Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

KBF Project Document

I. Basic Information			
Fund Name	*Kunming Biodiversity Fund*		
Project Title	*Albania's Path to Strengthening Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)*		
Project Number	*[To be be assigned to selected projects by MPTFO system]*		
Thematic area	**Thematic area 5. Benefits shared from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources** Thematic area 5 will support national, subnational and local governments in adopting effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and genetic resource digital sequence information, as well as traditional knowledge related to genetic resources		
Project Description	The project strengthens Albania's ABS legal framework by enhancing compliance, institutional capacity, and stakeholder engagement. It promotes transparency, fair access to genetic resources, and benefit-sharing through an Easy ABS Guide. Aligning with biodiversity and EU priorities, it fosters innovation, community participation, and Nagoya Protocol implementation.		
Timeframe	*Anticipated start date: 1/03/2026*		
	Duration (in months): 30		
Participating Organization(s) and Project Focal Points (No more than 3, with a preference for 1-2)	The implementing Entity Name that is applying for KBF funding. United Nations Development Programme-Albania Country Office	**Primary project focal point:** *Randi Davis* *Resident Representative UNDP Albania* randi.davis@undp.org **Secondary project focal point:** *Elvita Kabashi* *Programme Specialist* elvita.kabashi@undp.org	
Geographical scope	*Geographical scope*	*Region(s)*	*Country/countries*
	Country	*Western Balkans*	*Albania*
Beneficiary Country/Countries and Focal Points (No more than 3, with a preference for 1-2)	*Albania* *Ministry of Environment*	*Klodiana Marika* *Director of Nature and Forests – CBD focal point* *klodiana.marika@turizmi.gov.al*	
Gender Equality Marker[1]	*[Select one]* ☐ GEM-0: The Key Activity is not expected to contribute to GEWE ☐ GEM-1: The Key Activity contributes to GEWE in a limited way ■ GEM-2: GEWE is a significant objective of the Key Activity's overall intent ☐ GEM-3: GEWE is the principal objective of the Key Activity		
SDG Targets	*Target 2.5: Maintain genetic diversity in food production* *Target 15.6: Promote access to genetic resources and fair sharing of the benefits*		
Total budget (USD)	**Budget Requested**		
	UNDP Albania	1 000 000 US$	

[1] https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/building-block/gender-equality-marker

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

	Total Budget Requested	1,000,000 US$
	Other Sources (Parallel Funding in-kind)	
	UNDP/ AICS- EU4Nature	1,000,000 US$
	UNDP/AICS- EU4Forestry	4,000,000 US$
	KBF/UNDP/MoE- Enhancing Albania's Biodiversity and Forest Management Frameworks	200, 000 US $
	Total parallel funding	4,200,000 US$

Signatures of Participating Organization(s)		
Participating Organization(s)	**Name/Title**	
UNDP Albania	Randi Davis Resident Representative	DocuSigned by: 21C79BA6D343447... 10-Jan-2026
Executive Council Approval		
Date of Executive Council Approval: 18th October, 2025. Doreen Lynn Robinson, co-chair of the KBF Executive Council	**Signature:**	Digitally signed by Doreen Robinson Date: 2026.05.07 21:48:00 +03'00'

II. Situation Analysis

Limit: 500 words[2]

Albania became a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994 and acceded to the Nagoya Protocol in 2013, effective from 2014. Despite progress in integrating ABS into national legislation (see Annex A1), systemic gaps persist. The legal framework remains unclear, with undefined terms and no recognition of derivatives, while procedures for prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms are not yet formalized. Standardized tools such as model clauses and MTAs are lacking, and institutional fragmentation and limited technical capacity continue to hinder implementation. Traditional knowledge linked to genetic resources is also poorly documented and insufficiently protected, leaving benefit-sharing arrangements uncertain and local communities vulnerable.

Albania remains strongly committed to strengthening national capacities in biodiversity conservation and environmental monitoring to align with EU accession requirements by 2027. Ongoing efforts focus on improving institutional frameworks, data systems, and inter-agency coordination to ensure compliance with EU environmental standards and enhance effective implementation of the environmental acquis.

Albania holds significant potential for integration within domestic and international value chains. Its unique genetic resources particularly indigenous medicinal and aromatic plants, crops wild relatives (CWR), autochthonous livestock breeds, and traditional knowledge, position the country as a valuable partner for pharmaceutical, botanical, food, and biotechnological industries. Despite this economic potential, private sector engagement is minimal, particularly in industries most reliant on biodiversity, such as cosmetics, food, and botanicals. These gaps underscore the project's focus on strengthening legal and administrative frameworks, improving governance, and fostering inclusive stakeholder participation, with a dedicated strategy to mobilize private sector actors through targeted outreach, co-financing opportunities, and integration of governance structures to establish a transparent and an equitable ABS system. The project will proactively engage the private sector through structured dialogue platforms, incentives for sustainable sourcing, and participation in national ABS governance bodies.

[2] Please use footnotes to all references and citations (these will not be counted in the specified word limit).

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

This project aligns with Albania's commitment to EU accession, its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and the GBF's four long-term goals and 23 targets, particularly:

- GBF Goal A & Target 3: Expanding conservation efforts to protect 30% of Albania's land and marine ecosystems by 2030.
- GBF Goal B & Target 10: Strengthening sustainable use of biodiversity through scientific innovation and resource management.
- GBF Goal C & Target 13: Ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources by establishing robust ABS compliance mechanisms.
- GBF Goal D & Target 19: Enhancing financial and institutional capacities to sustain biodiversity-related economic opportunities.

As outlined in Section IV on "Theory of Change" below, the ongoing UNDP project "Enhancing Albania's Biodiversity and Forest Management Frameworks" is actively working on aligning national legislation with the Nagoya Protocol and EU Regulation No. 511/2014. This new project proposal will complement those efforts by ensuring that Albania can finalize and implement its national system for tangible genetic resources under the Nagoya Protocol, while preparing government institutions and stakeholders to engage with the future multilateral DSI mechanism, including the Cali Fund[3]. This initiative will further establish compliance checkpoints along the genetic resource value chain and strengthen institutional capacity to monitor ABS agreements. This includes the creation of an ABS Industry Forum to facilitate dialogue between government, academia, and private companies, and to identify joint investment opportunities that align with ABS principles. The project will also enhance capacity-building efforts, target key government agencies, research institutions, and SMEs, while ensuring effective participation of local communities in ABS negotiations.

III. Project Objectives

Limit: 200 words

The objective of this project is to make Albania's Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) framework fully operational as a driver of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and inclusive growth. By recognizing Albania's genetic assets—such as medicinal plants, autochthonous breeds, and endemic species—as strategic resources, the project will unlock their potential for biotechnology, agriculture, and bioeconomy sectors, contributing to competitiveness and economic growth. Strategic partnerships will be pursued with private enterprises in these sectors to co-design benefit-sharing models and foster inclusive investment opportunities.

At the policy level, the project will advance Albania's EU accession by aligning national ABS measures with EU Regulation No. 511/2014 and establishing compliance mechanisms consistent with the Nagoya Protocol. This will provide legal certainty, improve governance, and strengthen institutional capacities.

At the operational level, the project will generate development opportunities by empowering communities, researchers, and SMEs to participate in ABS processes and benefit-sharing schemes. By promoting biodiscovery partnerships, technology transfer, and joint innovation between universities and the private sector, the project will create tangible incentives for conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, including benefit-sharing models tailored to private sector needs and capacity-building programs for industry stakeholders.

Together, these actions will establish a robust, inclusive ABS that safeguards biodiversity, fosters innovation, attracts investment, and contributes directly to Target 13 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity

3 Guide to the Cali Fund

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Framework. Ultimately, Albania will strengthen biodiversity governance, create equitable benefits, and meet its international commitments.

IV. Theory of change

Limit: 500 words

The Theory of Change (ToC), detailed in Annex A3 and illustrated in Figure 1, follows a clear IF-THEN logic. Together, the project's efforts aim to establish a transparent and equitable ABS in Albania. This system will be fully operational, support SMEs, foster scientific innovation, and ensure compliance with international environmental standards and EU obligations.

This transformation will be driven by four interlinked components (see Annex A4 for details):

- Component 1 focuses on strengthening the implementation of Law No. 41/2020 and the Nagoya Protocol. Key outputs include national ABS Good Practice Guidelines, standardized procedures for Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), and user-friendly tools such as brochures, infographics, and Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs). Institutional capacity will be built through targeted training for authorities and enforcement agencies, ensuring legal enforceability and administrative efficiency of ABS agreements.
- Component 2 promotes ABS governance and private sector engagement through a strategic communication plan. This will position Albania as a hub for ethical biodiscovery investments. Activities include mapping research partnerships, developing an ABS investment framework aligned with EU standards, and launching awareness campaigns for universities, companies, and policymakers, including tailored workshops for private sector actors to understand ABS compliance, benefit-sharing obligations, and opportunities for innovation. A national digital platform will support stakeholder knowledge exchange, with a focus on building long-term relationships with private companies through joint ventures, licensing agreements, and collaborative research initiatives, while technology transfer agreements will ensure local researchers benefit from non-monetary gains like training and lab access.
- Component 3 empowers local communities and small farmers to engage in ABS processes by recognizing the value of traditional knowledge (TK) and biodiversity-based livelihoods. Activities include establishing a national TK registry, organizing participatory workshops, and supporting community-based biodiversity businesses aligned with Bio Trade principles, while also facilitating market linkages with private sector buyers and investors to ensure commercial viability and scalability. These measures will ensure that benefit-sharing is inclusive, gender-responsive, and economically empowering for rural populations.
- Component 4 ensures robust implementation of the ABS framework through safeguards, oversight, and quality assurance. Risk management, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive learning will be embedded across all activities. This will enhance institutional capacity to manage risks, track progress, and uphold high standards in policy, regulation, and operations.

The impacts are threefold: (a) strengthened compliance with the Nagoya Protocol, EU Regulation No. 511/2014, and GBF Target 13 whilst laying the groundwork for future institutional engagement with the multilateral DSI mechanism; (b) a transparent and functional ABS that contributes directly to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; new economic opportunities through equitable benefit-sharing and innovation partnerships.

The ToC is based on key assumptions: sustained political commitment to EU accession and biodiversity obligations, active stakeholder engagement, and alignment with ongoing initiatives. Risks such as institutional fragmentation, low private sector interest, and limited technical expertise will be addressed through early engagement, cross-project synergies, and targeted capacity-building (see Section XIII for the risk management framework).

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

V. Coordination, complementarities and value added

Limit: 400 words

Regarding Access and Benefit-Sharing, Albania has been addressing this issue before the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2013 and entered into force in 2014. In its Law № 9.587 dated 20/07/2006 "On Biodiversity Protection", Albania addressed specific issues related to the CBD, containing several provisions of relevance to ABS. However, in 2020, Albania adopted the Law № 41/2020, which amended and added to the Law № 9.587 dated 20/07/2006 "On Biodiversity Protection" to address access and benefit-sharing aligned with the Nagoya Protocol and with the Regulation (EU) № 511/2014[4].

The proposed project will also be complementing ongoing efforts implemented both by GoA and UNDP Albania, such as of the EU4Nature project (2023-2028), and EU4Forestry (2025- 2029), and KBF/UNDP "Enhancing Albania's Biodiversity and Forest Management Frameworks", which aims to transpose the national legislation with EU Birds and Habitats Directives in Albania, to enhance protected area management, biodiversity conservation, forestry management and enhance ABS legislation. These projects will strengthen the institutional capacities of both MTE, the National Agency of Protected Areas and the National Agency for Forestry.

There are several additional projects which can complement KBF funding, strengthening its sustainability and the country's biodiversity monitoring in the long run. First, the Prespa-Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT) provides long-term financing for conservation in transboundary areas like the Prespa-Ohrid region. This initiative supports protected area management and local environmental actors through competitive funding, which complements the biodiversity monitoring and conservation measures envisioned in the proposed project. Second, the Drin River Basin project addresses climate resilience and flood risk management in a transboundary context. It focuses on climate-induced flood risk, improved transboundary cooperation, and climate risk knowledge, which will complement the sustainable forest management and ecosystem restoration efforts of the proposed project. Third, the Vjosa Wild River National Park (2024-2027), supported by Patagonia and IUCN, will establish a new management plan and increase data collection for species and habitats along the Vjosa River, aligning with the project's focus on biodiversity data improvements. Similarly, the GEF/UNEP project (2023-2026) in the Albanian Alps aims to strengthen climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.

Knowledge-sharing mechanisms with the abovementioned ongoing projects will be established through regular coordination meetings and joint knowledge-sharing sessions hosted in the Ministry of Environment, as well as the UNDP M&E specialist. Finally, funding and resources, particularly from the EU4Nature, EU4Forestry and KBF/UNDP project, will enhance the expected outputs.

VI. Lessons Learned & Innovation

Limit: 200 words

Past initiatives, notably the UNDP/GEF Global ABS Project, showed that while legal reforms and initial capacity-building generated momentum, gaps remain in enforcement, compliance, and coordination. That project trained 47 stakeholders across five regions, raised awareness among key actors, and secured an agreement with the Albanian Gene Bank, demonstrating the importance of targeted training and institutional partnerships. A key lesson is that sustainable ABS implementation requires moving beyond legislation to practical compliance tools, digital monitoring, and active stakeholder engagement, especially with the private sector. The proposed project builds on this foundation to mainstream ABS into Albania's governance, innovation, and local development. Lessons also underline the need to create trust and incentives for

[4] Thereinafter referred as EU ABS Regulation

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

private actors, demonstrating that biodiversity-based business models can be both profitable and sustainable.

Similarly, the KBF/UNDP project "Enhancing Albania's Biodiversity and Forest Management Frameworks" confirmed that systemic impact depends on strong institutions and practical mechanisms. It highlighted how Albania's international commitments can be translated into results by clarifying institutional roles, streamlining procedures, deploying digital traceability, and strengthening capacities. It also underscored the value of engaging communities and private actors to ensure ABS functions as an enabler of sustainable innovation, equitable benefit-sharing, and ecological management.

An innovation of the proposed project is integrating ABS into the ABS Clearing-House[5], complemented by renewed collaboration with the Albanian Gene Bank, ensuring transparency, compliance, and equitable benefit-sharing.

