



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
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GEF INVESTMENTS IN SUPPORT OF

Access AND Benefit Sharing

(ABS)



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The GEF supports one of the three fundamental objectives of the CBD: to allow parties to determine the Access to genetic resources, and to ensure that the Benefits arising from their utilization, are Shared in a fair and equitable manner (ABS for short). The genetic resources are contained within all organisms (plants, animals or microorganisms), and may be used for different purposes, including basic research, and commercialization of products. Governments need to ensure that there is an appropriate system in place to guarantee that the genetic resources of the species within their jurisdictions are properly accessed, and the benefits shared with equity. Users of these genetic resources include research institutes, universities and private companies in sectors like pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture, horticulture and biotechnology.

The international recognition of the importance of the conservation and use of genetic resources in the context of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) was reaffirmed with the establishment of the Ad-Hoc Open-ended Working Group on ABS at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in May 2000 in Nairobi. The mission of the open ended group was to lead the way towards an international regime on access and benefit sharing of genetic resources. Reports on the

activities of this group were presented at subsequent meetings in The Hague (2002), Kuala Lumpur (2004), Curitiba (2006), and Bonn (2008). During COP VI at The Hague, the parties adopted the Bonn Guidelines on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization. This was a significant achievement because this document provided key elements to start implementing the provisions of the Convention related to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. The work of the Working Group concluded with the adoption of The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (the Nagoya Protocol) at the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Nagoya 2010.

The GEF has been following the work of the working group and supporting the development and implementation of ABS related projects since its inception. This publication aims at summarizing the GEF investments on ABS and the opportunities in support of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

GEF-3

Following the requests by the COP to provide financial resources to assist Parties with the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on ABS, the GEF established a Strategic Priority Strategy (SP3) in its GEF-3 Biodiversity Strategy (2003-2006) to support ABS activities. Under this strategy, the GEF supported Enabling Activities as well as biodiversity projects that included components dealing with benefit sharing agreements. These Enabling Activities assisted 22 countries to assess their capacity with regard to ABS¹. Many of the projects with ABS components funded during this period included in situ and on farm conservation of agricultural biodiversity (horticultural crops and wild fruit species) and crop wild relatives. Many of the projects included information management and decision-support tools to conserve and sustainably use genetic diversity promoting sustainable livelihoods, food security and ecosystem services (pest control and diseases).

These projects allowed eligible Parties to prepare the foundation for the design and implementation of response measures on ABS. It also allowed a few countries to assess their legislative frameworks and implementation modalities related to ABS. Some of the ABS projects that were to emerge during GEF-4 and GEF-5 can be traced back to these early investments. Since its inception and through the period of GEF-3, the GEF has funded more than fifty projects that included an ABS component.²

GEF-4

Before the international legally binding Nagoya Protocol was adopted, the GEF created a strategic objective and strategic program in the GEF biodiversity strategy for GEF-4 (2007-2010) entitled "Building Capacity on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)". Under this strategic program, GEF supported capacity building of governments for meeting their obligations under Article 15 of the CBD, as well as building capacity within key stakeholder groups, the scientific community and including indigenous and local communities. This strategic program also supports the establishment of measures that promote concrete access and benefit-sharing agreements that recognize the core ABS principles of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. Projects in this strategic program were consistent with the non-legally binding Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization.

During GEF-4 (2007-2010), the GEF approved five projects on ABS for a total of \$8.4 million which leveraged \$10.4 million in co-financing. Three regional projects [Africa (Photo 1), Latin American and the Caribbean, and Asia] assisting a total of 40 countries, and two country-based projects, one in Ethiopia (Photo 2) and one in India (Photo 3). These projects focused on developing national ABS policies and regulations, strengthening the capacity of stakeholders and institutions on ABS, and building public awareness on ABS issues.

The GEF has also supported ABS through Enabling Activities in Morocco (Photo 4), Pakistan and Mozambique, with a total investment of \$0.7 million. Hence, total investment in ABS was \$9.1 million of GEF resources.

1. Armenia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Congo DR, Dominica, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Jamaica, Federal Republic of Micronesia, Panama, Samoa, Sudan, Uruguay and Zimbabwe
2. Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/6)



Photo1. Rice fields in Madagascar, one of the countries participating in the regional project GEF-UNEP ID 2820 "Supporting the Development and Implementation of ABS Policies in Africa". Photo by Jaime Cavellier.



