

Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC): Consolidated Comments and Responses

Project Proposal: Capacity Building for the Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing in Viet Nam

Subject: The LPAC was launched via email on 27 January 2016 and concluded on 3 February 2016. All comments and suggestions were provided by the members via email

Chairperson: Bakhodir Burkhanov, UNDP Deputy County Director



Members: [UNDP] Mr Babul Azad, Mr Nguyen Hong Nguyen, Mr Scott Ciment, Ms Nguyen Bui Linh, Ms Jean Munro, Ms Nguyen Thu Hoai, Ms Bui Phuong Tra
[BCA] MONRE: Ms. Hoang Nhan, Ms. Nguyen Cuc, Ms. Nong Thi Hong Hanh

Ex-officio members: MPI: Ms. Nguyen Yen Hai

#	Entry	Comments/suggestions	Responses/concurrences
1.	Cover Page (with brief description)	Suggestion that the implementation timeframe be changed from Jan 2016-Dec 2019 to Mar 2016-March 2020 (BCA).	<p>Recommendation noted.</p> <p>However, we need maintain the timeframe of Jan 2016 to Dec 2019, as in the approved Pro Doc because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The time-frame was in the GEF Pro Doc was approved by the GEF; - This is a medium size project valued at only US\$2.0 million, and four years is very long implementation period for such a small project. To ensure cost-effectiveness, we all must endeavor to implement all activities well before the end of 2019. - The project is funded under the GEF-5 cycle, which concluded in June 2014. The current GEF-6 cycle will also

2. p o	Annual Work Plan – AWP, Project Budget	<p>The indicator “One ABS agreement signed and at least one product under this agreement commercialized” is over the life of the project, not for the year 2016. The indicator for 2016 should be changed to “Project implementation plan at pilot site developed” (BCA)</p> <p>4 components, 4 outcomes and 16 outputs including sub outputs will be toughed to manage and achieve within 4 years period.</p> <p>Statements are used in different name in different place e.g. in the brief description (cover page) and incremental cost matrix (page #58-59 addressed as <u>Components</u> and other place (SRF, Strategy, Budget and Work Plan section) addressed as <u>Outcome</u>. It should be one identity instead of different</p> <p>No comments received</p>	<p>end in June 2018, so this project should not prolong until 2020.</p> <p>Agreed that this is an ambitious indicator for the first year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adjustment has been made in the AWP 2016 (UNDP Project Document pg.7) and related activities will be included in the subsequent AWP for implementation until achieving this target. - In addition, necessary adjustments will be reflected in an Inception Report with revised log-frame. <p>Noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The components, outcomes and outputs for this particular project following the standard template of the GEF. They are relevant and reasonable for this project. - They have been developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, and reviewed and approved by the UNDP GEF Technical Advisor, and the GEF Council. <p>Agree, with thanks for this observation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The inconsistency found is in the GEF approved Pro Doc. However, amendment in the GEF approved ProDoc are not possible after approval. The Inception Report with revised RRF will be used to guide implementation. - This inconsistency does not occur in the UNDP Pro Doc, with the term “outcome” used consistently in the AWP. This term will be used in the Inception Report and subsequent AWP. <p>N/A</p>
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3.	Management arrangements	No comments received	N/A
4.	Monitoring Framework and Evaluation with an emphasis on SMART outputs and indicators	Incorporate the Annual M&E Plan in Annual <u>Exercise Sections</u> . The M&E Plan/Calendar will be developed based on Annual Work Plan, which will work as M&E tools for tracking progress and quality of AWP implementation. It is also required by HPPMG (page no 123) as well UNDP PM&E Handbook (page#85).	Agreed. Planning for M&E activities is an important activity and has been added to the UNDP Pro Doc (pg. 14). This suggestion will be reflected in the Inception Report as guidance for inclusion in all subsequent AWPs.
5.	Legal Context (only if there are deviations from standard language)	No comments received	N/A
6.	Risk analysis	No comments received	N/A
7.	Terms of reference	The draft TORs state a requirement for Spanish	Agreed. This appears to be a transcription error in the GEF-
		<p>It is very vague terminology (Measurement of Means of Verification of project results and Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on output and implementation). Please populate some specific M&E Activities where we able to capture the evidence-based results and changes by using this M&E plan.</p> <p>M&E Framework, para 175 (d): include the text “the audits shall be conducted as per UNDP’s prevailing regulations and practice”</p>	<p>Note the observation. However, these are the terminologies used in the UNDP/GEF standard Project Document template. In regards to M&E activities, the GEF requires: quarterly reports on expenses and risk monitoring; annual Project Implementation Reports; and two independent evaluations (mid-term and terminal). The GEF also has a suite of specialized monitoring tools that are applied to relevant technical indicators. These activities and tools are adequate for capturing results and changes.</p> <p>It is correct that the GEF-approved Pro Doc did not include this audit provision. However, the project follows the GEF template for GEF review and approval, and now cannot be changed. This audit provision will be included in the Inception Report for project implementation</p>