VII. Sustainability, exit strategy and replication

Limit: 200 words

Sustainability:
The project's sustainability is anchored in the integration of ABS mechanisms into Albania's legal and institutional frameworks, ensuring alignment with national biodiversity strategies, EU priorities, and the Nagoya Protocol (Output 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 2.3). National and local ownership will be fostered through capacity building for government, communities, and stakeholders, with a focus on compliance, transparency, and equitable benefit-sharing (Outputs 1.2, 2.1, 3.1). The Easy ABS Guide and participatory approaches will empower stakeholders, while financial catalysis and resource mobilization will support ongoing ABS activities. Continuous monitoring, adaptive management, and stakeholder engagement will ensure enduring impact.

Exit Strategy:
An exit strategy will be embedded from the outset, with early planning for the transfer of knowledge, tools (including the Easy ABS Guide), and responsibilities to national institutions and local actors. Project processes and outcomes will be institutionalized within existing legal and governance structures. Clear stakeholder handover plans, risk mitigation measures, and post-project support will ensure continuity and resilience of ABS management.

Replication:
Best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches will be systematically documented and shared. Stakeholder networks will be strengthened to facilitate knowledge exchange and support replication in other regions or sectors. Replication strategies will align with international standards, and capacity building will be provided to new adopters. Monitoring mechanisms will track and adapt replication efforts for maximum impact.

VIII. Social Impact

Limit: 400 words

Gender equality and women's empowerment are integrated across all components, with concrete results expected. Women in Albania, particularly in rural communities, are key guardians of biodiversity yet they face

5 The ABS Clearing-House: By recording and making available information on access procedures, permits, and agreements, the Clearing-House provides legal certainty for researchers, enterprises, and communities.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

barriers in decision-making and equitable benefit-sharing. The gender analysis presented in Annex A5 shows that women carry the heaviest total workload (paid and unpaid), while men enjoy greater access to leisure, restricting women's participation in ABS processes. Youth, especially in rural areas, also face structural barriers to meaningful involvement in biodiversity value chains.

To address these gaps, the project will ensure inclusive participation by guaranteeing that at least 30% of participants are women and 20% are youth across all training workshops, consultations, and ABS negotiations (Outcome Indicator 3.1). Flexible training schedules, local-language materials, and targeted outreach to agricultural high schools and youth associations will reduce participation barriers. Youth involvement will also be encouraged through experimental fields for medicinal and aromatic plants under the Agricultural University of Albania (AUT), linking academic research with practical ABS value chains.

Under Output 3.2, the project dedicates Activity 3.2.3 to ensure gender-inclusive participation in ABS decision-making. A comprehensive gender analysis will map the roles of women and men in managing genetic resources and ABS value chains; identify social, economic, and cultural barriers; and highlight women's needs, priorities, and knowledge. Based on this, a Gender Mainstreaming Plan will set concrete actions, indicators, and targets, augmenting gender-disaggregated results already in the framework. Documentation of traditional knowledge (Activities 3.1.2 and 3.1.3) will explicitly recognize women as knowledge holders, with provisions for protecting their contributions embedded in the national TK registry (Outcome Indicator 3.2).

Local Communities (LCs) will be directly engaged in ABS governance, with representation in working groups and co-leadership of activities such as traditional knowledge (TK) mapping and registry development. By 2027, a National TK Registry will be piloted with entries from at least one region (Outcome Indicator 3.2). Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) will be a prerequisite for any use of TK or genetic resources, with protocols developed alongside LCs to ensure culturally appropriate processes.

To generate tangible benefits, the project will also support 10 community-based biodiversity SMEs (Outcome Indicator 3.3), focusing on medicinal plants, eco-tourism, and sustainable agriculture, with women and youth actively involved in business planning under Bio Trade principles.

Through these measures, the project embeds gender equality and youth empowerment into Albania's ABS framework, generating equitable social and economic benefits while strengthening community resilience and biodiversity stewardship.

IX. Communications, outreach and learning

Limit: 200 words

The project's gender-sensitive communication strategy will ensure continual stakeholder engagement and transparent information sharing on ABS. Complemented by the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, it will guide dissemination to and feedback from government agencies, research institutions, the private sector, and local communities, ensuring inclusivity and responsiveness. It will define targeted audiences, their information needs, preferred channels, and roles in communication processes.

Project activities will collect and integrate knowledge generated during implementation, such as ABS guidelines, compliance tools, and case studies, into user-friendly formats, including brochures, infographics, videos, toolkits, newsletters, and press releases. Awareness campaigns will strengthen cross-sectoral linkages between environment, agriculture, trade, and health, building trust between regulators and the private sector. Information will be distributed through stakeholder workshops, community dialogues, social media, national portals, and the ABS Clearing House. By combining traditional and digital outreach, the project will ensure that communities and institutions alike can access, use, and contribute to ABS knowledge.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

The project will foster a national “ABS community of practice” by hosting peer-to-peer exchanges, learning events, and dialogue sessions with beneficiaries and partners. Toward the project’s end, lessons learned, and best practices will be synthesized into an accessible report, shared nationally and internationally to support replication and global learning. The community of practice will actively include private sector representatives, ensuring their participation in knowledge exchange and co-learning on sustainable ABS practices.

X. Budget

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Table 1. Full Result-based Budget

Outcome	Output	Activities	Expenditure category	Description of expenditure	Estimated amount	PSC	% of Funding
Outcome 1 - Strengthening Legal, Administrative, and Policy Measures for the Structured and Sustainable Implementation of Albania's ABS Framework	*Output1.1 - Strengthening Legal and Policy Framework*	*Activity1.1.1 -Develop Albania's "ABS Good Practice Guidelines", outlining steps for genetic resource users and providers to comply with Law No. 41/2020.*	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Engage consultant to produce the Practice Guidance	$35,000.00	$2,450.00	0.035
		Activity1.1.2 - Develop standardized procedures for granting access to genetic resources	*1. Staff and other personnel*	*Technical Cordinator NPSA 8*	$15,000.00	$1,050.00	0.015
			4. Contractual services	Distinct Application Forms for commercial and non-commercial research applications. PIC and MAT requirements, ensuring compliance with national and international standards. Material Transfer Agreements (MTA) to regulate the transfer and responsibilities over genetic resource samples.	$90,000.00	$6,300.00	0.090
	Output1.2 - Insert Title	*Activity1.2.1 - Training workshops for the National Authorities*	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Conduct training workshops for the National Authorities focusing on: -User sectors of pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food and beverage, and botanicals, as the main national users identified so far. -Synergies between the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA for sustainable genetic resource use.	$15,000.00	$1,050.00	0.015
			4. Contractual services		$25,000.00	$1,750.00	0.025
			5. Travel		$5,000.00	$350.00	0.005
		Activity1.2.2 - A procedural manual for ABS processing, negotiations, etc.	*4. Contractual services*	Develop a procedural manual for ABS processing, negotiations, and compliance tracking.	$45,000.00	$3,150.00	0.045
			1. Staff and other personnel	*Technical Cordinator NPSA 8*	$20,000.00	$1,400.00	0.020
		Activity1.2.3 - Local agencies on monitoring ABS agreements, MAT enforcement, and biodiversity compliance.	*4. Contractual services*	Train local enforcement agencies on monitoring ABS agreements, MAT enforcement, and biodiversity compliance	$45,000.00	$3,150.00	0.045
Outcome 2 - Strengthening Albania's ABS Governance and Promoting Biodiversity Private Sector Engagement	*Output2.1 - Enhancing Business Engagement and Research Collaboration*	*Activity 2.1.1 - Map of biodiscovery projects*	*4. Contractual services*	Map and promote emerging biodiscovery projects, encouraging research partnerships.	$50,000.00	$3,500.00	0.050
			1. Staff and other personnel	*Technical Cordinator NPSA 8*	$20,000.00	$1,400.00	0.020
		Activity 2.1.2 -Develop Albania's ABS investment framework, ensuring policy alignment with EU accession environmental standards.	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Develop Albania's ABS investment framework, ensuring policy alignment with EU accession environmental standards.	$50,000.00	$3,500.00	0.050
	Output2.2 - Ensuring Compliance & Awareness	*Activity 2.2.1- Ensuring Compliance & Awareness*	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Launch targeted awareness campaigns for: -Universities, research institutions, and companies using genetic resources. -Policymakers, local communities, and private sector stakeholders. Design training materials to be used in training workshops: (i) brochures; (ii) PowerPoint presentations to be used in the training; (iii) Group work dynamics to apply the knowledge acquired in the training workshop .	$15,000.00	$1,050.00	0.015
			4. Contractual services		$20,000.00	$1,400.00	0.020
			5. Travel		$5,000.00	$350.00	0.005
	Output2.3 - Private Sector Investment & Technology Transfer	*Activity 2.3.1- Promote Albania as a destination for ethical ABS investments.*	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Promote Albania as a destination for ethical ABS investments by supporting biotech startups that incorporate ABS principles.	$35,000.00	$2,450.00	0.035
		Activity 2.3.2- Facilitate technology transfer agreements in ABS contracts	*4. Contractual services*	Facilitate technology transfer agreements in ABS contracts, ensuring: -Local researchers gain skills and laboratory capacity. -Non-monetary benefits such as training and knowledge-sharing are included in MAT.	$65,000.00	$4,550.00	0.065
Outcome 3 - Strengthening Local Communities' Role in ABS Implementation Objective	*Output3.1 - Capacity-Building for Local Communities*	*Activity 3.1.1 -Map of traditional knowledge holders.*	*4. Contractual services*	Map traditional knowledge holders to ensure their involvement in ABS discussions.	$55,000.00	$3,850.00	0.055
		Activity 3.1.2 -Establish a national TK registry	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Establish a national TK registry to document and protect local knowledge.	$40,000.00	$2,800.00	0.040
		Activity 3.1.3 -Support local communities in negotiating fair ABS agreements	*4. Contractual services*	Support local communities in negotiating fair ABS agreements	$50,000.00	$3,500.00	0.050
	Output 3.2 -Integration of ABS in Local Conservation & Sustainable Business Models	*Activity 3.2.1 -Promotion of community-based biodiversity businesses*	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Promote community-based biodiversity businesses aligned with BioTrade principles	$45,000.00	$3,150.00	0.045
			1. Staff and other personnel	*Technical Cordinator NPSA 8*	$50,000.00	$3,500.00	0.050
		Activity 3.2.2 -Ensure gender-inclusive participation in ABS decision-making.	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Ensure gender-inclusive participation in ABS decision-making.	$12,000.00	$840.00	0.012
			4. Contractual services		$10,000.00	$700.00	0.010
Outcome 4 - Risk Management, M&E and Quality Assurance	Output 4.1 - Prepare, implement and monitor an integrated Risk management system for the project in line with with UNDP and national policies (including stake holder engagement, gen der mains treaming, social and environ mental standards and accountability to stakeholders)	*Activity 4.1.1 Implementation and monitoring of safeguards risk framework*	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Undertake social and environmental risk screenings and assessments, and prepare appropriate management measures, in line with UNDP's SES Policy and applicable national requirements. At a minimum, this will include development of Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan and other frameworks or plans as indicated in the SESP. Indigenous Peoples Plans and FPIC will be required where project affected IP&LC are present in the targeted landscapes.	$17,000.00	$1,190.00	0.017
		Activity 4.1.2 Developing a Risk Management system for the project	*1. Staff and other personnel*	To implement, monitor and maintain the project Risk Management Matrix and related mitigation measures.	$17,000.00	$1,190.00	0.017
	Output 4.2 - Monitoring & Evaluation and Quality Assurance Systems	Activity 4.2.1 Establishing a Monitoring and Evaluation system for the project	*1. Staff and other personnel*	Development of M&E framework	$8,220.00	$575.40	0.008
Project management			***1. Staff and other personnel***	Project staff cost	$45,000.00	$3,150.00	0.045
			7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	Rent and operational expenses	$18,360.00	$1,285.20	0.018
			5. Travel	Travel	$12,000.00	$840.00	0.012
				Programme support cost (7%)		$65,420.60	7%
Project Total					$1,000,000.60		100%

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Table 2. Aligment with KBF Outcomes			
Project's Outcome		**KBF's Outcome**	**Budget**
Outcome 1 - Strengthening Legal, Administrative, and Policy Measures for the Structured and Sustainable Implementation of Albania's ABS Framework		*Outcome 5: Benefits shared from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources*	*$ 295,000.00*
Outcome 2 - Strengthening Albania's ABS Governance and Promoting Biodiversity Private Sector Engagement		*Outcome 5: Benefits shared from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources*	*$ 260,000.00*
Outcome 3 - Strengthening Local Communities' Role in ABS Implementation Objective		*Outcome 5: Benefits shared from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources*	*$ 262,000.00*
Outcome 4 - Risk Management, M&E and Quality Assurance		*Outcome 5: Benefits shared from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources*	*$ 42,220.00*
Project Management	*Staff and personnel*	*Outcome 5: Benefits shared from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources*	*$ 45,000.00*
	General Operating and Other Direct Costs	*Outcome 5: Benefits shared from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources*	*$ 18,360.00*
	Travel	*Outcome 5: Benefits shared from genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources*	*$ 12,000.00*
		PSC	*$ 65,420.60*
		Project Total Cost	*$ 1,000,000.60*

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

XI. Results Framework

Please define and describe indicators for each result of the project at an outcome and output level. These indicators should be relevant to the overall ToC and should follow the project intervention logic. This logframe will be reference point for project performance measurement and should be used to guide monitoring activities. Please consider the SMART principles[6] when defining each indicator.

