support of the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of habitats - Output 3.2.1 ($45,000; years 3 to 5)			45.000		45.000			45.000	MTEDD-DDD
Furniture/Equipment	Audio visual equipment (video projectors, digital cameras, projection screens, etc.) to support ABS value chains compliance with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource-supplier communities and biodiversity/ ecosystems; and for virtual meetings and workshops due to COVID-19, where necessary - Output 3.2.1 ($2,574; year 2)			2.574		2.574			2.574	MTEDD-DDD
Furniture/Equipment	Computers (2) and software licenses to support ABS value chains compliance with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits to resource-supplier communities and biodiversity/ ecosystems			5.000		5.000			5.000	MTEDD-DDD

	- Output 3.2.1 ($5,000; year 2)									
Furniture/Equipment	Office furniture - ($2,000; year 1)					0		2.000	2.000	MTEDD-DDD
Furniture/Equipment	• Computer (2)- ($3,000; $1,500/unit; year 1) • Printer (1) - ($748; year 1)					0		3.748	3.748	MTEDD-DDD
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	Execution support services provided by UNDP, as per signed LoA between Government and UNDP-Morocco and as agreed with GEF - ($20,000; $4,000/yr.; years 1 to 5)					0		20.000	20.000	MTEDD-DDD
Contractual Services – Individual	ABS Technical Expert for engaging providers and users of genetic resources for undertaking R&D and providing technical support to R&D pilots for benefit sharing - Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3 ($56,780; $3,340 per month for 17 months; years 1 - 5)		56.780			56.780			56.780	MTEDD-DDD
Contractual Services – Individual	• Project Manager - ($43,333; $3,333.32 per month for 13 months; years 1 to 5) • Project/Finance Assistant - ($78,600; $1,310 per month for 60 months; years 1 to 5)					0		121.933	121.933	MTEDD-DDD
Contractual Services – Company	• Company to conduct ABS-related benchmarking studies: monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms and maximizing the benefits to biodiversity conservation - Output 1.1.3 ($30,000; year 1) • Company to develop	120.000				120.000			120.000	MTEDD-DDD

	and implement an ABS training program for government agencies on technical and administrative implementation of the ABS legal and institutional framework, and to key national/regional NGOs and local stakeholders on technical and management issues - Output 1.2.1 ($42,000; years 1 to 3) • Company to develop and operationalize a standardized electronic ABS permit system - Output 1.3.3 ($48,000; year 2)									
Contractual Services – Company	Company to provide training for private companies, academics and cooperatives interested in ABS, genetic resources, and value chains, at national and regional levels - Output 2.1.2 ($37,500; year 1 to 3)		37.500			37.500			37.500	MTEDD-DDD
Contractual Services – Company	• Company to provide training to key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations trained on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS - Output 3.1.3 ($45,000 years 1 to 3) • Company to design and implement a participatory monitoring system (including training to local stakeholders) to assess the impact of ABS as a mechanism to promote the conservation and sustainable use of			99.000		99.000			99.000	MTEDD-DDD

	biodiversity and ecosystem restoration - Output 3.2.1 ($54,000; years 3 to 5)									
International Consultants	International ABS Expert to provide ABS backstopping related to the development of ABS products and value chains derived from genetic resources. Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3 ($600 daily rate x 75 days = $45,000; years 1 to 5).		45.000			45.000			45.000	MTEDD-DDD
International Consultants	International Safeguards Expert to develop the ESIA and SESA, ESMP, IP-LC P, and other plans - Outputs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 ($575 daily rate x 140 days = $80,500; year 1)				80.500	80.500			80.500	MTEDD-DDD
International Consultants	• International consultant for Mid Term Review - Output 5.1.1 ($600 daily rate x 25 days = $15,000; year 3) • International consultant for Terminal Evaluation - Output 5.1.1 ($625 daily rate x 32 days = $20,000; year 5)					0	35.000		35.000	MTEDD-DDD