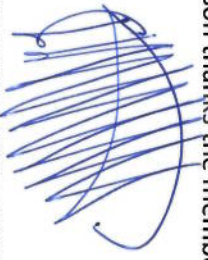
		language skills, which is unnecessary in this context	approved Pro Doc. It should be noted that these are only draft ToRs which will be revised during the Inception phase. This issue will be reflected in the Inception Report and this requirement will not appear in the final ToRs.
8.	Letters of Agreement (LOAs)	No comments received	N/A
9.	Capacity assessment of the IP (completed in advance of the LPAC meeting)	No comments received	N/A
10.	Cross-cutting issues	<p>Gender: there were a number comments regarding gender equity and mainstreaming within the project. Key points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are clear gender issues in regards to access and benefit sharing. These issues need to be considered to ensure this aspect is equitable - The project design should seek to align with the UNDP Gender Strategy, including women as leaders and decision makers of the process. - Sex disaggregated data should be recorded on the users and keepers of medicinal plants and associated knowledge; participation and leadership - Suggest to add assumptions about participation and leadership of women in the project, gender norms, what is the risk if they are not involved and what are the mitigation steps? - Ensure M&E activities include a gender specialist and/or assess impact on gender equality 	<p>Agreed that gender mainstreaming could be strengthened in regards to this project, especially in component 1, 2 and 4 on formulation and implementation of policy framework, awareness raising and capacity building, and pilot actions at localities.</p> <p>This project design pre-dates the GEF <i>Policy on Gender Mainstreaming</i>, therefore the provisions in this policy were not applied.</p> <p>The recommendation on recording sex disaggregated data has been added in the UNDP Pro Doc (pg. 13) and will be reflected in the Inception Report.</p> <p>The potential risk of barriers to women's participation and leadership in the project has been added to the risk log of the Social and Environmental Screening document (pg. 4).</p>
11.	Situational analyses (<i>non-CPAP country project</i>)	Stakeholder Analysis: As this project would involve different stakeholders including Government	Agree with the suggestion. Further in-depth analysis of stakeholders' political and economic interest in ABS will be

	<p>document format), issue log</p> <p>Ministries, PPCs, Universities, private sector, CSOs, this section may deserve some elaboration to provide baseline information on different stakeholders' possible political and economic interest in ABS and relevant regulatory framework, as well as their influential power to the project implementation and subsequent achievements of the project outputs, in addition to the current identification of stakeholders and their possible involvement in the project implementation. Based on the above information, project developers could map out relevant stakeholder</p> <p>Collaboration/communication strategy to ensure optimal support and engagement from concerned stakeholders throughout project implementation.</p>	<p>undertaken during the Inception phase, in order to design an appropriate mechanism for their effective participation and contribution to the project implementation, including formulation of policy frameworks on ABS.</p> <p>Noted. The project include development and implementation of a communication strategy/action plan. This suggestion will be reflected in the Inception Report.</p>
<p>12.</p> <p>Strategy</p>	<p>(Project goals, etc.) Use similar outcome statement in every place e.g. in cover page <u>creating an enabling national policy, legal and institutional framework for ABS and here (page#32) strengthening the National Policy, Legal, and Institutional Framework on ABS. It will be same NOT different place different statement.</u></p> <p>It is confusing to add total cost in the outcome as this figures are well reflected in Budget Section.</p> <p>Project indicators list and Strategic Results Framework's indicators will be same and unchanged (currently not same).</p>	<p>Agreed with this valuable observation on the GEF-approved Pro Doc. This appears to be a transcription error. As the GEF Pro Doc was approved, it cannot be changed. The statement "strengthening the National Policy...." is used consistently in the AWP and will be reflected in the Inception Report.</p> <p>Noted. However, this is the standard format introduced by the GEF. This is to show the division of budget between the components, so GEF reviewers can assess the appropriateness of the proposed division.</p> <p>Agree with this valuable comment. The indicators presented in the Table 2, page 40 of the GEF-approved Pro Doc should be the same as those in the Strategic Results Framework page 75. As</p>