Outcome 1: Strengthening Legal, Administrative, and Policy Measures for the Structured and Sustainable Implementation of Albania's ABS Framework					
		Baseline (November 2025)	**Target** (May 2028)	**Means of verification**	Responsible Org
Outcome Indicators	1.1 Number of new or revised ABS legal, administrative, and policy instruments formally adopted in line with Law No. 41/2020 and Nagoya Protocol.	0	3-6 legal instruments adopted	Official Gazette, MoE policy matrix records	Ministry of Tourism & Environment (MoE)
	1.2 Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for PIC and MAT officially approved and piloted	0	2	Official approval documents of SOPs Biodiversity CHM updates showing ABS procedures uploaded.	Ministry of Tourism & Environment (MoE) and Academia
Output Indicators	1.3 ABS Good Practice Guidelines developed and published for users and providers of genetic resources.	0	1 national guideline published and disseminated	Published guideline, MoE website	Ministry of Tourism & Environment (MoE)
	1.4 Number of government officials and enforcement officers trained on ABS implementation (disaggregated by gender/sector i.e national and local).	0	100 trained (30% women, 20% youth)	Training reports, participant lists	Ministry of Tourism & Environment (MoE)
Outcome 2: Strengthening Albania's ABS Governance and Promoting Biodiversity Private Sector Engagement					
		Baseline (November 2025)	**Target** (May 2028)	Means of verification	**Responsible Org**
Outcome Indicators	2.1 Number of ABS-related business or research partnerships established with domestic and international actors.	0	1	MoUs, partnership records	

[6] For reference, please see the following guidance on SMART principles and methodology.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

	2.2 Integration of ABS provisions into Albania's existing biodiversity or investment policy documents i.e NBSAP	0	1	Published NBSAP revision	MoE
Output Indicators	2.3 Number of private sector actors (SMEs, biotech start-ups) engaged in ABS awareness and dialogue sessions	0	At least 15 private sector actors engaged in awareness activities;	Workshop/training reports with participant details (company/sector, gender disaggregation); Communication materials	Ministry of Tourism & Environment (MoE); Universities/Gene Bank; Chambers of Commerce; Local CSOs MoE
	2.4 Number of awareness campaigns, training workshops, and knowledge-sharing events conducted for universities, researchers, and private sector stakeholders.	2	6 awareness campaigns	Communication reports	MoE, UNDP, Universities
Outcome 3: Strengthening Local Communities' Role in ABS Implementation					
		Baseline (November 2025)	**Target** (May 2028)	**Means of verification**	**Responsible Org**
Outcome Indicators	**3.1** Number of local community members trained on ABS, PIC, MAT, CBD (with minimum 30% women, 20% youth).	**0**	200 trained (≥30% women, ≥20% youth)	Training reports, attendance sheets (gender/age disaggregated), participant feedback forms	MoE UNDP, local CSOs, municipalities
	3.2 National Traditional Knowledge registry established and functional for ABS negotiations.	**0**	Registry piloted by 2027 (with entries from at least 1 region)	Functional digital registry, MoE reports, registry guidelines	MoE, Universities
Output Indicators	**3.3** Number of community-based biodiversity SMEs/ CSOs supported (i.e. medicinal plants, eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture).	**0**	10 SMEs/ CSOs supported in developing business plans per BioTrade principle, of which at least 2	Business plans, MoE/UNDP progress reports, bootcamp and accelerator programs	

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

			SMEs/CSOs demonstrate full ABS integration through signed PIC/MAT agreements, sustainable harvesting practices, and documented benefit-sharing with local communities		
Outcome 4: Risk Management, M&E and Quality Assurance					
Output Indicator	**4.1 Risk management framework (including safeguards, gender, SES, stakeholder accountability) developed and integrated into project implementation.**	**0**	Framework formally adopted in the Steering Committee and operationalized	Steering Committee report, Project Progress Report	**UNDP PMU, RTA, MoE, SC members**
Output Indicator	**4.2 Percentage of project activities tracked with M&E system (with gender- and community-disaggregated indicators).**	**0**	≥90% of activities tracked through M&E system	M&E project database, Project progress Report	**UNDP PMU, RTA, MoE, SC members**

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Annex XII. Implementation schedule/timeline

Project Activities		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q5			Q6			Q7			Q8			Q9			Q10		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Output 1.1 – Strengthening Legal and Policy Framework	Activity 1.1.1 – Develop Albania's "ABS Good Practice Guidelines", outlining steps for genetic resource users and providers to comply with Law No. 41/2020	drafting, consultation, validation																													
	Activity 1.1.2 - Develop standardized procedures for granting access to genetic resources, including: (a) Distinct Application Forms for commercial and non-commercial research. (b) PIC and MAT requirements, ensuring compliance with national and international standards.				build on guidelines; require consultations with ministries, academia, and local stakeholders.						Stakeholder validation						Approval processes														
Output 1.2 - Capacity-Building for Institutions and Policymakers	Activity 1.2.1 - Conduct training workshops for the National Authorities										First round of workshops (introductory, based on draft guidelines/SOPs).									Second round (after SOPs are finalized, focusing on application/implem									Refresher workshop + evaluation.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

								entation) .			
	Activity 1.2.2 - Develop a procedural manual for ABS processing, negotiations, and compliance tracking.			Drafting		Stakeholder validation and pilot use	Final publication and dissemination.				
	Activity 1.2.3 – Train local enforcement agencies on monitoring ABS agreements, MAT enforcement, and biodiversity compliance.						First training sessions		Second round		
Output 2.1 - Enhancing Business and Research Collaboration	Activity 2.1.1 – Map and promote emerging biodiscovery projects, encouraging research partnerships.	Desk review and stakeholder consultations		Publish mapping report;		targeted outreach to private sector + academia			Consolidate pilot research collaborations		
	Activity 2.1.2 - Develop ABS investment guidelines and ensure their integration into Albania's existing biodiversity or investment policy documents (e.g., NBSAP)		Alignment with NBSAP revision and other national strategies								
Output 2.2 - Ensuring Compliance & Awareness	Activity 2.2.1 - Launch targeted awareness campaigns for stakeholders		Design phase	First round of awareness campaign			Follow-up campaign emphasizing		Second round of campaigns focused on		Final evaluation.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

				s launched (multi-sectoral workshops with regulators, private sector).			compliance and value creation.		BioTrade linkages.		
Output 3.1: Capacity-Building for Local Communities	Activity 3.1.1 – Conduct regional training workshops on ABS laws, PIC, and MAT.			Design phase	First round of workshops (introductory).		Second round of workshops (focused on PIC/MAT practice).				Refreshe training and evaluation.
	Activity 3.1.2 – Map traditional knowledge holders to ensure their involvement in ABS discussions.		Develop methodology and tools.	Community consultations and participatory mapping.			Draft TK inventory compiled	Integration into ABS processes			
	Activity 3.1.3 – Establish a national TK registry to document and protect local knowledge.				Technical design of registry platform.	Populate pilot registry with data.				Integration with ABS Clearing-House.	
	Activity 3.1.4 – Support local communities in negotiating fair ABS agreements.								Pilot ABS negotiations		Document lessons learned and prepared final

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

											guidance note.
Output 3.2: Integration of ABS in Local Conservation & Sustainable Business Models	Activity 3.2.1 – Promote community-based biodiversity businesses aligned with Bio Trade principles, encouraging and supporting local SMEs that use biodiversity resources				Identify potential SMEs and provide technical support.			Pilot to operationalize ABS integration.			Showcase models for replication.
	Activity 3.2.2 – Ensure gender-inclusive participation in ABS decision-making.	Ensure ≥30% women and ≥20% youth participation.				Integrate women's knowledge into TK registry					
Output 4.1 – Prepare, implement and monitor an integrated risk management system	Activity 4.1.1 Implementation and monitoring of safeguards risk framework	Draft risk framework (including SES, gender, stakeholder safeguards)	Validation with MoTE, UNDP, and local stakeholders	Continuous monitoring and reporting							
	Activity 4.1.2 Developing a Risk Management system for the project	System design and consultation	Endorsement and monitoring	Full roll out and adaptive revisions							
Output 4.2 – Monitoring & Evaluation and Quality	Activity 4.2.1 Establishing a Monitoring and Evaluation system for the project	Draft M&E plan, align with UNDP/GE	Steering Committee Validation and	M&E system with baselines and	annual PIRs						Terminal evaluation

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Assurance Systems		F/KBF requirements	Endorsement	indicators							
	Activity 4.2.2 Providing quality assurance of technical outputs, knowledge products, M&E and SES implementation				QA reporting				QA reporting		Project closure QA reporting

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

XIII. Risk management framework

Using the risk framework provided below, detail the key risks that may impact on the achievement of the intended results, along with the corresponding risk avoidance and mitigation measures. Please ensure the risk assessment is comprehensive, addressing social, environmental, economic, conflict-related, and other relevant factors. Where necessary, include a Risk Management Plan for any critical risks as an annex to the proposal.

Risk category	Description
Contextual risks	Risks related to conflicts, safety and political insecurity jeopardizing the delivery of the project outputs
Institutional risks	Risks related to the beneficiary country's institutions participation in the project activities
Project level risks	Risks that may negatively affect the delivery of the project outputs.

Category of Risk	Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Level	Implications for project/ programme	Mitigation measures	Risk Owner
Contextual / Programmatic / Institutional	High priority risks for project/ programme	☐ Very improbable (1) ☐ Improbable (2) ☐ Possible (3) ☐ Probable (4) ☐ Very probable (5)	☐ Negligible (1) ☐ Low (2) ☐ Moderate (3) ☐ Significant (4) ☐ Catastrophic (5)	[calculate likelihood x impact] (1-3 negligible, 4-6 low, 8-12 medium, 15 high, 16-25 very high)	Analysis of the implications for the project/programme	Measures being taken and/or proposed to mitigate risk	
Programmatic	*Social and environmental safeguards risks (See SESP, Annex 4.1)*	*Likelihood: 3 (Possible)*	*Impact: 3 (Moderate)*	*Level: Medium (9)*	*Disruptions to implementation and potential failure to deliver*	*Implement SESP recommendations; regular monitoring and reporting (see Annex 4.1)*	UNDP

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

					intended outcomes		
Contextual	Weak enforcement of biodiversity and ABS-related laws	3(Possible)	3 (Moderate)	Medium (8)	Delays in adoption of ABS guidelines	Continuous policy dialogue; align project with EU integration and GBF targets; strengthen inter-ministerial coordination	UNDP / Ministry of Environment
Institutional	Fragmentation of roles between National Focal Point, Competent Authority, ministries and agencies; limited institutional capacity	3 (Possible)	4 (Significant)	Medium (12)	Inefficient ABS permitting, weak compliance monitoring, poor stakeholder trust	Capacity building (Output 1.2); procedural manual and training of enforcement officials; inter-sectoral ABS Working Group re-activated	MoE
Programmatic	Overharvesting of medicinal and aromatic plants, loss of agrobiodiversity, or genetic erosion of local breeds	2 (Improbable)	4 (Significant)	Medium (12)	Degradation of natural resources undermining project outcomes	link ABS to Bio Trade principles; monitor genetic resources with Gene Bank; promote in-situ/ex-situ conservation	Ministry of Environment/ NAPA / Gene Bank/ Communities
Programmatic	Delays in stakeholder engagement	2 (Improbable)	3 (Moderate)	Low (6)	Resistance to project activities; reduced effectiveness of	Early and continuous engagement and communication	Project Manager

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

					ABS implementation		
Programmatic	Low community buy-in for ABS processes	3(Possible)	3 (Moderate)	Medium (8)	Resistance to project activities; reduced effectiveness of ABS implementation	Awareness campaigns; participatory planning; regular feedback mechanisms	UNDP
Programmatic	Incomplete or unreliable data on genetic resources	3(Possible)	3 (Moderate)	Medium (8)	Inaccurate baselines, monitoring, and reporting; weak evidence for decision-making	Strengthen data collection and management; partner with research institutions	Project Manager

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Annexes

Annex A1. Broader baseline and situation analysis 1. Introduction

The purpose of this annex is twofold. First, it establishes the evidence base on which the project's outcomes, outputs, and activities are built. Second, it situates Albania's ABS agenda within broader national priorities, particularly its EU accession process and its commitments under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. By presenting a comprehensive analysis, the annex ensures that the project design is aligned with both the country's development trajectory and international biodiversity obligations.

Through this structure, the annex makes explicit the rationale for the project's three interlinked outcomes: (i) Strengthening Legal, Administrative, and Policy Measures for the Structured and Sustainable Implementation of Albania's ABS Framework; (ii) Strengthening Albania's ABS Governance and Promoting Biodiversity Private Sector Engagement; (iii) Strengthening Local Communities' Role in ABS Implementation and (iv) Risk Management, M&E and Quality Assurance. Each outcome directly responds to the barriers and opportunities described in this baseline, thereby ensuring that the project is firmly rooted in Albania's national context while contributing to global biodiversity objectives.

2. Albania's Biodiversity Context

Albania is among the most biologically diverse countries in Europe, owing to its geographic position at the intersection of the Mediterranean and Alpine biogeographical regions. The country's varied topography, climate, and ecosystems create conditions for an exceptional richness of species, habitats, and genetic resources. This diversity is of both national and global importance, underpinning ecological stability, cultural identity, and local livelihoods.

The country hosts approximately 3,300 vascular plant species, 2,350 non-vascular plants, and more than 15,000 species of invertebrates and vertebrates. Approximately one third of Europe's flora and nearly half of its mammal species occur in Albania. Endemism is also significant: more than 30 plant species and 150 subspecies are endemic to Albania, while an additional 160 plant species are sub-endemic to the Balkan region. Albania's mountainous landscapes, extensive river systems, and coastal wetlands contribute to its importance as a critical migratory corridor, providing habitats for over 90 globally threatened bird species.

Forests cover more than one third of the national territory, while agricultural land accounts for around one quarter and pastures for about 15 percent. High mountain pastures and meadows make up the majority of grazing areas, supporting autochthonous livestock breeds that are an integral part of Albania's agricultural heritage. The country is home to nine local goat breeds and five sheep breeds, alongside several traditional cattle varieties. These genetic resources are vital for maintaining resilient farming systems and ensuring adaptation to changing climatic and environmental conditions.

Agricultural biodiversity is further enriched by a wide range of local crop varieties, many of which are of international importance. Traditional orchards and vineyards complement the diversity of staple crops, while mountain regions harbor an exceptional diversity of medicinal and of aromatic plants and Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs). The collection and trade of such plants represent a longstanding practice among rural communities, particularly in areas surrounding protected landscapes. This activity provides a critical source of household income, especially for women, and maintains a direct link between biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Coastal and freshwater ecosystems also hold strategic importance. The country's coastal lagoons, deltas, and large lakes (Shkodra Lake-Buna River, Prespa Lakes, Divjaka- Karavasta Lagoon, the Cuka Canal, Butrint, etc provide vital habitats for wintering migratory waterbirds and support significant fish populations. Inland, the river systems maintain ecological connectivity and genetic diversity, while sustaining agriculture, fisheries, and rural communities.