Local Consultants	• ABS Legal Expert to support the adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework - Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4 ($400 daily rate x 200 days = $80,000; years 1 and 2) • ABS Expert to produce a guide for negotiating ABS contracts- Output 1.2.2 ($400 daily rate x 90 days = $36,000; year 2) • ABS-TK Expert to conduct an assessment of TK associated to genetic resources in the Souss-Massa (SM) and Fès-Meknès (FM) regions to expand the existing ABS-TK registry/database - Output 1.3.1 ($400 daily rate x 90 days = $36,000; year 1) • ABS Legal Expert to establish and operationalize monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanism(s) under ABS law and/or ABS contracts (including feasibility analysis and drafting of guidelines) - Output 1.3.4 ($400 daily rate x 100 days = $40,000; year 2) • Information Technology Expert to assess needs and improve the efficiency of the ABS component of the National CHM on Biodiversity digital platform/web-page - Output 1.3.2 ($375 daily rate x 30 days = $11,250; year 1)	203.250				203.250			203.250	MTEDD-DDD

Local Consultants	• ABS Legal Advisor for the signing of three comprehensive ABS contracts - Output 2.2.1 ($400 daily rate x 100 days = $40,000; years 2 and 3) • Biodiversity Conservation Expert to develop conservation and sustainable use plans related to the three ABS value chains/pilot projects prioritized by the project - Output 2.2.3 ($400 daily rate x 150 days = $60,000; years 2 and 3) • Environmental Economics Expert to conduct a study on the usefulness and feasibility of a Morocco ABS Product Label - Output 2.2.3 ($400 daily rate x 90 days = $36,000; year 3)		136.000			136.000			136.000	MTEDD-DDD
Local Consultants	• Biodiversity Conservation Expert to provide support strengthening biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS governance and compliance of ABS value chains with the requirements of sustainable resource use and benefits in three target regions - Outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.4, and 3.2.1 ($400 daily rate x 230 days = $92,000; years 2 to 5) • Biodiversity Financing Expert to support the assessment of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration			132.000		132.000			132.000	MTEDD-DDD

	financial needs and to draft short-, medium- and long-term investment plans for each pilot area -Output 3.1.5 ($400 daily rate x 100 days = $40,000; year 3)									
Local Consultants	• Gender /Safeguards Expert to implement all safeguards plans, as appropriate (ESMP/ IP-LC P; Gender Action Plan; Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan) - Outputs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 ($45,000; $3,000/month; 15 months during years 1 to 5) • Knowledge Management Expert for the development of the KM Plan and systematization of lessons learned - Output 4.2.1 ($375 daily rate x 90 days = $33,750; years 1 to 5) • National Safeguards Expert to support locally the development of safeguards assessments and plans - Outputs 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 ($250 daily rate x 140 days = $35,000; year 1)				113.750	113.750			113.750	MTEDD-DDD
Local Consultants	• M&E of GEF core indicators and the PRF - Output 5.1.1 ($350 daily rate x 25 days = $8,750; years 1 to 5) • Monitoring of ESMP/IPP, Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan,					0	25.000		25.000	MTEDD-DDD

	and other related plans - Output 5.1.1 ($350 daily rate x 25 days = $8,750; years 1 to 5) • National consultant for Terminal Evaluation - Output 5.1.1 ($375 daily rate x 20 days = $7,500; year 5)									
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	• Workshops and meetings to conduct consultations, raise awareness, and validate with key stakeholders the updated drafts of the ABS Law and complementary legal and regulatory texts - Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4 ($10,000; years 1 and 2) • Workshops to train the staff of the legal department of the METSD and other stakeholders on legal aspects regarding the ABS Law and its implementation - Output 1.1.1 ($7,000; years 1 and 2) • Workshops and meetings for conducting TK surveys on potentially interesting ABS value chains and genetic resources within the SM and FM regions - Output 1.3.1 ($7,500; year 1) • Workshops for drafting guidelines related to the fair distribution of benefits between the users and providers of genetic resources and for compliance and sanctions - Output 1.3.4 ($7,000; years 1 and 2)	31.500				31.500			31.500	MTEDD-DDD