Photo 2. The market at Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. During GEF-4, Ethiopia received a grant "Capacity Building for ABS and Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants". UNEP is the GEF Agency. Photo by Jaime Cavellier.



Photo 3. Wheat harvest in central India. During GEF-4, India received the grant "Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on its ABS Provisions". UNEP is the GEF Agency. Photo by Scott Wallace (World Bank Photo library).



Photo 4. Women extracting oil from Argan seeds in Morocco. During GEF-4, the country benefited from an enabling activity in support of ABS. Photo by Jaime Cavalier.

GEF-5

During GEF-5 (2010-2014), the GEF has approved three projects on ABS, two funded by the GEF Trust Fund, and one by the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF).

The GEF Trust Funded projects are:

- A Medium Sized Project of US\$ 1 million implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by the Secretariat of the Convention for the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Biodiversity. This project is operational since April 2011. Through the project, the Secretariat is carrying out a series of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities to support the early ratification and entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol.
- A Medium Size Project of \$ 1 million to Guatemala entitled "ABS and Protection of Traditional Knowledge to Promote Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use". This UNEP project was approved in October 2011.

THE NPIF

As the President of CoP 10, Japan proposed to establish a new multi-donor trust fund managed by the GEF. This fund was to support the ratification and implementation of the newly adopted international protocol. The creation of the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) was approved by the GEF Council on February 18, 2011. Further to the creation of the fund, the GEF Council approved the arrangements proposed for the operation of this new multi-donor trust fund during its spring meeting of 2011. The terms of the NPIF are in the document GEF/C.40/11/Rev.1, Outstanding Issues Related to the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund.

The NPIF started with a generous contribution of \$12.24 million from the Government of Japan. The Governments of Norway and Switzerland have also contributed \$1.0 million each. The Government of United Kingdom has also signed a grant agreement of \$500,000 in March 2012. The Government of France contributed with \$1.24 million. As of September 2012, the total contribution agreements finalized amount to \$15.54 million.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

At its 40th meeting, the GEF Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.40/11/Rev.1, *Outstanding issues Related to the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund*, approved the arrangements proposed for the operation of the multi-donor trust fund, subject to the comments made at the GEF Council meeting and taking into account the provisions of the Council decision by mail on the creation of this multi-donor trust fund, approved on 18 February 2011.³ The GEF CEO provided guidance to the Operational Focal Points on the use of the NPIF in August and November 2011, following the 41st GEF Council meeting.

3 See: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.11.Rev.1_Outstanding_Issues_Nagoya_Protocol.pdf

A Medium Size Project (MSP) titled “Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Panama” (GEF ID 4780, UNDP) was approved on December 13, 2010. This is the first project to be approved under the NPIF. The project will concentrate in the discovery of nature-based products for the pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries, increase the scientific capacity of national research institutions, and promote the conservation of genetic resources in the Protected Areas System of Panama (Photo 4). This is a joint-venture with the Government of Panama (National Environment Agency -ANAM), academic institutions (University of Panama, University of Utah, and University of California, San Diego), research institutions (Institute of Advanced Scientific Investigations and High Technology Services of Panama -INDICASAT, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute -STRI), and the private sector (Eisai Inc, Dow AgroScience, and Centauri Technology

Corporation). In addition to the discovery of active compounds in protected areas, the project will work on the transfer of technology with the assistance of the private sector partners, on the improvement of the infrastructure of Coiba National Park, and enhancement of the capacities of the National Government to facilitate access and benefit sharing agreements and handling issues under the Nagoya Protocol. The GEF Agency for this project is UNDP. The GEF grant for this project is \$1 million with cofinancing of \$3.42 million.

In addition to the MSP recently approved in Panama, the other potential projects for the NPIF are being developed in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. The GEF will continue to engage with the private sector, academic and research institutions, GEF Partner Agencies and executing agencies evaluating additional projects potentially eligible for funding by the NPIF.



Photo 5. Coiba National Park, Panama. During GEF-5, Panama received the first grant from the “Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund. The project is entitled “Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Panama”. Photo by ICBG-Panama.

COMMUNICATIONS

To enhance communication about the NPIF, a brief brochure has been prepared (currently available in English and Japanese, (Photo 6)). A webpage has also been created under the GEF website (http://www.thegef.org/gef/trust_funds) to introduce the NPIF and to make key related documents accessible (Photo 6). In addition, the GEF Secretariat introduced and highlighted the progress on NPIF in relevant international events, including the conferences on the Global Launching of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity as well as at the Global Platform for Business and Biodiversity.