Taken together, Albania's ecosystems and genetic resources are not only a reservoir of biodiversity but also a strategic national asset. They offer opportunities for innovation in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, food, and cosmetics, as well as for developing nature-based SMEs that integrate traditional ecological knowledge. Yet, these resources remain under increasing pressure from unsustainable practices, habitat degradation, and weak regulatory mechanisms. Recognizing their value and establishing effective Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) systems are therefore critical to safeguarding biodiversity and ensuring that its use contributes simultaneously to conservation, sustainable development, and equitable community benefits.

3. Legal and Institutional Framework for ABS

Albania has progressively developed a legal framework for biodiversity protection and access and benefit-sharing (ABS). The country first addressed biodiversity in its 2006 Law "On Biodiversity Protection," which incorporated provisions relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Over the past decade, Albania has updated this framework to align with its obligations under the Nagoya Protocol and the requirements of the European Union.

The most important step was the adoption of the 2020 amendments to the Law on Biodiversity Protection, which introduced dedicated ABS provisions. It also transposed provisions of the EU Regulation on compliance measures for users of genetic resources. Together, these reforms created the legal foundation for a national ABS system.

Law No. 81/2017 on Protected Areas and Law No. 9587 of 20.07.2006 on Biodiversity protection, amended transpose most of the requirements of the Habitat Directive. Specific requirements are also transposed by the Law No. 8294 of 02.03.1998 "On ratification of the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (Bern Convention)" and the DCM No. 866 of 10.12.2014 "On approval of the list of natural habitat types, plants, animals and birds with interest for European Community".
Some requirements of the Bird Directive are transposed by the Law No. 10006 of 23.10.2008 "On the protection of wild fauna" and the DCM No. 897 of 21.12.2011 "On the procedures for the designation of Special Areas of Conservation" and DCM No. 546 of 07.07.2010 "On the approval of the list of Wild fauna species object of hunting".

Since 2003, Albania adheres to the Cites Convention (Law No. 9021 of 06.03.2003 "On adhesion of the Republic of Albania in the "Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species". Some requirements of the CITES regulation are transposed by the Law "On designating rules and procedures on international trade of endangered species of wild fauna and flora protection" (9867 of 31.01.2008). Additionally, the Order of Minister of Environment No. 726 of 26.10.2005 "On the Approval of the Format of Standard Documentation in compliance with the legal provisions for the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna" transposes some requirements of this regulation.

The Law No. 57/2020 of 30.04.2020 "on Forests" transposes some of the requirements of the FLEGT and EUTR regulations. The Order of the Minister of Environment 182 of 20.09.2016 "On the approval of the Regulation "On treatment of wild fauna species in zoos and other surroundings, where the individuals are exposed to the public" transposes few requirements of the Zoo Directive.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Four directives/regulations are not transposed at all. Although the Law No. 10253 of 11.03.2010 “On Hunting” mentions the prohibited hunting means /tools including among others leg hold traps, the requirements of the Leg-hold traps regulation are not transposed.

Albania is adhering to Nagoya protocol (Law No. 113/2012 “On adhering of the Republic of Albania in Nagoya Protocol “On Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization” of the Biodiversity Convention “On Biological Diversity”. However, the requirements of the ABS regulation are not transposed yet. The UNDP/KBF/MoE enhancing Albania's Biodiversity and Forest Management Frameworks is working on seven legal acts to be transposed into national legislation on ABS. These include procedures for monitoring users of genetic resources and their associated information; the standard application format for access to genetic resources; procedures for exceptional cases of non-commercial scientific research; rules for access to agricultural and food-related genetic resources with a view to food security; the format of declarations for monitoring ongoing scientific research; the format of declarations upon finalization of research; and the registration format and identification criteria for specially protected species. Collectively, these instruments establish the administrative and regulatory mechanisms necessary for compliance with the Nagoya Protocol and the EU acquis

In January 2016, the country adopted the updated National Biodiversity Strategy and an Action Plan for the period 2015- 2020, clearly identifying the main areas of work, including among others:

- Increase of the Protected Areas (PA) coverage up to 20% on terrestrial PAs and 10% on marine and inland water PAs.
- Completion of the legal framework in line with the EU acquis for nature and environment in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive;
- Strengthening law enforcement by means of improving legislation and building institutional capacities.

All these issues were also largely considered within the National Strategy for Development and Integration for the period 2014-2020 (now has been replaced by the new NSDI). The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2030) is under preparation in line with EU Biodiversity Strategy targets (2030) and CBD GBF. It is expected to be finalized and endorsed by the end of 2025.

EU integration is a top priority for the Albanian Government and for more than a decade, Albania has been working intensively on transposing the EU Directives within its national legislation. Progress is made and dates are being set for the full implementation of all directives and regulations. Full transposition of all directives/regulations must be completed.

There are several donor-funded projects supporting various aspects of implementation and building capacities of relevant institutions. These projects (SELEA, IBECA, NaturAL, SANE27) have produced a number of valuable documents that can support significantly the implementation process.

Recent ongoing projects (EU4Nature, EU4Green, Vjosa Wild River National Park Management Plan, Shkodra/Skadar Lake Watershed Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, GEF/UNDP project on Biodiversity and Climate Change in the Albanian Alps National Park, UNDP/KBF Enhancing Albania's Biodiversity and Forest Management Frameworks are further providing support to the transposition and/or implemental process of EU directives and regulations related with nature protection subchapter. However, while implementation has indeed faced challenges, particularly in the past, institutional capacity and law enforcement have been strengthened in recent years. The Ministry of Environment has approved the Action Plan for the Protection from Poisoning of Endangered and Endemic Species of Wild Fauna (2025–2035), reflecting both stronger legal strategy and growing

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

enforcement focus. Nevertheless, because the transposition of obligations under the Nagoya Protocol and related EU nature-protection directives is occurring simultaneously across multiple sectors, further work is needed to ensure that the ABS framework is fully operational and robust. Institutionally, the Ministry of Environment acts as the National Focal Point and Competent National Authority for ABS. An inter-sectoral working group was formed in the capacity of a Steering Committee to support coordination between ministries, academic institutions, and local stakeholders. This needs to be revived. The Albanian Gene Bank plays a central role in ex situ conservation and has begun to integrate ABS considerations into its operations.

Despite these advances, the system remains incomplete. Administrative measures such as standardized procedures for permit applications, compliance checkpoints, and model contractual clauses for benefit-sharing agreements are still under development. Institutional coordination is limited, and the roles of different actors across the value chain remain insufficiently defined. For ABS to become fully operational, Albania requires stronger regulatory instruments, dedicated administrative procedures, and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement.

This baseline directly underpins Outcome 1 of the project, which focuses on strengthening legal, administrative, and policy measures. Activities such as the drafting of ABS Good Practice Guidelines, development of standard operating procedures for prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, and institutional capacity building to engage with future multilateral DSI (Digital sequence information on genetic resources) mechanisms respond precisely to the current gaps identified in the legal and institutional framework.

4. National Progress on ABS Implementation

Since ratifying the Nagoya Protocol in 2014, Albania has taken several steps toward building a national ABS. Progress can be observed in three areas:

- Legislation: The adoption of the 2020 amendments to the Biodiversity Law represents a significant milestone, establishing the legal basis for ABS and aligning the country with international and EU requirements.
- Institutions: Designation of the Competent National Authority and establishment of an inter-sectoral working group have provided Albania with the institutional mechanisms necessary to begin implementation. Integration of ABS into the Biodiversity Clearing-House has further contributed to transparency.
- Capacity-building: Initial efforts have been made to raise awareness among government officials, researchers, and local communities about ABS obligations and opportunities. These efforts, though limited in scope, have laid the groundwork for further engagement.

While these steps are important, they are not sufficient to ensure effective and sustainable ABS implementation and need to be consistent in the implementation. Many provisions of the law remain untested, enforcement mechanisms need support, and awareness among key stakeholders is still low. Nonetheless, the progress made demonstrates a clear commitment to operationalizing ABS and provides a foundation on which the project will be built.

5. Gaps and Challenges

Despite progress, Albania continues to face systemic challenges that hinder the full realization of ABS:

- Legal clarity: Definitions of key terms remain ambiguous, and the absence of a definition for derivatives risks leaving important categories of genetic resources outside the scope of regulation.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

- Administrative instruments: Procedures for obtaining prior informed consent and establishing mutually agreed terms are not yet formalized. Standardized forms, model contractual clauses, and material transfer agreements are lacking.
- Monitoring and compliance: Current systems focus on domestic permits but do not adequately address monitoring alongside the entire value chain or cooperation with international partners for compliance.
- Institutional capacity: Competent authorities and related agencies require further training and resources to implement the law effectively. Fragmentation between institutions hampers coordination.
- Traditional knowledge: Documentation and protection of traditional knowledge are insufficient. Proposed mechanisms relying on intellectual property instruments such as geographical indications or collective trademarks do not provide adequate protection or guarantee equitable benefit-sharing.
- Private sector engagement: Awareness of ABS obligations among companies remains very low, particularly in the food and botanical sectors and cosmetics, which are among the most significant users of Albania's genetic resources.

These gaps directly justify the project's three outcomes. Strengthening legal and administrative measures responds to regulatory weaknesses. Enhancing governance and private sector engagement addresses the lack of awareness and participation of economic actors. Empowering local communities ensures that traditional knowledge is recognized and protected, and that benefit-sharing is equitable.

6. Socio-Economic and Community Context

Albania's biodiversity is not only a national heritage but also a foundation for livelihoods. Rural communities, particularly in mountainous areas such as Tropoja, Dibra, Puka, and the Albanian Alps, depend heavily on the collection and trade of medicinal, aromatic, and nutritional plants. These include sage, thyme, oregano, mountain tea, and bilberry, which are exported to regional and EU markets. This practice is deeply rooted in traditional ecological knowledge and constitutes an important source of income for households. Women are especially active in harvesting, processing, and trading these resources, for instance, in Puka's women-led small businesses producing jams and herbal products, yet they often face barriers to participation in decision-making and benefit-sharing.

Small farmers across different regions, such as Mokra, Klos, and Përmet maintain traditional varieties of crops and livestock breeds, including local maize, beans, sheep, and goat ecotypes such as the Capore e Mokres and Kuqja e Matit. These farmers safeguard agrobiodiversity by preserving landraces and autochthonous breeds uniquely adapted to Albania's climate and soils. Their knowledge of sustainable grazing, seed selection, and food processing is vital for food security and climate resilience, but it is rarely documented, and communities are seldom formally included in ABS processes

The private sector, though underdeveloped in this field, represents a potential driver for biodiversity-based innovation. Industries such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, food, and biotechnology increasingly seek natural ingredients and novel compounds. The herbal industries rely on wild-collected Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, while in Tropoja, Kukes and Diber areas on the value chains for bilberry. Albania's unique genetic resources and traditional knowledge could position the country as an attractive partner for biodiscovery and sustainable trade, but weak institutional support and a lack of clear procedures currently discourage investment.

Addressing these socio-economic realities is essential to ensure that ABS contributes to both conservation and development. By strengthening the role of local communities and women, documenting traditional knowledge, and engaging the private sector in fair and transparent

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

partnerships, the project responds directly to national needs while promoting inclusive growth. This corresponds to Outcome 3, which emphasizes community empowerment and traditional knowledge, and Outcome 2, which promotes private sector engagement.

7. Alignment with EU Accession and GBF Targets

Albania's commitment to the European Union accession process provides a strong driver for aligning national ABS measures with EU requirements. The country's adoption of legislation consistent with EU Regulation No. 511/2014 demonstrates its intent to harmonize its legal framework with the *acquis communautaire*. Strengthening ABS implementation will therefore not only fulfil obligations under the Nagoya Protocol but also advance Albania's integration into the EU environmental and biodiversity governance systems.

At the global level, the project aligns directly with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Albania has committed to the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature and to the 2030 targets that operationalize this vision. The project supports:

- Goal A, Target 3: Expanding conservation efforts to protect 30 per cent of land and sea areas by 2030.
- Goal B, Target 10: Promoting sustainable use of biodiversity and innovation through scientific research and resource management.
- Goal C, Target 13: Ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources by establishing robust compliance mechanisms.
- Goal D, Target 19: Enhancing financial, institutional, and human capacities to sustain biodiversity-related economic opportunities.

By closing legislative gaps, strengthening institutions, documenting and protecting traditional knowledge, and engaging communities and private sector actors, Albania can simultaneously advance its EU accession priorities and contribute meaningfully to the implementation of the GBF.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Annex A2. Full Theory of Change (ToC) Diagram, including a description of the intervention logic.

The basic premise for the TOC (see Figure 1 below) is that:
IF Albania strengthens its ABS policy and legal instruments in line with EU and Nagoya Protocol requirements, and IF the country enhances the institutional capacities of its key agencies and the knowledge of stakeholders, it will THEN establish the foundation for legal enforceability and effective implementation of access and benefit-sharing.

Moreover, IF the country strengthens knowledge systems, particularly those related to genetic resources and digital sequence information, it will THEN further enable transparent monitoring and compliance in the context of biodiversity conservation. Additionally. IF Albania promotes biodiscovery partnerships among universities, research institutions, local communities, and private sector actors, it will THEN create opportunities for technology transfer, innovation, and equitable participation in international biodiversity-based value chains. Additionally, IF the project builds successful synergies with ongoing biodiversity and conservation projects, it will THEN maximize resources, avoid duplication, and integrate ABS within broader policy frameworks. Taken together, these efforts will lead THEN to transparent and equitable ABS systems that are fully operational, generating economic opportunities for small and medium SMEs, advancing scientific innovation, and ensuring Albania's compliance with international environmental standards and EU obligations.