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	• Workshops and meetings for identifying and conducting in-depth consultations with relevant private sector stakeholders on the further design and implementation of the ABS framework - Output 2.1.1 ($9,000; years 1 to 3) • Workshops and meetings for obtaining PIC, defining MAT, and signing MTA - Output 2.2.1 ($12,000; $4,000/value chain; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meeting for drafting and signing ABS contracts - Output 2.2.1 ($9,000; $3,000/value chain; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meeting for monitoring and evaluation of ABS contracts - Output 2.2.1 ($15,000; $5,000/value chain; years 3 to 5) • Workshops and meetings for consultations between resource suppliers and the Water and Forest National Agency to ensure a continuous and sustainable supply of raw material from authorized collection/harvesting sources - Output 2.2.3 ($6,000; $2,000/value chain; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meetings to develop conservation and sustainable use plans related to the three ABS value chains/pilot projects prioritized by the project - Output		93.000			93.000				MTEDD-DDD

	2.2.3 ($12,000; $4,000/plan; years 2 and 3) • Training workshops for local suppliers for the sustainable harvesting/collection of raw material for the three prioritized ABS value chains - Output 2.2.3 ($15,000, $5,000/value chain; years 2 and 3) • Training workshops and meetings to strengthen and support the organization structures of cooperatives of local suppliers of raw material for the three prioritized ABS value chains - Output 2.2.3 ($15,000; $5,000/value chain; years 2 to 5)									
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	• Workshops and meetings to integrate biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles into the Regional Development Programmes for the SM and FM regions - Output 3.1.1 ($9,000; $4,500/region; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meetings to strengthen Regional Biodiversity Committees of SM and FM, in close coordination with key stakeholders - Output 3.1.2 ($8,000; $4,000/region; years 1 and 2) • Workshops and meetings to strengthen			34.000		34.000				MTEDD-DDD

	governance and capacity for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS principles at the local level - Output 3.1.4 ($6,000; $3,000/region; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meetings to conduct consultations for mobilizing new resources via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration - Output 3.1.5 ($5,000; $2,500/region; years 2 and 3) • Workshops and meetings to conduct consultations with various local-level stakeholders for defining biodiversity conservation and habitat/ecosystem restoration priorities in the project sites - Output 3.2.1 ($6,000; $3,000/region; years 2 and 3)									
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	• Training the PMU, institutional partners, and private sector companies on environmental and social safeguards as per UNDP standards - Output 4.1.1 ($4,000; $2,000/yr.; years 1 and 2) • Workshops for ESIA public consultations and to ensure stakeholder engagement - Output 4.1.2 ($7,500, $1,500/yr.; years 1 to 5) • Workshops on gender				24.000	24.000				MTEDD-DDD

	mainstreaming - Output 4.1.3 ($7,500, $1,500/yr.; years 1 to 5) • Workshops and meetings related to knowledge management - Outputs 4.2.1, ($5,000; $1,000/yr.; years 1 to 5)									
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	• Project Inception Workshop - Output 5.1.1 ($3,000; year 1) • Mid Term Review workshop - Output 5.1.1 ($1,000; year 3) • Terminal Evaluation workshop - Output 5.1.1 ($1,130; year 5)					0	5.130		5.130	MTEDD-DDD
Travel	• Travel cost associated to consultations with local stakeholders regarding the adoption of pending elements to strengthen the ABS legal and institutional framework- Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 ($5,000; years 1 and 2) • Travel costs to participate in national and international ABS-related training events (e.g., ABS workshops, seminars short courses, field visits, exchanges) - Output 1.2.1 ($24,000; years 1 to 3) • Travel cost associated to consultations with local stakeholders to establish a functional national ABS information management system - Outputs 1.3.1 and 1.3.4 ($5,000; years 1 and 2)	34.000				34.000			34.000	MTEDD-DDD