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Nagoya Protocol Implementation (NPIF)

About the NPIF

The Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) became operational in March 2011 to facilitate the early entry into force and implementation of the Protocol.

The NPIF supports signatory countries and those in the process of signing the Nagoya Protocol, and that intend to ratify the Protocol in order to accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Protocol. The Fund supports, among others, existing opportunities leading to ABS agreements with involvement of the private sectors

The Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) is established to facilitate the early entry into force and implementation of the Protocol.

The NPIF was established and is managed by the Global Environment Facility. The World Bank serves as its Trustee. So far, the Fund is supported by generous voluntary contribution from the Governments of Japan, Norway, and Switzerland.

Eligible Countries

The NPIF assists GEF eligible developing countries and countries in transition economy that are signatory Parties and those in the process of signing the Nagoya Protocol, and that intend to ratify the Protocol in order to accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Protocol.



Funding Modality

Projects under the NPIF are supported mainly through the GEF Medium Size Project modality (\$1 million or less). Full size projects (above \$1 million) can also be pursued.

Supported Activities

- Pursue opportunities leading to ABS agreements between users and providers of genetic resources.
- Promote technology transfer, private sector engagement, and projects targeting investments in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in-situ.
- Build capacity among indigenous peoples and local communities
- Further the knowledge and scientific-base for the implementation of the protocol
- Review capacities and needs on ABS with focus on existing policies, laws and regulations that complements investment from the GEF Trust Fund.

Project Example

The NPIF-financed project in Panama supports the discovery of nature-based products for the pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries, including compounds to cure cancer and other diseases. The project works on transfer of technology as well as promotes conservation of genetic resources in marine protected areas. Protecting these marine environments will also benefit local communities that rely on the natural resources for their livelihoods.

Procedure

Proposal should be endorsed by the GEF Focal Point of the concerned countries and submitted to the GEF Secretariat through one of the ten GEF Agencies (ADB, AfDB, EBRD, FAO, IADB, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank).

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Photo 6. Cover the brochure about the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund.

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TABLE 1 GEF ABS PROJECTS

Project ID	IA	Country	Project Type	Project Title	Approval Date	GEF Grant (\$US)	Co-financing (\$US)	Project Cost (\$US)
GEF-4 GEF TRUST FUND								
4091	UNEP	Ethiopia	FSP	Capacity Building for ABS and Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants	8 June 2010	2,047,000	2,025,000	4,207,000
3801	UNEP	India	FSP	Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on its ABS Provisions	25 March 2011	3,561,000	6,278,000	9,889,000
2820	UNEP	Regional (Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa)	FSP	Supporting the Development and Implementation of ABS Policies in Africa	13 May 2010	1,177,300	1,002,049	2,179,349
3855	UNEP	Regional (Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Panama, Peru)	MSP	Strengthening the Implementation of ABS Regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean	7 April 2009	850,000	952,166	1,802,166
3853	UNEP	Regional (Brunei, Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam)	MSP	Building Capacity for Regionally Harmonized National Processes for Implementing CBD Provisions on ABS	11 May 2009	750,000	750,000	1,500,000
GEF-5 GEF TRUST FUND								
4415	UNEP	Global	MSP	Capacity Building for the Early Entry into Force of the Protocol on ABS	4 February 2011	944,750	1,159,400	2,104,150
4618	UNEP	Guatemala	MSP	ABS and Protection of Traditional Knowledge to Promote Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use	20 October 2011	874,500	892,500	1,801,590
GEF-5 NAGOYA PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION FUND								
		Panama		Project under the NPIF: Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Panama	13 December 2011	1,000,000	3,422,000	4,422,000

TEXT

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ABOUT THE GEF

The GEF unites 182 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector to address global environmental issues, while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. Today the GEF is the largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment. An independently operating financial organization, the GEF provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants.

Since 1991, the GEF has achieved a strong track record with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, providing \$10.5 billion in grants and leveraging \$51 billion in co-financing for over 2,700 projects in over 165 countries. Through its Small Grants Programme (SGP), the GEF has also provided more than 14,000 small grants directly to civil society and community-based organizations, totaling \$634 million.

The GEF partnership includes 10 agencies: the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP); the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP); the World Bank; the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the African Development Bank (AfDB); the Asian Development Bank (ADB); the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) provides technical and scientific advice on GEF policies and projects.

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