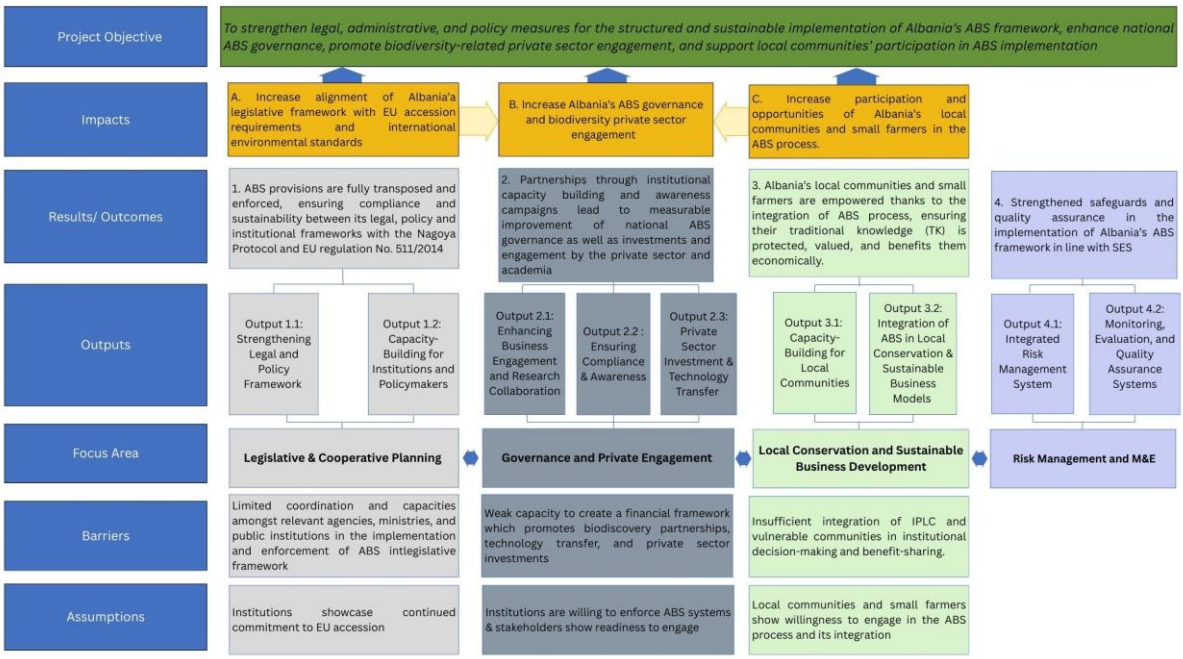


Figure 1: The Project Theory of Change

The ToC is informed by previous consultations with MTE, NAPA, the Forestry Agency, Albanian Gene Bank, academia, SMEs, and local communities—all vital to targeting root cause change. Several key assumptions underpin the project, including a continued commitment to EU accession, institutional willingness to enforce ABS legislation, and stakeholder readiness to engage, encompassing local communities, researchers, and SMEs. Additionally, it assumes that sufficient technical expertise can be developed for managing genetic resources and future engagement with the multilateral DSI mechanism, building on synergies from complementary projects. Risks associated with the project design include institutional fragmentation, staff turnover, and delays in adopting regulations. Moreover, limited awareness or resistance among communities and businesses to benefit-sharing, and insufficient long-term financing, also pose a threat to the achievement of the project. External

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

risks stem from political shifts, uncertain EU accession timelines, and climate or environmental shocks that could undermine biodiversity and ABS opportunities

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Annex A3. Detailed description of outcomes, outputs, and activities.

Component 1 – Strengthening Legal, Administrative, and Policy Measures for the Structured and Sustainable Implementation of Albaniaʹs ABS Framework

Outcome 1**:** The goal of this component is to strengthen Albania's legal, policy, and institutional framework for ABS, ensuring the country can effectively implement and enforce ABS provisions in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and Law No. 41/2020. This requires the timely development of a National ABS policy and legislation under the ongoing KBF/UNDP initiative, alongside institutional capacity-building to operationalize the ABS.

To achieve this, Albania must not only draft ABS laws but also establish complementary administrative and policy measures that ensure full implementation at the domestic level. These measures include clear rules and procedures for granting access to genetic resources, establishing Prior Informed Consent (PIC) mechanisms and defining Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT).

With respect to *Prior Informed Consent (PIC)* and *Mutual Agreed Terms (MAT)* the Law Nº 41/2020 that regulates Access and Benefit-Sharing in Albania, establishes that access to genetic resources and to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is subject to PIC and MAT (Articles 42; 44/2; 44/10; 44/11).

Therefore, it is necessary to establish at the domestic level the procedures to obtain the PIC and to the establishment of MAT. For the establishment of the PIC procedure, it must take into consideration that even though there are minimum procedural requirements for its establishment, the rights to regulate access to genetic resources come from different agreements. In the case of access to genetic resources, the right to regulate comes from the CBD and the NP.

A key challenge is ensuring inter-institutional coordination among the National Competent Authority (NCA), environmental agencies, scientific institutions, and local communities to process access applications efficiently. The Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) should also be updated to serve as a national ABS platform, facilitating access to ABS information and monitoring compliance. Any measures prepared under the project will be aligned with EU approaches and practices, ensuring consistency with the acquis and regional standards. In this context, intellectual property rights and contractual clauses under mutually agreed terms will also be considered, so that scientific innovation and research partnerships contribute to fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

Given Albania's rich biodiversity and genetic resources, particularly its autochthonous crop varieties, medicinal plants, and traditional knowledge, an effective ABS will strengthen legal certainty, attract responsible investment, and support Albania's compliance with EU accession requirements on biodiversity governance.

Key Outputs and Activities
Output 1.1: Strengthening Legal and Policy Framework

- Activity 1.1.1: Develop Albania's "ABS Good Practice Guidelines", outlining steps for genetic resource users and providers to comply with Law No. 41/2020.
- Activity 1.1.2: Develop standardized procedures for granting access to genetic resources, including:
    - Activity 1.1.3: Distinct Application Forms for commercial and non-commercial research.
        - PIC and MAT requirements, ensuring compliance with national and international standards.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

- Material Transfer Agreements (MTA) to regulate the transfer and responsibilities over genetic resource samples.

Output 1.2: Capacity-Building for Institutions and Policymakers

- Activity 1.2.1: Conduct training workshops for the National Authorities focusing on:
  - User sectors of pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food and beverage, and botanicals, as the main national users identified so far.
  - Synergies between the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA for sustainable genetic resource use.
- Activity 1.2.2: Develop a user-friendly procedural manual for ABS processing, negotiations, and compliance tracking.
- Activity 1.2.3: Train local enforcement agencies on monitoring ABS agreements, MAT enforcement, and biodiversity compliance.

Component 2 – Strengthening Albania′s ABS Governance and Promoting Biodiversity Private Sector Engagement

Albania possesses unique genetic resources in medicinal and aromatic plants, autochthonous livestock breeds, and traditional ecological knowledge, making it a valuable partner for pharmaceutical, botanical, food, and biotechnological industries. However, limited institutional capacity, weak enforcement mechanisms, and lack of private sector engagement have hindered effective ABS implementation.
To overcome these challenges, the project will focus on two strategic areas:

1. Capacity-building and institutional strengthening to ensure ABS agreements are legally enforceable, administratively efficient, and aligned with Albania's broader biodiversity and economic policies.
2. A communication strategy to promote Albania's biodiversity assets and its ABS legal framework, making it more attractive for ethical investments in biodiscovery.

Key Outputs and Activities:

Output 2.1: Enhancing Business and Research Collaboration

- Activity 2.1.1: Map and promote emerging biodiscovery projects, encouraging research partnerships.
- Activity 2.1.2: Develop Albania's ABS investment framework, ensuring policy alignment with EU accession environmental standards. Engagement

Output 2.2: Ensuring Compliance & Awareness

- Activity 2.2.1: Launch targeted awareness campaigns to create the right enabling conditions for compliance for long-term sustainability for:
  - Universities, research institutions, and companies using genetic resources.
  - Policymakers, local communities, and private sector stakeholders. Design training materials on fair and equitable access to GR to be used in training workshops: (i) brochures; (ii) PowerPoint presentations to be used in the training; (iii) Group work dynamics to apply the knowledge acquired in the training workshop[i].

Output 2.3: Private Sector Investment & Technology Transfer

- Activity 2.3.1: Promote Albania as a destination for ethical ABS investments by supporting biotech startups that incorporate ABS principles.
- Activity 2.3.2: Facilitate technology transfer agreements in ABS contracts, ensuring:
  - Local researchers gain skills and laboratory capacity.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

- Non-monetary benefits such as training and knowledge-sharing are included in MAT.

Component 3 – Strengthening Local Communities' Role in ABS Implementation

Outcome 3: To empower Albania's local communities and small farmers in the ABS process, ensuring their traditional knowledge (TK) is protected, valued, and benefits them economically.

Given that many rural communities depend on biodiversity-based livelihoods, this component focuses on capacity-building, legal protection, and direct participation in ABS negotiations.

Key Outputs and Activities

Output 3.1: Capacity-Building for Local Communities

- Activity 3.1.1: Map traditional knowledge holders to ensure their involvement in ABS discussions.
- Activity 3.1.2: Establish a national TK registry to document and protect local knowledge.
- Activity 3.1.3**:** Support local communities in negotiating fair ABS agreements

Output 3.2: Integration of ABS in Local Conservation & Sustainable Business Models

- Activity 3.2.1: Promote community-based biodiversity businesses aligned with Bio Trade principles, encouraging and supporting local SMEs that use biodiversity resources (such as medicinal plants, sustainable agriculture, or eco-tourism) in a way that follows Bio Trade principles—which emphasize sustainability, fair trade, equitable benefit-sharing, and legal compliance. These businesses should contribute to conservation efforts, provide economic benefits to local communities, and ensure ethical sourcing and use of biodiversity resources.
- Activity 3.2.2: Ensure gender-inclusive participation in ABS decision-making.

Component 4 – Risk Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance

Outcome 4: Strengthened safeguards and quality assurance in the implementation of Albania's ABS framework.

Key outputs and activities:

Output 4.1 – Integrated Risk Management System

- Activity 4.1.1: Implement and monitor safeguards risk framework in line with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and national policies, ensuring stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, and social/environmental safeguards.
- Activity 4.1.2: Develop and maintain a project risk management system, including a Risk Management Matrix and mitigation measures for ABS-related activities.

Output 4.2 – Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality Assurance Systems

- Activity 4.2.1: Establish a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to track project progress, assess results, and report on ABS compliance and benefit-sharing outcomes.
- Activity 4.2.2: Provide quality assurance of technical outputs, knowledge products, and M&E deliverables, ensuring consistency with SES, national ABS priorities, and international commitments.

Training workshops in local communities on ABS, CBD, the Nagoya Protocol, and the domestic ABS framework. In these workshops, it is important to include women (they should represent at least 30% of the participants) and youth. Likewise, it is important to plan these workshops in a way to guarantees the largest possible participation in the activities[ii]

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Annex A 4. Complementary Plans or documents might include a Comprehensive Safeguard Strategy (according to each institution's internal requirements and guidelines), IPLCs engagement plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, Stakeholder Engagement plan.

Annex 4. Stakeholder Engagement Framework

Introduction

A rapid, gender-responsive stakeholder analysis was conducted for the project, drawing on consultations with government institutions, research agencies, local communities, NGOs, and private sector representatives.

No Indigenous Peoples (IPs) are recognized in Albania under UNDP SES Standard 6. Instead, the project engages Local Communities (LCs), particularly rural households, women harvesters of medicinal and aromatic plants, small farmers maintaining autochthonous livestock and crop varieties, and holders of traditional knowledge (TK).

The Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF) ensures inclusive participation, gender equality, and transparency. Prior and Informed Consent (PIC) procedures will be applied for any activity involving collection or use of TK or community-held genetic resources. A project-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will provide accessible channels for addressing concerns.

Stakeholder Engagement Framework Table

Stakeholder Group	Why included	Engagement strategy / method	Responsibility	Timelines	Special provisions
Ministry of Environment (MoE)	Competent National Authority (CNA) for Nagoya Protocol; policy oversight	Formal consultations, Steering Committee, ABS Clearing-House updates	Project PMU, MoE	Continuous	Ensure ABS integrated into CBD/NBSAP and EU acquis
National Agency of Protected Areas (AKZM)	Manages protected areas, biodiversity	Joint field monitoring, input to PIC/MAT procedures	MoE, AKZM	Semi-annual	Safeguards for communities using resources in PAs
	Forestry, pastures,	Technical meetings, integration into ABS guidelines	MoE, Forestry Agency	Annual	Balance forest resource use with TK protection

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

AZHBR – Agency for Agricultural & Rural Development (ARDA)	Administers rural/agriculture finance schemes	Coordination on grant/subsidy programmes	MoA, ARDA	Annual cycle	Integrate ABS & biodiversity safeguards into subsidies
Agricultural Extension Agencies & Technology Transfer Centers	Provide extension services; link research to farmers	Training workshops, demonstration pilots	MoA, RAEA/ATTCs	Annual Cycle	Ensure ≥30% women farmer participation
National Gene Bank / Institute of Plant Genetic Resources	Custodian of in situ/ex situ GR	Data-sharing, digital ABS registry, joint guidelines	PMU, Gene Bank	Continuous	Ensure confidentiality of TK and benefit-sharing clauses
Universities & Research Institutions	Knowledge creation, TK documentation, PIC/MAT design	Research partnerships, ABS curriculum	Academia, PMU	Throughout	Gender-balanced participation in research
Local Communities & TK Holders (medicinal plant collectors, livestock keepers, farmers)	Providers of TK, custodians of biodiversity	PIC-based consultations, TK mapping, Biocultural Protocols, participatory monitoring	PMU, NGOs, Municipalities	Years 1–3	PIC mandatory; ensure women and youth representation (≥30% women, ≥20% youth)
Women's groups & rural youth associations	Key actors in biodiversity-based livelihoods	Dedicated training, tailored support for community SMEs	PMU, CSOs	Continuous	Gender/youth quotas in training & benefit-sharing
NGOs	Represent communities, support TK & Bio Trade	Community dialogues, capacity building, registry development	NGOs, PMU	Ongoing	Ensure local consultations

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Private sector (SMEs in botanicals, cosmetics, pharma, food & beverage)	Potential ABS users; biodiscovery partnerships	Awareness campaigns, model contracts for PIC/MAT	CNA, PMU, Chambers of Commerce	From Year 1	Due diligence to ensure compliance with EU ABS Regulation
Municipalities (e.g. through their Rural Development Directorate)	Local policy and farmer support	Local consultations, pilot business initiatives	PMU, Municipalities	Per activity plan	Ensure inclusion of farmers and schools
Agricultural High Schools (Cërrik, Kavajë, Kamëz, others)	Future agri-professionals; early ABS awareness	Integration of ABS in curricula, awareness events	MoA, MoE	Academic years	Gender-sensitive educational outreach

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
The gender analysis of Albania's biodiversity policy framework shows that documents on strategic policies for Biodiversity are often gender-neutral or gender-blind, with little use of sex-disaggregated data or gender-sensitive indicators.