Travel	• Travel costs to participate in national and subnational (SM and FM regions) ABS-related training events (workshops, simulations, etc.) - Output 2.1.2 ($21,000; years 1 to 3) • Travel costs associated with the drafting, signing, and monitoring of ABS contracts - Output 2.2.1 ($22,500; $7,500/value chain; years 2 to 5) • Travel costs for the assessment of the current conservation status of the species and the population to be sampled/collected as part of each ABS value chain and of their habitat/ecosystems - Output 2.2.3 (5,000; year 2) • Travel costs to support cooperatives (including women cooperatives) to participate in sustainable ABS value chains - Output 2.2.3 ($15,000; $5,000/value chain; years 2 to 5)		63.500			63.500			63.500	MTEDD-DDD
Travel	• Travel costs related to enhancing governance for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and ABS in the SM and FM Regions- Outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.4 ($10,000; years 2 and 3) • Travel costs related to training of key stakeholders in regional government and ministerial delegations on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and ABS - Output 3.1.3			40.500		40.500				MTEDD-DDD

	($15,000; years 2 and 3) • Travel costs related to assessment and consultations for mobilizing new resources via the ABS benefit-sharing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration - Output 3.1.5 ($3,500; year 3) • Travel costs for monitoring the species and the population to be sampled/collected as part of each ABS value chain and of their habitat/ecosystems - Output 3.2.1 ($12,000; years 3 to 5)									
Travel	• Travel expenses and DSA related to the development of social and environmental safeguard related plans - Outputs 4.1.2, 4.1.3 ($20,000; year 1) • Travel expenses related to the implementation and monitoring of the ESMP and other management plans - Outputs 4.1.2, 4.1.3 ($5,000; $1,500/yr.; years 1 to 5) • Travel expenses related to knowledge management - Outputs 4.2.1 ($5,000; $1,000/yr.; years 1 to 5)				30.000	30.000				MTEDD-DDD
Travel	• Travel expenses for Mid Term Review - Output 5.1.1 ($3,000; year 3) • Travel expenses for Terminal Evaluation - Output 5.1.1 ($4,125; year 5) • Travel expenses					0	12.125			MTEDD-DDD

	related to the monitoring of GEF core indicators and PRF, and social and environmental safeguards - Output 5.1.1 ($5,000; $1,000/yr.; years 1 to 5)									
Office Supplies	Office stationeries and supplies in support of strengthening biodiversity governance and conservation through mainstreaming and benefit-sharing in three target regions, including biosafety supplies to minimize exposure to COVID-19, as needed: hand sanitizers, masks and face shields, disinfectant sprays, disposable gloves, etc. - Outputs 3.1.1 and 3.2.1 ($3,000; years 2 to 5)			3.000		3.000			3.000	MTEDD-DDD
Office Supplies	Office furniture - ($2,000; year 1)					0		3.830	3.830	MTEDD-DDD
Other Operating Costs	Printing of guide for negotiating ABS contracts in French and Arabic- Output 1.2.2 ($10,000; year 2)	10.000				10.000				MTEDD-DDD
Other Operating Costs	• Printing costs for three participatory Conservation and Sustainable Use Plans - Output 2.2.3 ($9,000; $3,000/publication; year 3) • Printing costs for three collection/harvesting protocols - Output 2.2.3 ($6,000; $2,000/publication; year 3)		15.000			15.000				MTEDD-DDD
Other Operating Costs	Printing costs of investment plans for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration in			6.000		6.000				MTEDD-DDD

	three pilot areas - Output 3.1.5 ($6,000; $2,000/plan; year 3)									
Other Operating Costs	Development of knowledge management related products (publications, videos, etc.) - Output 4.2.1 ($6,000; $1,500/yr.; years 2 to 5)				6.000	6.000				MTEDD-DDD
Other Operating Costs	Translation of the Mid Term Review report and the Terminal Evaluation report - Output 5.1.1 ($3,500; $1,750/translation; years 3 and 5)					0	3.500		3.500	MTEDD-DDD
Other Operating Costs	Project audits - ($10,000; $2,000/year; years 1 to 5)					0		10.000	10.000	MTEDD-DDD
Grand Total		406.250	499.280	374.574	254.250	1.534.354	80.755	161.511	1.776.620	