13.	Results and Resource Framework	<p>All 16 outputs are <u>missing</u> from Strategic Results Framework. Please review and revise. Better to formulate indicator at output level where we can able to measure the progress of outputs.</p> <p>Measurement element is missing from the indicator e.g. <u>level of conservation</u>, use and equitable benefit sharing from TK and availability of community protocols for regulation and access and benefit sharing of TK.</p> <p>Suggest more specific methods of learning and knowledge sharing during and after project implementation be added to the relevant sections of the project document to improve sustainability of project results.</p> <p>No comments received</p>	<p>the GEF Pro Doc was approved and it is not possible to make changes to it. The correction has been made in the AWP and will be made in the RRF in Inception Report.</p> <p>Noted. However, this is standard project template introduced by GEF, the Strategic Results Framework (pg. 75 in GEF-approved Pro Doc) presents a summarized version of the indicators, so does not include outputs. The Project Indicators in table 2 page 40 provides more detail and explanation of each indicator.</p> <p>Baselines were not comprehensively investigated during the project formulation, due to data being unavailable or research unfeasible to undertake during the design phase. Baselines will require revision and updating through further research and data collection. In connection, some indicators will need revision and/or additions when more data becomes available during the Inception Phase.</p> <p>Well Noted. This suggestion will be reflected in the Inception Report for follow up actions.</p>
14.	Operational matters	<p>Social and Environment Screening document (SES):</p> <p>Correction made to the significance score in the 'Identifying and Mitigating Risks' table to align with the ratings under the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (2015).</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Agreed, correction has been made in the SES document (pg. 2).</p>

	<p>Since implementing the ABS framework is a long term process, at the beginning of and during the process, reduction or even loss of income due to discontinuation of traditional (extractive) activities is likely to happen as new sources of comparable income are yet to be created and realized by the programme/ project(s). Consequently, there is a risk that to compensate for reduced income essentially on their own, local people might have to move to and continue pursuing similar extractive activities in other areas, e.g., those adjacent to the programme area, etc.</p> <p>There is a lack of evidence for the statements made under the gender equality and women's empowerment section.</p>	<p>This issue is certainly very relevant in many natural resource management projects. However, this project will support sharing of benefits (from business and users) back to communities and produce new income streams based on sustainable harvest through opening new markets. It is unlikely to displace other extractive practices – rather it provides incentives for more sustainable ones. This potential risk, although low, has been added to the risk log in the Social and Environmental Screening Document (pg. 4).</p> <p>Noted. Preliminary analysis has been undertaken as part of project design development. Further research and analysis will be undertaken as part of baseline studies early in project implementation. This comment will be reflected in the Inception Report for follow up actions.</p>
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The Minutes capture the LPAC members' comments and suggestions (provided via email), and clearly indicate responses explaining undertaken revisions to be reflected in the UNDP Project document and Prodop AWP. The LPAC Minutes is endorsed by LPAC Chairperson and all designated members. The Chairperson thanks the members for their contribution.



Bakhodir Burkhanov, UNDP Deputy County Director, Chairman of the LPAC