Evidence demonstrates that women in rural Albania are usually the main collectors of wild plant food and medicinal and aromatic plants, while men tend to focus on harvesting timber and wild meat. As a result, men and women develop different and complementary knowledge about species, their uses, and management practices.

Despite this, women's knowledge is often lagging in policy, and their limited ownership of land, forestry, and pastures prevents them from accessing credit, extension, and technology services. This exclusion deepens their marginalization from benefit-sharing opportunities under biodiversity and ABS frameworks.

To address these gaps, the project will:

- Introduce sex-disaggregated data collection and gender-responsive indicators in traditional knowledge registries and monitoring frameworks.
- Ensure that women's traditional knowledge, particularly linked to medicinal and aromatic plants, is documented
- Guarantee at least 30% participation of women in Prior and Informed Consent processes, community consultations, and benefit-sharing negotiations.
- Support the development of women-led CSOs in medicinal and aromatic plants and agrobiodiversity, ensuring access to credit and extension services

Youth and Vulnerable Groups
The gender analysis also highlights that women in rural areas carry the heaviest total workload (paid and unpaid), often with limited free time, while men enjoy greater access to leisure. To ensure inclusive participation, the project will:

- Apply flexible training schedules and provide materials in local languages to reduce barriers for women, and youth.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

- Target agricultural high schools and youth associations to integrate biodiversity and ABS into open session curricula and promote equal participation of rural young women and men in value chains.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Visibility and recognition of women's differentiated knowledge in biodiversity and ABS processes, addressing the invisibility identified in national strategies.
- Reduced gender gaps in access to land, credit, and extension services, enabling women to move from informal collection to recognized, remunerated participation in biodiversity-based businesses.
- Gender-responsive ABS value chains, with stronger participation of women and youth in SMEss linked to medicinal and aromatic plants and agrobiodiversity.
- Equitable benefit-sharing and stronger social cohesion, reducing the risks of exclusion.

Gender Evidence Box

To strengthen the gender dimension of this proposal, the following evidence baseline consolidates data from Albania's national gender reports, the UNDP-AF Drini River Basin project (socio-economic and gender baseline), and the project's own SESP screening

Indicator	Data	Source
Women in agriculture	>50% of working women are employed in agriculture; 87% as unpaid family workers	UNDP Drini FRM Project Baseline; INSTAT
Land ownership	Only 38% of landowners are women	UNDP Drini FRM Project Baseline
Labour force participation	Women 45% vs men 65%	UNDP Drini FRM Project Baseline
Wage gap	Women earn ~18% less than men	UNDP Drini FRM Project Baseline
Women in firm leadership	Female managers 20%; female owners 17%	UNDP Drini FRM Project Baseline
Traditional knowledge	Women are the main collectors of medicinal and aromatic plants; men focus on timber and livestock	Gender & Global ABS Project Report
Education	92.9% of adults have ≥some secondary education; gender parity F/M ratio = 1.00	UNDP Drini FRM Project Baseline
Women in technical fields	Only 13.4% of female graduates in sciences/engineering	UNDP Drini FRM Project Baseline
Political participation	21% of MPs are women (quota 30%); 35% of ministers are women	UNDP Drini FRM Project Baseline
National policy	National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2030; gender budgeting, anti-discrimination, and GBV laws	SESP
ABS project targets	≥30% women and ≥20% youth in PIC, consultations, and benefit-sharing	SESP

These figures confirm the systemic gender gaps in landownership, unpaid agricultural labor, and economic participation, despite women's central role in collecting medicinal and aromatic plants and transmitting traditional knowledge. The ABS project will use this baseline to ensure that gender-

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

responsive indicators, quotas, and stakeholder support translate into measurable social benefits, aligned with Albania's National Gender Equality Strategy (2021–2030).

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Annex. 4.1 SESP

UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (Offline Template)

This offline template assists teams to identify relevant social and environmental (S&E) risks and impacts associated with programming activities as well as appropriate treatment measures during design, budgeting, and implementation. The template facilitates working with development partners and stakeholders and may be particularly useful for projects requiring rigorous S&E risk management. ***The results of the offline screening must be entered into UNDP's Online SESP in Quantum+ for identified S&E risks to be properly managed and for the project/portfolio MYWP (Multi-Year Work Plan) to be SESP compliant.***

Project Information

Information	
Title	**Albania's Path to Strengthening Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)**
Number	Quantum project ID
Location	Global/Region/Country
Project stage	Concept/Design/Implementation
Date	20 September 2025

PART 1: SES Questionnaire - Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability and Impact

What measures should be taken to further mainstream the UNDP Programing Principles into the project?
Mainstreaming the human rights-based approach
Human Rights is one of the core programming principles underpinning UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and the project strategy centers on mainstreaming human rights through building capacity of duty bearers and rightsholders to implement the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol and corresponding national laws and regulations. By undertaking a thorough, gender-responsive stakeholder analysis (including vulnerability parameters) and developing a socially inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the project will address any barriers to inclusion faced by vulnerable and marginalized groups (who will be specifically identified), ensuring full participation by all stakeholders in decision-making that affects them, and that consultation processes are culturally appropriate. Although the Nagoya Protocol does not reference human rights specifically, its provisions connect strongly to core human rights principles – including those embodied in the UNDP SES - through principles such as fair and equitable benefit-sharing from genetic resources (GR) and associated traditional knowledge (ITK). Provisions such as Prior and Informed Consent (PIC), Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), Material Transfer Agreements (MTA), access to justice, participation and information (including through the Clearing House Mechanism) are strongly aligned with human rights principles, especially those protecting the rights of Local Communities (LC) who are often the providers and stewards of these resources and holders of traditional knowledge about their use.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Under Output 1.1, the project will strengthen the mainstreaming of human rights into Albania's legal and policy framework on ABS by developing good practice guidelines and standardized procedures for users of GR and associated TK to comply with Albania's Law No.41/2020 on PIC and MAT (Activity 1.1.1), and for establishing Material Agreed Terms (MAT) in line with international and national standards. This will be accompanied by capacity building for institutions and policymakers in key sectors (Output 1.2) through training workshops and publication of a procedural manual, complemented by training for enforcement officials on monitoring of ABS agreements and enforcement of PIC and MAT.

Under Output 2.1, the project will raise awareness about ABS procedures and compliance requirements among the private sector, research institutions and businesses, and will promote Albania as a destination for ethical ABS investment (Output 2.2).

Under Output 3.1, communities will be made aware of their rights as holders of traditional knowledge about GR and stewards of natural resources, with in-depth training provided on ABS laws such as PIC and MAT. Communities will also be supported to negotiate fair agreements with users of GR and its associated TK. Mapping of traditional knowledge (Activity 3.1.2) and establishment of a national TK registry (Activity 3.1.3) will be subject to PIC and MAT under national ABS regulations. Where information is obtained directly from communities it may need to be in a Confidential Registry. Where the TK is already in the public domain, Non-Confidential Registries can be established but MAT may still be applied within the framework of a benefit-sharing agreement, especially when linked to the GR associated with traditional knowledge. Further, where there are multiple communities who hold traditional knowledge, then all of them will be recognized as owners of TK and agreements under MAT should share benefits equitably among the TK owners, regardless of whether the information is stored in a Confidential or Non-Confidential Registry.

Where the project helps set up partnerships with private sector role players and companies who are users of GR, it will apply appropriate due diligence risk screening to ensure that selected partners have ESG policies and ratings that align with the UNDP SES and any other national regulatory standards governing environmental and social performance and responsibility (e.g. in relation to testing of ABS products on animals or human subjects).

Project stakeholders will have access to a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism and the UNDP Stakeholder Accountability Mechanism.

Improving gender equality and women's empowerment

Albania has a robust legislative framework for advancing gender equality and protecting women from discrimination and domestic violence, and in 2021 published a National Gender Equality Strategy for the period 2021 – 2030. Despite good gains that have been made in addressing gender equality in the last two decades, there are still gaps between laws/policies and implementation (as is the case in many countries). Women play a significant role in agriculture and contribute significantly to value chains, but their economic participation is still constrained by restrictive social norms. Women also tend to be over-represented in the informal economy which offers fewer protections and opportunities. For women in Albania to be fully empowered to negotiate fair and equitable benefit sharing agreements with regards to genetic resources or use of their associated traditional knowledge, the project will ensure that gender concerns are mainstreamed across all activities and outputs, with gender-specific actions, indicators and targets built into the project's design.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Under Output 3.2, the project has a dedicated activity (3.2.3) to ensure gender-inclusive participation in ABS decision-making. To enable this, the project will undertake a **comprehensive gender analysis** and develop a **gender mainstreaming plan**. The analysis will, inter alia: map out the differentiated roles of women and men in management of GR and involvement in ABS value chains; identify social, economic and cultural norms and barriers that may limit women's participation in ABS-related decision-making and value chains; identify women's needs, priorities and interests with regards to GR and its associated TK, and identify innovative , proactive measures to overcome these barriers. Based on the findings, the Gender Mainstreaming Plan will identify and describe specific actions, indicators and targets for promoting gender equality and women's participation to be built into all project activities and deliverables (augmenting the gender-disaggregated targets already included in the project results framework). Documentation of traditional knowledge (Activities 3.1.2 and 3.1.3) will identify where women are the holders of TK associated with biological and/or genetic resources and specific provisions for protecting the knowledge of women will be built into the national TK registry. Under Output 3.2, the project has set targets for the participation of women and men and other vulnerable groups (such as youth, women traditional healers) in knowledge sharing opportunities and training workshops. The gender mainstreaming plan will provide the guidance required to ensure that all knowledge products and training programmes are fully gender responsive.

In mainstreaming gender, the project will be guided by relevant national policies – in particular the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2030 – and UNDP's guidance on mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment into ABS value chains. https://www.undp.org/publications/mainstreaming-gender-abs-value-chains-gender-toolkit

Mainstreaming sustainability and resilience

The basis for **environmental sustainability** of the project's outcomes lies in: the significant investment in strengthening the legal, regulatory and administrative framework for ensuring ethical bioprospecting and ABS investments (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.2 and 2.3); providing training to policy-makers, research institutions, private sector partners, and communities, to ensure effective regulation, promote ethical sourcing and use of biodiversity resources, and prevent overharvesting (Outputs 1.2, 2.1, and 3.1); and, building the capacity of communities to implement sustainable nature-based enterprises that are aligned with Bio Trade principles and contribute to conservation efforts (Output 3.2).

Institutional sustainability will be built through general capacity development and awareness raising with regards to ABS policy and legal frameworks (Outputs 1.2, 2.2, 2.3 and 3.1); and investments in supporting biotech start-ups, technology transfer and upskilling of local researchers (Output 2,3). To further strengthen institutional capacity for research and development and stimulate biodiscovery, the project will map and promote biodiscovery projects, encourage research partnerships and build platforms for knowledge exchange between policymakers, researchers and the private sector (Output 2.1). At the local level the project will directly involve ILCs in the development of Biocultural Protocols linked to ABS value chains (Activity 2.2.1) and will implement multiple awareness raising activities involving ILCs and private sector role players to strengthen their capacity to implement national ABS policies and regulations and participate in fair ABS negotiations beyond the lifespan of the project.

Social sustainability and resilience will be addressed by developing the capacity of LCs regarding ABS and the Nagoya Protocol and its associated domestic policy and regulatory frameworks, procedures for obtaining PIC and establishing MAT, and the equitable sharing of

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

benefits. Communities will be made aware of their rights under the ABS laws and will be capacitated to claim them, thus securing buy-in and support over the longer term. There will also be capacity building for other stakeholders such as private sector business partners, researchers and other role players who may participate at various points along the biodiscovery chain, or in ABS value chains and financing arrangements. The project will ensure gender is mainstreamed into ABS decision making and value chain development and through its Gender Mainstreaming Plan will address the barriers currently limiting women's capacity to benefit equitably from use and conservation of biological and genetic resources and the traditional knowledge they hold in respect of this. The project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which will include customized engagement strategies for each stakeholder group (including those who are identified as vulnerable or marginalized) to overcome the barriers they may face to inclusion in planning processes and ABS decision-making and value chains.

Financial sustainability will be addressed by promoting Albania as a destination for ethical ABS investments and developing Albania' ABS investment strategy, in line with the EU's accession environmental standards.

Strengthening accountability to stakeholders

The project will promote all aspects of **accountability to stakeholders** by: (i) enabling active, meaningful and culturally-appropriate **stakeholder engagement and participation** in project decision-making, with specific measures for those at greatest risk of being left behind (e.g. rural communities, women and other vulnerable or marginalized groups); (ii) ensuring transparency through provision of timely, accessible and functional information regarding supported activities, including on potential environmental and social risks and impacts and measures for their management; (iii) ensuring stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to a rights-compatible complaints-redress process; and (iv) ensuring effective results monitoring—and, where appropriate, participatory monitoring with stakeholders — and reporting on implementation of social and environmental safeguard risk management measures.

The project's key instruments for strengthening accountability will be a project-level **Grievance Redress Mechanism**, **Gender Mainstreaming Plan**, and **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** which will **promote social inclusion and sustainability.**

During implementation, the **Project Steering Committee** will monitor the project's accountability measures at intervals during the lifespan of the project and will also report on progress, at intervals, to project stakeholders.

The safeguards screening report (SESP) will be posted for **public disclosure**, in line with UNDP's SES Policy for Moderate Risk projects

PART 2: Risk Screening

TABLE 1 – mapping risks to project activities/outputs

***Note: The complete SESP Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist is attached at the end of the SESP.*

Question 1: What output/activities are proposed in the project	Question 2: What is the potential S&E risk events associated with the outputs/activities? (from SESP Checklist)	Risk Treatments (design elements, stakeholder processes, assessments and management measures)
Output 1.1Strengthening the Legal and Policy Framework	• Human rights-related risks due to non-	**Mainstream human rights by**:

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Included activities: 1.1.1: Develop Albania's "ABS Good Practice Guidelines", outlining steps for genetic resource users and providers, in compliance with Law No.41/2020 1.1.2: Develop standardized procedures for granting access to genetic resources (application forms, PIC, MAT and MTA)	compliance with legal provisions for PIC, MAT, MTA and other ABS provisions under the NP and Albanian law (Human Rights: P2, P3) • Vulnerable and/or marginalized groups are subject to inequitable or discriminatory impacts, including restrictions on access to land and/or resources (Human Rights: P4, 5, 6) • Conflicts arise with or among communities due to inequitable sharing of benefits or lack of understanding of their rights (Human Rights: P7) • Women are not empowered to participate fully or benefit from use, development and protection of natural resources (GEWE: P9, P10, P11) • Some stakeholders are excluded from decision-making that affects them, leading to grievances (Accountability: P13, P14)	• Ensuring **strict adherence to PIC, MAT, MTA** and other provisions for protecting the rights of rightsholders through delivery of clear and actionable guidelines, standardized procedures, regulatory instruments and procedural manuals (Output 1.1) – P2/3 • Ensuring that guidelines, rules and procedures **take community practices laws, practices and protocols into account** and include provisions for development of **Biocultural Protocols** (P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7) – these are developed by communities to articulate their values, priorities and rules for engaging with potential users of their TK with respect to biological and genetic resources, and for linking regulatory requirements with their community practices laws and practices • **Building the capacity of duty-bearers** to understand and implement ABS regulations, laws and procedures effectively and fairly and monitor compliance (Output 1.2) – P2 (Awareness raising and capacity building among **rightsholders** will be delivered under Outputs 2.2 and 3.1) **Mainstream gender considerations** into the legal and regulatory framework (guidelines, rules and procedures) and into all training activities by addressing barriers that limit women's participation in ABS value chains and decision-
Output 1.2: Capacity Building of Institutions and Policy Makers 1.2.1: Training Workshops for National Authorities 1.2.2: Develop a Procedural Manual for ABS processing, negotiations and compliance tracking 1.2.3: Train local enforcement agencies on monitoring ABS agreements, MAT compliance and biodiversity compliance		

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

		making - these barriers to be identified in the **Comprehensive Gender Analysis** to be undertaken under Activity 3.2.3 – P9, P10, P11 **Ensure full social inclusion** in the development of regulatory tools and procedures, guided by a **Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Plan to** be developed at projects start (drawing on the framework already developed). The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will include a project-level **Grievance Redress Mechanism** - P7, P13, P14
Output 2.1: Strengthening Albania's Governance and Promoting Private Sector Engagement Included activities: 2.1.1: Map and promote emerging biodiscovery projects, encouraging research partnerships 2.1.2: Develop Albania's ABS investment framework, ensuring alignment with the EU accession environmental standards	• Adverse impacts on rights of traditional knowledge holders or restrictions on their capacity to claim their rights (Human Rights: P3, P4) • Discriminatory or inequitable impacts on vulnerable or marginalized groups (e.g. women, rural farmers) who may be less able to access benefit through investment frameworks (Human Rights: P5) • Adverse impacts on biodiversity arising from rapid expansion of biodiscovery and bioprospecting (Standard 1: 1.4; 1.13) • Access restrictions, economic displacement or disruptions to land tenure/use arrangements caused by increased bioprospecting (Standard 5, 5.2, 5.4)	**Avoid land use conflicts and economic displacement**: Mapping of biodiscovery projects (2.1.1) should consider local land use and land tenure arrangements to avoid triggering conflicts and disruptions caused by increased bioprospecting activity – P6, 5.2, 5.4 **Avoid cumulative adverse impacts on biodiversity**: once biodiscovery projects are mapped assess risks to source species and ensure that biodiscovery guidelines (limiting sampling as much as possible), sustainable harvesting plans or Biodiversity Management Plans are put in place (or provided for in the Guidelines) – S1.3, 1.4, 1.13
Output 2.2: Ensuring Compliance and Awareness	• Exclusion of some stakeholders, who may not be able to access or benefit from	• **Ensure full social inclusion and accessibility through** implementation of the **Stakeholder**

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

2.2.1: Launch targeted awareness campaigns (universities, researchers and companies (GR users); policymakers, local communities, private sector stakeholders 2.2.2: Publish online guide on ABS procedures and compliance requirements	awareness campaigns (Human Rights: P4, P5; Accountability: P13)	**Engagement Plan**, ensuring that specific measures are deployed to overcome barriers faced by vulnerable and marginalized groups and that awareness raising campaigns reach all stakeholders - P4, P5, P13 • **Address any barriers to accessibility of online guidelines** that may be experienced by some stakeholder groups **– P5**
Output 2.3: Private Sector Investment and Technology Transfer Included activities: 2.3.1: Support biotech startups that incorporate ABS principles 2.3.2: Facilitate technology transfer agreements	• Women and other vulnerable or marginalized groups may not benefit equitably from biotech startups or training in use of technology (Gender P10; Accountability: P13) • Biotech startups and technologies may have general social, environmental or sustainability risks associated with them that cannot be assessed at this stage (as they have yet to be identified) (Sustainability and Resilience: P16) – e.g. potential safety risks associated with types of phytochemicals and processes used; procedures for product testing; product safety standards; OHS standards	• **Prioritize involvement of women, youth and other vulnerable groups** in biotech startups, and training/technology transfer for research and development of ABS products (Activity 2.3.1 and 2.3.2) – guidelines and targets to be included in the Gender Mainstreaming and Stakeholder Engagement Plans – P10, P11; P13 • **Apply private sector due diligence risk screening** to ensure that all biotech start-ups have ESG policies and ratings that meet international and EU standards, or that they are at least consistent with UNDP SES, and that they have appropriate Occupational Health and Safety and waste management systems in place (risk screening to be applied at scoping stage) – P16
Output 3.1: Capacity Building for Local Communities 3.1.1: Regional training workshops on ABS laws, PIC, MAT 3.1.2: Map traditional knowledge holders	• Discriminatory impacts due to absence of PIC and MAT, lack of fair attribution, or inappropriate use of TK (Human Rights: P4) • Erosion of intangible cultural heritage due to use and commercialization of traditional	• Regional training workshops will **ensure that holders of traditional knowledge are fully informed of their rights** and the regulatory requirements and procedures that are available for protecting them (3.1.1.) – P4

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

3.1.3: Establish national TK registry to document and protect TK 3.1.4: Support local communities in negotiating fair agreements	knowledge associated with biological or genetic resources (Standard 4 Cultural Heritage: 4.5) • Women's traditional knowledge may not be recognized or taken into account and agreements over its use may not adequately protect their interests (Principle GEWE: P10)	• **Ensure that collection and documentation of traditional knowledge associated with biological and genetic resources complies with requirements for PIC and MAT** – P4, S4.5 i) When knowledge is collected directly from communities – especially through interviews – ensure that PIC has been obtained in line with the NP Article 12 and corresponding national laws (Law 41/2020), and that information is recorded in a Confidential Registry if necessary. MAT must be negotiated between the Government and any potential user of the TK. ii) Where the TK is already in the public domain, then it can be recorded in a Non-Confidential Registry, and PIC would not be required, though MAT may still apply. • Where there are multiple communities who hold traditional knowledge in respect of the same resources, all must be recognized as owners – S4.5 • Ensure that special attention is given to recognizing the TK held by women – P10

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Output 3.2: Integration of ABS in local conservation and sustainable business models 3.2.1: Promote community-based biodiversity businesses aligned with Bio Trade principles 3.2.2: Ensure gender-sensitive participation in ABS decision making	• Women and vulnerable communities may not have equal opportunities to participate in enterprises and value chains (GEWE P10; Human Rights: P5, P10, P13) • Outputs and outcomes may be adversely impacted by the effects of climate change (Standard 2 Climate Risks: 2.2) • Adverse impacts to habitats or species may arise due to increased harvesting pressure (e.g. of medicinal plants) or impacts from nature-based enterprises e.g. eco-tourism (Standard 1: 1.3, 1.4, 1.8) • Currently unspecified Sustainability and Resilience Risks associated with enterprise activities that have not yet been selected or scoped out – P16	• Undertake a **comprehensive gender analysis and develop a Gender Mainstreaming Plan** including specific activities, indicators and targets for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment across all areas of project activity – P10, P11 • Ensure **full social inclusion and gender-responsive enterprise design** through addressing barriers to participation of women, youth and other vulnerable groups (e.g. rural farmers) – follow guidelines and address targets set in the Gender Mainstreaming and Stakeholder Engagement Plans – P5, P10, P13 • **Screen enterprises/livelihoods for adverse social and environmental impacts during selection and scoping** and build mitigations into design or develop targeted management plans where risks are Moderate or above - S1.3, 1.4; P16

(*) adapted for the level of available information

Table 2: Social and environmental risk identification and management – consolidated risks mapped to the UNDP SES Principles and Standards

Note: this table will be used to populate the UNDP online SESP in Quantum+ before Prodoc signature

Question 4: Which SES Programing Principles and Standards are triggered by the project				
UNDP SES Principles and Standards	S&E Risk Events (from Part A, Question 2)	Causes/impacts	Risk Rating	Risk Treatments (Summary)
Human Rights Principle	**Risk 1**: Limited capacity of duty bearers to meet human rights obligations, and of rightsholders to claim their rights (P2, P3)	• Duty-bearers unfamiliar with complex laws and regulations • Administrative procedures for implementing PIC and MAT and ensuring	Moderate I=3 L=3	• **Address through delivery of project outputs**: development of Good Practice Guidelines (1.1.1), standardized procedures and regulatory instruments (1.1.2) and

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

		compliance not yet fully developed or socialized • Communities unfamiliar with the concept of GR and their rights as stewards and holders of TK		procedural manuals (1.2.2) • **Provide Training** on use of instruments (PIC, MAT, MTA) and compliance provided for policymakers, institutions, and compliance officials (Output 1.2); private sector partners and researchers (Output 2.2); and local communities (Output 3.1) • **Ensure strict application of PIC and MAT in developing the national TK registry** (Output 3.1) and within the framework of benefit sharing agreements (Output 2.3 and 3.2) – cross-reference to Risk 10
Human Rights	**Risk 2**: Risks of discriminatory or inequitable impacts on vulnerable or marginalized sectors of society, including restricted access to resources (P4, 5 and 6)	• Rules and procedural guidelines do not take community practices resource use or laws and community protocols into account • Communities are unable to negotiate on a level playing field with private sector role players, leading to inequitable sharing of benefits • Bioprospecting has adverse impacts on community access to land and/or use of resources and associated livelihoods	Moderate I=3 L=2	• **Promote equitable benefit sharing and minimize risks of access restrictions** by ensuring that guidelines and procedures (Output 1.1) take community practices laws and practices into account and make provision for the development of **Biocultural Protocols** • **Promote human rights** by ensuring that communities are aware of their rights and how to claim them (Activity 3.1.1), and building their capacity to negotiate on a level footing with researchers and companies (Output 3.1.3)

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

		• Vulnerable and marginalized stakeholders excluded from decision-making that affects them		• **Ensure gender sensitive social inclusion – the stakeholder analysis** will identify vulnerable and marginalized groups, and the **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** will include measures to overcome the barriers to their inclusion.
Human Rights	**Risk 3**: Risks of conflicts with or between communities (P7)	• Exclusion of some stakeholders from decision-making • Lack of clarity over who the rightful owners are of traditional knowledge about biological resources and/or GR • Lack of PIC and/or MAT or fair benefit-sharing • Inability of GR/TK holders to negotiate fair agreements with businesses/researchers • Long delays between biodiscovery and flow of benefits cause community frustrations	Moderate I=3 L=2	• Provide access to a gender-responsive and culturally appropriate **Grievance Redress Mechanism** (to be included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan) and ensure that all stakeholders have access to the **UNDP Accountability Mechanism.** • Ensure that owners of GR-associated traditional knowledge are recognized in the TK Registry (Output 3.1.2) • Ensure **strict compliance with PIC, MAT** and other measures for ensuring fair and equitable benefit sharing • Develop and implement a **communication strategy** (underpinning Outputs 2.2 and 3.1) to **manage stakeholder expectations** regard to benefits they can expect
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Principle	**Risk 4:** Risks of gender biases, limiting women's participation in decision-making and/or their ability to use, develop, protect and benefit from natural resources (P10, P11)	• Weak gender analysis and understanding of barriers to women's participation • Absence of gender-specific actions, indicators and targets built into delivery of projects outcomes • Women's knowledge about	Moderate I=3 L=3	**Under Activity 3.2.2, prepare a gender analysis** and **mainstreaming plan** which should, inter alia: • **Map out the differentiated roles of men and women** and (other social groups with distinct needs and interests) in management of GR and involvement in ABS and Bio Trade

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

		biological and genetic resources or their use not considered • Gender-blind ABS and BioTrade value chains and livelihoods strategies		value chains • **Identify social and cultural determinants that may limit women's participation** in ABS value chains and decision making • **Identify women leaders or groups** who can serve as key agents of change in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment under the project • **Identify types of traditional knowledge held by women** • **Identify appropriate gender-specific actions, indicators and targets** to be integrated into all interventions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and design gender-smart ABS value chains and biodiversity-based businesses/livelihoods (Output 3.2) UNDP's Guidance on Mainstreaming Gender into ABS Value Chains should be applied, in tandem with any national requirements or policies regarding gender equality and women's empowerment: https://www.undp.org/publications/mainstreaming-gender-abs-value-chains-gender-toolkit
Accountability Principle	**Risk 5:** Exclusion of potentially affected stakeholders, especially marginalized or vulnerable groups, leading to	• Weak stakeholder analysis • Failure to identify barriers to social inclusion for vulnerable groups • Stakeholder engagement	Moderate I=3 L=3	• **Stakeholder analysis and Engagement Plan** • Project-level **Grievance Redress Mechanism** and access to U**NDP Accountability Mechanism**

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

	grievances (P13, P14)	strategies not appropriately tailored to needs/interests of specific stakeholder groupings		• **Private Sector due diligence risk screening**
Sustainability and Resilience Principle	**Risk 6**: Generic sustainability and resilience risks, linked to activities that are not yet fully designed	Risks triggering various standards may be associated with project elements that will only be fully designed during implementation: • Biotech startups and technology transfer (Output 2.3) • Specific ABS agreements to be set up (Activity 3.1) • Community-based biodiversity-based businesses and livelihoods strategies to be supported (Activity 3.2.1)	Low I=2 L=2	• **Ensure that guidelines for promoting Albania as a destination for ethical ABS investments (Output 2.3) and biotech startups include provisions for:** **(i)** **Screening of R&D technologies to ensure highest safety sand ethical standards,** in line with international standards, national legislation and EU standards (during processing and testing of ABS products – e.g. will products be tested on animals or human subjects?) **(ii)** **private sector partnership due diligence risk screening** to ensure that partners have ESG policies and ratings that meet the highest international standards • **Conduct rapid risk-screening during scoping** of the business and livelihoods options to identify potential adverse impacts and measures required for mitigation (in line with UNDP SES and EU environmental standards) – cross reference to Risk 7

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sust. Nat. Resource Mgmt.	**Risk 7:** Biodiversity risks associated with changes in land/resource use, harvesting of natural forests and use of genetic resources (1.3, 1.4, 1.8, 1/13)	• Poor regulation of bioprospecting • Over-harvesting • Adverse impacts associated with community-led business related to eco-tourism, harvesting or trade in medicinal plants, and agriculture – risks may span UNDP SES Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 or 8)	Moderate I=3 L=2	• **Species selection** (for bioprospecting) should be supported by scientific assessment of conservation status and/or sensitivity • Develop **sustainable harvesting strategies** or **Biodiversity Management Plans** for species that will be exploited and where risk screening indicates potential adverse impacts • **Conduct rapid risk-screening during scoping** of the business and livelihoods options to identify potential adverse impacts and measures required for mitigation (in line with UNDP SES and EU environmental standards). • **Build capacity of compliance agencies** to ensure strong regulation of bioprospecting (Output 1.2) and of **potential users of GR** to understand regulatory requirements and procedures (Output s 1.2 and 2.2)
2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	**Risk 9:** Risks due to sensitivity to climate change	• Biodiversity-based livelihoods may be negatively impacted by climate change	Moderate I=3 L=3	• Local enterprises (Activity 3.2.1) should be **screened for climate risks** during scoping, with **mitigation measures built into design** to enhance sustainability – such as through siting of activities in less climate-vulnerable areas, use of low-carbon technologies, use of climate-smart cultivation practices)
3. Community	Not triggered, but may apply when biodiversity-based businesses and livelihoods (Output 3.2) are risk-screened during			

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Health, Safety and Security	scoping (See Risk 6)			
4. Cultural Heritage	**Risk 10**: Risks of inappropriate use of tangible or intangible cultural heritage (4.5)	TK used without PIC or MAT TK registries do not correctly identify knowledge holders or protect their intellectual property rights through Confidentiality provisions where applicable Commercialization leads to erosion of cultural values/heritage	Moderate I=3 L=3	• Under Outputs 3.1 and 3,2, **Biocultural Protocols** should be developed by communities to articulate their values, priorities and rules for engaging potential users of their TK with respect to biological and genetic resources, and for linking regulatory requirements with their community practices laws and practices • **In setting up the National TK Registry (Activity 3.1.2) ensure that PIC is obtained** when documenting traditional knowledge that is not already in the public domain. Where the TK is collected directly from knowledge holders, it may be necessary to record it in a **Confidential Registry** and **MAT** will need to be applied when negotiating benefit-sharing agreements. Where TK is already in the public domain, PIC would not be required, and TK can be stored in a **Non-Confidential Inventory**. MAT may still be required. • **Where there are multiple communities who share the same TK over a genetic or biological resource, all of them must be recognized as owners of the TK** and benefits should be shared equitably among all of them (regardless of whether the TK is in a Confidential or Non-Confidential Registry)

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

5. Displacement and Resettlement	**Risk 11**: Economic displacement for natural resource-dependent communities	Loss of access to forests, land and other natural resources due to bioprospecting and commercial exploitation of GR	Low I=3 L=1	• Participatory screening for potential economic displacement risks should be carried out during scoping of biodiscovery projects (Output 2.3 and biodiversity-based enterprises (Output 3.2). • Where adverse impacts are identified, mitigations should be built into the sustainable livelihoods strategies (Activity 3.2.1)
6. Indigenous Peoples	Not applicable in this project			
7. Labour and Working Conditions	Not triggered, but may apply when further risk screening is done under Output 3.2 (See Risk 6)			
8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	Not triggered, but may apply to biodiversity-based businesses and livelihoods under Output 3.2(See Risk 6)			

STEP 3: Conclusions

Overall SES Risk Rating

QUESTION 5: What is the overall Social and Environmental risk categorization?		
S&E Risk rating	Check if applicable	Comments (optional)
Low Risk	☐	
Moderate Risk	X	Risk avoidance and mitigation can be achieved by embedding established best practices or regulatory requirements under the Nagoya Protocol and associated national Laws, into design and delivery of project outputs. There are limited requirements for stand-alone SES assessments and management plans as described in Table 2.

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

Substantial Risk	☐	
High Risk	☐	

Triggered Requirements (under UNDP SES Policy):

QUESTION 6: Triggered Requirements: summary of assessment or management measures required under the UNDP SES to address the identified S&E risks and impacts? (applies only for Moderate, Substantial and High-Risk projects)		
Further assessment or management measures	Check if applicable	Comments (optional)
ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	☐	
Targeted assessment(s)	**X**	Stakeholder and Gender Analyses (including a light vulnerability assessment) Additional targeted assessments may potentially be required – to be determined during implementation phase risk screening of currently unspecified elements of the project
ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	☐	
SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	☐	
ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan)	☐	
Targeted management plans	☐	Streamlined Stakeholder Engagement Plan including GRM Gender Mainstreaming Plan Additional plans if determined as necessary during implementation phase screening of currently unspecified elements (e.g. Biodiversity Management Plans)
Other measures (please specify)	☐	

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

SESP Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
INSTRUCTIONS: The risk screening checklist will assist in completing the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to identify potential risks related to programming activities. Identified risks require further review in the screening process. Refer to the SES toolkit, including Guidance Notes for various SES Standards, for further guidance on addressing screening questions.		
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind **Human Rights**	**Risk Events**	**Y/N**
P.1 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the portfolio MYWP/project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	P1.1 Risk of human rights infringements	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 portfolio MYWP/project?	P1.2 Limited capacities of duty bearers to meet human rights obligations	Y
P.3 Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. persons affected by programming activities) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	P1.3 Limited capacities of rights-holders to claim their rights	Y
Would the portfolio MYWP/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?	P1.4 Risk of adverse impacts on civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights	Y

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

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? *Note: 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.*	P1.5 Risk of inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations	Y
P.6	restrictions on availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	P1.6 Risk of restricting access to resources or basic services	Y
P.7	exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to affected communities and individuals?	P1.7 Risk of exacerbating conflicts	Y
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment			
P.8	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the portfolio MYWP/project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	P2.8 Gender equality concerns raised by women's groups/leaders	
Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:			N
P.9	adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	P2.9 Risk of adverse impacts on gender equality	Y
P.10	reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	P2.10 Risk of discrimination against women	Y

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

P.11 limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different 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*	P2.11 Risk of limiting women's access to natural resources	Y
P.12 exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children? *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*.	P2.12 Risk of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse	N
Accountability		
Would the portfolio MYWP/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?	P3.13 Risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders	Y
P.14 grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	P3.14 Risks of stakeholder grievances	Y
P.15 risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project/portfolio?	P3.15 Risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders	N
Sustainability and Resilience (Note: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are generally encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below. Where there is a high degree of uncertainty regarding potential risks of programming activities, the following question may assist with further risk identification)		

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

P.16 Does the portfolio MYWP/project include activities with unknown design parameters for which potential SES risks cannot yet be determined and will require further activity-level screening and potential assessment for risks associated with sustainability and resilience?	P4.16 Generic sustainability and resilience risks	Y
Standards		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
Would the portfolio MYWP/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*	S1.1 Risks to habitats and/or ecosystems and their services	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?	S1.2 Risks to critical habitats	N
1.3 changes to the use of land and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to land would apply, refer to Standard 5)	S1.3 Biodiversity risks associated with land-use/ecosystem changes	N
1.4 risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	S1.4 Risks to endangered species	Y
1.5 exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	S1.5 Illegal wildlife trade risks	N
1.6 introduction of invasive alien species?	S1.6. Risks of introducing or spreading invasive alien species	N

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

1.7 adverse impacts on soils?	S1.7 Risks of soil degradation	N
1.8 harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	S1.8 Forestry/plantation-related risks to biodiversity	Y
1.9 significant agricultural production?	S1.9 Agriculture-related risks to biodiversity	N
1.10 animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	S1.10 Animal husbandry or fish harvesting risks to biodiversity	
1.11 significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? *For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction*	S1.11 Surface or ground water use risks	
1.12 handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms? *Note: See the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.*	S1.12 Risks of release/spread of genetically modified organisms	
1.13 utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)? *Note: See the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources*	S1.13 Genetic resources benefit sharing risks	Y
1.14 adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	S1.14 Transboundary environmental risks	
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks		
Would the project/portfolio MYWP potentially involve or lead to:		

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

2.1 areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	S2.1 Hazard/disaster-related risks	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*	S2.2 Risks due to sensitivity to climate change or disasters	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*	S2.3 Maladaptation risks	N
2.4 increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	S2.4 Risks of increased GHG emissions	N
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:		
3.1 construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance programming activities that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	S3.1 Construction-related risks	N
3.2 air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	S3.2 Emissions, noise, traffic, hazards and effluent risks	N
3.3 harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the programming activities (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	S3.3 Safety risks due to failure of project structural elements	N

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

3.4 risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	S3.4 Risks of water/vector-borne diseases	N
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)?	S3.5 Risks associated with hazardous or dangerous materials	N
3.6 adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	S3.6 Health risks due to impacts on ecosystems/ecosystem services	N
3.7 influx of portfolio MYWP/project workers to targeted areas?	S3.7 Risks associated with influx of project workers.	N
3.8 engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support portfolio MYWP/project activities?	S3.8 Risks associated with engagement of security or enforcement personnel	N
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:		
4.1 activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	S4.1 Risks to cultural heritage sites	N
4.2 significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	S4.2. Risks of unknown archaeological heritage damage	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: portfolio MYWPs/projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	S4.3 Risks to tangible and intangible forms of cultural heritage	N

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

4.4 alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	S4.4 Risks to landscapes with cultural significance	N
4.5 utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	S4.5 Risks of inappropriate utilization of intangible and tangible cultural heritage	Y
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
Would the portfolio MYWP/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)?	S5.1 Physical displacement risks	
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)?	S5.2 Economic displacement	Y
5.3 risk of forced evictions? *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.*	S5.3 Risk of forced evictions	N
5.4 impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/community practices rights to land, territories and/or resources?	S5.4 Risks of impacts on community-based rights to land, territories or resources	N
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:		

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

6.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	S6.1 Risks associated with activities taking place where indigenous peoples are present	N
6.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	S6.2 Risks associated with activities taking place on lands, territories claimed by indigenous peoples	N
6.3	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, territories, natural resources and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the programming activities are 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.*	S6.3 Risks to rights, lands, territories natural resources and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples	N
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?	S6.4 Risk that activities will take place without meaningful, effective informed participation of indigenous peoples	N
6.5	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	S.6.5 Risk of utilizing/developing indigenous peoples resources without agreement and/or agreed benefit sharing	N

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

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*	S6.6 Risk of forced eviction or physical/economic displacement of indigenous peoples	N
6.7 adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	S6.7 Impacts on development priorities of indigenous peoples	N
6.8 risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	S6.8 Risks to 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.*	S6.9 Risks of impacts on cultural heritage of indigenous peoples	N
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		
Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to: (note applies to portfolio MYWP, project and contractor workers)		
7.1 working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	S7.1 Risks of substandard labour & working conditions	N
7.2 working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	S7.2 Risks to freedom of workers association and collective bargaining	N
7.3 use of child labour?	S7.3 Child labour risks	N
7.4 use of forced labour?	S7.4 Forced labour risks (incl. in supply chains)	N

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	S7.5 Risks of discriminatory working conditions	N
7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the portfolio MYWP/project life-cycle?	S7.6 Occupational health and safety risks	N
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency			
Would the portfolio MYWP/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?	S8.1 Risks of pollutants release	N
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	S8.2 Risks of inadequate waste management	N
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	S8.2 Risks associated with handling of hazardous materials	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*	S8.4 Risks associated with materials subject to international bans or phase-outs	N
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health	S8.5 Risks associated with pesticide use	N
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	S8.6 Risks associated with consumption of raw materials, energy, and	N

Docusign Envelope ID: 49F01CB7-C383-4957-B50E-CC62CEE90C39

	water	

[i] It is important that the training materials use examples of biogenetic resources used by the local communities in their traditional production systems, and in their day-to-day life for, among other purposes, food, medicinal and skin care. To prepare these materials could be helpful: (i) ABS information kit (available in: https://www.cbd.int/abs/information-kit-en/); (ii) CEPA[1] Toolkit including considerations for Access and Benefit-Sharing. This toolkit contains methodologies, tips, checklists, case models and other materials to help Parties and stakeholders develop innovative awareness-raising strategies to communicate about biodiversity-related issues, and in particular access and benefit-sharing (available in: https://www.cbd.int/abs/doc/cepa-toolkit-en.pdf); (iii) In the Nagoya Protocol webpage (https://www.cbd.int/abs/) it is possible to find other written materials as well as videos that could be helpful to prepare training workshops aimed at different stakeholders.

[ii] In the planning of training materials and workshops for the awareness raising campaign it is important to bear in mind some issues. First, sovereignty rights over associated traditional knowledge remain with the holders of them. Therefore, the holders are the ones who should give the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) to access such knowledge, which also could be called as Community PIC. Likewise, they must participate in the establishment of the Mutual Agreed Terms (MAT) that must result from such access. Thus, it is important to clearly explain the concepts of PIC and MAT. Besides, in the workshops, it will be important to exchange ideas of how they understand that the Competent National Authority (CAN) could support them in potential future negotiations of these instruments. Second, it must pay attention to the possibility that members of local communities do not have incorporated in their own culture the concept of genetic resources. Therefore, it is worth noting that when this concept is presented, it must be done in close relation with the biological resources they use and manage in their day to day and that is the concept incorporated in their cultures. Third, it should be explained that according to the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol, Albania has sovereign rights over their genetic resources, which means that Albania has the right to regulate the access to genetic resources, which has been established by the Law Nº 44/2020. It is important to highlight that this regulation does not interfere with the customary use of genetic resources realized by the local communities. Fourth, when the potential users of genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge are presented it should be clarified that they can be researchers, industrials or collectors from Albania or foreigners. Fifth, it is recommended that the design and planning of the awareness raising campaign be done by a multidisciplinary team.